

Make good use of cotton procurement centre, MLAs tell ryots

Reaffirming the government's commitment to farmers, Vemulawada MLA Aadi Srinivas said the administration is ensuring Minimum Support Price (MSP) for cotton growers in the district.

He, along with in-charge Collector Garima Agarwal, inaugurated CCI cotton procurement centres at Nampally, Sankepally, and Konaraopet mandals on Monday.

Aadi said that necessary measures have been taken to facilitate smooth cot-

ton procurement without causing any inconvenience to farmers. Five CCI centres are operational across the district, offering the MSP ranging from Rs 7,689 to Rs 8,110 per quintal, depending on the quality of the produce.

Highlighting the government's focus on farmer welfare, the MLA said that over the past 20 months, nearly ₹1 lakh crore has been spent on agricultural schemes, including ₹20,000 crore towards farm loan waivers. He also mentioned that ₹300



crore has been sanctioned for canal and irrigation works under the Ellampalli Project. District in-charge Collector Garima Agarwal said that cotton has been cultivated across 46,000 acres this season, yielding an estimated 5 lakh quintals. She

urged farmers to book their procurement slots through the Kapas Kisan app and assured that coordination among CCI, agriculture, and marketing departments would ensure hassle-free procurement.



Bandi provides key equipment to Vemulawada Area Hospital

Nagarkurnool. Nov 4

Rain is falling in Hanmakonda, Jangaon, Yadadri-Bhongir, Nalgonda, and Nagarkurnool.

These storms will continue for the next two hours.

Later, rain will spread to Warangal, Mahabubabad, Suryapet, Rangareddy, and Vikarabad.

People are asked to stay alert.

New storms are forming in Medak and Sangareddy.

They will move into Hyderabad by afternoon.

More weather updates will be given soon.

Kavitha slams govt for refusing cotton purchase citing moisture

Telangana Jagruthi president K Kavitha strongly criticised the government for betraying farmers by refusing to purchase cotton crops brought to market, citing moisture content as an excuse. She stated that due to recent unseasonal and excessive rains, crop yields have plummeted, and farmers are being denied fair compensation.

During her Monday tour of Adilabad district, Kavitha paid floral tributes to the Komaram Bheem statue and then rode a bullock cart to the cotton market. There, she inspected cotton and maize stocks brought by farmers and enquired about the procurement process.

Farmers shared their distress, explaining that the cotton crop was severely damaged by heavy rains, and the market officials were rejecting produce with moisture content above 12%. They emphasised that due to climatic conditions, moisture levels naturally exceed 20%, and unless these



norms are relaxed, cotton farmers cannot survive.

Kavitha, visibly emotional, said, "seeing the plight of cotton farmers churns the stomach and brings tears to the eyes. Yet, the rulers show no compassion. If this continues, farmers will

lose their lives." She criticized BJP MPs and MLAs for failing to convince the Central government to intervene. She also pointed out that soybean, maize, and paddy farmers across the state are suffering, and neither the Chief Minister nor the Prime Minister is addressing their

issues.

She demanded that the Adilabad market relax moisture norms and purchase cotton with up to 20–25% moisture. Kavitha also condemned the removal of female labourers (hamalis) from the market and urged the District Collector to reinstate them immediately.

Kavitha remarked that major political parties are treating the Jubilee Hills by-election as a prestige battle, but it offers no real benefit to the public. She urged BJP and Congress representatives to focus on farmers' issues and ensure fair prices for their produce. She advised Adilabad MLA Payala Shankar, MP Nagesh, and Union Minister Kishan Reddy to prioritise farmers' concerns. She reminded everyone that under KCR's leadership, every grain brought to market was purchased at minimum support price. She warned that ignoring farmers would lead to dire consequences.

MLA Anirudh launches Rs 2-crore road works in Jadcherla

Jadcherla: In a major boost to infrastructure and farmer welfare in the constituency, MLA Janampally Anirudh Reddy on Monday inaugurated several key...

Jadcherla: In a major boost to infrastructure and farmer welfare in the constituency, MLA Janampally Anirudh Reddy on Monday inaugurated several key developmental projects, including the construction of a new road from Rachalapally to Madaram at an estimated cost of Rs 2 crore, along with the opening of multiple paddy, maize, and cotton procurement centres across the region.

Launching the new road works at Rachalapally, the MLA emphasised that rural road development is one of the top

priorities of the State government. He said the new road will provide better connectivity between villages, reduce travel time, and help farmers transport their produce easily to nearby markets. "Development begins with connectivity. This project will not only ease transportation but also strengthen the rural economy," he said.

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Devotees seek reopening of Vishnu Pushkarini at Yadagirigutta shrine



The Vishnu Pushkarini, a sacred temple tank atop the Yadagirigutta Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple, holds immense spiritual importance. For generations, devotees believed that a ritual bath here brings peace, removes hardships, and fulfills vows.

