



## Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy Extends Birthday Wishes to BRS Senior Leader Kodandam Dharma Reddy

“Nacharam, Indian Chronicle, January 10:”“Uppal MLA Shri Bandari Lakshma Reddy conveyed his heartfelt birthday wishes to Shri Kodandam Dharma Reddy, senior leader of the BRS party from the Mallapur Division. On this occasion, the MLA wished him good health, long life, and continued strength to serve the people. He appreciated Kodandam Dharma Reddy’s commitment and valuable contributions to the party and public service, and expressed hope that he would continue to play an active role in the development of the division and the welfare of the people.

## The role of sanitation workers is very important in sanitation management



“Secunderabad Cantonment, January 10 (Indian Chronicle):”“Jampana Pratap, Vice President of All India Cantonment Boards said that the role of sanitation workers is very crucial in sanitation management. “under the direction of Disha Jain, daughter of social worker Gautham Jain, to the anti-malaria staff working in the Bowenpally circle office Masks. Hand gloves. The program of distribution of kits containing jarikin was conducted on Saturday in the premises of the Boinapally circle office. The Vice President of All India Cantonment Boards and former Vice Presidents of the Cantonment Board Jampana Pratap attended the program as the chief guest and handed over the kits to the sanitation workers. On this occasion, he said that people can live in a healthy environment only if the environment is clean. Workers are advised to take proper care of their health along with sanitation duties. People were also asked to cooperate in maintaining sanitation by not throwing garbage and waste on the roads Jampana Pratap lauded Disha Jain’s involvement in social service activities during her student days. Bharat Singh in this program. Sanitation Dafedarlu Vijay Kumar. Ramakrishna. M Ar. the king Ravi Narsimha, Raju and others participated.

## Grand Sankranti Festival Celebrations at Vivekananda Vidyapeeth School



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, January 10 (Indian Chronicle):”“Sankranti festival celebrations were held in a grand manner on Saturday at Vivekananda Vidyapeeth School, located in New Bharat Nagar, Uppal. On the occasion of the harvest festival, the school management organized various traditional and cultural activities to mark the celebrations. The school campus came alive with colourful rangoli (muggulu) competitions, kite-making contests, Haridasu devotional songs, and beautifully decorated gobbemmalu (traditional cow dung idols), which attracted everyone’s attention. The enthusiastic participation of students added vibrancy and cultural charm to the event. Speaking on the occasion, the school correspondent stated that such celebrations help in educating young students about the rich cultural heritage, traditions, and values of Indian festivals, thereby instilling a sense of respect and pride in their roots from an early age. Teachers, students, and school staff actively took part in the Sankranti festivities, making the event a memorable and joyful experience for all.



## Tight Police Security Arrangements in Godavarikhani Ahead of Ministers' Public Meeting

“P. S. ASHOKAN “Karimnagar BUREAU “In view of the public meeting scheduled to be held tomorrow (11-01-2026) at the Government Junior College Grounds, Godavarikhani, under the jurisdiction of the Ramagundam Police Commissionerate, elaborate and stringent police security arrangements have been put in place.”“The meeting, to be held in the Peddapalli Zone, will be attended by Hon’ble IT Minister and Manthani MLA Duddilla Sridhar Babu, along with Hon’ble Ministers Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy and Adluri Laxman Kumar as chief guests.”“Ahead of the event, ACP Godavarikhani, Sri M. Ramesh, conducted a comprehensive briefing for all police officers and staff deployed on bandobast duties at Rajyalakshmi Gardens, Markandeya Colony, Godavarikhani. During the briefing, the ACP issued clear instructions regarding stage security, public gallery management, overall security measures, traffic regulation, maintenance of law and order, public entry and exit routes, VIP and public vehicle parking arrangements, helipad security, and safety measures at the food distribution areas arranged for attendees.”“The ACP emphasized that all officers and personnel must discharge their duties with utmost responsibility to ensure that the public meeting is conducted peacefully and without causing any inconvenience to the general public.”“The briefing was attended by AR ACP Pratap, Godavarikhani One Town Inspector Indrasena Reddy, Inspector Ravinder, Ramagundam CI Praveen Kumar, Godavarikhani Two Town Inspector Prasad Rao, Lingamurthy, Manthani CI B. Raju, Traffic Inspector Rajeshwar Rao, RI Damodar, Srinivas, SIs, RSIs, and other police officers and staff.

