



Washington ready to elevate relationship with India even further: US Ambassador

New Delhi: US Ambassador to India, Sergio Gor on Thursday welcomed recent engagement between the leadership of two nations and expressed Washington's readiness to further elevate ties with New Delhi. Gor shared pictures of External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar's interactions in Washington with the US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and US Secretary of the Treasury Scott Bessent.

"Engagement at the highest levels is currently happening. The United States is ready to elevate this relationship even further. Limitless Potential!", he stated.

EAM Jaishankar, currently on a visit to the US, attended the Critical Minerals Ministerial convened by Marco Rubio on Wednesday and expressed India's support for structured international cooperation to reduce risks in critical mineral supply chains. During his visit, EAM Jaishankar



held separate meetings with Marco Rubio and Scott Bessent, holding wide-ranging discussions on the India-US strategic and economic partnership.

"Delighted to meet US Secretary Marco Rubio this afternoon," EAM Jaishankar said in a post on X after the meeting. "A wide-ranging conversation that covered our bilateral cooperation

agenda, regional and global issues."

He said the discussions with Rubio covered multiple pillars of the India-US relationship. "Facets of India - US Strategic Partnership discussed included trade, energy, nuclear, defence, critical minerals and technology," EAM Jaishankar said.

The External Affairs Minister said both sides agreed to move quickly on follow-up engagements. "Agreed on the early meetings of various mechanisms to advance our shared interests," he added. According to a State Department readout, the two leaders discussed formalising bilateral cooperation on critical minerals exploration, mining, and processing — an area that has emerged as a central pillar of the India-US economic and strategic relationship.

The meeting came at a time when two nations announced a trade deal aimed at lowering barriers and expanding market access between the world's two largest democracies.

Secretary Rubio and EAM Jaishankar welcomed the agreement, underscoring the importance of the two democracies working together to unlock new economic opportunities and advance shared energy security

goals, the readout said.

The discussions also focused on the regional and multilateral dimensions of the partnership. Rubio and EAM Jaishankar concluded their meeting by reaffirming their commitment to expanding bilateral and multilateral cooperation through the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue. They acknowledged that a prosperous Indo-Pacific region remains vital to advancing shared interests.

EAM Jaishankar also met US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent in Washington. "Pleased to meet US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent in Washington DC today," he said in a separate post.

EAM Jaishankar described the talks as productive. "Had a useful discussion on advancement of India-US economic partnership and strategic cooperation," he said.

Pre-Budget meetings put on hold due to municipal polls



With the state witnessing the municipal election season, budget preparatory meetings have been postponed until the election results are announced on February 13. All ministers have instructed their respective secretaries to prepare detailed reports on fund allocations and expenditure incurred under each scheme till the end of January.

Officials said Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka has directed the Finance Department to hold pre-Budget meetings only after the elections. Ministers have been appointed as in-charges of all election-bound municipalities and entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring a Congress victory in the crucial polls.

In the meantime, the Finance Department has been holding internal meetings with secretaries, instructing them to furnish details of expenditure incurred on schemes and development works. Based on these reports, the Finance Minister is expected to review the performance of each department along with the ministers concerned in the second week of February.

Several departments are in the process of collecting scheme implementation details from district authorities and compiling the data. Once finalised, department secretaries will forward the reports to Finance Secretary Sandeep Kumar Sultania.

Sources said revenue-generating departments are also preparing separate reports and will soon hold review meetings to assess the achievement of targets.

CM finalises 'Swayam' as brand name for DWCRA products

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu finalised 'Swayam' as the brand name for products manufactured by women of DWCRA self-help groups in the state.

Reviewing the branding initiative at the Secretariat on Wednesday, the Chief Minister examined various names and logos proposed by officials for marketing DWCRA (self-help groups-SHG) products. After reviewing two logo designs, he directed that the opinions of DWCRA groups should also be taken into consideration before finalising the logo. He said the final decision should be based on majority consensus among the women's groups.

Emphasising the importance of branding, Naidu said DWCRA women were producing high-quality products and it was the government's responsibility to ensure effective marketing.

He said attractive branding was essential to expand demand beyond local markets and gain access to national and international platforms.

"The brand name and logo should be appealing and easily understood by everyone. Since these products are being brought to the market through self-help groups, the name 'Swayam' is appropriate. The logo should also reflect this concept," the Chief



Minister said. He stressed that strong branding would enhance the visibility of women-led enterprises, strengthen their market presence, and improve income opportunities for self-help group members.

Minister Kondapalli Srinivas and senior officials of the Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) department participated in the review meeting.

Modi is PM or Trump's personal secretary? asks Cong MP Chamala

Bhongir MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy on Wednesday questioned the national standing of Narendra Modi, asking whether he was acting as the Prime Minister of India or as a personal secretary to United States President Donald Trump. Speaking on recent geopolitical developments, the MP alleged that Trump had claimed to have intervened multiple times in critical Indian decisions, including during Operation Sindhoor and discussions regarding a cease-fire.

The Congress leader pointed out that the Prime Minister has remained silent despite these significant public claims. He emphasised that while the



truth of the statements made by Trump remains unverified, it is the duty of the Prime Minister to provide a

clear explanation to the citizens.

Kiran Kumar Reddy demanded that the Prime Minister state whether his addresses to the nation represent Indian interests or decisions orchestrated at the White House. He asserted that Parliament is the rightful forum for such debates. He concluded that the electorate sent representatives to the House specifically to ensure transparency and accountability on every issue affecting the sovereignty of the nation.

Parvati Kalyanam Harikatha performance captivates audience



Chikkadapally February 05 Metro Udayam : Nukala Yagna narayana Sharma (Amalapuram), the Bhagavathar, presented the Parvati Kalyanam Harikatha in a captivating manner. He narrated the story of Parvati, the daughter of the mountain king, choosing and marrying Lord Shiva who resided in the snow-capped mountains, enchanting the audience with his dance and captivating singing. The Parvati Kalyanam Harikatha performance took place at the Shankar Mutt in Nallakunta, as part of a week-long Harikatha festival organized by Kinnera Arts Theatres to celebrate Dr. K.V. Ramana's birthday. Speaking at the event, the chief guest, retired CBI court judge Justice Naga Maruti Sharma, said that the mythological stories in Harikatha performances are morally instructive. Dr. K.V. Ramana and Kinnera Raghuram were also present on the stage.

Uppal court lawyers protest against the murder of advocate Swapna



Medipally, February:05 (Metro udayam)

Lawyers staged a protest on Thursday at the Uppal Court complex in Medipally mandal center, condemning the murder of advocate Swapna. They later staged a sit-in protest on the Warangal National Highway. They demanded that the perpetrators of the murder be severely punished and that the government immediately enact a law for the protection of lawyers.



Hyderabad February:05 (Metro udayam)

Last night, Himayat Nagar division corporator Mahalakshmi Raman Goud presented a PowerPoint presentation to the people of Himayat Nagar division, showcasing the development and progress works undertaken in the division over the past five years. Khairatabad MLA Danam Nagender, DCC President Mutha Rohit, and others participated as chief guests at this event. Residents from all the slums and apartments in the division participated in large numbers, making the program a grand success.

One-Day National Seminar on Vibration Analysis: Brochure Released at Osmania University

Hyderabad, metro udayam Feb. 5:

The Department of Mechanical Engineering, University College of Engineering (Autonomous), Osmania University (UCE(A), OU), Hyderabad, is organizing a One-Day National Seminar on "Vibration Analysis and Advanced Condition Monitoring Techniques" on March 5, at the Mechanical Engineering Department, UCE(A), OU. In connection with the seminar, the brochure was formally released by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of Osmania University, Sr. Prof. Kumar Molugaram, at a function held on the university campus. Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-Chancellor complimented the organizers for initiating an academically relevant and industry-oriented seminar. He stated that such programmes provide an effective platform for inter-

action between academia and industry, enabling students, research scholars, faculty members and industry professionals to enhance their knowledge and skills in emerging thrust areas such as vibration analysis and advanced condition monitoring.