According to temple legends, the Pushkarini appeared when Lord Narasimha manifested on Yadagiri Hill. The holy waters are said to have originated from the feet of Lord Vishnu, flowed through the heavens, and descended upon the hill through Lord Brahma's kamandalu (sacred pot). Because these waters are believed to be from the divine Viraja Nadi in Vaikuntha, the tank came to be called Vishnu Pushkarini.

For some years, however, devotees have been denied access. Although the tank was expanded during temple development works, it remained unused.

In 2023, former temple EO Bhaskar Rao revived the traditional Snana Sankalpa Puja (ritual bath ceremony) during the auspicious Shravan month.

The Pushkarini was reopened with

modern amenities, and devotees were allowed to perform pujas and sacred baths under priest supervision.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy also participated in the ceremony, symbolically sprinkling the holy water on his head.

However, after Bhaskar Rao's transfer in April this year, the ritual was discontinued, and the Vishnu Pushkarini has been locked again for over six months. Temporary facilities near the tank have also fallen into disrepair. With the arrival of the holy Karthika month, when ritual bathing holds special significance, devotees are urging temple authorities to reopen the Vishnu Pushkarini.

JNTUH eyes international ties: Collaboration with Iran's University of Isfahan explored

JNTUH held a significant high-level meeting at the UCESHTo discuss future institutional strengthening and international academic partnerships. The session was chaired by Rector K Vijaya Kumar Reddy and Registrar K Venkateshwara Rao, with other key participants including Principal G V Narasimha Reddy, Vice-Prin-

cipal A Raghuram, Heads of Departments, and University Directors. The initial focus of the meeting involved a comprehensive review of the college's academic and laboratory infrastructure, specifically aimed at bolstering institutional capabilities and improving the student learning environments.

Subsequently, JNTUH held an online

interaction with officials from the University of Isfahan, Iran, who were led by President and Head of the Board of Directors RasoulRoknizadeh. During this dialogue, K Venkateshwara Rao presented an overview of JNTUH's academic activities, its research and development policies, and its infrastructural strengths.



Mothkur (Yadadri-Bhongir): A family in Mothkur staged a dramatic protest on Monday evening, alleging that municipal officials demolished their house where they had been living for several years. The incident took place near Kashavarigudem Colony in the Mothkur municipal area.

According to the victims, they had been residing on government land in Survey No. 402, occupying a 242-square-yard plot for the past 30 years. Initially living in a temporary hut, they gradually built a permanent house over the last decade. However, in 2020, a man named Belli Nagesh from Kotamarthi village in Addagudur mandal claimed that the same land was allotted to him under the government's sports quota and requested officials to vacate it.

Acting on his complaint, municipal authorities, with permission from the Tahsildar, used a JCB machine to demolish the house on Monday. In protest, the affected family sat on the main road holding a petrol can, staging a rasta roko (road blockade) along with local residents. Police arrived at the scene, convinced them to withdraw the protest, and brought the situation under control. The family alleged that Belli Nagesh had already been allotted a government double-bedroom house in the Housing Board Colony at Bhongir town under another scheme. They questioned how the same person could receive two government allotments and demanded that the Kashavarigudem site be reassigned to them, as they had been living there for decades.

BJP is king in Jubilee Hills, asserts Kishan Reddy

Union Minister G Kishan Reddy asserted the BJP's dominance in the Jubilee Hills by-election campaign on Monday, strongly criticising the Congress, BRS, and Majlis as "opportunists."

In a formal discussion with the media



as the by-election campaign intensifies, Reddy declared, "We are the king in Jubilee Hills," and emphasised that the BJP is rapidly becoming the focal point of Telangana's political future.

Reddy dismissed rival pre-election surveys, mockingly asking, "Where were they done in the bedroom or bathroom?" He also rejected as absurd attempts by opponents to link the Jubilee Hills election to Pakistan. He sharply criticised the ruling Congress government for offering "nothing but free bus rides," and questioned why fee reimbursement arrears remain unpaid despite their electoral promises.

Highlighting NDA unity, Reddy confirmed that the BJP's allies, the TDP and Jana Sena, are actively participating in the

campaign. "TDP ranks and sympathisers are supporting the BJP. This is a three-way contest, and we're ready," he said. He further clarified that the BJP did not delay candidate announcements, having declared seven by-election nominees simultaneously. Taking aim at former cricketer and Congress leader Mohammad Azharuddin, Reddy alleged that his ministerial post was granted solely to attract Muslim votes. "If Azharuddin could win the election in Jubilee Hills, he would've been given a ticket. But he carries many allegations, and even his affidavit listed pending cases," Reddy claimed.

Regarding infrastructure, Reddy revealed that L&T had written to the Centre expressing its inability to manage the Hyderabad Metro due to a lack of clarity from the state government. "What should our minister do when the state has no plan?" he asked. He also criticised the state government's failure to meet with the Prime Minister and Home Minister regarding key state issues.

