



## Devotees flock to Shiva temples amid Maha Shivaratri in AP, Telangana



Devotees across the country, including Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, have flocked to Shiva temples to observe Maha Shivaratri. From early morning, worshippers have been performing abhishekams and special pujas to Lord Shiva, with temples resonating with the chanting of 'Om Namah Shivaya'.

In Srisailem, a large number of devotees have been queuing for darshan since dawn. The temple is filled with the sacred sound of Shiva's name as devotees light lamps and pray for their wishes to be granted. Many have been visiting the temple with Shivamala for years, believing

that their wishes on Maha Shivaratri will be fulfilled and that the day offers a path to divine blessings.

Grand Celebrations at Rajanna Sircilla

The Mahashivratri festivities are being celebrated with grandeur at the Bhimeshwara Swamy Temple in Rajanna Sircilla district, an affiliate of Vemulawada Sri Rajarajeswara Swamy Devasthanam. Devotees are paying respects to Lord Shiva by offering cow noses, an act symbolising devotion. The entire temple is filled with the chanting of Shiva's name, creating a spiritual atmosphere of devotion and reverence.

## Bill Gates to visit Andhra Pradesh today

Founder Chairman of the Gates Foundation, Bill Gates will be visiting Andhra Pradesh on Monday.

Gates, who will be leading a delegation from the Foundation, will have a detailed discussion with Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, and the Minister for Information Technology Nara Lokesh, on various issues including diversifying sectors like education, health and agriculture.

With the cooperation of the Gates Foundation, the State Government will focus on further expanding various projects that are in progress in these sectors, official sources said on Sunday.

According to the schedule, Bill Gates will be at the State Secretariat at 10 a.m. and will visit the Real Time Governance Society (RTGS) Centre to have a glance on the utilisation of technology in governance.

Chandrababu Naidu will explain the real-time governance policies and results to Bill Gates following which the Chief Minister, his Cabinet colleagues and officers of various wings will have a meeting with Gates team.

Chandrababu Naidu will be giving a presentation on the



reforms undertaken to reach the goals of Swarnandhra Vision-2047, public health, agriculture, education and other sectors besides giving a detailed illustration on projects like MedTech, services in diagnostics and Sanjeevani.

The State Government will also give a detailed demonstration on the Sanjeevani project being run in collaboration with the Gates Foundation.

Later, the Bill Gates team will visit a farm near Undavalli village in Amaravati to examine the farming practices taken up

with the help of drones and AI technology, the sources added. The Chief Minister had said two days ago that through the Sanjeevani project, public health services will be improved.

Speaking in the Assembly session during the discussion on the motion thanking the Governor's address, he said that with the support of the Gates Foundation, digital health records will be created, enabling personalised medicine.

## Jana Sena has taken first step in Telangana, says

By winning two seats in municipal elections in Telangana, the Jana Sena has taken the first step in the land where it took birth, party President and Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan said on Sunday.

He congratulated Aruri Vijayalakshmi and Aggu Sagar, who were elected as a councillor and a corporator, respectively.

The Jana Sena, which contested 332 seats in the recently held elections, won a seat each in a municipality and a corporation.

Vijayalakshmi has been elected from one of the wards in Nereducharla Municipality in Nalgonda district.

Aggu Sagar has been elected as a corporator in Mancherla Municipal Corporation.

Pawan Kalyan said they laid a foundation for a strong future of the party in Telangana, noting that even a big tree grows from a tiny seed.

According to Jana Sena's Telangana unit leaders, the party candidates came second in five places and third in 47 wards.

They said the Jana Sena outperformed all or one of the top three parties in 16 per cent (54) of contested wards.

Ruling Congress, and the opposition Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) are the top three parties in Telangana.

Jana Sena is a part of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

The party led by the actor-politi-



cian is sharing power with the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and the BJP in Andhra Pradesh.

The Jana Sena fielded the candidates in Telangana municipal elections on its own after the BJP made it clear that it would not have an alliance with any party.

Contesting wards in 11 districts, the maximum number of candidates fielded by the party was 48 in Nizamabad district, followed by 46 in Nalgonda, 44 in Mahabubnagar, and 39 in Adilabad. Elections for 116 municipalities and seven municipal corporations in Telangana were held on February 11. Jana Sena had announced that Pawan Kalyan will campaign for Jana Sena and BJP candidates on February 7 and 8.

However, the visit was cancelled. While the sources in Jana Sena said that it was cancelled because of a minor health issue, it triggered

speculation that it could be because of some remarks made by Pawan Kalyan about Telangana in December last year.

Telangana Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy had warned that Pawan Kalyan's movies would not be allowed to be released in theatres in Telangana if he failed to apologise over his "insulting" remarks about Telangana.

The Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister had blamed the "evil eye" for "dying" coconut trees in the development of the Konaseema region, known for lush green fields. He was apparently referring to the bifurcation of the state.

Leaders of different parties in Telangana had demanded an apology from Pawan Kalyan.

The Jana Sena had said that the statement of its leader was distorted.

## Sindhura urges TTD to launch state-wide mass marriages scheme



Puttaparthi: Puttaparthi MLA Palle Sindhura Reddy submitted a representation to Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, urging the government to direct Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams to implement State-wide annual mass marriages for economically weaker Hindu couples under a proposed programme titled 'Kalyanamasthu'. She presented the proposal at a recent meeting of the Legislative Committee on the Welfare of Women, Children, Senior Citizens and Differently Aabled Persons held with TTD officials in Tirupati. As a committee member, she recommended organising the weddings once a year on a common auspicious muhurtham across all Assembly constituencies.

Under the plan, TTD would provide mangala sutram, wedding attire for the bride and groom, and meals for guests. The ceremonies could be conducted at TTD Kalyana Mandapams or other appropriate venues, with local MLAs overseeing registrations and arrangements.

Highlighting the burden of rising wedding expenses on poor families, Sindhura Reddy said the initiative would ensure dignity, financial relief and spiritual grace. Receiving the sacred taali and akshinths linked to Lord Venkateswara Swamy, she noted, would be a lifelong blessing. The proposal drew praise from committee members and senior TTD officials as a culturally rooted, socially impactful reform aligned with the vision of a compassionate 'Swarna Andhra Pradesh'.

# Determination Was His Vision: Doctorate awardee

**Dr Edunoori Venkateshwarlu**

**Jangaon, February 14, Metro Udayam:**

Even though his eyesight was limited, there were no limits to his dreams, perseverance, self-confidence, determination to achieve his goals, or artistic and intellectual abilities. From childhood, he faced humiliation due to partial visual impairment. Though he failed in annual examinations during his student years, with strong research determination he went on to achieve a Ph.D., transforming his life into a success story.

**Birth and Family Background**  
A success born amidst obstacles...

Dr. Edunoori Venkateshwarlu earned the title "Doctor" after overcoming countless hardships—from the moment he first held a writing slate to learn the alphabet until the day he received his doctoral degree. He was born on January 4, 1976, in Nekkonda mandal of Warangal district, Telangana, into a poor, illiterate Scheduled Caste laborer family. His parents, Edunoori Pullamma and Edunoori Rangaiah, welcomed him as their first child.

