



Andhra CM orders inquiry into food poisoning at govt-run Ashram hostel

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Sunday ordered an inquiry into a food poisoning incident in which 92 tribal students of a government-run Ashram boys' hostel fell ill.

The incident occurred at the Ashram hostel in Devarapalli village in Rampachodavaram Mandal of Polavaram district on Saturday.

The Chief Minister directed officials to submit a detailed report by Monday and made it clear that strict action would be taken against those found responsible for negligence.

The Chief Minister on Sunday held a review meeting with officials from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) and other departments and issued the necessary instructions.

Officials informed the Chief Minister that 92 students of the Devarapalli Ashram



Boys' Hostel in Rampachodavaram experienced symptoms such as vomiting, stomach pain, fever and diarrhoea, and were immediately shifted to hospitals in Mareedumilli and Rampachodavaram.

They explained that after having breakfast on Saturday morning, the students began complaining of stomach pain and vomiting, following which they were shifted to hospitals for treatment.

Officials said the health condition of all the students is currently stable. Officials also informed the Chief Minister that they inspected the hostel immediately after the incident and assessed the prevailing conditions. Primary medical examinations were conducted on the remaining students in the hostel, and those showing symptoms of diarrhoea were provided treatment.

They further stated that a special medical camp was set up and samples of food and water were collected for testing.

Officials informed the Chief Minister that a Joint Inspection Committee has also been constituted to investigate the incident.

Chief Minister Naidu instructed that the health condition of the students undergoing treatment at Rampachodavaram Area Hospital should be continuously monitored and that he be kept regularly informed of their condition.

He also directed the district Collector to submit a comprehensive report on the incident by Monday.

CM Chandrababu Naidu further instructed officials to initiate departmental action against those responsible for the incident and to take criminal action as well, if necessary.

Ten injured in serious road accident in Sri Sathya Sai district



A severe road accident took place on Sunday in the Penukonda area of Sri Sathya Sai district. An Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (RTC) bus, carrying passengers, was violently struck from behind by a lorry on the national highway.

Approximately ten people were injured in the collision. The district police arrived promptly at the scene and launched rescue operations. Some passengers suffered minor injuries, while others sustained more serious harm. Fortunately, there were no fatalities, providing some relief amid the incident.

AP EAPCET 2026 notification released for engineering admissions

The EAPCET (Engineering, Agriculture, and Pharmacy Common Entrance Test) 2026 notification has been issued for undergraduate programmes across universities, private unaided colleges, and affiliated professional engineering colleges throughout Andhra Pradesh for the academic year 2026-27. The State Council of Higher Education has published the full notification on its official website. The exam will be conducted by Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Kakinada (JNTUK). Eligible students can apply online without a late fee until 7 March 2026.

Candidates who have completed Intermediate (10+2) with MPC or BiPC subjects are eligible to apply. A minimum of 40% marks in Intermediate is required for SC/ST candidates, while others need at least 45%. Based on their rank in AP EAPCET 2026, students will be admitted into courses including Engineering, Biotechnology, B.Tech (Dairy Technology), B.Tech (Agricultural Engineering), B.Tech (Food Science and Technology), B.Sc (Agriculture), B.Sc (Horticulture), BVSc & AH, BFSc, B.Pharmacy, and Pharm.D.

The registration fee is ₹800 for general candidates, ₹700 for SC, ST, and PH candidates, and ₹750 for BC candidates.



Key dates include:

- Last date for application without late fee: 7 March 2026
- With late fee of ₹1,000: 12 March
- With late fee of ₹2,000: 17 March
- With late fee of ₹4,000: 21 March
- With late fee of ₹10,000: 26 March
- Application correction period: 26-28 March
- Hall ticket download begins: 28 April
- Engineering exams: 12, 15, and 18 May
- Agriculture and Pharmacy exams: 19 and 20 May
- Preliminary exam key release: 23 May
- Objection deadline: 25 May
- Result announcement: 1 June 2026.

Revanth is a BJP man at heart, alleges KTR

Hyderabad: In a high-octane campaign for the upcoming municipal polls, BRS working president KT Rama Rao launched an offensive against Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, characterizing him as a "Trojan Horse" for the BJP within the Congress ranks. Hyderabad Property Listings

Addressing a massive roadshow in the Jukkal, Banswada, and Yellareddy constituencies on Saturday, KTR exhorted the electorate—particularly minorities—to "peel back the Congress mask" to reveal the saffron identity underneath. "Revanth was never a Congressman at heart; he remains a BJP man through and through. He is merely the younger brother to the 'Bade Bhai' in Delhi," KTR asserted, suggesting a clandestine tactical understanding between the CM and the BJP top brass.

Taking a sharp dig at the Chief Minister's increasingly combative and often coarse political vocabulary, KTR rechristened him "Laguna Thondala Reddy" (Lizard-in-the-trousers Reddy). He slammed the CM for substituting governance with profanity, noting that whenever the opposition demands accountability for the "420 failed promises," the CM resorts to "street-level threats" about "pulling out guts" and "playing marbles with eyes." "For two



years, his administration has been a single-point agenda of KCR-bashing. He chants KCR's name more than a devotee writes 'Rama Koti.' The irony is that KCR doesn't even acknowledge his existence, and it is this lack of recognition that drives Revanth into a state of perpetual frustration," KTR remarked amidst cheers from the crowd.

Drawing a parallel with the notorious Dandu Palayam and Stuartpuram gangs, KTR warned that the Congress "loot-and-scoot" model was now targeting the municipal level. He alleged that the local Jukkal MLA was acting as a "collection agent," extorting commissions from the business community to fund the Congress's "cash-for-votes" election strategy.

Anantapur Govt Medical College's silver jubilee held

Anantapur: Medical and Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav and Anantapur Urban MLA Daggupati Venkateswara Prasad participated in the silver jubilee celebrations of Government Medical College here on Saturday. Later, they performed bhumi puja for the silver jubilee pylon on the campus.

Minister Satya Kumar Yadav reminisced about the college's inception in 2000 and praised its 25 years of dedicated service in medical education. He highlighted its vital role in delivering quality healthcare to rural and underserved areas while nurturing skilled medical professionals. The Minister commended the alumni making significant contributions across India and

abroad, enhancing the institution's reputation, and expressed confidence that it would continue blending academic excellence with a deep commitment to service. MLA Daggupati Venkateswara Prasad credited Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu for establishing the college 25 years ago and later introducing postgraduate seats. He pointed out that the hospital currently manages around 3,000 outpatients and 1,300 inpatients daily. He appealed to the government to upgrade it into a 1,300-bed facility, fill the 133 vacant staff positions, inaugurate the completed women's hostel, and set up a new laboratory to further strengthen services.



Wide campaign of 28th ward candidate Pidatha Sharada and Srinivasa Rao....



Kodada February 08 Metro morning.....

Pidatha Sharada, who is contesting as a candidate for the 28th ward in the Kodada municipal elections, toured the ward extensively with BRS party leaders on Sunday. He asked the voters to go round and round and bless him by casting their precious votes and winning with a large majority. He said that if he wins as a councillor, he will serve them a lot. He asked the voters to give him the opportunity to serve...

Development will be done in all fields with the cooperation of Minister and MLA.

28th Ward Congress candidate Thota Jyoti Srinivas....



Kodada February 08 Metro morning.....

As part of Kodada municipal election campaign, 28th Ward Congress candidate Thota Jyoti Srinivas toured the ward extensively. He asked the voters to bless him by casting their precious vote in Gadapa and Gadapa. On this occasion, he said that if he wins as a councillor, he will maintain the trust of the people of the ward and work tirelessly for the development of the ward. He said that with the cooperation of the Minister and MLA, all the problems will be completed and made ideal. To further develop the ward, they asked to vote on hand sign and win with the highest majority....

Rose in Balaji Nagar

Mummara campaign for Hanumanayak's victory



Kodada February 08 Metro morning.....

As part of the Kodada municipal election campaign, the BRS ranks intensified the campaign in Balaji Nagar 7th Ward of the town. Wishing the victory of the ward candidate Hanumanayak, the youth and women of the ward gathered in large numbers and went to Gadapagapadu and campaigned. Explaining the development works undertaken by the BRS government in the last ten years, he requested to vote for the car symbol. Hanumanayak will take the lead in solving the problems in the ward and asked him to win with a huge majority....



Skanda International School First Anniversary Celebrations



- The celebrations reached new heights with cultural performances by the children.
- Chairman Ashok Reddy and Directors participated as chief guests.
- Kuchipudi and Bharatanatyam dances performed by the children were captivating.