Addressing Backward Classes (BC) welfare, Reddy reiterated the BJP's commitment to justice for BC communities. "We made a BC the Prime Minister. We're conducting caste enumeration nationwide and will convince the courts," he said. He then challenged the Chief Minister to prevent the Majlis from contesting all BC seats in local body elections, pointedly asking, "Does he have the guts?"

Reddy also took jabs at KCR and K T Rama Rao, noting that KCR has not been seen outside and questioning his return as Chief Minister. "K T Rama Rao is dreaming. BRS has no future that party is over," he declared.

Give an action plan for Manipur's development: Bandi Sanjay

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar has called for a comprehensive action plan to accelerate Manipur's development, urging the state government to submit short-term, medium-term, and long-term proposals within a week. During his three-day visit to the state, the Minister emphasised the urgent need to address critical sectors, including education, healthcare, transport, tourism, electricity, agriculture, and allied services.

At a high-level review meeting held at the State Secretariat, Bandi Sanjay assessed the implementation of central welfare schemes and discussed the unique challenges faced by Manipur's hill-dwelling population, which constitutes 92% of the state's 28 lakh residents. He expressed concern over the lack of employment, poor transport connectivity, and frequent road damage due to landslides. Officials highlighted the need for a textile park, eco-tourism initiatives, and the development of the Imphal-Myanmar international highway to boost foreign tourist inflow.

The Minister proposed organising a nationwide 'Manipur Mela' in every state to showcase and sell the state's handloom products and local delicacies, citing strong demand for black rice and indigenous crafts, as part of a bold development blueprint. He also pledged to engage with corporate hospitals to improve super-specialty medical services, noting that 45% of nursing posts remain vacant and rural areas lack adequate healthcare and education infrastructure.

Tourism, severely impacted by law and order issues over the past two and a half years, was a key focus. Officials revealed that Rs 500 crore has already been spent on relief and rehabilitation, with over 59,000 victims currently housed in 262 camps. The Centre has sanctioned 7,000 homes under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and is providing Rs 3 lakh per unit, along with Rs 75,000 for repairs of partially damaged houses.

Yellow alert issued: Thunderstorms and gusty winds forecast for Telangana

IMD has issued a warning of thunderstorms and light to moderate rainfall in isolated places across Telangana until November 6.



For Tuesday, the IMD has forecast light to moderate rain or thundershowers very likely to occur at isolated places over the state. A Yellow alert warning has also been issued, predicting that thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds (30-40 kmph) are very likely to occur at isolated places in the districts of Adilabad, Nirmal, Nizamabad, Jagityal, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri, Rangareddy, Hyderabad, Medchal Malkajgiri, Vikarabad, Sangareddy, Medak, Kamareddy, Mahabubnagar, Nagarkurnool, Wanaparthy, Narayanpet, and Jogulamba Gadwal.

Similarly, for Wednesday, IMD officials

have forecast light to moderate rain or thundershowers likely to occur at a few places over Telangana. A warning for thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds (30-40 kmph) remains in effect for isolated places in Adilabad, Komaram Bheem Asifabad, Nirmal, Nizamabad, Jangaon, Siddipet, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri, Rangareddy, Hyderabad, Medchal Malkajgiri, Vikarabad, Sangareddy, Medak, Kamareddy, Mahabubnagar, Nagarkurnool, Wanaparthy, Narayanpet, and Jogulamba Gadwal districts.

The IMD officials have issued a forecast of light to moderate rain or thundershowers very likely to occur at isolated places over Telangana until November 6, with dry weather expected to set in from November 7.

According to the officials, the winds are currently blowing north-westwards in the lower troposphere over Andhra Pradesh and Yanam. Furthermore, a surface cyclonic circulation formed over Vidarbha and its adjoining Marathwada region at an altitude of 0.9 km above mean sea level on Monday. Officials have stated that, due to this meteorological system, light to moderate rains are likely to occur in the Telugu states for the next three days.



Ekalavya Archery students qualify for SGFI nationals

Mahabubabad: The 69th School Games Federation of Telangana (SGFI) – State Level Archery Championship 2025 was successfully held on November 2 and 3 at ZPHS Nellikudur, Mahabubabad district, under the aegis of SGFI. In a proud moment for the Ekalavya Archery Academy, Tellapur, student M Harini Reddy won the gold medal, while Nandavaram Lashirah secured fourth place in the state-level competition. With this achievement, both have officially qualified for the SGFI National Championships, scheduled to take place in Ranchi and Varanasi during the third week of November. Their accomplishment was met with appreciation and encouragement from across the academy. Anjaneyulu Goud, CEO of Ekalavya Archery, and coach Srinivas congratulated both students for their dedication and remarkable progress on the field. The academy looks forward to their continued success at the national level.

Keeping his words, Aadi Srinivas gifts bike to loyal supporter

In a heartwarming gesture, Government Whip and Vemulawada MLA Aadi Srinivas gifted a brand-new TVS XL bike to his ardent supporter Kaduru Balayya, a vegetable vendor from Nampally, Vemulawada. Balayya, who had passionately campaigned for Aadi Srinivas during the last Assembly elections by using a mic on his vegetable cart, received the surprise gift on Monday.

