



Rayalaseema being transformed into a horticulture hub: CM Chandrababu Naidu

Kurnool: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Friday asserted that Rayalaseema, once plagued by chronic drought, is now being transformed into a major horticulture hub due to the focused efforts of the TDP government. He said the region is currently producing over 200 lakh metric tonnes of horticultural produce annually. The Chief Minister credited his government for providing irrigation water through multiple means, including drip irrigation, and assured that there would be no increase in electricity charges in the future so that people are not burdened.

Naidu said a significant portion of the government's expenditure is being diverted towards repaying the massive debts incurred by the previous regime. Declaring himself a son of Rayalaseema, he recalled that



late N.T. Rama Rao was also a beloved leader from the region. He alleged that while the TDP government had spent Rs 72,000 crore on irrigation projects, the previous ruler spent only about Rs. 2,000 crore. He accused the former government

of submerging the Polavaram project into the Godavari, mismanaging the diaphragm wall, and causing a loss of Rs.400 crore, forcing the present government to reconstruct it at an additional cost of Rs.1,000 crore.

The Chief Minister alleged large-scale misuse of public funds by the previous administration and reiterated that the Polavaram project would be completed and dedicated to the nation by the time of the Godavari Pushkarams. He highlighted that through the Pattiseema project, Godavari water was diverted to the Krishna delta, enabling the diversion of Srisailem water to Rayalaseema. Without such foresight, he said, the region would not have received water nor seen relief from long-standing hardships. He added that completion of the Gollapalli project also ensured water supply to Kia Motors, stressing that availability of water not only boosts agriculture but also attracts industries.

Emphasising the need for river interlinking, Naidu said the government is committed to provid-

ing irrigation to every acre across the state, including Rayalaseema. He criticised attempts to stage "dramas" in the name of the Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Scheme without proper approvals, pointing out that the NGT had already stalled such projects. He assured completion of key projects such as Vedavathi in West Kurnool, Guru Raghavendra, Rajolibanda, and steps to ensure increased utilisation of Tungabhadra dam waters for Kurnool. On the Gundrevula project, he said consultations with neighbouring states would resolve inter-state issues. Naidu concluded by stating that although his government had sanctioned 120 projects in Rayalaseema before 2019, the previous rulers failed to spend even a single rupee on them.

Medaram Jatara hundi collections touch Rs 2.49 cr



Medaram/Hyderabad: The counting of offerings received through donation boxes (hundis) during the Sammakka-Saralamma Jatara 2026 began on Thursday, with the Endowments Department collecting Rs 2.49 crore on the first day. The counting process commenced at the TTD Kalyana Mandapam in Hanumakonda under the supervision of Endowments Department officials and service committee members. Officials said a total of 828 hundis were installed during the Jatara, including 780 iron hundis, 45 cloth hundis, and three rice hundis. On the first day, 125 hundis were opened and counted, yielding a total of Rs 2,49,65,000. The counted cash was handed over to bank officials in the presence of supervisory officers. Gold and silver offerings were secured separately in iron hundis and locked. Officials clarified that the counting of coins has not yet begun. Endowments Department officials stated that the hundi counting was progressing peacefully and that the remaining hundis would be opened and counted in phases.

Revant Reddy dares BJP to form govt in TG; scrap 4pc minority quota

Chief Minister A Revant Reddy on Thursday threw a second challenge to the BJP in a single day, daring the party to form a government in Telangana and remove the four per cent reservation for minorities if it had the courage to do so. Referring to statements made by BJP national president Nitin Nabin at Mahabubnagar and Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Kerala on scrapping the minority quota, the Chief Minister said the BJP should first come to power in Telangana before attempting to remove the four per cent reservation.

"Amit Shah says he will cancel the four per cent reservation for minorities. I challenge him to first form a BJP government in Telangana if he has the courage and then remove the minority quota," Revant Reddy said. The Chief Minister said the four per cent reservation for minorities was introduced by former Chief Minister YS Rajasekhara Reddy and noted that the issue was currently pending before the Supreme Court. He stated that during the



caste census, the minority population in the State had also been enumerated, and the Congress government would present the relevant data before the apex court when the case is heard.

"The Congress government is committed to ensuring the continuation of the four per cent reservation for minorities. Many people have secured jobs because of the reservations provided by Congress governments," he said, while urging minorities to prioritise education.

Addressing a consultative

meeting organised by the Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind in the Old City, Revant Reddy reiterated that the Congress government would introduce a law to curb hate speech in the State. He said the proposed legislation would be tabled in the upcoming Assembly session.

"There is a need to stop hate speech. Peace and security are essential for development and attracting investments. No individual can remain in power forever, and the country can progress only when every-

one moves forward together," he said. The Chief Minister asserted that the Congress government had come to power with the support of minorities and appealed to them to ensure the victory of minority candidates wherever the Congress fields them in future elections, including municipal polls.

Highlighting the Congress party's record, Revant Reddy said the party had given leadership opportunities to minorities across the country, including Union Ministers and Members of Parliament from Jammu and Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh. He noted that leaders such as Salman Khurshid and Ahmed Patel had risen to top positions in the party.

"In Telangana, we gave MLA tickets to leaders like Mohammed Azharuddin and Shabbir Ali and entrusted eight corporations to minorities. Even after Azharuddin lost an election, we made him a minister. When the party gives a ticket, it is everyone's responsibility to ensure the minority candidate's victory," the Chief Minister said.

Supreme Court adjourns hearing on Telangana MLA Disqualification Case

The Supreme Court heard the case concerning the disqualification of MLAs from Telangana. Following a previous hearing, advocate Abhishek Singhvi updated the court on the Speaker's recent decision regarding eight MLAs.

Despite substantial evidence, BRS party lawyer Mohit Wu argued that the remaining two cases also had clear evidence and required no further investigation. He

pointed out that one MLA, elected on a BRS ticket, contested as a Congress MP candidate, and another BRS MLA's daughter also ran as a Congress candidate, with the MLA campaigning for Congress.

Singhvi requested additional time until mid-March to hear the petitions, citing ongoing municipal elections. Wu objected, criticising the delay, noting that the

court was initially promised a hearing within four weeks. The bench granted three weeks for the hearing and adjourned proceedings.

The court expressed hope that the Speaker would adhere to previous orders and warned that contempt proceedings could be initiated if there was non-compliance. The case will be revisited after three weeks.



IRCTC Dormitory and Retiring Room Facility Commissioned at Vizianagaram Railway Station



Newly developed Dormitory and Retiring Room facility at Vizianagaram (VZM) Railway Station, Platform No. 1 has been entrusted to IRCTC.

Waltair Division is continuously striving to enhance passenger amenities, comfort, and convenience across its network. In line with this commitment, the operation and management of dormitories and retiring rooms have been entrusted to the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) for a period of nine years. This initiative aims to ensure professional management, improved service quality, and a better overall experience for railway passengers.

Addressing the media Divisional Railway Manager Shri Lalit Bohra said that the IRCTC Dormitory and Retiring Room facility at VZM station has been designed exclusively for bonafide railway passengers. Only passengers holding a confirmed PNR are eligible to avail these facilities. Bookings are made online through the IRCTC website, ensuring transparency, ease of access, and digital convenience.

To cater to the varied requirements of passengers, three categories of accommodation have been provided with flexible and affordable tariff options:

Suite Rooms : Tariffs start from ₹800 for 3 hours and go up to ₹3,500 for 48 hours

Deluxe Double Bed AC Rooms : Tariffs range from ₹550 for 3 hours to ₹3,000 for 48 hours

Dormitory Accommodation : Equipped with 13 single beds, with tariffs starting from ₹300 for 3 hours up to ₹1,400 for 48 hours

The Retiring Room is operated by IRCTC and the catering and hospitality services are provided by the licensee, M/s Good Food Catering Services. These facilities are particularly beneficial for passengers in transit, those facing long waiting periods, senior citizens, and families traveling with children.