Medipally February:08 (Metro udayam)

Skanda International School celebrated its first anniversary with great

pomp and splendor. A large number of students, teachers, and parents participated in the event held on the school premises. Chairman Ashok Reddy, who attended as the chief guest, inaugurated the event by lighting the lamp. Speaking on the occasion, he praised Skanda International School for providing quality education and achieving excellent results in a short period. The folk dances, classical dances, dramas, and musical performances presented by the children were highly entertaining.



In particular, the performances based on themes of environmental protection, Kuchipudi and Bharatanatyam dances, and patriotism were a special attraction. It was stated that the school provides training not only in academics but also in sports and arts. Prizes were presented to the students who excelled in the academic year (2025-26) and to the winners of various sports competitions by the chief guests. We have received a wonderful response from parents within just one year.

Our goal is to make internationally standardized education accessible to the common people. They expressed their gratitude to the teaching staff and other staff members who contributed to this success. The event was attended by the school directors Chandrasekhar, Lokesh Reddy, Bhumes Yadav, Raju Reddy, Rajkumar Reddy, correspondent Sangeetha Reddy, principal Anita, vice-principal Sujatha, teachers, students, and their parents.

Ramakrishna Chandramouli's poetry is like a sweet treat in the moonlight:

- Telangana Sahitya Academy Secretary Dr. N. Balachari

Chikkadapally, February 08 Metro udayam :

Telangana Sahitya Academy Secretary Dr. N. Balachari said that Ramakrishna Chandramouli's poetry is like a sweet treat in the moonlight. He stated that Ramakrishna Chandramouli is a poet who, at a young age, took up the pen and has been cultivating literature with over five thousand poems, dedicating himself to literary service for a long time. The literary week program was held on Sunday at Ravindra Bharathi under the chair-



manship of Dr. N. Balachari, President of the Telangana Writers' Association. Speaking as the chief guest at the event, N. Balachari described Ramakrishna Chandramouli's poetry as giving importance to

injustices happening in society. Later, Naleshwaram Shankaram praised Ramakrishna Chandramouli's poems, saying that they are written with innovative and powerful themes and make everyone, young and old, feel like they are strolling in a shower of moonlight. The author of the book, Ramakrishna Chandramouli, expressed his gratitude to everyone who participated, including the program coordinator P. Badesab. C.N. Rao, Tirumala Rao, Oddiraju Praveen, J.V. Kumar, Girija Sangeetha, Satyaveena, Radha, Ramani, Vimala, Jyothi, and others participated in the program.

Curry Shiv Subbarao couple's tears...

Ward people consoled Subbarao couple....

Kodada February 08 Metro morning.....

The couple of former councilor of 18th ward Karri Shiva Subbarao said that if they worked day and night for the Congress party, they were insulted by giving a ticket to a person from another party without minimum identification. They expressed their grievances in a press conference held with senior CPI leaders Baddam Bhadra Reddy on Sunday. He said that despite facing many temptations and insults during the anarchic regime of BRS in the last ten years, the party leaders have turned their backs on the Congress flag. They complained that their self-esteem was damaged by giving them a



ticket within hours to an unrelated person. However, the people of the ward assured us that we are there. They unanimously resolved to win Siva Subbarao who served selflessly as an independent candidate and showed humanity. They vowed to vote for the rulers who do not respect the sentiments of the workers and to win Siva Subbarao with a huge

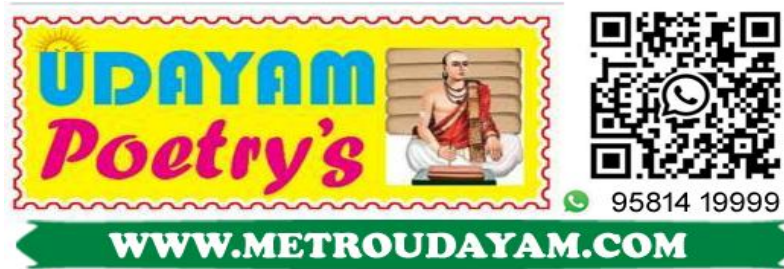


majority. The people of the ward consoled the couple of Shiv Subbarao who was in tears. CPI senior leaders Baddam Bhadra Reddy, Garine Koteswara Rao, Danala Venkaiah, Kambala Ranga, Srinivas Reddy, Shiva Reddy, Akhlesh Reddy, Bandaru Bhaskar, Shiva and others participated in this meeting....

Cong, BRS spell misfortune for Telangana: Kishan Reddy



Hyderabad: Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy launched a scathing attack on the Congress and BRS, calling "the misfortune of Telangana is that... whether it is Congress or BRS... the party in power rules at the whim of the Majlis". Addressing the media on Friday, he accused both parties of misgovernance and corruption in Telangana. He alleged that successive governments have operated under the influence of AIMIM, undermining the state's autonomy and dignity. Reddy criticized Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for urging people to vote for Congress in the upcoming municipal elections despite failing to deliver on promises made during the 2023 Assembly polls. He pointed out that nearly 26 months have passed since Congress came to power, yet none of the six guarantees or 420 sub-guarantees have been implemented. Highlighting internal conflicts within the ruling party, Reddy said ministers are embroiled in disputes over projects and contracts, while the Chief Minister distracts the public with diversionary politics. He condemned Revanth Reddy's focus on religious reservations instead of development, calling the promise of a permanent 4% Muslim quota unconstitutional and a blatant vote-bank strategy.



LIGHT FOLLOWS DARK!

It is quite common
To feel a lot to face
problems!
But in life it's natural!

Happy, sad,
Comfort, difficult!
Never stand still!
Rotate as circle!

Just like dawn and dust,
Day and night!
Light follows dark!
Change is a must!

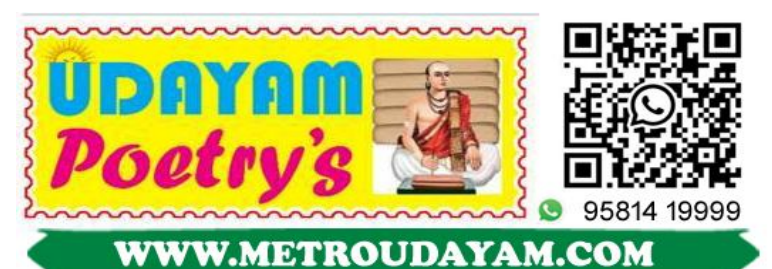
Only thing how long?
How to face, how to overtake!
Feel that longer the bad
period!
As if good one shortly vanish!

Nothing like that both take
their own time!
Our mental stress feel like
that!
Wait with patience till the
Luck taps the door!

It is a confirmed fact,
Time changes anything!
Perhaps it depends on
time factor!
Be ready to welcome good
day to come!



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



और यदि तुम्हारा ईश्वर चाहता, तो पृथ्वी पर रहने वाले सभी लोग विश्वास कर लेते। तो क्या तुम लोगों को विवश करा, 'गे ताकि वे विश्वासी बन जाएँ?' ... (शकील उवाव - ६११)

जहाँ तक हमारा खुदा पर ईमान (ईश्वर पर विश्वास) लाने की बात है यह हर एक आदमी का अपना अपना स्वैच्छिक चयन है। इस्लाम और पवित्र कुरआन के तालिम के मुताबिक (पाठ के अनुसार) किसी को भी जबर्न धर्म परिवर्तन के लिए विवश नहीं किया जा सकता। पवित्र कुरआन, अध्याय १०, सुराह यूनुस, आयत क्रमांक ९९ में कहा गया है कि, "और यदि तुम्हारा ईश्वर चाहता, तो पृथ्वी पर रहने वाले सभी लोग (एक साथ ईश्वर पर) विश्वास कर लेते। तो क्या तुम लोगों को विवश करोगे ताकि वे विश्वासी बन जाएँ?"



