



Pawan Kalyan launches Jana Sena membership drive



Mangalagiri: The Jana Sena Party formally launched its fifth phase of active membership enrolment on Sunday, with party president and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan enrolling as the first member at the party's central office in Mangalagiri on the occasion of Maha Shivaratri. Marking the launch, Pawan Kalyan donated Rs 2 crore towards an insurance fund for party workers. The cheque was handed over to Political Affairs Committee Chairman and Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar. The state-wide membership drive will commence from February 26, while it will begin a week earlier in Pithapuram constituency. The party has introduced new designations for members. Those, who formally enroll will be called 'Udyami', signifying committed grassroots activists. Volunteers, who coordinate and mobilise members will be recognised as 'Sadhak', while supporters contributing financial, intellectual, or service assistance without seeking posts will be honoured as 'Pradata'. Addressing party leaders and cadre, Pawan Kalyan stressed the need for value-based and committed leadership. "We do not need hundreds or thousands; even ten individuals, who can inspire lakhs of minds can bring change," he said, adding that Jana Sena's ideology is suited for 21st century and rooted in constitutional and democratic values beyond caste or religious considerations. Highlighting the party's growth, Nadendla Manohar said membership numbers rose from 90,000 in 2020 to nearly 13 lakh after the elections. He urged cadres to treat the membership drive as a pathway to leadership and expand the party's presence at the grassroots level. Senior leaders and key functionaries attended the launch event.

Bill Gates visits Real Time Governance Society Centre at Andhra Secretariat

Amaravati: Gates Foundation Chairman Bill Gates on Monday visited Real Time Governance Society (RTGS) Centre at Andhra Pradesh Secretariat here to view utilisation of technology in governance. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu explained to him how faster civic services are being provided and the results being achieved through Real Time Governance. Bill Gates enquired about the functioning and progress of Data Lake, Aware 2.0, WhatsApp Governance, Sanjeevani project and Amaravati projects. He also witnessed presentations on the display walls in the RTGS during which CM Naidu apprised him of the fact that all government wings are interconnected with Data Lake. According to the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), Bill Gates appreciated the efforts being made to simplify citizen services through Data Lake and WhatsApp governance. The Chief Minister also informed him that Real Time information is being gathered through Aware 2.0 following which decisions are being taken expeditiously. Bill Gates examined the



way the state government is gathering public opinion on the implementation of various schemes and policies. The Chief Minister told Gates that the growth of the GSDP is being assessed regularly through Key Performance Indicators. When Bill Gates asked about the steps being taken for the safety and security of property records, the officials informed him that land records are being preserved with the help of Block Chain Technology and similarly steps are being taken to ensure transparency with policies such as QR Codes for land records. While Bill Gates termed the tax collection system as amazing, Chandrababu

Naidu informed him that the tax collection in the country has increased significantly with the GST system. Bill Gates enquired about the implementation of the Sanjeevani project, which is being run in Chittoor district with the support of the Gates Foundation and also asked how the details of tests like blood pressure and diabetes are being recorded. He expressed satisfaction over the functioning of the Sanjeevani project at Kuppam. The officials explained that they are providing advice to the patients on their lifestyle and diet, based on their digital health records. CM Naidu said that they are planning to take further steps to improve public

health services by using AI. Bill Gates praised the effort and termed it as 'Great'. He felt that if diagnostic services are made available at a lower cost, it will further help the poor. Bill Gates also enquired about the progress of the ongoing construction works in the state capital of Amaravati and appreciated 30 per cent green and blue plan. CM Naidu explained in detail the ongoing construction works in the capital. Earlier, CM Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, and ministers welcomed Bill Gates and his delegation on arrival at the Secretariat. The Chief Minister introduced the ministers to Bill Gates

Reduced funding for SV University raises alarm

Tirupati: Allocations for higher education in the latest State Budget have drawn concern from academic circles, as the funds provided are seen as too small to support development or expansion activities. Funding for Sri Venkateswara University has been reduced compared to last year, while other institutions also did not get more funds.



Sri Venkateswara University has received Rs 226.38 crore in the new Budget, which is lower than last year's allocation of Rs 244.83 crore. Similarly, Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam has been allotted Rs 57.33 crore, the same as the previous year, with no additional funds for new initiatives. The allocation for Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University has also been reduced from Rs 179.3 crore last year to Rs 166.14 crore this time. Dravidian University in Kuppam also got reduced allocations of Rs 20.88 cr compared to Rs 24.78 cr in the previous year. The Indian Institute of Handloom Technology in Venkatagiri has seen only a marginal increase, with its allocation rising from Rs 1.16 crore to Rs 1.26 crore. Meanwhile, International Institute of Digital Technologies near Tirupati airport has been given

Rs 24.78 lakh mainly towards support grants and outsourcing staff salaries. Experts say such modest allocations will make it difficult for universities to expand infrastructure, recruit faculty or improve academic standards, which have already been under strain for many years. The reduced allocations for SV University, one of the oldest and reputed institutions in the State have surprised the University circles. A Professor commented that the institutions are facing a severe shortage of teaching staff, as there has been almost no recruitment for nearly two decades. This has significantly affected research activity, while student enrolment has also been declining steadily year after year, with some departments now recording either single-digit admissions or none at all.

Maha Shivaratri Brahmotsavams held amid grandeur

Srisaillam: The ongoing Mahashivaratri Brahmotsavams at Srisaillam Temple reached a significant spiritual peak on Sunday, marking the eighth day of the eleven-day celebrations observed with Navahnika Deeksha. On the auspicious occasion of Mahashivaratri, special rituals and elaborate worship were performed for Lord Mallikarjuna Swamy and Goddess Bhramaramba Devi in accordance with Agama Shastra traditions. The day commenced with special pujas, followed by Chandeeshwara Swamy worship in the Yagasala and collective chanting of mantras and parayanas for universal well-being. A series of sacred rituals including Mandapara dhana s, Panchavarana Archana, Shiva Panchakshari chanting, Nitya Homas, Rudra Homa and Chandi Homa were conducted throughout the day. Evening Pradosha Kala pujas, japams, Rudra Parayanas and homas added to the spiritual fervour. The procession was accompanied by a rich display of traditional and folk art forms



such as Nadaswaram, Kolatam, Chakka Bhajana, Kerala Chandi Melam, Veerabhadra Dolu Kunita, Mumbai Dhol Tasha, tribal Kolenchu dances and several other cultural performances, captivating devotees and visitors alike. Earlier in the day, Nandi Vahana Seva was performed as part of the Vahana Sevams associated with the Brahmotsavams, followed by the temple utsavam. Later, at midnight, the celestial

Kalyanotsavam of Swamy and Ammavaru was conducted at the Akkamahadevi Alankara Mandapam with Vedic chants, mangala vadyams and elaborate rituals, symbolising divine union and invoking blessings for global peace and prosperity. The temple authorities of Srisaillam organizing Prabhotsavam on the occasion of Maha Shivaratri Bhramotsavams on Sunday

DRM SAFETY AWARDS PRESENTED TO VIGILANT RAILWAY STAFF FOR EXEMPLARY SAFETY CONSCIOUS ACTIONS

In recognition of exceptional alertness and dedication towards ensuring safe train operations, Divisional Railway Manager, Waltair Division of East Coast Railway, Shri Lalit Bohra conferred DRM Safety Awards on railway employees whose timely actions averted potential mishaps and enhanced operational safety.

Congratulating the awardees, DRM appreciated their presence of mind, prompt response, and strict adherence to safety protocols, stating that such committed efforts form the backbone of Indian Railways' strong safety culture. ADRM Infra Shri E Santharam and ADRM Operations Shri K Rama Rao were also present during the award function.

The following employees were honoured for their commendable safety-related actions:

Shri Mahanti Appala Naidu, Track Maintainer -III, Garudibelli detected a hot axle on a goods train while passing Level Crossing gate RV-336 and promptly informed the Station Superintendent, leading to timely detention of the train at Garudabelli.



Shri Bora Swamayya Reddy, Track Maintainer - Marshalling Yard, noticed a rail crack at Point No. 201B, immediately protected the site on both sides and informed the concerned Higher authorities to avoid untoward incident.

Shri K. Madhusudhana Rao, Track Maintainer, Marshalling

Yard detected a rail crack on the check rail at Points & Crossings in Dispatch Yard and ensured protection of the track with immediate intimation to officials.