The commissioning of this IRCTC-managed Dormitory and Retiring Room facility marks a significant step forward in enhancing passenger comfort at Vizianagaram Railway Station.

Rajasthani Jagruti Samiti's Progressive Initiative to Promote Sports



Chikkadapally, February 06 Metro Udayam : Under the aegis of the Rajasthani Jagruti Samiti, sports T-shirts were distributed to 400 needy students at the Zilla Parishad Primary School in Shivrapalli today. On this occasion, the school's Principal, Shalini Pulsani, praised the committee for distributing sports T-shirts to the students. The organization also distributed saris to the staff. Committee Vice President Ashok Kumar Hirawat promised to provide sports equipment to the students interested in sports. President Srinivas Somani told that the organization has been supporting needy students in school uniforms, medical, sports, fees etc. for the last twenty years. This year, stu-

dents in government schools are being encouraged to participate in sports. Nearly three thousand sports tshirts were distributed this year. On this occasion, the Headmistress of the school honoured the Committee President Srinivas Somani, secretary Mahesh Agarwal, Vice President Ashok Kumar Hirawat, Treasurer Sanjay Rathi, Organization secretary Ramesh Modani with shawls. Sports T-shirts were distributed to 200 students of Government Primary School Bazar-e-Jumerat and Government Primary School Sitaram Pet branch to encourage them in sports. On this occasion, the organization's honorary secretary, Mahesh Agarwal, said, "By promoting sports, we will build a

healthy India." Principal Hemant was honored with a shawl and garland.

On the other hand sports T-shirts were distributed to about 200 students of Government Primary School Chandra Shekhar Azad and Government Primary School Dhulpet No. 1 to encourage sports among sports. On this occasion, the school headmistress, Vijaya Bhaskar, was honored with a shawl and a pearl garland. Committee President Srinivas Somani, vice President Prem Chand munot, Ashok Kumar Hirawat Honorary Secretary Mahesh Agarwal, Treasurer Sanjay Rathi, Organization Minister Ramesh Modani, and others were present.

East Coast Railway to Run Holi Special Trains to Manage Festive Rush

To facilitate smooth, safe and comfortable travel for passengers during the ensuing Holi festival, East Coast Railway has made comprehensive arrangements to manage the expected surge in passenger traffic. As part of these measures, East Coast Railway has planned to operate 62 Holi Special Trains from its jurisdiction during March 2026, connecting major destinations across different parts of the country.

These special train services are being introduced in anticipation of heavy passenger demand during the festive period, particularly from passengers travelling to their native places and important cultural, religious and commercial destinations. The initiative reflects East Coast Railway's proactive



approach towards ensuring enhanced connectivity and minimizing inconvenience to passengers during peak travel periods.

The Holi Special Trains will connect key destinations including Sambalpur-Erode, Visakhapatnam-Tirupati, Visakhapatnam-SMVB Bengaluru, Visakhapatnam

-Chattapalli, Visakhapatnam-Shalimar, Puri-Patna, Puri-Udum, Bhubaneswar-Yeshwantpur and Bhubaneswar-Dhanbad, among others, thereby catering to travel needs across southern, eastern, central and northern regions of the country.

In addition to the planned services, East Coast

Railway will continuously monitor passenger demand and introduce additional special trains or augment services wherever required, ensuring maximum passenger convenience and seamless travel during the festive rush.

East Coast Railway remains committed to providing safe, efficient and passenger friendly services, especially during major festivals, through meticulous planning, strengthened operational preparedness and effective crowd management measures. Passengers are advised to check train schedules, halts and booking availability through authorized railway enquiry systems and IRCTC platforms for the latest updates.

KCR's rule is Sri Ramaraksha for Telangana....

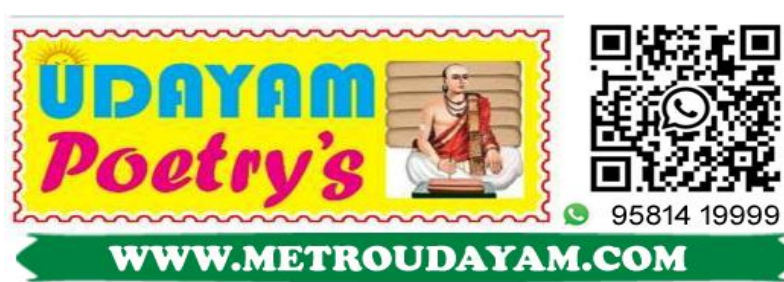
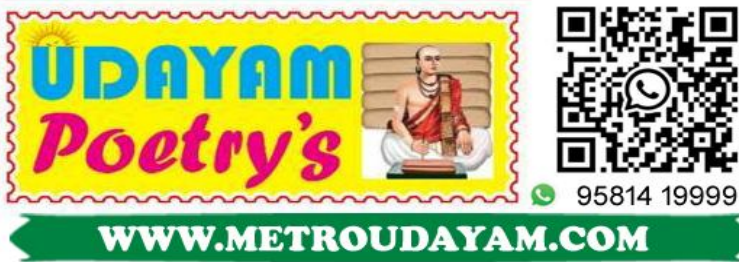
10th Ward BRS Candidate Mamidi Rama Rao.....

Kodada February 06 Metro morning.....

In Komarabanda 10th ward of Kodada town, the election campaign is going on in full swing under the leadership of BRS candidate Mamidi Rama Rao. On Friday, along with rows of roses, they are going around the alleys of the ward and explaining

to the people the development and welfare schemes done during the KCR government. Rama Rao's wife put a drop on each voter and asked them to bless them in the election. On this occasion, she said that the schemes introduced by KCR, the charioteer of Telangana welfare, have reached every home and called for BRS to win again if development is to continue. Seeing the support of the people, she expressed confidence that the pink flag will be hoisted in the 10th ward.





हम तमाम उम्र भर चाहे जितनी भी माता पिता की सेवा करते रहे लेकिन उनके उपकार का बदला कभी दे नहीं सकते। ...

(शकील उवाच - ६०९)

माता पिता का आदर सत्कार करने का आदेश और उनकी हर एक बात उफ़ कहे बगैर मानने का आदेश पवित्र कुरआन में खुदा (ईश्वर) ने इंसानों को दिया है। हम तमाम उम्र चाहे जितनी भी माता पिता की सेवा करते रहे लेकिन उनके उपकार का बदला चुका नहीं सकते। पवित्र कुरआन में मौं- बाप के हर बात पर विरोध ना करते हुये उनकी आज्ञा का पालन करने का आदेश दिया गया है। लेकिन वही मौं- बाप ईश्वर के व्यातिरिक्त किसी और की इबादत (उपासना, भक्ती) करने के लिए कहे तो उनकी यह बात न मानने की आज्ञा देकर एकेश्वर की उपासना की अहमियत भी बताई गयी है।



वर्षों के हमारे सृष्टिकर्ता पालनहार परमात्मा के व्यातिरिक्त और कोई ईश्वर है ही नहीं जिसकी उपासना की जा सके। पवित्र कुरआन में आया है के, "और खुदा (पूजनीय ईश्वर) के सिवा किसी और माबूद की परतिश (पूज्य की उपासना) ना करना। उस ईश्वर के सिवा कोई काबिले परतिश (उपासना के योग्य) नहीं। उसकी जात (याने उस ईश्वर) के सिवा हर चीज फना होने (मिटने) वाली है। (केवल) उसकी हुकूमत (सत्ता, साम्राज्य) है और तुम लोग उसी की तरफ लौटये जाओगे।" (पवित्र कुरान, अध्याय क्रमांक २८, सूराह कसस, आयत क्रमांक ८८)।

