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## TGILP expanded to seven more mandals to tackle extreme poverty: Seethakka

Hyderabad, Feb 24 (Indian Chronicle) In a major step towards eliminating extreme poverty, the Telangana government has decided to extend the Telangana Grameena Integrated Livelihood Programme (TGILP) to seven additional mandals, Panchayati Raj, Rural Development and Women & Child Welfare Minister Danasari Anasuya Seethakka said. The decision was taken following an agreement signed at a programme held at the Aga Khan Foundation in Raviryal, Rangareddy district on Tuesday.

Describing the move as a significant milestone, the Minister said the expansion aims to enable Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Particularly Vulnerable Tribal



Groups (PVTGs) to achieve economic self-reliance.

The programme will now be implemented in Gundala, Pinapaka, Dumugudem and Cherla mandals of Bhadradi Kothagudem district, Gangaram mandal of Mahabubabad district, Naroor mandal of Adilabad district and Gattu mandal of Jogulamba Gadwal district. Identified PVTG communities in the State in-

clude Gond, Kolam, Thoti and Chenchu. Implemented under the aegis of the Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) with support from the Aga Khan Foundation and BRAC International, the initiative follows the globally recognised Graduation Approach. It integrates social protection, financial assistance, skill development and market linkages to help families move out of

poverty through sustainable income sources.

Minister Seethakka said special focus is being given to promoting mahua flower-based industries in agency areas, noting that these products received a good response at the recent Medaram Sannakka-Saralamma Jatara.

Linking local resources to markets would strengthen tribal livelihoods, she added. Currently implemented as a pilot project in eight mandals across five districts, TGILP targets about 6,000 extremely poor families, of which 3,554 have already benefited. The Minister said another 8,000 families would soon be covered under the Sustainable Livelihoods Scheme (SAY) through the National Rural Liveli-

hoods Mission (NRLM).

Inspired by Kerala's success in eradicating extreme poverty, Telangana is adopting a comprehensive, data-driven and time-bound approach, she said, adding that the government aims to provide holistic support covering food, housing, health, education and livelihoods. "Our goal is not just to reduce poverty, but to completely eradicate extreme poverty and ensure that every family lives with dignity," Minister Seethakka said. Former Additional Secretary to the union Ministry of Rural Development Charanjit Singh, SERP CEO Divya Devarajan, union Rural Development Ministry Joint Secretary Monica Bhutunguru and BRAC International India Head Shweta S. Banerjee were among those present.

## Gouravelli project to be taken up on priority: Uttam Kumar Reddy



Hyderabad, Feb 24 (Indian Chronicle) Telangana Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy on Monday clarified that the Gouravelli irrigation project will be taken up on a priority basis by the Congress government and completed at the earliest, despite delays caused by environmental clearances and legal issues.

The Minister held a special review meeting with BC Welfare Minister Ponnamb Prabhakar at the B.R. Ambedkar Secretariat on the progress of the Gouravelli

project under construction in Gouravelli village of Akkanapeta mandal in Siddipet district. Uttam Kumar Reddy said the project, originally planned with a capacity of 1.41 TMC to irrigate about 1.06 lakh acres, is now proposed to be expanded to 8.23 TMC to bring additional ayacut under irrigation, and revised estimates will be submitted to the government. He directed district collectors to complete land acquisition by releasing required funds before June 2 and instructed the

Advocate General to be prepared to handle legal issues related to the project. The Minister assured that compensation paid to farmers is lawful and funds would be sanctioned without delay.

Ponnamb Prabhakar said the government is closely monitoring the project and urged officials to expedite land acquisition for Gouravelli and other irrigation projects as per the directions of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, according to an official statement.

## Unseasonal Rain Causes Heavy Damage

### Mango Buds and Maize Crop Fall to Ground

### Ex-Minister Jeevan Reddy Demands Rs.20,000 Compensation per Acre

Jagtial Correspondent, February 24 (Indian Chronicle): Unseasonal rain on Monday night caused heavy damage to mango and maize crops in Jagtial district, resulting in significant losses to farmers.

The sudden rain with strong winds destroyed the crops, leaving farmers in distress. The affected areas include Dharmapuri, Bugaram, Jagtial Rural, Malapur, Malyala, Gollapalli, Rayikkal, Sarangapur, Birupur, Velgatoor, Medipalli, and other villages.



The maize crop, which was at the cob stage, was severely damaged, and mango buds fell to the ground, causing huge

losses to farmers. Farmers are demanding that the government provide compensation and inspect the damaged crops. Ex-Min-

ister Tatiparthi Jeevan Reddy visited the damaged maize fields in Ramoji Pet and Mothe village on Tuesday, accompanied by farmers. He demanded that the government provide Rs.20,000 compensation per acre to the affected farmers, as there is no crop insurance scheme. Jeevan Reddy emphasized that farmers are the backbone of the country and should be supported during difficult times. He urged the Chief Minister to provide relief to the farmers by February.