He further assured the full support of the University administration in organizing similar academic and skill-oriented programmes in the future, emphasizing that they would help prepare the youth—particularly from Telangana—to meet evolving industry requirements. The event was attended by several senior university officials and faculty members, including Prof. G. Naresh Reddy, Registrar, Osmania University; Prof. S. Jithender Kumar Naik, OSD to the Vice-Chancellor; Prof. P. Chandrasekhar, Principal, UCE, OU; Dr. Mangu, Vice-Principal, UCEOU;



Dr. B. Hadya, Head, Department of Mechanical Engineering, UCEOU; and Dr. M. C. S. Reddy, Organizing Secretary of the Seminar. Other dignitaries present included Dr. L. Siva Rama Krishna, Dr. T. Nagaveni, Dr. E. Madhusudan Raju, Dr. K. Buschaiah from the Department of Mechanical Engineering, UCEOU; Prof. C. Srinivaulu, Nodal Officer, RUSA, OU, and Dr. U. Ashok Kumar, Convener of the Seminar, along with faculty members, students and

research scholars. The seminar is open to UG and PG students, research scholars, faculty members and industry professionals. The last date for registration is March 2, 2026. The programme is sponsored by RUSA 2.0, Osmania University. For further details regarding registration fees, seminar content and schedule, interested participants may visit www.uceou.edu.

Awareness Programme on Drug Abuse

Hyderabad, February:5, MetroUdayam

Awareness Programme on Drug Abuse

Stating that today's children are tomorrow's citizens and that the responsibility of shaping a healthy society lies with students, Dr. Ch. Vijay Mohan Rao, D.G.C.E.O. & Chairman of International Nimble Human Rights, addressed students during an awareness programme.

On Thursday, at Kukururu Mandal, Eluru District, Andhra Pradesh, under the aegis of National Nimble Human Rights, Eluru District, awareness programmes were conducted at the ST Girls Ashram School, Cheeravalli ZP High



School, and Rajeev Nagar ZP High School on the theme "Say No to Drugs - Say No to Corruption."

Dr. Vijay Mohan Rao highlighted that drug abuse severely affects the future of youth and emphasized the need to create awareness among students from an early age. He appealed to educated citizens, youth, and

concerned department officials across the district to extend their cooperation in organizing such awareness initiatives. Speaking on the occasion, Eluru District President Mr. Vasantha Kumar stated that these programmes are being conducted to ensure students develop awareness about drugs and corruption from childhood.

District General Secretary Mr. Sudhakar explained to students the harmful effects, health hazards, and social consequences of drug addiction.

The programme was attended by Eluru District Coordinator Mr. Bayyani Nageswara Rao, Chief Advisor Mr. Mantri Gopalakrishna, District Vice President Mr. Budugula Tarun, Mr. Munagala Sai, Mr. Kesari Sambasiva Rao, Headmaster of Rajeev Nagar ZP High School, Ms. Mangamma, Headmistress of Kukururu Girls Ashram School, Ms. Radha, Headmistress of Cheeravalli High School, along with teachers and students.

WHEN THE PROTECTORS OF THE CONSTITUTION ARE ENDANGERED, THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA IS AT RISK

**By Dr. Karanam Rajesh Kumar
Renowned International Lawyer
Hyderabad, February:5,
MetroUdayam**

The brutal murder of Advocate Swapna, a practicing lawyer at Chevella Court in Ranga Reddy District, Telangana, has deeply shaken the conscience of the legal fraternity and the public. This incident is not merely the loss of one advocate; it represents a serious attack on the rule of law, the justice delivery system, and the constitutional framework of India. Advocates serve as officers of the court and guardians of citizens' rights, ensuring that justice prevails through lawful means rather than



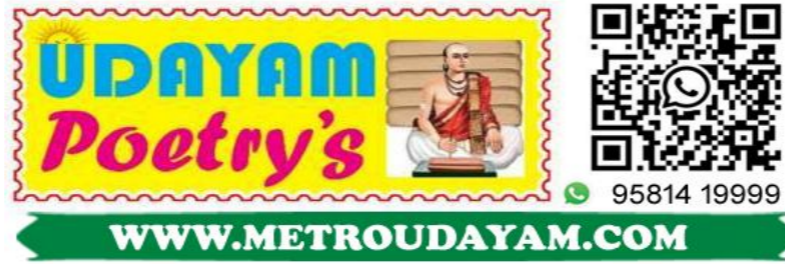
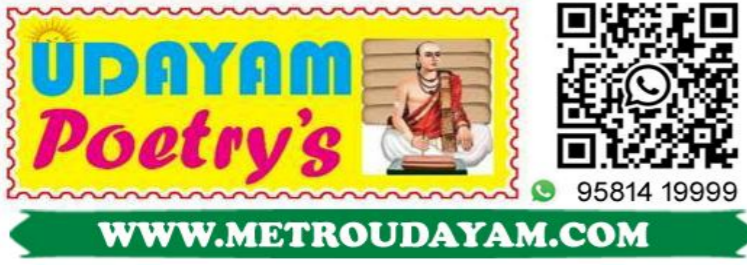
fear or violence. When advocates are threatened, attacked, or silenced, the very foundation of democracy begins to weaken. Courts depend on fearless legal representation, and without ade-

quate protection, the administration of justice suffers. Despite repeated incidents of violence against lawyers, India still lacks a comprehensive national Advocate Protection Act, leaving thousands of advocates vulnerable while performing their duties.

In a nation governed by the Constitution, protecting those who defend legal rights is not optional but essential. Safeguarding advocates ultimately safeguards the courts, public confidence, and the rule of law. If the protectors of the Constitution are endangered, the Constitution of India itself stands at risk, and urgent legislative action becomes a constitutional necessity.

TCA seeks court-mandated joint meeting with HCA

The Telangana Cricket Association (TCA) has formally written to the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) seeking an early joint meeting in compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble Bombay High Court. The request follows the High Court's order dated January 27, 2026, in Writ Petition No. 3678 of 2023, which directed both bodies to hold discussions and attempt conciliation in light of the BCCI's decision of July 11, 2021. In a letter addressed to the Single Member Committee of HCA, its President, Secretary and Chief Executive Officer, TCA General Secretary Dharam Guruva Reddy urged that the joint meeting be convened within the next two to three weeks to meet the court-prescribed timelines. TCA proposed that the meeting be held at a neutral and mutually accessible venue in Hyderabad and offered to make logistical arrangements, subject to HCA's consent. For transparency, TCA proposed audio and video recording of the proceedings by both sides and requested that only currently elected committee members attend, without legal counsel.



जो भी व्यक्ति शर में से खैर (बुराई में से अच्छाई) को ना पहचान ले वह चौपाया (चार पैरों वाला, जानवर, पशु ही होता) है।... (शकील उवाच - ६०८)

हम सबका सृष्टिकर्ता पालनहार परमात्मा ने इस सारी दुनिया को ढंद के साथ अस्तित्व में लाया है। इस दुनिया में खैर और शर (अच्छाई और बुराई) दोनों भी मौजूद हैं। और ईश्वर ने हमें अक्ल (बुद्धि) दे कर बड़ी कृपा किया है। उसी अक्ल के जरिए से शर (बुराई) से खैर (अच्छाई) को पहचान कर शुभ कर्म करते रहना चाहिए। जो आदमी ऐसा नहीं करता वह पशुओं के समान ही है, इतना ही नहीं बल्कि पशु से बढ़कर पशु है। क्योंकि पशु को बुद्धि नहीं होती। जब ईश्वर ने हमें बुद्धि जैसे उत्कृष्ट उपहार से अनुग्रहित किया है तो उस बुद्धि का भी उपयोग करना चाहिए।