पहली बात कोई किसीको विश्वास के मामले में जबर्दस्ती मजबूर नहीं कर सकता। और दूसरी बात यह है कि एक ईश्वर, निराकार सृष्टिकर्ता पालनहार परमात्मा की आराधना करने की जहाँ विश्वास लोगों को आदेश दिया गया है वहीं जो लोग इतर देवी देवताओं की उपासना करते हैं उन्हें अपमान ना करने का आदेश भी दिया गया है। अगर कोई एकेश्वरवादी बहुदेववादियों के विरोध में कुछ कहता है तो इसे धर्म, विशेषकर इस्लाम धर्म की गलती नहीं मानना चाहिए। बल्कि जो ऐसा करता है यह उसकी गलती है।

पवित्र कुरआन, अध्याय क्रमांक ०६, सुराह अल अनआम, आयत क्रमांक १०८ में स्पष्ट रूप से निराकार के उपासक मुसलमानों से कहा गया है कि, साकार उपासना करने वाले उन लोगों की मूर्तियों या देवी देवताओं का अपमान ना किया करें। याने उनका अपमान ना करें जो लोग एक ईश्वर के व्यातिरिक्त दूसरों की पूजा, आराधना, उपासना किया करते हैं। याने अनेक ईश्वर वादियों का अपमान करना धर्म विरोधी कार्य है। इसी तरह किसी के भी उपासकों का याने देवी देवताओं का अपमान करना स्पष्ट रूप से धर्म विरोधी कार्य है।

इसका कारण बताते हुए कहा गया है कि, ऐसा इसलिए है ताकि वे लोग 'अज्ञानतावश' और 'देषवश' उपासनीय ईश्वर का अपमान न करने लगे। और यह भी कहा गया है कि सभी को मरकर उसी ईश्वर के पास जाना जो वास्तव में सृष्टिकर्ता पालनहार परमात्मा है। वह खुद फैसला करेगा कि किस जुर्म की क्या सजा देना है। उपरोक्त आयत बताती है कि जो भी लोग जिस तरह से भी उपासना करते हैं उन्हें बुरा कहने का अधिकार किसीको भी नहीं है।

अगर खुदा (ईश्वर) चाहता तो यह लोग (अनेक ईश्वरवादी बनकर) शिक (ईश्वर के व्यातिरिक्त किसी और को ईश्वर मनना) ही ना करते। खुदा ने किसीको मजबूर नहीं किया कि वह विश्वास ही बनकर रहे। उन्हें चयन की पूरी पूरी आजादी (स्वतंत्रता) दी गयी है। और खुदा ने हमको उन लोगों का निगेहबान (संरक्षक) तो बनाया नहीं है। और ना हम उनके जिम्मेदार है। इसलिए दूसरों के उपासकों को और जो लोग परमात्मा के सिवा और किसी को परमात्मा समझकर भक्ती करते हैं उन्हें भी बुरा नहीं कह सकते। गलत सही का फैसला खुद ईश्वर करेगा उसका ठेका परमात्मा ने किसी को नहीं दिया।

उपरोक्त आयतों से साफ साफ पता चलता है कि, अगर कोई एक ईश्वर को त्याग कर अन्य की उपासना करता है जिसे करने का आदेश नहीं है। और उसके पास कोई सबूत ऐसा भी नहीं है कि वह जिसकी उपासना कर रहा है वहीं उपासना के योग्य है, तो वह खुद हिसाब देगा परमात्मा को। ऐसे व्यक्ती का हिसाब परमात्मा खुद लेने वाला है। किसी और को यह हक् (अधिकार) नहीं के उसका हिसाब किताब करते बैठे। ईश्वर के व्यातिरिक्त किसी और को यह अधिकार नहीं है कि उसे गलत कहते हुए उसकी निंदा करते रहे और उसके लिए कोई शिक्षा का प्रबंध करते रहे।

यह ईश्वर का अपना मामला है वहीं बेहतर न्याय करने वाला है। पवित्र कुरआन में कहा गया है कि, "जो शख्स (व्यक्ती) खुदा (ईश्वर) के साथ दूसरे माबूद की परतिश (दूसरे ईश्वर की भक्ती) करेगा उसके पास उस शिक की कोई दलील (उसके पास दूसरे ईश्वर होने का कोई सबूत) नहीं है तो बस उसका हिसाब (किताब) उसके परवरदिगार (पालनहार परमात्मा) ही के पास होगा। (हां, मगर) अवज्ञा करने वाले कभी कल्याण नहीं पाने वाले।" (पवित्र कुरआन, अध्याय क्रमांक २३, सुराह अल मोमेनून, आयत क्रमांक ११०)।

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

Fire incident: Telangana Forensic Lab denies loss of evidence in key cases

The police launched an investigation into the fire incident at the Forensic Science Laboratory of Telangana Police, even as authorities denied loss of evidence relating to key cases, including the one registered against Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, in the past.

Main opposition Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) raised the suspicion that digital evidence relating to the 2015 'note-for-vote' case allegedly involving the Chief Minister could have been destroyed in the fire that occurred on Saturday.

BRS working president K. T. Rama Rao also alleged a "cover-up for lack of evidence in cooked-up political cases like phone tapping".

Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) Director Shikha Goel told the media on Sunday that a complaint was lodged with local police and that investigations were underway to ascertain the cause of the fire. The IPS official said after the fire broke out on Saturday at 10.08 a.m., the staff acted promptly to control it by using fire extinguishers. All technical equipment in FSL was disconnected. The firefighters doused the fire by 1.30 p.m.

She said the fire resulted in some damage to facilities on the first floor of the FSL building. These include the computer forensic lab, library and HRD room.

She said officials were assessing the damage caused by the fire. Details will be revealed after completing the assessment.

"Wild and preposterous allegations and speculation have been made



about the cause of this incident and damage to property present in FSL. Unverified claims made in certain sections of the media, including social media, about the cause of the fire and loss caused to property relating to two cases," she said. The official claimed that a large part of the case property has been retrieved and placed under proper security.

She clarified that the evidence relating to important cases was already submitted to the courts concerned.

The FSL director said allegations have been made about damage to property in a case registered by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) in 2015.

"In this case, FSL received 16 material objects, and reports were

submitted to honourable ACB Court in 2015 itself. All 16 material objects in the case were returned to honourable court. No material relating to this particular case was available in FSL yesterday," she said.

Referring to the phone tapping case, the official said that FSL received 136 material objects from March 2024 to January 2026.

"All these material objects, except seven items, have already been examined and reports submitted to the forwarding authority. Seven material objects which were with FSL are also being examined, and reports are under preparation," she said while adding that material objects which were with FS were safely retrieved.

Backdoor recruitment betrayal of youth: Kavitha

Hyderabad: Telangana Jagruthi President K. Kavitha has launched a scathing attack on the Congress government for allegedly indulging in backdoor recruitment to fill backlog vacancies, calling it a cruel betrayal of the unemployed youth who brought Congress to power. In a statement here on Saturday, she alleged that illegal and unethical attempts are being made to fill posts in Municipal, Revenue, Irrigation, TRANSCO, and GENCO departments without transparency or merit. Several unemployed youth from across the state have approached her, exposing how certain political leaders and corrupt officials are allegedly trying to sell government jobs through influence and money.



HON'BLE UNION RAILWAY MINISTER SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW UNVEILS MAJOR RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE BOOST FOR BENGAL, EXPANDS REGIONAL RAIL NETWORK



Kolkata, February 08, 2026:

Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology, inaugurated the Siuri Road Over Bridge, dedicated the Kumarpur Road Over Bridge to the Nation and flagged off the new Asansol-Bokaro train service through Video Conferencing, along with Shri Suvendu Adhikari, Leader of the Opposition, West Bengal Legislative Assembly, today (08.02.2026).

Shri Anup Kumar Saha, Hon'ble MLA, Shri Jagannath Chattopadhyay and other dignitaries were also present at Siuri on this occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw stated that these projects mark a significant step towards strengthening rail infrastructure, enhancing safety and improving regional connectivity in West Bengal and adjoining areas. Hon'ble Railway Minister Shri Vaishnaw mentioned that this year a record budget allocation of Rs. 14,205 crores has been allocated for Railway in West Bengal which is more than 3 times than the average allocation during previous regime. He also mentioned that Railway Projects worth about Rs. 92,000 crore is continuing in West Bengal which will facilitate infrastructural transformation in this State.

Shri Vaishnaw, Hon'ble Railway Minister also mentioned that recently Hon'ble Prime Minister has initiated more than a dozen of new trains to facilitate enhancement in rail connectivity for the people of West Bengal. It is mentioned worthy that the first Vande Bharat Sleeper train started running from West Bengal and similarly first Amrit Bharat train was also

started from West Bengal. This indicated the visionary initiative of 'Purvoday' taken by Hon'ble Prime Minister towards development of this region.