## Municipal Chairperson Vani Meets CM

Jagtial Town, Boragalla Lavanya, February 24 (Indian Chronicle): Samindla Vani, the newly elected Municipal Chairperson of Jagtial, met Chief Minister Revanth Reddy in Hyderabad on Tuesday, accompanied by State Minister for Welfare Adhuri Laxman Kumar, State Minister for Water Resources Uttam Kumar Reddy, and Jagtial MLA Sanjay Kumar.

Vani presented a bouquet to the Chief Minister and expressed her gratitude for being given the opportunity to serve as Municipal Chair-



son. The meeting was also attended by Korutla Congress Party Incharge Juvvadi Narasinga Rao and others. During the

meeting, Vani briefed the Chief Minister on the key civic issues in Jagtial town and sought support for the development of

infrastructure, including drinking water supply, underground drainage, internal roads and sanitation facilities.

## Woman Commits Suicide by Jumping into SRSP Canal



Jagtial Town / Boragalla Lavanya, February 24 (Indian Chronicle): A woman named Kanagala Anusha (40) from Nukapelli Urban Colony in Jagtial died by jumping into the SRSP canal on Tuesday, reportedly due to financial difficulties and debt pressures. The incident has caused a stir, with police investigating the circumstances surrounding her death. According to police, Anusha's family had migrated to Jagtial from Andhra Pradesh and were living in Nukapelli Urban Colony. She had taken a loan from people in Kankipadu, Vijayawada, and was facing pressure to repay it. On Tuesday, some individuals from Kankipadu came to her house and allegedly abused her, demanding repayment of the loan. Anusha, reportedly feeling ashamed and distressed, jumped into the canal and died.

## Field Visit by Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation Commissioner in Boduppal Circle - Vinay Krishna Reddy

NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, February 24, (Indian Chronicle): Boduppal: The Commissioner of the Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation, Vinay Krishna Reddy, conducted an extensive field inspection in the Boduppal Circle on Tuesday to review sanitation and solid waste management operations. During the visit, the Commissioner examined the implementation of the Door-to-Door (D2D) waste collection system and reviewed the functioning of Swachh Auto vehicles engaged in garbage collection. He assessed operational efficiency and infrastructure requirements with the concerned officials. Deputy



Commissioner A. Shailaja and Deputy Executive Engineer (SWM) Jahnavi Shankar briefed the Commissioner on the current status of waste collection in the circle. He sought detailed information on whether the collection process was being carried out effectively and

identified areas requiring improvement. The Commissioner directed officials to clear accumulated garbage along both sides of roads without delay. He also instructed them to eliminate Garbage Vulnerable Points (GVPs) systematically and to take preventive mea-

asures to ensure that waste does not accumulate again at those locations. Further, he emphasized the need to increase the number of Swachh Auto vehicles to strengthen door-to-door waste collection. The Commissioner also called for intensified public awareness campaigns, urging residents to hand over waste only to authorized Swachh Autos instead of dumping it on roads. Stressing coordinated efforts, he directed officials to work collectively to further improve sanitation standards across the Boduppal Circle. Assistant Engineer (SWM) Mahesh and Sanitary Inspector Praveen Kumar were also present during the inspection.

## Stringent Security Measures for Godavari Pushkarams District SP Ashok Kumar

Jagtial Town B. Lavanya, February 24 (Indian Chronicle): Jagtial District SP Ashok Kumar announced that stringent security measures will be taken for the upcoming Godavari Pushkarams-2027.

The SP conducted a review meeting with police officials from the areas where the Pushkarams will be held, discussing comprehensive security arrangements, traffic control, parking, CCTV camera installation, and special measures for women's safety.

Speaking on the occasion, SP Ashok Kumar emphasized that the safety of devotees is a top pri-



ority, with an estimated 15 lakh people expected to visit the district daily. He instructed officials to analyze past experiences and prepare a foolproof plan. The SP directed officials to allocate separate emergency routes for each ghat, ensure easy access for ambulances

and fire vehicles, and prepare a special traffic plan to avoid congestion. The meeting was attended by DSPs Raghuchander and Ramulu, CIs Anil Kumar, Sudhakar, and Ram Narsimha Reddy, and SIs Satish, Anil, Krishna Sagar Reddy, Randhir Rao, and Uma Sagar.

## Karimnagar Police to organise free vision screening for drivers under 'Arrive Alive' initiative

Khaja Sikander Mohiuddin Staff Reporter, Indian Chronicle Karimnagar, Feb 24 : The Karimnagar Police Commissionerate will organise a free eye medical camp for drivers on February 27 as part of its "Arrive Alive" road safety initiative aimed at reducing accidents caused by vision-related issues.