पैगंबर साहब मोहम्मद (स्व.) के पहिले उचारणिक, री इमाम अली इब्न अबू तालिब (अ.) फमति है के, "जो (भी व्यक्ति) शर में से खैर (बुराई में से अच्छाई) को ना पहचान ले वह चौपाया (चार पैरों वाला, जानवर, पशु ही होता) है।" हैदरी कुतुबखाना, मुंबई द्वारा प्रकाशित उर्दू पुस्तक तजल्लियाते हिक्मत, बाब मारिफत १९६, हदीस क्रमांक १७, पुष्ट क्रमांक ४४७। बुद्धि का उपयोग ना करना भीबेक तरह से खुद पर जुल्म (अत्याचार) ही है। और सबसे बड़ी बुराई यही है के हम जुल्म (अत्याचार) करते रहे। और सबसे बड़ी अच्छाई यही है के इंसान (न्याय) को प्रस्थापित करें।

ऐसे तो धर्म ने जीवन यापन करने के बेहतरीन तरीके हमें बताया है। हमारे द्वारा किसी पर किसी तरह का जुल्म (अत्याचार) न हो ऐसी खबरदारी लेने का हुक्म धर्म ने दिया है। हमारे आवरण का हिसाब किताब हमें एक दिन देना पड़ेगा यह कहकर हमारे परमात्मा द्वारा हमारे कर्म छोटे हो या बड़े सभी को हमारे सामने हाजिर करने की बात भी कही गई है। कर्मों के प्रति सतर्क रहने की चेतावनी बार बार दी गई है। लेकिन अज्ञान के अंधकार में कौं व्यक्ति इस ओर ध्यान नहीं देता।

पवित्र कुरान के ३१ वे अध्याय में लुकमान अलैहिस्सलाम अपने बेटे को नसीहत करते हुए कही गई बातों को सभी पढ़ना चाहिए। पवित्र कुरान में आया है के, (लुकमान अलैहिस्सलाम ने अपने बेटे से कहा) " ऐ बेटा! इसमें शक नहीं के वह अमल (अच्छे बुरे कर्म) अगर यई के दाने के बराबर भी हो और फिर वह किसी सख्त (कठिन) पत्थर के अंदर या आसमानों में या जमीन में (छुपे हुए) हो तो भी अल्लाह (सु.) उसे (क्यामत या जने प्रलय के दिन) हाजिर (प्रस्तुत) कर देगा। बेशक अल्लाह (सु.) बारीकबीन वाकिफकार (ईश्वर सूक्ष्मदर्शी और ज्ञाता) है।" (पवित्र कुरान, अध्याय क्रमांक ३१, सूराह लुकमान, आयत क्रमांक १६)।

इसी तरह माँ-बाप के साथ नेकी करने के और उनके साथ एहसान करने के बारे में पवित्र कुरान के आदेश स्पष्ट है। यह आदेश मानव को सचेत करने वाले हैं। पवित्र कुरान में आया है के, "और हमने इंसान को जिसे उसकी माँ ने दुख पर दुख सह के पेट में रखा (उसके अलावा) दो बरस में (जा के) उसकी दूध बढ़ाई की (अपने और) उसके माँ-बाप के बारे में ताकीद की मेरा भी शुकिया अदा करो और अपने वालदैन का (भी और आखिर सबको) मेरी तरफ लौट कर जाना है।" (पवित्र कुरान, अध्याय क्रमांक ३१, सूराह लुकमान, आयत क्रमांक १४)।

इसके अलावा पवित्र कुरान में आया है के, "और तुम्हारे परवरदिगार (पालनहार परमात्मा) ने तो हुक्म ही दिया है कि उसके सिवा किसी दूसरे की इबादत (उपासना) ना करना और माँ-बाप से नेकी करना अगर उनमें से एक या दोनों तेरे सामने बुढ़ापे को पहुँचे (और किसी बात पर खफा हों) तो (खबरदार! उनके जवाब में) उफ़ तक ना कहना और ना छिड़कना और (जो कुछ कहना सुनना हो) तो बहुत अदब से कहा करो।" (पवित्र कुरान, अध्याय क्रमांक १७, सूराह बनी इस्राईल, आयत क्रमांक २३)।

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

CM Chandrababu announces formation of Committee over Tirumala ghee adulteration

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has announced the formation of a one-member committee to investigate claims of adulterated ghee being used in the preparation of Tirumala laddus. He stated that all reports would be submitted to the committee, and anyone found guilty would face strict action.

Speaking at a press conference following a meeting with coalition leaders at his residence, Naidu revealed that the CBI had also submitted a report with recommendations regarding the laddu issue. He emphasised that the matter is not merely political but one of religious significance, affecting the sentiments of devotees.

Naidu expressed his deep reverence for Lord Venkateswara, describing the deity as his family god and noting that the name of the Lord inspires devotion. He recounted growing up in a tradition of fasting every Saturday and reflected on the 2003 assassination attempt at Alipiri, which occurred as he was heading to Tirumala to inaugurate a life-saving programme. With emotion, Naidu said, "If I survived that attack, it was only due to God's grace. I received a new lease on life and cannot live without faith in God."

ROME IS NOT BUILT IN ONE DAY!

Without effort no success fall down from heaven! This proverb is perfectly suits for it! No magic lamp is there to fulfill our wishes! That happens only in fantasy stories!

A big mansion can not be built in one day! Brick by brick with labour work there behind! There is milk, in it ghee too! Effort and time factor yield the result!

Not only one or two examples, so many are there! Same way in life also, nothing possible to get without firm decision, patience and hard work!

For example Independence to our country! So many people struggled many years! Patriotism, sacrifice, dedication, daring and dashing! At times non violence, banning foreign goods what not! Agitation with all these as weapons against British rule!



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

Make Hanuma Naik win with huge majority....



Kodada February 05 Metro morning.....

Balaji Nagar 7th Ward under Kodada Town President Hanumanayak, the BRS candidate, organized a campaign at the award on Thursday. They went from door to door asking the voters to vote for Hanumanayak and bless him. Similarly, the candidate of the 26th ward of the town, Kukkadapu Suvarnadevi and Venkateshwarlu campaigned in the ward seeking victory. Speaking on this occasion, he criticized the Congress government for neglecting public welfare after coming to power. Criticizing the government's failures, he urged Hanumanayak to vote for the car symbol and win with a huge majority. He expressed confidence that development of town and ward is possible only with BRS.

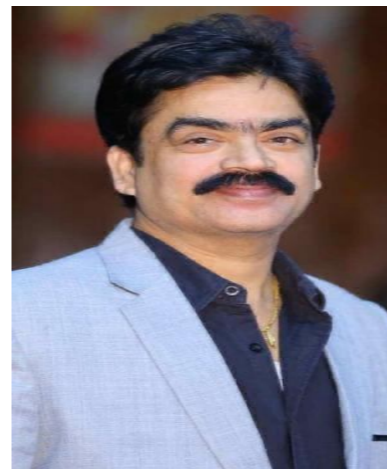


ARE GREATER COMMUNITIES UNDER GREATER EXPLOITATION?

Associations Accused of Exploiting Homeowners in Apartments and Gated Communities

Hyderabad, Feb. 5 (Metro Udayam):

As cities continue to expand, the concept of "Greater Communities" has been promoted as a modern lifestyle offering safety, amenities, cleanliness and collective living. However, in reality, several apartments, gated communities and villa projects have increasingly turned into centres of financial exploitation of homeowners, senior journalist Dr. Jitender Rao Tanugula has said. Associations formed to protect the interests of



homeowners are now functioning as power-driven bodies serving personal interests. Arbitrary hikes in maintenance charges, expenditure without residents' consent and pressure on those who question such decisions have become common practices. In large apartment

complexes collecting crores of rupees annually as maintenance funds, expenditure details are often not disclosed transparently. Audit reports are either avoided or presented unclearly, raising concerns over financial irregularities. Excessive maintenance charges and collection of money for unnecessary services have placed a heavy burden on residents.

Contracts for security, housekeeping, gardening and generator maintenance are frequently awarded without any tender process, often to favoured agencies. Despite poor quality services, the same agencies continue for years. Villa owners and open plot

owners face similar issues, with damaged roads, neglected parks and unresolved drainage problems, while charges continue to rise.