On the very day he was born, an American doctor couple—who had no children—visited the Lutheran Church in Nekkonda during a foreign tour. They approached his parents requesting to adopt the child, promising to educate him well and raise him successfully. Despite repeated visits for three consecutive years, his parents refused to give him up for adoption. That same child later grew up and earned the title "Doctor" by



receiving a Ph.D. from Kakatiya University.

He was born with 75% visual impairment and a very fair complexion, which made him vulnerable to sun, rain, and cold, leading to frequent health issues. His life has been a continuous struggle against economic and social hardships.

**Education**  
When he first enrolled in school, classmates refused to sit beside him, mocking his appearance and causing emotional distress. He could not clearly see what teachers wrote on the blackboard. He would humbly request classmates to let him copy their notes after they finished writing. By carefully listening and understanding lessons, he studied with greater dedication than others.

Studied Classes 1–4 at Sri Ramakrishna Shishumandir, Nekkonda.

Due to financial difficulties, continued Classes 5–10 in a Government School.

Failed Mathematics in SSC (1991–92) but passed in the 1993 supplementary exams.



Failed English in Intermediate (1993–95) and passed in 1998. Completed Degree (1998–2001) at Government Degree College, Mahabubabad.

Completed M.A. in Economics (2001–2003) at Kakatiya University Campus.

Completed B.Ed. (2004–2005) at Osmania University.

Failures in exams due to visual impairment meant he needed extra time and effort, but he persevered.

**From Struggle to Scholar**

With strong determination to pursue research, he qualified in the Ph.D. entrance examination at Kakatiya University in 2014. Under the supervision of Prof. Tummala Papireddy (Former Chairman, Telangana State Council of Higher Education), he completed his doctoral thesis in 2023 on:

"Emerging Trends in Consumption Pattern: A Study in Rural Areas of Telangana Region."

Despite financial constraints preventing him from attending coaching centers, he prepared independently using library

resources and books. He appeared for numerous competitive exams in Warangal, Hanamkonda, Kazipet, Hyderabad, and Secunderabad—often missing jobs by just a few marks.

At the age of 48, just before crossing the upper age limit for employment eligibility, he secured a position as Junior Lecturer in Economics under the Telangana State Tribal Welfare Gurukul Educational Institutions. He joined on July 24, 2024.

He participated in several seminars and presented research papers on socio-economic and political issues. In 2005, he attended a national seminar in New Delhi on "Reservation in the Private Sector."

**As a Writer**  
Inspired by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, he wrote numerous articles promoting social justice and awareness. He has written over 1,000 letters in newspapers highlighting public issues and bringing them to the government's attention.

Received the Dalit Sahitya Academy Award (2012)

Research article "Gram Panchayat Staff – A Study" published in a Telugu quarterly magazine (2008)

Felicited in 2023 by Telangana State Social Writers' Forum in Karimnagar

**Family Life**  
He married in 1998 during his degree studies, but due to circumstances, the marriage ended in divorce. Later, in 2011, he married Ganeshwari in a love marriage.

They have two children:  
Son: Hemanth (born 2014)  
Daughter: Nivedita (born 2017)  
During unemployment, he worked as a Social Teacher in a private school to support his family.

**Social Activism and Inspiration**  
Inspired by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, he actively participated in the Telangana statehood movement from 2001 to 2014. He continues to serve as:

Assistant Secretary, Ambedkar Youth Association (Warangal District)

State Vice President, Telangana State Graduates Association

Member, Social Writers' Forum

He engaged in student and social movements, raising awareness on social issues.

**Inspiration – A Journey of Victory**

The one who once faced humiliation now receives honors and recognition. His story teaches us one powerful lesson:

"Obstacles do not determine success; determination does."

A student who once failed public examinations later achieved a Ph.D. through perseverance. He truly stands as an inspiration.

Today, along with teaching Gurukul students, he continues to write and contribute to society as a dedicated social educator.

## Velangi Raju birthday celebrations among orphans



**Kodada February 15 Metro Morning**

Members of the BJP state executive organized the birthday celebrations of Orsu Velangi Raju in Kodada town on Sunday. BJP leaders cut a cake among orphans at Shangala Radhakrishna Mentally Handicapped and Orphan Asylum in Ashok Nagar. After that, Annadanam was organized for the children of the Ashram. Speaking on the occasion, they wished their favorite leader Orsu Velangi Raju to climb more high positions in the future. He was always asked to be at the forefront of public service. BJP Mandal Party President Gadari Pullarao, Chilukuru Mandal President Mahesh, Kodada Mandal Secretary Mendam Venkaiah, BC Sangam District President Bachu Rajyam, Erra Mala Gopayya, Mekala Saujanya, Aruna and others participated in this program....



## Fruits distributed to devotees on the occasion of Mahashivratri..



**Chikkadapally February 15 Metro Udayam**: On the occasion of Mahashivratri, fruits were distributed to devotees observing vigil under the joint auspices of Linguistic Minority Cell (TPCC) Roshan Lal Agarwal

Foundation Trust. In a program held at Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple in Chikkadapally on Sunday, senior Congress party leaders and former Rajya Sabha member V. Hanumam Tarao attended as the chief

guest and distributed fruits to devotees and explained the significance of Mahashivratri festival. Former Corporator Bala Raju Goud, Rajesh Kumar Agarwal, Uday Raj, Rupesh Kumar, Vishal Agarwal, Raghu Veer,

Nagaraj, Laxman Yadav B-Block President Anjaiah Yadav, Laxman Varma, Raju, Munnur, Narsing Rao, Naresh, Vasu and others participated in this program.

## The opening of the mosque under the leadership of religious leaders.



### Kodada February 15 Metro Morning

Muslim and minority group chairmen and religious leaders inaugurated the newly constructed mosque in the center of Chilukur mandal on Sunday. On this occasion, they said that building a mosque next to the temple and opening it together with Hindu and Muslim brotherhood is a reflection of religious harmony. Special prayers were offered for peace and harmony in the society. It is suggested that everyone should come together and celebrate the festival of Ramzan in a peaceful atmosphere. The unity shown by the people of Chilukur is exemplary. Minority group chairmen Anwar Sultan, Arif Sultan, Mufti Hatahar, Mulana Hameed, Maulana Faraq, Maulana Athar, Jamaitullah Ullam Suryapet Distic President Maulana Abdul Qadir, Madina Educational Society Chairman Maulana Ahmad Nadvi, local leaders, a large number of Hindu and Muslim brothers were present in this event. Participated in

## CM Revanth Reddy Promises Roads and Education for Thandas



Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy announced plans to construct Backward Terrain (BT) roads in all Thandas across the state, emphasising that no Thanda should be without proper roads. The announcement was made during the Sant Sri Sevalal Jayanti celebrations at Banjara Bhavan in Banjara Hills on Sunday, attended by Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and Minister Laxman.