Shri Shashi Kant Roy, Track Maintainer, Dantewada observed a rail fracture while working at Km 309 and promptly protected the track and informed station and engineering officials.

Shri T. Subrahmanyam, Loco Pilot Goods, Simhachalam North, while working a coal train, noticed continuous sparks from a wagon during look-back, stopped the train, identified wagon infringement, and ensured safe detachment and placement in the Hot Axle Siding.

Shri Ras Bihari Kumar, Loco Pilot Goods, Bacheli, detected a truck unloading sand/soil on the track ahead on a curved section, applied emergency braking and minimized damage, thereby preventing a major accident.

Shri Subrata Nath, Loco Pilot Goods, Rayagada, during quick inspection at Rauli Yard, detected a hot axle in Wheel No. 6 of a loco and ensured timely action.

Shri Gorle Srinivasa Rao, Senior Train Manager Goods, Simhachalam North observed a broken DV supporting bracket of a wagon and ensured immediate rectification with Carriage & Wagon staff.

Shri G. Parasu Ramaiah, Track Manager Goods, Vijayawada detected brake failure in the rear Second Class Luggage coach of Visakha Express upon arrival at the platform and facilitated immediate rectification.

Shri N. Srinivasa Rao, Technician, Carriage & Wagon /Rayagada during rolling examination, noticed a broken CBC yoke in a wagon, marked it sick and ensured its detachment from the train.

“Sri Eshwara Jewellery” 1 Gram Gold Shop Grand Opening in Medipally...



Medipalli, 16 February (Metro Udayam)

1 Gram Gold Shop named “Sri Eshwara Jewellery” was grandly inaugurated today near Yellamma Temple, P&T Colony Park, Medipally. The shop, set up at Warangal Highway Pillar No. 96, Road No. 1, was inaugurated by local dignitaries. Speaking on the occasion, the organizers said that their goal is to provide 1 gram gold jewellery at low prices and available at all times to the women of Medipally and Boduppal areas. They said that they will work hard to gain the trust of the consumers with affordable prices and quality products. Prominent figures attended the inauguration ceremony and congratulated the shop owners. Especially former PMC Women Congress President Srilatha Badru Nayak, Dr. Drathret Sanjeev Chauhan, Moodavat Pandu Nayak, D. Bikshapati Nayak and others participated and expressed their best wishes. Local people and women attended in large numbers and welcomed the opening of the new shop. They said that they were happy that regional women were getting jewellery at low prices through this shop.

Annadanam is greater than all donations :

-It is a great thing to organize an Annadanam program on the occasion of the birthday of his policyholders :

Chikkadapally, February 16 metro Udayam : It is a great thing that Kautike Vitthal, Chief Life Insurance Advisor of the Life Insurance Corporation of India, shows respect for his policyholders and organizes an Annadanam program on their birthdays, said Shankar, Development Officer, LIC Hyderabad Division City Branch 16. RS Brothers, South India Shopping Mall owner Sirna Suvarna's birthday was celebrated and a food distribution program was organized for 100 0 people at Basavatarakam Cancer Hospital in the city under the auspices of Kautike Vitthal. Kautike Vitthal along with his family members felicitated Sirna Suvarna with a shawl and wished her a happy birthday. On this occasion, they had a ribbon cutting and cake cutting ceremony and started the lunch program. Shankar, who participated as the chief guest in the program, said that this is the first time in history that a Development Officer, Chief Life Insurance Advisor or Agent serving in a life insurance company is celebrating the birthdays of his policyholders by feeding thousands of people in this way. These days, we see many people living half-starved, but Kautike Vitthal is organizing this program with a good intention. It is a great privilege to have fed thousands of people so far. May God continue this program and grant them full health and wealth. Speaking on the occasion, Kautike Vitthal said that he is happy to organize the birthday



Na Anna Danam program with the aim of making his policyholders live 100 years. South India Shopping Mall owner Sirna Rajamouli's only son Sirna Suresh actively participated in this program and expressed his happiness by participating in the

cake cutting and ribbon cutting. Lawyer Ravi Gupta, Kautike Vitthal's wife Kavya, son Kautike Aditya and others participated in this program and made the program a success.

Fruit Distribution Programme Held at Local Temple



Hyderabad, metro udayam February 16: A fruit distribution programme was organized at a local temple premises as part of a community service initiative.

The event was organised by Gundeli Madhukar, who took the lead in coordinating the programme. Ginkala Mallesh attended the event as the Chief Guest and generously sponsored the fruits for distribution.

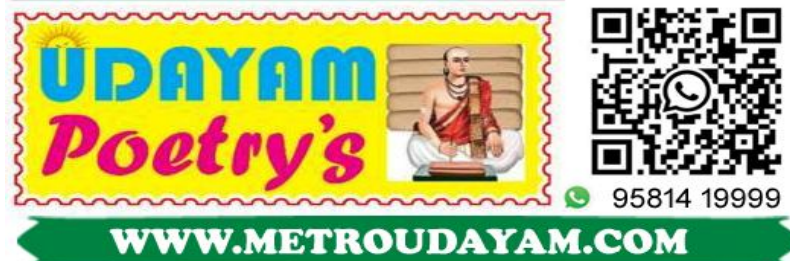
Members of the Temple Committee, including P. Venugopal reddy, B. Sai, Arun, and Rakesh, actively participated in the programme and extended their support to ensure its smooth conduct. Fruits were distributed among devotees and local residents, reflecting the spirit of service and community harmony. The organisers expressed gratitude to all contributors and volunteers for making the initiative a success.

SC declines petitions against Assam CM, asks petitioners to approach Gauhati HC



New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday declined to entertain petitions seeking action against Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma over his alleged remarks targeting Muslims and a now-deleted controversial video purportedly showing him targeting members of a particular community. Asking the petitioners to approach the Gauhati High Court, a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant observed that the issues raised could be "effectively adjudicated" by the jurisdictional High Court and cautioned against the growing trend of directly invoking Article 32 of the Constitution before the apex court.

"All these issues can be effectively adjudicated by the jurisdictional High Court. We see no reason to entertain this here, and thus we relegate the petitioners to the jurisdictional High Court. We request the High Court Chief Justice to prioritise the hearing since the counsel have cited urgency in the matter," ordered the Bench, also comprising Justices Joymalya agchi and Vipul Pancholi. Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for the petitioners seeking registration of an FIR and a Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe against CM Sarma for alleged hate speech, argued that the Chief Minister, as a constitutional functionary, had violated his oath of office. He further submitted that CM Sarma had made objectionable statements not only in Assam but also in Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh, thereby warranting the Supreme Court's intervention. "If the constitutional and social fabric of this country is threatened, shouldn't Article 32 be invoked? He is brazenly speaking against one entire community," Singhvi submitted, describing CM Sarma as a "habitual offender". However, the CJI Kant-led Bench expressed strong disapproval of attempts to bypass the High Courts. "You have not even gone to the High Court. In our anxiety to invoke one jurisdiction, we cannot undermine the jurisdiction of another. This court cannot become a playground for all this," it observed. "Don't undermine the authority of the High Courts. It has become a trend now that every matter lands in the Supreme Court. Don't demoralise the High Court judges," the apex court said, adding that there appeared to be a "very calculated move to undermine High Courts".



संकट समय में जो धैर्य रखता है और प्रार्थना करके ईश्वर से सहायता चाहता है उसे जरूर ईश्वर की सहायता प्राप्त होती है।... (शकील उवाच -६१९)

हम अक्सर सुनते हैं के एकता में बल है। यह मात्र कहावत नहीं है बल्कि वास्तव है, जो समाज आपस में लड़ते झगड़ते रहता है और जुल्म के खिलाफ एक नहीं होता वह कभी कामयाब नहीं होता। आज समाज में जुल्मो सितम (अन्याय और अत्याचार) करने का अत्याचारी स्वभाव इसलिए बढ़ रहा है के इसका विरोध समाज में जैसे होना चाहिए वैसे नहीं हो पा रहा है। जुल्म (अत्याचार) के विरोध में समाज आपस के मतभेदों के कारण एकत्रित सक्रिय नहीं होता। सत्य के लिये हमें एकता और सब्र (धैर्य) का साथ कभी नहीं



