



Budget 2026-27 signals shift to 'long-term vision' from 'short-term support': Report

Union Budget 2026-27 kept a "long-term vision at the forefront" by increasing capital expenditure and improving the expenditure mix, a report said on Monday. The report from Crisil Intelligence said the focus is shifting to the long term—with reforms, improving ease of doing business, and inclusive growth getting centre stage. Immediately after the Covid-19 pandemic, the primary focus was on ramping up infrastructure spending and mitigating pandemic impact on growth and welfare, the report reminded. "But as the domestic economy strengthened and stabilised, the need for direct short-term support to growth has reduced," it said, adding that the budget thus moved its focus to long-term



growth. The government sought to build resilience by focusing on developing the manufacturing and services sectors further, thus

setting the stage for the next leg of growth. The progress on fiscal consolidation and moving to a medium-term debt target also provides

space to look beyond the short-term, the research firm highlighted. India's real GDP growth is set to surprise on the upside this fiscal at 7.4 per cent versus 6.5 per cent last fiscal, as fiscal support for consumption and tax reliefs supported private consumption, the report said. The budget continues to extend consumption support though central welfare support to lower-income households continue with increased thrust on employment and asset generating schemes, even as subsidies are moderated. The report highlighted an improving quality of spending, with the Centre's capex share in GDP maintained at 3.1 per cent and grants to states lifting effective

capex to about 4.4 per cent of GDP. "The past few years have seen a clear reorientation of revenue expenditure towards capex. However, given the rising share of interest payments, further noticeable reductions in revenue expenditure could be limited," the firm said. Capital expenditure rose by 9 per cent to reach Rs 12.2 lakh crore in 2026-27, marking one of the largest such allocations in recent times and equating to 4.4 per cent of GDP. Central government set a fiscal deficit target of 4.3 per cent of GDP for FY27 after a 4.4 per cent estimate for FY26, and nominal GDP growth was pegged at 10 per cent.

Rahul Gandhi raises Ladakh standoff issue again in LS, house adjourned for 2nd time

The Lok Sabha was on Monday adjourned for the second time, till 4 p.m., amid a row over Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi repeatedly seeking to raise the alleged details of the Chinese aggression along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh in 2020. The lower house of the Parliament saw a heated exchange between the Congress and the ruling BJP over former Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane's "unpublished" book on the Doklam standoff between India and China in 2020. When the House reconvened at 3 p.m., Defence Minister Rajnath Singh again objected to the remarks and urged Speaker Om Birla to stop LoP Rahul Gandhi from raising the issue even without any "authenticity". Chaos erupted in the house, but Gandhi remained adamant on raising the Ladakh standoff issue for "national security" purposes. Amid this, Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju stood up and said: "... What do you gain by portraying the country in a poor light? We may have differences of opinion, but in the national interest, we should



all stand together." "You (Rahul Gandhi) are repeatedly raising things that you do not know about. There is no clarification about the book or the magazine. You are trying to humiliate our Army by making such statements. If Rahul Gandhi wants to talk about the borders, then tell us how much land did the Congress surrender to China in 1962?" Rijiju questioned. When the din did not fade, the Speaker adjourned the House till 4 p.m. Earlier in the day, Gandhi, who initiated the Opposition's response to the Motion of Thanks to the President's address, started his speech by quoting some "uncomfortable truths" about the India-China 2020 standoff at the

border, purportedly from an "unverified" book. However, he was interrupted, within minutes of his speech, first by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and then Home Minister Amit Shah and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Rijiju.

While the Congress MP stated that the article published in a leading magazine was based on memoirs penned by former Army chief Naravane, and hence deserved to be put into the public domain, Rajnath Singh disputed his claim and said that the book has never been published, and this amounted to misleading and misleading the House.

Budget a blueprint to strengthen India's presence in global value chains: Piyush Goyal



India is in a sweet spot today, and the Union Budget for a 'Future Ready Bharat' covers a multitude of sectors, both traditional and modern, giving impetus to services with a major focus on tech, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Monday. In a meeting on the holistic benefits of the Budget at the NSE here, along with investors and captains from the mutual funds and asset management industry, the minister said the Budget addresses specific areas which will help the economy grow faster and achieve our goal of a Viksit Bharat by 2047. "Delighted by their optimism following the budget, their excitement for the growth opportunities that it supports, as well as the new ideas and suggestions that they shared," Goyal posted on X. In his interaction, the minister highlighted how in the last 12 years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government has focused on a fiscally prudent and future-oriented long-term India growth story. "I emphasised how the budget is a

blueprint to strengthen India's presence in global value chains and become more contemporary with modern-day technologies while benefiting our consumers," said the minister. He also reiterated that continuing with PM Modi's vision of rapid reforms, the direction in the budget is to eliminate barriers to business and make it easier for them to flourish, encourage honest businesses, make industries more competitive, compliance easier, and make India an attractive investment and manufacturing destination. The Union Budget 2026-27 has kept a "long-term vision at the forefront" by increasing capital expenditure and improving the expenditure mix. The focus is shifting to the long term — with reforms, improving ease of doing business, and inclusive growth getting centre stage. The government has sought to build resilience by focusing on developing the manufacturing and services sectors further, thus setting the stage for the next leg of growth.

Sitaramachandra Ghanapathi receives Ramamurthy Sharma award

Rajamahendravaram: A noted Vedic scholar, Dattatreya Veda Vidya Gurukulam organiser Brahmasri Gullapalli Sitaramachandra Ghanapathi was honoured with the Sri Samavedam Ramamurthy Sharma Foundation Award at a function held at Vallabha Ganapati Temple. As part of the honour, a reward of Rs 50,000 was given to the awardee. Speaking on the occasion, Foundation founder and spiritual orator Brahmasri Samavedam Shanmukha Sharma said that Sitaramachandra had completed rig-

orous Vedic studies under the guidance of gurus, mastered the Ghana paatha, understood the deeper meaning of the Vedas, and continued daily Vedic practice with dedication. Vice-Chancellor of Tirupati Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, Brahmasri Sannidhanam Sudarshana Sharma, attended as the chief guest. During the programme, the poetic work Devi Leela Sudha, written by late Samavedam Ramamurthy Sharma, was released by "Sahasravadhani Bhaskara" Kota Venkata Lakshmi Narasimham.

Receiving the award, Sitaramachandra Ghanapathi said that all achievements were possible only through the blessings of parents. Several scholars and dignitaries, including Pullabhatla Sirish, Samavedam Satya Narasimha Sharma, Marepalli Suryanarayana, V Ravindra, Kothapalli Appaji, Vadrevu Venugopala Rao, and Dinavahi Hanumantha Rao attended the event.



Record Infrastructure Transformation in ODISHA



Odisha is witnessing a historic transformation in railway infrastructure, driven by a substantial increase in budgetary allocation and accelerated execution of projects across the state. The annual average railway budget allocation has risen sharply from ₹838 crore during 2009–14 to ₹10,928 crore in 2026–27, marking a 13-fold increase and underscoring a strong commitment to railway development in Odisha.

As part of this infrastructure push, railway works worth ₹90,659 crore are currently under progress in the state. These works encompass new track creation, station redevelopment, and safety enhancement initiatives, ensuring

holistic development of the rail network across Odisha.

Amrit Station Scheme: Transforming Passenger Facilities

Under the Amrit Station Scheme, 59 railway stations in Odisha have been identified for comprehensive redevelopment with a total investment of ₹2,439 crore. Redevelopment works have already been completed at six stations, namely Cuttack 2nd Entry, Baripada, Baripali, Bimlagarh, Parlakhemundi, and Talcher, significantly enhancing passenger amenities and station infrastructure.

Improved Connectivity through Premium Train Services



Rail connectivity in the state has been further strengthened with the expansion of premium train services. At present, 6 pairs of Vande Bharat Express and 6 pairs of Amrit Bharat Express trains are operational, offering faster, more comfortable, and efficient travel options to passengers across key routes.