हम अगर अपने मौं- बाप के हम पर किये हुये एहसानात (उपकारों) को याद रखे तो उनकी इज्जत और अजमत (गौरव और प्रतिष्ठा) समझ में आयेगे। उन्होंने बचपन में हम पर जो करम (कृपा) किये उसके बारे में एक प्यारी बात इतिहास में मौजूद है। पैगम्बर साहब मोहम्मद (र.व.) के छटे उत्तराधिरी इमाम जाफर अल सादिक अलैहिस्सलाम से एक ने कहा के मैं ने अपने बूढ़े मौं- बाप को अपने कांधों पर लेकर पैदल सत्तर बार पवित्र काबा की यात्रा (हज और उमरा) करवाया हूं क्या उन्होंने मुझपर मेरे बचपन में किए हुए एहसानात (उपकारों) का बदला पूरा हुआ?"

इमाम जाफर अल सादिक अलैहिस्सलाम ने फरमाया के, "जब तुम छोटे थे और कपड़ों में पेशाब किये थे तब मौं बाप में से किसी एक ने तुम्हे एक बार उस गीले कपड़ों से निकालकर सूखे कपड़ों में लपेटा तो जो सुकून तुम्हे मिला था अभी तक उसका भी एहसान (उपकार) का बदला नहीं पूरा हुआ।" इस उपरोक्त एक ही बात पर अगर सोच समझने (वितन, मनन) की काबिलियत (योग्यता) जो भी रखता हो वह अपने माता - पिता की आजमत (गौरव) को यकीनन समझ जायेगा।

पवित्र कुरआन में आया है के, "और उन (मौं- बाप) के सामने नियाज (दिनमता) से खाकसारी (दीनता, तुच्छता) का पहलू झुकाए रखो और (उनके हक में) दुआ करो कि, ऐ मेरे रब! (पालने वाले!) जिस तरह उन दोनों ने मेरे छुटपन (बचपन) में मेरी परवरिश (पालन पोषण) की है उसी तरह तू भी उन पर रहम (दया) करा।" (पवित्र कुरआन, अध्याय क्रमांक १९, सूराह बनी इस्राईल, आयत क्रमांक २४)।

दुनियावाी कामों में मौं- बाप के आदेशों का अनुसरण जरूर करते रहना चाहिये। याने माता पिता के द्वारा कही गयी कोई भी अच्छी बात का कभी भी विरोध नहीं करना चाहिये ऐसा स्पष्ट आदेश हमें धर्म ने दिया है। जो भी इस आदेश की अवज्ञा करता है वह कभी धार्मिक नहीं हो सकता। मौं- बाप की हर आज्ञा मानने का हुक्म देकर धर्म कहता है के, "लेकिन आपके मां बाप एकेश्वर को छोड़कर किसी और को जिसका तुम्हे ज्ञान नहीं उसे ईश्वर मानने को कहे तो इस बात को न माने।"

पवित्र कुरान में आया है के, "और अगर तेरे मौं- बाप तुझे उस बात पर मजबूर करें कि तू मेरा शरीक ऐसी चीज को करार दे जिसका तुझे कुछ भी डलम नहीं है तो तू (उसमें) उनकी इताअत (आज्ञा पालन) ना करा। (मगर तकलीफ ना पहुंचाना) और दुनिया (के कामों) में उनका अच्छी तरह साथ दे। और उन लोगों के तरीके पर चल जो (हर बात में) मेरी (ही) तरफ रूजू करें (ईश्वर का अनुसरण करें)। फिर (तो आखिर) तुम सबकी रूजू (वापसी) मेरी ही तरफ है तब (दुनिया में) जो कुछ तुम करते थे (उस वक्त) उसका अंजाम बता दूंगा। (पवित्र कुरान, अध्याय क्रमांक ३१, सूराह लुकमान, आयत क्रमांक १९)।

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

IF NOT NOW WHEN?

Is it proper time to start?
Can the work be commenced now itself?
Any possibility to postpone?
Various doubts arise!



It is very common now a days!
Everyone forget one thing!
Time and tide wait for none!
Except time and life passed away,
anything may get back!

May take life time to recur!
No use of sorry later on!
Strike the iron when it is red!
Suitably apply to discharge duty then and there!

It is wisely said dull postpone!
Clever attempt the task instant!
Forget about "If not Now When"
Be ready to face itself now!

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

Urea sales through the app...

ADA Prashanthi... Ao Rajani...



Kodada February 06 Metro morning.....

Farmers should now book their required urea fertilizer online through the mobile app, Kodada Assistant Agriculture Director P. Prasanthi suggested. On Friday, farmers in Gudibanda and Chimiryala villages of Kodada mandal were made aware of the use of the app. Speaking on the occasion, she said that the government has brought this policy to increase transparency in fertilizer distribution and farmers can enter their crop details in the app and book fertilizers. It is mentioned that wherever the stock is available in the district, it is easy to get it online. Mandal Agriculture Officer Palem Rajani, Pax staff and farmers participated in this program.

Shock value or strategy?

The recent Barabar Premistha event, where actor Chandrabaas—popularly known as Attitude Star—sang a song containing cuss words on stage, has once again sparked debate in Telugu cinema circles. While some fans cheered the unapologetic rawness, others questioned whether such language is necessary for promoting films. This incident is not an isolated one but part of a larger trend that has been evolving over the last decade.

The conversation arguably began with Vijay Deverakonda during the Arjun Reddy pre-release event. His aggressive tone, unfiltered language, and rebellious attitude mirrored the film's core emotion and instantly grabbed headlines. At the time, it felt organic—an extension of the character and the anger of a generation. The strategy worked. The buzz translated into a massive opening, and Arjun Reddy went on to become a cultural phenomenon. Since then, several actors



have attempted to replicate that impact. From using strong words during audio launches to adopting a "no-filters" persona on stage, cuss words have increasingly been used as tools to project authenticity, attitude, and mass appeal. In a social-media-driven era where clips from events go viral within minutes, such moments often dominate timelines far more than conventional speeches. Supporters argue that this approach connects with



younger audiences who appreciate realism and street-level honesty. They believe strong language reflects contemporary storytelling and helps position a film as bold and fearless. Critics, however, see it as a shortcut—shock value replacing substance. They point out that what once felt rebellious now risks becoming repetitive and forced, especially when it appears disconnected from the film's actual content.

The key question remains: how far does this tactic really help a movie? There is little doubt that controversial stage moments can boost visibility and curiosity, often ensuring strong first-day footfalls. However, history has repeatedly shown that opening-day hype has a short shelf life. If the film fails to deliver engaging storytelling, performances, and emotional depth, no amount of provocative promotion can sustain its run.

'Oo Torture Prema' title poster gets unveiled

Srikaram Productions has officially launched the title poster of its upcoming film Oo Torture Prema, written and directed by Srikar Krishna. The film marks the debut of Sunny Madala, grandson of late revolutionary actor Madala Ranga Rao and son of actor Madala Ravi, as the lead hero. Mounika Dakoju is being introduced as the female lead.