Commissioner of Police Gaush Alam said that drivers' eyesight



road mishaps and that the department has prioritised preven-

tive health measures to enhance road safety. He unveiled the pro-

gramme poster at the Commissioner's office on Tuesday in the

presence of senior officials.

"Clear vision is fundamental to safe driving. We urge drivers of private vehicles, buses operated by the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC), auto-rickshaws and heavy vehicles to avail themselves of this free medical facility," he said.

The camp will be conducted at Astra Convention Hall on the premises of the Karimnagar Police

Headquarters. Specialist doctors will carry out eye examinations and provide necessary medical advice to drivers diagnosed with vision deficiencies.

Trainee IPS officer Soham Sunil, Assistant Commissioners of Police Venkataswamy, Vijay Kumar, Srinivas, Srinivasa G., Ramesh, Satish, and Inspectors Ram Chander Rao, Srujan Reddy and Tirumal, among others, were present.

## Tight Police Security at Exam Centres; Section 163 BNSS Enforced

Indian Chronicle (Taj Khan), February 24, Strict Restrictions Around Intermediate Exam Centres in District Superintendent of Police Nitika Pant has announced that stringent police security arrangements have been put in place at all examination centres across the district in connection with the Intermediate Annual Examinations. As part of maintaining law and order, Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) — equivalent to Section 144 — has been imposed in the vicinity of examination centres. The examinations



will be conducted at 19 centres across the district from February 25, 2026, to March 18, 2026, between 9:00 AM and 12:00 Noon. The prohibitory orders have been enforced as a precautionary measure to prevent any un-

toward incidents during the examination period.

Restrictions Imposed: 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM daily during the examination period (February 25 to March 18, 2026). The District SP stated that all necessary

- Assembly of three or more persons near examination centres is strictly prohibited.
- Movement near centres with any prohibited materials is banned.
- All Xerox (photocopy) centres located within a 200-metre radius of examination venues must remain closed from

measures have been taken to ensure the smooth and peaceful conduct of the examinations. Students have been advised to reach their respective centres at least 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the examination.

Carrying mobile phones and electronic devices to the examination centres

is strictly prohibited, and thorough checks will be conducted. Special police escorts have been arranged for the secure transportation of question papers. Surveillance will also be maintained on suspicious individuals in and around examination centres to prevent any incidents, the SP clarified.

## 210 Grams of Ganja Seized; Accused Taken into Custody

Indian Chronicle (Taj Khan), February 24, Man Arrested for Transporting Ganja in Kerameri Kerameri: A man was arrested for illegally transporting ganja on the outskirts of Savar Khed village in Kerameri mandal, Sub-Inspector Madhukar said. According to the SI, vehicle inspections were being conducted on Monday in the outskirts of Savar Khed village when police noticed a suspicious individual moving in the area. Upon questioning and searching him, the accused, identified as Sarojit Mandal,



was found in possession of 210 grams of ganja. Police stated that the seized contraband is estimated to be worth approximately 5,250. The ganja was confiscated, and a case has been regis-

tered against the accused. Further investigation is underway. The SI warned that strict legal action will be taken against anyone involved in the sale, purchase, or consumption of ganja.

## KTR Alleges Misuse of Police, Irregularities in Municipal Polls

Indian Chronicle (Taj Khan), February 24, Adilabad: K. T. Rama Rao, working president of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), on Tuesday charged the Congress-led State government with distorting the public mandate in the recent municipal elections. He alleged that the ruling party relied on coercion, inducements and intimidation, and cautioned it against deploying the police machinery to corner Opposition leaders.

After meeting former MLA Balka Suman and other detained BRS functionaries at Adilabad Central Jail, Rama Rao claimed that the Congress attempted to seize control of local bodies despite lacking adequate numbers.

Referring to the results in Kyathanpally municipality of Mancherial district, he said the BRS secured 10 seats in the 22-member council, while its ally, the Communist Party of India (CPI), won four, taking the alliance tally to 14 — a clear majority. In contrast, the Congress managed seven seats but allegedly tried to assume power through pressure tactics and in-



ducements.

Rama Rao further alleged that BRS councillors were offered 3 crore each to switch loyalties, but they declined. When these efforts failed, he claimed, the ruling party resorted to other methods, including alleged attacks on women councillors inside the council hall in Kyathanpally and the arrest of senior BRS leaders outside the premises. He also cited an incident in Jangaon municipality where a Dalit woman councillor was reportedly assaulted by a police officer.

Describing the developments as an affront to democratic values, Rama Rao said the government had made a "mockery" of the electorate's verdict.

Questioning the detention of Balka Suman and

others, he accused the police of partisan functioning. He alleged that while no action was initiated against former Congress MLA T. Jagga Reddy or BJP MP Dharmapuri Arvind over alleged provocative remarks against police personnel, cases were promptly registered against BRS leaders who raised objections over irregularities in the municipal polls.