Rapid Network Expansion and Complete Electrification

Odisha has achieved remarkable progress in rail network expansion since 2014: Approximately 2,200 km of new railway tracks have been constructed, which is more than the entire rail network

of Malaysia.

The state has achieved 100% railway electrification, with 1,559 km of rail lines electrified since 2014.

A total of 632 flyovers and underpasses have been constructed, improving safety and easing road-rail traffic movement.

Strengthening Safety Systems

To further enhance safety, works related to the advanced train protection system Kavach are in progress over 772 route kilometres, against a total sanctioned length of 2,922 route kilometres, reflecting sustained efforts to modernise railway safety infrastructure in the state.

Retired Employees' Diary and Calendar Launched



Chikkadapally, February 02 (Metro Udayam) : The launch ceremony of the new diary and calendar designed by the Telangana Retired Employees was held on Monday at Shivsai Enclave in the division. Retired Judge Y.S. Murthy attended the event as the chief guest and unveiled the diary and calendar. Telangana Retired Employees Vice President M.A. David Francis, who presided over the event, addressed the gathering and urged the government to resolve the problems of retired employees immediately. M.A. David Francis, a resident of Shivsai Enclave, was felicitated and congratulated for recently winning three gold medals in long jump, shot put, and discus throw at the international level. Shivsai Enclave President Prasad, Secretary Sridhar, and Treasurer Srinivas participated in the program.

Chandrababu Naidu Fans Association Condemns Ambati Rambabu's Remarks



Hyderabad, metro udayam February 2:

Members of the Chandrababu Naidu Fans Association and School of CBN staged a protest on Monday in front of the Arts College, Osmania University, strongly condemning the alleged derogatory remarks made by former YSRCP minister Ambati Rambabu against the mother of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu.

The protestors expressed their outrage over what they termed as "irresponsible and indecent language" used in public discourse. As part of the protest, a symbolic demonstration was held to warn against the continued use of abusive language in politics. Speaking on the occasion, Talari Srinivasa Rao, President of the Chandrababu Naidu Fans Association and School of CBN, said that political criticism should remain within democratic and ethical limits. He alleged that despite being reduced to just 11 seats by the people, YSRCP leaders continue to indulge in unacceptable and offensive statements, thereby degrading the standards of political dialogue. He demanded that the State government take immediate and strict action against Ambati Rambabu and others who resort to abusive language, asserting that such behaviour should not be tolerated in a democratic society. He further stated that leaders who cross all limits of decency would be taught a fitting lesson by the public in the days to come.

The association appealed to all democratic-minded citizens to condemn such remarks and stand against the misuse of vulgar language in politics. The protest was attended by students and supporters including P. Venu, Saidulu, Kalyan, Vishnu, Mahesh, Narender, Ram, Harish, Pawan and Rajesh.

Tourism Exposure Visit Conducted for Vocational Students

Jangaon, January 2, Metro Udayam:

Students of the Intermediate Vocational Course in Tourism and Hospitality Management from Telangana Social Welfare Residential College, Husnabad, undertook a Tourism Exposure Visit as part of their academic curriculum. As part of a one-day on-the-job training, the students visited the Haritha Hotel, Warangal, operated by the Telangana State Tourism Department.

During the visit, Dr. Kusuma Surya Kiran, Assistant Tourism Promotion Officer, and Mr. Ashok, Hotel Manager, explained hotel management practices, organizational structure, and the

functioning of various departments including Front Office, Restaurant, Bar, Kitchen, and Housekeeping. Students were given practical insights into hotel operations and services offered to tourists.

The students also visited the Handlooms and Handicrafts Stall at Haritha Hotel to understand the role of tourism in promoting local arts and crafts.

Later, the students visited the District Tourism Office at Hanumakonda Collectorate, where Dr. Kusuma Surya Kiran explained the functions of the Tourism Department, destination promotion strategies, and the process of brochure and publication printing for



tourism promotion. The programme was successfully organized by Mr. Mahesh, Lecturer in Tourism and Subject

Expert, providing students with valuable industry exposure.

A great honor for the promoter of artistes.

Kala Mandali founder Vemula Venkateswarlu...

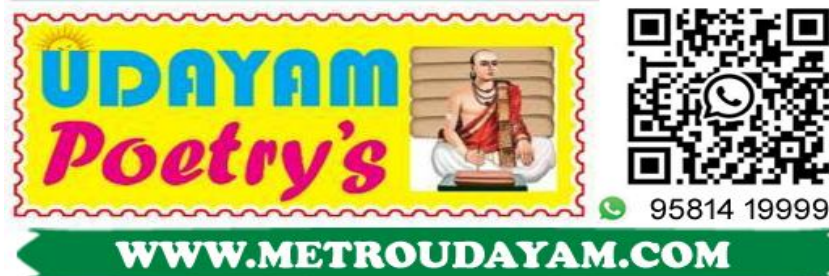
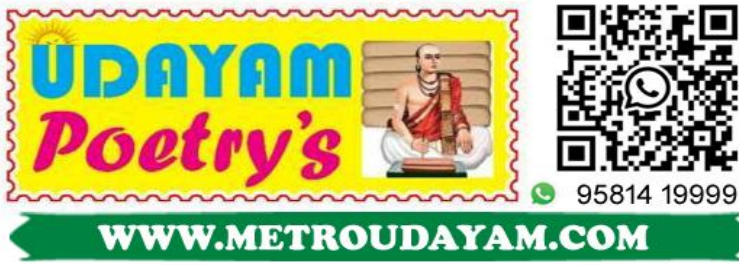
Kodada February 02 Metro morning.....

Voruganti Venkata Brahm, who was unanimously elected as the President of Kodada Rice Millers Association, was felicitated on Monday under the auspices of the Tera Cultural Arts Council. Vemula Venkateswarlu, founder president of the

council praised him for promoting theater arts and poets for the past 25 years as an honorary advisor to the arts council. As the President of Rice Millers, he aspired to be profitable for farmers, workers and traders. Members of Tera Cultural Arts Council Sheikh Meera, Sheikh Peer Saheb, Peddineni Rama Rao, Kola Srinivasa Rao, directors Thirup, writer Sirikonda Narasimharaju,



Sampeta Venkat, Kandibanda Upender, participated in this program. Rao, Boora Siderao par-



महात्मा बुद्ध जी ने मानव जीवन के कामयाबी के लिये आठ मार्ग बताये हैं जिन्हें अष्टांग मार्ग कहा जाता है।...
(शकील उवाव - ६०५)

हम सबसे बड़े भाग्यवान हैं के हमारा जन्म भारत में हुआ। भाग्यवान इसलिए हैं क्योंकि यहाँ धर्म और धर्म के अनेक पंथों की बहती जीवन धाराएं हमारे भारत में बहते हैं। यह और बात है के हम इसका फायदा उठाने के बजाय एक दूसरे के विरोध करने की भूल आजतक करते आए हैं। हमारे इस भारत भूमी पर केवल अशौतिक आस्तिकता का ही नहीं बल्के शौतिक नास्तिकता की परम्परा है। यहाँ अलग अलग धर्म और पंथों के समृद्ध ज्ञान के साथ साथ वैज्ञानिक श्रृंखला भी है।



मेरे इस भारत में एक धर्म, एक सम्प्रदाय बौद्ध धर्म, संप्रदाय भी है। इस धर्म, इस सम्प्रदाय में प्राचीन और माहून प्रतिष्ठित ग्रंथ धम्मपद है। जिसे हर एक व्यक्ति पढ़ना चाहिए। इस पुरातन ग्रंथ में बौद्धदर्शन द्वारा सम्मत किये गये हम सब कभी न कभी सुने या पढ़े हुये निशरण, चार आर्यसत्य और अष्टांगिक मार्ग का भी उल्लेख मिलता है। धम्मपद में कर्म सिद्धांत का अद्भुत विवेचन किया गया है। इसमें कहा गया है के इसानों में पुण्य कर्म करने वाला दोनों लोकों में आनन्दित होता है।