The title poster was unveiled by legendary writer and director Paruchuri Gopalakrishna, lending the project a prestigious

start. Speaking at the launch, Paruchuri Gopalakrishna highlighted the legacy associated with Sunny Madala's family. He noted that while both Madala Ranga Rao and Madala Ravi were known for their revolutionary and socially driven cinema, Sunny Madala has chosen a refreshing love genre for his debut. He described Oo Torture Prema as an intriguing romantic story and expressed confidence in the young actor's potential. Paruchuri Gopalakrishna also praised Srikar Krishna for taking

on multiple responsibilities for the film. Drawing a comparison with legendary filmmaker Dasari Narayana Rao, he said that although he himself has written and directed many films, he never ventured into production. He appreciated Srikar Krishna's belief in his own script and his decision to produce the film himself, wishing the team grand success.

Director-producer Srikar Krishna said Oo Torture Prema will be a new-age love story that blends ultimate comedy with the purest



form of romance. He added that the film is designed to strongly connect with today's youth,

promising relatable emotions and entertaining storytelling.

Disappointment in all sections under Congress rule.



30th ward BRS candidate
Kasani Saidamma,
Mallaya Goud....
Kodada February 06
Metro morning.....

Kasani Saidamma and Mallaya Goud, who are contesting as candidates of the 30th ward in the Kodada municipal elections, said that all the people want KCR's leadership.



He toured the ward extensively as part of the election campaign on Friday. Later they said that they will get a great response from the people in the campaign and said that all the

people want KCR's leadership once again. He asked the voters to bless him with their precious vote. BRS party candidates are sure to win in all wards... ----

Bhatti Vikramarka Meets Revanth Reddy Ahead of Municipal Polls



Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka met with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to discuss upcoming municipal elections and related issues. Sources indicate that the leaders are deliberating on the Congress party's strategy for the polls, coordination among party members, and other matters. Notably, Bhatti Vikramarka was absent from a recent meeting held by Revanth Reddy with ministers, leading to a separate meeting between the two leaders.

South Central Railway Announces 160 Special Trains for Holi



South Central Railway has announced the operation of 160 special trains during the upcoming Holi festival, anticipating increased passenger travel as people visit their hometowns. The trains will serve various destinations across the Telugu states and beyond, providing enhanced connectivity and safety for travellers.

The services will operate throughout March within the South Central Railway zone, connecting major cities including Visakhapatnam, Patna, Rajkot, Solapur, Bilaspur, Danapur, Raxaul, Shalimar, Lucknow, Santragachi, Malda Town, and Chhapra. The railway department stated its commitment to offering improved facilities to passengers during this busy period.

Nationwide, the railway will run a total of 1,500 special trains for Holi, an increase from 1,144 trains in 2023. Additionally, 172 stations are being modernised under the Amrit Bharat Station scheme, with work completed at 172 stations out of a planned 1,337. Between 2022 and 2025, over 8,626 railway bridges have also been repaired to bolster safety and connectivity across the country.

Actress Meenakshi Chaudhary Visits Tirumala for Lord Venkateswara Darshan



Actress Meenakshi Chaudhary paid a visit to Tirumala and had darshan of Lord Venkateswara. She took part in the Abhishekam ceremony of the Lord early on Friday morning. Following the darshan, priests blessed Meenakshi at the Ranganayakula Mandapam and presented her with sacred water and prasadam of the Lord.

India Prioritises Energy Security, Open To Assessing Venezuela Oil Option Amid Trump's Claim

The Indian government on Thursday clarified its stance on crude oil imports following remarks by former US President Donald Trump, stating that India's energy policy is driven by national energy security and market dynamics, and that it remains open to assessing the commercial feasibility of all potential crude suppliers, including Venezuela. Responding to questions on Trump's claim that India had agreed to shift from Russian oil to Venezuelan crude, the Ministry of External Affairs said Venezuela has historically been an important energy partner for India. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal noted that India imported crude oil from Venezuela until 2019-20, before halting purchases due to sanctions. Imports briefly resumed in 2023-24 but were again stopped after sanctions were reimposed. He added that, in line with India's consistent approach to ensuring energy security, the country is willing to explore the commercial merits of any new crude supply option, including Venezuelan oil, wherever it makes economic and strategic sense. The clarification comes after Trump claimed earlier this week that India had already finalised a deal to buy oil from Venezuela in place of Russian crude. The government, however, underlined that such decisions are not political commitments but are based on availability, pricing, and long-term energy security considerations.

Seetha Payanam releasing on Feb 14th

Seetha Payanam is an upcoming multi-lingual film which will have actor Arun Sarja taking up the direction reins. The film will feature his daughter Aishwarya in the lead role, along with Niranjan Sudhindra. Seetha Payanam will hit theatres on February 14, for the occasion of Valentine's Day, the film teaser and song's getting good response from the audience. The film's cast includes Niranjan and Aishwarya Arjun, with the latter also sharing the screen space with her father Arjun Sarja. Dhruva Sarja will be making a guest appearance while known faces like Prakash Raj, Sathyaaraj, Bithiri Sathi, Kovai Sarala, Saran, Siri Hanumanth, Mani Chandana, Sumitra, Sahasra, Dubbing Janaki, Raj Kumar, Naga Mahesh, Posani Krishna Murali, Jabardust Phani, Narra Srinu, Fish Venkat, Mallesh Yadav, Prathibha Prathap, and others are part of supporting cast.

Win Para Satyavathi with huge majority..

MLA Uttam Padmavathi Reddy...



Kodada February 06 Metro morning.....

Kodada MLA Uttam Padmavathi Reddy stated that comprehensive urban development is possible only with Congress. As part of the municipal election campaign, she toured extensively in Ward 35 on Friday and invited BRS party leaders along with former Sarpanch Para Sitaiah and Mahbub Jani to join the Congress party. The ward candidate along with Para Satyavathi went door to door and requested the voters to vote for the Congress party. On this occasion, the MLA said that the Congress flag should be hoisted in the municipality and promised to bring more funds and develop the town in all fields. He asked to bless the Congress candidates for solving public problems.

Give me a chance to develop and show...

Zukuri Vijaya, Anjaya....



Kodada February 06 Metro morning.....

As part of municipal election campaign, 12th ward independent candidate Zukuri Vijaya and Anjaiah toured the ward extensively on Friday. He requested the voters to win him by going door to door. Speaking on this occasion, they said that they are contesting not for power, but with the intention of serving the people of the ward continuously. He wanted to give himself a chance to develop the ward beyond politics. He promised to solve the problems in the ward at the field level.

Great honor to Ekagriva Councilor Nagamalleshwari.....



Kodada February 06 Metro morning.....

Locals and leaders honored Devarapalli Nagamalleshwari, who was unanimously elected from the 11th ward in the municipal elections, on Friday. Telangana State Lorry Association Chairman Ramineni Srinivasa Rao participated in this program in large number of ward women and Congress leaders and felicitated her with shawls and garlands. Speaking on this occasion, Ramineni Srinivasa Rao said that they are very happy that Malleshwari is unanimous. He expressed hope that under her leadership, the 11th ward will achieve development in all fields and stand as an example...

As pressure mounts at home, Pakistan's establishment turns to managed anti-India mobilisation

New Delhi: Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir have been actively drumming up anti-India sentiments to provoke the people. While on one hand, Pakistan provided security cover for Jaish-e-Mohammad rallies in the country, on the other hand, the army chief and prime minister have been involved in provoking the people in Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK).

The army and government sanctioned rallies by the Jaish-e-Mohammad in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Swabi district and Sindh. The theme of these rallies was anti-India, aimed at drumming up sentiments against New Delhi.

In recent weeks, both Sharif and Asim Munir have made a couple of visits to PoK and delivered provocative speeches.