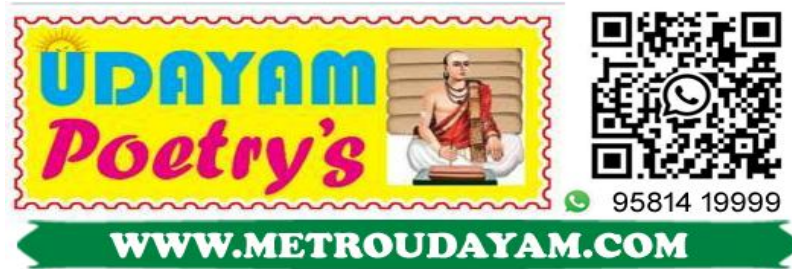
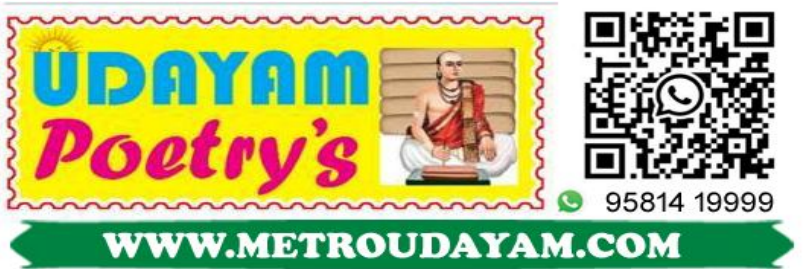
During the event, the CM highlighted the significant contribution of Lambada youth to the state's development, recalling that he will complete 20 years in politics in four months. He pledged that government schools will be established in every Thanda and reiterated his commitment to tribal upliftment, including plans to supply electricity via solar plants.

Revanth Reddy also spoke about the ongoing construction of Young India Schools in 100 constituencies, funded with Rs. 20,000 crore, emphasising the importance of education for a better future. He urged tribal youth to pursue education diligently, assuring government support to help them reach key positions in society.

Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) Working President K.T. Rama Rao, on Sunday, accused the ruling Congress in Telangana of committing anarchy to come to power in 34 municipalities that return hung verdicts in the last week's civic elections. He alleged that the ruling Congress is resorting to actions like kidnapping and luring Corporators and Councillors, sending police door-to-door, and using goons. Rama Rao was talking to media persons after participating in Sevalal Maharaj Jayanti celebrations at the party headquarters Telangana Bhavan. Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of municipalities, and Mayor and Deputy Mayors of municipal corporations that went to polls last week are set to be elected by newly-elected Councillors and Corporators on Monday.

On BRS extending support to the Communist Party of India (CPI) in Kothagudem municipality, Rama Rao said the decision was taken keeping in view the interests of workers of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL). KTR said that their goal is to stop the exploitation taking place in Singareni. He accused both the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Congress of being partners in the exploitation of Singareni and acting in a way that damages the organisation. He said that CPI and Congress are already in an alliance and it is not surprising that they are sharing the post of Mayor in Kothagudem. However, KTR added that he does not know why an organisation affiliated to CPI like the All India Trade Union Congress also accepted this alliance.

He said that he cannot say what pressures were at work behind it. KTR added that regardless of who comes together or not, BRS will fight for the interests of Singareni organisation and the rights of workers in the future as it fought in the past. The BRS leader said former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR) brought the slogan "Our kingdom should be in our herds" into practice and did justice to the self-respect of the tribals. He recalled that 3,146 new gram panchayats have been formed, giving priority to tribal Gudas, Koya Gudas and Lambada Thandas, and thousands of tribal youth have been provided opportu-



खुदा (ईश्वर) ने ज़ालिमों को बुरे  
रहबर (अत्याचारियों को बुरे प्रत्यदर्शक)  
दिया है, देता भी है और नेक लोगों  
को अच्छे रहबर दिया है और देता भी  
है। ...

(शकील उवाव -६१८)

जब सर्व सामान्य लोग इन ज़ालिमों द्वारा फैलाए गए गलत बातों को धर्म का धर्मदेश मानते हैं। और इन ज़ालिमों के करतूतों को धर्म का हिस्सा मानते हैं तो फिर धर्म को गलत ही समझा जायेगा। जबकि कोई भी धर्म कभी जुल्म करने का हुक्म दिया ही नहीं। अब सच्चे धर्म को समझना हो तो इन ज़ालिमों (शहीद करने वालों) का किरदार (चरित्र) नहीं बल्के मजलूमों (शहीद होने वालों) का किरदार देखना होगा। सच्चा धर्म ज़ालिमों के पास कभी ही मिल ही नहीं सकता।



इतने जुल्मो सितम के बावजूद सच्चे धार्मिकों ने कभी धर्म का त्याग नहीं किया और ना ही ईश्वर के विरोध में गये। क्योंकि के वह बखूबी जानते थे के धर्म अन्याय और अत्याचार करने का आदेश कभी दिया ही नहीं। और यह भी जानते थे के उन पर होने वाले अन्याय एवं अत्याचार खुदा के लिखे तकदीर, भाग्य, नसीब का भाग नहीं है। और यह सब जुल्म खुदा की मर्जी (ईश्वर के सहमती) से नहीं हो रहे हैं बल्के लोगों को खुदा (ईश्वर) के द्वारा दी गई कर्म स्वतंत्रता से खुद अधर्मिक लोगों ने किये हैं।

लेकिन जिन लोगों को ईश्वर के द्वारा मानव को दी गई कर्म स्वतंत्रता समझ में नहीं आई वही धर्म के विरोधी बन गये। और जिन लोगों ने खुद को धार्मिक कहने वाले अधर्मी, पाखंडी धूर्त लानती (थापित) लोगों के अधार्मिक और अमानवीय कृत्यों को धर्म समझा वही धर्म के विरोधी हो गये। धर्म और धार्मिकता का विरोध करने से पहिले काश सच्चे धर्म और धर्म के नाम से फैलाये गये झूठे सिद्धांतों को परख लेते तो ऐसा कभी ना होता।

इतने जुल्म सहने के बाद भी जो सब्र (धैर्य, संयम, सहनशीलता) पैगंबर साहब मोहम्मद (स्व.) और उनके उत्तराधिकारी लोगों ने किया है वह ला जवाब था। हम पर थोड़ी मुसीबत (विपदा) आ पड़ती है तो हम धैर्य और साहस से काम नहीं लेते और शिकवे शिकायतें करने लगते हैं लेकिन इन धर्म और मानवता के संरक्षकों ने कभी सब्र (धैर्य, संयम) का दामन नहीं छोड़ा। ईश्वर के प्रति पूर्ण समर्पित भाव से प्राणों की परवाह किए बगैर अन्याय और अत्याचार के विरोध में डटकर खड़े रहे।

पैगंबर साहब मोहम्मद (स्व.) के पहिले उत्तराधिकारी इमाम अली इब्न अबू तालिब अलैहिस्सलाम को जब इराक के मरिजदे कूपा में अब्दुल रहमान इब्न मुल्जिम लानती (थापित व्यक्ति) ने विषेले तलवार से जख्मी किया था तब इमाम अली अलैहिस्सलाम नमाज़ पढ़ रहे और खुदा के रूबरू सजदा रेज (ईश्वर के समक्ष नतमस्तक) थे। जब जख्मी इमाम अली अलैहिस्सलाम के लिये शरबत लाया गया था तब आप ने अपने क़ातिल के लिये भी शरबत मंगवाकर पिलवाये।