Two months ago, during a visit to Balayya's home, Aadi Srinivas learned that his bike had broken down. True to his word, the MLA promised to buy him a new one — and fulfilled that promise this week, personally handing over the new vehicle.



Locals appreciated the MLA's thoughtful gesture, calling it a reflection of his down-to-earth nature and strong bond with the people.



My prayers are with those injured and the families of those who lost their lives. I hope the accident victims are compensated, a thorough investigation is carried out and those responsible are punished".

Chevella bus accident: AIMIM MLA meets injured at Vikarabad hospital

Hyderabad: All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) MLA Mir Zulfeqar Ali has visited Vikarabad government hospital to meet the persons who were injured in the Chevella bus accident.

Following the accident, injured passengers were rushed to hospitals for medical treatment.

At least 19 people, including a 41-day-old girl child, were killed when a gravel-laden tipper lorry collided head-on with a government bus in Ranga Reddy district of Telangana on Monday, November 3.

On Monday morning at around 7 am, the lorry collided with the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) vehicle near Chevella, about 50 kms from

Hyderabad.

The TGSRTC said in a release that the tipper, loaded with gravel and hard stone chips, lost control while overtaking multiple vehicles, veering directly into the path of the oncoming bus.

Yesterday, following the accident, AIMIM president and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi, on his X handle, wrote, "News of the Chevella bus accident is horrifying. My prayers are with those injured and the families of those who lost their lives. I hope the accident victims are compensated, a thorough investigation is carried out and those responsible are punished".

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the state government announced ex-gratia to the families of the victims.



MLA urges officials for leniency regarding moisture levels in cotton

District Collector Abhilash Abhinav urged farmers to bring quality cotton to market yards to avail the government's support price.

Mudhole MLA Powar Ramarao Patel, along with district Collector, farmers and officials inaugurated the cotton procurement at the Bhainsa Agricultural Market Yard.

MLA Ramarao Patel said that due to rains, moisture content in cotton has increased, and farmers need not worry. He promised to request officials for leniency regarding moisture levels. He advised farmers to dry their cotton as much as possible before bringing it to procurement centers and assured that steps will be taken to ensure all cotton farmers receive the support price.

The Collector stated that the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), under the Central Government, has fixed a minimum support price of Rs 8,110 per quintal. She assured that all arrangements have been made to ensure a transparent procurement process in the district. Special measures

have been taken to ensure farmers face no issues while booking slots through the 'Kapas Kisan App'.

Facilities such as drinking water, rest rooms, weighing machines, and a control room have been provided at the market yards. She advised farmers to sell their produce only at government procurement centers. She also noted that 17 ginning mills and 17 procurement centers are operating in the district.

The Collector and MLA also inspected soybean procurement centers at the market yard. They assured farmers that the government will purchase every grain of soybean and urged them not to worry. Tokens will be issued in phases to procure all crops. Officials present at the event included Sub-Collector Ajmeer Sanket Kumar, AD Marketing Gajanan, District Agriculture Officer Anji Prasad, Market Committee Chairman Anand Rao Patel, Vice Chairman Farooq Ahmad Siddiqui, Tahsildar Praveen, MPDO Neeraj Kumar, Municipal Commissioner Rajesh Kumar, along with other officials and farmers.

Adilabad airport project gets state nod for 700-acre land acquisition

Hyderabad: The Telangana government has approved land acquisition for the proposed airport in Adilabad. Orders have been issued to the district collector to acquire 700 acres of land required for the airport expansion project.

The government's special chief secretary, Vikas Raj, released a Government Order (GO) on Monday, November 3, formalising this decision.

Earlier in April this year, the Indian Air Force (IAF) had given its consent for establishing a brownfield airport in Adilabad. The IAF already holds around 362 acres of land at the site. However, the Ministry of Civil Aviation had observed that additional land was necessary to accommodate both the airport expansion and the planned Air Force training centre. Once the required land is acquired, the state government will hand it over to the Airports Authority of India (AAI) for further development. The central government aims to make the Adilabad airport operational by December 2027. Officials stated that upon speedy completion of the acquisition process, the new facility will pave the way for passenger air services from Adilabad.



Telangana sees sharp fall in MGNREGA workdays during 2025–26: Study

Hyderabad: Telangana witnessed a sharp decline of 47.6 percent in the number of workdays generated under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA) during the first six months (April–September) of the 2025–26 financial year, according to a new study by LibTech India.

The fall in workdays in Telangana is significantly higher than the national average decline of 10.4 percent, the report stated.

LibTech India, a Delhi-based research organisation, has been studying the implementation and impact of the rural employment scheme across states for several years and releases performance data every six months.

The report revealed that the total number of families provided employment in Telangana during April–September 2024 stood at 25.33 lakh, which dropped to 19.94 lakh (a 21.3 percent fall) in the corresponding period of 2025. The average number of workdays per household declined from 41 to 27 this year.