During the speeches, both claimed that Kashmir would be liberated soon. He also spoke about the readiness of the army to battle against India. Sharif, on the other hand, said that India has no other option but to grant self-determination. He



also termed India an aggressive state, due to which there is no regional stability.

Officials say that these events are timed at a time when Pakistan is losing face in Balochistan. Several security forces have been killed in fierce fighting with the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) in recent days. Moreover, people are asking questions to the establishment that has been involved in fighting on multiple fronts, when the economy has collapsed.

Questions are also being asked

about the treatment of Imran Khan and his whereabouts.

Further, the army lost face when India executed Operation Sindoor, and the people now doubt the capabilities of their forces.

An official said that there is a sustained effort to drum up anti-India sentiments across the country. This is just a diversionary tactic so that people do not ask questions about the failure of the establishment, the official also added.

Another official said that the ral-

lies by terror groups have been planned by the establishment itself. These rallies are heavily protected by the Pakistan Police and other security agencies. The cadres of these terror groups were brandishing AK-47s during the rallies while calling for the death of India.

An Intelligence Bureau official said that in the days to come, one would get to witness more such rallies by terror groups that are backed openly by the establishment.

Post Operation Sindoor, the recruitments have dropped significantly. These rallies are meant to boost recruitments too, the official added.

Further, the security given by the establishment is now being flaunted openly. This is to send a message to the possible recruits that they are backed by the establishment.

Doubts had crept in when the establishment failed to protect groups such as the Jaish-e-Mohammad and Lashkar-e-Tayiba during Operation Sindoor. An official said this

explains why the establishment is providing security to rallies of two groups that are designated by the UN and the US.

In PoK, the agencies have found that apart from provoking the people and diverting attention, attempts are being made at the highest levels to create tensions.

The army has not been able to aid the terrorists waiting at the launch pads to infiltrate India. This has made the establishment extremely frustrated. Tensions created by the locals could cause a distraction on the Indian side of the border. The terrorists are hoping to take advantage of the distraction and then infiltrate Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier this week, the Indian security agencies busted a plot by the Jaish-e-Mohammad to set up fresh modules in Jammu and Kashmir.

Further, there is a huge search operation ongoing to hunt down the remaining foreign terrorists in Kashmir, and this has added to the woes of the Pakistani establishment, officials say.

CM Chandrababu Naidu launches 'Mee Bhoomi-Mee Hakku' pattadar passbooks at Kalugotla

Kurnool district: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Friday participated in the distribution of 'Mee Bhoomi - Mee Hakku' (Your Land-Your Right) pattadar passbooks at Kalugotla village in the Yemmiganur



Assembly constituency, asserting that land ownership documents issued with the State Emblem and advanced security features would permanently safeguard farmers' rights. Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister said land was a symbol of trust and emotional attachment, equal to a mother, and no one had the right to erase that bond. He reiterated the government's commitment to provide assured irrigation to every acre in the State, including western Kurnool, and to promote profitable agriculture through the use of modern technology. The Chief Minister stated that his government was pursuing development alongside welfare, taking swift decisions on key projects such as Polavaram, Amaravati, and industrial expansion across the State. He recalled that the TDP, BJP and Jana Sena had come together as an alliance before the people and successfully implemented the 'Super Six' promises. Emphasising the need for transparent governance, Mr. Naidu said the new pattadar passbooks, embedded with QR codes and security features, were being issued to ensure that no individual could tamper with land records or illegally stake claims over ancestral properties. Launching a sharp attack on the previous regime, Naidu alleged that large-scale land grabbing had taken place through flawed policies, including the Land Titling Act, which he said was misused to create disputes and facilitate encroachments. He alleged that photographs were placed even on survey stones, passbooks and public materials, and that hundreds of crores of rupees were spent for such purposes. He further claimed that a majority of public grievances received by the government related to land disputes and accused the former rulers of forcibly converting private lands into government property, including for personal use. Naidu announced that the Land Titling Act had been repealed and that strict rules were now in place to prevent any manipulation of land records, with jail terms for offenders. He said systematic surveys were being conducted village by village, with pattadar passbooks issued on the 9th of every month without any bribes. In the current month alone, surveys were completed in 279 villages and passbooks issued to 1.16 lakh beneficiaries, while efforts were on to distribute 18 lakh passbooks by April. Stating that 37.40 lakh passbooks were already prepared and surveys pending in 9,500 villages, the Chief Minister said the goal was to complete 100 per cent issuance by December 2027, enabling even inheritance mutations at a nominal fee of Rs 100.

CM Chandrababu Naidu alleges attempt to tarnish TTD's sanctity through adulterated laddu prasadam

Kurnool: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Friday alleged that a systematic attempt was made to damage the sanctity and reputation of Lord Sri Venkateswara Swamy by preparing Laddu prasadam using adulterated ghee. He claimed that for nearly five years, laddus were prepared with chemically adulterated ghee, including substances allegedly used for cleaning bathrooms. Such actions, he said, not only hurt the religious sentiments of devotees but also aimed at discrediting the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), one of the most revered religious institutions in the country.

The Chief Minister reject-



ed claims that there was no adulteration, stating that while some leaders cite clean chits allegedly given by the CBI and SIT, even a close relative of the accused—Subba Reddy—had acknowledged that adulteration had indeed taken place. Chandrababu Naidu said he took corrective steps to

restore the purity of the prasadam after TTD was "defiled" by such practices. He also pointed out a clear difference between the quality of laddus distributed in the past and those being offered now, asserting that devotees themselves could notice the change.

Criticising what he termed as "political showmanship," the Chief Minister alleged that in the name of consolatory visits, deliberate inconvenience was caused to the public, citing instances where travel to Guntur took up to six hours and other vehicles were restricted, causing hardship to commuters. He further referred to past incidents involving aggressive convoy movements and acts of intimidation, stating that such displays of strength should be limited to election campaigns, not public life. "Instead of fighting for people's issues, they are indulging in power demonstrations for political gains," he said, adding that he knows well how to counter such politics.

SC to hear BRS MLAs' defection case

Hyderabad: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear the defection case involving BRS MLAs who joined the Congress on Friday, even as Telangana Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar has given a clean chit to eight of the ten MLAs facing disqualification petitions. Hyderabad Property Listings BRS leaders, including Padi Kaushik Reddy and others, approached the Supreme Court after an adverse verdict in the High Court, seeking the disqualification of 10 MLAs who were elected on BRS tickets but later defected to the Congress party.

After hearing the matter on multiple occasions, the Apex Court had given the Speaker a final opportunity to decide on the disqualification petitions, granting him two weeks'



time. Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing on behalf of the State government, had sought four weeks' time to decide the matter. The Supreme Court observed that it could consider granting four weeks,

if necessary, but ultimately limited the Speaker's time to two weeks. Meanwhile, BJPLP leader A Maheshwar Reddy has also filed a contempt of court petition seeking the disqualification of the MLAs who joined the Congress.

Bar liquor policy lottery conducted successfully

Puttaparthi: The lottery process for the allotment of bar licences under the Bar Liquor Policy 2025-2028 was conducted successfully at the District Collectorate here on Thursday.

The process was held at the Mini Conference Hall of the Collectorate under the supervision of the District Collector A Shyam Prasad and in the presence of officials from the Prohibition and Excise Department and applicants for bar licences.

As part of the process, applications were invited for two bars sanctioned in Dharmavaram town.

For each bar, four appli-



cations were received, and all four applicants were present during the lottery proceedings.

Addressing the gathering, the District Collector stated that the lottery was conducted in a transparent manner in the presence of Prohibition and

Excise officials and the bar licence applicants, in accordance with government guidelines.

