



PM Modi inaugurates emergency landing facility on Assam highway

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Saturday, inaugurated the Emergency Landing Facility (ELF) on the national highway in Moran in Assam's Dibrugarh district -- a first kind of such facility in the entire northeastern region, government officials said.

Prime Minister Modi also witnessed an air show by the Indian Air Force (IAF) soon after the ELF was inaugurated.

The air show included Rafale, Sukhoi and MIG fighter aircrafts. The fighter aircrafts successfully took off and landed on the highway strip.

According to an official, at least one lakh people gathered to witness the historic occasion on Saturday.

Located in Upper Assam, the ELF on the Moran Bypass is being viewed as a major strategic addition to India's military infrastructure in the Northeast,



offering the IAF enhanced operational flexibility in a region that has witnessed heightened tensions in recent years.

The Moran ELF has been designed to function as an alternative landing option in situa-

tions where Dibrugarh Airport or the Chabua Air Force Station becomes unavailable due to operational constraints or emergency scenarios.

For the IAF, this facility significantly strengthens its ability to

respond swiftly to contingencies near sensitive border areas.

The 4.2-km-long reinforced concrete stretch has been engineered to serve as an emergency runway capable of handling both military and civilian aircraft.

Unlike conventional fixed airbases that may be vulnerable to targeting or disruption during conflict, highway-based landing facilities provide critical redundancy, mobility and an element of operational surprise.

A notable feature of the Moran ELF is the absence of a central road divider, allowing smooth aircraft movement during landing and take-off operations.

To ensure safety and readiness, fencing has been installed on both sides of the stretch, while temporary roadside structures have been removed as part of the operational clearance

process.

Apart from being the first Emergency Landing Facility of its kind in Northeast India, the Moran ELF's proximity to the India-China border adds to its strategic importance.

Until now, such facilities in India have largely been concentrated in the western, northern and central regions of the country.

The Moran installation marks a significant eastward expansion of this critical infrastructure toward the China-facing frontier. Constructed in close coordination with the IAF, the dual-use facility has been designed to accommodate fighter aircraft weighing up to 40 tonnes, as well as transport aircraft with a maximum take-off weight of up to 74 tonnes, according to a government statement.

AP govt. presents 2026-27 Agriculture Budget in Assembly

Minister Atchannaidu today tabled the agriculture budget for the financial year 2026-27 in the Andhra Pradesh Assembly. He emphasised that making agriculture profitable is key to strengthening the rural economy and achieving overall state prosperity.

He highlighted the 'Rayatanna Mee Kosam' programme, launched to empower farmers, and reaffirmed the government's priority on water security, demand-driven crop cultivation, agricultural technology, and food processing sectors. The minister described agriculture as the foundation of the state's economy. Addressing youth engagement in farming, Atchannaidu said the sector must become profitable to attract new farmers. He noted that farmers would benefit from cultivating crops with high nutritional value and revealed that



Andhra Pradesh holds a 10 percent share in national agriculture. Eleven crops have been identified as growth drivers, with the sector achieving a growth rate of 7.83 percent. The government plans to provide all necessary support to safeguard crops. The minister also stressed the emphasis on drip irrigation to expand irrigation facilities. He announced

that over Rs 9,000 crore had been deposited into farmers' accounts within 24 hours, with Rs 6,309 crore paid under the PM Kisan scheme — a figure expected to rise to Rs 6,600 crore in 2026-27. Additionally, Rs 1,674 crore has been paid as arrears from grain procurement. Further initiatives include the provision of 6 lakh soil test reports and extension services to 18 lakh farmers through the 'Polam Pemakundi' programme. An investment subsidy of Rs 310 crore has been allocated, alongside Rs 136 crore for mechanisation with a 50 percent subsidy. The government has also set aside Rs 90.4 crore with an 80 percent subsidy, and 1,130 drone centres have been established. Last year, seeds worth Rs 182 crore were supplied at subsidised rates.

AP Cabinet to introduce Rs 3.48 lakh crore Budget

The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet is scheduled to meet at 10.30 am today to approve the 2026-27 financial budget, which is expected to amount to approximately Rs 3.48 lakh crore. At 11.15 am, Minister Payyavula Keshav will present the full budget in the Assembly, while Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha will do so in the Legislative Council. Following this, the government will separately present the agricultural budget, with Minister Atchannaidu handling the presentation in the Assembly and Revenue Minister Angani Satya Prasad in the Council.

This marks the third time that Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav will present the budget, having previously submitted the Vote Account Budget and a partial budget. Having completed his preparations, he aims to present a comprehensive budget for 2026-27, balancing development initiatives and welfare schemes. The budget has been crafted to align with gov-



ernment priorities and public benefit, following pre-budget meetings held ten days prior, during which proposals from various ministers and department secretaries were considered. The AP Finance Department has indicated that this budget will differ from traditional approaches used in previous years.

Cabinet greenlights 3 Railways projects covering 12 districts for Rs 18,509 crore



New Delhi: In a significant development, the Centre has approved three multi-tracking projects, covering 12 districts across Delhi, Haryana, Maharashtra and Karnataka, with a total cost of Rs 18,509 crore.

This will increase the existing network of Indian Railways by about 389 kms. The projects are planned on the PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan with focus on enhancing multi-modal connectivity and logistic efficiency through integrated planning and stakeholder consultations. These projects will also provide seamless connectivity for the movement of people, goods, and services. The proposed multi-tracking project will enhance connectivity to nearly 3,902 villages, with a combined population of about 97 lakh. According to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, these projects include Kasara-Manmad 3rd and 4th line; Delhi-Ambala 3rd and 4th line; and Ballari - Hosapete 3rd and 4th line.

The increased line capacity will significantly enhance mobility, resulting in improved operational efficiency and service reliability for Indian Railways. These multi-tracking proposals are poised to streamline operations and alleviate congestion.

"The projects are in line with PM Modi's Vision of a New India which

will make people of the region 'Atmanirbhar' by way of comprehensive development in the area which will enhance their employment/ self-employment opportunities," said the CCEA in a statement. The projects are planned on PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan with focus on enhancing multi-modal connectivity and logistic efficiency through integrated planning and stakeholder consultations. These projects will provide seamless connectivity for movement of people, goods, and services.

The proposed capacity enhancement will improve rail connectivity to several prominent tourist destinations across the country, including Bhavli Dam, Shri Ghatandevi, Trimbakeshwar Jyotirlinga, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra/Srinagar, and major attractions such as Hampi (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), Ballari Fort, Daroji Sloth Bear Sanctuary, the Tungabhadra Dam, Kenchanagudda, and the Vijaya Vittala Temple, etc.

According to the government, the proposed projects are essential routes for transportation of commodities such as coal, steel, iron ore, cement, limestone/bauxite, container, foodgrains, sugar, fertilisers and POL etc.

Moreover, the capacity augmentation works will result in additional freight traffic of magnitude 96 MTPA (million tonnes per annum).

We will continue to remove footpath encroachments continuously :

Secunderabad Zone Traffic DCP
Avinash Kumar



Chikkadapally, February 14 metro udayam : Secunderabad Zone Traffic DCP Avinash Kumar said that we will continue to remove footpath encroachments continuously. As part of the Operation Rope program, a special drive was undertaken in Bathukammakunta and Nallakunta areas of Amberpet on Saturday. Near the petrol pump, some people have encroached on the footpath on one side of the road and are selling pots, pans, knives and gourds by setting up shops and doing business. Under the leadership of Kacheguda Traffic CI B. Veer Kaushik, OU City Traffic CI K. Satyanarayana, in the presence of Secunderabad Zone Traffic Additional DCP Ramulu and ACP A. Srinivas, the encroachments set up in the surrounding areas were completely removed with strong security by traffic personnel and law and order police. After that, DCP Avinash Kumar said that the removal of footpath encroachments is a continuous process. He said that businesses should not be set up on the footpath in a way that would cause inconvenience to the traffic of the passengers, and if they run a business, they will be liable for legal action. Traffic SI, ASI, traffic personnel, law and order police and others participated in this program.