उपलब्ध प्रमाणों से ई.पू. ३०० व १०० के बीच रची जा चुकी थी ऐसा माना जाने वाला धम्मपद बौद्ध धर्म का सर्वोत्कृष्ट लो. कप्रिय ग्रंथ है। इसमें महात्मा बुद्ध जी के नैतिक उपदेशों का संग्रह समक, अप्पमाद, चित्त आदि २६ वग्गों (वर्गों) में वर्गीकृत ४२३ पालि गाथाओं में किया गया है। इस धम्मपद को बौद्ध शिक्षण कि नियमावली माना जाता है। त्रिपिटक में इस धम्मपद का स्थान सुत्तपिटक के पाँचवें विभाग खुदकनिकाय के खुदकपाठादि १५ उपविभागों में दूसरा है। इस ग्रंथ की आधी से अधिक गाथाएँ त्रिपिटक के नाना सुत्तों में प्रसंगबद्ध पाई जा चुकी हैं।

धम्म पद की संरचना २६ वर्ग याने वग्गों में विभाजित है। जिसमें ०१.) समकवग्गो (समक वर्ग), ०२.) अप्पमादवग्गो (अप्पमाद वर्ग), ०३.) चित्तवग्गो (चित्त वर्ग), ०४.) पुप्फवग्गो (पुष्प वर्ग), ०५.) बालवग्गो (बाल वर्ग), ०६.) पण्डितवग्गो (पण्डित वर्ग), ०७.) अरहन्तवग्गो (अरहन्त वर्ग), ०८.) सहस्सवग्गो (सहस्र वर्ग), ०९.) पापवग्गो (पाप वर्ग), १०.) दण्डवग्गो (दण्ड वर्ग), ११.) जरावग्गो (जरा वर्ग), १२.) अत्तवग्गो (आत्म वर्ग) इत्यादि।

इस धम्म पद के २६ वर्ग याने वग्गों में बचे और चौदह वग्गों में १३.) लोकवग्गो (लोक वर्ग), १४.) बुद्धवग्गो (बुद्ध वर्ग), १५.) सुखवग्गो (सुख वर्ग), १६.) पियवग्गो (प्रिय वर्ग), १७.) कोधवग्गो (क्रोध वर्ग), १८.) मलवग्गो (मल वर्ग), १९.) धम्महवग्गो (धर्मार्थ वर्ग), २०.) मग्गवग्गो (मार्ग वर्ग), २१.) पक्किणकवग्गो (पक्कीर्णक वर्ग), २२.) निरयवग्गो (निरय वर्ग), २३.) नागवग्गो (नाग वर्ग), २४.) तण्हावग्गो (तन्हा वर्ग), २५.) भिस्सुवग्गो (भिक्षु वर्ग), २६.) ब्राह्मणवग्गो (ब्राह्मण वर्ग) है।

और इस धम्मपद में यह भी कहा गया है के पाप कर्म करने वाला व्यक्ति दोनों लोकों में दुःखी होता है। पुण्यकर्म करने वाला दोनों लोकों में सुखी। अगर दूसरे लोक के जीवन में आस्था ही नहीं रहती, मरणोत्तर जीवन की कोई हकीकत का कोई उजूद (अस्तित्व) ही नहीं है तो फिर महात्मा बुद्ध जी ने यह कभी न कहते के "इध नन्दति पेत्त नन्दति, क त पुरजो उभयत्थ नन्दति। इध तप्पति पेत्त तप्पति, पापकारी उभयत्थ तप्पति सस" और इसके व्यातिरिक्त महात्मा बुद्ध जी के बताए अष्टांग मार्ग को कौन नहीं जानता?

महात्मा बुद्ध जी ने मानव जीवन के कामयाबी के लिये आठ मार्ग बताये हैं जिन्हें अष्टांग मार्ग कहा जाता है। सम्यक् दृष्टि, सम्यक् संकल्प, सम्यक् वचन, सम्यक् कर्म, सम्यक् आजीविका, सम्यक् व्यायाम, सम्यक् स्मृति और सम्यक् समाधि (इस मार्ग के प्रथम दो अंग (सम्यक् दृष्टि, सम्यक् संकल्प) प्रज्ञा के हैं। बीच के तीन अंग (सम्यक् वचन, सम्यक् कर्म, सम्यक् आजीविका) शील के हैं। और अंतिम तीन अंग (सम्यक् व्यायाम, सम्यक् स्मृति और सम्यक् समाधि) समाधि के हैं। इस तरह शील, प्रज्ञा और समाधि इन्हीं तीन में आठों अंगों का, आठ अंगों में तीनों का सन्निवेश हो जाता है।

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

LET US LEARN FROM SWAN!

Provided to learn even a Swan teach us!
It is wisely said the only bird that separate water from milk is the swan!
What does it mean?
Segregate evil from good!



This principle apply any where through out life!
Choice of selection play vital role!
Whether may be it a friend, habit, study, job, marriage or expenditure!

Once wrong selection made that effect the entire life!
Hear to others what they say!
But judge prior to impliment!
Keep in mind the character of Swan!

Know that being a bird how it acts in selection!
Not only swan even a dog, Crow also tell some moral!
Dog for faithfulness and Crow for unity!

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

A.P. Record allocation in A.P.



10,134 crores allocation this year
In total ?92,649 crores worth projects are in progress

Hyderabad – Chennai Bullet train project via Andhra Pradesh will boost economy and reduce journey time to 2 hrs 55 min

100% electrified
73 stations are in redevelopment programme
Kolkata – Chennai Economic Freight Corridor will pass through A.P.
4-line route will enhance the infrastructure
Many more projects to come with the economic support by the State Govt.

Thakur, Jaiswal return to Mumbai squad for Ranji Trophy QF against Karnataka

Seam-bowling all-rounder Shardul Thakur has made a return to captain Mumbai in their Ranji Trophy quarter-final against Karnataka, starting on February 6 at the MCA-BKC Ground in Mumbai.

Thakur's return comes after recovering from a calf injury sustained in the Vijay Hazare Trophy. He was spotted bowling in the nets at the venue, where Mumbai recently drew their final league stage game against Delhi on Sunday. He will now take over Mumbai's captaincy from stand-in skipper Siddhesh Lad.

Left-handed opener Yashasvi Jaiswal has also been included in the squad and is on the verge of playing his first Ranji Trophy game since the prestigious first-class season resumed.

Jaiswal last played a Ranji Trophy match for Mumbai against Rajasthan in Jaipur in November 2025, where he scored 67 and 156.

Mumbai, the 42-time Ranji Trophy champions, will hope their returning stars will help them challenge Karnataka, the eight-time championship winning team comprising skipper Devdutt Padikkal, Mayank Agarwal, KL Rahul and Prasidh Krishna. Mumbai finished the group stage as table-toppers of Elite Group D with 33 points.

During Mumbai's final Ranji Trophy league stage game against Delhi, players were forced to put on masks on their face to protect themselves from pollution caused by nearby construction. It is understood that protec-

tionary sheets will be used on the construction sites when the quarter-final game will be happening.

Other quarter-final clashes in the Ranji Trophy will be between Jharkhand and Uttarakhand at Keenan Stadium in Jamshedpur, Madhya Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir at Holkar Stadium in Indore, Bengal and Andhra at Bengal Cricket Academy Ground in Kalyani.

Mumbai squad: Shardul Thakur (captain), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Musheer Khan, Akhil Herwadkar, Siddesh Lad, Sarfaraz Khan, Aakash Anand (WK), Hardik Tamore (WK), Sairaj Patil, Shams Mulani, Tanush Kotian, Tushar Deshpande, Mohit Awasthi, Omkar Tarmale, Divyesh Saxena and Suryansh Shedge.

Ticket prices:



- Government School ? ?25
- Private School ? ?40
- Government College ? ?40
- Private College ? ?50
- General Public ? ?50

Name : Andhra Pradesh State Council of Science & Technology (APCOST).