जब पैगंबर साहब मोहम्मद (स्व.) के पहिले उत्तराधिकार, ई इमाम अली इब्न अबू तालिब अलैहिस्सलाम को जख्म लगाया (तलवार से हमला किया) गया था उस के सुबह वह फरमाते हैं के, "मैं बैठा हुआ था कि मेरी आंख लग गई। इतने में पैगंबर साहब मोहम्मद (स्व.) मेरे सामने प्रकट हुए। मैंने कहा या रसूल अल्लाह! (ऐ पैगंबर साहब स्व.) मुझे आपकी उम्मत (आपके अनुयायियों के समूह) के हाथों कैसी कजरवियों और दुश्मनियों (टेढ़पन और शत्रुता) से दो-चार होना पड़ा है।" (अब्बास बुक एजेंसी लखनऊ द्वारा प्रकाशित हिंदी धर्मग्रंथ, नहजुल बलागह, खुतबा क्रमांक ६८, पुष्ट क्रमांक १९७)।

फिर इमाम अली इब्न अबू तालिब अलैहिस्सलाम फरमाते हैं के, "तो आप (पैगंबर साहब मोहम्मद स्व.) ने फरमाया कि तुम उनके लिए बहुआ (थाप) करो तो मैं सिर्फ इतना कहा कि अल्लाह (ईश्वर) मुझे उनके बदले में उनसे अच्छे लोग अता करे। और उनको मेरे बदले में कोई बुरा अमीर (शासक) दे।" (अब्बास बुक एजेंसी लखनऊ द्वारा प्रकाशित हिंदी धर्मग्रंथ, नहजुल बलागह, खुतबा क्रमांक ६८, पुष्ट क्रमांक १९७)। इस उपरोक्त दुआ के अनुसार खुदा (ईश्वर) ने ज़ालिमों को बुरे रहबर (अत्याचारियों को बुरे पथप्रदर्शक) देता है, दिया भी है और नेक लोगों को अच्छे रहबर देता है और दिया भी है।

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

## DECIDING FACTOR!

During my morning walk,  
Somebody asked me!  
Which one is deciding  
factor of Democracy?  
Money,muscle,wine?  
Influence,cash,promise?  
Really a good question?



Specially in Election time!  
Onlything answer is not  
easy one!  
No contestant should feel!  
Of course they all experi-  
enced!  
This gentleman seems not leave  
me without answer!

By chance he gave me 90% clue!  
His doubt itself consist suitable  
answer!  
Why you surprise? Is voting process  
finished without above clues involvement?  
Depending on voter's nature and  
character!  
The political parties use the weapon in  
need!

It is not the question which one  
decide Democracy!  
But it is character of voter plays a  
vital role!  
Any bending for luring,fearing for  
threatening,kith and kin relationship!  
What not so many tricks traps the  
Voter in the net!  
Once committed to fraud Democracy  
certainly slained!

So finally no external factor except the  
voter's genuiness only deciding factor  
of our democracy!  
Be alert in franchising your vote!

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

## Congress resorting to anarchy in hung municipalities in T'gana, says KTR



nities as sarpanches and ward members. He said that nearly 30,000 ward members have emerged from tribal communities. He also added that the BRS government protected the land rights of tribals by granting pattas on about four-and-a-half lakh acres of uncultivated lands in a single day.

# Prof. M. Madhavi Delivers Keynote at National Conference in Jammu

**Hyderabad, metro udayam February 13:** Prof. M. Madhavi, Former Head, Department of Zoology, Osmania University, delivered a keynote lecture at University of Jammu during the National Conference on "Innovations in Animal Sciences: Integrating Conservation, Climate Resilience and Public Health Perspectives," held on February 12–13, 2026. The conference was organised by the Department of Zoology under the aegis of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyaan (RUSA). The invitation recognised Prof. Madhavi's groundbreaking contributions to research on mosquito-borne diseases, which have earned her global acclaim through numerous lectures, publications, and collaborations with leading institutions. As the keynote speaker, Prof.



Madhavi delivered a lecture titled "Vector Borne Diseases in a Changing World: Opportunities



& Challenges." In her address, she highlighted emerging threats posed by climate change, evolving disease vectors, and the need for integrated public health strategies. Her talk drew appre-

ciation from researchers, industry leaders, and policymakers from across the country. The two-day national conference brought together eminent academicians and experts from diverse institutions and served as a significant platform for discussing the future trajectory of Animal Sciences in the context of conservation, climate resilience, and public health. Expressing her gratitude, Prof. Madhavi said she felt deeply honoured by the invitation and looked forward to continued engagement with the global academic community on transformative research ideas. She also described it as a proud moment to represent the historic Osmania University at the University of Jammu, Jammu & Kashmir.

## Grand Mahashivratri celebrations in Kodada



### Kodada February 15 Metro Morning

On the occasion of Mahashivratri, the Shiva temples in the Kodada temples are resounding with the chanting of Lord Shiva. Devotees of Shiva temples in Kodanda Rama Temple and Ayyappa Swamy Temple along with Kashi Visveshwara Swamy Temple located in VeeraBrahmendra Swamy Temple in the town performed abhishekam to Lord Shiva early in the morning and performed puja by lighting lamps in the temples. Hara Hara Mahadeva Sambho Sankara chanted the chants of the devotees around the temple.



## Fruits Distributed to Devotees on Maha Shivaratri in Lalapet



**Hyderabad, metro udayam February 15 :** The festival of Maha Shivaratri was celebrated with religious fervour in Lalapet Division on Sunday, as hundreds of devotees thronged local temples to offer prayers and perform special rituals. Temples reverberated with chants of "Om Namah Shivaya," while Rudrabhishekam and other special poojas were conducted marking the auspicious occasion. Under the leadership of BJP State

Council Member and Film Censor Board Member Sukka Ganesh Mudiraj, fruits were distributed to hundreds of devotees at the Shiva temple in Indiranagar, Lalapet. Speaking on the occasion, Sukka Ganesh Mudiraj expressed hope that with Lord Shiva's blessings, the people of Lalapet Division would be blessed with peace, prosperity, and happiness. He stated that he has been organising various service activities during important festivals

and auspicious occasions as part of his commitment to community welfare. Senior BJP leader Mekala Sarangapani, along with party leaders Venkatesh Goud, Krishnamurthy, Karunakar, Ramu Varma, Bhanu, Srikanth, Devudu Kumar, Gautham, Vanamala Srinu and others participated in the programme. The entire locality witnessed a spiritually vibrant atmosphere as devotees immersed themselves in the celebrations of Maha Shivaratri.

## AP CM Chandrababu lauds NTR Trust services on anniversary

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has lauded the NTR Memorial Trust on its 29th anniversary, highlighting its ongoing efforts to realise the aspirations of the TDP founder, Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao. The CM extended his best wishes as the trust enters its 30th year, sharing his thoughts on social media platform 'X'. He praised the trust's dedication to public service, recalling NTR's belief that society is a temple and its people are gods. Naidu noted the trust's impactful work in education, healthcare, blood donation, disaster relief, and its unparalleled service to children suffering from thalassemia. The organisation also focuses on women's empowerment and livelihood creation. Naidu commended the trust's expanding outreach and expressed his appreciation for Managing Trustee Nara Bhuvaneshwari and her team. He thanked all contributors to the trust's initiatives and expressed hope that the organisation continues to serve millions of people in need.