Across social categories, a significant dip was seen: workdays for Scheduled Castes dropped by 48.3%, for Scheduled Tribes by 41.7%, and for other categories

by 49.5%.

At the district level, the steepest declines were observed in Medchal (92.8%), Jogulamba Gadwal (72.6%), Kamareddy (68.7%), and Nizamabad (67.1%).

Although the central government increased the daily wage rate from ₹300 to ₹307 in 2025–26, the sharp reduction in workdays has effectively cut household earnings from the program.

The report attributed part of the decline to administrative and digital verification hurdles. Telangana has not undertaken the renewal of job cards in recent years. During the rollout of Aadhaar-based payments in 2022–23, over 5.1 lakh job cards were deleted and continue to remain inactive.

This year, the central government introduced the new e-KYC (electronic Know Your Customer) verification system. Of the state's 53 lakh registered job card holders, only 48.5 percent have completed e-KYC verification, leaving 51.5 percent still pending—effectively cutting off access to wages for many workers.

LibTech India urged both the central and state governments to take immediate corrective measures to halt the declining trend in rural employment. The study sug-



gested restoring deleted job cards through a dedicated program and ensuring job allocation across districts based on demand.

It also called for special focus on districts with the steepest fall in workdays—

particularly Medchal, Jogulamba Gadwal, Kamareddy, and Nizamabad—and recommended that the central government withdraw the mandatory e-KYC requirement for wage disbursement to ensure uninterrupted access to the scheme.

Telangana HC seeks govt report on rain relief measures within 2 weeks

Hanamkonda: An aerial view of a residential area partially waterlogged following rainfall triggered by Cyclone Montha, in Hanamkonda, Thursday, Oct. 30, 2025. (PTI Photo)

Hyderabad: The Telangana High Court on Monday, November 3, directed the state government to submit a report within two weeks on the relief measures taken to support farmers and citizens affected by the recent heavy rains across the state.

The order came during the hearing of a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by CH Sudhakar of Nalgonda. The petitioner alleged that the government failed to take proper precautionary and relief measures under the Disaster Management Act during the unprecedented rainfall.

He also filed an interim petition pointing out that the lack of preventive steps resulted in severe damage, particularly paralysing daily life in regions like Warangal.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Aparash Kumar Singh and Justice GM Mohiuddin heard the matter. Government counsel argued that the administration had undertaken various relief efforts and sought time to furnish complete details.

Accepting the request, the bench granted the government additional time and adjourned the hearing to November 17.



Pvt colleges continue shutdown over pending fee reimbursement dues

Hyderabad: The Federation of Private Higher Education Institutions in Telangana has announced that its indefinite shutdown will continue until the state government releases at least 50 percent of the pending fee reimbursement dues amounting to Rs 5,000 crore.

The Federation's Executive Committee met following the launch of the Telangana wide shutdown of private degree and engineering colleges on Monday, November 3.

Addressing the media after the meeting, Federation chairman N Ramesh, along with vice president Aljapur Srinivas and treasurer Kodali Krishnarao, declared that colleges would also boycott examinations starting Tuesday, November 4.

He announced plans to hold a major meeting in Hyderabad on November 8 with the participation of around 30,000 staff members from private colleges to intensify their movement.

Srinivas expressed anguish that the prolonged delay in fee reimbursement had forced many institutions into financial strain, leaving staff salaries unpaid.

He warned that qualified lecturers were leaving the state due to the uncertainty and alleged that the government was systematically weakening the fee reimbursement scheme meant to support students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Federation leaders Sunil Kumar, Ramdas, and Jayapal Reddy also took part in the meeting.

Telangana villagers protest with donkey carrying posters of CM, minister Komatireddy

Hyderabad: In a unique protest, villagers of Cheetakodur and Ganugupadu in Jangaon district took out a procession with posters of Telangana chief minister A Revanth Reddy and roads and buildings minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy stuck to a donkey, demanding the immediate construction of long-pending bridges connecting their villages.

A video shared on social media shows protestors placing the image of the leaders on the donkey and parading the animal.

On information, police reached the spot and stopped the agitating protestors.

They said that despite repeated requests to ministers and officials over the last two years, construction of the bridges at Cheetakodur and Ganugupadu has not begun. They alleged that temporary bridges built earlier were repeatedly washed away by rain, and several accidents had occurred when vehicles fell into the damaged culvert.

The villagers demanded that the government take immediate steps to construct a permanent bridge and ensure safe connectivity between the two villages.

Earlier, a youth from Cheetakodur performed a shirshasana (headstand) in front of the office of the district collector, pleading with officials to address the issue. The villagers later submitted a petition to additional collector Pinkesh Kumar, urging prompt action on the road and bridge works.



10-month-old girl wins house for Rs 500 in lucky draw



Hyderabad: A 10-month-old baby girl from Shankarpally became the unexpected winner of her family after her name was picked in a unique lucky draw organised by a property owner, winning a house for just Rs 500.