Sub Office : Bommuru, Rajamahendravaram
Head Office : Vijayawada.

Member Secretary : Dr. Prof. K. Sarat Kumar Garu.
Timings : 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM.
Holiday : Monday.
Inauguration: June 26, 2025.
Inaugurated by: Deputy CM [Pawan Kalyan Garu.

Gopideshi Lakshmi, Muttiah into BRS



Kodada February 02 Metro morning.....

Political equations in Kodada town are changing rapidly in the wake of municipal elections. On Monday, Congress leaders Gopideshi Lakshmi and Muttiah of Ward 14 along with about 20 people under their leadership resigned from the Congress party and joined BRS. Former MLA Bollam Mallaiah Yadav warmly invited them into the party by covering them with pink scarves. On this occasion, he said that opposition to the Congress rule has started among the people and people from other parties are coming to BRS after seeing the development. Town presidents Naeem, Imran and others participated in this program.



Should excel in state level sports.

**State Vice President
Ravella
Seetharamaiah....**

**Kodada February 02
Metro morning.....**

Ravella Sitaramaiah, the state vice-president of the association said that they should excel in the state-level sports competition of retired employees held in Khamma in the month of March and stand first. On Monday, he cut the ribbon and inaugurated the shuttle and tennikoit courts set up for state-level sports competitions at a vacant

lot next to the retired employees' association building in Kodada town. Athletes participating in shuttle and tennis court are expected to take advantage of this court and excel at the state level. Kodada Unit Presidents Venepalli Srinivasa Rao, District Presidents Bollu Rambabu, Raghu Vara prasad, Veerababu, Janaiah, Bhramaramba, Yazdani, Biksham, Bhupal Reddy, Venkateswara Reddy, Balemia, Thirupa tamma and others participated in this program.



Injustice to the education sector in the Union Budget

—D.Srinivas Tptf

Jangaon, January 2, Metroudayam:

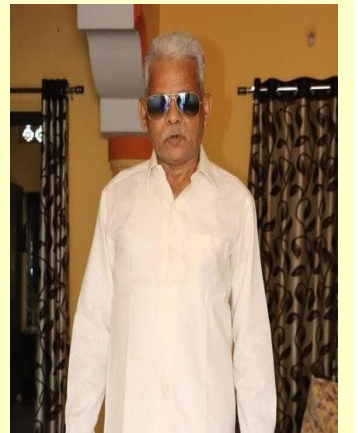
The education sector is being neglected in Union Budget. During 12 years of Modi's rule, adequate allocations have not been made to the education sector. This year, out of a total budget of 53.5 lakh crores, only 1,39,289 crores have been allocated to education. This is only 2.6 percent of the total budget! Although the allocated funds appear to have increased, there is no increase in the percentage of the total budget.

Last year's budget was 48,21,000 crores, and the allocation for education was 1,28,628 crores, which was also only 2.6 percent of the total budget. No matter how many budget speeches are given, without proper budget allocations, education will remain an unattainable dream for the poor and middle-class people at the ground level

Senior Journalist Satish loses his father

**Chikkadapally,
February 02
Metro udayam :**

Senior journalist Satish has lost his father. Satish, who has gained recognition as a journalist in various newspapers and is currently writing cultural news for the Surya daily newspaper, lost his father, Nune Ellayya Yadav (82), who passed away at his home on Monday morning due to a heart attack. He is survived by his son Satish and four daughters. Upon learning of his death, former government advisor Dr. K.V. Ramana, Thyagaraya Gana Sabha president Kala Janardhana Murthy, and several organizers of cultural organizations, singers, dancers, and cultural reporters expressed their condolences.



B.P. Naik appointed as In-charge of Devarakonda Municipal Corporation...

**Devarakonda
February:02 (Metro
udayam)**

The Telangana State President of the Bharatiya Janata Party ST Morcha, Shri Nenavath Ravi Naik, has taken a crucial decision appointing B.P. Naik as the In-charge of the Devarakonda Municipal Corporation in Nalgonda district. The responsibilities of managing the tribal reserved wards have been entrusted to B.P. Naik. On this occasion, B.P. Naik expressed his special gratitude to the ST Morcha State President, Shri Nenavath Ravi Naik, for placing his trust in him and assigning him this responsibility. He stated that he would work with dedication for the welfare and devel-



opment of the tribal community. He said that the Central Government, under the leadership of the Bharatiya Janata Party and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, is taking many historic decisions for the upliftment of tribals. He explained that the Central Government is paying spe-

S.No	District	Municipality/ Corporation	Ward No	Reserved For	BIP Incharge	Mobile	Incharge Name	Mobile
75	Nalgonda	Devarakonda Municipality	8	ST-General	Sri Koppu Bhasha	9440666647	NENAVATH HANMANTHU NAIK	9000334499
76	Nalgonda	Devarakonda Municipality	12	ST-Women	Sri Koppu Bhasha	9440666647		
77	Nalgonda	Devarakonda Municipality	16	ST-General	Sri Koppu Bhasha	9440666647	BANOTH PADITHA NAIK	9393863792
78	Nalgonda	Haliya Municipality	11	ST-General	Sri Suresh Goud	9393246161	E BALAJI NAIK	9889506862
79	Nalgonda	Miryalguda Municipality	5	ST-Women	Sri Meesala Chandralah	9848022775		
80	Nalgonda	Miryalguda Municipality	6	ST-General	Sri Meesala Chandralah	9848022775	RUPAVATH MAHESH	8985334948
81	Nalgonda	Miryalguda Municipality	25	ST-General	Sri Meesala Chandralah	9848022775		
82	Nalgonda	Nalgonda Corporation	9	ST-General	Sri Chada Suresh Reddy	9100003555	E BALAJI NAIK	9889506862
83	Nalgonda	Nandikonda Municipality	6	ST-General	Sri Bobba Bhagya Reddy	9848022775		
84	Yadadri Bhongir	Choutuppal Municipality	18	ST-General	Sri Bethi Subash Reddy, Ex.MLA	9246276626	BIJUKYA NARESH NAIK	9848041183
85	Yadadri Bhongir	Modhur Municipality	3	ST-General	Dr.Samatha	9885500479		
86	Suryapet	Huzumager Municipality	15	ST-General	Sri Nukala Narasimha Reddy (Gaha Prabhakar) Veljula	9440335523	SANKRU NAIK	9949315523
87	Suryapet	Kodad Municipality	2	ST-General	Sri Koppula Narasimha Reddy	9666986787		
88	Suryapet	Kodad Municipality	4	ST-Women	Sri Koppula Narasimha Reddy	9666986787	DR. BANOTH SUBRAMANYAM	7013787948
89	Suryapet	Neredcherla Municipality	3	ST-General	Sri Bharathi Prasad Potthuganti	9885932359	SANKRU NAIK	9949315523
90	Suryapet	Suryapet Municipality	1	ST-General	Sri Veerelly Chandra Shaker	9441923333		
91	Suryapet	Suryapet Municipality	5	ST-Women	Sri Veerelly Chandra Shaker	9441923333	BADAVATH BALAJI NAIK	9866203725
92	Suryapet	Suryapet Municipality	13	ST-Women	Sri Veerelly Chandra Shaker	9441923333		
93	Suryapet	Suryapet Municipality	32	ST-General	Sri Veerelly Chandra Shaker	9441923333		
94	Suryapet	Tirumalagiri Municipality	10	ST-General	Sri K. Janardhan Reddy, Ex.MLC	9502835555	SANKRU NAIK	9949315523

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cial attention to providing education, employment, and infrastructure facilities to the tribal community. B.P. Naik clarified that he would work towards resolving the problems of the tribal people within the

Devarakonda Municipal Corporation limits, in line with the party's ideology. BJP leaders and ST Morcha activists participated in the program and extended their best wishes to the new In-charge.

National symposium in Tirupati focuses on leadership pathways for women

Tirupati: The Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Tirupati, in collaboration with IIT Tirupati, IIT Delhi and Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam (SPMVV), Tirupati, organised a two-day national symposium titled 'Crafting Women Leaders in STEM' on January 30 and 31, 2026.