Lack of effective government oversight and weak implementation of apartment ownership and society registration laws have worsened the situation. Senior citizens, single homeowners and tenants are among the worst affected, with denial of basic facilities when charges are questioned. Many homeowners are forced to live in fear within their own homes. The issue calls for immediate reforms to ensure transparency, accountability and protection of homeowners' rights.

Weather Changes in Telugu States: Warmer Days Ahead

The weather has shifted across the Telugu states, with the cold intensity decreasing and daytime temperatures rising. Cold conditions are now mainly felt during early mornings, with the sun's heat increasing during the day. The Meteorological Department has issued an update on the weather situation in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, indicating that winds are blowing from the northeast-east direction, bringing predominantly dry weather. However, there is a possibility of fog in some areas.

According to the Amaravati Meteorological Centre, winds from the northeast and east are influencing the lower atmosphere over Andhra Pradesh and Yanam. The forecast for Andhra Pradesh over the next three days predicts dry weather on Thursday and Friday across North Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, and South Coastal Andhra Pradesh, with fog likely in one or two places. Saturday is also expected to be dry. In Rayalaseema, similar conditions are forecasted, with dry weather on Thursday and

Friday, fog possible in a few spots, and continued dryness on Saturday. The minimum temperatures across Andhra Pradesh and Yanam are expected to remain steady over the next five days. In Telangana, the Hyderabad Meteorological Centre reports that lower-level winds are primarily from the southeast, which suggests that dry weather will persist throughout the next three days, from Thursday through Saturday. Overall, the weather is expected to stay dry with no significant changes in temperature during this period.

EAST COAST RAILWAY CELEBRATES VISHISHT RAIL SEVA PURASKAR-2025 WITH RECOGNITION OF OUTSTANDING RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.



Waltair Division shared overall Efficiency Shield with Sambalpur:

East Coast Railway marked the grand celebration of Vishisht Rail Seva Puraskar-2025 today at the Railway Auditorium in Bhubaneswar, honouring the exceptional service and dedication of its employees. The event saw the felicitation of 49 Railway employees for their outstanding performance, as well as the distribution of several efficiency shields to different divisions and stations across the region.

Key Highlights of the Event:

49 Railway Employees Felicitated: In recognition of exemplary service, integrity and professional excellence: 49 Railway employees from different departments and divisions of East Coast Railway

were conferred with the prestigious Vishisht Rail Seva Puraskar-2025. The awardees include officers and staff from Operating, Engineering, Mechanical, Electrical, Signal & Telecommunication, Commercial, Security and other frontline departments, who distinguished themselves through outstanding performance, innovation, leadership, safety initiatives and sustained contribution to organisational efficiency. The awards were presented by Shri Parmeshwar Funkwal, General Manager, East Coast Railway, acknowledging their commitment, devotion to duty and significant role in achieving organisational objectives.

Overall Efficiency Shield Awarded to Waltair & Sambalpur Division Jointly : In a significant achieve-

ment, Waltair & Sambalpur Divisions were jointly honored with the Overall Efficiency Shield, recognizing their exemplary performance in maintaining high standards of operational efficiency, safety and service delivery. Waltair Division bagged 9 efficiency shields received by Divisional Railway Manager Shri Lalit Bohra and respective Branch Officers from Waltair Division.

Gracing the occasion, Shri Parmeshwar Funkwal, General Manager of East Coast Railway, congratulated the Railway personnel for their exceptional commitment and 24/7 efforts in fulfilling their responsibilities. He emphasized the importance of teamwork and continued dedication in achieving operational excellence.

The ceremony was further elevated by the presence of Smt. Kavita Funkwal, President of East Coast Railway Women's Welfare Organisation, Shri B.S.K. Rajkumar, Additional General Manager, along with other Principal Heads of Departments and senior officials of ECoR. Shri A.K. Chaturvedi, Senior Deputy General Manager, welcomed the guests and highlighted significance of the awards on the occasion.

The Vishisht Rail Seva Puraskar-2025 ceremony was a sincere recognition of the hard work and dedication of unsung heroes of East Coast Railway, highlighting their important role in ensuring the smooth and efficient operation of the Railway System.

Vote with your hand. Kolla Kotireddy...



Kodada February 05 Metro morning.....

Kodada 19th ward Congress candidate Kolla Kotireddy inaugurated his election office. On this occasion, he conducted mummara campaign in the ward and inquired about the problems of the people. He asked him to win with a huge majority if the welfare schemes of the Congress government are to reach every household. He said that his first priority is to make the ward ideal and requested the voters to vote for the hand sign and bless him.

Vote for ward progress...

Tummalapally Ajanta Bhaskar Rao



Kodada February 05 Metro morning.....

As part of Kodada municipal election campaign, 19th ward BRS candidate Tummalapally Ajanta Bhaskar Rao toured the ward extensively on Thursday. They promised to complete the pending works in the ward by going door to door. The development that took place during the previous BRS regime was explained. He asked them to vote on the car symbol and win him with a huge majority. He appealed to the voters that his aim is to make the ward ideal.

Alleging 'breakdown of law and order' in AP, YSRCP moves NHRC

YSRCP on Wednesday approached the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), seeking an urgent probe into attacks on the residences of former ministers Ambati Rambabu and Jogi Ramesh, the murder of a Dalit in Palnadu, and assaults on party leaders in Andhra Pradesh. A high-level YSRCP delegation met NHRC chairperson Justice V Ramasubramanian in New Delhi and submitted a detailed complaint, alleging that the state was witnessing a complete breakdown of law and order under the Chandrababu Naidu-led government. The leaders accused the ruling TDP of encouraging violence against opposition leaders and suppressing dissent through coordinated attacks. The delegation submitted video and photographic evidence, claiming that TDP workers were behind the incidents and that there were deliberate attempts to physically eliminate YSRCP leaders. They urged the NHRC to intervene immediately to curb what they termed anarchic and unconstitutional governance in the State. The YSRCP leaders alleged that attacks on Dalits had increased and accused the police of acting as mute spectators.

Urban development is possible only with the Congress party

Pamena Bheem Bharath campaigns in Shankarpally Municipality elections

Former MP Ranjith Reddy also participated

Intensive campaign for the victory of Congress party candidates with a huge majority

Chevella, February:05 (Metro Udayam)

As part of the municipal election campaign, Chevella constituency Congress party in-charge Pamena Bheem Bharath intensified his campaign in the Shankarpally municipality area. On Friday, he extensively toured several wards in Shankarpally municipality and solicited votes on behalf of the Congress party candidates.

He visited every street in the wards, inquired about people's problems, and explained the welfare schemes being implemented by the Congress government. On this occasion, he stated that urban development is possible only with the Congress party and advised people to elect candidates who will constantly work for the resolution of public problems. He appealed to the people to vote for the Congress candidates with the 'hand' symbol and ensure their



victory with a huge majority. They assured that they would take the responsibility of developing the wards into model wards. State leaders Uday Mohan Reddy, national leader Sher Ananth Reddy, Shankar Pally Mandal President Janardhan

Reddy, Ravinder Reddy, Baddam Krishna Reddy, former Chevella Assembly President Pentareddy, State Minority General Secretary Ashwaq Patel, Syed Wasim, minority leaders, municipal presidents, senior leaders, Shankar Pally Municipality

councilor candidates, local Congress leaders, Youth Congress, Women's Congress, and key activists, along with a large number of women and youth, participated in this program.

Gaddar Film Awards screenings from tomorrow; gala on March 19

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka announced that the screening of films for the Gaddar Film Awards will commence from February 6, while the awards distribution ceremony will be held in a grand manner on March 19.

Recalling that the Gaddar Awards ceremony last year was conducted magnificently and sent a strong message globally, the Deputy CM said the government is committed to organising the event on a larger scale this year as well.

He stated that full autonomy and all necessary support are being extended by the state government to the Film Development



Corporation and the Information and Public Relations (I&PR) Department for successful conduct of the awards.

Bhatti Vikramarka observed that film industries in cities like Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai

have limited scope for further expansion, whereas Hyderabad offers abundant opportunities for film industries across languages to grow and flourish.