He also claimed that tribal MLA Kova Lakshmi had been implicated in what he termed a fabricated case aimed at stifling dissent.

Rama Rao reiterated that the BRS would continue to oppose what he described as undemocratic practices and warned the government against further misuse of state institutions for political ends.

## Women Should Excel in All Fields: Former Corporator Mandumula Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy

KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, February 24 (Indian Chronicle): Former Uppal Corporator Mandumula Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy stated that women should excel in all fields and emphasized that national development is possible only through women's empowerment. A certificate distribution programme was held at KKR Gardens, Uppal, for women who completed sewing machine training conducted under the auspices of Lavanya Foundation. Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy attended the event as the chief guest. On the occasion, a lucky draw was conducted, and sewing machines were distributed to the winners Swapna, Sarala, and Mahalakshmi by Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy. Speaking at the event, she noted that the state government is implementing several welfare schemes for women.



She highlighted free bus travel for women and the supply of gas cylinders at 500 under the Mahalakshmi scheme. She also stated that interest-free loans are being provided to support small traders and women entrepreneurs. She further recalled that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is undertaking several initiatives for women's empowerment.

Lavanya Foundation Founder Lavanya, Sandhya, teachers Vani and Madhuri,

Navaneetha, Lingampalli Ramakrishna, Bhoosam Ranganath Reddy, Salla Prabhakar Reddy, Tummala Devi Reddy, Gorige Mahesh, Suresh, Balaraj, Alugula Anil, Alwal Bhaskar, Prem, Pujari Hanumanth, Mashetty Raghavendra, Tummala Rajender Reddy, Srinivas, Mohan Naik, Prashanth Reddy, Bachcha Ramu, Rangula Shekhar, Shashikanth Reddy, Vamsi Goud and others participated in the programme.

## Haleem boycott call on X backfires, netizens hit back

Hyderabad: With Ramzan season upon us, and people swarming their nearest haleem outlets, some people, not being able to handle the dish's popularity, have called to boycott it altogether. One post on X, from the account Tathvam-asi, called upon Hindus to take an oath

not eat haleem this season. Soon, people showed up to defend their beloved dish and slammed the poster for spreading hate.

"Why are you spreading hate. I love Haleem as a Hindu. What is your problem?" said one X user while another said, "PEOPLE of

Telangana can compromise on anything but never I repeat will NEVER compromise when it comes to FOOD." Meanwhile, others took to sarcasm, saying how the boycott would benefit Muslims, as Hindus normally "finish all the food before iftar."

## BC JAC Leaders in Uppal Pay Tribute to Infant Victim of Caste Violence in Nagar Kurnool

KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, February 24 (Indian Chronicle): Leaders of the BC Joint Action Committee (BC JAC) from the Uppal constituency paid tribute to an infant who reportedly fell victim to caste-based violence in Nagar Kurnool. Under the leadership of BC JAC Uppal Assembly leader Nerdham Bhaskar Goud, members gathered at Chilkunaganar Crossroads on Tuesday to express solidarity with the bereaved family and offer floral tributes. The leaders condemned the alleged caste-based brutality that resulted in the death of a two-month-old infant during the Kummara Mallanna Jatara. The child was born to Ganesh and Mounika, and the family belongs to backward and Dalit communities. BC leaders

## Demand Strict Legal Action Against Those Responsible



strongly denounced what they described as the oppressive and inhumane behavior of dominant caste members. Speaking on the occasion, Bhaskar Goud expressed outrage, stating that those responsible for the infant's death must be given the harshest punishment. He alleged that caste arrogance had once again led to a tragic loss of life. According to the speakers,

during the Mallanna Jatara in Kummara village, Ganesh (from the Rajaka community) and Chandrakala and Mounika (from Dalit communities) were allegedly assaulted by individuals including Sarpanch Tukaram Reddy, Satish Reddy, Madhusudan Reddy, Srinivas Reddy, and others. They alleged that women were attacked and that the two-month-old infant was

killed in the violence.

The BC leaders demanded: Immediate arrest and strict punishment of the accused. Registration of murder charges along with cases under the SC/ST Atrocities Act. Strong measures to prevent future caste-based attacks on BC, SC, and ST communities. 10 lakh financial assistance from the government to the victim's family. They stated

that justice would be pursued until the affected Rajaka family receives relief and accountability. BC organizations across the state would continue to protest until justice is delivered, they added.

Participants in the tribute program included BC President Venkatesh, BC Association State Convenor Satya Raju, BJP leader Gone Srikanth, Telangana Sampath, Ravindra Mudiraj, TRS leader Raju Mudiraj, Jalli Mohan, Sakanala Prasad, Chilkunaganar Dalit Association President Masa Shekhar, and representatives of the Rajaka community. BC leaders reiterated their commitment to stand with the victim's family and ensure justice is served.