Make the R.V Foundation Cricket Competitions a success

Tungaturthi Ravi's appeal to the youth of Medipalli, Peerzadiguda, Parvatapur

Medipalli
February:14
(Metro Udayam)

On the occasion of Mahashivratri, R.V Foundation Chairman, Peerzadiguda Municipal Corporation Congress Party is organizing box cricket competitions under the auspices of Tungaturthi Ravi. Speaking on the occasion, Tungaturthi Ravi said that to develop sports skills among the youth, box cricket competitions are being organized among the youth on the occasion of Mahashivratri vigil. The box cricket competitions will be held from 6:00 pm on Sunday at the Sri Sports Erin premises in Lake View Colony. He said that the winners will be awarded Rs. 20,000/- in cash along with a trophy, the runners-up will be awarded Rs. 10,000/- in cash along with a trophy, and special prizes will be given to the best batsman and best bowler. Tungaturthi Ravi said in a statement on Saturday that the youth of Medipalli, Peerzadiguda and Parvatapur should participate in large numbers to make the competitions a success.



A good future for the youth only if they develop skills



- **Telangana Higher Education Council Chairman Professor V. Balakishtha Reddy**

Chikkadapally February 14 metro udayam : Telangana Higher Education Council Chairman Professor V. Balakishtha Reddy has suggested that the youth will be able to get the jobs they want only if they can develop skills suitable for the future needs. He said that only those who overcome the challenges

faced from time to time will be able to sustain their professions. He participated as the chief guest and addressed a meeting called 'HR Conclave-2026' organized at Madam Anjaiah Hall in Kacheguda on Saturday under the chairmanship of Avanti Educational Institutions Chairman M. Srinivas Rao. On this occasion, he said that students should acquire knowledge that can compete with the world, not with those around them,



and only then will the country achieve development in all fields. Prime Minister Modi has said that we should not be a developing country but a developed country and that we should achieve a 30 trillion dollar economy by 2047, and he suggested that today's youth should work towards that. He said that AI technology is of great importance and that we should be at a level where we can control technology without being controlled by technology.

Avanti College General Secretary Dr. M. Priyanka, Tech Mahindra India Growth Head Challa Vivekananda, Infosys Technical Speaker Dr. Sarvepalli Kalyan, HDFC Regional Manager Ram Kishore, Wipro Talent Acquisition Associate Director Sepuri Naresh, Avanti College Principal Dr. S. Apparao, HR Director Dr. Y. Jaya Prada, Vice President MVSS Nandesh, Dr. Rakesh, HR Alimoddeen and others participated.

DRM WALTAIR APPRECIATES YOUNG CRICKETER P. YASHIL VIGNESH FOR STATE-LEVEL SELECTION

Divisional Railway Manager, Waltair Division, Shri Lalit Bohra, has congratulated and appreciated P. Yashil Vignesh (13 years) for his remarkable achievement of being selected to the Andhra Pradesh Under-14 State Cricket Team for the 2025-26 season. Yashil Vignesh, the son of Shri Y. Madhu, a railway employee and accomplished railway cricketer, is a promising talent nurtured at the Railway Cricket Academy. He represents the Visakhapatnam District Cricket Association (VDCA) and has consistently demonstrated exceptional skills and sportsman-



ship, earning recognition as a best player in his age group. The Andhra Pradesh Under-14 State Team—Andhra Pradesh

Under-14 Cricket Team—will participate in matches scheduled to be held in Tamil Nadu, where Yashil is expected to contribute significantly to the team's performance. Appreciating the young cricketer, the DRM lauded Yashil's dedication, discipline, and hard work, and extended best wishes for his upcoming matches. He also acknowledged the supportive role of the family and the Railway Cricket Academy in nurturing young sporting talent to promoting sports among employees' children and the youth.

Cyber Awareness Programme Conducted at Vijayapuri Colony



Hyderabad, metro udayam Feb 14: A Cyber Awareness Programme was conducted on Saturday at Vijayapuri Colony, Lalaguda, to educate residents about the rising incidents of cyber-crime and the necessary precautions to stay safe in the digital space. During the programme, police officials explained various types of cyber frauds, including online financial

scams, phishing attacks, OTP frauds, fake job offers, social media impersonation, and investment scams. The participants were sensitized about the modus operandi of cyber-criminals and advised not to share personal details, bank credentials, OTPs, or sensitive information with unknown persons under any circumstances. Ashok, SHO of Lalaguda Police Station, addressed



the gathering and urged citizens to remain vigilant while using digital platforms. He emphasized the importance of verifying unknown links, avoiding suspicious calls and messages, and immediately reporting cyber fraud incidents through the national cybercrime helpline 1930 or the official cybercrime portal. Sub-Inspectors Yugender and Amarsingh, along with

police staff, participated in the programme and interacted with residents, clarifying their doubts regarding online safety and digital transactions. The initiative received a positive response from the local residents, who appreciated the efforts of the police department in creating awareness and strengthening community policing.

AP Cabinet Approves 2026-27 Budget



The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet, led by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, convened today to approve the state's annual budget for 2026-27. During the meeting, Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav presented copies of the budget to the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan.

The cabinet gave its formal approval to the budget, which will soon be presented in the Legislative Assembly by the Finance Minister.

AP Officials Perform Rituals Ahead of 2026-27 Budget Presentation



Ahead of the presentation of the 2026-27 annual budget in the Andhra Pradesh Assembly on Saturday, senior officials of the Finance Department conducted special pujas. The budget copies were placed before the deity of Vijayawada Kanaka Durgamma, with Vedic scholars offering blessings for prosperity and public benefit. Principal Secretary of the Finance Department, Piyush Kumar, along with Secretaries Vinay Chand, Ronald Ross, Joint Secretary Gautam Allada, Deputy Secretary Suraj Ganor, and others, performed the rituals at the Durga temple. Following the pujas, the officials visited the residence of Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav, delivering the budget copies, which he then placed before the deity for blessings. The minister subsequently visited the Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple in Venkatapalem, where he performed further rituals and received divine blessings. Later, Minister Keshav performed additional pujas in his Secretariat chamber before heading to the Assembly's CM's chamber, where he will attend the cabinet meeting alongside the budget copies.

PM Modi inaugurates Seva Tirth in Delhi, AP CM Naidu extends congratulations

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has officially inaugurated the newly constructed Seva Tirth (Prime Minister's Office) and Central Secretariat (Kartavya Bhavan) buildings in Delhi. On the inaugural day, he also launched a new welfare initiative, PM-Rahat, aimed at providing immediate medical assistance to road accident victims.

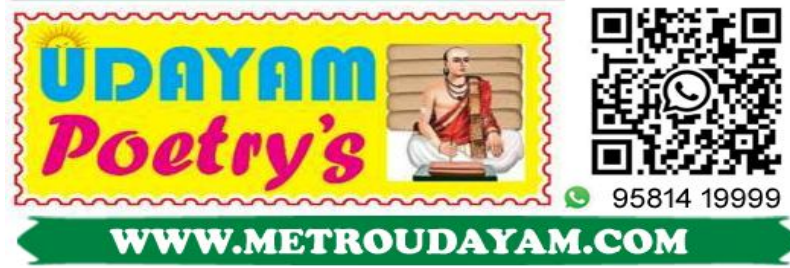
During the event, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu took to Twitter to extend his



congratulations to the central government. He praised the significance of

Seva Tirth as a milestone in India's administrative evolution, marking a decisive move away from colonial legacy.

CM Naidu highlighted that, in line with the vision of a developed India by 2047, Seva Tirth will contribute to building a modern and efficient administrative system. He also emphasised the importance of voluntary organisations alongside government schemes for the overall development of the country.



जिस किसी ने दिल से भलाई को अच्छा
और बुराई को बुरा न समझा हो उसे उलट
पलट कर दिया जायेगा। ...