He said that if film industries from across the country choose Hyderabad, it would generate large-scale employment opportunities for the youth of Telangana, including technicians, writers and directors. Hyderabad, he added, has the potential to emerge as a global hub for the film market, and the government will prepare a detailed blueprint to achieve this goal.

He pointed out that the previous government neglected film

awards for several decades. In contrast, the Praja Government led by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has revived film awards to encourage the cinema sector, which plays a crucial role in driving social change.

Describing Gaddar as a towering personality, who dedicated his life to society through art, the Deputy CM said Telangana symbolises art, revolution, questioning, sensitivity, love and compassion. He noted that Gaddar took Telangana's art and culture to the global stage, and to honour his legacy and promote cinema, the government introduced film awards in his name from last year.

Naidu-Pawan hold key talks on ghee issue, coalition strategy



Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan reportedly discussed attempts by YSRCP to inflame caste differences in the state and Tirumala ghee adulteration issue in their meeting at Chief Minister's Undavalli residence on Wednesday.

The two leaders held a closed-door discussion for nearly two-and-a-half hours, during which they reviewed key political and administrative issues.

According to sources, the discussions focused on recent political developments, government priorities and the need for stronger coordination among coalition partners at the grassroots level. The Tirumala laddu adulteration issue reportedly figured prominently in the talks. The leaders reviewed the progress of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe into the alleged use of adulterated ghee in the laddu prasadam and discussed further

steps to ensure strict punishment for those responsible.

They also agreed on the need for a coordinated strategy to counter opposition criticism that could hurt the sentiments of devotees, and to clearly communicate facts to the public at the ground level. The two leaders are said to have cautioned coalition leaders against falling into what they described as opposition attempts to provoke people through caste-based politics.

The upcoming Rajya Sabha elections were another key agenda item. Preliminary discussions were held on filling four Rajya Sabha vacancies from Andhra Pradesh. Sources said seat-sharing among coalition partners was discussed based on their respective strengths, with Chandrababu Naidu reportedly expressing a positive view on giving due importance to Jana Sena and the BJP. The leaders also decided to expedite the process of filling long-pending nominated posts to ensure justice to party workers.

Pawan Kalyan's proposed campaign in the Telangana municipal elections on behalf of the BJP also came up for discussion. He is expected to campaign for two days, and sources say he discussed the issues to be raised there, given the political sensitivity of the exercise and his position as Deputy Chief Minister. It is learnt that he sought guidance from Chandrababu Naidu in this regard.

The meeting is being seen as a clear signal that there are no differences within the coalition and that the partners are moving forward in close coordination. Issues related to maintaining law and order were also discussed. Official announcements on nominated posts and Rajya Sabha candidates are expected soon.

Jagan warns of 'strong' cadre response, lambasts Naidu over 'jungle raj'

YSRCP president and former chief minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on Wednesday warned that the party cadre would respond firmly if the Chandrababu Naidu-led government continued what he termed as "Jungle Raj" amid an alleged deterioration in law and order in the state. Speaking to the media in Guntur after consoling the family members of former minister Ambati Rambabu, Jagan Mohan Reddy accused Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu of attempting to distort facts after, he said, his claims were disproved in the Tirupati laddu adulteration case. He pointed out that Central laboratories had given a clean chit, but the coalition government was now trying to stage a



"makeover" by ordering yet another committee to probe the issue.

The YSRCP chief said the Supreme Court-monitored CBI SIT chargesheet did not mention the use of animal fat in the preparation of the laddus. He further noted that the names of the TTD chairman of that period and YSRCP members did not figure

anywhere in the chargesheet following the closure of the investigation.

Stating that Chandrababu Naidu's "blatant lies" had been exposed by NDDDB and NDRI laboratory reports, Jagan Mohan Reddy alleged that instead of admitting mistakes, the Chief Minister was diverting public attention by spreading misin-

formation and putting up provocative posters across the State.

He alleged that the controversy was part of a conspiracy by Chandrababu Naidu, HRD minister Nara Lokesh, and Deputy Chief Minister K Pawan Kalyan to shift focus away from the lab reports. Recalling recent incidents, Jagan Mohan Reddy said TDP activists had attacked the houses of Ambati Rambabu and former minister Jogi Ramesh with lethal weapons. He also alleged police complicity, claiming that senior officials present nearby failed to respond to distress calls. "They did not even answer calls for help, clearly indicating that the attacks were orchestrated," he said.

Applications invited for Ugadi, Kalaratna awards

Vijayawada: The State Creativity and Culture Committee invited applications for the prestigious Ugadi and Kalaratna awards to be presented during the Ugadi celebrations scheduled to be held on March 19 in connection with the Sri 'Parabhava' nama Samvatsara. In a statement on Wednesday, R Mallikarjuna Rao, chief executive officer of the state Creativity and Culture Committee, said the awards would be conferred on eminent personalities who have made outstanding contributions in their respective fields. Applications are invited from experts in 15 categories, including literature, music, dance, painting, sculpture, theatre, folklore, mimicry, avadhanam, medicine, magic and mime, Harikatha and burrakatha, journalism, social service and other service sectors recommended by the committee.



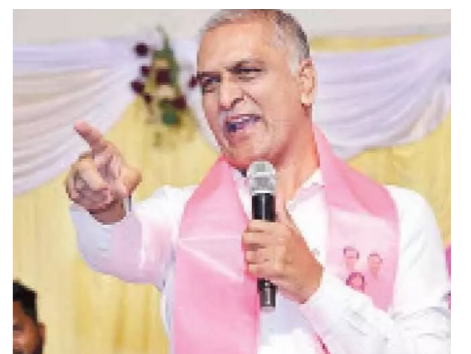
Mallikarjuna Rao clarified that applications from individuals who have already received Central government awards or state-level Ugadi or Kalaratna awards in the past will not be considered.

Eligible and interested candidates are requested to submit their bio-data on or before February 20. Applications can be sent either by post to the Chief Executive Officer, State Creativity and Culture Committee, Second Floor, Ghantasala Venkateswara Rao Government College of Music and Dance, Durgapuram, Vijayawada, or through email at apculture.ugadi2026@gmail.com

The CEO urged qualified artistes and professionals to make use of the opportunity and participate in the selection process for the prestigious state awards, which recognise excellence and dedicated service in the fields of art, culture and society.

Harish Rao accuses CM of threat politics

BRSLP deputy leader Harish Rao on Wednesday launched a scathing attack on Revanth Reddy, questioning whether he was functioning as a Chief Minister or a street thug. Responding to comments made by the Chief Minister during



a public meeting in Miryalaguda, Rao condemned the language used against the public and opposition leaders. He asked if it was acceptable to threaten elderly citizens and women with such vulgarity when they enquire about promised pensions of Rs 4,000 or the Mahalakshmi scheme's Rs 2,500. "You cheated the people by swearing on your mother and writing on bond papers. Now, when they ask for their rights, you resort to hooliganism. Is this your culture?" Rao remarked. He contrasted the Chief Minister's history with that of Chandrashekar Rao, describing the latter as a great leader who sacrificed high-ranking union and state positions for the sake of Telangana. He labelled the Chief Minister a traitor to the statehood movement, alleging he had once pointed a gun at activists and only occupies his current office because of the sacrifices made by the BRS founder. He also levelled serious allegations of electoral malpractice, claiming that BRS candidates are being kidnapped. He questioned why the Congress party, if confident of its strength, would need to abduct opposition contenders. He further alleged that the ruling party is using the police to threaten and blackmail individuals into joining Congress. According to Rao, these desperate measures prove that the government has realised the public will not vote for them in a fair contest. He concluded that no amount of intimidation would work against the people's resolve.

HC questions free land allotment to Adani firms

The Andhra Pradesh High Court has issued notices to the state government and the concerned Adani Group companies in connection with the allotment of land for a proposed data centre in the Adavi Varam and Mudasarilova areas near Visakhapatnam. The notices were issued while hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by Nethala Nageswara Rao, Anakapalli district president of the Jai Bheem Bharat Party (JBP). The petitioner challenged the allotment of around 480 acres of government land to Ride and Infotech India Private Limited, Adani Infra Private Limited, and Adani Power India Private Limited, allegedly free of cost.