## CS K. Ramakrishna Rao orders foolproof arrangements for Inter exams across TG

Khaja Sikander Mohiuddin Staff Reporter, Indian Chronicle Karimnagar, Feb 24 : Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao on Tuesday directed district officials to ensure stringent arrangements for the smooth conduct of the Intermediate public examinations scheduled from February 25 to March 18 across the state.

At a video conference with district collectors, the Chief Secretary stressed the need for foolproof security and close coordination among all departments to prevent malpractice and ensure a hassle-free experience for students. He said candidates arriving up to five minutes late should be allowed into examination centres.

CS Ramakrishna Rao made it clear that mobile phones would not be permitted inside exam centres and that question paper packets must be opened only under CCTV surveillance. He instructed officials to put in place thorough



checking systems at entry points and ensure strict monitoring throughout the examination period.

He also directed authorities to ensure uninterrupted power supply, adequate drinking water and basic amenities at all centres. Special RTC buses should be operated along examination routes to help students reach venues on time, he said. The Chief Secretary asked the medical and

health department to deploy paramedical staff at every centre with ORS packets and essential medicines. Local bodies were told to maintain sanitation and cleanliness at the venues. District Collector Pamela Satpathy, Additional Collector (Local Bodies) Ashwini Tanaji Wakade and Police Commissioner Gautham participated in the review from the Karimnagar Collectorate.

## Pochamma Temple First Anniversary Celebrated Grandly in Boduppall Circle 12th Division



NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, February 24, (Indian Chronicle): The first anniversary celebrations of the Pochamma Temple in GHMC Boduppall Circle, 12th Division, were held with religious fervor and community participation. The event began with special pujas and homams in the morning, followed by Maha Mangala Harathi offered to the deity. BJP Vice President Gandipalli Raju attended the programme as the chief guest and participated in the rituals. Ad-

ressing the devotees, he said that temples symbolize social unity and should serve as centers of spiritual awakening. He emphasized that the development of temples is possible through the collective efforts and unity of local residents. As part of the celebrations, an annadanam programme was organized and prasadam was distributed to devotees. Women, youth, and a large number of residents took part in the event, making it a success. Cultural programmes were a special attraction during the celebrations.

## BATTAMEKALA LINGAM YADAV APPOINTED AS TRP STATE OFFICE CO-ORDINATOR

NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, February 24, (Indian Chronicle): Hyderabad: Telangana Rajyadhikara Party (TRP) has appointed Battamekala Lingam Yadav as the State Office Co-ordinator.

The appointment was made by party president and MLC Teenmar Mallanna. The appointment letter was handed over to Lingam Yadav at a programme held at the party's state office. On the occa-



sion, Teenmar Mallanna directed him to effectively coordinate the affairs of the state office and work towards strengthening the party across Telangana. Lingam Yadav has been associated with the party since its inception and is known as a committed worker who has earned the trust of the leadership. Party leaders expressed confidence that he will play a key role in expanding organisational activities and reinforcing the party structure statewide.

State leaders and executive members of TRP congratulated Lingam Yadav on his appointment and extended their best wishes. Among those present at the programme were Working President Sudhagani Hari Shankar Goud, Disciplinary Committee Chairman Bandharapu Narsaiah Goud, Youth Wing President Boddipalli Chandrasekhar, state leaders Bayya Venkatesh Yadav and Ranganna, along with other party representatives.

## Spandana Achieves South India honours: 17 Students Awarded for Excellence in Handwriting

P. S. ASHOKAN KARIM-NAGAR BUREAU: Spandana School has once again demonstrated its commitment to academic excellence as 17 of its students were honoured with the prestigious South Indian Best Handwriting Awards in a distinguished ceremony held on Tuesday.

The event was graced by eminent dignitaries including the Hon'ble Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, respected Corporators, and prominent political leaders. Their esteemed presence added grandeur and significance to the celebration.

While addressing the gathering, the Hon'ble Mayor highlighted the vi-



tal role of neat and legible handwriting in academic success. He stated that clear and well-structured writing not only enhances presentation but also plays a crucial role in securing higher marks and better ranks in examinations. He encouraged students to cultivate

disciplined writing habits and strive for excellence in every academic endeavour.

The Mayor also highly appreciated Spandana School for providing quality, corporate-standard education alongside sports, cultural activities, and overall personality development. He

commended the dedicated efforts of the teaching faculty in nurturing both academic brilliance and holistic growth among students.

On this proud occasion, Headmaster Mr. Ravinder Rao officially announced that B. Sahasra, B. Mithali, E. Sai Sanjeev, M. Jash-

wanth, and K. Sahithi, along with 17 meritorious students, received the Best Handwriting Awards. He congratulated the awardees and praised their perseverance, discipline, and commitment to excellence.

The programme was further strengthened by the active participation and support of Prashanth, Avinash, and Kishan Nayak, making the event a memorable and inspiring celebration.