The symposium aimed at empowering early-career women scientists, researchers and professionals to confidently navigate leadership pathways in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, with a strong emphasis on holistic personal and professional development.

The initiative was organised by a team of accomplished women faculty from premier institutions, including Dr Vasudharani Devanathan (IISER Tirupati), Dr Pooja Vyavahare (IIT Tirupati), Dr Shilpi Sharma (IIT Delhi) and Prof M Vidyavathi (SPMVV

Tirupati). The sessions were curated, blending expert talks with interactive, hands-on workshops.

A major highlight was a series of behavioural and leadership training modules focusing on confidence building, clarity of thought and converting perceived challenges into achievable goals.

These sessions were led by Dr Pooja Vyavahare and Dr Vaneet Kashyap, both from IIT Tirupati.

The symposium also featured inspiring talks by eminent speakers who shared their professional journeys and leadership experiences.

Speakers included Prof Uma Ramakrishnan of NCBS, Dr Sudhir Varadarajan of IIITDM Kancheepuram and Dr Jane Prasad of IIT Madras. The event was further enriched by the presence of Prof Kim Brooks, Vice



Chancellor of Dalhousie University, Canada, as the Special Guest.

Led by Dr Shreya Malik of the

Wadhvani Foundation, along with Dr Ambrish Saxena (IISER Tirupati) and Dr Sudhir Varadarajan, the sessions emphasised entrepreneurial

thinking, opportunity recognition and leadership in innovation-driven ecosystems.

Sudarshana Homam Performed at Nacharam for Universal Welfare



.....Held under the leadership of BJP leader Mallela Nursing Rao on his birthday

Hyderabad, Metro Udayam February 2 : A Sudarshana Homam was performed with religious fervour at Karthikeya Nagar in Nacharam on Monday for the welfare of society. The ritual was organised under the leadership of BJP Medchal-Urban District Vice-President Mallela Nursing Rao and Renuka on the occasion of

Nursing Rao's birthday. The homam was conducted in a grand manner following Vedic traditions. Priests from the Yadadri Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple, led by chief priest Narasimha Murthy, performed the ritual, while Vedic scholars explained the spiritual significance and importance of the Sudarshana Homam to the devotees. Speaking on the occasion, the scholars said that performing the Sudarshana

Homam helps create powerful positive energy, protects devotees from negative forces and enables victory over adversities. They also stated that the ritual is believed to bring business growth, professional success, financial prosperity and peace and harmony in families. A large number of women devotees participated in the programme. Leaders from BJP, Congress and TDP, along with representatives of various welfare associa-

tions, attended the event in large numbers. The scholars added that such religious rituals bring auspicious results and contribute to the overall well-being of the local community. Later, on the occasion of Mallela Nursing Rao's birthday, leaders and well-wishers felicitated him with garlands, cut a cake and extended birthday greetings.

ED's Clean Chit... A Testament to Chandrababu Naidu's Integrity

- TDP National Publicity Secretary J. Dasharath

Chikkadapally, February 02 Metro Udayam : TDP National Publicity Secretary J. Dasharath stated that the Enforcement Directorate giving a clean chit to TDP chief and Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu in the skill development case is a testament to his integrity. Speaking in Nallakunta, he said that Nara Chandrababu Naidu is a leader who stands on truth and justice, and the ED's clean chit is proof of his honesty. He said that the ED's charge sheet stating that the Chief Minister had no involvement is a recognition of his clean politics. He praised Chandrababu Naidu, saying that he is not afraid of vindictive politics and that he is a person who respects the law. He said that Chandrababu Naidu conceived

the skill development idea for the future of the country and for the youth, and that it is a testament to his foresight. He said that both the AP CID and the ED concluding that Chief Minister Chandrababu had no role in the case clearly demonstrates the transparency of his administration. He said that the withdrawal of the case in the Vijayawada ACB court is a slap in the face to those who made false accusations. He clarified that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu is a rare leader who has proven that politics can be done with honesty and values. He praised him as a leader who moves forward with the goal of state development, without succumbing to personal attacks. He opined that the ED's clean chit has further strengthened the public's trust in Chief Minister Chandrababu's



leadership. Afterwards, he distributed sweets to leaders and the public in various parts of the city to express his joy.



WPL: 'We've learned a lot from Gujarat & we are going to come out stronger,' says DC skipper Jemimah ahead of Eliminator vs GG

Delhi Capitals captain Jemimah Rodrigues has expressed confidence that her team has learned valuable lessons from their previous encounters with Gujarat Giants and is poised to "come out stronger" in the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2026 Eliminator on Tuesday. The winner will secure a spot in the final against Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB). "You never lose as long as you can learn. And I know we've gotten really close and tight with Gujarat. But I just believe in this team that we've learned a lot from them. And we are going to come out stronger," Rodrigues said in a video shared by WPL. The Delhi skipper also praised her team's collective performance, highlighting the critical role of her bowlers. "I'm really happy, and more than anything, as a captain, I'm just proud of the way the team played. It's

always the bowlers who make a captain look better on the field. A lot of credit goes to them because it's easy to set a field, but they have to come and execute. And they've done that really well." Rodrigues emphasised the team's depth in batting, noting the balance and maturity on display. "Even with the bat, the kind of maturity, the kind of balance we have in our batting, I think we have a lot of depth. And we've seen even in the last game, the way Nikki (Prasad) and (Sneh) Rana, even till that number, we have batting. And we have a belief more than anything that we can take a game out from anywhere." Looking ahead, Rodrigues stressed the importance of staying focused on the present. "And I think we're just going to keep things simple. Yeah, one game at a time. And try to focus on our strengths and executing our plans than thinking too far ahead of things." She concluded with a captain's pragmatic approach to high-pressure matches, saying, "From now I'll start thinking about the next game and then the next. So I'm just trying to take it one game at a time, one ball at a time, just clinically finish the job for the team, that's all."

Union Budget 2026: A Stable and Pragmatic Tax Budget

Tax professionals view Budget 2026 as one that prioritises stability and predictability over dramatic changes. CA Srishti Gosavi, Chartered Accountant, Finance Content Creator & Entrepreneur. After last year's major direct tax overhaul, this Budget feels more about stability than shock relief, with no changes in income tax slabs or major rate cuts. While this may disappoint some salaried taxpayers, the focus on simplification and compliance ease is a positive long-term move. The reduction in TCS to 2% on overseas education, medical expenses and tour packages is a welcome relief, making global exposure more



affordable upfront. Overall, this is a measured and pragmatic Budget that balances revenue needs with growth.

Looks like you have decided to be judge and jury: Rama Rao on SIT chief's post on phone tapping case

BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao on Monday slammed Hyderabad Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar for what he called "deciding to be both judge and jury" in the alleged phone tapping case.

Rama Rao was reacting to the statement issued by Sajjanar after the questioning of BRS President and former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao by the Special Investigation Team (SIT).

Sajjanar, who is heading the SIT, had issued a brief statement about the nearly five-hour examination of KCR at the latter's residence in Hyderabad on Sunday.

"The Special Investigation Team has concluded the questioning of Gajwel MLA and former Chief Minister Sri. K. Chandrashekar Rao in connection with the illegal phone-tapping case," posted Sajjanar on 'X'. BRS took exception to this. "Looks like you have



decided to be the judge and jury all by yourself Mr. Commissioner. Please remember that you're chairing the team that is investigating into an "alleged" crime which ultimately has to be proven in a court of law. I hope the Hon'ble courts are taking notice of these extreme statements and high-handed actions," posted Rama Rao.

The SIT examined KCR in connection with the case relating to alleged tapping of phones of several individuals including political

opponents, businessmen and journalists during the BRS' rule.

The BRS leaders termed KCR's examination as political vendetta and diversionary tactic by the Congress government. Rama Rao alleged that the government was deliberately diverting public attention, concealing its failures, and indulging in what he termed "perverted politics."