## Special puja Performed on the day Shivratri

**Hyderabad, February:15, MetroUdayam**

On the auspicious occasion of Maha Shivaratri, N. R. Laxman Rao, President of Bajrang Sena Telangana, and Shiv Mandir trust Vice President, performed Rudrabhishek at the Shiv Mandir Trust Jawahar Bal Bhavan, located in Public Gardens, Nampally. The sacred ritual was conducted with devotion and reverence, invoking the blessings of Lord Shiva for peace, prosperity, and harmony in society. On this

occasion, the Trust Vice President, Uttam Kumar Sungandh, performed Pooja Archana and sought divine blessings. The following dignitaries were present during the ceremony: Kaval Kumar, Advocate General sec ShivMandir trust. Goverdhanlal Teasre Jittu Jaiswal Ramchandra Reddy Krishna Uttam Mondal. The gathering marked the spiritual significance of Maha Shivaratri and reflected collective prayers for societal well-being.



# Central Bank of India conducts agricultural loan Outreach program

Hyderabad, February:14, MetroUdayam

Hyderabad, February 13, as part of the Central Bank of India's nationwide agricultural loan outreach program, an agricultural loan outreach camp was successfully organized at Hyderabad Region Batasingaram Branch, Telangana. The program was inaugurated by Regional Head Gajendra Singh Chauhan. He said that the bank is committed to strengthening the agricultural sector by providing timely and easy-to-use agricultural loans to farmers. On this occasion, Abdullapurmet Cyber ??Crime Police Sub-Inspector Priyanka Reddy conducted an awareness program on cyber crimes. Farmers and consumers were made aware of the issues of how to beware of digital frauds and what are the safe banking practices. The chief guests of the event were Additional DRDO (District Rural Development Officer) Joypur, Priyanka Reddy (Sub Inspector, Cyber ??Crime Police), Abdullapurmet, Yadaiah – DPM (Banking), M. Narasimha (Assistant Project Manager). On this occasion, the Hyderabad Region handed over agricultural loan sanction documents worth about Rs. 20 crores to the farmers Out of which, Batasingaram



branch sanctioned agricultural loans of about Rs. 3 crores. Farmers, consumers and local representatives participated enthusiastically in this outreach event. He

explained that this program has helped in further strengthening the goals of financial inclusion and rural development. He said that the Central Bank of India is

continuously committed to empowering the farming community through easy loans, financial awareness and technology-based banking services.

## Telangana Municipal Elections: Ex-officio voting Rights clarified

Following the announcement of ward-level results in Telangana's municipal elections, attention now shifts to the second phase — the indirect elections for chairmen and mayors. The votes of ex-officio members, including MPs, MLAs, and MLCs, will play a pivotal role in determining the outcome. The State Election Commission (SEC) has scheduled these indirect elections for 16th February.

With many municipalities lacking a clear majority, the contest could be decided by a margin of just one or two wards. The votes of parliamentarians and state legislators could be decisive.

However, the SEC has issued a crucial circular on 13th February clarifying who can and cannot vote.

**\*Who Can Vote?\***

- **\*Lok Sabha MPs and MLAs:** They are eligible if the municipality area falls wholly or partly within their constituency. For instance, if an MLA has six wards in Municipality A and four in Municipality B within their constituency, they can vote in both. However, they can only exercise a co-option vote in one municipality, not both.

- **\*Rajya Sabha MPs and MLCs:** Since they lack a territorial constituency, their

eligibility depends on whether they are registered voters within the municipality.

Any votes cast by members who do not meet these criteria will be declared invalid by the SEC.

This clarification has significant political implications. In previous elections, some parties used Rajya Sabha MPs and MLCs to bolster their numbers in key municipalities. Now, the scope for such strategies has been curtailed, especially if the members' names are not on the voter list of the respective municipality.

Ex-officio members will have voting rights equivalent to elected councillors and corporators. Therefore, even a single vote can sway the outcome of elections for chairman, vice-chairman, mayor, or deputy mayor. Cities such as Khammam, Warangal, Nizamabad, and Karimnagar have become critical battlegrounds, and parties will need to allocate their eligible ex-officio members carefully.

The upcoming indirect elections on 16th February will thus serve as a significant political test for all parties involved.

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## Telangana Municipal Elections results: 11 Municipalities reported hung

Elections were held across Telangana on the 11th of this month for seven municipal corporations and 116 municipalities. The vote counting is ongoing today (Friday), with a total of 136 counting centres in operation. The ruling Congress party is showing strength across all districts and has already secured the most seats. However, a close contest persists between Congress and the opposition BRS party in many areas. So far, 11 municipalities have resulted in hung assemblies, with no clear majority. In these municipalities, independent candidates and ex-officio members are expected to play a crucial role. The municipalities with hung assemblies include Parakala, Alampur, Narsapur, Sangareddy (Jinnaram), Kesamudram, Isnapur, Asifabad, Jammikunta, Janagama, Kamareddy, and Amarachinta.

## Speed up land acquisition for Somasila & Kandaleru

Nellore: District Collector Himanshu Shukla has ordered the officials to complete land acquisition related to Somasila and Kandaleru reservoirs at the earliest.

During a meeting with irrigation officials at his chamber here on Thursday, the Collector enquired the status of the ongoing land acquisition and ordered them to prepare proposals for securing forest department permission for proposed works. Stressing that there is no scarcity of funds for the works as the government will release the funds immediately after receiving the reports from the administration regarding completion of land acquisition and permissions from forest department. Joint Collector M Venkateswarlu, Somasila SE VR Reddy and officials of Kandaleru Reservoir were present

## J.Dasharath offered silk clothes to the goddess..



Chikkadapally, February 15 Metro udayam : On the occasion of Mahashivratri, Telugu Desam Party National Publicity Secretary J.D. Sharad along with his family members offered silk clothes to the Navadurga goddess in Medak district. On the instructions of Telugu Desam Party chief AP CM Nara Chandrababu Naidu, silk clothes were offered to the goddess in the wee hours of the morning and a special puja was performed. The temple priests gave them a grand welcome. After offering the silk clothes, Kumku Marana and Ashtottar puja programs were organized for the goddess and the blessings of the scholars were taken. Speaking on the occasion, he said that there is a great need for today's youth to practice spiritual service programs. He expressed that he wanted the goddess to prosper with happiness and prosperity. He said that he had offered cotton clothes to the goddess on the instructions of AP CM Chandrababu Naidu. He expressed hope that the Telugu Desam Party will regain its glory in Telangana in the coming days. Temple committee members and their family members participated in this function in large numbers.

## Fruits Distributed to Devotees at Mahankali Temple in Nacharam

Secunderabad, February 15 (Metro udayam): A fruit distribution programme for devotees was organised at the mahakali sahita mahakaleshwara swami temple under Nacharam Division on Sunday. The program was conducted under the leadership of Medchal Urban District official representative Pothagani Gopal Goud, who personally distributed fruits to the devotees visiting the temple. Speaking on the occasion, he said that serving devotees who visit the temple is a matter of privilege and expressed his commitment to organising such service activities regularly for the convenience and welfare of devotees. Former MLA N.V.S.S. Prabhakar attended the event as the chief guest and also distributed fruits to the devotees.