Shri Vaishnaw, Hon'ble Railway Minister also mentioned that the first Bullet Train for West Bengal has been announced in this year's Rail Budget and this Bullet Train will start from Siliguri. At the same time, Hon'ble Prime Minister has approved for an East-West freight corridor connecting West Bengal with Gujarat. Another initiative is being taken for construction of an underground rail corridor at the Chicken-Neck part of North Bengal as a strategic step for safe and secured transportation.

Shri Vaishnaw, Hon'ble Railway Minister said that though Union Government is taking all round initiatives for development of West Bengal but the lack of support and apathy of West Bengal Government is foiling those initiatives. He mentioned that Union Government has taken initiatives for completion of 17 Railway Projects in West Bengal for improving connectivity but the State Government should come forward to cooperate in completion of these projects. Shri Vaishnaw urged for cooperation from State Government for completion of Railway Projects for the betterment of the people of West Bengal.

Speaking on the occasion at Siuri, Shri Suvendu Adhikari remarked that the inauguration of these projects represents a major milestone in strengthening rail infrastructure, enhancing public safety and improving regional connectivity across West Bengal and its adjoining areas. He observed that the people of Siuri and the surrounding regions will be immensely benefitted, as the new faci-

ties will substantially ease daily commuting, minimize long-standing traffic bottlenecks and reduce travel delays.

The newly constructed Road Over Bridge in lieu of Level Crossing No. 22B/T near Siuri Railway Station has been completed at a project cost of Rs 42 crore. The bridge will remove long waiting time at the level crossing and ensure faster, safer and smoother daily travel for residents of Siuri and adjoining areas. It will significantly enhance safety by eliminating a busy crossing, reduce congestion around Siuri station and improve mobility for students, workers and local commuters. The ROB will also enable uninterrupted movement of emergency vehicles during critical situations.

Another major infrastructure addition is the Road Over Bridge at Kumarpur in lieu of Level Crossing No. 1Spl/E between Barachak & Hirapur Yard Line, constructed at a cost of Rs 55 crore. Located on the important GT Road corridor, it serves as a key link between Asansol city, large parts of Paschim Bardhaman district and Jharkhand. The bridge will facilitate faster and smoother movement of trade and traffic within the state and with neighbouring states, enhance safety on a heavily used route and reduce congestion around Asansol, improving daily commuting for local residents.

On the same occasion, the new train service between Asansol & Bokaro Steel City was flagged off, strengthening connectivity between two major steel hubs of the country. The service will benefit industrial workers, daily commuters and local residents. Running via Paschim Bardhaman and Purulia districts of West Bengal and Bokaro district of Jharkhand,

the train will enhance both intra-state and inter-state mobility and support regional economic and social connectivity. In the inaugural run Asansol – Bokaro Steel City MEMU Inaugural Special was scheduled to leave Asansol at 17:00 hrs on 08.02.2026 to reach Bokaro Steel City at 21:45 hrs on the same day.

The regular run of 63592/63591 Asansol – Bokaro Steel City - Asansol MEMU passenger will commence from 10th February 2026. The train is composed of 08 coach MEMU rake and will run 06 days a week (except Sunday). 63592 Asansol - Bokaro Steel City MEMU during its regular run will leave Asansol at 7:00 hrs to reach Bokaro Steel City at 11:15 hrs. In the opposite direction, 63591 Bokaro Steel City - Asansol MEMU train will leave Bokaro Steel City at 15:40 hrs. to reach Asansol at 19:30 hrs. This train will stop at Burnpur, Damodar, Madhukunda, Muradih, Ramkanali, Bero, Joychandi Pahar, Gardhrubeswar, Anara, Bagalia, Kustaur, Chharrh, Purulia, Gourinathdham, Chass Road, Garjaipur, Damrughutu, Pundag, Radhagaon stations enroute in both the directions.

On this auspicious occasion of Inauguration/Dedication of Road Over Bridges & inception of train service between Asansol and Bokaro, Hon'ble Member of Parliament Shri Jyotirmay Singh Mahato was present at Asansol station while at Kumarpur Hon'ble MLA Shri Ajay Kumar Poddar & Hon'ble MLA Smt. Agnimitra Paul were present.

Shri Milind Deouskar, General Manager, Eastern Railway welcomed the dignitaries at Siuri programme venue.

Sabarimala gold heist probe nears crucial court deadline amid political crossfire

With the Kerala High Court-mandated deadline fast approaching, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the sensational Sabarimala gold heist case has moved into top gear, even as the probe has triggered a sharp political confrontation between the ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) and the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF). The SIT is required to submit a crucial report to the High Court on February 9, a development that has intensified scrutiny of the investigation and fuelled allegations by the Opposition that the Pinarayi Vijayan government is attempting to interfere in the probe. The UDF has repeatedly raised the issue on the floor of the Kerala Assembly, accusing the government of exerting pressure on the SIT at a politically sensitive juncture.

Amid this backdrop, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, speaking at a political meeting in Pathanamthitta on Friday, made pointed remarks linking AICC general secretary K.C. Venugopal to the emergence of the

prime accused, Unnikrishnan Potti, in Sabarimala during Venugopal's tenure as Devaswom Minister in 2004.

The remark immediately sparked a political backlash.

Responding on Saturday, Venugopal dismissed the Chief Minister's claim with a laugh, asserting that Potti first surfaced in Sabarimala only in 2007, when the Left was in power. "I feel sorry for Vijayan. He knows he is caught in this issue and is now trying to see if he can trap others as well," Venugopal said.

As the SIT accelerates its work, senior Congress MP and UDF convener Adoor Prakash appeared before the investigation team on Saturday to give his statement.

Prakash had come under the spotlight after a photograph surfaced showing him and fellow Congress MP Anto Antony standing alongside Potti and another accused in the presence of Sonia Gandhi – a visual the CPI(M) has repeatedly used to allege proximity between Congress leaders and the accused.

Reacting sharply, Congress Working Committee member Ramesh Chennithala dismissed Prakash's questioning as an "election gimmick." He said Prakash, being a long-time legislator and former minister from Pathanamthitta, would naturally have met Potti.

Chennithala also pointed out that photographs exist of Chief Minister Vijayan himself in Potti's company. Meanwhile, the SIT is expected to record the statement of former Devaswom Minister and senior CPI(M) legislator Kadakampally Surendran on Sunday. It would be the second time that he would be appearing. There are indications that Anto Antony may also be summoned.

Earlier this week, the High Court orally observed that the SIT probe appeared to be proceeding in the right direction, even as political tensions around the case continue to mount. Thirteen people were arrested by the SIT, and by now four people have got bail, and what has hurt the CPI-M most is that four of their leaders continue to be in jail.

Harikatha Saptaham celebrated grandly at Shankara Math...

Chikkadapally, February 08

Metro udayam :

Under the auspices of Kinnera Arts Theaters, a Harikatha Saptaham (week-long Harikatha performance) is being celebrated grandly at the Shankara Math in Nallakunta, on the occasion of the birthday of former state government advisor Dr. K. V. Ramana. As part of this program, on Sunday, Kumari Venkata Nagasindhu (Hyderabad) presented a captivating Harikatha performance titled 'Vinayaka Vijayam'. Later, in the public meeting that followed, the chief guest, retired judge of the undivided Andhra Pradesh High Court, Justice Grandhi Bhavani Prasad, participated and spoke, stating that Harikatha is a unique traditional art form of the Telugu people. He emphasized that everyone has a responsibility to protect Harikatha artists. He praised Ramanachari for his kind-heartedness in encouraging Harikatha and Burrakatha artists, as well as Telangana folk artists, and for dedicating himself to the preservation of these art forms. Dr. K. V. Ramana, Dasari Venkataramana, Kinnera Arts Raghuram, Ventarao, and others participated in this program.



Delhi CM Rekha Gupta calls PM Modi her source of inspiration to serve people



Calling Prime Minister Narendra Modi her source of inspiration to serve people, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Sunday said that his work ethic and energy constantly motivate her to put in her best.

Speaking at an event coinciding with the first anniversary of the BJP-led Delhi government, the Chief Minister presented a report card to citizens of her Shalimar Bagh constituency and listed Rs 250 crore worth of projects launched in the area in the past one year.

While launching several public welfare projects at the District Park in Pitampura and addressing residents, she described the formation of a BJP government in Delhi in 2025 after 27 years as a victory of public aspirations.

The Chief Minister turned emotional and called the residents of the area her family. She said that even after becoming the Chief Minister, her identity in Shalimar Bagh would always remain that of "a sister, a daughter and a neighbour".

The Chief Minister noted that strong coordination between the Central and Delhi governments, along with a sound financial framework, has given new momentum to infrastructure development in the capital.