## Residents Protest Proposed Crematorium Site at Erragadda



““Indian Chronicle, Secunderabad, January 10:”“Residents of Brigade Citadel, Kalpataru, Vasavi Brindavan, and Janapriya gated communities at Ashok Marg, Erragadda, under the banner of a Joint Action Committee (JAC), staged a peaceful protest on Wednesday opposing the government’s move to allocate land for a crematorium in a private property belonging to Kohinoor Industries, located amid residential areas.”“Men, women, and children participated in large numbers, raising slogans and expressing strong opposition to the proposal. Heavy police deployment was witnessed at the site, and permission was granted only for a peaceful sit-in protest. Residents questioned restrictions imposed even on movement and voiced concern that such sudden decisions were disturbing their peaceful living environment, despite their significant financial investments in the area.”“The protesters stated that as law-abiding citizens paying income and municipal taxes, they felt betrayed by the government’s decision. They questioned whether the lives of thousands of families should be disrupted to appease a particular section.”“JAC conveners Shyam Prasad, Venkateshwarlu, Hanumanth Naidu, Vishnuvardhan, and Ramesh Babu participated in the protest. BJP leader Lankala Deepak Reddy expressed solidarity with the residents. Community leaders asserted that all government efforts to establish a crematorium at the site would be strongly opposed. A petition addressed to the Chief Minister and the Revenue Minister was signed by residents during the protest.

## Our cultural traditions are alive because of women



““Secunderabad Cantonment, January 10 (Indian Chronicle):”“Malkajgiri MP Etela Rajender said that our cultural traditions are alive because of women and the role of women in preserving traditions is very important. On the occasion of Sankranthi festival, Sankranthi Sambura Muggu competitions were organized by Cantonment Board Civilian Nominated Member Banuka Narmada and BJP leader Banuka Mallikarjun. at Srinivasa Nagar Colony, Bowenpally MP Etela Rajender attended the program as the chief guest and started it. After that, he looked at each mug made by the women and gave encouragement gifts to the participating women. After that, MP Etela Rajender gave away the cash prizes to Suvarna who won the first prize, Aparna who won the second prize and Swapna who won the third prize. On this occasion, He said that it is a pleasure to see women flocking to these three competitions in large numbers regardless of age. Modi government is working to empower women and every woman should grow socially and economically. Mahankali district BJP vice president BN Srinivas, local BJP leaders, workers from different areas and women from colonies participated in the program in large numbers.

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Photo caption only: “(Mandava Srisailam...Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau...Indian Chronicle...January 10):-“As part of the distribution of Kalyana Lakshmi cheques to 67 beneficiaries from Bhongir, Chobe Sunita from Pahadinagar, Ward No. 30, received her Kalyana Lakshmi cheque from MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy.

## Bhongir MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy handed over Kalyana Lakshmi cheques to the beneficiaries

“(Mandava Srisailam...Yadadri Bhongir District Bureau...Indian Chronicle...January 10):- Bhongir MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy handed over



Kalyana Lakshmi cheques to Pabbala Soni Basavaiah and Kavide Navaneetha of Anantharam village in Bhongir mandal at Ravi Bhadrak Function Hall in Bhongir. District Library Corporation Chairman Aveez Chisti, RDO Krishnareddy, Sarpanch Pallepati Nagarani Rajalingam, ward members Pabbala Swathi, Yerra Mamatha, Congress party mandal leaders Vithal Venkatesh, Salla Pandu, Congress party village branch leader Yerra Mahesh, and other leaders Pabbala Narasimha and Bandirala Shiva participated in this program.