BJP Nacharam Division President Naveen Kumar, Malka Prakash, Ragiri Mohan Reddy, Chandramouli, Rajireddy, Yogeshwar Reddy, Gandhamalla Gopi, Ramesh, Surender, Anand Kumar, Balakrishna, Naveen Chintu, Manjulavani, Parvathi, Deepika and other leaders were present at the programme.



# India AI Summit key for Global South: Dell Tech

Calling the upcoming India AI Impact Summit a "pretty key, an important event," Dell Technologies senior executive Vivek Mohindra said the gathering marks a pivotal moment for India and the broader Global South as artificial intelligence reshapes economies and governance. "This is the first global AI summit to be held in the global south," Mohindra told IAND in an exclusive interview.

He added that India, with its "huge aspirations," is convening global leaders "at a pretty key point" to outline not just its own vision but "the role that all of us can play in India achieving its aspirations."

Mohindra serves as Special Advisor to the Vice Chair and COO at Dell Technologies and has previously held roles, including Chief Strategy Officer. He said he expects "a lot of really rich dialogue and discussion" at the summit, underscoring that "a public-private partnership will be a key enabler". Positioning India in the global AI landscape, he said the country is "very well positioned" given its deep talent pool and decades-long strength in IT services and software.

With increasing focus on building AI infrastructure and policy frameworks, he said he is "very excited about India's potential to really seize the opportunity and establish itself as a preeminent driver of AI, not only for its citizens, but also globally".

Asked about comparisons with other major powers, Mohindra cautioned against framing AI as a zero-sum contest. "That is a much more important discus-



sion rather than a relative discussion of how is one country positioned versus the other," he said.

He pointed to India's long-term development plans, investments in infrastructure, access for citizens and small businesses, and governance policies as "really important elements for India to realize the potential for AI for itself".

On corporate collaboration, Mohindra said public-private partnerships would drive progress as India builds "its own sovereign AI infrastructure".

Highlighting Dell's footprint in India, he said the company has been present "for over 30 years," with India now its "second largest presence" globally in headcount

and research and development.

At the summit, Dell plans to unveil a "Dell AI India blueprint". Mohindra outlined three pillars: "invest, innovate, and evolve".

"Investments is all around things like infrastructure, having a secure and sustainable energy infrastructure to be able to support the AI infrastructure," he said, referencing offerings such as the "Dell AI factory".

"Innovate really revolves around elements like skilling, governance," he added, while "evolve really revolves around elements related to the regulatory framework".

On regulation, Mohindra argued for balance and predictability. Companies need

"some certainty around regulation so companies can continue to innovate," he said, advocating "some harmonized regulatory framework that gives companies small and large the certainty of operating within that particular environment".

Referring to India's AI governance guidelines released in November 2025, he said the framework contains "seven foundational principles," including "trust and people first, and fairness and equity and accountability," and also emphasises "innovation over a screened".

"I think the current approach the government is taking is pretty well balanced," he said. On industry-wide challenges, Mohindra cited three recurring issues: identifying the right AI use cases, preparing data for AI, and bridging the "talent and skills gap".

Companies must also decide whether AI workloads run "in the cloud," "on prem," or "on a pc," each with trade-offs in cost and data control. He added that firms face "the extreme pace of change in this industry and being able to stay on top of it and not be frozen because of the pace of change".

Mohindra said he is "very excited about the potential for India to leverage this technology for the benefits of its citizens," adding that Dell is "really excited about bringing forth all of our capabilities to help India achieve its AI aspirations".

The India AI Impact Summit follows earlier global AI summits held in London, South Korea and France, as countries race to frame policy and governance approaches amid rapid advances in generative AI and computing infrastructure.

## T20 WC: Brian Bennett's fifty guides Zimbabwe to 169/2 against Australia

Colombo: Riding on Brian Bennett's unbeaten 64-run knock, Zimbabwe posted 169/2 in 20 overs against Australia in their second match of the T20 World Cup 2026 played at the R. Premadasa Stadium on Friday.

Coming to bat after losing the toss, Zimbabwe were off to a good start as both the openers, Bennett and Tadiwanashe Marumani, dominated the Australian bowlers. The duo tackled the seam at the start of the innings with clean striking and forged a 61-run opening partnership. Zimbabwe were at 47 for no loss in the powerplay

against the 2021 champions.

Australia finally got the breakthrough in the 8th over when Marumani was sent to the pavilion by Marcus Stoinis. He scored 35 runs off just 21 balls and hammered seven fours during his stay at the crease.

Australia were not able to capitalise on the breakthrough as Brian Bennett continued to steer the innings with the help of Ryan Burl, who got out on the last ball of the 16th over after scoring 35 runs off 30 balls. Burl and

Bennett scored 70 runs together as they put pressure on the opposition during the middle overs. Bennett continued his attack and completed his fifty off 43 balls. He remained unbeaten on 64 off 56 balls. Bennett hit seven fours during his innings.

Australia's injury woes increased during the match as their all-rounder, Stoinis, was hit badly on the fingers while attempting to take a sharp catch off his own bowling during the 16th over. He was looking in pain and was taken off the field

after the injury.

Zimbabwe's skipper Sikandar Raza provided a late push as he scored 25 runs off just 13 balls, which included two fours and a six, to help the team post a competitive total against Australia.

Brief Scores: Zimbabwe 169/2 in 20 overs (Brian Bennett 64 not out, Ryan Burl 35, Tadiwanashe Marumani 35; Cameron Green 1-6, Marcus Stoinis 1- 17) against Australia

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## JSP city president Podili Baburao meets Municipal Commissioner

Anantapur: As per the instructions of Jana Sena Party Joint Anantapur District President and AHUDA Chairman TC Varun, M Jaswanth Rao, who took charge as the new Commissioner of Anantapur Municipal Corporation, paid a courtesy call on Jana Sena City President Podili Baburao on Thursday.

On this occasion, the Commissioner was felicitated with a shawl and presented with a bouquet and conveyed his best wishes.

City President Podili Baburao said that the Jana Sena Party always provides its full support to the municipal machinery in the development of the city, improvement of sanitation and resolution of public problems. Those who participated in this program were Hussain (City Chief Secretary), Seshadri (City Secretary), Pula Vijay (City Leaders).

## Triptii Dimri Praises Shahid Kapoor as 'Incredibly Hardworking' actor

Mumbai: Actress Triptii Dimri has heaped praise on her O'Romeo co-star Shahid Kapoor, calling him "incredibly hardworking" as the film hits theatres. The acknowledgment comes as part of a wider message of appreciation the actor shared on her Instagram account following the release of the much-anticipated thriller.

In her social media post, Triptii described her character Afshan as someone who embodies both fire and fragility, noting that the role pushed her creatively and challenged her in new ways. She credited director Vishal Bhardwaj for helping her

fully immerse herself in the character, adding that the film was born out of passion, heart and belief.

Regarding Shahid Kapoor, Triptii said the actor was not only dedicated but also supportive on set, making her experience sharing the screen with him "wonderful" and enriching. She also acknowledged her fellow cast members — including Avinash Tiwary, Vikrant Massey, Farida Jalal, Nana Patekar, Tamannaah Bhatia and Disha Patani — for their contributions to the film's ensemble effort.

Triptii said she believed that filmmaking is a collective effort — "it takes a village" —

and expressed pride in the team's dedication, encouraging audiences to watch O'Romeo and connect with her character's journey.