He claimed that the SIT had failed to adhere to legal provisions, including those under the BNSS

law enacted by Parliament. However, he said KCR, despite not being legally required to appear in person, chose to cooperate fully with the enquiry out of respect for the Constitution and the rule of law.

He noted that courts had, in several precedents, allowed questioning at a person's residence, but KCR voluntarily presented himself before the SIT and answered every query in detail.

According to Rama Rao, the proceedings made it clear to the police leadership, including the DGP and SIT officials, that no wrongdoing had occurred during the BRS government's tenure. He alleged that for two years the Congress had encouraged rumours, speculative narratives and selective leaks to malign KCR and the previous administration, and expressed hope that the enquiry would finally put an end to what he described as "politically motivated insinuations."

Centre prioritises politics over State needs: Sridhar Babu



Hyderabad: The Union Budget runs contrary to the spirit of the Constitution and undermines the principle of cooperative federalism, Minister for IT and Industries Duddilla Sridhar Babu said on Sunday. In a statement, the Minister said the Constitution recognises India as a Union of States and makes it clear that national development is not possible without the financial self-reliance of states. However, he alleged that the Union Government had disregarded this principle in the latest Budget.

Expressing disappointment that Telangana was not mentioned even once in the Budget speech, despite contributing over five per cent to the country's Gross Domestic Product, Sridhar Babu said the slogan of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' had once again failed to translate into equitable treatment for the state.

"While the Centre speaks of inclusive development, it has adopted a discriminatory approach towards Telangana in financial allocations," he said, adding that political considerations had taken precedence over economic rationale, resulting in injustice to the state.

The Minister pointed out that the Centre had projected grants of Rs 22,782 crore to Telangana for the current financial year, but the state had received only about Rs 4,000 crore even after 10 months — less than 20% of the amount due. He termed this "fiscal suppression." He said the Constitution mandates equitable distribution of resources between the Union and the States, but the latest Budget once again reflected a violation of cooperative federalism.

Sridhar Babu also said the Centre had ignored repeated representations from the state seeking allocations for key infrastructure and development projects, including the Regional Ring Road, Metro Rail Phase-2, Godavari-Musi river linkage, the greenfield highway between Bandar Port and Hyderabad Dry Port, new airports, improved rail connectivity, and pending assurances under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act. He demanded that BJP MPs from Telangana explain the Centre's treatment of the state to the people and urged the Union Government to adhere to the constitutional principle of equality and treat all States fairly.

Budget once again neglected Telangana, fumes Harish Rao

Hyderabad: BRS LP deputy leader T Harish Rao on Sunday said that the Union Budget 2026-27 once again reflects the continued neglect of Telangana by the Central government.

The BRS leader said that despite Telangana playing a crucial role in the country's economic growth, the budget has failed to do justice to the state. "Years are passing and budgets are changing, but there is no change in the Centre's discriminatory approach towards Telangana in fund allocation," he said.

Even after 12 years of Telangana's formation, the Central government has miserably failed to implement



the assurances given under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act. The BRS leader pointed out that there were no allocations for key projects such as the Regional Ring Road, Hyderabad Metro Rail

expansion, railway projects, or irrigation schemes.

This clearly shows deliberate neglect. There is no mention of institutions such as IIM, Navodaya Schools, or Kendriya Vidyalayas for Telangana. Not even a single new project has received financial support. This budget reflects clear financial injustice towards Telangana.

Despite the state having eight BJP MPs and eight Congress MPs, Telangana has not received even one new Central project. Both national parties have completely failed to raise Telangana's voice in Parliament.

Uttam orders round-the-clock work to finish SLBC tunnel

Hyderabad: Emphasising the necessity for round the clock operations on the Srisailem Left Bank Canal tunnel project, Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy on Sunday made it clear that delays or negligence would not be tolerated. He demanded a focused approach to safety protocols alongside the immediate mobilisation and deployment of heavy machinery. The Minister chaired a high level review meeting concerning the tunnel and the rehabilitation of the Medigadda, Annaram, and Sundilla barrages under the Kaleshwaram Left Irrigation Project.

The meeting noted that the Aerial Electromagnetic survey for the remaining section of the tunnel, conducted in collaboration with the National Geophysical Research Institute, has been completed and the report received. The results are encouraging and provide valuable geological data to aid in assessing tunnel support sys-



tems and identifying adverse zones in advance. Reiterating the government's commitment to irrigation infrastructure, the Minister directed twenty four hour operations and underscored that no further lapses would be permitted. He instructed that the remaining works be executed using scientific methodologies based on advanced techniques to ensure continuous monitoring and adherence to international safety

practices. To strengthen project management, the Minister announced the creation of an exclusive SLBC Division headed by a Chief Engineer. He further directed the engagement of an Independent Supervision Consultant to ensure safety, quality, and design compliance throughout construction. Dedicated planning teams will monitor daily and weekly progress, while tunnel safety

supervisors from Singareni Collieries Company Limited will be deployed at the site. Specialised geotechnical and geological teams will also perform daily assessments of ground behaviour to enable real-time decision-making and risk mitigation.

Regarding the Kaleshwaram barrages, Uttam Kumar Reddy called for close coordination among technical institutions and design consultants to expedite rehabilitation. He directed officials to align testing schedules of the Central Water and Power Research Station with the work of project designers. This synchronisation will facilitate phased design approvals by the National Dam Safety Authority under the Central Water Commission, allowing repairs to progress efficiently.

The Minister instructed that a meeting with the NDSA expert committee be held after 16 February, urging officials to prepare comprehensive technical

proposals covering structural and hydraulic aspects. He emphasised the need to proceed on a war footing to finalise designs and secure approvals without delay. He stated that the tunnel is a vital component of the irrigation framework of the state and must proceed with speed, discipline, and scientific precision. Safety and design integrity remain the top priorities to ensure the project serves its intended purpose for the farmers.

The administration is determined to see these critical water projects through to completion to secure the agricultural future of the region while maintaining the highest engineering standards. This project will eventually provide the necessary water resources to the parched lands of Nalgonda and surrounding districts, fulfilling a long-standing promise made to the local farming community by the state.

TG's tax share up 13.5% to Rs 33,180 cr: Kishan



Hyderabad: Union Minister for Coal and Mines G Kishan Reddy welcomed the Union Budget 2026-27, describing it as a forward-looking "Reforms Express Budget" that focuses on stable economic growth, aligns with public aspirations, and builds confidence in future generations. He emphasised that this is the first decisive step towards making India a developed nation by 2047, with Telangana standing to gain significantly from the allocations and reforms.

Reddy highlighted that Telangana's share in tax devolution has increased by 13.5 per cent compared to last year, rising from Rs 29,280 crore in 2025-26 to Rs 33,180 crore in 2026-27. He noted that this increase will strengthen the state's fiscal position and support developmental projects.

A major announcement in the Budget was the introduction of seven high-speed rail corridors across the country, three of which will originate from Hyderabad - connecting the city to Pune, Bengaluru, and Chennai. Reddy said these corridors will transform Hyderabad's connectivity, complementing its rapid growth in IT, biopharma, and real estate sectors.

The textile sector has also received a strong push through the TEX-ECO programme, aimed at making Indian textiles globally competitive. Telangana's Kakatiya Mega Textile Park in Warangal will benefit directly from this initiative, boosting employment and industrial growth.

Women's empowerment has been prioritised with the decision to build one girls' hostel in every district. Telangana will see the construction of 33 such hostels, addressing challenges faced by women students in STEM courses who often struggle with accommodation while pursuing higher education. Reddy further pointed out that Hyderabad, already recognised as the pharma and vaccine capital of India, will benefit immensely from the BioPharma SHAKTI programme. This initiative will enhance domestic production of biologics and biosimilars, positioning Hyderabad as a global hub for advanced medicines.