Reaffirming her commitment to new schemes, continuous inaugurations and accelerated development in the days ahead, she said this journey has only just begun.

Chief Minister Gupta emphasised that this journey goes beyond development schemes; it is a collective effort driven by public trust, the dedication of party workers and shared resolve.

She added that the mandate in favour of the BJP represents not just a change in power, but a decisive shift in the direction of development.

Sharing a report card on her constituency, the Chief Minister stated that development works worth nearly Rs 250 crore have been initiated or completed in the Shalimar Bagh Assembly constituency alone, while large-scale projects amounting to several thousand crore rupees are underway.

The Chief Minister described the upcoming initiatives, such as the proposed Rs 5,000 crore elevated road along the Munak Canal, canal-side beautification and Chhath ghats, a modern auditorium, model schools, new community halls, an expanded Ayurvedic hospital, upgraded mother-and-child care centres and new sports complexes as historic steps connected to the future of coming generations.

She also termed the extensive improvement of roads, drains, street lighting, parks and markets as development that truly reaches every household.

Referring to flyovers, roads, Metro expansion and the large fleet of electric buses, she said Delhi is steadily moving towards a modern, clean and environmentally sustainable future.

Chandrababu reviews illness incident at Devarapalli hostel, seeks comprehensive report

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has examined the recent incident at the Devarapalli Ashram boys' hostel in Rampachodavaram, Polavaram district, where 92 students fell ill. Officials informed the Chief Minister that the students exhibited symptoms including vomiting, stomach pain, fever, and diarrhoea,



and were swiftly transferred to hospitals in Mareedumilli and Rampachodavaram. The officials explained that the students became unwell after breakfast yesterday morning and are now in a stable condition. They further reported that an immediate inspection of the hostel was carried out, with tests conducted on remaining students. Those showing diarrhoea symptoms received medical treatment, and a special medical camp was established. Samples of food and water from the hostel were collected for analysis. A joint inspection committee has been formed to investigate the incident, and the Chief Minister instructed to ensure continuous monitoring of the students' health at Rampachodavaram hospital. He also directed that the Collector submit a comprehensive report on the matter by tomorrow.

Illegal Additional Floor Construction in GVMC Zone-5 – Builder's Free Run?

Information suggests bribes worth lakhs paid up to Planning Secretary, TPO, and ACP Visakhapatnam...

Illegal constructions are going on unabated in GVMC Zone-5, particularly in Ramalayam Street. It is noteworthy that Town Planning staff, seemingly confined only to their offices, are turning a blind eye to additional floors being constructed without TDR permissions. Locals allege that this has resulted in significant revenue loss to the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC). Despite all this, the lack of response from higher officials is raising several suspicions.

Going into details, in Ward No. 42, Railway New Colony, Ramalayam Street, the building plan that was approved is one thing, while the construction being carried out is entirely different. While permission was taken for a specific structure, the builder is reportedly constructing an extra floor in violation of the approved plan. It is alleged that lakhs of rupees have exchanged hands for this additional floor, which is why Town Planning officials are allegedly not even looking in that direction.



Even as this illegal additional floor construction continues, the silence of the Town Planning Department and GVMC zonal officials is giving rise to many doubts. Questions such as, "Are the authorities even aware of this, or are they

knowingly pretending ignorance?" are being raised by the public. Recently, the GVMC Commissioner had taken strict action against similar illegal constructions, halting works midway and even demolishing structures. When ordinary citi-

zens try to build small houses, Town Planning officials impose numerous rules and restrictions. In contrast, their failure to act against such large-scale illegal construction is striking.

Locals are discussing that violations like these lead to huge losses to the government in the form of fees and taxes that should have been collected. They warn that if buildings are constructed indiscriminately without proper roads, canals, and drainage facilities, the burden will ultimately fall on the public. They further express concern that buildings constructed in violation of norms pose serious risks of loss of life and property during natural disasters, either during construction or even after completion.

When that happens, they ask, who will take responsibility? Locals are demanding that the GVMC Chief Commissioner immediately respond and take action against this illegal construction. Will the authorities finally open their eyes and act, or will such incidents remain yet another example reinforcing public suspicion that officials themselves are shielding illegal constructions? That remains to be seen.

Cong, BRS pushed Telangana to financial distress: Fadnavis

Hyderabad: Launching scathing attack on Congress and BRS, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis slammed them for pushing Telangana into financial distress.

Addressing a campaign meeting held ahead of municipal corporation elections in Kagaznagar, Asifabad district, he alleged that both parties had "emptied the treasury" and left the State burdened with debt, calling Telangana a fragile State turned into a "debt trap" due to their mismanagement.

Fadnavis charged that BRS and Congress leaders had engaged in corruption and anarchy, enriching themselves while neglecting farmers and the poor. He contrasted this with the BJP's approach, highlighting cooperative efforts between Maharashtra and Telangana over water-sharing issues.

Recalling the long-standing disputes over water during the era of united Andhra Pradesh, Fadnavis said that after Telangana's for-



mation, then CM K. Chandrashekar Rao approached Maharashtra in 2015 for Godavari waters. "We told him we are all Indians and refused conflicts. By reducing the project height, Telangana became fertile and Gadchiroli was saved from flooding," he stated. He emphasised that irrigation in Telangana today was possible due to Maharashtra's willingness to cooperate. Addressing concerns raised by Sirpur

MLA Harish Babu over a "life-threatening project," Fadnavis invited him to Maharashtra for discussions after the elections. He reiterated that Maharashtra welcomed Telangana's progress, provided it did not harm farmers in his state. Turning his criticism back to Congress and BRS, Fadnavis accused them of cheating Maharashtra farmers by failing to deliver compensation for lands submerged due to the

Medigadda project. He claimed that while these parties failed, the BJP government ensured compensation was paid.

He also announced plans to begin construction of the Bellampalli-Gadchiroli highway soon, with central support.

Fadnavis expressed confidence that the party would secure a majority in Telangana's municipal polls, stressing the importance of strong governance and regional cooperation.

My visit to Malaysia will boost economic and cultural linkages: PM Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday expressed confidence that his visit to Malaysia will boost economic and cultural linkages between two nations.

PM Modi, who departed for India after concluding his two-day visit to Malaysia, expressed gratitude to his Malaysian counterpart, Anwar Ibrahim, and the people of Malaysia for the affection shown to him during the visit.

Sharing the glimpses from his visit to Malaysia on X, PM Modi stated: "Last year, I was unable to visit Malaysia for the ASEAN Summit. But, I had promised my friend, PM Anwar Ibrahim that I would come to Malaysia at the earliest opportunity."

"And now, my first international visit of 2026 took place in Malaysia. This visit will boost economic and cultural linkages between our nations. My gratitude to PM Anwar Ibrahim, the Government and people of Malaysia for the affection," he added.



Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated that PM Modi's visit to Malaysia produced significant outcomes that will add substantial strength to bilateral ties.

"A memorable visit concludes! After a successful visit to Malaysia, marked by special warmth and hospitality and anchored in our close cultural bonds, PM Narendra Modi has departed for India. The visit produced significant outcomes that will add substantial strength to India-Malaysia ties," Jaiswal posted on X.

Earlier in the day, PM Modi interacted with CEOs from India and

Malaysia. In a post on X, the PM said: "The CEO Forum has opened new opportunities in trade and investment for both our nations."

PM Modi held a meeting with his Malaysian counterpart Ibrahim at the latter's official residence, Seri Perdana, on Sunday. The two leaders reviewed development cooperation in various sectors like infrastructure, energy and biotechnology and agreed to strengthen cooperation in security, defence technologies, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and semiconductors.

"Had an excellent meeting with PM Anwar Ibrahim at Seri Perdana earlier today. India and Malaysia are maritime

neighbours who have always enjoyed a close friendship. We reviewed developmental cooperation in sectors like trade, infrastructure, energy, IT, biotechnology and more. We also agreed to strengthen cooperation in the field of security, defence, AI, digital technologies and semiconductors," PM Modi posted on X.

"People-to-people linkages are at the core of India-Malaysia friendship. The Social Security Agreement, a gratis e-visa for tourism and the coming of UPI to Malaysia will bring our people even closer. We are also working to increase university exchanges and create skill development opportunities for our youth," he added.

During his two-day visit to Malaysia, PM Modi interacted with members of the Indian diaspora, met Indian National Army (INA) veteran Jeyaraj Raja Rao and Indian-origin leaders, which included ministers and senators.