छोड़ना चाहिए।

पवित्र कुरआन में आया है के, "और अल्लाह (ईश्वर) और उसके रसूल (पैगंबर साहब मोहम्मद स्व.) की आज्ञा मानो और आपस में न झगड़ो, अन्यथा हिम्मत हार बैठोगे और तुम्हारी शक्ति नष्ट हो जाएगी। और सब्र (धैर्य) से काम लो। निश्चय ही, अल्लाह सब्र करनेवालों (ईश्वर धैर्यवानों) के साथ है।" (पवित्र कुरआन, अध्याय क्रमांक 08, सूरह अल अनफाल, आयत क्रमांक 46)। यह उपरोक्त आयत एकता की आवश्यकता को और सब्र (धैर्य, संयम) के बल को दर्शाने के लिये पर्याप्त है।

जो धैर्य, सहनशीलता, दृढ़ता और लगन के साथ ईश्वर पर भरोसा करता है उसके लिये जीवन में आने वाले संकट का प्रभाव बहुत ही कम यानी नाममात्र रह जाता है। और जो अल्लाह (ईश्वर) पर भरोसा करता है वह अच्छी तरह समझ जाता है के भले ही कुछ तकलीफ, कुछ नुकसान अभी हो रहा हो लेकिन इस कष्ट को सहना और सब्र (धैर्य, सहनशीलता) से काम लेना बेकार जाने वाला नहीं है। इसका प्रतिफल ईश्वर हमें जरूर जरूर बेहतरीन तरीके से देने वाला है। कष्टों में सब्र (धैर्य) से काम लेने को लोग इसे भले ही कमजोरी समझे लेकिन इससे बड़ी बहादुरी कोई और हो ही नहीं सकती।

जो लोग मुश्किलों में सब्र करते हैं। संकट समय में धैर्य से काम लेते हैं और साहस के साथ संयम बरतते हैं उनके लिए सुष्टिकर्ता पालनहार परमात्मा की ओर से अनगिनत अच्छे प्रतिफल जरूर मिलेंगे। पवित्र कुरआन में आया है के, "निःसंदेह जो तुम्हारे लिए अखेरत (परलोक) दुनिया से बेहतर है।" (पवित्र कुरआन, अध्याय क्रमांक 93, आयत क्रमांक 04)। "और तुम्हारा रब (पालनहार) तुम्हें अनकरीब (शीघ्र ही) इस कदर अता करेगा (इतनी प्रचुरता से देगा) कि तुम खुश (प्रसन्न) हो जाओ।" (पवित्र कुरआन, अध्याय क्रमांक 93, आयत क्रमांक 05)।

सांसारिक जिम्मेदारियों और जीवन में आने वाले चुनौतियों का सामना करने के लिए आदमी का मानसिक तौर पर मजबूत होना जरूरी होता है। और मानसिक बल के साथ साथ आत्मिक, आध्यात्मिक बल भी जरूरी है। यह दोनों बल हमारे अपने इरादे और सोच पर आधारित होते हैं। लेकिन सब्र (धैर्य) आदमी की अपनी तौफीक (क्षमता) के साथ साथ खुदा की मदद (ईश्वर के सहायता) के बगैर प्राप्त नहीं हो सकता। यही बात पवित्र कुरआन में भी कही है।

पवित्र कुरआन में आया है के, "और (ऐ पैगम्बर साहब स्व.) तुम सब्र ही करो और तुम्हारा सब्र (ईश्वर के) सामर्थ्य के बगैर तो हो ही नहीं सकता और उन (अवज्ञाकारियों) पर रंज न करो और जो मक्कारियों ये लोग करते हैं, उनसे तंगदिल (उदास) न हो।" (पवित्र कुरआन, अध्याय क्रमांक 16, सूरह अन नहल आयत क्रमांक 127)। उपरोक्त आयत में हताश न होने, संकट के समय धैर्य रखने कहा गया है। और अवज्ञाकारियों के कुटिल करतूतों से निराश व परेशान न होकर धैर्य के साथ अडिग रहने से खुदा की सहायता प्राप्त होने की बात कही है।

अब सवाल यह उठता है के सब्र याने धैर्य परमात्मा की सहायता के बगैर प्राप्त नहीं होती तो ईश्वर से यह सहायता प्राप्त करने का मार्ग क्या है? पवित्र कुरआन में आया है के, "ऐ ईमान वालों! सब्र (धैर्य) और नमाज़ (प्रार्थना) के जरिए (माध्यम) से (अल्लाह की) मदद माँगो। बेशक अल्लाह सब्र करने वालों के साथ है।" (पवित्र कुरआन, अध्याय क्रमांक 02, सूरह अल बकरा, आयत क्रमांक 153)। याने संकट समय में जो धैर्य रखता है और प्रार्थना करके ईश्वर से सहायता चाहता है उसे जरूर ईश्वर की सहायता प्राप्त होती है, क्योंकि सब्र करने वालों के साथ स्वयं ईश्वर होता है।

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

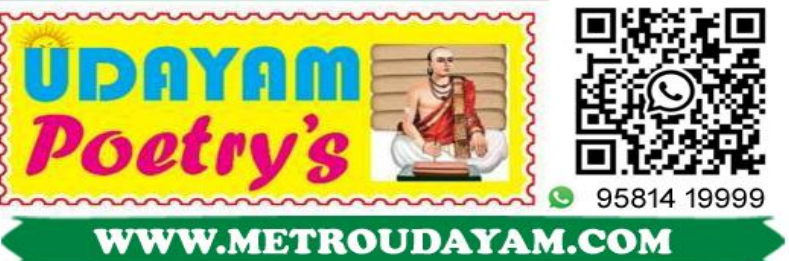
When Singhvi suggested that the petitioners be permitted to approach a High Court other than the one in Assam, the CJI Kant-led Bench termed the submission "very unfortunate" and said, "We outrightly reject this."

"Please go through the channel, trust the High Court and let them decide. We are absolutely confident that the High Court will deal with the matter in accordance with the principles," it said.

The controversy relates to a video allegedly shared by the Assam BJP's official social media handle, which was later deleted, depicting the Chief Minister armed with a firearm and accompanied by phrases such as "Point blank shot" and "No Mercy".

The matter has also sparked political reactions. AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi had earlier lodged a complaint with the Hyderabad Police Commissioner seeking criminal action against CM Sarma, alleging that the video promoted enmity between religious communities.

Responding to the complaint, CM Sarma had said he was prepared to face arrest. "I am ready to go to jail. What can I do? I do not know anything about any video. If he has filed a case against me, arrest me. What objection do I have?" he had told reporters in Dibrugarh.



ENDLESS DESIRES!

When desire ends?
No answer with me!
Have you any?
Cent percent no!
Since desires are endless!



Birth itself parents' desire!
Well brought up too their wish!
Good education desire of both!
Grown up suitable job desire!
Desire of earning starts!

Good looking girl wedding desire!
Children birth another desire!
Own house, saving money another aspire!
Wish of family welfare endless desire!
Maintenance of social status too a desire!

Desire is a non stop wheel!
Down to up and up to down!
Restless cycling process!
As far as my knowledge goes,
as explained by well versed Say!
Till the last breath wheel of desires
always in momentam only!
HENCE DESIRES ARE ENDLESS!

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

AI Impact Summit 2026 puts India on global AI map: Raghav Chadha



New Delhi: The AI Impact Summit 2026 has placed India firmly on the global map in shaping discussions around artificial intelligence and technology governance, Aam Aadmi Party MP Raghav Chadha said on Monday. In his address at the summit here, Chadha said India is increasingly being seen as an important voice in global debates on how artificial intelligence should be governed, developed, and used in the public interest. "Artificial intelligence is no longer just a technology issue but a strategic one," he underlined. Countries that have strong computing power and infrastructure are likely to dominate the world in the coming years, he said. "Processing capacity and digital infrastructure will decide which nations lead in the AI era," Chadha stated. He also pointed to what he described as three global monopolies in artificial intelligence.

"Control over AI design rests with a handful of companies, manufacturing is concentrated in limited regions, and exports are restricted through policies such as those imposed by the United States," Chadha said. "While India does not yet control these three pillars, the country has a major strength in human capital," he added. Emphasising India's talent pool, Chadha noted that the world is increasingly looking towards India for AI professionals and skilled manpower. However, he cautioned that talent alone is not enough. "Talent without compute is aspiration," he said, stressing that India must ensure access to high-end computing resources, diversify supply chains, and build strong domestic infrastructure to truly compete on the global stage. Drawing a historical comparison, Chadha said that just as oil, gas, and steel defined global power in the 20th century, artificial intelligence and semiconductor manufacturing will shape geopolitical influence in the 21st century. He added that India must act decisively to secure its place in this new global order. Earlier in the day, Chadha shared his views on X, saying he was excited to speak at the AI Impact Summit 2026 at Bharat Mandapam. "This is a defining moment for how we shape AI in the public interest. It will influence how we govern, build, and protect citizens in the years ahead," the Rajya Sabha member said.