Advocate Jada Shravan Kumar, appearing for the petitioner, submitted that the land was highly valu-



able and that its market worth was estimated at about Rs 5,000 crore. He argued that the allotment violated the State's 2023 Land Allotment Policy (GO No.117), which stipulates that land should be leased to industries and that ownership rights should be considered only after project completion.

He further contended that executing a sale deed before the establishment of the project would permanently deprive the gov-

ernment of its rights over the land. The petitioner referred to two government orders issued in 2025 in favour of the Adani companies - GO 40 dated October 11, providing incentives worth Rs 1,000 crore along with land, and GO 66 dated December 2, directing the immediate transfer of 480 acres.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur and Justice Challa

Gunaranjan questioned the legality of the allotment.

The Bench sought to know under which law the land could be transferred free of cost and how a sale deed could be executed when policy mandates leasing. The court also inquired whether registration of the sale deed had already been completed.

Appearing for the state, advocate general Dammalapati Srinivas sought time to study the matter in detail and informed the court that a comprehensive counter-affidavit would be filed.

Taking note of the submissions, the High Court directed the government to file a detailed affidavit and issued notices to all respondents. The hearing was adjourned for four weeks.

Jan Suraj Approaches Supreme Court Seeking Cancellation Of 2025 Bihar Assembly Elections



The Jan Suraj Party, led by political strategist-turned-politician Prashant Kishor, has filed a petition in the Supreme Court seeking to set aside the 2025 Bihar Assembly election results, alleging widespread electoral misconduct during the polls. The matter is scheduled to be heard by a bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant.

In its plea, the party has accused the ruling establishment in Bihar of engaging in unlawful and corrupt practices by enrolling new beneficiaries under the Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana and transferring ₹10,000 each to an estimated 25-35 lakh women voters while the Model Code of Conduct was in force. Jan Suraj has claimed that these actions violated constitutional provisions guaranteeing equality, personal liberty, and free and fair elections.

The petition argues that the alleged cash transfers amounted to voter inducement and sought action by the Election Commission of India under Article 324 of the Constitution and provisions of the Representation of the People Act related to bribery and corrupt electoral practices. It further contended that such direct benefit transfers during the election period constituted "gratification" aimed at influencing voters.

Apart from monetary transfers, the party has also raised concerns over the deployment of nearly 1.80 lakh women linked to self-help groups under the state-run JEEVIKA programme at polling stations during both phases of voting, alleging that this undermined the integrity of the electoral process. Citing these alleged violations, Jan Suraj has urged the court to declare the 2025 Bihar Assembly election results null and void and to order fresh elections. It has also relied on a 2013 Supreme Court judgment on pre-election freebies, requesting the court to direct the Election Commission to frame clear guidelines on welfare schemes, freebies and direct benefit transfers, including a mandatory cooling-off period between the launch of such schemes and the announcement of elections.

The legal challenge follows Jan Suraj's unsuccessful electoral debut, in which the party contested 238 of the state's 243 Assembly seats but failed to secure a single victory. The ruling NDA alliance, led by the BJP and Janata Dal (United), won a decisive mandate with 202 seats. While Kishor accepted responsibility for the party's defeat, he has consistently alleged that welfare promises and cash transfers played a decisive role in shaping the election outcome.

Atchanna seeks more state funds for agri, allied sectors

Vijayawada: Ahead of the presentation of the Andhra Pradesh Annual Budget for the financial year 2026-27 in the forthcoming Assembly sessions, Minister for agriculture and animal husbandry Kinjarapu Atchanna had a detailed discussion with finance minister Payyavula Keshav on budgetary priorities.

During the meeting, the agriculture minister urged the finance minister to allocate additional funds for the comprehensive development of agriculture and allied sectors, with a special focus on strengthening support to farmers across the state. He also stressed the need to further promote the dairy sector and



expand animal husbandry activities as key drivers of rural livelihoods.

Atchanna emphasised that the upcoming budget should accord special priority to increasing farmers' income, enhancing agricultural productivity, adopting modern technologies, and expanding

the livestock sector. He also highlighted the requirement for additional financial support for the construction of important office buildings, development of infrastructure, and effective implementation of ongoing and proposed projects under the agriculture and allied departments.

Explaining the growing needs of the sector, the minister requested enhanced budgetary allocations to ensure sustainable growth and long-term benefits for the farming community.

Responding positively, finance minister Keshav assured that the coalition government is fully committed to farmer welfare and the development of agriculture and animal husbandry sectors. He stated that necessary steps would be taken to ensure adequate allocations for these sectors in the forthcoming budget, reaffirming the government's priority towards strengthening the agrarian economy of the State.

NDMC declares Kaka Nagar first fully mechanised, dust-free colony

New Delhi : The NDMC on Wednesday declared Kaka Nagar as the sixth 'Anupam Colony', becoming the first residential area in the national capital to shift entirely to a mechanised, dust-free cleaning system, a statement read.

The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) chairman, Keshav Chandra, stated that the move is a step towards cleaner air and more sustainable urban sanitation.

"With this transition, all sweeping and cleaning operations in Kaka Nagar will now be carried out using machines instead of traditional broom-based methods," Chandra said.



He said that under the new system, sanitation work in the colony is being handled through five push-back mechanical sweepers and one gobbler machine. NDMC officials said the shift is aimed at significantly cutting down dust emissions during cleaning and improving

ambient air quality in the neighbourhood.

With the inclusion of Kaka Nagar, the colony joins five other residential areas earlier designated as Anupam Colonies within the NDMC area, officials said. "Kaka Nagar stands apart as the first where cleaning activities are

being carried out exclusively through mechanised means," the statement read.

Sharing details of waste management measures, NDMC advisor (solid waste management) Rajiv Kumar Jain said that 12 wire-mesh composting units have been installed in the colony to process wet and horticultural waste. The compost generated is being used in parks and distributed among residents under the "Geela Kuda Lao, Khaad Le Jao" initiative, which has been running for the past week, officials said.

Calling it a pilot project, Chandra said that the model could be replicated across other NDMC colonies based on its performance. He acknowledged the sup-

port of the Resident Welfare Association (RWA) and appreciated the sanitation workers and field staff involved in running the system.

To encourage citizen participation, an RRR (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) Centre and a "Neki Ki Diwaar" have also been set up, allowing residents to donate reusable items and segregate recyclables, the statement added.

NDMC had earlier given Anupam Colony status to areas including D-1, D-2 and Satya Sadan Officers' Flats, Bharti Nagar, Aradhana Cooperative Housing Society, Babu Dham and New Moti Bagh, citing them as models of sustainable urban living. (PTI)

Sanya Malhotra reflects on the importance of fitness & the discipline it requires



Mumbai: Actress Sanya Malhotra delivered a powerful performance mid-innings during the Women's Premier League Eliminator.

Being surrounded by so many female athletes also made her reflect on the importance of fitness and the immense discipline it requires.

Looking back at the experience, Sanya revealed how deeply personal the moment was for her.

She shared, "Performing at the WPL was incredibly special. The energy of the crowd was unreal, and it felt amazing to be part of a space that celebrates women in sport." Sanya added that training like an athlete for her movie changed her outlook on discipline and fitness. She called our women athletes "superheroes".

"I feel grateful to have a platform where I can be inspired by them and hopefully inspire others to be unapologetically themselves and believe that nothing is impossible," the 'Mrs' actress added.

Sanya further expressed, "This was the first time I felt so good performing. I came out feeling like this was really good. The crowd was amazing and it feels incredible to have performed in a stadium this amazing." Reflecting on her personal journey as an actor when she trained for 'Dangal', she shared, "I have trained like an athlete for a year for a movie. It completely changed my mind towards fitness, towards discipline. I still somewhere try and match that life. The kind of discipline that the women athletes follow, the kind of routine that they follow, they're superheroes, honestly. I think I feel really grateful that I have this platform as an actor."