(शकील उवाच -६१७)

जहां भी जुल्म और सितम (अन्याय और अत्याचार) होता हो उसका विरोध होना चाहिए। सत्य, धर्म और न्याय के प्रति प्रेमपूर्ण समर्पण के साथ साथ असत्य, अधर्म और अन्याय के प्रति घृणा मानवता के लक्षणों में से माने जाते हैं। उपरोक्त बताये गये बातें समाज को स्वर्ग का रूप देने में उत्तेजनीय भूमिका निभाएंगे। जो व्यक्ति सत्य और न्याय के प्रति समर्पित भाव नहीं रखता हो वह असत्य और अन्याय के राह पर कदम रखता है। और जो आदमी भलाई को अच्छा और बुराई को बुरा न समझता हो वह कभी कामयाब नहीं होता।

पैगंबर साहब मोहम्मद (स्व.) के पहिले उत्तराधिकारी इमाम अली इब्न अबू तालिब अलैहिस्सलाम फरमाते हैं के, "अगर जिस किसी ने दिल से भलाई को अच्छा और बुराई को बुरा न समझा हो, उसे उलट पलट कर दिया जायेगा। और इस तरह उलट दिया जायेगा के ऊपर का हिस्सा नीचे और नीचे का हिस्सा ऊपर कर दिया जायेगा।" (अब्बास बुक एजेंसी लखनऊ द्वारा प्रकाशित हिंदी धर्मग्रंथ, नहजुल बलागह, उपद. श क्रमांक ३७७, पुष्ट क्रमांक ७८९)।

जेहाद (धर्मयुद्ध) केवल वह नहीं के जो तलवार लेकर शत्रु से लड़ा जाये बल्के जेहाद ए अकबर (सबसे बड़ा धर्म युद्ध) उसे कहा गया है जो अपने अंदर मौजूद बुराईयों से लड़ा जाये। और शत्रु से लड़ने वाले जेहाद में सबसे पहिले अन्याय अत्याचार को अपने हाथों से रोकना भी होता है। अगर अपने हाथ से इस का विरोध नहीं कर सकते तो फिर अपनी जुबान (वाणी) से अन्याय और अत्याचार का विरोध करना चाहिए।

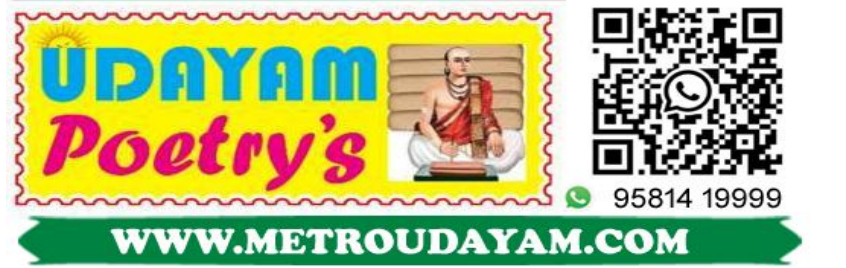
अगर हम इतने कमजोर हैं के ना ही हाथ से जुल्मो सितम (अन्याय और अत्याचार) का विरोध कर सकते हैं और ना ही जुबान (वाणी) से विरोध कर सकते हैं तो फिर कम से कम दिल से इसका विरोध करना चाहिए। दिल से जेहाद (धर्मयुद्ध) का मतलब दिल से भलाई को अच्छा और बुराई को बुरा समझते हुए भलाई से मुहब्बत और बुराई से नफरत रखना होता है। और ज्यादा से ज्यादा लोग इस धर्मयुद्ध में हार जाते हैं। जब इंसान भलाई और बुराई का अंतर करने में असफल होता है तो फिर उसका विनाश ही विनाश होता है।

अबू जहिफ़ा से रिवायत (कथन) है के उन्होंने पैगंबर साहब मोहम्मद (स्व.) के पहिले उत्तराधिकारी इमाम अली इब्न अबू तालिब अलैहिस्सलाम को फरमाते सुना है के, "पहला जेहाद (धर्म युद्ध) कि जिससे तुम मंगलूब (पराजित) हो जाओगे, हाथ का जेहाद (युद्ध) है, फिर जुबान का और दिल का। जिसने दिल से भलाई को अच्छा और बुराई को बुरा न समझा उसे उलट पलट कर दिया जायेगा। इस तरह (उलट दिया जायेगा) के ऊपर का हिस्सा नीचे और नीचे का हिस्सा ऊपर।" (अब्बास बुक एजेंसी लखनऊ द्वारा प्रकाशित हिंदी धर्मग्रंथ, नहजुल बलागह, उपदेश क्रमांक ३७७, पुष्ट क्रमांक ७८९)।

उपरोक्त बातों में स्पष्ट रूप से कहा गया है के अन्याय और अत्याचार को रोकना, चाहे वह हाथ से हो या जुबान से, बुराईयों को बुरा अच्छाईयों को अच्छा कहना और बुराई से नफरत करना यह सभी बातें धर्म युद्ध कहलाते हैं। इस धर्मयुद्ध को करने में कुछ लोग असफल रहे। अच्छे लोगों का साथ ना देकर बुरे लोगों की स्तुति करने का काम कुछ लोगों ने किया है। और इसके फलस्वरूप धर्म भी बदनाम हुआ।

पैगंबर साहब मोहम्मद (स्व.) को सताया गया और उनके उत्तराधिकारी लोगों को शहीद किया गया। और यह सब दुष्कर्म करने वाले जालिम खुद को मुसलमान कह रहे थे। और यह जानती (इश्वर द्वारा धिक्का. रित, श्रापित) लोग धार्मिकता का ढोंग कर रहे थे। इतिहास में इनका विरोध ठीक तरह से ना हो पाने की सच्चाई हमें नजर आती है। इतिहास में इन जालिम लोगों के नाम और इन जालिमों का किरदार साफ साफ लिखा है। लेकिन जिनके आंखों पर अज्ञानता ने पटी बांधकर रखी हो उन लोगों को यह जालिमों का नाम और इन जालिमों का किरदार कुछ भी नहीं नजर आता।

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



CASTLES IN THE AIR!

No fault to have desires!
To have aspirations no
wrong!
Ambitions too!
Since we are humans!

Only blunder living in
dreams!
Building castles in air!
Forgetting foundation!
Ignoring basement!

Yes, I do agree you can
dream!
Prior to, planning must!
Obstacles pre viewed!
Solutions need to seek!

Middle drop always danger!
Rather better not to start!
Once commence never stop!
Till you reach the final target!

To become your dream of
Castles in the Air!
Over take hurdles that obstruct
Your journey to success!



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

AP Finance Minister Presents Rs. 3,32,205 Crore Budget for 2026-27



Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav today tabled the Andhra Pradesh budget for the financial year 2026-27 in the Legislative Assembly. Addressing the house, he described the budget as more than just a statement of accounts, but a commitment to drive the state's development and public welfare with coordinated effort.

The total budget amounts to Rs. 3,32,205 crore, comprising Rs. 2,56,143 crore in revenue expenditure and Rs. 53,915 crore in capital expenditure. The budget projects a revenue deficit of Rs. 22,002 crore and a fiscal deficit of Rs. 75,868 crore.

Key allocations include Rs. 6,000 crore for the construction of Amaravati, Rs. 13,934 crore for the power sector, Rs. 13,546 crore for roads, ports, and airports, and Rs. 3,161 crore for industries.

Additional allocations feature Rs. 1,500 crore for the VB Ji Ram Ji Adjustment Fund, Rs. 5,451 crore for housing, Rs. 4,000 crore each for NTR Vaidya Seva and Jal Jeevan, Rs. 1,037 crore for the Swachh Bharat Mission, and Rs. 28,000 crore for the Visakhapatnam Economic Region, which includes ten districts. The Rayalaseema Global Horticulture Hub has a budget of Rs. 30,000 crore.

The budget also proposes a separate Cyber Crime Police Station for each district, Rs. 32,308 crore for School Education, Rs. 22,942 crore for Panchayat Raj, Rs. 13,598 crore for Agriculture and Allied Sectors, Rs. 6,660 crore for Annadata Sukhibhava, Rs. 6,105 crore for Polavaram, Rs. 9,165 crore for the Home Department, Rs. 14,539 crore for Municipal Departments, and Rs. 18,224 crore for Water Resources.

Other allocations include Rs. 300 crore for hostels and Gurukuls, Rs. 3,836 crore for student scholarships, Rs. 2,161 crore for the Mid-day Mal Scheme, and Rs. 27,719 crore for NTR Bharosa.