Pallavi M Awarded PhD by Annamalai University



Hyderabad, metro udayam February 16: Pallavi M has been awarded the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree by Annamalai University, one of Tamil Nadu's reputed higher educational institutions. Belonging to the Faculty of Arts, she completed her doctoral research in the Department of Business Administration with distinction. Her thesis, titled "Customer Intention to Buy Apparel in Shopping Malls, Telangana," presents a comprehensive study on consumer purchase intentions in shopping malls across Telangana State. After a thorough evaluation by the panel of examiners, her research work was approved, and the PhD degree was formally conferred in April. She received the degree from the Governor of Tamil Nadu, R. N. Ravi. Academicians opined that her research, which analyzes consumer behaviour in apparel purchases within Telangana's shopping malls, would be beneficial to the business and retail sectors. Family members, friends, and faculty have congratulated Pallavi M on her academic achievement.

Martial Arts Contribute to Self-Defense:

- DSR Life Sciences Chairman D. Sudarshan Reddy



Chikkadapally, February 16 Metro udayam : DSR Life Sciences Chairman D. Sudarshan Reddy said that martial arts contribute to self-defense. Speaking as the chief guest at the belt ceremony of students under the auspices of Unique Taekwondo Academy, he said that martial arts not only help in physical strength, but also in discipline and self-confidence. The academy management thanked D. Sudarshan Reddy and his son Tarun Reddy for always being at the forefront in promoting sports and Sudarshan's continuous support is a great inspiration to them. In the program held under the supervision of Master Moin, the students showed amazing performance under the training of Master Imran and Master Aman and received praise.

287th birth anniversary celebrations of Sant Sri Sewalal Maharaj at Mini Tank Bund, Hyderabad....

Uppal, 16 February (Metro udayam)

The 287th birth anniversary celebrations of Sant Sri Sadguru Sewalal Maharaj, the revered deity of Banjara/Lambadas and the pride of the country, were celebrated with great devotion at Mini Tank Bund near Ramantapur Warangal National Highway in Hyderabad city. Regional leaders, social workers and devotees attended this program organized under Habsiguda Division in large numbers. Padma Shri Ketawat Somlal was the chief guest of these birth anniversary celebrations and performed special pujas. Along with him, D.D. Tarachand Nayak, Railway Ramulu Nayak, Lambadi Aikya Vedika State Secretary Malu Nayak, BJP State Publicity Cell Convener B.P. Nayak,



Habsiguda division BJP leaders Kanavat Raju Nayak, Prithvi Nayak, Dhanavat Ramu Nayak, Tejavat Suresh Nayak, Dhanavat Lingam Nayak, Vinod Nayak, Venkat Nayak, Ravi Nayak and

others participated. After paying floral tributes to the portrait of Sevalal Maharaj and performing special pujas, the dignitaries praised his community services, spiritual teachings and contribution

to the development of the Banjara community. They said that the path he showed towards unity, service spirit and protection of Dharma in the society is an ideal for today's generation.

Newly elected Karimnagar Mayor Kolagani Srinivas's biography

Karimnagar: Kolagani Srinivas, 37, who has recently assumed office as Mayor of the Karimnagar Municipal Corporation, brings with him a long association with social service and grassroots politics. Born in June 1989 in the Theegalaguttapalli village of Karimnagar district, Srinivas holds postgraduate degrees in MBA and MSW. He has been associated with the (RSS) since his childhood and actively participated in its shakhas, completing his primary training in 2013. Inspired by the teachings of Swami Vivekananda, Srinivas involved himself in a range of service activities from a young age. Through platforms such as the (NSS), (NYP) and, he participated in youth development, community outreach and environmental protection programmes. He has



donated blood on 15 occasions. During his student years, he was active in campus and youth politics. Between 2005 and 2007, he worked with the (ABVP), taking up student-related issues. From 2007 to 2009, he was associated with the (BJYM) and participated in youth mobilisation programmes. Srinivas served as an NSS volunteer from 2007 to 2009 and was adjudged Best Volunteer by in 2010. In 2009, he attended the

National Integration and Peace Camp held in Assam. He also took part in several national-level camps conducted in Lakshadweep, Bengaluru, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Haryana and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Between 2009 and 2013, he was associated with Ekta Parishad and worked on issues concerning tribal rights. In recognition of his services, he received the Bhai Ji Seva Puraskar from NYP in 2005 and the

NSS Best Volunteer Award in 2010. In 2021, for his services during the Covid-19 pandemic, he was presented the 'Rakshak Award' by Union Minister. In his political career, Srinivas served as BJP Mandal General Secretary from 2014 to 2019. He was elected as Corporator of the 1st Division in the from 2020 to 2025. He also served as district convener for the Covid vaccination drive in 2021, Karimnagar Town-1 Convener between 2023 and 2024, State General Secretary of NIFFA in 2024, and in-charge of the Choppadandi Mandal Sarpanch elections in 2025. In the recent municipal elections, he was elected as Corporator from the 2nd Division of the Karimnagar Municipal Corporation and has now taken charge as Mayor.

Union Bank Trust donates 40-seater bus to Satavahana University

Karimnagar: In a significant boost to campus infrastructure, the Union Social Foundation Trust, the CSR arm of Union Bank of India, donated a 40-seater bus to Satavahana University on Sunday, aiming to enhance transportation facilities for students and staff. The initiative was undertaken at the instance of Vice-Chancellor Prof. Umesh Kumar, with the Karimnagar Regional Office of Union Bank set to oversee its implementation. The addition of the new bus is expected to address long-standing commuting challenges within the sprawling university campus. Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-Chancellor stated that the bus would significantly strengthen transport arrangements, particularly benefiting girl students residing



in hostels. He observed that many hostel residents faced difficulties commuting between colleges on campus during the rainy and summer seasons. The new facility, he said, would help alleviate these hardships and ensure safer and more comfortable travel. Prof. Umesh Kumar further highlighted that

the number of girls enrolling for higher education at the university had been steadily rising each year. He reaffirmed the administration's commitment to providing improved amenities and a supportive academic environment to meet their growing needs. On behalf of the university, the Vice-Chancellor expressed gratitude to Ravindra Babu, Chief General Manager of the Union Social Foundation Trust, Deputy Manager Aparna Reddy, Assistant Regional Officers Suresh and Radhakrishna, and Satish Shukla, Branch Manager of the Vavilalapally branch of Union Bank, for their valuable support in facilitating the initiative. University Registrar Prof. Satish Kumar, OSD to the Vice-Chancellor Dr D. Harikanth, Controller of Examinations Dr Suresh Kumar, Arts and Law College

Principal Dr Padmavathi, Science College Principal Dr Ramakanth, Chief Warden Najimuddin Munawar, along with faculty members, staff and students, were present at the programme. Students welcomed the new bus facility, stating that it would substantially ease commuting challenges, particularly for hostel residents. Speaking to The Hans India, Akshitha, a second-year Sociology student, said the bus would support students during annual field visits undertaken as part of their project work, reducing dependence on auto-rickshaws. Bejjarapu Shivani, a second-year Chemistry student, said hostel girls often struggled to attend laboratory sessions during the rainy season, frequently walking in the rain after lunch.

Jagtial Congress rift ends after high command intervention

Hyderabad: The internal differences that had stirred Jagtial Congress politics over the past few days have finally been resolved. AICC Secretary Sachin Sawant stepped in, and his discussions with leaders of both factions proved successful. This seems to have brought the Jagtial episode to an end.

AICC Secretary Sawant held talks with MLA Sanjay Kumar and former minister Jeevan Reddy separately and later together. He gently warned that bringing internal party matters to the streets would create confusion in the cadre.

Sawant made it clear that discipline is important and that both the leaders should abide by the final decision taken by the party. He suggested that the leaders should show unity and work together for the upcoming elections and strengthening the party.

The most crucial decision taken at the meeting per-



tained to the allocation of posts. The Congress high command has decided to entrust key positions, such as Municipal Chairman, to dedicated party workers and senior leaders who have long served the party and upheld its flag. This decision is seen as a relief to the Jeevan Reddy faction.