"I want to empower women because I get empowered by watching these women play on the field or even in my industry every day, and get empowered and get motivated to be better at representing them and just being myself. As an actor, I follow a very disciplined life. I would encourage and I would want women to just be themselves unapologetically. For the upcoming players, just be confident. Try whatever you feel like trying. Do whatever you want to do. Don't let anyone tell you that you can't do it, ever," added Sanya.

Filmmaker Subhash Ghai backs AR Rahman, says communal remark controversy is 'Unnecessarily Exaggerated'

Mumbai: Veteran filmmaker Subhash Ghai has come out in support of Oscar-winning composer AR Rahman amid the ongoing controversy over the musician's recent comments about the Hindi film industry, calling the perceived "communal" remark "unnecessarily exaggerated and stretched."



Rahman's statement, made in a recent interview with the BBC Asian Network, sparked widespread debate after he suggested that a "power shift" in the industry over the past eight years had slowed work opportunities for him and hinted that it could be a communal issue. The comments drew reactions from across Bollywood, with several personalities weighing in. Speaking to one of the leading news agencies, Ghai, who has known Rahman since 1994 and collaborated with him on films such as Taal, Kisna and Yuvvraaj, said he had never seen Rahman speak in communal terms and stressed the composer's lifelong focus on spirituality and humanity rather than religion. "He has written so many bhajans as well as Sufi songs," Ghai noted, adding that the film industry is "the most secular industry" where people work like brothers. Ghai's comments underscore growing support within the film fraternity for Rahman, who later clarified in a video message that his intentions were misunderstood and that he had never aimed to hurt anyone. Rahman emphasised that his purpose through music has always been to connect, celebrate and honour India's rich and multicultural traditions. The discussion has generated varied views: while some industry figures have defended Rahman's remarks as misconstrued, others have rejected the notion of communal bias in Bollywood. The exchange highlights broader conversations around inclusivity and opportunity in the entertainment industry.

Border 2 Maintains Steady Momentum, Approaches ₹400 Crore Global Mark

The film, which starred Sunny Deol and Varun Dhawan it was released on January 23rd, 2026. It made the most of the week of holidays to increase the film's earnings.

On the 11th day after release the collection began to see the collection trend declining.

The film earned the sum of Rs30 crore on its first day, and Border 2 box office Rs59 million for Republic Day.

According to an Sacnilk report, it made the sum of Rs4 crore on the 13th day (second Wednesday) and brought the total amount earned of India up to Rs290.75 crore.

The total worldwide revenue of the film Border 2 worldwide earnings Rs397.25 million.

The earnings of the film decreased significantly following its debut week.

It earned Rs224.25 crore during the first week, which was followed by



Rs10.75 million on the 8th day (second Friday), Rs17.75 crore on Day 9 (second Saturday) and Rs22.5 crores on the 10th day (second day of Sunday).

The earnings then dipped to Rs5.75 crore on days 11-12, before slamming to 4 millions on Day 13 (second day of Wednesday).

The film has an ensemble cast,

including Deol, Dhawan, Diljit Dosanjh, as well as Ahn Shetty.

It also features Mona Singh, Medha Rana, Sonam Bajwa, and Anya Singh in vital places and special appearances by Suniel Shetty as well as Akshaye Khanna.

The film came out on the 23rd of January this year.

Nick Jonas shares emotional account of daughter Malti's early health crisis

Los Angeles: American pop star Nick Jonas has opened up about the difficult days following the birth of his daughter Malti, revealing that she needed to be resuscitated shortly after delivery and spent nearly 100 days in a neonatal intensive care unit.

Speaking on the On Purpose podcast, Nick said Malti was born under "very intense circumstances", much earlier than expected. The couple had been preparing for an April arrival, but received a sudden call informing them that the baby would be born sooner.

Recalling the moment he first saw his daughter, Nick said she weighed just 1 pound and 11 ounces and appeared "purple" at birth. Malti was born via surrogacy, and medical staff immediately stepped in to stabilise her condition.

Nick credited the NICU team for saving his daughter's life, describing the



nurses as "truly angels". He said Malti was quickly resuscitated, intubated and placed under intensive medical care. Due to COVID-19 restrictions at the time, Nick and his wife, actor

Priyanka Chopra, took turns spending long hours at the hospital. The singer said they worked in 12-hour shifts for over three months, often seeing each other only briefly as they travelled back and forth.

Reflecting on the emotional toll, Nick said the experience was a stark reality check and remains vivid even today. Despite the challenges, he expressed deep gratitude for the medical staff who cared for Malti during her most vulnerable days.

Nick also shared that Malti is aware of the early chapter of her life and believes the experience has shaped her spirit. He said every day feels like a gift and described his daughter as joyful and full of life.

Nick Jonas and Priyanka Chopra welcomed their first child via surrogacy in January 2022.

Dhanush calls it an 'Absolute Honour' as Mammootty joins his upcoming film #D55

Chennai: Actor Dhanush has responded warmly to Malayalam megastar Mammootty's post expressing excitement about joining his upcoming film #D55, calling it "an absolute honour" to have the veteran actor on board.

Taking to X, Dhanush reacted to Mammootty's message with gratitude, writing, "An absolute honour sir," accompanied by folded hands emojis. Mammootty had earlier shared his enthusiasm for the project, stating that he was "elated and excited" to be part of the journey alongside Dhanush and director Rajkumar Periasamy.

The makers of the film officially welcomed Mammootty on Wednesday, marking a major milestone for the project. Director Rajkumar Periasamy, in an emotional post, said Mammootty's acceptance felt like a divine blessing for the film. He expressed his excitement about witnessing the megastar's performance



alongside Dhanush and described the collaboration as a lifelong memory.

Production house Wunderbar Films, owned by Dhanush, also welcomed Mammootty, describing his involvement as historic. The banner said it was honoured to have the legendary actor join the magnum opus.

Earlier this week, the makers had welcomed actor Sai Pallavi on board, calling her a blend of grace

and strength, and highlighting the return of her successful on-screen pairing with Dhanush. Actress Sreeleela was announced as part of the cast on January 30.

The film has further generated buzz with the onboarding of young music sensation Sai Abhyankkar as the composer. Wunderbar Films described the collaboration as a fresh and exciting musical journey, while Sai Abhyankkar expressed his enthusiasm about working with Dhanush and director Rajkumar Periasamy.

The project, tentatively titled #D55, is being produced jointly by Wunderbar Films and R Take Studios. The makers have already confirmed that the film will be mounted on a grand scale, adding to the growing anticipation surrounding the cast and crew announcements.

T20 WC: Two World Cups, 20 years apart – Italy skipper Wayne Madsen's whirlwind journey

New Delhi: When Wayne Madsen takes the field at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata on February 9, he will inscribe his name in the history books for more than one reason. Apart from being the captain of Italy playing its first-ever cricket World Cup match against fellow European nation Scotland, Madsen will join a select list of athletes who have featured in World Cups in two different sports.

But in Madsen's case, it will also be for different nations. Back in 2006, Madsen played in the Hockey World Cup for South Africa in Monchengladbach, Germany. Twenty years on, he will hold a cricket bat instead of a hockey stick when he dons Italy's blue jersey in the Men's T20 World Cup.

None would have pictured this in their wildest dreams - not even those who believe in the stuff of fantasy. Italy, a football-crazy nation with a rich history, could end up missing the bus to the FIFA World Cup in a year in which its much lesser-celebrated cricket team makes its debut on the biggest stage in the shortest format, though the football side still has to clear the European play-offs.

Sitting in a hotel in Chennai, a day before Italy play a warm-up match against UAE at the MA Chidambaram Stadium, Madsen is imagining the scene when he walks out with the team sheet in hand in Kolkata for Italy's first game in a cricket World Cup coming against Scotland.

"My Italian heritage means a great deal to me. Representing Italy connects family history with professional life. Wearing this badge carries responsibility not just to the present team, but to the future of Italian cricket. Walking out at Eden Gardens will be incredibly special.