The ceremony stands as a proud milestone in Spandana School's journey, reflecting its unwavering dedication to fostering academic distinction, character building, and the pursuit of perfection.

## Manthani Witnesses Magnificent Celebrations Marking the Birthday of Duddilla Srinubabu

P. S. ASHOKAN KARIM-NAGAR BUREAU: Manthani witnessed grand and dignified celebrations on Monday on the occasion of the birthday of Mr. Duddilla Srinubabu, TPCC General Secretary and brother of State Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu.

The celebrations were organized under the aegis of the Mandal Youth Congress at Ambedkar Chowrasta, where a ceremonial cake-cutting event was conducted amidst an enthusiastic gathering of party leaders, public representatives, and supporters. As part of the humanitarian initiatives marking the occasion, a blood donation camp was organized at the Government Hospital, followed by the distribution of fruits to patients, reflecting a spirit of social responsibility and public service.



Several distinguished leaders graced the event, including Municipal Chairman Mr. Odanala Srinivas, Vice Chairman Mr. Muskula Sayender Reddy, Councillors Mr. Pentari Raju, Ms. Marupaka Niharika, and Mr. Ellanki Vamsi, Party Mandal President Mr. Aili Prasad, Youth Congress Mandal President Mr. Sadhula Sreekanth, Market Committee Chairman Mr.

Kududula Venkanna, former Chairperson Ms. Sri-rambhatla Santosh, State Electricity Board Member Mr. Shashi Bhushan Kache, former MPP Mr. Konda Shankar, former Single Window Chairman Mr. Kotha Srinivas, RTA Member Mr. Manthani Suresh, and senior party leaders Mr. Banda Kishore Reddy, Mr. Manthani Satyam, and Mr. Manthani Rakesh, among

others. Addressing the gathering, the speakers observed that Mr. Srinubabu has been steadfastly supporting Minister Sridhar Babu in realizing the ideals and aspirations of the late former Speaker Sripada Rao. They emphasized that he remains closely connected to the people of the constituency, sharing in both their hardships and their achievements.

The leaders described him as a compassionate and committed public servant who works relentlessly for the resolution of public grievances. They further lauded him as a dependable pillar of support for the needy — an individual who responds even at midnight to the concerns of citizens.

Special mention was made of his continuous encouragement to youth in the fields of education, employment, and political leadership. His guidance, motivation, and selfless dedication, they noted, have inspired many young individuals to move forward with confidence and purpose. The celebrations concluded on a note of unity and renewed commitment to public welfare and developmental progress in the constituency.

## Mobile apps for GPOs.... Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Additional Collector Bhaskara Rao

(Mandava Srisailem..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle... February 24):- The state government has brought a mobile app to bring a new system for transparent and fast delivery. The investigation of civil service applications across the state will be carried out paperless. The entire process of investigation by revenue staff on the details of the respective applications and the report given will now continue online. For this, the government has brought new mobile apps to the village administrators (GPOs). For some time now, the revenue officials have been monitoring the performance of the mobile app on pilot applications through GPOs in (5) villages of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district. Thus, the officials have been monitoring the technical aspects arising in the implementation of this app from time to time and have made changes and additions accordingly. The



mobile app, which is currently in the pilot phase, has overcome all the technical hurdles and the full-fledged application has been made available to the (GPOs) from today, on which training was conducted for the (GPOs) through video conference. Additional Collector of Local Bodies Bhaskara Rao, Bhuvanagiri RDO Krishna Reddy, Jagan Mohan Prasad, Administrative Officer (Meeseva) Collector, Sai Kumar, e-District Manager and Tehsildars of all the mandals, Revenue Inspectors and GPOs participated in this video conference.

## Strict action will be taken if govt lands are encroached upon: Bhuvanagiri Municipal Chairman Tangallapalli Srivani Ravi Kumar

(Mandava Srisailem..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle... February 24):- Bhuvanagiri Municipal Chairman Tangallapalli Srivani Ravi Kumar said that legal action will be taken if government lands in Bhuvanagiri town are encroached upon and illegal structures are constructed.

As part of this, the municipal authorities removed the structures that were encroaching on government land and constructing illegal structures in the local indoor stadium in Bhuvanagiri town. Speaking on this occasion, Municipal Chairman Tangallapalli Srivani Ravi Kumar said that government lands will be protected under the auspices of the ruling party and used for public needs. If anyone illegally occupies government land, strict action will be taken against



them, no matter how many people they are. Hussainabad Suburb Survey No. 157 Government land will be developed for an indoor stadium, and the authorities have removed the illegal constructions undertaken on the land allotted for the indoor stadium. Municipal Chairman Tangallapalli Srivani Ravi Kumar said that strict action will be taken against anyone who tries to encroach

on this land again. He said that he will talk to the District Sports and Youth Officer about the construction of a boundary wall around the indoor stadium site and will provide his full support for the development of the indoor stadium. Bhuvanagiri Tahsildar Anji Reddy, Municipal Commissioner Nagi Reddy, Ward Councilor Karnakar Hirakar Srinu, officials and ward people participated in this program.