For two years, Kancharla Ramabrahmam, a resident of Choutuppal in Telangana's Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri district, was trying to sell his 66-square-yard house located near the Hyderabad-Vijayawada National Highway.

To his dismay, sale attempts failed, upon which he decided to sell it through a lucky draw.

He printed 3,000 coupons worth Rs 500 each and asked interested candidates to fill them out and drop them in a box near his home.

The idea quickly gained attention on social media, drawing entries from across the district and beyond.

The draw was held on Sunday, November 2, at Jian Reddy Function Hall in Lingareddygudem, with many attendees.

Among the entries, the winning coupon belonged to Hansika, the infant daughter of Shankar from Shankarpally in Sangareddy district. Her family had purchased four coupons, one in each member's name.

The property valued at Rs 16 lakh will be registered in the name of the winner's family soon, Kancharla Ramabrahmam was quoted as saying.

Through the lucky draw style of selling his home, Ramabrahmam reportedly earned Rs 18 lakh in total by selling 3,600 coupons.

SFI activists attempt to storm Transport Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar's house in Karimnagar



SFI activists tried to storm the residence of Transport Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar in Karimnagar, protesting the state government's delay in releasing fee reimbursement funds. Police foiled the attempt, detained protesters, and SFI leaders demanded immediate release of pending student dues.

Karimnagar: Activists of the Students' Federation of India (SFI) attempted to storm the residence of Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar at Mankammathota here on Wednesday, protesting against the state government's delay in releasing fee reimbursement funds.

A group of protesters marched towards the Minister's house, shouting slogans against the State government and Ponnamp Prabhakar. However, police had already set up barricades and managed to foil the attempt, preventing the agitators from entering the premises. The activists were later taken into custody and shifted to the police station.

Speaking at the protest site, SFI members said that despite students suffering due to the non-release of fee reimbursement amounts, the government and ministers remained indifferent. They demanded immediate release of the pending funds to safeguard students' interests.

Are VR workouts the future of fitness?

If you have tried shopping online lately, chances are that before you zeroed in on your preferred sofa, you placed it virtually in your living room just to check if it fits in or not. Even buying makeup is easier now that you can sit at home and choose among hundreds of lip shades that which is the one for you.

Augmented reality has quietly slipped into our lives, and it's layered, gamified, and increasingly digital.

Your Instagram feed would have made it a point to show someone boxing the air in their living room, wearing a VR headset or playing cricket. And from what it looks like, it could be the future of everything, even fitness.

There's no denying how wellness has taken over everything. We are extra cautious about what we put in our body, and exercise has, for many people, become an inseparable part of their life. However, sometimes the routine can get a little monotonous and this is when you might need a fun intervention in the form of VR exercises.

"VR training merges entertainment, gamification, technology, and fitness," says tech and auto expert Nikhil Chawla. "Traditional workouts can feel monotonous, whereas VR makes movement immersive and goal-driven."

This is the cohort (Gen Z) raised on immersive gaming, instant feedback, and interactive everything. A static treadmill facing a blank wall? It doesn't stand a chance against climbing a virtual mountain in Iceland or punching your way through a high-intensity rhythm game.

Chawla doesn't see this as a fad. "Just like streaming replaced TV habits and digital wallets replaced cash, immersive training is redefining how we look at physical activity," he notes. "The thrill, the data, the global community — these layers make it stick."

But will it replace weights, mats, and mirrors?

"Not entirely," he says. "Think digital payments and cash, both exist. VR is a powerful complement, not a total takeover."

Can it beat (or replace) the good old gym?

The short answer? Not yet — and maybe not ever.

Yes, VR makes sweating feel less like a chore. But for Jasneet Sadana, founder, MindFlex Pilates Hub, that's not the full picture.

"It probably breaks boredom for a while with the visuals," she says. "But movement, when practiced with awareness, never really feels boring. The joy is in noticing your breath, your form, how your body responds. That comes from presence — not pixels."

VR may immerse you, but does it connect you to yourself?



"A headset keeps you in a simulated world," she adds. "Pilates and mindful movement bring you into your own body. That tactile, real-time connection is where strength and change build."

Her biggest concern? Form and injury risk.

"Small misalignments can lead to serious issues over time. A trainer doesn't just correct form — they sense when your body is compensating. That awareness is deeply human and hard to replicate virtually."

But in the therapy room, it's a game-changer

While the fitness world debates, physiotherapy has already welcomed VR with open arms.

Dr. Tarun Lala, head of neuro-rehab at Max Hospital, calls VR "a powerful tool in rehabilitation."

Because it helps patients
manage pain through distraction
rebuild strength and mobility
improve balance and gait
boost cognitive recovery
train safely at home

stay motivated through interactive challenges

For stroke recovery, mobility issues, and neurological rehab, VR isn't a fad, it's becoming a reliable clinical tool.