As Jeevan Reddy had maintained from the outset, it is reported that the AICC has taken into consideration his suggestion to give priority to

those who have remained loyal to the party. It is learnt that Sanjay Kumar has also agreed to make adjustments in the larger interests of the party.

With this meeting, the uncertainty that had gripped the Jagtial Congress has been cleared. Party workers are heaving a sigh of relief as both leaders have assured that they will work together. By deciding to prioritise loyalty in the allocation of posts, the Congress

high command is seeking to infuse fresh enthusiasm into the party cadre.

Jeevan Reddy met the AICC secretary along with councillors from his faction at Hyderabad's Praja Bhavan on Sunday morning. It is learnt that the Congress high command placed two proposals before the Jagtial leaders.

According to sources, one proposal suggested that the chairman's post be allotted to Sanjay's faction, while the vice-chairman's post go to Jeevan's camp. The second proposal reportedly suggested that both factions share the chairman's post for two and a half years each.

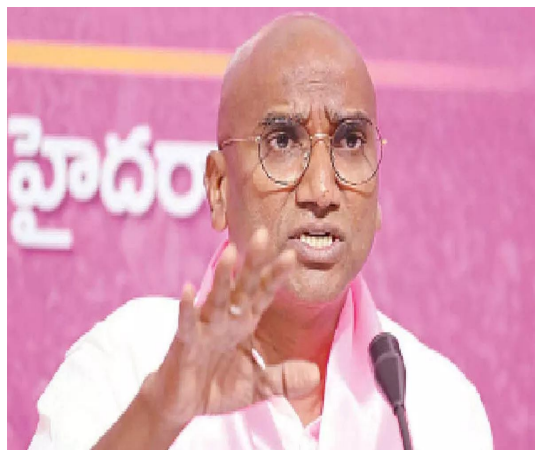
On the occasion, Jeevan Reddy insisted that the chairman's seat should be given only to those who have steadfastly carried the Congress flag. He requested that a final decision be taken after consulting members of his faction.

BRS alleges 'anarchy' in municipal polls

Hyderabad: BRS leaders on Sunday alleged that the Congress party adopted a state of anarchy to secure victory in the local bodies. Addressing a press conference alongside party leaders Palle Ravi and Sandeep, BRS General Secretary RS Praveen Kumar noted that while Congress held only four municipalities in 2020, the BRS has secured over 30 per cent of the total votes this time.

Hyderabad Travel Guide He criticised the haste of the municipal elections, which were concluded within a week, leaving no time for proper candidate selection. He further alleged that candidates intending to file nominations were kidnapped to prevent participation.

Specific incidents of misconduct were highlighted, including allegations that Congress leader Jagga Reddy in Sangareddy and MP Dharmapuri Arvind in Nizamabad intimidated police personnel. In Sangareddy, Jagga Reddy allegedly entered ward 34 with rowdy sheeters, pushed officers



aside, and abused seasoned home guards and Circle Inspector Shivakumar Yadav, a presidential award recipient. The Election Commission subsequently registered a case against Jagga Reddy. Furthermore, Praveen Kumar claimed there was an attempt to kill a CPM worker in Miryalaguda. Despite these challenges, the BRS won 788 wards. The BRS leader alleged that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy used massive

financial resources to secure 51 per cent of the wards, contrasting this with the 110 municipalities BRS won in 2020. He claimed the Chief Minister ordered a victory in hung municipalities by any means necessary. In Ibrahimpatnam, where BRS held a majority, he alleged that police were sent to councillor camps after locations were discovered through phone tapping. He questioned if Telangana had become a banana republic.

Praveen Kumar further alleged that Revanth Reddy is making a mockery of democracy by personally holding the municipal, home, and education portfolios.

He attributed the decline in real estate to the lack of dedicated leadership in the municipal department. Finally, he accused the State Election Commission of bias for failing to issue notices to the Chief Minister after he reportedly solicited votes for the Congress hand symbol during an official government programme in the Vikarabad constituency.

BRS holds all the aces; Mayor to be elected today

Hyderabad: All eyes are on the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) ahead of the mayoral election to the Karimnagar Municipal Corporation scheduled for Monday, with the party's stand expected to play a crucial role in determining the outcome.

Hyderabad City Guide With no party securing the magic figure on its own, the ruling Congress is dependent on BRS support to capture the mayor's post. In this context, the BRS decision--whether to back Congress, or to support the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), or remain neutral--will determine the final result.

In the Karimnagar Corporation elections, the BJP emerged as the single largest party with 30 seats, while Congress won 14, BRS secured 9, MIM 3 and Independents 10 divisions. The total strength of the corporation is 66, and the magic figure required to win the mayoral post is 34. Without BRS backing, the Congress tally would reach only 27 (Congress 14 + MIM 3 + Independents 10), making BRS support essential.



Meanwhile, BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Sunday alleged large-scale irregularities by the Congress in municipalities witnessing hung situations across the state.

He claimed that nearly 34 municipalities and corporations were facing such scenarios and accused Congress leaders of resorting to unlawful tactics, including luring corporators and councillors, alleged kidnappings, police pressure and intimidation.

Describing the developments as "anarchy," K. T. Rama Rao demanded

that democratic processes be upheld and asserted that the BRS would oppose any attempts to manipulate the outcome in civic bodies where no party has a clear majority.

Against this backdrop, a crucial question is whether the BRS will lend its support to the ruling Congress party.

Despite KTR's criticism of the ruling Congress, party leaders expressed confidence about winning the Karimnagar mayoral post. Transport Minister Ponnampalabakar asserted that the party has the required numerical strength and the democratic right to stake claim to the position.

Ministers Ponnampalabakar and D Sridhar Babu reportedly camped in Hyderabad to chalk out strategies to win the Karimnagar Mayor seat. Intense lobbying is said to be underway, with Leonia Resorts emerging as the focal point of negotiations.

BRS gears up to celebrate KCR's birthday tomorrow



Hyderabad: BRS leaders will celebrate the birthday of party president K Chandrashekar Rao in a grand manner at Telangana Bhavan on 17 February. This was announced by MLA Talasani Srinivas Yadav during a press conference at the party headquarters on Sunday. Yadav praised the former Chief Minister as a visionary leader who provided free electricity and water supply to the state. He highlighted that it was the leadership of Rao that introduced life-changing schemes such as Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak for the marriage of poor girls, alongside making pensions and Gurukul educational institutions highly effective. He credited the leader with resolving critical agricultural and drinking water issues.

The BRS leader confirmed that the occasion would be marked by special pujas and prayers in temples, churches, and mosques to honour their president. Party working president KT Rama Rao will attend the main programme as the chief guest. Reflecting on the political climate, Yadav noted that the votes received by BRS were nearly equal to those of the ruling party in the recent municipal elections. He asserted that the fighting spirit of their cadre is significant. Yadav subsequently inspected the arrangements at Telangana Bhavan accompanied by Bhavan in-charge Ravula Chandra Shekhar Reddy, Palle Ravi Kumar, Kishore Goud, and Mutha Jayasimha to ensure the successful execution of the scheduled events.

Chariot vision fulfils devotees' wishes



Tirupati: Festive fervour marks the grand Rathotsavam amidst Mangala Vaidyams and resonating chants of "Govinda" on the eighth day of the annual Brahmotsavams of Sri Kalyana Venkateswara Swamy Temple on Sunday.

Devotees witnessed the grand Rathotsavam where Sri Kalyana Venkateswara Swamy, along with Sridevi and Bhudevi, mounted the majestic temple chariot and blessed the devotees.

The cultural troupes performed Chekka Bhajans and Kolatams adding vibrancy to the celebrations. Among those present during the Rathotsavam were SE Manoharam, Temple Special Officer & CPRO Dr T Ravi, Special Grade Deputy EO Varalakshmi, VGO Surendra, AEO Gopinath, Kankanabhattar Balaji Rangacharyulu, other temple priests, officials, and a large gathering of devotees.

Pilot project to boost farm productivity through crop diversification



Kurnool: The division of crops and post-harvest management of food grains under the ministry of agriculture and farmers welfare, Government of India, has sanctioned a pilot project aimed at increasing crop productivity through diversification. Titled "Pilot Project for Crop Diversification through AICRP on Integrated Farming Systems", the initiative will be implemented from 2025–26 at RARS, Maruteru in collaboration with KVK, Banavasi, Kurnool district.