## The spread of religious fundamentalist ideology is harmful to society; efforts in the social, economic, and cultural spheres must increase to counter it: - CPM Politburo member BV Raghavulu

Central BJP government's anti-people, anti-labor, anti-student, anti-youth, and anti-women policies... BV Raghavulu



talist ideology is increasing unchecked, filling people with hatred and creating divisions in the name of caste and religion. He reminded that after coming to power for the third time, religious fundamentalist ideology is running rampant at the rural level. Similarly, they said that the BJP is conspiring to bring in many anti-people policies, such as bringing in the black laws that previously harmed farmers to serve the interests of big corporate powers, amending the labor codes achieved through numerous struggles into four laws, and trying to completely distance agricultural laborers from the employment guarantee act by changing its name and weakening it. They also mentioned the introduction of the seed bill, the electricity amendment bill, and the plans to privatize public sector undertakings. They stated that the BJP's policies are trampling on the rights of the states, and that the central government is governing by keeping the rights of the states under its control at the rural level. On this occasion, they condemned the communal politics be-

“(Mandava Srisailam... Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle... January 10):- CPM Politburo member BV Raghavulu said that the spread of BJP's religious fundamentalist ideology is increasing day by day in the villages, and to suppress this, our efforts in the cultural sphere at the rural level must increase. Speaking as the chief guest at the district extended meeting held on Saturday at the Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district center, presided over by State Committee member Kondamudugu Narasimha, he said that after the BJP came to power in the country, the spread of religious fundamen-

ing pursued by the BJP and called for increased efforts in the cultural field to curb the spread of the BJP's communal ideology. Along with them, party central committee member S. Veerayya said that the BJP is governing by promoting communal ideology at the center while simultaneously implementing anti-labor, anti-people, and anti-farmer policies. He added that there is a great need to fight against the BJP's anti-people policies in the coming days. Former central committee member Cherupalli Seetharamulu called upon the CPM cadres to expose the politics being played by the BJP in the name of religion and caste at the rural level. CPI(M) district secretary MD Jahangir said that the BJP, along with the RSS, is spreading insidiously in the villages under the guise of service activities, celebrations of great personalities' birthdays, and festivals. It is changing people's thinking and promoting communal ideology. They said that this is becoming dangerous for the country and that everyone has a responsibility to reject the ideology of religious fanaticism. Party state committee member Battupalli Anuradha, district executive committee members Maturi Balaraju,

Kalluri Mallesham, Dasari Pandu, Burugu Krishnareddy, Guntuji Srinivasachari, district committee members Komatireddy Chandrareddy, Sirpangi Swamy, Dayyala Narasimha, Maya Krishna, Bollu Yadagiri, MD Pasha, Boddupalli Venkatesh, Gundlu Venkatanarsu, Dodda Yadireddy, Maddepuram Raju, Bolagani Jayaramulu, Avvaru Rameshwarri, Rachakonda Ramulamma, MA Iqbal, Vanam Upender, Gaddam Venkatesh, Mallepalli Lalitha, Balguri Anjaiah, Kota Ramachandra Reddy, Goshika Karunakar, Mandal secretaries Dhupati Venkatesh, Pallerla Anjaiah, Potharaju Jahangir, Vemula Bhiksham, Ryakala Srisailam, and leaders of people's organizations participated in the meeting.



# Medical officers working in government hospitals should ensure normal deliveries: Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao



“(Mandava Srisailam...Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle...January 10):- District Collector Hanumantha Rao said that medical officers working in government hospitals should ensure normal deliveries. The District Collector participated in a review meeting on the district medical department at the Collectorate conference hall. On this occasion, the District Collector said.. The District Collector reviewed the mandal-wise PHCs, medical treatment



and deliveries in village hospitals in the district. He wanted to increase the number of normal deliveries in government hospitals in the district. He inquired about the reasons for deliveries taking place in private hospitals despite all the facilities in government hospitals. He said that the village hospitals remain closed due to lack of availability of doctors. They warned that they would not be given show cause notices to those who are like that and that if they do so again, they will be suspended. They said that labor rooms in some hospitals are only nominal, and that it is not possible to remain like that, they want normal deliveries to be done in every hospital and the number of deliveries to be increased. They said that they are only holding meetings every Tuesday as Asha Day, but they are not going to the field level, and that pregnant women from villages are going to private hospitals, which means that Asha is not working properly. They said that action will be taken if they neglect their duties. They said that a review will be conducted every month. They said that there are fewer patients coming to rural hospitals, and they want the relevant authorities to take steps to ensure that every pregnant woman calls her home during the free time and talks to her family members, educates them about the facilities in government hospitals and delivers in government hospitals. They said that deliveries should take place in government hospitals under any circumstances and that they cannot be sent to private hospitals. Medical Health Officer Dr. Manohar, Deputy Medical Health Officers Yashoda and Veena, Program Officer Ramakrishna, Medical Officers, MLHPs, Medical Health Department staff and others participated in this review meeting.

## Rangavalli impressed in the cantonment play ground.



“Nacharam, Indian Chronicle, January 10: “On the occasion of the Sankranti festival, Rangoli (Muggu) competitions will be organized on Sunday at Mallikarjun Nagar in Mallapur. The event is being conducted under the leadership of BJP District Council Member and Uppal Constituency MBC Chairman, Sangishetti Ravindra Sagar. The competitions will take place from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM. Attractive cash prizes have been announced for the winners: “First Prize: ₹5,000 “Second Prize: ₹3,000 “Third Prize: ₹2,000 “The program will be held at the Mallikarjun Nagar BJP Office. Former MLA and State Vice President N.V.S.S. Prabhakar will attend the event as the chief guest. The organizers, Sangishetti Ravindra Sagar and Lalitha Sagar, informed that interested participants can register and obtain further details by contacting 99631 24100.

“Secunderabad Cantonment. January 10 (Indian Chronicle): “Rangavalli competitions were held on Saturday under the leadership of ex-vice president of Cantonment Board Jakkula Maheshwar Reddy at Bowenpally Cantonment Play Ground in honor of Sankranti. Women from different parts of Bowenpally participated in large scale. Women from Basti and Colony displayed their talent by wearing colorful turbans. Explaining Telangana's culture, traditions, welfare schemes and Sankranti festival, the women's dances impressed many people. Former Cantonment Board Vice President Jakkula Maheshwar Reddy and his wife Rupa Reddy, and amrutha reddy who attended the event, gave consolation prizes to all the women who participated in the competitions. On this occasion, he said that every year before the festival of Sankranthi, these competitions will be conducted, women should develop in all fields, take advantage of bank loans and take advantage of interest loans, and wish that the life of every girl child should be beautiful and happy. Ambika Anita Bhagyamma Sabita Chandrakala said in the . Sravanti and others participated program

# Fourrise Premier League (FPL) Launches Season 1 with 'Play for a Cause' Vision



Hyderabad FOURRISE Sports LLP officially launched the first season of the Fourrise Premier League (FPL) – Hyderabad on Friday night, January 9, 2026, at the Tech Mahindra Auditorium, HITEC City. The grand launching ceremony marked the formal announcement of Hyderabad's biggest professionally managed corporate cricket league, built on the philosophy of "Play for a Cause."

The official FPL poster was unveiled by Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, who attended the event as

the Chief Guest, in the presence of senior corporate leaders, sports administrators, and dignitaries. Paidi Rakesh Reddy, Hon'ble MLA, Armoor, also graced the occasion and extended his support to the league's vision of promoting corporate sports alongside social responsibility.

The league is founded and promoted by Mr. Nangi Devendar Reddy, Chairman & Founder, and Dr. Sriprakash Vinnakota, Founder & President, FOURRISE Sports LLP, with a vision to build a transparent, professionally managed corporate cricket ecosystem

across the Telugu States.