VALENTINE'S DAY SPECIAL

CELEBRITIES IN LOVE

Yesterday we celebrated the VALENTINE'S DAY. Love has many colours and shades. It has many tales to tell for ages. In the book WHISPERS OF THE HEART, author Asif Jalal throws light on the love affairs of some well known personalities from different fields and times. In simple language, the author narrates the stories of magnetic, mesmerizing magic of love in their otherwise beautiful lives.

Karl Marx, a German

Philosopher

political thinker, Economist and journalist was born on May 5th 1818. He loved and married Jenny, his childhood friend and four years senior to him. They first started their new life in Paris, later in Brussels, and finally settled in London. In spite of his success as an Economist and journalist, Marx and Jenny suffered bitter poverty and lost three of their seven children. Though Marx befriended Engels, an Economist, in Paris and she remained his good friend for life, Marx had an affair with Ellen, his German cook when Jenny was away. Till the end of her life, Jenny hoped that Marx would give her and her children some good life. But, alas, she died in penury in 1881 in London and Marx also died of grief in 1883 in the presence of Engels, Ellen and her son.

Winston S Churchill, a two time PM of Britain, winner of Nobel Prize for Literature, journalist, and a powerful orator, was born in 1874 and he stayed in Hyderabad Cantonment for three years from 1896 as a British military officer. During his long and eventful life, Churchill fell in love with four beautiful women. Three of them moved with him closely and eventually turned down his proposals. He finally loved Clementine, a twenty two year old beautiful English woman, married in 1908 and lived with her till his end in 1965.

Vidiadhar Surajprasad Naipaul, a Nobel Prize winning author, was born into a poor Indian family on August 17, 1932 in Trinidad, West Indies. His grandparents had migrated from India as plantation slaves. After his studies in Trinidad, Naipaul, 18, went to Oxford for further studies. On the campus, Naipaul met Patricia, the first woman in his life.

Soon they became lovers, much against to the wishes of her father. She left her parents for Naipaul and continued her studies. In 1955 they married in London and Patricia as usual supported him in his poverty and in his life. Soon Naipaul met Madeline in Argentina, a married woman of three children and started an affair with her. Patricia felt devastated yet continued to help and encourage him become a famous writer. Later Nadira, a Pakistani journalist met Naipaul at a function and both fell in love. It was too much for Patricia.

In a short time Patricia died of cancer and it is a pity that within two months Naipaul, sixty-nine married Nadira, forty-eight. The irony is that Naipaul won the Nobel Prize in 2001 but died childless in 2018.

Marie Curie, won the Nobel Prize for two times both in Physics and Chemistry, was a poor Polish young girl when she left her mother country where girls were then not allowed to study and reached Paris alone by train for studies. There she met her future husband Pierre Curie, a brilliant Physics Professor. He too was struggling financially but very supportive to Marie in her studies and research. Initially, Curie was a misogyny of sort as he loved a girl who died very young and decided not to marry. He thought any interest in women would be an impediment for success in his career. But it all changed with Marie coming into his life. He loved her and proposed to marry but Marie didn't accept his love and went to her parents in Poland.

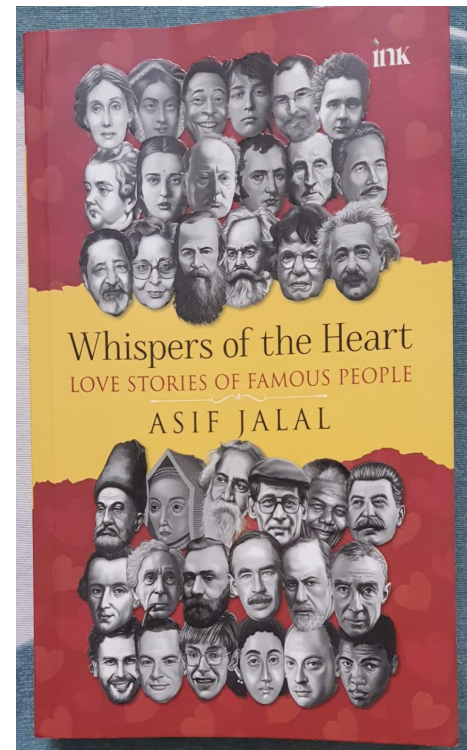
Not able to find a job there, Marie returned to Paris, married Pierre Curie in 1895 and started a beautiful life and continued their research in Physics. In their eleven years of married life, Pierre and Marie got two daughters and won together a Nobel Prize in Physics for dis-

covering Radioactivity.

Unfortunately Pierre died in a road accident in 1906 in Paris and Marie took up the responsibility of her children and his university position as well. Marie was highly intelligent and continued her research. However for a short period Marie developed a liking for a father of four children but when the issue was exposed by the Press, and came in the way of Marie receiving a Nobel Prize this time in Chemistry, she ended the affair there.

Steve Jobs, founder of Apple Computers company, was not a rich man by birth. Like many teenaged students, he too fell in love very early in life. At 17, he loved Chrisann, she was with him in all conditions and she went wherever he went, soon became a mother of a daughter named Lisa. Steve however was not that sincere and serious about his relationship with her. In fact at one stage he disowned Chrisann and her daughter but a court after a DNA test made Steve pay allowance to them. A college dropout, he went many places in search of jobs and money and he fell in love with women everywhere. Besides Chrisann, there were half a dozen of women in his life, some accepted his proposals but later rejected, some just befriended him for his name and money. Steve, 35 finally married Powell, 24 a computer student and lived with her till his death in 2011.

Rabindranath Tagore, First Indian Nobel Laureate, met 20 year old Anna who was to teach English to the then seventeen year old youthful Tagore. Anna's parents were family friends of Tagore who was about to leave for London for higher studies. Both Anna (Annapurna Turkhad) and Tagore liked and loved each other. But, alas, Tagore's father didn't like it as the girl was three years senior to Tagore. In London Tagore was a paying guest in the house of an English



man who had two young beautiful daughters. One of them had developed a crush on Tagore and he also knew about her love for him. Kadambari, the wife of Tagore's elder brother, was another woman who made a great personal impact on the creative impulses of the poet. In later life he couldn't forget the three women and dedicated many poems to them.

Tagore married Mrinalini (aka Bhavatarini) in 1883 but she died in 1902, after bearing him children. Tagore won the Nobel Prize in 1913 and years later he went on a world tour. During his visit to Argentina in 1924, he met Victoria, a thirty four year old diehard fan of Tagore. During his stay there for months, Tagore fell for the beauty and grace of Victoria. But he met her only two times before his death in 1941.

Albert Einstein, a winner of Nobel Prize for Physics, loved first the daughter of his landlord in Switzerland where he was a student. After his breakup with her, Einstein, seventeen, fell in love with Mileva 21 and his fellow student and equal in intelligence. When she became a mother of a daughter, Mileva pressed Einstein for marriage and the shotgun wedding took place, against the wishes of his mother. Later Einstein went on befriending many young women including his cousin Elsa, Mileva, now a mother of three children couldn't brook all his romantic adventurous acts. When things went beyond their control, Einstein, to marry Elsa, divorced Mileva on the condition of sharing the prize

money with Mileva when he won the Nobel.

Even after marrying Elsa and sharing the money with Mileva, Einstein, who famously said that we could not blame gravity for falling in love, couldn't resist the magnetic attraction of beautiful and much younger women till his end in 1955 aged seventy six.

Nelson Mandela became the first black President of South Africa after a life long fight against the white regime. In his long and eventful life Mandela won about 250 awards and honours including a Nobel Prize for Peace. As a young man, Mandela had two love affairs which resulted in marriages and then in divorces. Finally at the age of eighty Mandela married Graca, a forty three year old widow and led a happy and glorious life till his death at the age of 95.

Napoleon, author Amrita Pritam, criminal Charles Sobhraj, thinker Russell, scientist Alfred Nobel, author Virginia Woolf, Russian leader Stalin, and economist J M Keynes were among other famous personalities who were beaten by love bug. Most of them enjoyed their love spells and felt that love is not just a four-letter word. I feel that for many women love has given just A ONE WAY TICKET TO THE BLUES.

Asif Jalal has taken great pains and interest in gleaning these aromatic nuggets from the authorised biographies of these celebrities. It makes an enjoyable read.