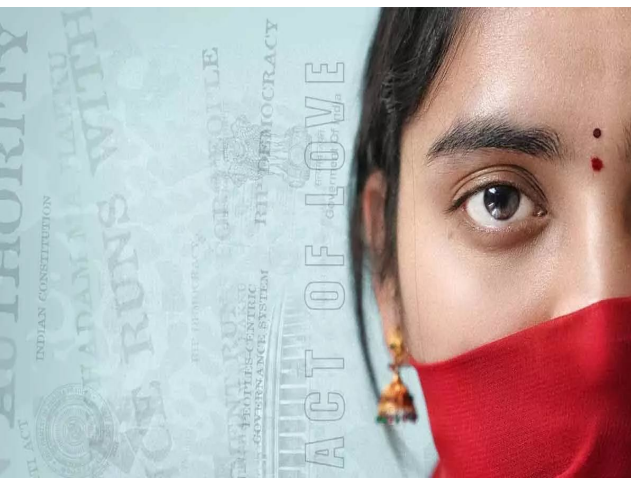
The project focuses on promoting sustainable agricultural production systems to enhance farmers' livelihoods, resilience to climate variability, soil health, and income security by reducing dependence on monoculture practices.

Dr B Sahadeva Reddy, Principal Scientist (Agronomy) and Project Coordinator, RARS, Maruteru speaking to The Hans India on Sunday has said, as part of the project, extensive field-level demonstrations are being conducted in Nandyal and Kurnool districts.

During the kharif season of 2025, 100 demonstrations on intercropping soybean and bajra in redgram fields were undertaken, comparing the results with sole redgram cultivation.

Similarly, during the rabi season under irrigated dry conditions, 100 demonstrations on maize cultivation were taken up in comparison with transplanted rice.

Yamini ER makes debut as lead in heroine-centric film 'Queen'



Renowned social media influencer Yamini ER is all set to make her debut as a leading actress under the direction of young filmmaker Rathan Rishi, who previously earned recognition for his films Uttara and Artist. For his third project, Rathan Rishi is helming a heroine-centric film titled Queen, with Yamini ER in the lead role.

The film is being produced under the One Circle Films banner. Well-known actors Kalakeya Prabhakar and Ajay Ghosh will be seen in antagonist roles. Adding further intrigue, the makers are reportedly in talks with a popular 1990s hero for a special and impactful role as the heroine's father.

On the occasion of Valentine's Day, the team unveiled the title glimpse of Queen, instantly creating curiosity. The glimpse hints at a contemporary love story rooted in today's social realities. It presents the idea that while some love stories are etched in stone or remembered through monuments like the Taj Mahal, this story transforms love into a new kind of law—one that can change society itself.

Visuals in the glimpse reference the Indian Constitution, RTI Act, people-centric governance, and the concept of an "Act of Love," suggesting a powerful narrative with a social and legal backbone. Director Rathan Rishi aims to tell an inspiring story of a young woman who fights to give legal recognition to her beloved's dream and helps turn it into reality. The film is currently progressing with regular shooting, and Queen is already shaping up to be one of the most intriguing heroine-driven projects in recent times.

AP Budget balanced between welfare commitments and long-term development: CII-AP

Vijayawada: Murali Krishna Gannamani, chairman of CII AP, welcomed the AP State Budget 2026, describing it as a balanced approach between welfare commitments and long-term development priorities, reflecting an inclusive growth strategy. Allocation of Rs 28,000 crore for the Visakhapatnam Economic Region covering multiple north coastal districts would transform North Andhra as a major industrial, IT, maritime, and services growth corridor. He added that Establishment of AI-powered data centre ecosystem and technology investments, Promotion of IT and global services sector expansion would position Vizag as an alternative tech destination in South India. CII-AP vice-chairman S Narendra Kumar said the Budget attempts to balance capital development with large-scale welfare spending, positioning both as parallel growth drivers for the



state. The allocation signals a renewed commitment to reviving Amaravati as the primary capital growth engine.

Dr V Nagalakshmi, chairperson, CII-Vijayawada, lauded the government for giving a substantial allotment of Rs 19,306 crores for Health sector. She stated that healthcare continues to remain a core social sector priority, forming a major component of the state's welfare and human



development strategy.

D Ramakrishna, past chairman of CII-AP, applauded the State Government for a forward looking Budget that places youth, skills, and human capital at the centre of the State's development agenda. School education getting the major chunk of the allotment of Rs 32,308 crore reflects the government's intent to strengthen the human capital. The

substantial allocations towards scholarships (Rs 3,836 crore), skill development (Rs 1,232 crore), school infrastructure, higher education, and Youth Advancement & Sports reflect a strong commitment to empowering young citizens and creating pathways for innovation, employability, and leadership.

Dr M Lakshmi Prasad, Past Chairman, CII Andhra Pradesh said, Rs 13,598 crore allotment to Agriculture & Allied Sectors, reaffirms agriculture as a core pillar of Andhra Pradesh's economy.

Mr Balakrishna Chittineni, Chair, Young Indians Amaravati Chapter, said while the allocation size is modest compared to education or health, the budget signals a strategic shift toward building a sports ecosystem.

ED probes hawala link, overseas diversion in Bengal coal smuggling case

Kolkata: The Enforcement Directorate (ED), which is investigating the multi-crore coal smuggling case in West Bengal, is also currently examining the hawala aspect related to the diversion of illicit proceeds overseas.

Sources aware of the development said the investigating officials have secured some specific information that part of the proceeds of the crime in the alleged scam were diverted to neighbouring Bangladesh and Dubai through the hawala route.

The probe officials have also secured some preliminary information that the diverted money was invested in local businesses and real estate properties in these overseas lands.

The operation was carried out by a network of intermediaries operating outside the regulated financial system in the country, sources said. They added that, as per initial estimates, the total money circulated through unofficial channels was over Rs 2,700 crore.

"Besides, some local cops attached some police stations in the coal belts of West Bengal, some officials of the state forest department posted in those belts were also reported to be involved in this system," an insider aware of the development said. Last week, ED had informed that it



had provisionally attached assets worth Rs 100.44 crore under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, in connection with large-scale illegal coal mining and pilferage in the leasehold areas of Eastern Coalfields Limited.

Earlier, on February 8, ED conducted searches at ten premises in Kolkata and Delhi. Evidence seized during searches has been instrumental in linking proceeds of crime to the attached properties. Total attachment in the case so far, ED as of now is Rs 322.71 crore.

Recently, there were controversies when the ED officials were conducting simultaneous raids and search

operations in connection with the coal smuggling case at the Indian Political Action office at Salt Lake in the northern outskirts of Kolkata and the residence of I-PAC co-founder Pratik Jain at Loudon Street in central Kolkata.

While the simultaneous raid and search operations were going on, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, accompanied by senior bureaucrats and cops, stormed into both places one after another, and then left the places, taking away some files and electronic documents.

The matter is being heard at the Supreme Court.

Naveen Chandra's next titled 'Not a Doctor' announced

Producer Rahul Yadav Nakka of Swadharm Entertainment, known for backing content-driven films like Malli Raava, Agent Sai Srinivasa Athreya, and Masooda, has announced a compelling new project that is already creating strong buzz. The upcoming film will be directed by Srikanth Nagothi, with Naveen Chandra in the lead role. The project marks a much-awaited reunion between the director and actor after their critically acclaimed collaborations on Bhanumathi & Ramakrishna and Month of Madhu, raising expectations for another emotionally rich and meaningful cinematic experience. Titled Not a Doctor, the film has already



drawn attention with its striking and haunting title poster. The visual features a massive, dirt-covered hand emerging from the forest floor, with soil-stained skin, rugged nails, and moss-covered roots entwined around it. Dark foliage and towering trees dominate the

background, creating an atmosphere filled with mystery, unease, and primal energy. Adding to the intrigue is the powerful tagline: "Based on a novel that was never written," suggesting a layered narrative rooted in emotion, human truth, and psychological depth. With Swadharm Entertainment continuing its legacy of supporting unconventional and path-breaking cinema, and Srikanth Nagothi's nuanced storytelling guiding the project, Not a Doctor promises a unique cinematic journey. Naveen Chandra, known for his immersive and sincere performances, is expected to bring authenticity and intensity to this enigmatic role.

Acharya Prashant's unique theatrical performance on Mahashivratri, a confluence of dharma and art

Greater Noida: On the eve of Mahashivratri, the grand auditorium of Gautam Buddha University was packed to capacity. Hundreds of people sat on the floor when chairs ran out. Thousands who had arrived from across India and abroad witnessed a new side of Acharya Prashant -- that of an accomplished actor.