Several FPL Board Members who attended the launch include Mr. Krish Chinthaluri, Founder & Chairman, IKON and Chief Operations Officer, FOURRISE Sports LLP; Mr. Mohit Kumar Fruitwala, Director, Yeldam Pvt Ltd & Freight Child Foundation; Ms. Jayalalitha Akurathi, Director – Operations & Business Performance, Y-Axis Solutions Pvt Ltd; Mr. M. Suresh, former Ranji & Duleep Trophy cricketer and BCCI-NCA Level-2 Coach; Mr. Venka Reddy, Chief People Officer, QualiZeal and former HR Head at Infosys and Coforge; and Mr. PCS Reddy,

senior administrative leader associated with Hyderabad Security Council initiatives. Other advisory council members were also present.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Nangi Devendar Reddy, Chairman & Founder, FOURRISE Sports LLP, said "The Fourrise Premier League is envisioned as a trusted and professionally managed corporate cricket platform that promotes fitness, teamwork, and fair play while strengthening grassroots sports culture across the Telugu States. Through FPL, we aim to unite corporates with purpose and pride."

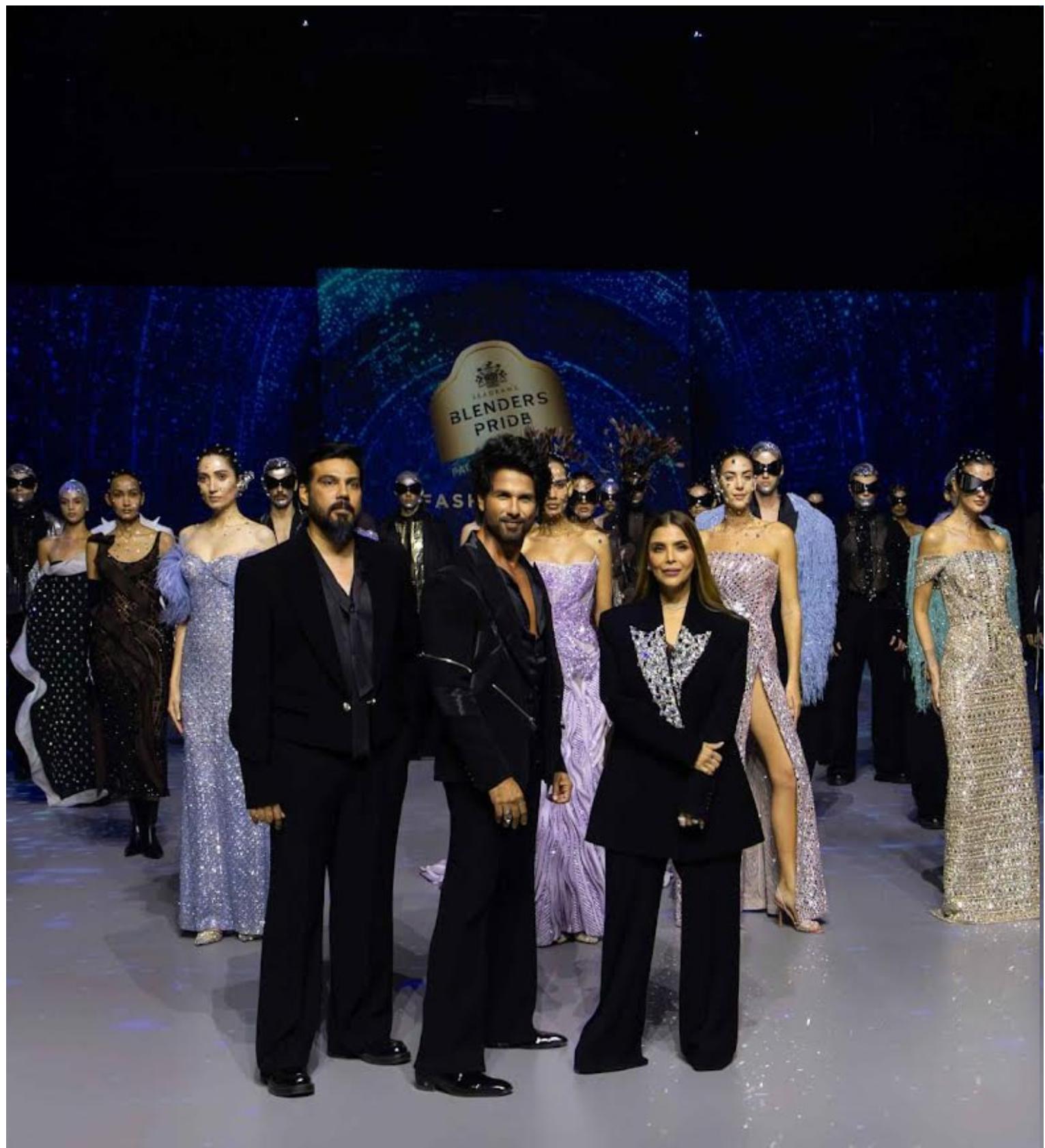
# Blenders Pride Fashion Tour 2025 Concludes with Groundbreaking Fashion Showcases Across India