M SOMASEKHAR PRASAD
HOD DEPARTMENT OF
ENGLISH
GANDHINAGAR
HYDERABAD.



8 Telangana Gram Panchayats win national awards

Hyderabad: Eight Gram Panchayats from Telangana have been declared the best performing panchayats by the Union Ministry of Panchayat Raj. On Wednesday, the ministry announced these prestigious national awards across several distinct categories. Mandoddi village in Jogulamba Gadwal district won the poverty free and enhanced livelihood category. Other winners include Gowthampur for healthy panchayat and Nellutla for water sufficient panchayat. Sultanpur was named the clean and green panchayat, while Gambhiraopet secured the award for self sufficient infrastructure. Kongatpally was recognised as a socially secured panchayat and Chimaldari won for good governance. Finally, Aipuri in Suryapet district was declared the best women friendly panchayat. These awards highlight the commitment of Telangana villages to rural development and effective local administration.

Centre hatching conspiracy to close MGNREGS: Sharmila

Nellore: Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) president YS Sharmila has alleged that the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre has hatched conspiracy to dilute Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) for political reasons.

She addressed the public gathering at Upaadi Haami Parirakshana Yatra, organised by District Congress Committee on Thursday at Akkampet village of Manubolu mandal in the district.

Sharmila recalled that MGNREGS was introduced during Congress regime, headed by United Progressive Alliance Chairperson Sonia Gandhi and the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, with the aim of providing livelihood to poor and weaker sections. The PCC chief alleged that BJP hatched conspiracy to wind up this scheme and renaming it as it is unable to digest MGNREGS has

been implementing in the name of Mahatma Gandhi. She pointed out that it is unfortunate that MPs representing various parties from AP didn't dare to question this issue during the ongoing Parliament sessions, as they turned behest at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for their parties' political benefits and vested interests.

Stating that the Central government had proposed to allocate only 60% of funds and asked the State governments to bear the remaining 40 per cent, Sharmila questioned, "Is it possible for AP to bear such a financial burden in the present financial crunch, which has been struggling with Rs 14 lakh crores borrowings?"

The PCC Chief has called upon the people of AP to support Congress in pressurising the Central government to continue MGNREGS with the same name and to solve other issues like SCS and Polavaram as it will be a mammoth task lonely for Congress.

MEA Says US Factsheet On India-US Trade Deal Amended To Reflect 'Shared Understanding'

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has clarified that recent amendments made to the White House factsheet on the India-US trade deal reflect a "shared understanding" between both countries. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, speaking at a weekly press briefing, explained that the factsheet highlights the joint statement, which serves as the framework for the interim agreement on reciprocal and mutually beneficial trade between New Delhi and Washington.

"We had agreed to a joint statement on the framework for an interim trade agreement. The joint statement remains the basis of our shared understanding in this matter. The amendments in the US factsheet reflect the shared understandings contained in the joint statement," Jaiswal said.

The trade deal, described as "historic," was announced in February and aims to strengthen bilateral economic cooperation. The MEA emphasized that the joint statement, rather than the factsheet alone, constitutes the guiding framework for ongoing trade discussions between the two countries.

This clarification comes after the White House released a factsheet that contained revisions compared to the initial joint statement, prompting the MEA to underscore that the updates are consistent with the mutual agreements reached by India and the US.

United struggle key to save labour laws: CPI

Tirupati: Responding to the nationwide general strike called by central trade unions to protest the new labour codes, thousands of workers from organised and unorganised sectors took out a rally in Tirupati on Thursday. The rally passed through the main roads in the city and culminated at old Municipal Office, with slogans raised against new labour laws and demanding repeal of these laws.

At the public meeting held at the old municipal office, CPI national leader K Prakash Babu criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for scrapping pre-independence labour laws approved even by the British rulers and merging 29 central laws into four labour codes. He highlighted that millions of workers across India expressed their anger through this strike, with



opposition parties amplifying their voice in Parliament, and stressed the need for united struggles against dictatorial policies.

CPI National Control Commission Chairman Dr K Narayanan recalled the historic fight for the 8-hour workday led by labor leader Subbaiah in Pondicherry

before independence, now threatened again, and slammed the government for treating farmers and workers as corporate slaves.

Kharge demands RS chairman to restore expunged remarks from speech on President's address

Rajya Sabha witnessed a sharp exchange on Friday, as Leader of Opposition (LoP) Mallikarjun Kharge urged Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan to restore portions of his remarks that had been expunged from the official records. The controversy arose from Kharge's earlier speech on February 4 on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address, where he had critiqued Prime Minister Narendra Modi's policies. Before Question Hour commenced, Kharge raised the issue, requesting the Chair to reinstate his comments on the Prime Minister's approach. Chairman Radhakrishnan assured him that the matter



would be looked into. Kharge further said his original comments, now removed from the record, reportedly targeted aspects of the government's policies, reflecting the opposition's broader criticisms of the ruling dispensation. Such expunctions are a standard tool under Rajya Sabha rules to maintain decorum, but they often spark accusations of suppressing dissent.

Kharge said during five decades of his political career, he had never made any unparliamentary remark against anyone, nor did he speak against anyone personally. He said if his demand is not met, he would go to the public and reproduce whatever he had said about government policies. To which the chair reprimanded him and said he was disrespecting the chair, when he was assured that the matter would be looked into and firmly rejected the plea, stating that once remarks are expunged, they cannot be restored.

Chairman Radhakrishnan added that the request amounted to instructing the Chair, calling it undemocratic and improper. He said he was just pointing out policy shortcomings. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman intervened, defending the Chairman's authority.

Quoting parliamentary rules, she explained that the Chair has the discretion to expunge words or phrases deemed defamatory, indecent, unparliamentary, or undignified during debates. Sitharaman accused the Leader of Opposition of disrespecting the Chair by challenging the decision-making process and standing up to question it directly.

BRS lodges complaint with SEC over alleged systematic poll violations

Hyderabad: A delegation of Bharat Rashtra Samithi leaders led by B Ramamurthy has lodged a formal complaint with the State Election Commission, alleging serious and systematic violations of election laws across several areas in the state. Meeting with commission officials on Wednesday, the BRS Legal Cell highlighted specific concerns regarding the conduct of the ongoing municipal elections in Ellareddy, Kollapur, and Ramayampet. The delegation specifically pointed to interference in eight wards of the Ellareddy Municipality. They alleged that MLA Madanmohan Rao, alongside Congress party workers and certain government officials, was directly involved in activities that compromised the free and fair conduct of the polls.

According to the BRS, voters were transported to polling stations in vehicles organised by Congress leaders, which they described as a coordinated effort to influence and control the electorate rather than a voluntary act of assistance. Furthermore, the opposition party claimed that individuals not registered as voters were seen moving within booth premises without any lawful authority. The complaint also raised concerns about the presence of government officials around polling stations without defined roles, suggesting a misuse of position to create apprehension among voters and undermine administrative neutrality. When BRS MLA Jajala Surender and other activists questioned the authorities about these activities, they alleged that the police responded with intimidation rather than enforcement. BRS leaders claimed they were met with false allegations of disturbing the peace when they were merely seeking the strict implementation of election rules. In its representation, the BRS demanded an immediate, independent, and time-bound inquiry into the actions of Madanmohan Rao and the concerned officials. They have requested the examination of CCTV footage, booth records, and statements from independent witnesses to ensure accountability. The party also called for strict disciplinary action against any police personnel found to be complicit or acting in a partisan manner, urging the commission to uphold democratic integrity during the process.

Turncoat MLAs face mixed verdict in municipal polls

Hyderabad: Municipal election results in constituencies represented by turncoat MLAs produced mixed outcomes, with the Congress party performing strongly in some areas while opposition parties and independents made significant gains elsewhere. In Jagtial town, represented by former BRS leader Sanjay Kumar, senior Congress leader T Jeevan Reddy backed 12 candidates who contested as independents and all 12 emerged victorious. The Congress also won 23 wards in the town, while three other independents, six BJP candidates, two MIM members, and four BRS candidates secured seats.