Weather Update: Temperatures Rise in Telugu States, Dry Conditions Continue



The cold has eased in the Telugu states, with temperatures gradually increasing and only early mornings remaining cold. The Meteorological Department has issued an important update, indicating that wind patterns from the northwest and northeast are influencing the weather in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. In Andhra Pradesh, winds from the northwest and northeast are causing dry weather across the state. Fog may be observed in some areas, particularly during the mornings. The Amaravati Meteorological Centre forecasts dry conditions on Sunday and Monday, with fog possible in a few places, and similar conditions expected on Tuesday. Temperature predictions suggest that in North Coast Andhra Pradesh and Yanam, maximum temperatures could be 2-3°C above normal over the next two days, while minimum temperatures may be 2-4°C below normal. The South Coast is also expected to experience maximum temperatures 2-3°C higher than usual, with minimal change in minimum temperatures. In Rayalaseema, minimum temperatures are likely to be 2-4°C below normal.

In Telangana, the Hyderabad Meteorological Centre reports that southeast winds will bring dry weather across the state for the next three days, including Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday.

Elusive tiger continues killing cattle in Telangana's Siddipet district

The Telangana Forest Department has intensified its operation to catch a tiger which continued its cattle killing spree in the villages of the state's Siddipet district.

Panic gripped people in the Arepally village of Koheda Mandal after some farmers spotted the elusive tiger. The big cat killed five calves near Chandranaik Thanda. Farmer Maloth Ramesh lost his cattle.

Alerted by the locals, the Forest Department officials, along with the police, reached the area to collect pugmarks.

Authorities have advised farmers not to tie their cattle in agricultural fields but to keep them safely at their houses.



The Forest Department officials have also cautioned farmers not to go alone in the fields. Women, senior citizens, and children have been asked to remain alert. Earlier, the tiger attacked and killed cattle at Ghanapur village, Akkenapally, and Baswapuram

villages in the district.

At Ghanapur, the tiger killed a calf in agriculture field. Farmer Bal Reddy said when he came to the cattle shed, he found a calf killed and another seriously wounded. The Forest officials reached the place and started to track the

pugmarks of the tiger. They are setting up camera traps at the places where the cattle were killed.

The tiger's movement was earlier reported on Saturday in some villages of Dhoolmitta Mandal.

A few farmers noticed the pugmarks of a tiger in the fields in Bairanpalle, Kootigal, and Bekkal. The forest team reached the village and launched the search operation.

Authorities asked people to be on alert and not to venture into the fields alone in the early morning until there is confirmation that the tiger had left the area.

The big cat entered Siddipet district from neighbouring Jangaon, where it killed cattle in Ammapur and Veldanda villages on

Saturday.

A day earlier, the tiger killed a calf at Mandalagudem village in Raghunathpally Mandal.

The big cat is believed to have crossed into Telangana from neighbouring Maharashtra.

This is the second such incident in the Telugu states in less than a week. On Friday (Feb 6), forest officials in Andhra Pradesh's East Godavari district succeeded in catching a tiger after it roamed around the villages near Rajahmundry town, killing cattle and triggering panic among people.

The tiger was believed to have entered Andhra Pradesh from Maharashtra after crossing Telangana and Chhattisgarh.

Revanth Reddy Affirms Support for Singareni Workers and Districts

Revanth Reddy, the Chief Minister, clarified that the Congress government will not take any decisions detrimental to Singareni workers. He warned against malicious propaganda aimed at the government, emphasising that the government's support is rooted in the contributions of the Singareni workers. "The people's government is in power because of the Singareni workers," he stated. During his visit to Bhupalpally district as part of the municipal election campaign, Reddy visited Sri Lakshminarasimha Swamy temple in Kodavatancha, Regonda mandal, where he performed special prayers at the nearby Bala temple. He inspected ongoing reconstruction and development works costing Rs. 12.15 crore and inaugurated a new guesthouse built as part of these efforts.

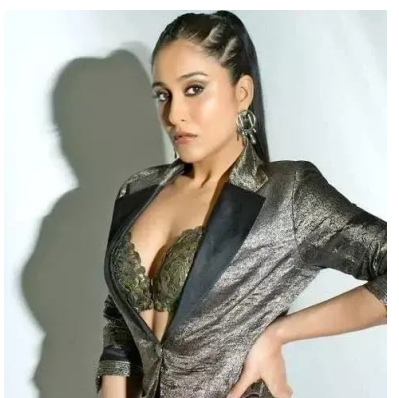
Later, he addressed a public meeting in Chelpur, Ghanapuram mandal. He highlighted the district's historical significance, mentioning that former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao represented the region, which played a pivotal role in Telangana's movement. Reddy dismissed rumours of district abolition, asserting, "Bhupalpally district will continue; any reorganisation would only happen after consultation with the people."



Regina Cassandra headlines dark, gritty Tamil crime thriller inspired by international hit

Chennai: Actress Regina Cassandra is set to lead a new Tamil crime thriller series that draws creative inspiration from the acclaimed American drama Mare of Easttown. The project, which remains untitled, marks a significant expansion of Cassandra's career into character-driven digital storytelling on a major global platform. The series, slated for release on Prime Video, is described as a psychologically tense and emotionally resonant crime drama. With a strong focus on deep character arcs and narrative complexity, the show aims to deliver a dark, immersive experience that goes beyond conventional procedural tropes.

In this project, Cassandra will take on a role that emphasises emotional depth and narrative intensity, signaling a shift from her previous work into more serious and layered storytelling. The series seeks to offer audiences a blend of raw human drama and sharp investigative suspense, akin to the tone and mood of Mare of Easttown. Industry observers say the move reflects Prime Video's continued investment in regional content with international sensibilities, and highlights Cassandra's growing prominence in the OTT space. The series is expected to appeal to viewers who enjoy nuanced crime narratives anchored by strong performances.



Liquor shop auctions fetch J&K govt Rs 2,152 crore in two years



The Jammu and Kashmir government has earned revenue worth Rs 2,152 crore from the auction of liquor shops during the past two financial years, and the Union Territory government does not intend to open new liquor shops during the current financial year.

Official data show that revenue of Rs 1,03,462.49 lakh was generated in 2023-24, while Rs 1,11,816.07 lakh was earned by the government in 2024-25.

the Jammu region contributed the bulk of the revenue, generating Rs 1,96,830.06 lakh over the last two years, while the Kashmir region accounted for Rs 18,448.50 lakh, officials said.

The government further stated that no new JKEL-2 liquor licences are proposed to be issued during the present financial year.

Sharing district-wise details, the government said existing wine shops generated substantial revenue in the last two years.

In Jammu district, revenue stood at Rs 48,350.15 lakh in 2023-24 and increased to Rs 50,913.93 lakh in 2024-25. Udhampur recorded Rs 11,322 lakh in 2023-24 and Rs 12,061.50 lakh in 2024-25, while Kathua generated Rs 10,653 lakh and Rs 11,272 lakh during the same period.

In the Kashmir region, Srinagar reported revenue of Rs 5,489.67 lakh in 2023-24, which rose to Rs 6,557.66 lakh in 2024-25.

Anantnag's revenue increased from Rs 1,403.50 lakh to Rs 1,999.50 lakh, while Baramulla recorded Rs 872.23 lakh in 2023-24 and Rs 1,139.84 lakh in 2024-25.

Officials said all liquor licences are issued strictly to domiciles of Jammu and Kashmir in accordance with the J&K Excise Act, 1958, and the Excise Policy notified from time to time.

It may be recalled that when separatist violence began in Jammu and Kashmir in the early 1990s, terrorists forced the closure of all cinema halls, wine shops and beauty parlours in the Kashmir Valley.

Hundreds of people earning their livelihood from these establishments were left jobless, and their families had to endure the hardship without being able to speak out against the terrorist diktats.

As the security situation improved over the years, some cinema halls, beauty parlours and wine shops have reopened.



The "Baba Shyam Nishan (Flag) Rath Yatra" held in Hyderabad on Sunday as part of the Phalguni Ekadashi celebrations, created an unprecedented atmosphere of devotion throughout the city and enchanted the city.