Hyderabad

Blenders Pride Fashion Tour 2025 concluded its spectacular edition, setting a new benchmark for fashion experiences across Gurugram, Jaipur, and Kolkata. Creating 'The One and Only' stage that set the tone for what's next in fashion, the tour presented three groundbreaking narratives that pushed the boundaries of how fashion is experienced, celebrated, and imagined. Each city witnessed how Blenders Pride Fashion Tour made fashion move—Gurugram thrust fashion into the futureverse where technology and couture collided in real-time, Jaipur accelerated fashion onto the fast lane with high-octane motorsport aesthetics, and Kolkata challenged traditional notions of craft, transforming them into a bold, modern form.

The tour distinguished itself by setting a new benchmark for immersive, multi-sensory fashion experiences. Gurugram's 'The Futureverse of Fashion' by designers Falguni and Shane Peacock merged haute couture with humanoid robots, holographic technology, and motion-sensing projections, featuring Shahid Kapoor and Tamannaah Bhatia. Jaipur accelerated into 'High Octane Couture' with designers Namrata Joshipura and Abhishek Patni reimagining motorsport aesthetics alongside Miss Universe Harnaaz Sandhu and rapper Raftaar, complete with chrome-wrapped supercars and a three-lap runway experience. The Kolkata finale presented 'Future Is Crafted' through a breakthrough narrative that shattered moulds of craft as it was known. Set against the iconic Howrah Bridge, AK | OK Anamika Khanna deconstructed traditional craft through futuristic tailoring, with Ishaan Khatter as showstopper, transforming the Hooghly River into a floating theatre of fashion.

Debasree Dasgupta, CMO, Pernod Ricard India, said, "Blenders Pride Fashion Tour powered by FDCI has been Indian fashion's most iconic



stage. Guided by our 'The One and Only' ambition, we continue to set new benchmarks shaping the evolution of fashion & style in collaboration with India's finest designers. With 'Making Fashion Move', Blenders Pride Fashion Tour asserts its role as a force shaping the future of fashion—driving ideas, collabora-

tions, and experiences that define what comes next. By placing creativity, culture, and innovation at the centre of its universe, the brand continues to set the course for how fashion evolves, engages, and inspires the next generation."

Sunil Sethi, Chairman, FDCI, expressed, "FDCI is thrilled with its collabora-

tion with Blenders Pride Fashion Tour, bringing together the two powerhouses of fashion, that amplifies our commitment to shaping its future. This edition brings together diverse design perspectives that celebrates creativity, culture, and sets the pace for the future of fashion in India."