The draw was carried out fairly for the two notified bar locations in Dharmavaram.

In the lottery, Dola

Rajareddy was declared the successful applicant, while Lakshmi Narayana was selected as the reserve applicant.

The proceedings were attended by District Prohibition and Excise Officer Govinda Naik, Assistant Excise Officer B. Narasimhulu, Station House Officers of the Excise Department, officials of the District Task Force, and other departmental staff.

Officials stated that the lottery process was completed smoothly without any untoward incidents, ensuring transparency and adherence to the prescribed norms.

Centre releases Rs 259 crore to Telangana as first instalment



As a first installment, the State government has received Rs 259 crore from the Union government. As per the 15th Finance Commission recommendations, Telangana is entitled to around Rs 3,000 crore, and the remaining funds are expected to be released in a phased manner. The release comes after a prolonged delay, caused primarily by the deferment of Gram Panchayat elections in the State. Although funds for the financial years 2024-25 and 2025-26 were due, they remained stalled owing to the delay in elections. The Centre maintained that the pending grants would be released only after the completion of the Gram Panchayat elections, resulting in severe financial stress at the grassroots level. Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Minister Dhanasari Anasuya Seethakka had repeatedly taken up the issue with the Union government. After the completion of the elections, the Minister initiated special efforts to expedite the release, particularly as there was a risk of the funds lapsing if not disbursed before March 31. Meanwhile, Minister Seethakka urged the Centre to release the remaining pending grants without further delay, stressing that timely financial support is crucial for strengthening village self-governance.

No gang rape at Medaram Jatara, says Seethakka

Hyderabad: Panchayat Raj Minister Dhanasari Anasuya (Seethakka) on Thursday said that no gang rape of a minor girl occurred at the Sammakka Saralamma Jatara in Medaram.



Hyderabad Property Listings The Minister said that this was primarily confirmed by the National Commission for Women's (NCWs) inquiry committee. The National Commission for Women formed an inquiry committee in response to the allegations of gang rape of a minor girl at the Medaram Jatara.

The Inquiry Committee was headed by National Commission for Women members Delina Khongdup and Kanchan Khattar. The team visited Mulugu district in the afternoon on Thursday. They met with Collector Divakar and SP Ramnath Kekan at the Mulugu Collectorate.

Subsequently, they inspected the area around the Medaram Jatara where the alleged gang rape was believed to have taken place. It has been primarily confirmed that no gang rape incident occurred at the festival. The inquiry team will submit its final report to the National Commission for Women after receiving a written report from the police.

Top Court's DA verdict to cost Bengal exchequer Rs 10k crore immediately, Rs 42K crore in the long run

Kolkata: The Supreme Court's verdict directing the West Bengal government to pay Dearness Allowance (DA) arrears to the state government employees and pensioners for the period between 2008 and 2019 and also 25 per cent of that amount by March 31 this year, will cost the state exchequer a little over Rs 10,000 crore immediately and Rs 42,000 crore in the long run.

"These figures are tentative. An exercise had started to figure out the actual expenditure on this count, and the final figure would surface only after that exercise is completed," said a state Finance Department official on Friday. While presenting the interim (Vote-on-Account) Budget proposal for the financial year 2026-27, a four per cent hike in dearness allowance was announced for the government employees and pensioners in West Bengal. However, even after the increase, the DA gap between the state government and their counterparts in the Union government continues at 36 per cent. The Supreme Court, on

Thursday, also upheld the argument of state government employees that getting DA at par with central government employees was their right and not a "gift of mercy" as argued by the state government. Economists feel that the main reasons behind the observation of the Apex Court were the economically flawed arguments on the part of the government for calculating the DA for state government employees, which also lacked data-driven discourse.

The first flaw: The West Bengal government was not accepting the All India Consumer Price Index (AICPI) as the benchmark for calculating and determining DA for the state government employees. Notably, AICPI is a nationally accepted benchmark and formula for calculating and determining DA for state government employees.

Now, while the state government was stubborn on its stand of not accepting AICPI as the bench for DA calculation, it failed to present any alternative benchmark or formula for the same, which ultimately evoked the observation from the Apex Court that once DA is defined in the



West Bengal Services (Revision of Pay and Allowances) Rules, 2009 (ROPA) by linking it to the AICPI, the state government could not alter the manner of its calculation through subsequent office memoranda.

The second flaw, according to economists, was against the logical principle both economically and legally. The flaw was over the existence of two separate DA rates for two categories of employees of the same state government.

The first category included those West Bengal government employees who were posted in other states on behalf of the state government. This category receives DA at par with their counterparts in the Central government.

The second category is

those West Bengal government employees who are posted in their native state only, and they are not paid dearness allowance at par with the Central government and many other state governments.

Both economists and legal experts feel that these differential rates of dearness allowance for two sets of state government employees are quite unusual and act as a major hurdle for the state government to logically present its argument at the Apex Court.

Considering that DA was a part of the salary structure, differential rates of dearness allowance for different categories of permanent employees, and more especially if they are employees of the same government setup, cannot be followed.

Court Cannot Force Any Woman To Continue Pregnancy: Supreme Court Allows Termination At 30 Weeks

The Supreme Court on Friday reaffirmed that no court has the authority to force a woman, particularly a minor, to continue an unwanted pregnancy, as it allowed the medical termination of a 30-week pregnancy of a girl who conceived while she was underage. The court underlined that reproductive autonomy remains paramount and must be respected when a woman clearly expresses her unwillingness to carry a pregnancy to term.

A bench comprising Justices BV Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan observed that the wishes of the pregnant girl were deci-

sive in the matter, especially since the pregnancy was unintended and she had consistently stated that she did not want to give birth. The judges emphasised that the personal choice and bodily autonomy of the pregnant individual must take precedence in such cases.

The court noted that while the birth of a child ultimately involves the creation of a new life, compelling a woman to continue a pregnancy against her will is not permissible. It stressed that if a woman's interests are to be considered, her reproductive autonomy must be given due importance,



and judicial intervention cannot override her clear decision. Allowing the plea, the Supreme Court directed Mumbai's JJ Hospital to conduct the medical termination while ensuring all necessary medical pre-

cautions and safeguards. The court acknowledged the moral and legal complexities involved but concluded that the minor's firm and consistent refusal to continue the pregnancy was the determining factor. The ruling aligns with the Supreme Court's earlier decisions upholding women's bodily autonomy. In previous judgments, the court has recognised reproductive choice as a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution and has ruled that women, irrespective of marital status, are entitled to seek termination of pregnancy within the framework of the law.

Ponnam slams BJP for trying to have truck with Pawan Kalyan



Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Thursday alleged that the Telangana BJP was forming an alliance with Jana Sena Party chief Pawan Kalyan, whom he accused of making derogatory and discriminatory remarks against Telangana.

Addressing a public meeting at Choppadandi, the Minister Ponnam said the BJP was approaching the people while aligning with leaders (Pawan Kalyan), who had "spewed venom" against Telangana. He further alleged that BJP leaders had neglected the State and failed to secure adequate funds from the Centre.

Referring to Pawan Kalyan's earlier remarks suggesting that coconut trees in Andhra Pradesh were drying up due to the "evil eye" of Telangana, Ponnam Prabhakar said such comments were unacceptable.

"Despite this, when Pawan Kalyan visited Kondagattu, we welcomed him as the Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. However, no one will tolerate insults to the people of Telangana or discriminatory statements against the formation of the State," he said.