After the theatrical performance, there were tears in the eyes of the audience and thunderous applause in the hall. Mahashivratri also happens to be Acharya Prashant's birthday, and he chose to gift his audience a solo theatrical performance. Nearly 200,000 people joined the event live through the Gita App.

The opening of the event, organized by the PrashantAdvait Foundation, took the audience by surprise. The curtain rose to reveal Acharya Prashant in the role of the central character from Mohan Rakesh's renowned Hindi play 'Lehron Ke Rajhans.' The play tells the story of Nand, a wealthy man deeply attached to his wife, yet one who also reveres the Buddha. When the Buddha attempts to initiate him, a storm erupts within Nand that has no simple resolution. He can neither fully remain in worldly life nor fully renounce it. In the words of the play, "I am this, and I am that too... I am that naked



man standing at the crossroads, whom all directions seek to devour." Acharya Prashant brought this inner conflict to life on stage with such authenticity that the audience was swept into an unforgettable emotional and spiritual experience.

Explaining the purpose of the play, Acharya Prashant said, "This was a challenge that resonated from the stage -- must you really live as a weakling? What do you gain by declaring yourself helpless?" He said that people cling to the excuse of compulsion to sustain their lives of bondage, and the message of the play was that wherever there is suffering, exploitation, or injustice, it persists not out of compulsion but with our own permission and consent. One audience member

described the experience in their own words: "I am still intoxicated by that experience. Usually, Acharya Ji teaches and takes questions, but today he presented a play based on the conflict between the ordinary person and Buddhahood. I saw how a person caught in life's dilemma is torn in two. This was my own story."

This performance was not impromptu. Acharya Prashant's acting talent has deep roots. During his time at IIM Ahmedabad, he was deeply involved in theatre, where he not only acted in plays such as Rhinoceros, Pagla Ghoda, and Night of January 16th, but also directed them. Today, he has made that theatrical tradition a part of his teaching method.

Speaking on the message of Mahashivratri, Acharya Prashant described Shiva's Tandav as an inner signal. He said, "Shiva's destruction is not external. The demolition of all the illusions, deceptions, and ego that you have held on to within yourself, that is what Shivatva (the essence of Shiva) truly means." He added that Dharma and spirituality are not about attaining Truth, but about liberation from falsehood, and that Mahashivratri is the festival of that creative destruction. Following the theatrical performance, a Q&A session based on the play was held with the audience. After that, Acharya Prashant conducted a special session on verses from the Avadhut Gita. Speaking on the relevance of the Gita, he said, "The Gita is no ordinary statement. It is the voice of Dharma that descended onto the battlefield of life. What was happening at Kurukshetra is still happening today." The event concluded with a grand book-signing session.

Another attendee remarked, "Acharya Prashant's event is no ordinary gathering. It is a major revolution that is transforming society." One listener shared that she had first encountered Acharya Prashant through a thirty-second YouTube clip. "In that brief clip itself, I sensed fearlessness and truth in his words. After

that, I spent an entire week just listening to him, and I have now been attending the live Gita sessions for a long time," she said. Participants for in-person attendance at the event were selected from thousands of applicants. Seriousness toward the Gita sessions and dedication to self-study were the criteria for selection.

A grand exhibition at the venue also drew the attention of attendees. It depicted, through photographs, Acharya Prashant's travels over the past several months, from Goa to Hyderabad, Kolkata to Chennai. His sessions at 16 major educational institutions, his presence at four literary festivals, and auditoriums filled with thousands of listeners, all captured at a glance. Today's event is a continuation of Acharya Prashant's nationwide campaign over the past six months. During this period, he traveled to numerous cities and addressed over a dozen top institutions, including 13 IITs, IISc, and IIMs. From love and jealousy to artificial intelligence and global affairs, he answered more than 1,700 questions and signed over 10,000 books throughout his tour. His sessions at literary festivals in Pune, Bhubaneswar, Goa, and Delhi drew massive crowds.

Several prominent media organizations covered the event and

India, Greece discuss enhancing maritime cooperation

India Summit a 'Mahakumbh' for artificial intelligence: Jitin Prasada



New Delhi: Union Minister of State for Commerce and Electronics and IT Jitin Prasada on Monday described the five-day AI Summit as the "Mahakumbh for artificial intelligence", saying that the scale and participation reflect a historic moment for India's digital journey. In his address at the 'AI Impact Summit 2026' in the key session, titled 'From AI User to Creator', he made a call to all innovators and entrepreneurs to embrace AI and develop new solutions through it that can lead India towards self-reliance and global leadership. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, "we have successfully progressed from being users of AI to becoming creators of AI", the minister highlighted.

Technology and trade are emerging as the twin engines driving the country's economic expansion, he said.

Prasada stressed that the technology sector is moving at an unprecedented pace and warned that governments that fail to remain agile risk being left behind in the global race. He said India is already the "talent capital of the world", but cautioned that without constant adaptation to future technologies, the advantage could narrow.

The minister noted that artificial intelligence (AI) must go beyond being an academic subject and instead become a capacity-building tool for young Indians. He urged policymakers and industry leaders to focus on sector-specific and region-specific AI deployment rather than limiting conversations only to large language models.

Prasada said the Global South now wants to see tangible life-impacting AI solutions rather than theoretical debates. He added that AI must directly contribute to improving both ease of doing business and ease of living for citizens.

"The objective is not to keep advanced technology in the hands of a few but to democratise access across society," the minister told the gathering.

New Delhi: Indian Navy chief, Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, met Greek Navy General Staff chief Vice Admiral Dimitrios Eleftherios Kataras here on Monday, with discussions focused on enhancing maritime cooperation through navy-to-navy and joint exercises and training exchanges. Prior to the meeting, Vice Admiral Kataras received a ceremonial Guard of Honour at the South Block Lawns.

In a statement on X, an Indian Navy spokesperson stated, "VAdm Dimitrios Eleftherios Kataras, Chief of the Hellenic Navy General Staff was received by Adm Dinesh K Tripathi CNS, with a ceremonial Guard of Honour at the South Block Lawns, New Delhi, on 16 Feb 26."

"Discussions focused on enhancing bilateral #maritimecooperation through expanded navy-to-navy and joint exercises, strengthened training exchanges, and greater operational collaboration. Both leaders reaffirmed their shared commitment to promoting #maritimesecurity, interoperability, and deeper professional engagement," it added.

Earlier this month, Greece's National Defence Minister Nikolaos-Georgios Dendias was



on an official visit to India at the invitation of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

On February 9, Rajnath Singh and Dendias held talks in New Delhi and decided to expand the capacity of their respective indigenous defence industries through a partnership between India's 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' and Hellenic defence reforms under 'Agenda 2030.'

The two ministers reiterated that the India-Greece Strategic Partnership is based on shared values of peace, stability, freedom, and mutual respect, according to the statement released by the Ministry of Defence.

Rajnath Singh and Dendias discussed various issues of regional

peace and security and acknowledged enhancing bilateral defence cooperation and strategic ties. A Bilateral Military Cooperation Plan for 2026 was also exchanged, charting the course for military engagements between the armed forces of both countries, it added. On February 6, External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar held a meeting with Dendias and discussed strategic and security issues.

"Delighted to welcome Minister of National Defence of Greece Nikos Dendias this evening. An in-depth conversation on a wide range of strategic and security issues. Appreciate his many insights and assessments," EAM Jaishankar posted on X after the meeting.

Cong strength swells with entry of independents, FB corporators

Hyderabad: The political landscape of Karimnagar Municipal Corporation is witnessing dramatic developments ahead of the mayoral election, as several corporators have joined the Congress party, boosting its numbers and intensifying the contest for the mayor's seat.

In a significant political manoeuvre in Leonia Resorts, Hyderabad on Sunday, two corporators from the All India Forward Bloc and three independent corporators formally joined the Congress in the presence of ministers DSridhar Babu

and Ponnamb Prabhakar.

The corporators joining the Congress include Sai Jyothi, Shyamala of the Forward Bloc, and independent members-- Komaraiah, Nandini Uday, and Malleshham. Additionally, Majid Hussain, who won as an independent candidate and along with three AIMIM corporators, declared full support to the Congress party in the same event.

Speaking on the occasion, the new entrants said they were motivated by the goal of development, stating that Karimnagar's progress is pos-

sible only under the Congress party's leadership. "We joined the Congress with a vision for the city's development," they said.