The Budget also introduced reforms in taxation, raising the personal income tax exemption threshold to Rs 12.5 lakh and reducing taxes on consumer goods, providing relief to the middle class. A Rs 10,000 crore Growth Fund for MSMEs will benefit nearly 38 lakh enterprises in Telangana, while incentives for municipal bonds and continued support under AMRUT will strengthen urban infrastructure. Additionally, the railway capital expenditure has increased by 10 per cent to Rs 2.77 lakh crore, with 42 stations being redeveloped under the Amrit Bharat scheme. Metro and MRTS projects have been allocated Rs 28,740 crore, though Reddy urged the Telangana government to expedite decisions on Hyderabad Metro for central support.

Budget fails Telangana, says Minister Jupally

Hyderabad: Stating that Telangana is home to famous pilgrimage sites, heritage structures, and immense tourism potential, Tourism, Culture, and Excise Minister Jupally Krishna Rao expressed his disappointment that the Central Government did not extend support for the state's efforts to transform Telangana into a global tourism hub.



While responding to the Budget 2026 presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in a statement, Minister Jupally Krishna Rao said that the latest budget has caused great disappointment to the state of Telangana. Jupally Krishna Rao commented that the budget, which should have provided impetus to development and other projects in Telangana, lacked any clear direction. He stated that this budget, formulated without considering the needs of the states, is contrary to the aspirations of the people. He pointed out that the main shortcomings of this budget are the silence on a legal guarantee for minimum support price for farmers, the lack of clarity on employment generation for the youth, and the cuts in funds for welfare schemes for the poor. He added that the Central government lacks sincerity in addressing the unemployment problem. The minister stated that the decline witnessed in the markets after the budget presentation is proof that this budget lacks any substance.

Nine Andhra fishermen return home from Bangladesh

Nine fishermen from Andhra Pradesh returned to Visakhapatnam on Monday after being released from a Bangladesh jail.

They were detained by the Bangladesh Navy in October last year for inadvertently crossing maritime boundaries while fishing in the Bay of Bengal.

The Indian Coast Guard escorted them to the Visakhapatnam coast and handed them over to the marine police.

It was a tearful reunion of the fishermen with their families after four months. The fishermen and their families thanked the Central and the state governments for ensuring their safe return.

The Bangladesh Coast Guard handed over the fishermen to the Indian Coast Guard at the International Maritime Boundary Line on January 29.

Two fishing boats carrying 15 crew members sailed from Visakhapatnam then to receive these fishermen mid-sea and brought them to the Visakhapatnam Fishing Harbour.

The nine fishermen were part of a group of 23 Indian fishermen who were handed over to the Indian Coast Guard by their Bangladesh counterparts. The remaining 14 fishermen were from West Bengal.

Two India-owned fishing boats were also handed over to Indian authorities.

The Bangladesh Coast Guard, in exchange, received 128 Bangladeshi fishermen along with five Bangladeshi fishing boats from the Indian Coast Guard.

The Bangladeshi fishermen



detained in India were repatriated under a reciprocal arrangement.

The exchange was carried out by the coast guards of the two countries at the International Maritime Boundary Line in the Bay of Bengal.

The repatriated Bangladeshi fishermen included a group of 13 who had drifted into the Indian waters and reached the Andhra Pradesh coast.

They departed Visakhapatnam port aboard an Indian Naval ship and were handed over to the Bangladesh Coast Guard at the international maritime border.

Officials said they were provided new clothes at the direction of Visakhapatnam Collector M. N. Harindranath.

It was on November 30 last year that 13 fishermen from Bangladesh were taken into custody by the marine police in Srikakulam district.

The fishermen reached Musavanipeta of Etcherla mandal of the district after they were stranded at sea and ran out of fuel and food in the boat.

According to the marine police, the boat reportedly drifted towards the West Bengal and Odisha coasts and later reached the Srikakulam coast.

The Bangladeshi fishermen said they lost their way while fishing in Bangladeshi waters and drifted towards the Indian coast.

The fishermen said they had been starving for the past 15 days. The locals offered them food and medicine.

Meanwhile, AP Mechanised Fishing Boats Union President Janakiram Vasupalli thanked External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar for the safe return of Indian fishermen.

Andhra Pradesh's first pain clinic opened at King George Hospital

Visakhapatnam: Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav on Sunday said that the services of the newly-inaugurated pain clinic would prove highly beneficial for patients suffering from chronic pain and cancer-related ailments.

After inaugurating Andhra Pradesh's first pain clinic at King George Hospital (KGH) in Visakhapatnam, the minister lauded the Andhra Medical College - North America Alumni (AMCANA) for extending generous support to the initiative by donating Rs.1 crore for the establishment of the pain clinic.

Describing the contribution as commendable, he mentioned that it indicated the alumni's commitment to strengthening public healthcare infrastructure. Recalling recent national-level interactions, the minister said he had brought to the notice of Union Health Minister JP Nadda the valuable contributions made by former medical students towards the 600-bedded mother and child health centre in Guntur and continued serv-



ices rendered by the alumni in Visakhapatnam and Kakinada for the development of government medical institutions. Satya Kumar said the Union Health Minister had appreciated these efforts and described them as a model worthy of replication across the country and lauded the role of alumni participation in strengthening public health systems. With an aim of further enhancing cancer care services in

the state, the minister announced that a special committee would be constituted in the coming days focusing on chemotherapy, radiotherapy and pain management. Speaking about the coalition government's commitment, he stated that its primary objective is to strengthen government medical colleges and ensure that quality healthcare services are made accessible and affordable to the poor.

Calcutta High Court issues order to control use of firecrackers on night of Shab-e-Barat

The Calcutta High Court has issued an order to control bursting of firecrackers on the night of Shab-e-Barat. A Division Bench of Calcutta High Court's Chief Justice Sujoy Paul and Justice Partha Sarathi Sen issued this order on Monday, said court sources. The order says that no firecrackers can be set off from 10 pm on the night of Shab-e-Barat until 6 am the following morning. The use of firecrackers must comply with the rules of the West Bengal Pollution Control Board. If this order is violated, the police will be able to take appropriate action against the offenders. According to the calendar, Shab-e-Barat is on February 4. It is alleged that on the day of Shab-e-Barat and for several days before and

after, there is an uncontrolled use of loud firecrackers in various parts of Kolkata. It is alleged that there is no control whatsoever. It is even alleged that firecrackers are set off throughout the night.

The petitioner argued that the Holy Quran does not mention celebrating Shab-e-Barat through bursting of firecrackers. Furthermore, the police had controlled the use of firecrackers during Kali Puja, Christmas and Chhath Puja in the state. Permission is granted only for green fireworks during specific times. The High Court also has clear instructions regarding this. However, since there is no court order regarding Shab-e-Barat, it is alleged that there is an uncontrolled use of

loud firecrackers throughout the night in the state.

In this regard, the petitioner, Shagufta Suleman, filed a Public Interest Litigation seeking the court's intervention. Hearing that petition, the court has ordered that no firecrackers should be set off after 10 pm. The petitioner said that last year, even though a Bench of the then Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court, T.S. Sivagnanam, issued a similar order, firecrackers were freely set off in Park Street and Ripon Street areas, completely disregarding the court's order. As a result, the firecrackers caused significant problems for the sick, the elderly, children and pets.

'People will feel they are scared of facing India', says Kaneria on Pakistan's decision to boycott T20 WC game



Former spinner Danish Kaneria opined that Pakistan's decision to boycott the T20 World Cup game against India will harm their own cricket more than anyone else's, adding that this decision reflects a negative message that "Pakistan are scared of facing India, which is why they are refusing to play."

The Pakistan government on Sunday granted approval to the Pakistan cricket team to participate in the ICC World T20 2026; however, they shall not take the field in the match against India, scheduled on February 15.

"Pakistan had earlier requested that they would not come to India to play, and that request was accepted, so their matches were arranged at a neutral venue. In this World Cup, the India-Pakistan match was scheduled to be played in Sri Lanka.