The Minister urged the people and activists of Telangana to reflect on the BJP's alliance with leaders who had made such remarks. Appealing to voters ahead of the municipal elections scheduled for February 11, he called upon them to elect Congress candidates and support the Congress government. Ponnam Prabhakar also alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself had made discriminatory remarks towards Telangana in the past, but BJP leaders in the State had failed to respond. He said that after the formation of the Praja Palana government, the Chief Minister and Cabinet ministers had collectively appealed to the Prime Minister to allocate funds for development programmes in the Union Budget. "Despite repeated appeals, funds were not allocated in two consecutive Union budgets," he alleged.

YSRCP reiterates commitment to RLIP



Nandyal: The public meeting organised at Pothireddypadu village in the Nandikotkur constituency of Nandyal district, as part of the "Chalo Pothireddypadu" programme demanding completion of the Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Project, was held successfully on Thursday. Former MLA Shilpa Ravichandra Kishore Reddy said the programme reflected the growing public resolve against injustice to farmers and the people of Rayalaseema. The meeting was presided over by Katasani Ram Bhupal Reddy and attended by several senior YSR Congress Party leaders, including State Coordinator Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy, former minister Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy, Nandyal district observer MLC Kalpa Latha Reddy, former MP Pocha Brahmananda Reddy, former minister Buggana Rajendranath Reddy, former MLC Gangula Prabhakar Reddy, MLC Ishaq Basha, and former MLAs Shilpa Chakrapani Reddy, Katasani Ramireddy and Gangula Vijayendra Nath Reddy. Leaders from Rayalaseema and Nellore districts, farmer association representatives, party workers and supporters participated in large numbers. Addressing the gathering, YSRCP leaders asserted that the party would wage a relentless struggle to secure irrigation water for agriculture and drinking water for the people. They stated that the Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Project would be completed and made available to farmers of Rayalaseema, Nellore and Prakasam districts, emphasising that farmers' interests would remain the party's top priority.

Budget Session 2026: Lok Sabha Proceedings Adjourned Until Monday Due to Disruptions

Budget Session 2026: Lok Sabha Proceedings Adjourned Until Monday Due to Disruptions
New Delhi: The Budget Session of Parliament in 2026 continued to witness heavy disruptions on Friday, leading to the adjournment of Lok Sabha proceedings until Monday. Persistent sloganeering and protests by opposition members prevented the House from conducting scheduled business, including a detailed discussion on the Prime Minister's motion of thanks to the President's address.

Amid the continued deadlock in the Lok Sabha, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the Rajya Sabha, where he mounted a sharp attack on the opposition, particularly the Congress, over its conduct and past record in governance. Without naming the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Modi alleged that a senior opposition leader had made remarks that he said were offensive to the Sikh community. He criticised what he described as contradictory political messaging, stating that leaders who speak of spreading love were simultaneously engaging in divisive statements, and remarked sarcastically on claims of running a "shop of love."

During his address, the Prime



Minister also referred to former prime ministers Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi, pointing to what he described as shortcomings and policy failures during their tenures. He said several challenges faced by the country stemmed from decisions taken during decades of Congress rule and accused the party of weakening national unity for political considerations.

The Budget Session has been marked by repeated adjournments in recent days, with opposition parties pressing their demands through protests inside the House. The dis-

ruptions have slowed legislative work, including key discussions related to the Union Budget and other financial matters.

While the government has maintained that it is ready to engage in debate on all issues, the opposition has accused the ruling side of avoiding meaningful discussion. With Lok Sabha proceedings now adjourned until Monday, concerns remain over whether critical budgetary and legislative business can be completed smoothly during the remainder of the session.

Bhatti questions removal of Gandhi's name from MGNREGS

Hyderabad/Chennai: Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka questioned what sin Mahatma Gandhi had committed that the BJP government at the Centre removed his name from the Employment Guarantee Scheme.

He was speaking as the chief guest at a massive public meeting held in Chennai on Thursday evening, following a padayatra organised under the leadership of the Tamil Nadu Pradesh Congress Committee, protesting the changes to the Employment Guarantee Scheme and the removal of Mahatma Gandhi's name from it.

The Deputy Chief Minister expressed anguish that the BJP government at the Centre had



brought in a new law with the intention of making the Employment Guarantee Scheme disappear by altering its provisions.

He said that under the new law, not only was Mahatma Gandhi's name removed, but even the very spirit of guaranteeing employment to agri-

cultural labourers was diluted. He questioned what sin crores of agricultural labourers across the country had committed for the BJP government to introduce such changes to the Employment Guarantee Scheme.

Recalling the past, he said that across the country there were numerous agitations, police lathi-charges and bloodshed every agricultural season for wage increases of even 50 paise. With a humane perspective to eliminate such brutal conditions, UPA Chairperson Sonia Gandhi and then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh introduced the Mahatma Gandhi Employment Guarantee Scheme for crores of agricultural labourers in the country, he said.

Shalmali Kholgade reveals how she flipped the narrative of love with her new song 'Impression'

Mumbai: Playback singer Shalmali Kholgade, who is known for songs like 'Pareshaan', 'Balam Pichkari', 'Latt Lag Gayi', has released her new song 'Impression'. The singer said that she has flipped the narrative of love with the song, giving women the control to set the tone. The music video of the song features Shalmali shaking a leg. 'Impression' is a groovy track that flips the script on modern courtship, and flips the typical gender narrative of girls making an impression on men. Instead of loud declarations or borrowed bravado, the song celebrates attraction in its quieter, more assured form. The song places Shalmali in control of her playful, composed, and unapologetically present.

Talking about the song, Shalmali told IANS, "Impression is a really special song for me, both from an expression and performative point of view. It combines both my passion for music and dance, and as an artist I find that very fulfilling. For decades, a lot of love songs followed very fixed emotional roles,



especially for women". She further mentioned, "There was a lot of waiting, yearning, and sacrifice. That's not the full picture anymore. With Impression, I loved the idea of flipping the narrative a bit, letting the woman set the tone, hold the gaze, decide the emotional pace. I think listeners today want to see themselves in songs, and that includes feeling powerful, not just vulnerable".

'Impression' also marks a natural

evolution of Shalmali's journey as an independent artist to a pop performer. After years as one of Hindi cinema's most recognisable playback voices, she's constantly pushed the boundaries of her own music. Shalmali has released two full-length albums and collaborated with artists across genres.. With Impression, she further strengthens her repertoire.

Impression is a result of a song-writing camp where many incredible artists came together to build this world along with her. Co-written with Shloke Lal, and co-composed with Rutvik Talashilkar, Guitarist Amandeep Singh Soni, Shalmali's songwriting is something to watch out for in the coming years. The track was produced by Rutvik Talashilkar and mixed and mastered by Sunny M.R. at Chordfather Productions.

Bangladesh sports adviser Asif Nazrul hails Pakistan PM Sharif for support over T20 WC stance



New Delhi: Amid ongoing drama for the upcoming T20 World Cup, Bangladesh Youth and Sports Adviser Asif Nazrul thanked Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who stated that Pakistan's decision to boycott their match against India was a show of solidarity with Bangladesh in the wake of the country's removal from the tournament.

In a Facebook post on Thursday, Nazrul acknowledged Sharif's decision as a protest against Bangladesh's removal from the multi-nation event. "Thank you, Pakistan," he wrote in the post.

He also quoted remarks made by Sharif during a meeting of Pakistan's cabinet in Islamabad on Wednesday, in which he explained the rationale behind the boycott. "Pakistan Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif said his country has decided to boycott the India match in protest of removing Bangladesh from the T20 World Cup. We will not play the match against India, he said to cabinet members on Wednesday. Because there should be no politics on the playground. We took this decision very thoughtfully. We should totally stand by Bangladesh. I think this is a very appropriate decision," he added.