O'Romeo marks the fourth collaboration between Shahid Kapoor and director Vishal Bhardwaj, following acclaimed titles such as Kaminey, Haider and Rangoon. The film, which released in cinemas on Valentine's Week, has already generated buzz from industry figures and early viewers alike.



**Sandeepa Dhar says her 'Do Deewane Seher Mein' character taught her that comparison is thief of joy**



Mumbai: Actress Sandeepa Dhar, who is awaiting the release of her upcoming film 'Do Deewane Seher Mein', has shared that her character in the film changed her perspective towards life.

The actress took to her Instagram on Saturday, and shared a series of pictures from the film with actress Mrunal Thakur. She also penned a long note in which she spoke about how her character taught her that comparison is the thief of joy.

She wrote, "Look at your brother/sister, how well they", That sentence alone probably just triggered something in you. Who hasn't been compared like this at some point in their life? To their sibling, a cousin or even a friend? The Sharma ji ka beta meme did not appear out of nowhere. I had no idea what it was being the "favoured" one until I played a sister-sister dynamic that landed too close to home". She further mentioned, "In do deewane seher mein, Naina and Roshni go through this vicious cycle. Roshni is told she's not enough, while Naina is told she's too much. Playing Naina taught me that comparison is the thief of joy. Naina feels the pressure to maintain an impossibly high standard. Roshni feels like she will never measure up. It turns siblings into rivals. It makes love conditional. It creates wounds that take years to heal. Parents, teachers, relatives; they have no idea. A casual "be like your sister" at the dinner table becomes a voice in your head that never quite goes away. Growing up, were you Naina or Roshni?"

'Do Deewane Seher Mein' also stars Siddhant Chaturvedi and Ayesha Raza. The film, produced by Zee Studios, Bhansali Productions, Sanjay Leela Bhansali, Prerna Singh, Umesh Kumar Bansal and Bharat Kumar Ranga in association with Ravi Udyawar Films. The film is set to release on February 20, 2026. Sandeepa Dhar says her 'Do Deewane Seher Mein' character taught her that comparison is thief of joy

Directed and produced by Action King Arjun Sarja, Seetha Payanam is a soulful family drama that blends emotions, relationships, and traditional values into a beautiful cinematic journey. Marking the debut of his daughter Aishwarya Arjun and Niranjana (Upendra's nephew), the film released on February 14 and stands out as a meaningful, feel-good entertainer that celebrates love, family, and cultural roots

#### Story

Seetha, a young woman who loses her mother at a tender age, is raised by her loving father Rajendra Prasad, who becomes both parent and emotional anchor in her life. Their bond forms the emotional backbone of the film. Resistant to the idea of marriage, Seetha's life takes a turn when she travels from Vizag to Hyderabad for work and meets Abhi. This journey becomes more than just physical travel—it transforms her emotionally. Along the way, characters like Giri and Basavanna influence her path,

leading to self-discovery, gratitude, and emotional maturity. The story flows gently, focusing on relationships rather than twists, making the journey itself the soul of the film. Performances

Aishwarya Arjun delivers a natural, graceful performance, making Seetha feel like a girl-next-door with strong emotional depth. Niranjana is charming, calm, and relatable. Prakash Raj is dependable as ever, while Sathyaraj shines in a touching father role. Arjun Sarja's special appearance creates a powerful impact, and Dhruva Sarja's segment delivers a socially relevant message that connects strongly with audiences. Every actor fits their role perfectly.

#### Technicalities

Arjun Sarja's direction focuses on forgotten values—love, respect, marriage, gratitude, and family bonds. He avoids commercial gimmicks and instead delivers a clean, emotional narrative rooted in Indian cultural ethos. Music and background

score by Anup elevate emotions beautifully. Dialogues are more powerful than songs, touching hearts naturally. Editing, production design, and visuals are polished, with high production values throughout.

#### Analysis

Seetha Payanam is not about suspense or surprises—it's about emotions, relationships, and meaningful cinema. It's a soft, sincere, and heart-touching film that connects deeply with

family audiences. Arjun Sarja presents the film like a heartfelt gift to his daughter and to viewers who still believe in values-driven storytelling. A beautiful, emotional journey worth experiencing.

# Sailesh Kolanu steps into rom-com territory with 'Emo Emo Idi'



The announcement glimpse of Emo Emo Idi has struck an instant chord with audiences, setting the tone for a breezy, youthful romantic entertainer. The title itself evokes soft romantic vibes, while the teaser opens with a light-hearted, humorous conversation between a mother and son that playfully references Gen Z relationship terms and the chaos of modern-day marriages. The glimpse also introduces the female lead, shown listening to a classic old song, subtly establishing her emotional depth and romantic sensibility.

Marking a major shift in genre, direc-

tor Sailesh Kolanu, best known for creating the intense HIT Universe, makes his romantic comedy debut with this film. After delivering a series of gritty investigative thrillers, Kolanu now ventures into a refreshing, laid-back, and feel-good space, promising a film filled with laughter, warmth, and youthful energy.

The film stars Roshan Meka as Abhay, continuing his promising career after Pelli Sandadi and his recent success with Champion. He will be seen in a charming boy-next-door role navigating love in a Gen Z-driven world. Playing Apurva is

Preity Mukundhan, whose vibrant screen presence in the glimpse has already drawn attention.

Music is composed by Hesham Abdul Wahab, while cinematographer Vamsi Patchipulusu brings a breezy visual aesthetic to the film. Produced by Naga Vamsi S and Sai Soujanya under Sithara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas, and presented by Srikara Studios, the film is gearing up for a grand Dussehra 2026 release. Shooting begins soon, with more updates expected to follow.

## Seetha Payanam: A heart-warming journey of love, values and emotional bonds



# 'One hurdle crossed, on to the next stage,' says Shai Hope as Windies seal Super 8s spot

West Indies captain Shai Hope described his side's progression to the Super 8s as the first major objective achieved at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup after a commanding nine-wicket victory over Nepal at the Wankhede Stadium on Sunday.

Chasing 134, Hope anchored the innings with an unbeaten 60 off 42 balls as the West Indies cruised to 134/1 in just 15.2 overs, maintaining their unbeaten T20I record at the venue. Reflecting on the qualification, the skipper made it clear that the job is only partially complete.

"Very pleasing, this is what we set out to do from the time we got here. That's the one step, one hurdle that we crossed, now on to the next stage," Hope said during the presentation ceremony after the game.

The foundation for the win was laid by a disciplined bowling effort that restricted Nepal to 133/8 after they opted to bat on a damp surface. West Indies struck early through the new ball, reducing Nepal to 22/3 in the powerplay, before tightening the screws through the middle overs. Hope admitted that winning the toss played a significant role in shaping the contest, as he said, "Firstly I'm glad that I actually got the opportunity to decide what I wanted to do first. Yeah, the guys put the ball in the right areas. It's something that Matthew (Forde) has been doing very well, especially at the start of the innings and putting them under pressure for the entire time. It was difficult work for them in the powerplay and then throughout the innings, just



about trying to limit the flow of runs and keep picking up wickets. We didn't pick up as many wickets as we wanted in the back end, but very happy with the bowlers today."