With these latest alignments, political excitement has surged around the race for the mayor's post. In the Karimnagar Corporation elections, the Bharatiya Janata Party emerged as the single largest party with 30 out of 66 seats. Congress won 14, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi 9, AIMIM 3, and independents 10.

The game was out of Pakistan's reach once India reached 175: Waqar Younis

New Delhi: Former Pakistan captain Waqar Younis identified Men in Green's tactical errors in a 61-run loss to India in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 and stated that the Salman Agha-led side lost the game once India posted 175 on the board.

After their third win in a row, India qualified for the Super 8 stage, powered by Ishan Kishan's explosive 77 off 40 balls, while Pakistan now likely have to defeat Namibia in their final Group A fixture to have any chance of qualifying for the Super Eights phase.

Speaking to Star Sports, Younis pointed out that Pakistan were not smart with their bowling changes and the game was over in the first innings as India scored too many runs on the board.

"Pakistan lost the game in the first innings. Once India reached 175, the game was out of Pakistan's reach. The ball was spinning, and Suryakumar Yadav was smart with his bowling changes. He gave the new ball to Hardik Pandya up front. Jasprit Bumrah was outstanding as always, attacking the stumps, swinging and seaming the ball. It was very difficult for Pakistan after that. When you look at how much spin Pakistani bowlers got, I don't think they used them as well as India did. But the game was over in the first innings because India scored too many runs," he said.

Younis further noted that Pakistan's late use of Usman Tariq cost them the match, adding that had India scored 140 or 150 instead of 175, things



might have been different for Pakistan.

"Salman Ali Agha allowed that to happen by not introducing Usman Tariq early. Tariq was superb, taking a wicket and conceding just 24 runs. We have been talking about him for weeks. But he was held back for too long. By the time he got the ball, Ishan Kishan had already done the damage. That is where the match was lost. We always knew Pakistan's batting is not great. But if India had scored 140 or 150 instead of 175, things might have been different," he added.

courtesy of a whirlwind start by Ishan Kishan, India posted 175/7, the highest score in an India v Pakistan contest at the T20 World Cup in Colombo. Defending 176, Hardik Pandya and Jasprit Bumrah were on the mark as they duo shared three wickets between them in their opening burst to help India mount early pressure on Pakistan.

Usman Khan offered resistance with a fluent 44, but his dismissal to Axar Patel extinguished any lingering hopes, as the rest of the bowling attack was disciplined throughout and never let go of the pressure on the batters.

India legend Sunil Gavaskar credited Suryakumar Yadav for bringing situational awareness into the match and said, "You have to play according to the situation, and that is what Captain Suryakumar Yadav has done. He has led from the front. In the match against USA, when India were in trouble at 77 for 6, Surya bailed the team out and here against Pakistan, when he came out to bat, India were at 88-2 and then he batted till the 19th over, scoring 32 runs. Yes, he didn't bat at a high-strike rate, but he ensured that the wickets didn't fall, keeping hold of one end.

"So, the rest of the team understands that in T20 cricket, you don't want dot

balls. You want to reduce them, but you also don't want to throw your wicket away trying to hit sixes. Being aware of the match situation, ground conditions, and even which way the wind is blowing is important and Suryakumar Yadav has brought that awareness into this Indian team."

Meanwhile, Abhishek Nayar explained why India were so far ahead of Pakistan in every department, saying, "The preparation and the difference in skill levels stood out. You could see Indian batters had more flair and options. Look at how Ishan Kishan played in the Powerplay. He was sweeping, using his feet and playing pull shots. It felt like the Indian players had studied the opposition much better than Pakistan had studied our fast bowlers. In every area and aspect of the game, from the toss to the bowling changes, India were way ahead."

'Irumudi' team unveils Priya Bhavani Shankar's FL



Mass Maharaja Ravi Teja has teamed up with sensible filmmaker Shiva Nirvana for his landmark 77th film, Irumudi, creating major excitement around this fresh collaboration. Backed by leading pan-Indian banner Mythri Movie Makers, the project has been generating strong buzz since the title and first look were unveiled on Ravi Teja's birthday. Continuing the momentum, the makers released the first look of lead actress Priya Bhavani Shankar on the auspicious occasion of Maha Shivaratri. The poster introduces Priya Bhavani Shankar as Kaveri, presenting a warm and intimate moment between the lead pair. Ravi Teja is seen leaning in affectionately to kiss her cheek, sporting a rugged look with tousled hair, a full beard, and a casual striped shirt that reflects rustic village charm. His playful expression highlights the emotional bond between the characters. Priya, dressed in a traditional maroon saree, glows with a natural smile, her neatly tied hair adorned with flowers and minimal jewellery enhancing the earthy, rural aesthetic. Set against a wooden cart filled with bananas, the visual uses soft lighting and warm tones to evoke simplicity and heartfelt romance. Director Shiva Nirvana has crafted a narrative that blends emotional depth, intensity, and commercial appeal. At the heart of the film lies a deeply moving father-daughter relationship, presenting Ravi Teja in a layered, emotionally rich role that marks a significant shift from his recent portrayals. Baby Nakshathra plays his daughter, while the supporting cast includes Sai Kumar, Ajay Ghosh, Ramesh Indira, and Swasika.

Produced by Naveen Yerneni and Y Ravi Shankar, Irumudi is progressing rapidly with smooth production. The film features music by GV Prakash Kumar, cinematography by Vishnu Sarma, production design by Sahi Suresh, and editing by Prawin Pudi.

From the margins to the spotlight

For decades, Telugu girls have found it difficult to claim lasting space in mainstream Telugu cinema. Industry conversations often point to filmmakers favouring actresses from other regions, while others argue that fewer local girls enter the industry or fit the traditional "commercial heroine" template. Whatever the reasons, the reality is clear: Telugu heroines have rarely dominated the industry for long stretches.

In earlier eras, stars like Anushka Shetty, Kajal Aggarwal, Tamannaah Bhatia, and Samantha Ruth Prabhu enjoyed powerful, long-lasting reigns. They weren't just popular—they were bankable, dependable box-office names. That kind of clear "number one heroine" figure is missing today. The industry currently faces a visible shortage of established, crowd-pulling female stars.

Ironically, this vacuum is opening doors for a new generation of Telugu girls to step forward. One of the most talked-about names is Vaishnavi Chaitanya, who gained recognition with the youthful blockbuster Baby. Though her immediate follow-ups didn't deliver similar success, she remains in demand and is now part of a big-scale project titled Epic. Her journey reflects resilience more than hype.



Another promising talent is Shivani Nagaram, who impressed with Ambajipeta Marriage Band, followed by a solid hit in Little Hearts. She is now gearing up for Hey Bhagavan, which could be a decisive turning point in her career.

Hyderabad-based Faria Abdullah made a splashy debut with Jatiratnaalu. While her later films didn't recreate that phenomenon, she continues to stay active, with projects like Gayapadda Simham and ventures into Tamil cinema.

Meanwhile, Sri Gouri Priya is building steady momentum in Tamil films, acting alongside Jayam Ravi in Bro Code, while also maintaining a grow-

ing Telugu presence.

Beauty queen Manasa Varanasi found new attention after Devaki Nandana Vasudeva with Couple Friendly, winning over younger audiences. Alongside them, actresses like Chandini Chowdary, Eesha Rebba, and Ananya Nagalla continue to hold their ground with consistent performances.

The shift may be slow, but it is real. Telugu heroines may not yet dominate the industry—but for the first time in years, they are clearly in the conversation. With the current absence of a reigning female superstar, this could be the perfect moment for local talent to move from the margins to the mainstream.

National Power Lifting C'ships: Surineni sisters strike triple gold

Power Lifting sisters Surineni Tapasya and Surineni Diza clinched gold medals at the National Power Lifting Championships held in New Delhi.

Tapasya from Hyderabad, a Class-8 student and Diza class-1 student of Beeramguda Oxford School, delivered an outstanding performance at the WPC-India National Power Lifting Championships.

In sub junior U-13 category, 44 kgs event Tapasya Rao lifted 80 kgs in squat, 32.5 kgs in bench press, 105 kgs in dead lift. Overall she lifted 217.5 kgs and clinched three gold medals in squat, bench press and dead lift. Her sister, Surineni Diza bagged three gold medals in 20 kgs category. Diza lifted 32.5 kgs in squat, 17.5 kgs in bench press, 40 kgs in dead lift. Overall she lifted 88 kgs and sealed first place in the competition.