# VCare Launches State-of-the-Art Centre of Excellence in Hyderabad; Unveils India's First 'Single-Day Facial Architecture'



Hyderabad: VCare, a leading name in aesthetic and trichology care, has announced the grand launch of its Centre of Excellence (COE) in Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad. This launch marks a significant milestone in the brand's expansion across South India, following its success in Chennai and preceding an upcoming launch in Bengaluru.

The new facility was inaugurated by Chief Guest Ms. Nivetha Pethuraj, a versatile actor and model, amidst a gathering of leading doctors, healthcare professionals, industry experts, and media representatives.

**Visionary Leadership Driving Global Excellence**

Leading the philosophy behind this expansion is the Founder &

Managing Director of the VCare Group, E. Carolin Praba, India's first woman trichologist, visionary entrepreneur, and wellness trailblazer, who has built and leads a network of 80+ clinics across India.

She is joined by the CEO of the VCare Group, Mukundan Satyanarayanan. With over 22 years of distinguished leadership across trichology, cosmetic sciences, nutraceuticals, and the wellness industry, Mr. Satyanarayanan is widely recognised for integrating research-driven innovation with traditional healing sciences.

Speaking on the launch, Mr. Mukundan Satyanarayanan, CEO of VCare Group, said: "Global aesthetic standards are evolving—and so are

we. With the Centre of Excellence, our vision is to move beyond surface-level treatments and create a destination that addresses skin through a structured, multi-layered approach, aligned with global beauty excellence while remaining deeply personalised."

**Redefining Aesthetic Care with "Single-Day Facial Architecture"**

The Hyderabad Centre of Excellence is designed to bridge the gap between global technology and personalised skin care. The facility introduces a pioneering concept: India's first Single-Day Facial Architecture.

Rooted in Korean-inspired aesthetic principles, this one-day, glass-skin-focused protocol integrates advanced laser technologies with a

three-dimensional approach. The treatment is designed to deliver visible results from Day 1, with progressive improvements over the following weeks, catering to the modern demand for immediate yet sustainable beauty solutions.

**World-Class Aesthetic Technologies**

The VCare Centre of Excellence features some of the world's most advanced FDA-approved and CE-certified aesthetic platforms. Speaking on this technological approach, E. Carolin Praba, Founder & Managing Director of the VCare Group, said, "Each technology we introduce is carefully chosen through global clinical validation, FDA clearance, and demonstrated results."

# ODF++ tag fades as city battles public toilet crisis

Hyderabad: Despite achieving Open Defecation Free Plus Plus (ODF++) status from the Centre in 2019, Hyderabad is grappling with growing sanitation-related inconvenience across several public spaces, with residents complaining of persistent urine stench near under-bridges, public walls, gardens and transit



hubs.

Areas such as Punjagutta, the surroundings of NTR Gardens, Secunderabad under-bridge stretches, and locations near Metro stations including Paradise, Ameerpet and Raidurgam have been repeatedly flagged by commuters and residents.

Though the city has over 1,850 public toilets,

only around 1,383 are currently functional, according to recent reports. Many toilets are damaged, vandalised or poorly maintained, forcing people to urinate in nearby open spaces.

B Tech student Saraswati said, "I cover my nose every time I cross this place. It has become a habit now." Online discussions on local forums and social media platforms echo similar complaints across multiple neighbourhoods, suggesting the issue is widespread rather than limited to isolated spots. Netizens warn that the city may soon become unliveable due to heavy traffic, pollution and alleged GHMC mismanagement.

Madhan Singh, a caretaker of a public toilet in Secunderabad, cited maintenance delays as a major concern. He said he has complained multiple times to GHMC regarding repairs and upkeep.

"Sometimes they delay, sometimes no one comes," he said, adding that the problem worsens during the monsoon when stagnant water intensifies the stench.

According to him, people of all ages and genders urinate in public spaces, often avoiding pay-and-use toilets due to hygiene concerns or reluctance to spend even a small fee. Attempts to contact GHMC regarding the issue did not elicit any response.