"There is no logic in boycotting this match. Pakistan seems to think that it is supporting Bangladesh, which has already been knocked out of the tournament. But they should focus on their own cricket and where they are taking it. This sends a message that people will feel Pakistan are scared of facing India, which is why they are refusing to play," Kaneria told IANS.

"With this decision, Pakistan has made its path to the semifinals or knockouts much more difficult. I think it's a very, very wrong decision. If Pakistan believes that the India-Pakistan game is a revenue-generating cream, then that rivalry doesn't really exist anymore, because Pakistan cricket is not playing brand cricket which India is playing. India has beaten Pakistan at every stage of the World Cup, whether it's the T20 World Cup or the 50-over World Cup," he added.

On the prospect of Pakistan facing India in the knockout stage in the T20 World Cup stage, Kaneria said, "Decisions like this increase the consequences. They did not think long-term, especially about Bangladesh. Taking such decisions emotionally, without proper thought, is not right in my opinion. Decisions should be taken carefully and wisely. You didn't play the first match, but if tomorrow you meet India in the semifinal or final, will you just hand over the trophy by saying you won't play the final? "You should come onto the ground, fight it out, and win from there—then it feels like you've taken revenge for everything. But boycotting like this doesn't make any difference at all." Speaking about how the players are feeling with this decision, Kaneria signed off by saying, "I think many Pakistani cricketers would be upset, but they are in a position where they cannot openly speak about it."

Telangana receives a big zero yet again, says Kavitha



Hyderabad: Telangana Jagruthi President K Kavitha on Sunday condemned the BJP-led Union Government for 'once again delivering a big zero to Telangana' in the Union Budget for the 12th consecutive year.

Kavitha said that the BJP has made it a practice over the last 12 years to systematically deny Telangana its rightful share. Kavitha expressed serious concerns alleging continued discrimination against Telangana in the Union Budget. While Prime Minister Narendra Modi repeatedly speaks of 'cooperative federalism', the Centre's actions reflect the exact opposite, she said. She pointed out that crucial funds due to Telangana for various development projects, including statutory assurances made under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, remain indefinitely pending.

'Rattatataav' brings the funky vibe alive as film's second single drops

The makers of the upcoming entertainer FUNKY have unveiled its second single, Rattatataav, and the high-energy track is already creating a strong buzz among music lovers. Composed by Bheems Ceciroleo, the song carries his trademark mass appeal, blending pulsating beats with a celebratory rhythm that delivers an instant adrenaline rush. Ram Miriyala's spirited vocals add power to the number, while Dev Pawar's lively and relatable lyrics enhance its fun quotient, making Rattatataav a song designed for repeat listens. Visually, the track is equally engaging, with lead actors Vishwak Sen and Kayani Lohar sharing vibrant on-screen chemistry. Their youthful energy, paired with colourful visuals and dynamic choreography, gives the song a refreshing appeal that resonates strongly with younger audiences. The overall presentation complements the song's upbeat tone, turning it into a complete audio-visual treat. The release of Rattatataav follows the success of the film's first single, Dheere Dheere, which became a chart-topping melody and set the bar high for the album. With the



second single maintaining the momentum, expectations around the FUNKY soundtrack continue to rise. Adding to the excitement, the film's teaser has already hinted at a laugh-filled entertainer packed with quirky moments and non-stop humour. Director KV Anudeep, known for his signature brand of comedy, returns with a promise of an even bigger and more outrageous cinematic experience. Music director

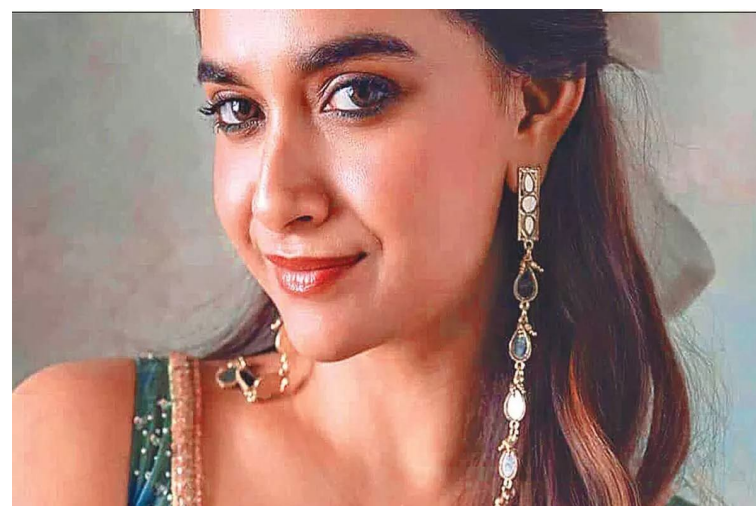
Bheems Ceciroleo once again proves his ability to deliver foot-tapping numbers that elevate the narrative. Produced by Naga Vamsi S and Sai Soujanya under Sithara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas, with Srikara Studios presenting, FUNKY is slated for a theatrical release on February 13, 2026, positioning it as a festive entertainer for the Valentine's Day weekend.

Keerthy Suresh balances star power and subtle style as a packed line-up awaits

Keerthy Suresh has steadily carved a distinctive space for herself across Tamil, Telugu, and Malayalam cinema, backed by a career that spans over two decades. She began as a child artist in the early 2000s before making a successful return as a leading lady with Geethaanjali in 2013.

Her career reached a defining moment with Mahanati, where her portrayal of legendary actress Savitri earned her the National Film Award and nationwide acclaim.

Since then, Keerthy has maintained a careful balance between large-scale commercial entertainers and content-driven projects. While she featured in big-ticket films such as



Mahesh Babu's Sarkaru Vaari Paata, directed by Parasuram, and Dasara, she also took on performance-oriented roles in films like Penguin, Saani Kaayidham, and Raghu Thatha (2024). In 2025, she was seen in Uppu Kappurambu, further underlining her prefer-

ence for varied storytelling.

Off screen, Keerthy's recent appearances during a show shoot have drawn attention for their understated charm. Opting for a blend of traditional and contemporary fashion, she has

been spotted in embroidered kurtas paired with jeans, including velvet and long-slit designs styled with distressed denim. Loose buns adorned with flowers, jhumkas, and minimal accessories complete her relaxed yet elegant look.

Looking ahead, 2026 promises to be a busy year. Keerthy is set to headline the Malayalam action-adventure Thottam, directed by Rishi Sivakumar. She will also reunite with Vijay Deverakonda for Rowdy Janardhana, slated for a December 2026 release, alongside projects like Kannivedi, the Hindi series Akka, and a courtroom drama helmed by Praveen S. Vijaay.

Having two daughters and a son fills us with immense gratitude: Ram Charan

The Mega family was filled with joy and celebration as actor Ram Charan and his wife Upasana Kamineni Konidela welcomed twins—a baby boy and a baby girl—at Apollo Hospital late last night. The happy news sparked celebrations across both the Konidela and Kamineni households, with fans and well-wishers pouring in congratulatory messages from across the country.

Sharing the heartfelt moment with his fans, Ram Charan took to social media to announce the arrival of the twins. In an emotional note, he expressed gratitude and happiness, stating that the family has been blessed with a baby boy and a baby girl, and that welcoming three children into their lives has filled them with immense thankfulness. He also acknowledged the strength and support of the women in his life, thanking fans, family members, and well-wishers for standing by them at every



step. Ahead of the delivery, the couple had shared a serene family portrait that has since taken on special significance. Dressed in elegant all-black outfits, Ram Charan and Upasana appeared calm and composed, radiating warmth and quiet confidence. Upasana's glowing presence in a flowing gown beautifully complemented Charan's understated and poised look. Adding a personal and endearing

touch to the photograph, the couple's two black dogs were seen seated on either side, completing a frame that reflected unity, love, and anticipation. With the arrival of the twins, happiness has multiplied in the Mega family, marking a memorable new chapter for the star couple. A large number of fans have reportedly gathered outside the hospital to catch a glimpse and extend their wishes, while the film fraternity and admirers continue to shower the family with love and blessings.