He elaborated on why the toss carried greater importance, especially considering the conditions and his recent streak of misfortune, saying, "Like I said at the toss, the surface had a bit of moisture in it. I just felt that we could have exploited it a bit better rather than bowling second. It's something I've been struggling with, the last couple of series, I didn't win a toss. I don't think I've won a toss in the last six months, who knows. But yeah, it's just nice to get out there and actually decide what I wanted to do this time." While the bowlers, led by Jason Holder's 4/27, ensured Nepal's total remained below par despite Dipendra Singh Airee's fighting half-century, Hope's composure at the top ensured there were no alarms in the chase.

On his own contribution, the captain emphasised timing and impact over personal form. "Yes, again, good to contribute. I wouldn't say I was running out of form, but it's nice to contribute to wins. Yes, it's crunch time now, back into the group stages and then into the Super Eights. That's where you really want to be firing as a batter. So, happy to get some runs on the board," he stated.

A key figure in the bowling unit was Matthew Forde, whose probing spell in the powerplay helped set the tone. Hope was full of praise for the seamer's discipline and consistency.

"Yeah, you must give him credit. Credit always where it's due. He's been hitting his areas, making it very difficult for batters at the top of the innings. He's not express pace, but he makes it very difficult for them. He moves the ball just enough and that's what you need, especially in this

phase of the game where it doesn't really swing as much. He really exploited as much of that movement as he possibly can. Happy to see him going well and it's great to see the bowlers firing along with the batters. So, complete cricket for us this time," Hope said of Forde.

With one final group-stage fixture remaining, Hope indicated there would be no easing off as West Indies look to carry momentum forward.

"Just about continuing the brand of cricket we want to play and ensuring that we are hitting our straps. Focusing on the little details that we tend to neglect every now and again. Just about continuing the way we've been playing. We've been playing really good cricket with the last couple of games and series. We'll bring it together and hope we can carry it all the way through to the back end of the tournament."

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## Arundhati picks 4-22 as India beat Australia by 21 runs via DLS method

Seam-bowling all-rounder Arundhati Reddy picked her career-best figures of 4-22 as India claimed a 21-run victory over Australia via DLS method in the opening game of the multi-format series after rain curtailed play at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Sunday. Chasing 134, India raced to 50/1 in 5.1 overs before heavy showers forced the players to go off the field. With no resumption possible, the visitors were declared winners and take a 2-0 lead in the multi-format series. Arundhati's four-fer ensured India dismissed Australia for just 133 in 18 overs. Georgia Wareham top-scored with 30 off 19 balls, while Phoebe Litchfield (26) and Ellyse Perry (20) made promising starts but failed to convert them into big scores. Australia's innings faltered after a 41-run stand between Ellyse and Phoebe, before the hosts lost five wickets for 12 runs, leaving



India firmly in control of the match. Renuka Singh Thakur and Sree Charani took two wickets each, while Deepti Sharma and Kranti Gaud picked a scalp apiece. Openers Shafali Verma and Smriti Mandhana gave India a flying start in the chase by adding 50 runs in just over five overs. Though Shafali fell to Sophie Molineux's first ball as Australia's captain for 21 off 11 balls, India remained ahead on DLS calculations when rain intervened and eventually got the win.

The match marked Australia's first T20I under new Sophie, who was appointed to the role in January. The hosts made several changes, omitting vice-captain Tahlia McGrath, Megan Schutt and Grace Harris, while recalling Nicola Carey, who made a run-a-ball 12. Annabel Sutherland, fresh from winning the Belinda Clark Award again, was surprisingly demoted to number eight and managed to make only three runs before being stumped off Renuka. The teams will travel to Canberra for the second T20I to be played at the Manuka Oval on Thursday. Brief Scores: Australia 133 all out in 18 overs (Georgia Wareham 30, Phoebe Litchfield 26; Arundhati Reddy 4-22, Renuka Singh Thakur 2-14) lost to India 50/1 in 5.1 overs (Shafali Verma 21, Smriti Mandhana 16 not out) by 21 runs (via DLS method)

## 'Sarojini' trailer celebrates the legacy of Sarojini Naidu



The official trailer of the bilingual feature film Sarojini was launched on the occasion of National Women's Day, marking a significant moment in Indian cinema that celebrates the life and legacy of one of the nation's most iconic women leaders, Sarojini Naidu. Made simultaneously in Hindi and Telugu, the film chronicles the inspiring journey of the celebrated poet, freedom fighter, and India's first woman Governor.

The prestigious trailer launch event was graced by Venkatachary and Maine Satish, who jointly unveiled the trailer and addressed the gathering. The dignitaries stated that releasing the trailer on National Women's Day was a fitting tribute to Sarojini Naidu's enduring legacy and her contribution to the nation's freedom movement and women's empowerment.

The lead role is portrayed by Indira Tiwari, who received widespread acclaim for her powerful performance in Gangubai Kathiawadi. The film is directed by Vinay Chandra and produced by Hemanth Gowda, Charan Suvarna, and Ramesh Bhandari.

Speaking at the event, the chief guests described Sarojini as a powerful narrative of women empowerment and an emotionally resonant tribute to India's first woman Governor. They emphasised that the film deserves to be promoted in schools and educational institutions so that children can learn about the remarkable leaders who shaped India's history.

Several distinguished guests also praised the film's team for handling such a historically significant subject with sincerity, depth, and responsibility. They noted that the project reflects careful research and a strong commitment to authenticity.

With its focus on courage, leadership, and the indomitable spirit of Indian womanhood, Sarojini promises to be an inspiring cinematic tribute that connects history with the present generation through powerful storytelling and meaningful cinema.

## 6th SVK Memorial Basketball Tournament: Victory PG hold nerve to down Keystone in thriller

Victory Playgrounds held their composure in a tense finish to record a hard-fought 70-59 win over Keystone Basketball Academy in the 6th Samuel Vasanth Kumar Memorial Basketball Tournament conducted by Sports Writers Association of Telangana (SWAT) under the aegis of The Hyderabad District Basketball Association at YMCA Secunderabad on Thursday.

In a see-saw contest that remained undecided until the final six minutes, Victory PG led narrowly 30-28 at half-time. Balu and Vamshi gave them a flying start, scoring seven quick points. Keystone fought back through Chandu's three-pointer to trail 11-13 at the end of the first quarter.

After the break, Dhruv and Krishay struck from long range to level the scores at 38-38. Srinu and Mohan responded with crucial three-pointers as Victory PG moved ahead 48-44 at the end of the third quarter. Karan's eight consecutive points pushed Keystone ahead 52-51 with six minutes left. However, Victory PG tightened their man-to-man defence. A decisive three-pointer from Balu, coupled with quick under-basket conversions from Vamshi and Shloke, sealed the win. Earlier, Victory PG thrashed Rahimpura Playground 56-22.

results  
Victory Playground 70 (Balu-21; Shloke-18; Vamshi-11; Mohan-10) bt Keystone Basketball Academy 59 (Chandu-17; Krishay-15; Karan-11; Dhruv-9) Half Time: 30 - 28.  
Victory Playground 56 (Srinu-12; Shloke-11; Vamshi-9; Yash-8) bt Rahimpura Playground 22 (Rohit-6; Ashwin-4; Ravi-4)