So where does this leave us?

VR might not be replacing gyms, Pilates studios, or group workouts anytime soon, but it's already carving a serious lane in fitness and rehab.

For all the digital overlays and curated realities, the most compelling stories still come from real spaces, real people, real stakes.

Augmented worlds might catch our eye, but the unfiltered ones, those are the ones that stay with us.

Elon Musk claims Grokipedia will surpass Wikipedia in accuracy and scale

New Delhi: Elon Musk on Wednesday took a dig at Wikipedia, claiming that his new platform Grokipedia will surpass the popular online encyclopedia "by several orders of magnitude in breadth, depth and accuracy."

Developed by xAI, Musk's artificial intelligence company and the creator of the chatbot Grok, Grokipedia is an AI-powered encyclopedia that aims to challenge what Musk calls a "woke" and biased Wikipedia.

He described Grokipedia as a "massive improvement over Wikipedia" and said it aligns with xAI's broader mission to help humanity better understand the universe.

The idea for Grokipedia emerged last month after Musk's friend David Sacks, who is also known as US President Donald

Trump's AI and crypto advisor, suggested that Musk build a Wikipedia alternative.

Musk agreed, saying that an AI-generated encyclopedia would be "super important for civilisation" because it would eliminate human bias and political leanings in information sharing.

When users search for a topic on Grokipedia, the site displays a list of related articles that have been "fact-checked by Grok" — xAI's conversational AI model — along with timestamps showing when the information was last updated.

Unlike Wikipedia, visitors cannot directly edit any entries. Instead, they can suggest corrections or flag inaccuracies using a feedback form.

Interestingly, some content on

Grokipedia currently includes a disclaimer stating that it has been adapted from Wikipedia under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 License.

This indicates that the platform is still partly sourcing its data from Wikipedia. However, Musk has said he plans to end this dependence by the end of the year.

At present, Grokipedia reportedly hosts 8,85,279 articles, and that number is expected to rise rapidly in the coming days.

Musk has also confirmed that the underlying AI is open source, allowing anyone to use or study it freely.

Currently, Grokipedia is available only through a web browser, with no word yet on whether xAI will release a mobile app for Android or iOS.

Stem cells sound magical, but they're not all created equal

Most people have heard of stem cells. They are often described as “miracle” cells —ones that can grow into any other type of cell in our bodies, promising revolutionary medical treatments.

However, not all stem cells are the same, and not all of them can become treatments equally well.

To appreciate what stem cells actually do — and can't do — we need to understand their different types. Each comes with its own strengths, limitations, and challenges.

Stem cells already save lives in Australia and worldwide. But if we want them to help more people, science alone is not enough. We also need strong regulation, industry partnerships and public trust.

What are the three types of stem cells?

Stem cells are the body's raw materials: unspecialised cells that can, under the right conditions, develop into many different types of specialised cells including blood, skin, heart, or brain.

There are three main stem cell types: adult, embryonic, and induced pluripotent.

As their names suggest, they are found in adult tissues, come from embryos, or are created in the lab respectively. Let's look at each type in detail.