## Plans should be prepared in two days for the preparation of the tourism master plan:- Additional Collector of Local Bodies Bhaskara Rao

(Mandava Srisailem..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle... February 24):- As part of the preparation of the tourism master plan, a meeting was held today under the auspices of Additional Collector of Local Bodies Bhaskara Rao. Speaking, the Additional Collector of Local Bodies said that plans should be prepared in two days for the preparation of the



tourism master plan. He instructed the concerned officials to identify Rachakonda, Bhuvanagiri

Fort, Mahadevpur, Yadadri Temple, Kolanupaka, Matsyagiri Temple and other important places and pre-

pare plans. These plans are being prepared by M/s Voyants solution Pvt Ltd. They said that they will

create it. Tourism Officer Dhananjayulu, Assistant Director Omprakash Tourism Rama Murthy, and Municipal Commissioner Pochampally Yadagirigutta Bhuvanagiri participated in this program.

Officials stated that the plan aims to promote tourism infrastructure, improve connectivity and provide better facilities for visitors at these prominent locations.

## Miscreants Creating Panic in Boipet Ward: Councillor Srilatha Lodges Complaint; Municipal Chairman Responds Promptly.

P. S. ASHOKAN KARIM-NAGAR BUREAU: In a serious development within the municipal limits of Manthani, Councillor Potharaveni Srilatha Kranti has expressed deep concern over alleged acts of intimidation and misinformation related to the construction of Indiramma houses in Boipet 6th Ward. According to the councillor, certain miscreants, in association with local leaders belonging to the ruling party, have been creating fear and confusion among the beneficiaries of the Indiramma housing scheme. She formally brought the matter to the attention of the Municipal Commissioner, Mr. Manohar, and the Municipal Chairman, Mr. Odanala Srinivas, on Monday.

Councillor Srilatha stated that misleading messages are being circulated in WhatsApp groups, falsely claiming that the local councillor has no role or authority in matters concerning the housing project and that the entire process will be handled exclusively by others. She further alleged that the individuals involved are directly contacting the mason



responsible for the construction and even communicating with concerned officials through social media posts.

In addition, she accused certain influential local leaders of making threatening phone calls, warning that no houses should be constructed in the area and instructing that beneficiaries must build their houses independently without official intervention. These actions, she said, have caused distress and apprehension among the residents. Councillor Srilatha appealed to Honourable Minister Sridhar Babu to take serious note of the situation and initiate appropriate action against those allegedly involved in intimidation. She urged that the dignity and

rights of the people of Boipet be safeguarded.

She informed that the matter has been formally reported to the Municipal Chairman and Commissioner. Responding immediately, Chairman Odanala Srinivas reportedly assured that such misconduct would not be tolerated and that strict action would be taken against those responsible. He also affirmed that the dignity and authority of every councillor would be upheld and protected. The councillor expressed satisfaction over the Chairman's prompt response and reiterated her commitment to ensuring justice and transparency for the beneficiaries of the housing scheme.

## Congratulatory Visit to Newly Elected Cheriyaal Municipal Chairperson - Mustyala Aruna Bala Narsayya

NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, February 24, (Indian Chronicle): Local leaders and well-wishers met Mustyala Aruna Bala Narsayya following her assumption of office as the Chairperson of Cheriyaal Municipality. They extended their congratulations and conveyed their best wishes for her successful tenure. During the meeting, they expressed confidence in her leadership and hoped that the municipality would witness significant development and im-



proved civic administration under her guidance. Aruna Bala Narsayya thanked the visitors for their support and stated that she is com-

mitted to working towards the overall development of Cheriyaal Municipality and addressing public issues effectively.

## Dr. Ravi felicitates chairperson



Yellandu, February 24 (Indian Chronicle) Doctor and senior Congress leader Ravi felicitated the councilor of the second ward of Illandulapadu and municipal chairperson Dadda Kiran Mitra Daniel and his wife at the chairperson's house on Tues-

day. Similarly, chairperson Kiran Mitra, who worked as a teacher at the Montessori school, was specially invited and a meeting was organized and the school management felicitated the chairperson and his wife and ward councilor Sudarshan Kori.

## Sri Vasavi Kanyaka Parameshwari Temple felicitates Bhuvanagiri Municipal Chairman Tangallapalli Srivani Ravikumar



(Mandava Srisailem..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle... February 24):- At the local Sri Vasavi Kanyaka Parameshwari Temple in Bhuvanagiri town, Sridevi Utsava Committee and Bhuvanagiri Kiranam & General Merchant Distributor Association felicitated Bhuvanagiri

Municipal Chairman Tangallapalli Srivani Ravikumar and Ward Councilor Chenna Swathi Mahesh. On this occasion, the Chairman honored Srivani with a shawl. Speaking on this occasion, they requested the ward councilor and the municipal chairman to resolve the problems in their ward.