In Gadwal, represented by turncoat MLA Bandla Krishna Mohan Reddy, the Congress won 16 of 37 wards, followed by the BRS with 11, BJP with seven, MIM with one, and two independents. In Chevella, under the representation of Kale Yadaiah, the Congress won 11 of 18 wards, while the BRS secured four and the BJP took three. Banswada, represented by Pocharam Srinivas Reddy, saw the Congress secure 19 out of 49 wards, while the BJP won 18 and the BRS claimed 10.

In Station Ghanpur, where Kadiam Srihari represents, the Congress won 13 of 18 wards with the BRS claiming the remaining five. No elections were held in constituencies of other turncoat MLAs, including Danam Nagender, Arikepudi Gandhi, Gudem Mahipal Reddy, T Prakash Goud, and Tellam Venkatrao. Notably, Gudem Mahipal Reddy, while returning to the BRS, played a key role in securing a majority of municipal wards for the party in his constituency. This varied performance underscores the complex local dynamics following political shifts.

Former Deputy Mayor Kurra Shivakumar Goud's birthday celebrations in grand style

Former MLA Malipeddi Sudheer Reddy DCC President Vajresh Yadav extended his best wishes



Medipally February:14 (Metro udayam)

The birthday celebrations of former Deputy Mayor of Peerzadiguda Municipal Corporation Kurra Shivakumar Goud were held in grand style on Saturday at the Kurra Yellaiah Convention Hall in Peerzadiguda in the presence of state and district leaders, activists, friends, well-wishers, fans and relatives.

Earlier, fans had organized various service programs to celebrate his birthday. On this occasion, fruits and food were distributed to the children in the orphanage. On this occasion, former MLA of Medchal constituency Mallipeddy Sudheer Reddy, Medchal Malkajgiri District DCC President Thotakura Vajresh Yadav, senior Congress party leaders Harivardhan Reddy, Peerzadiguda Congress Party President Tungathurthi Ravi, former Mayor of Peerzadiguda Corporation Amar Singh, B Block General Secretary Kotha Kishore Goud, former corporators, senior leaders Pappula Anji Reddy, co-option members, Congress party leaders, activists and leaders of various parties presented shawls and flower bouquets to Kurra Shiva Kumar Goud and wished him a happy birthday.

Support Extended to Rajaka Family in Nacharam



Hyderabad, metro udayam Feb 14 : A tragic incident occurred at HMT Nagar in Nacharam, where Singaram Yakaiah lost his life after accidentally slipping from a tree while cutting it in the premises of a local resident's house. Following the incident, a complaint was lodged at the Nacharam Police Station. The house owner concerned was summoned for discussions, and subsequently, financial assistance of ₹6 lakh was arranged for the bereaved family.

Konne Sampath Rajaka extended support to the victim's family and played a key role in ensuring justice and financial relief. Representatives of the Rajaka Vrittidarula Sangham, including General Secretary Paila Ashaiah, Medchal District Secretary Jyothi Upender, District Committee Member Pendli Paidla Bikshapathi, and Sardar Ashok (Social Media Convenor), participated in the programme. They visited the family, offered condolences, and expressed solidarity during the difficult time.

Speaking on the occasion, the association leaders assured that they would continue to stand by the victim's family and provide necessary assistance in the future.

Congress emerges as dominant force in municipal polls

The Congress party has demonstrated significant strength in the Telangana municipal elections, securing a clear lead across the state. Results were declared for 2,582 wards spread across 116 municipalities. Of these, the Congress won 1,347 wards and captured control of 66 municipalities, emerging as the single largest political force in the urban local body polls. The Bharat Rashtra Samithi secured 717 wards and gained control of 15 municipalities. The Bharatiya Janata Party won 261 wards, while Independents secured 256 wards across various municipalities.

In 36 municipalities, no party managed to secure an absolute majority, resulting in hung councils where post-poll alliances and support from Independents determine control.

In a notable development, the All India Forward Bloc captured the Vaddepalli municipality in Mahabubnagar district, marking a significant achievement for the party. Meanwhile, in Jagtial, supporters of senior Congress leader T Jeevan Reddy contested as Independents and won a majority of seats, indicating strong local backing. The overall results underline the strong performance of the Congress, while also reflecting competitive contests in several municipalities across the state.

In the results declared for seven corporations, the Congress won



Mancherla, Ramagundam, and Nalgonda. However, the BJP stood as the single largest party in the Karimnagar and Nizamabad corporations.

In Kothagudem, the CPI and Congress won 22 divisions each. The BRS working president has since offered the CPI open support to help them grab the mayor post. Political developments in Kothagudem have become particularly interesting with the BJP also coming forward to support the CPI.

The municipalities and corporations won by the Congress include Nereducharla, Huzurnagar, Halia, Kodada, Mothkur, Alair, Yadagirigutta, Nandikonda, Chanduru, Chityala, Bhuthpur, Dharmapuri, Bheemgal, Bichkunda, Banswada, Yellareddy, Choppadandi, Sultanabad, Chennur,

Manthani, Husnabad, Maripeda, Dornakal, Narayanakhed, Sangareddy, Andole-Jogipet, Sadasivpet, Ramayampet, Huzurabad, Kollapur, Kalwakurthy, Madduru, Pebberu, Station Ghanpur, Kalluru, Sathupalli, Waira, Madhira, Ashwaraopet, Yellendu, Mulugu, Suryapet, Kodangal, Chevella, Shankarpalli, Shadnagar, Vikarabad, Thanduru, Parakala, Narsampet, Bhupalpalli, Wanaparthi, Athmakuru, Kothakota, Kosgi, and Makthal, along with corporations in Ramagundam, Mancherla, Nalgonda, and Mahabubnagar. Councils remain hung in Devarakadra, Alampur, Devarakonda, Aliabad, Kohir, Kesamudram, Asifabad, Amarachintha, Gadwala, Kyathanahalli, Jangaon, Jinnaram, Narsapur, Jammikunta, Vemulawada, Raikal, Zaheerabad, and Bellampally.

MLA Sunitha raises drinking water issue in Assembly

Anantapur: Raising concerns over a looming drinking water crisis in Rapthadu constituency, MLA Paritala Sunitha urged the State government to expedite pending works and release bills related to ongoing water supply projects.

Speaking during Zero Hour in the Assembly amid the Budget session, Sunitha highlighted the acute drinking water shortage in nearly 50 villages across Anantapur Rural and Atmakur mandals.

She noted that rapid urban expansion in Anantapur Rural has led to increased demand, with the existing water supply proving insufficient for the growing population.

The MLA said that under the Rs 90-crore Jal Jeevan Mission, the government had undertaken construction of a drinking water pipeline from PABR (Penna Ahobilam Balancing Reservoir) along with overhead tanks. While the main pipeline up to Anantapur has been completed, sev-



eral works remain pending. She stated that nearly 70 per cent of the project has been completed but progress has stalled due to non-release of pending bills. If the delay continues, the region may face severe drinking water problems during the upcoming summer, she warned.

Sunitha appealed to the government to clear the pending dues immediately and ensure completion of the remaining works. She also sought identification of vulnerable villages across the constituency and timely intervention to prevent hardship.

Freedom fighter Sarojini Naidu remembered

Kurnool: Dr B Prasad Reddy, Vice-Principal, Silver Jubilee Government College, Kurnool, stated that Sarojini Naidu, an iconic leader of India's freedom movement, championed women's empowerment by advocating equal rights for women in economic, political and educational spheres, the right to vote, and the abolition of child marriage.

He recalled that she played a significant role in the establishment of the Women's India Association in 1917. The English Department and



the Department of Women Empowerment of Silver Jubilee Government College jointly organised National Women's Day on Friday to commemorate the birth

anniversary of Sarojini Naidu. Faculty members garlanded her portrait and paid rich tributes on the occasion. Speaking at the programme, Dr Y Rajasekhar, Head of the

Department of English, observed that Sarojini Naidu stands foremost among those who proved that women are not weak, but a powerful force in society, and urged students to draw inspiration from her life and ideals.

The students expressed their resolve to move forward by taking Sarojini Naidu as their role model.

Dr Yella Krishna, Dr Dalavai Srinivas, Dr VM Rajasekhar, Nagamani and other faculty members participated in the programme.