The "Baba Shyam Nishan (Flag) Rath Yatra" organized by the Shri Shyam Mandir Seva Samiti, began with thousands of devotees pulling the chariot, carrying flags of saffron, white, red, yellow, blue, sky blue, green and pink, after performing aarti to Baba Shyam, who was adorned

with a very special flower decoration on the chariot, at the Charminar, Mahadev Mandir, Hyderabad. The procession, which started with the chariot and attractive processions and the rousing devotional songs of world-famous singer Kannaya Mittal, was welcomed by devotees showering flowers on various routes along the footpath from Charminar Mahadev Mandir to Kacheguda Shyam Baba Mandir. Devotees remembered Shyam Baba with true hearts, chanted

Jai Shyam, danced to the tunes of kirtans, shlokas, dancers and bhajans, threw colours and gulal, filling the entire atmosphere with the spirit of Shyam. Expressing their unwavering devotion and faith towards Baba Shyam, thousands of devotees presented their Nishans (flags) at Kacheguda Shyam Mandir.

Speaking on the occasion, Baba Shyam Rath Shobha Yatra Committee Chairman Indrakaran Agarwal, Vice-Chairman Ramdev Agarwal and

Purushottam Das Goyal said that the influx of devotees in the grandly organized Baba Shyam Rath Yatra is a unique spectacle of devotion, that sorrows and sufferings will be removed, and that Baba Shyam will have special blessings on the devotees who perform the Nishan Yatra on foot with unwavering faith. He said that just as Baba Shyam Rath Yatra was organized in Khatu Dham, Rajasthan, devotees also organized it in Hyderabad as a historic event. Chandrakant Dakotia is the ad-

sor of the committee in this Yatra. Conveners Amit Agarwal, Ramniranjan Agarwal, Santosh Agarwal, Narsing Jaiswal, Jeevan Bhati, Abhishek Sharma, Sushil Agarwal and Govind Poddar, Shri Shyam Mandir Seva Samiti President Chandrakant Dakotia, Vice President Krishna Kumar Badegaonwale, Secretary Indrakaran Agarwal, Joint Secretaries Ramdev Agarwal, Rajkumar Vig, Treasurer Kapil Agarwal and others participated.

Surajkund joyride accident: Haryana Police book operator, arrest two

The Haryana Police on Sunday said they have registered a case in the Surajkund joyride accident and arrested two persons, including the owner of the ride-operating company, on charges of lapses in ensuring safety.

A giant swing collapsed at the Surajkund mela in Faridabad, killing Inspector Jagdish Prasad during rescue operations and injuring 12 people. A case has been registered against Mohammad Shakir, proprietor of Himachal Fun Care Company, for culpable homicide not amounting to murder and other relevant sections.

While attempting to rescue the injured, Haryana Police Inspector Jagdish Prasad lost his life.

A police spokesperson said that, considering the seriousness of the case, a three-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been constituted under the supervision of the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime) on the directions of Director General of Police Ajay Singhal.

The team comprises the Assistant Commissioner of Police (Crime II), the in-charge of the Crime Branch (NIT), and Sub-Inspector Sanjay, posted at the Surajkund police station. The investigation is being carried out on scientific and technical grounds.

During the course of the investigation, Mohammad Shakir, a resident



of Toka Nangla village in Sirmaur district, who was responsible for installing the swings at the fair premises, and another accused, Nitesh, a resident of Dharmapuri in Meerut in Uttar Pradesh, have been arrested. The role of other persons involved in the incident is being examined, the police said.

The Director General of Police said Inspector Jagdish Prasad made a commendable effort to rescue the injured while on duty, and his demise is an irreparable loss to the Police Department. He said the department will extend all possible financial assistance to the family and, as per the compassionate policy, employment will be provided to

an eligible family member.

The DGP also visited Civil Hospital in Faridabad and Supreme Hospital to enquire about the condition of the injured people.

The police spokesperson said that 12 people were injured in the incident, including Woman Assistant Sub-Inspector Neelam, Woman Constable Sharmila, Rajesh (SPO), Harsh Prakash, Prashant, Ameesha, Parvinder, Sunil, Shivani, Balbir, Anuj and Pooja.

Out of these, five injured persons have been discharged. The condition of the remaining injured is stated to be stable, and they are being provided with advanced medical care.

Vijay's TVK public meeting in TN's Salem on Feb 13 gets police approval

The Salem City Police, on Sunday, granted conditional permission for Tamilaga Vetti Kazhagam (TVK) leader and actor-turned-politician Vijay to hold a public campaign meeting in the district on February 13, allowing the rally to proceed at the Thalamuthu Natarajan Stadium near Sheelanayakkanpatti Highway under strict safety and crowd-control regulations.

The approval comes after multiple rounds of petitions and consultations between TVK organisers and the police department over the choice of venue and adherence to official procedures.

Earlier last week, TVK executives led by central district secretary Tamilan A. Parthiban had approached Salem City Police Commissioner Anil Kumar Giri seeking permission to conduct the meeting at the stadium.

However, the initial request was rejected as officials noted that certain procedural details required under government guidelines were not clearly specified.

In the meantime, another application was submitted by union secretary Karthi at the Magudanchavadi police



station, requesting approval to hold Vijay's gathering at Kalikaavundampalayam. That proposal remained under review while TVK leaders worked to secure clearance for their preferred venue. Subsequently, the party submitted a revised petition to the Commissioner's office, providing additional assurances regarding compliance with regulations. Most notably, the organisers undertook to limit participation to 5,000

attendees, promising strict crowd management to prevent congestion and maintain law and order.

Following these assurances, the police granted permission subject to several conditions.

Entry to the venue must be regulated through a token system to ensure the crowd does not exceed the sanctioned number.

Organisers have been directed to make adequate arrangements for security, emergency response, and traffic control around the stadium.

Authorities have also advised that children and pregnant women avoid attending the gathering due to possible risks associated with large crowds.

Officials stressed that responsibility for maintaining discipline and safety would rest primarily with the organisers.

The rally has been permitted only within a fixed time frame, from 12 noon to 3 p.m. on February 13.

The event is expected to be a key political mobilisation for Vijay and the TVK as the party intensifies its outreach efforts across Tamil Nadu ahead of the upcoming electoral season.

Baba Shyam Nishan Rath Yatra in an exciting spiritual atmosphere

The "Baba Shyam Nishan (Flag) Rath Yatra" held in Hyderabad on Sunday as part of the Phalguni Ekadashi celebrations, created an unprecedented atmosphere of devotion throughout the city and enchanted the city.

The "Baba Shyam Nishan (Flag) Rath Yatra" organized by the Shri Shyam Mandir Seva Samiti, began with thousands of devotees pulling the chariot, carrying flags of saffron, white, red, yellow, blue, sky blue, green and pink, after performing aarti to Baba Shyam, who was adorned

with a very special flower decoration on the chariot, at the Charminar, Mahadev Mandir, Hyderabad. The procession, which started with the chariot and attractive processions and the rousing devotional songs of world-famous singer Kannaya Mittal, was welcomed by devotees showering flowers on various routes along the footpath from Charminar Mahadev Mandir to Kacheguda Shyam Baba Mandir. Devotees remembered Shyam Baba with true hearts, chanted

Jai Shyam, danced to the tunes of kirtans, shlokas, dancers and bhajans, threw colours and gulal, filling the entire atmosphere with the spirit of Shyam. Expressing their unwavering devotion and faith towards Baba Shyam, thousands of devotees presented their Nishans (flags) at Kacheguda Shyam Mandir.

Speaking on the occasion, Baba Shyam Rath Shobha Yatra Committee Chairman Indrakaran Agarwal, Vice-Chairman Ramdev Agarwal and

Purushottam Das Goyal said that the influx of devotees in the grandly organized Baba Shyam Rath Yatra is a unique spectacle of devotion, that sorrows and sufferings will be removed, and that Baba Shyam will have special blessings on the devotees who perform the Nishan Yatra on foot with unwavering faith. He said that just as Baba Shyam Rath Yatra was organized in Khatu Dham, Rajasthan, devotees also organized it in Hyderabad as a historic event. Chandrakant Dakotia is the ad-

sor of the committee in this Yatra. Conveners Amit Agarwal, Ramniranjan Agarwal, Santosh Agarwal, Narsing Jaiswal, Jeevan Bhati, Abhishek Sharma, Sushil Agarwal and Govind Poddar, Shri Shyam Mandir Seva Samiti President Chandrakant Dakotia, Vice President Krishna Kumar Badegaonwale, Secretary Indrakaran Agarwal, Joint Secretaries Ramdev Agarwal, Rajkumar Vig, Treasurer Kapil Agarwal and others participated.

99% chance that India-Pakistan match will take place: Sources

The much-anticipated India-Pakistan encounter of T20 World Cup 2026 is almost certain to be staged on February 15, with meetings currently underway to finalise arrangements.