## Harish Rao opposes move to scrap Siddipet dist

Hyderabad: BRS deputy leader T Harish Rao on Friday issued a stern warning to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy against any move to abolish Siddipet district. Addressing a gathering, Rao urged the Chief Minister not to harbour a grudge against the people of the region due to political rivalry.

The BRS leader noted that the first Chief Minister of Telangana, K Chandrashekhar Rao, had fulfilled a 40-year-old local aspiration by granting Siddipet district status. He alleged that Revanth Reddy is now conspiring to dismantle the district and merge it back with Sangareddy under the pretext of an excess of districts in the state. "If the district is removed, we will lose critical institutions like the Collectorate, the Medical College, and the Police Commissionerate," Harish Rao stated. He challenged the Chief Minister to target him personally rather than punishing the residents of the area. "If you have a grudge against me, target me directly, but do not punish the people of Siddipet. We will not stay si-



lent. We will launch another agitation if the existence of our district is threatened," he added.

The remarks were made during a meeting held to mark the joining of Siddipet BJP Town President Pathri Srinivas and senior leader Hanumanth Rao, who moved to the BRS along with their followers.

## BJP chief urges public support in municipal polls for State's development

Mulugu/Hyderabad: BJP State unit President N Ramchander Rao on Friday urged people to support the party in the upcoming municipal elections, stressing that the BJP under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership has been instrumental in driving development across Telangana.

Speaking after offering prayers at Sammakka-Sarakka in Mulugu district, on the second day of his two-day tour of Warangal and Mulugu districts, Rao highlighted the central government's initiatives in promoting temple and tourism infrastructure. He noted that funds have been allocated for the development of Sammakka-Sarakka, Ramappa temple, and Laknavaram tourism centres.



## Breaking barriers not pay gaps: Telangana women's uneven march

Hyderabad: Women's participation in Telangana's workforce has recorded a steady rise in recent years, but this progress continues to be overshadowed by significant wage inequality, particularly in the informal sector, according to official data and ground-level interactions.

### Hyderabad Events Calendar

Data from the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2023–24 shows a clear upward trend in female participation. The urban female labour force participation rate (LFPR) stands at around 50–51 per cent, while rural participation remains lower at 25–26 per cent.

Women's workforce participation rate (WPR) has nearly doubled over the years, rising from 22 per cent in 2017 to 40.3 per cent in 2024. The overall LFPR during the July 2023 to June 2024 period was recorded at nearly 60 per cent.

Despite this increase, wage disparities remain wide. Studies and sectoral data indicate that women in Hyderabad earn 30 to 40 per cent less than men on average. In sectors such as retail and manufacturing, the wage gap ranges between 15 and 17 per cent, while in the IT sector it varies from 10 to 17 per cent. The gap is relatively lower in healthcare and pharmaceuticals at around 10 per cent, but continues to persist. Agriculture records the highest wage disparity.

Data from TeamLease Digital and the NSSO suggests that women often earn only 60 to 70 per cent of male wages, largely due to overrepresentation in lower-level roles, limited leadership opportunities and mid-career dropouts driven by work–family pressures.

The situation is more severe in the informal sector. Women workers often earn between 20 and 60 per cent less than men despite performing similar work and putting in long hours. Many earn as little as Rs 5,000 a month, far below the state's minimum wage benchmark of Rs 12,000. Savita Devi, a garment factory worker from Nacharam Chilaka Nagar, said, "I come early every day and work till evening. There are around 3,000 women workers here. Men doing the same work earn about Rs 14,000, but women are paid only Rs 9,500. After factory work, we also have household responsibilities, but nothing changes." Echoing similar views, Arjun, a local factory worker, said, "Women operate the same machines and work as hard as men, but they are always paid less, even when they work long hours." Repeated attempts to contact officials from the Hyderabad Labour Department for a response on wage disparity and enforcement of minimum wage norms did not elicit any reply. While women's participation in Telangana's workforce is clearly increasing, the data and lived experiences point to a continuing gap between employment growth and equitable pay, raising questions over enforcement, accountability and workplace equality.