Sajjanar conducts surprise inspection of RGIA outpost



Hyderabad City police commissioner VC Sajjanar conducted a surprise inspection of the police outpost at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Shamshabad on Friday. During the visit, he examined the General Diary, reception registers, pending petitions, and enquiry records. While reviewing operations, the commissioner issued instructions to improve efficiency. Enquiry officers were directed to prepare detailed reports on every petition to ensure the prompt redressal of grievances.

Staff were instructed to display updated contact details of airport station house officers across India to assist with inter-state cases. The team was also asked to strengthen intelligence collection to prevent drug trafficking. Additionally, strict action was ordered against unruly passengers, particularly regarding alcohol-related misconduct or the harassment of women. Coordination with the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security for blacklisting offenders was prioritised.

The commissioner suggested setting up a dedicated help desk in the arrivals area and maintaining a database of habitual offenders to prevent thefts. DCP Shamshabad P Rajesh, ACP Srikanth Goud, and Inspector Kanakaiah Sampathi were present.

BJP alleges assault on Nalgonda District President by DSP



Hyderabad: The Bharatiya Janata Party has lodged a formal complaint with the Director General of Police following an alleged assault on Nalgonda District President Nagam Varshith Reddy by a local Deputy Superintendent of Police.

According to party reports, the incident occurred at a polling station during the municipal elections on Friday. The BJP claims that the official physically assaulted Reddy when he questioned the suspicious entry of 150 burqa-clad individuals at the station. This influx raised significant alarms regarding potential bogus voting and electoral malpractice.

In their petition, BJP leaders have demanded the immediate suspension of the DSP and a thorough departmental inquiry into his conduct. The party is also seeking a verification of voter records for that specific location to ensure the sanctity of the ballot. Highlighting the necessity for a fair process, party representatives urged the police department to uphold its neutrality and protect the integrity of the democratic exercise.

They asserted that such high-handedness by uniformed officers undermines public confidence in the election machinery.

The BJP has called for swift intervention to prevent further irregularities and to ensure that all frontline officials act without political bias during the ongoing urban local body polls. This demand for accountability underscores the rising tensions as the state concludes its significant municipal voting phase.

BJP withdraws from contesting for mayor in Nizamabad, Congress aims for mayor



The political landscape in Nizamabad has shifted following recent local elections. The BJP has announced it will be in opposition in the Nizamabad Municipal Corporation, despite earlier speculation about gaining the mayor's seat. Meanwhile, the Congress is actively seeking to secure the mayoralty, with PCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud already appealing for support from AIMIM.

Results revealed a hung council with 60 divisions. The BJP secured the most seats with 28, while Congress gained 17, and AIMIM obtained 14. Among the ex-officio members are MLA Bhupathi Reddy and Mahesh Kumar Goud. MP Dharmapuri Aravind responded to the outcome, stating, "We did not gain a majority in Nizamabad. We will be in opposition. Our aim is to change the name of Nizamabad to Indore before the end of the mayor's term. We will review the Armoor election results and apologize to the people of Armoor."

Tight security in place for Maha Sivaratri



Puttaparthi; Superintendent of Police S Satish Kumar visited the renowned Lepakshi Veerabhadra Swamy Temple on Friday to review security arrangements ahead of the Maha Sivaratri festivities scheduled from February 15 to 18.

Accompanied by Hindupur DSP KV Mahesh and local police officials, the SP inspected the temple premises and examined the functioning of installed CCTV cameras. He directed officials to ensure foolproof security in view of the anticipated influx of devotees and possible visits by VVIPs during the celebrations.

The SP stated that elaborate security measures would be in force from the evening of February 14 until February 18. Around 100 additional police personnel, along with local staff, will be deployed for bandobast. Traffic diversions and alternative routes will be implemented from February 15 to prevent congestion. Special arrangements are being made for the Rathotsavam to avert any untoward incidents.

The police will maintain strict vigil against open drinking and miscreant activities in and around the temple premises. Surveillance will be strengthened through CCTV cameras, drones, and night-vision equipment.

The SP emphasized that crowd management measures have been planned in accordance with the expected surge in devotees from the evening of February 15.

He further noted that similar security arrangements are being implemented at major Shiva temples across the district. Hindupur Rural CI Janardhan, temple committee chairman Ramananda, SI Narendra, and other officials were present during the inspection.

SC deadline pushes TN to restart DGP appointment process

Chennai: The process of appointing a regular Director-General of Police (DGP) and Head of Police Force (HoPF) for Tamil Nadu has been set in motion once again, following a recent directive from the Supreme Court mandating that the selection be completed within three weeks. The order was issued while disposing of a contempt petition filed by Chennai-based petitioner Kishore K. Swamy, who alleged that the State government had failed to adhere to the Apex Court's guidelines on the appointment of regular DGPs.

Acting on the court's direction, senior officials have resumed discussions to finalise a fresh panel of eligible DGP-rank officers to be forwarded to the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) for empanelment.

Under the Supreme Court's framework laid down in the landmark Prakash Singh case, the State government must send a panel of eligible officers to the UPSC, which will then shortlist three names.

From this list, the State will appoint one officer as DGP/HoPF, granting a minimum tenure of two years irrespective of the officer's date of superannuation.

According to official sources, the State is expected to forward its panel within a week. The UPSC will then have two weeks to finalise the shortlist.

In terms of seniority, Seema Agrawal, Rajeev Kumar, and Sandeep Rai Rathore remain the top contenders. Their names had earlier



been shortlisted by the UPSC in October 2025 when Tamil Nadu submitted its list of eligible officers.

However, the State government did not make a selection at that time and allowed G. Venkatraman to continue as DGP(in-charge).

On October 22, Law Minister S. Reghupathy publicly stated that the three names recommended by the UPSC were not acceptable to the State, alleging that the Union government had disregarded Tamil Nadu's views during the empanelment process.

Other senior DGP-rank officers in the State include K. Vanniaperumal, Mahesh Kumar Aggarwal, Vinit Dev

Wankhede, Sanjay Mathur, S. Davidson Devasirvatham, Sandeep Mittal and Bala Naga Devi.

Sources indicated that there has been no confirmed change in the eligibility status of the top three officers.

Although a minimum residual service of six months is typically required, it is calculated from the date the vacancy arose - September 1, 2025 - which may keep certain officers within consideration.

Officials said the State would comply with the UPSC's Single Window System while finalising and forwarding the panel.

After Salem meet swipe, AIADMK accuses Vijay of lack of political clarity



The AIADMK on Saturday launched a sharp counter-attack against TVK leader Vijay, accusing him of lacking political clarity and attempting to build a party without ideological grounding, after the actor-turned-politician criticised both Dravidian majors at an executive meeting in Salem.

In a strongly-worded statement, the AIADMK IT wing alleged that Vijay was "borrowing leaders" from other parties and pasting "stickers without political history or understanding."

The party further claimed that TVK was recruiting individuals who had been

expelled from other political outfits and running its affairs through WhatsApp groups in the name of party organisation.

Taking a dig at Vijay's corruption remarks, the AIADMK also questioned whether selling first-day, first-show cinema tickets for ₹2,000 did not amount to "looting."

The IT wing further criticised Vijay's recent social media post in which he suggested that governance under the DMK had become "out of control" and rhetorically asked how someone mounting a horse could suddenly become "original."

The rebuttal came after Vijay, addressing TVK executives in Salem on Friday, amid heightened election activity in Tamil Nadu, dismissed criticism that his party lacked political experience ahead of the upcoming Assembly polls.

"They say TVK has no experience. What is your experience?" Vijay asked, in an apparent swipe at both the DMK and the AIADMK.

Referring to the legacy of former leaders such as C.N. Annadurai, M.G. Ramachandran and J. Jayalalithaa, he remarked, "Your experience is forget-

ting Anna and MGR. MGR forgot Jayalalithaa — is that your experience?"

"Yes, we don't have experience. We have no experience in looting. Even if we try, it won't come to us," he said, accusing the Dravidian parties of corruption and misgovernance.

With alliance talks and seat-sharing negotiations gaining momentum ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections, the exchange signals an intensifying political battle between established Dravidian forces and Vijay's emerging political outfit.