Sources in the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) confirmed to IANS about the ongoing meeting, and there is a high chance of the match being staged in Colombo. "Meetings are underway, and there is a 99% chance the India-Pakistan match will take place on February 15," sources in the Pakistan Cricket Board told IANS.

Earlier, PCB said they will not play India in their scheduled Men's T20 World Cup match in Colombo on February 15, after their government approved the Men in Green's participation in the World Cup on the condition that they will not play the match against India in solidarity with Bangladesh.

In response to Pakistan's



announcement, the ICC issued a strong statement, urging the PCB to seek a mutually acceptable resolution and warning that selective participation under-

mines 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 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, which it is itself a member and beneficiary of," it added.

Pakistan made a tense start to their T20 World Cup 2026 campaign as they overcame a scare against the Netherlands to clinch a three-wicket victory in the opening match of the tournament here at the Sinhalese Sports Club.

For India, skipper Suryakumar Yadav blasted a majestic unbeaten 84 and seasoned pacer Mohammad Siraj bagged 3-29 coming in as a last-minute replacement as India saved

themselves the blushes with a face-saving 29-run victory over the USA.

Skipper Suryakumar Yadav led from the front as he scored a half-century in his debut as captain in the T20 World Cup and helped the team post a modest total of 161/9. Siraj took over after that with a two-wicket burst and, with Arshdeep Singh and Axar Patel claiming two wickets each, prevailed over the USA by 29 runs. Siraj claimed 3-29, Arshdeep bagged 2-18, and Axar claimed 2-24 as India restricted the USA to 132/9 in 20 overs at the Wankhede Stadium, struggling to win their first match in Group A.

Pakistan is in Group A alongside India, Namibia, the Netherlands and the United States of America (USA). All of Pakistan's matches are scheduled for Sri Lanka, which is co-hosting the tournament with India.

Sivakarthikeyan meets Ajith in Abu Dhabi, calls it an 'inspiring day'



Chennai: Tamil cinema star Sivakarthikeyan has heaped praise on actor Ajith Kumar after meeting him at the Yas Marina Circuit in Abu Dhabi, describing the interaction as an "inspiring day" spent with an "inspiring person".

Taking to Instagram, Sivakarthikeyan shared photographs from his meeting with Ajith, who is currently participating in international car racing competitions. Alongside the images, the actor wrote that witnessing Ajith's passion, commitment, dedication and resilience firsthand was a powerful experience that left him deeply inspired.

Sivakarthikeyan is the latest in a growing list of Tamil film personalities to visit Ajith at international racing venues. Ajith has been actively competing in a series of global motorsport events, drawing admiration from colleagues across the film industry.

Earlier, music director Yuvan Shankar Raja had met Ajith at the Dubai Autodrome, coinciding with the successful re-release of Ajith's blockbuster film Mankatha, which created significant buzz at the box office. Actor R Madhavan had also interacted with Ajith at the same venue just days before Yuvan's visit.

This month, actress Nayanthara and her director-husband Vignesh Shivan arrived at the Dubai Autodrome to cheer for Ajith during the popular Dubai 24H Series event. Prior to their visit, actor Sibi Sathyaraj had shared a video on social media showing Ajith warmly welcoming him and his family at the circuit, praising the actor's dedication to motorsport.

Renowned music composer Anirudh Ravichander had also met Ajith at the Marina Race Circuit in Abu Dhabi, adding to the steady stream of industry figures expressing admiration for the actor's racing pursuits.

Meanwhile, Ajith Kumar's journey on the race track is set to be chronicled in a docu-film scheduled for theatrical release on May 1, coinciding with his birthday. Sources close to the actor confirmed that acclaimed director A L Vijay is helping the 90-minute documentary, which aims to inspire young people to pursue their passions with discipline and determination.

T20 WC: Bethell, Brook hit fifty as England post 184/7 against Nepal

Top-order batter Jacob Bethell and captain Harry Brook's fifty, with a great finish by Will Jacks, helped England post 184/7 in their 20 overs against Nepal in the T20 World Cup 2026 fifth match at the Wankhede Stadium on Sunday.

Coming to bat first after winning the toss, England were off to a shaky start as their opener Phil Salt, who was returning to the tournament after injury, got out in the seventh ball of the innings, scoring just one run.

Former captain Jos Buttler, who completed a thousand runs in the T20 World Cup history, joining Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, Mahela Jayawardene and David Warner in the special club, tried to steady the innings with a brisk 22 off 14 balls but was eventually sent to the pavilion by Nandan Yadav in the fifth over.

England were dealt another blow after the end of the powerplay as Tom Banton (2), who struggled from the start, was dismissed by Nepal's experienced bowler Sandeep Lamichhane in the sixth over.

After a poor start, Bethell, playing



his first T20 World Cup match, forged a 71-run partnership with the skipper Brook, who was looking in great touch.

Both batters were punishing the bad balls while also rotating the strike, putting pressure on the opposition, who missed a few run-out chances. Nepal finally got the breakthrough when Jacob Bethell, who completed his half-century in just 28 balls, got caught at long on, chasing an off-side-pitched ball. Bethell scored 55

runs in just 35 balls. He hammered four sixes and four boundaries during his innings. After losing his partner, Brook continued his assault with the help of Sam Curran, who eventually left in the 16th after being clean bowled by Dipendra.

The captain completed his fifty in 31 balls at the start of the 19th over but got caught by Sher Malla on the next ball. Brook scored 53 runs in 32 balls. He hit three maximums and four boundaries during his stay at the crease.

All-rounder Jacks provided England with a good finish as he scored 39 runs in just 18 balls as the team posted a commanding total against Nepal.

For Nepal, Dipendra Singh Airee and Nandan Yadav were the most successful bowlers, as they took two wickets each. They were supported by debutant Sher, who took on the wicket, and Sandeep, who also got the wicket of Tom Banton.

Brief Scores: England 184/7 in 20 overs (Jacob Bethell 55, Harry Brook 53, Will Jacks 39; Dipendra Singh Airee 2-23, Nandan Yadav 2-25) against Nepal

T20 WC: All stats from New Zealand's win over Afghanistan in Group D opener

Tim Seifert's brilliant half-century and a quickfire knock from Glenn Phillips helped New Zealand chase down Afghanistan's competitive 182/6 with 13 balls to spare in their opening Group D match in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup at the MA Chidambaram Stadium on Sunday. Afghanistan had earlier posted a challenging total, thanks to a counterattacking 63 from Gulbadin Naib off just 35 balls. Naib's innings and with his 79-run third-wicket partnership with Sediquallah Atal (29) stabilised the innings after pacer Lockie Ferguson ripped through the top order, dismissing Ibrahim Zadran (10) and Rahmanullah Gurbaz (27) in his very first over to reduce Afghanistan to 44/2.

Despite losing both Naib and Atal in quick succession to Jacob Duffy and Rachin Ravindra, Afghanistan's late surge from Azmatullah Omarzai

and Mohammad Nabi helped push the total to a competitive 182/6.

In response, Afghanistan struck early through Mujeeb Ur Rahman, who removed Finn Allen and Rachin Ravindra inside two overs to leave New Zealand reeling at 14/2. Seifert, however, counter-attacked with authority, keeping the required run rate in check and allowing in-form Glenn Phillips to settle. Phillips then produced a quickfire 42 off 25 balls, taking advantage of Rashid Khan's occasional loose deliveries. The New Zealand skipper finally claimed Phillips' wicket, breaking a dangerous 74-run stand. Still, Seifert remained composed, bringing up his half-century with aggressive strokes, including back-to-back sixes off Mohammad Nabi. Seifert eventually fell for 65 off 42 balls, giving Afghanistan some hope. Rashid Khan later removed Mark

Chapman (28), tightening the contest. Still, Daryl Mitchell (25* off 13) and skipper Mitchell Santner (17* off 18) produced calm late innings to guide New Zealand to victory with 2.1 overs remaining.

Here's a look at all the key stats from the New Zealand vs Afghanistan match

182/6 – Afghanistan recorded their highest innings total against New Zealand. Their previous best was 159/6 at Providence in 2024.

63 – Gulbadin Naib's knock was his fourth fifty in his 82nd match.

1000 – Naib completed 1000 T20I runs during his 63-run knock in the first innings.

65 – Tim Seifert's score is the highest individual score by any Kiwi batsman against Afghanistan. Seifert surpassed Kane Williamson's record, who had scored 40 in Abu Dhabi in 2021.