Earlier, the Pakistan government announced that its national cricket team would not play the T20 World Cup group-stage match against India at Colombo's R. Premadasa Stadium on February 15.

In response, the ICC issued a strong statement on Sunday, urging the PCB to seek a mutually acceptable resolution and warning that selective participation undermines the principles of global competition.

"While the ICC awaits official communication from the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), this position of selective participation is difficult to reconcile with the fundamental premise of a global sporting event where all qualified teams are expected to compete on equal terms as per the event schedule," the ICC said.

"The ICC hopes that the PCB will consider the significant and long-term implications for cricket in its own country, as this is likely to impact the global cricket ecosystem, of which it is itself a member and beneficiary," it added.

Bangladesh was replaced by Scotland in the T20 World Cup after its government declined to allow the team to travel to India, citing security concerns. Bangladesh had requested that its matches be shifted to Sri Lanka, but the proposal was rejected by the ICC.

History beckons as India chase historic firsts at ICC Men's T20 WC

New Delhi: As the ICC Men's T20 World Cup starts on Saturday, with defending champions India, 2009 winner Pakistan and 2012 and 2016 winners taking to the field on the opening day, the co-hosts India begin their campaign with history in sight, chasing feats which have never been achieved before.

India are a popular pick as tournament favourites, coming off scintillating form that has seen them win 48 of their last 56 T20I games dating back to October 2023. And more recently, producing a dominant series win against New Zealand. Most fans will agree co-hosts India are the team to beat. They are the ICC's number one-ranked sides in both white-ball formats and are as familiar with the conditions as anyone.

Take a look at the milestones the Men in Blue will be hoping to conquer in their title defence as the ICC Men's T20 World Cup gets underway on Saturday across India and Sri Lanka.

1) First team to defend T20 World Cup

India enters the 2026 tournament as the defending champions, having won the 2024 edition—just their second T20 World Cup title after winning the inaugural edition in 2007. The men in blue will become the first team in history to successfully defend the ICC Men's T20 World Cup title if they make it to the final and win the trophy, a feat that no men's team has yet accomplished.

India also broke the record in 2024 by winning all eight of their games before taking home the trophy, going undefeated during the competition, and becoming the first team to win the T20 World Cup without suffering a defeat. The Men in Blue are now determined to make history by holding onto their title, which has eluded all previous winners in the shortest format.

2) First men's team to lift T20 World Cup crown on home soil

Since the inaugural edition of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup in 2007, which was held in South Africa, there have been six different winners to hold the coveted trophy so far, with the West Indies, England and reigning champions India the only teams to have claimed the title twice, while Pakistan, Australia and Sri Lanka have lifted the silverware once.

So far none of the host nations have ever won the Men's T20 World Cup.



South Africa (2007), England (2009), West Indies (2010), Sri Lanka (2012), Bangladesh (2014), India (2016), UAE & Oman (2021), Australia (2022), and USA & West Indies (2024) all staged the event, yet the winners were from elsewhere.

In 10th edition, co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka, Men in Blue will be hoping to finally break the jinx.

Notably, last November the Indian women's team lifted the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 title as hosts at the Dr DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai, claiming their first-ever World Cup crown.

3) Indian men and women's team simultaneously holding the T20 World Cup title

Should India lift the coveted silverware on March 8, it will be the first time in Indian cricketing history that both the men's and women's teams hold the T20 World Cup crown.

India women beat South Africa by 52 runs to win the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 final at the Dr DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai last November to clinch their first-ever World Cup crown.

In 2016, it happened for the first time that a team held the women's and men's T20 titles simultaneously when the West Indies' women and men won their respective T20 crowns.

4) First team to win three T20 World titles

India became the third team to win the

men's T20 World Cup for the second time, having won the inaugural 2007 edition. In the 2016 edition, the West Indies, who won their first title in 2012, became the first team to win multiple titles when they reclaimed the silverware in 2016, while England won in 2010 and 2022.

In 2026, Men in Blue are eyeing the unprecedented record of becoming the first team to win three T20 World Cup trophies, a feat that has never been achieved before.

5) Most match wins in the singles edition of T20 spectacle

In 2024, India scripted history by becoming the first team to win the men's T20 World Cup without losing a game all tournament. India won all eight matches they played in the tournament and had one washout: the first-round game against Canada.

India's eight consecutive wins in completed games is the joint-longest winning streak for any team in the men's T20 World Cup. Australia won eight successive games across the 2022 and 2024 editions, while South Africa was on an eight-match winning streak before defeat in the 2024 final.

In the 2026 Men's T20 World Cup, 20 teams will compete across 55 matches. India are scheduled to play nine games, including the potential final. If they remain unbeaten throughout the tournament, India will underline their dominance in the shortest format by becoming the team with the most match wins in a single edition of the T20 World Cup.

Rapid Open Prize Money Chess Tournament on Feb 8

Hyderabad will host a Rapid Open Prize Money Chess Tournament on February 8, to be organised by A2H Chess Academy at its premises in Sai Baba Nagar Colony, Kukatpally. The tournament carries total prize money of Rs 15,000, with the winner set to

receive Rs 4,000, followed by Rs 3,000 for second place and Rs 2,000 for third. In all, 10 cash prizes are on offer. The event will be conducted over six rounds in Swiss League format, following the latest FIDE rules. Each round will have a time control of 15

minutes with an increment of 55 seconds per move. Open to players of all ages, the tournament welcomes rated, unrated and new players. Interested participants can register by contacting FIDE Arbiter S. Subba Raju on 9866702431.

BOXAM Elite 2026: Nitu, Preeti atorm into SF, Jadumani shines again as India confirm 19 medals

La Nucia (Spain): The Indian contingent continued its impressive run at the BOXAM Elite International 2026, confirming 19 medals after a dominant showing on Day 3 of the tournament on Friday.

Nitu (51 kg) and Preeti (54 kg) led the charge by storming into the semifinals of their respective weight categories, while Jadumani Singh (55 kg) once again delivered a commanding performance in the men's competition.

The Indian women's contingent under newly appointed head coach Santiago Nieva has guaranteed 12 medals, while the men's team has confirmed seven podium finishes heading into the semi-



nal stage. Nitu was in imperious form, shutting out Canada's McKenzie Wright with a commanding 5:0 win to secure her place in the last four. Preeti followed with a clinical

showing against Spain's Maria Gonzalez, forcing an abandonment in Round 3 after dictating the contest with sustained pressure.

Poonam (54kg) added another emphatic 5:0 victory over Thailand's Natnicha Chongprongklang, while Priya (60kg) and Pranjal (65kg) registered unanimous wins against Spain's Laura Galano and Czech boxer Viktorie Jilkova, respectively. Kajal (65kg) edged Kazakhstan's Akbar Ichshanova 4:1 in a tightly contested bout. In the men's competition, Jadumani Singh continued his fine run, outclassing Peng Chia-Feng of Chinese Taipei 5:0 in the 55kg category. Mohammed Hussam

Uddin (60kg) produced a polished display to defeat Ukraine's Ali Dahly unanimously, while Sachin (60kg) battled past Ukraine's Aider Abduraimov in a tense 3:2 decision. Akash (75kg) also advanced with a solid 4:1 win over Spain's Jose Luis Canero. Several Indian boxers bowed out after spirited efforts, including Pawan Bartwal, who went down narrowly 2:3 to England's Ellis Trowbridge, and Abhinash Jamwal, who lost to Ukraine's Elvin Aliiev. Despite the exits, India's growing medal tally underlined another strong day at the tournament, with multiple semifinal spots secured as the competition heads into its decisive stages.