"Pride will be the dominant emotion for me, pride in the group, in the journey, and in what Italian



cricket has achieved. Captaining Italy at a World Cup is a huge honour, a great responsibility and one that I'm extremely excited for," says Madsen, who has four T20 caps for Italy, in an exclusive conversation with IANS.

Though Madsen was announced as Italy's captain in November last year, the reality of having that leadership armband hit him after arriving in India. "I found out on our November tour, though I would say the reality only properly sunk in arriving in India and I imagine leading the team out at Eden Gardens will take it up another level!" he said.

For someone who represented South Africa at the Hockey World Cup and played domestic cricket for KwaZulu-Natal, Madsen has carved a reputation as one of English county cricket's most reliable batters, while turning out for Derbyshire. He also had stints with London Spirit and Manchester Originals (The Hundred), Jo'burg Super Kings (SA 20), Multan Sultans and Peshawar Zalmi (PSL) and Rangpur Riders (BPL).

But Madsen's Italian heritage, via his family, opened a door that seemed to shut when an England call-up didn't come. "I genuinely never imagined myself playing in a cricket World Cup. This journey

has unfolded through commitment, opportunity, and being part of a group that truly believes in what it's building. It's been unexpected, but incredibly rewarding," he said.

From his hockey days, Madsen remembers locking horns with Dilip Tirkey, India's most-capped men's player and current Hockey India president, during the 2006 World Cup in Germany. "He was a world-class player and a strong leader. You knew immediately you were facing someone of real quality. Those encounters are valuable because they force you to raise your own standards," he said.

That tournament left an indelible mark on Madsen, who had another moment to cherish. "Scoring the late equaliser against Korea in a 2-2 draw. That tournament taught me a lot about pressure, preparation, and playing in front of big crowds. Those environments demand clarity and composure, and the lessons from that experience have stayed with me throughout my career," he said.

Twenty years later, the setting has changed but the stakes still remain high for Madsen. "It's something I'm very grateful for. To experience a World Cup even once is rare; doing it in two sports, almost 20 years apart, puts a lot into perspective. It reminds you how fortu-

nate you are and how important it is to enjoy the moment," he added. The technical crossover between hockey and cricket is apparent when Madsen showcases a range of different shots: sweep, reverse-sweep, ramp, and upper-cut. "There's the skill side of things, the wrist work, sweeping, reverse sweeping. The biggest takeaway was learning how to stay calm in high-pressure situations.

"Whether it's hockey or cricket, the crowd, the expectations, and the stakes can be overwhelming if you let them be. Playing at the top level in hockey taught me how to manage that," he said.

Madsen's years as a mid-fielder in hockey prepared him for cricket captaincy in ways that might not be immediately visible. "Very much so. I played a lot in the centre of midfield, where you would help to control the press etc, just like a captain supporting the bowler in setting his field.

"Leadership is about shared responsibility, trust, and clarity. Those principles don't change with the sport. I'm fortunate to be part of a leadership group where everyone takes ownership," he said.

Italy's success at the European qualifications last July, in which they finished second to the Netherlands, guaranteed their World Cup debut. For a nation where cricket exists in football's overwhelming shadow, visibility at the Men's T20 World Cup carries transformative potential.

"This team has been built on commitment and belief. Players come from different backgrounds and systems, but everyone has fully bought into what we're trying to achieve. There's a strong sense of identity and purpose within the group.

"It's a landmark moment. Visibility at this level matters enormously. When people see Italy competing

on the world stage, it creates belief and interest. This tournament is an important step in the sport's long-term growth in Italy," added Madsen.

Italy's Group C draw in the T20 World Cup offers no easy passage. Two-time champions England are filled with world-class players who play IPL regularly. Fellow two-time winners West Indies are inconsistent but capable of explosive brilliance.

Nepal are the tournament's dark horses riding a wave of domestic enthusiasm and Scotland, stung by their qualifying loss to Italy and coming in place of Bangladesh, are keen to spring surprises. Managing expectations while maintaining a competitive edge requires careful calibration, feels Madsen.

"We want to win games and be competitive in every match. If we play disciplined, smart cricket and back our preparation, we give ourselves a chance. Our focus is always on performance first.

"The key is routine and clarity. Eden Gardens is iconic, but once the game begins, it's still cricket. We're focused on staying present, sticking to our plans, and enjoying the occasion without being distracted by it," he added.

Madsen's vision extends beyond the results Italy can conjure up in the T20 World Cup. Strong performances would mean more investment in infrastructure, pathways, systems, and a whole lot of belief.

But on February 9 at Eden Gardens, Italian cricket gets its moment to shine under the Kolkata sun. "I hope this World Cup lays a foundation. If it helps create pathways, belief, and opportunity for the next generation of Italian cricketers, then we've done something meaningful," concluded Madsen.

FIH Pro League: Rosan Kujur earns maiden call-up as Hockey India names squad for Rourkela Leg

New Delhi: Hockey India on Saturday announced a 24-member Indian team for the FIH Men's Pro League 2025-26 for the Rourkela leg of the tournament, scheduled to take place from February 10 to 15 at the Birsamunda International Hockey Stadium in Rourkela, Odisha.

Among the notable inclusions is 21-year-old Rosan Kujur from Odisha, who has earned his maiden call-up to the senior national squad. Kujur was a member of the Indian Junior Team that secured the bronze medal at the FIH Junior World Cup 2025 in Chennai. He also enjoyed a breakthrough domestic season, playing a key role for Vedanta Kalinga Lancers, who went on to lift the Hero Hockey India League 2025-26 title.

The Rourkela leg will feature hosts India, alongside international heavyweights Argentina and Belgium, promising high-intensity encounters against some of the world's top hockey



nations. The Indian squad features a strong blend of experienced players and young talent across all departments as the team looks to make a strong start to its Pro League campaign on home soil.

The goalkeeping duties will be handled by Suraj Karkera and Pawan, while the defensive unit includes Amit Rohidas, Captain Harmanpreet Singh, Jarmanpreet Singh, Jugraj Singh, Sumit, Sanjay, and Nilam Sanjeep Xess, providing solidity and leadership at the back.

Also, the defenders' list includes Amandeep Lakra, comes into the squad on the back of an impressive outing in the recently concluded Men's Hero Hockey India League 2025-26, where he was adjudged the Hero Player of the Tournament, underlining his growing influence at the senior level.

The midfield will be anchored by Rajinder Singh, Manmeet Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Hardik Singh, Moirangthem Rabichandra Singh, Nilakanta Sharma, and Rosan Kujur, offer-

ing a blend of experience, control, and creativity.

Manmeet Singh of Punjab has also been added to the squad following a string of impressive performances. Manmeet, too, was part of the Indian Junior Team that claimed Bronze at the FIH Junior World Cup 2025 in Chennai and further showcased his credentials while representing HIL GC during the Hero Hockey India League 2025-26.

India's forward line comprises Abhishek, Sukhjeet Singh, Shilanand Lakra, Selvam Karthi, Mandeep Singh, Arajjeet Singh Hundal, and Aditya Arjun Lalage, who will be tasked with leading the attacking charge and converting opportunities.

Speaking on the squad, chief coach Craig Fulton said, "It's an exciting mix of youth and experience. We have young talents like Rosan, Manmeet and Amandeep coming through, while the presence of senior players, including those from the India A setup, adds valuable

experience. That balance is important for us. Belgium and Argentina are quality sides, but we believe in our abilities and are focused on delivering our best performances."

India – 24-member squad for FIH Men's Pro League 2025-26 (Rourkela Leg):

Goalkeepers: Suraj Karkera, Pawan

Defenders: Amit Rohidas, Jarmanpreet Singh, Jugraj Singh, Harmanpreet Singh, Sumit, Sanjay, Nilam Sanjeep Xess, Amandeep Lakra

Midfielders: Rajinder Singh, Manmeet Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Hardik Singh, Moirangthem Rabichandra Singh, Nilakanta Sharma, Rosan Kujur

Forwards: Abhishek, Sukhjeet Singh, Shilanand Lakra, Selvam Karthi, Mandeep Singh, Arajjeet Singh Hundal, Aditya Arjun Lalage