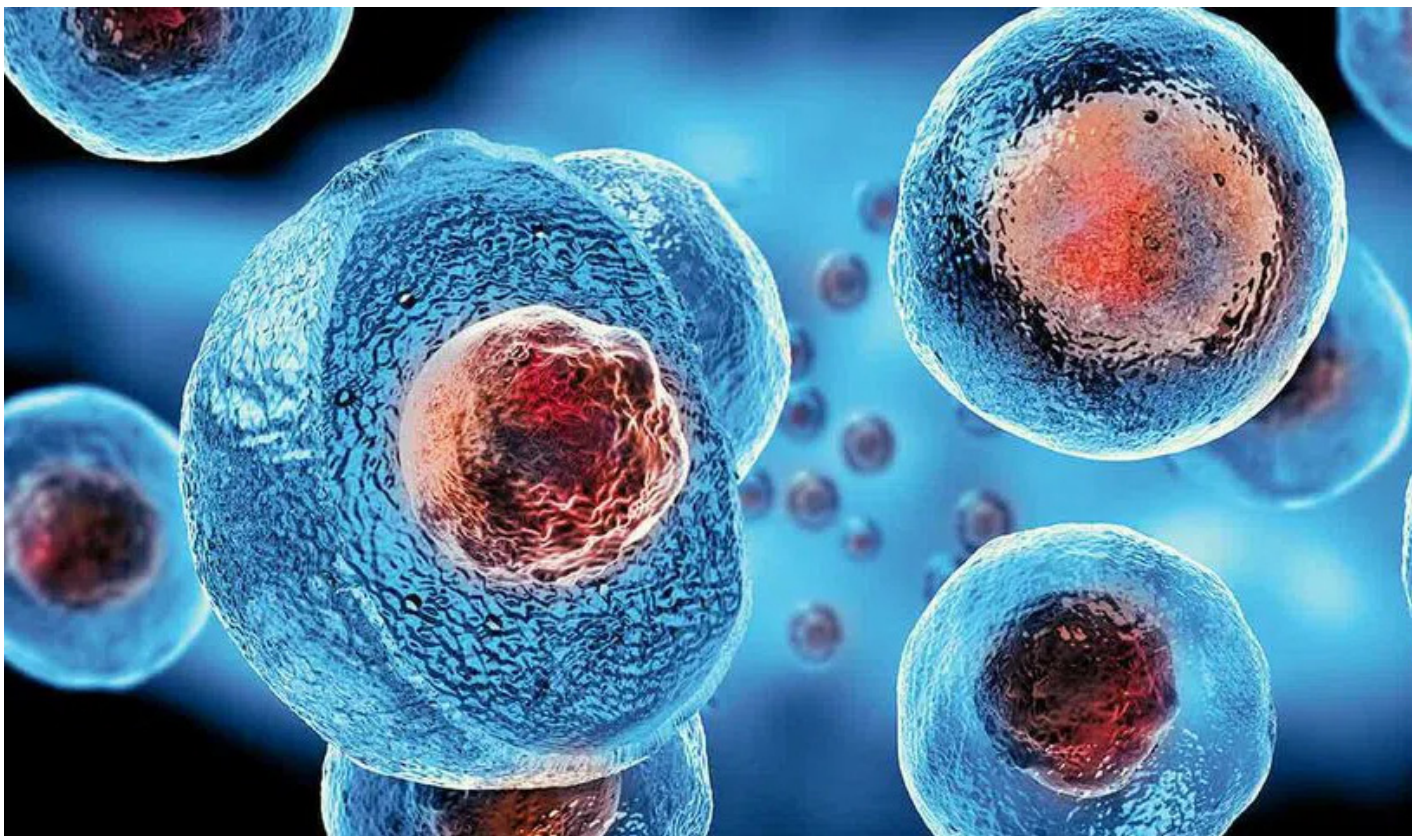
Adult stem cells: proven but limited

Adult stem cells are found throughout the body, often named after the tissue they come from — such as bone marrow, skin, or gut.

Because they are collected from a donor or the patient themselves, their use is ethical and based on informed consent. But they are limited. They can usually only regenerate the cell types from the tissue they came from — a skin stem cell can only grow into a skin cell, for example. Also, their quality varies from person to person.

Adult stem cells are useful and can be life saving, but not a universal solution.

The only approved stem cell therapies currently used in Australia



involve blood stem cells (haematopoietic stem cells). These are used in bone marrow transplants to treat blood cancers like leukaemia, and some immune conditions such as multiple sclerosis.

Embryonic stem cells

Embryonic stem cells are more versatile than adult ones. They appear only days after fertilisation and can become nearly any cell type in the body, a property called pluripotency.

This power comes with ethical and legal challenges. In Australia, embryonic stem cells can only be derived from donated embryos under strict conditions. Their use is tightly regulated and often debated.

At the Australian Regenerative Medicine Institute, my team studies the earliest stages of life. Using advanced imaging, we capture how embryonic cells organise, change shape, and “decide” what types of cells they will become.

These processes hold vital clues for guiding stem cells to one day repair or replace damaged organs, and for understanding how a healthy embryo develops.

Reprogramming the body

In 2006, scientists found a way to

“rewind” specialised adult cells, such as skin or blood cells that usually cannot change, and return them to a stem-cell-like state

These are called induced pluripotent stem cells or iPSCs for short. Once reprogrammed, they regain the ability to become many other cell types.

iPSCs avoid many ethical issues because they don't require embryos. They can also be made from a patient's own cells, lowering the risk of immune rejection.

At our institute, we use this type of stem cells to model diseases, develop new drugs, and generate specialised cells such as neurons, heart muscle and skeletal muscle.

Using the latest advances in science imaging to reveal differences invisible to the naked eye, we are also investigating how closely iPSCs resemble natural embryonic stem cells. Understanding this will help us use them safely and effectively in the future.

Why aren't more therapies available yet?

Stem cells have enormous potential, but the path to turning them into proven therapies is complex. Embryonic stem cells and iPSCs face

major scientific, technical and regulatory hurdles.

Any therapy must be shown to be safe, effective and reliably manufactured — a process that takes years of testing and clinical trials.

There is also a risk from unproven stem cell clinics, which offer treatments that lack evidence and can put patients at risk. This is why strong national and international regulation is so important.

Equally important is helping everyone understand stem cells so patients can make safe, informed choices. There's a careful pathway from discovery to treatment, and it's important to understand the difference between hope and hype.

Stem cells are sort-of magic, but only when truly mastered. They remain one of the most promising frontiers in modern medicine.

Beyond cells alone, researchers are now combining stem cell biology with tissue engineering, 3D modelling of organs (organoids) and embryos, and gene editing to push the boundaries of regenerative medicine which harnesses the body's regenerative capabilities to repair damaged and diseased tissues.