Tucker, Delany fire Ireland to 235/5 against Oman

Colombo: Captain Lorcan Tucker and Gareth Delany powered Ireland to 235/5 against Oman in a Group B match of the T20 World Cup 2026 here at the Sinhalese Sports Club on Saturday.

Captain Tucker (94), missing a century by just six runs, was ably supported by Delany, who hit a half-century, and George Dockrell, who provided a late push as Ireland posted the highest total at this T20 World Cup and the second highest across all editions.

Batting first, Ireland were off to a poor start as opener Tim Tector was clean bowled by Shakeel on the fifth ball of the innings cheaply for five. His opening partner, Ross Adair (14), who looked in great touch, hit three consecutive boundaries in the next over but went down in the third over after getting caught at mid-on.



Shakeel bagged his third on the powerplay as he castled Harry Tector (14) with Ireland reeling at 47-3 at the end of the powerplay. As Ireland hoped to recover after a shaky start Aamir Kaleem sent Curtis Campher (12) back to the pavilion in the eighth over. With the team reeling at 67-4, Irish captain Tucker stood tall and forged a historic 101-run partnership with Gareth Delany (56) to help the team stage a great

comeback. Tucker and Delany dominated the middle overs by taking down the spinners and scoring 68 runs in six overs.

Oman finally got their breakthrough in the 17th over when Delany got out off Shah Faisal's ball while trying to hit a six. Delany scored 56 runs off just 30 balls and hammered three fours and four sixes during his innings. Lorcan brought up his fifty in just 35 balls with a four.

Tucker stepped up his innings after the half-century and scored 44 runs off the next 16 balls he faced after crossing the 50-run mark. He then stitched a 70-run stand with Dockrell, who played a splendid knock of 35 runs off just nine balls, including the hat-trick of sixes off the last three deliveries.

Meanwhile, Tucker missed the century by just six runs as he remained unbeaten on 94, laced with ten boundaries and four maximums.

For Oman, Shakeel was the most successful bowler. He finished with figures of 3-33, while Aamir and Faisal took one wicket each.

Brief Scores: Ireland 235/5 in 20 overs (Lorcan Tucker 94*, Gerath Delany 56, George Dockrell 35*, Shakeel Ahmed 3-33, Aamir Kaleem 1-29) against Oman.

ATP Delhi Open: Davis Cupper Karan Singh, Manas Dhamne get singles' wildcards

New Delhi: Karan Singh and Manas Dhamne have been awarded main draw wild cards for the upcoming Delhi Open, which begins on February 16 at the DLTA Complex. The Delhi Lawn Tennis Association (DLTA) also confirmed a main draw wild card for Digvijay Pratap Singh, along with four qualifying singles wild cards for the tournament.

Karan Singh's inclusion comes on the back of his role in India's victorious Davis Cup tie against the Netherlands in Bengaluru. His wild card reflects both his contribution to the national team's recent success and his consistent performances on the professional circuit.

Meanwhile, 18-year-old Manas Dhamne, widely regarded as one of the brightest young prospects in Indian tennis, continues to impress with his rapid development and growing competitive maturity. The Delhi Open presents another valuable opportunity for the teenager to test himself against higher-ranked opposition and gain crucial experi-



ence at this level.

Digvijay Pratap Singh, who was a reserve member of India's Davis Cup squad during the recent tie, has also been rewarded with a main draw wild card. His selection recognises his role within the team environment and his steadily rising stature on the domestic circuit.

Commenting on the selections, DLTA president Rohit Rajpal said they reflect both recognition of recent contributions and a long-term investment in Indian tennis.

"Karan Singh and Digvijay Pratap Singh played important roles in the recent Davis Cup campaign, and this wild card is a recognition of their contribution to the team's success. Manas Dhamne is one of the most exciting young talents in the country today, and it is important that we provide him with opportunities at events like the Delhi Open to help him grow and gain valuable experience at a higher level," Rajpal said.

In addition, the DLTA has awarded qualifying singles wild cards to Nitin Kumar Sinha, Ishaque Egbal, Udit Kamboj and Denis Yevseyev. These players will compete in the qualifying draw for a place in the main tournament.

The Delhi Open continues to serve as a key platform for Indian players to compete against strong international fields while earning valuable ranking points and match experience, with main draw action set to begin on February 16 at the DLTA Complex.

Preparations underway for Mahashivratri celebrations at Adiyogi in Tamil Nadu



Preparations are in full swing for the grand Mahashivratri celebrations near the iconic Adiyogi Shiva statue at the Isha Yoga Centre in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, with the main event stage currently being set up ahead of the night-long spiritual gathering.

Stage designer Rupin Suchak highlighted the significance of the occasion. "The biggest attraction during Mahashivratri is always Adiyogi. Just like we decorate a temple, we are simply the people doing the decoration here as well," he told IANS. He added that the team is working meticulously to ensure the stage reflects the spiritual and cultural grandeur associated with the festival.

The 33rd Mahashivratri celebrations, organised by spiritual leader Sadhguru at the Isha Yoga Centre, will be held on February 15.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will attend the event as the chief guest. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Union Minister L. Murugan and other prominent dignitaries are also expected to be present, according to an official statement.

The night-long celebrations will begin with the Pancha Bhuta Kriya at the Dhyanalunga, a ritual honouring the five elements — Earth, water, fire, air and space. This will be followed by the Linga Bhairavi Maha Yatra, a grand procession celebrating the divine feminine. The event will feature devotion, music and meditation led by Sadhguru. Situated at the foothills of the Velliangiri Mountains, the towering Adiyogi statue is the focal point of the celebrations and draws global attention every year. The Mahashivratri event at the Isha Yoga Centre is among the most widely watched spiritual gatherings worldwide, with live broadcasts on more than 100 television networks and digital platforms in 24 Indian and international languages. The 2026 edition is expected to reach over 140 million viewers globally.

Meanwhile, similar preparations are underway in other parts of the country.

In Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, elaborate arrangements have been made at the Mahakaleshwar Temple ahead of the festival.

Pratham Kaushik, Administrator of the Mahakal Temple, said, "...It is the sacred festival of Mahashivratri, during which a very large number of devotees are expected to arrive. Keeping this in view, the temple administration and the district administration have completed the preparations..."

Colombo braces for cricket's ultimate war: India vs Pakistan at Premadasa

Colombo: By Sunday afternoon, it won't just be a cricket match. Excitement will rise to a feverish pitch as a city will hold its breath in ardent anticipation.

At tea stalls near the stadium, strangers are already debating team combinations. Taxi drivers are offering predictions with the confidence of national selectors. Hotel lobbies are awash in blue and green jerseys. Colombo has hosted big encounters before — but this feels different.

When the gates of the iconic R. Premadasa Stadium will be opened on Sunday, they won't simply welcome thousands of spectators. They will absorb nerves, hopes and a rivalry that stretches



far beyond the boundary rope. Families back home will rearrange dinner plans. Friends will sit on opposite sides of sofas. For a few hours, the world will shrink to 22 yards.

The build-up has been anything but routine. Initial hesitation from the Pakistan

Cricket Board (PCB) cast doubt over whether the contest would even take place. But after a dialogue with the International Cricket Council (ICC), the fixture was confirmed — and the anticipation only intensified.

On paper, India may appear steadier. Their depth in T20 cricket and recent consistency have impressed neutral observers. Local Sri Lankan fans told IANS they believe India's balance gives them a slight edge. Much of that confidence centres on the fearless approach of Abhishek Sharma at the top and the explosive, momentum-shifting presence of Hardik Pandya — players who do not merely participate in contests like this but seize them.

Yet anyone who has followed this rivalry knows logic rarely survives the first over. In India-Pakistan clashes, reputations dissolve quickly. One mistimed shot, one searing yorker, one catch taken under swirling pressure and heroes are born.

Weather report

Colombo is expected to be warm and humid, with temperatures hovering in the high 20s and the possibility of passing showers. The heavy air could test stamina, and under lights, even a hint of moisture may offer assistance to fast bowlers.

As evening falls and the floodlights blaze at Premadasa, the noise will rise, the tension will tighten and millions will tune in.

Not just to watch a game. But to feel it.