## Power Official Caught Red Handed Taking Bribe in Hyderabad



Hyderabad correspondent (KS Reddy) February 24 (Indian Chronicle): An Assistant Engineer of TGS PDCL was caught red handed by Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) officials while allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs. 16,000 in the city. The accused, Mamidiseti Srinivasa Rao, working as Assistant Engineer (Operations) in the Masab Tank section, was apprehended by the ACB City Range II team during the trap operation. According to ACB officials, the officer had demanded the bribe from a complainant to avoid initiating coercive action related to the complainant's seized electricity meter. Acting on a complaint, the ACB laid a trap and caught the official while he was accepting the amount. The tainted bribe money was recovered from his possession. Officials stated that the accused misused his official position to obtain undue advantage.

## WOW.. SIMHA TEJA

# A little bit of glory

A young Teja who has crossed the ages..

Simha Teja who has shown his talent on the world stage..

A Telugu student who represented the United Nations in Bangkok, Thailand and created a record..

A trip from Keesara Pallavi International School to the United Nations in Bangkok..A new record for a resident of Nagaram at the world conference, Simha Teja's parents Prahlad and Keerthana are happy



(Mandava Srisailam..Hyderabad Indian Chronicle correspondent..February 24):- This is what a little bit of glory means.. If you have intelligence, knowledge and talent, who will beat them? Isn't it right?... A day has come for those talented people to prove their mettle, wherever and whenever, so that the whole world can be proud of them. Then everyone has to salute their courage and talent. Recently.. the talent of a school-going Telangana student has surpassed all expectations. Simha Teja, son of Gdikanti Prahlad and Kirtana, who hailed from Satyanarayana Colony, Keesara Mandal, Medchal District, achieved a rare feat at the UN conference held in Bangkok. It is a privilege for this young creator.. Master Simha Teja to get the opportunity to represent India on the world stage at this prestigious global conference, which was attended by ambassadors, ministers, academicians, researchers, university intellectuals, young representatives, and policymakers from various countries of the world. Recently, our Telangana student created a record by representing the (stage) community at the Global Conference on



Education for a Sustainable Future held at the United Nations Conference Hall in Bangkok, Thailand. However, this child intellectual is studying in Class 9 at Pallavi International School, Keesara Mandal. Many intellectuals have called this boy sharing the world stage at such a young age a proud day for India. This huge platform where Simha Teja addressed the future of education in line with the Sustainable Development Goals along with the world's most knowledgeable youth.. The words of Simha Teja at the conference that will encourage meaningful discussions on innovation, equity, and future-ready learning systems... seemed to be literal truths for today's dreamy youth.. Everyone who heard that speech suddenly imagined their bright future.. It is noteworthy that many delegates have commented that Simha Teja has reflect-



ed the growing voice of the youth in creating changes in educational transformation through his talent. Proud Parents Pallavi International School .. Master Simha Teja congratulated this wonderful achievement, saying that this will significantly impact his future educational journey. They believed that this achievement achieved by Simha Teja, Riha and Gandhi.. will encourage even the first-year students to think globally and act responsibly for a sustainable future, and that it was successfully carried out under the leadership of Coordinator Chintaluri Annapurna and Pallavi International School Principal Channapragada Srilatha. Parents Prahlad and Keerthana were elated with Simha Teja's record, which made the entire country and Telangana state proud in this National United Conference.. On this occasion,



along with many celebrities who visited Telangana, the school management, relatives and people of Nagaram division expressed their joy and congratulated them.. Many celebrities blessed the boy who achieved the record. Telangana Malidhasha activist, senior journalist, social activist Kodikanti Srinivas, state OBC executive member Vengala Madhusudhan and others wished that Simha Teja would reach greater heights in the future. 'Simha Teja' was congratulated On this occasion, 'Simha Teja' was congratulated by a group of senior journalists. Speaking to 'Maa Prathiti' on this occasion, he described this great opportunity, honor and the congratulations coming from many as a rare event in his life that 'Simha Teja' will never forget. He stated that these records will help him reach greater heights in life.

## Migrant worker kills two-month old, burns body on make-shift stove

Hyderabad: A migrant worker from Madhya Pradesh, who works at a construction site in Telangana's Bowrampet, allegedly killed her two-month old baby boy and put his body in a makeshift firewood stove on Tuesday, February 24. The accused, Mamta, was distressed due to financial problems and frequently argued with her husband. On the day of the incident, her baby, Surya, was continuously crying. To stop that, she tied his hands and legs and stuffed cloth in his mouth, Medchal Assistant Commissioner of Police CH Shankar Reddy told after the baby died, she put the body in a makeshift stove.

## ATM Locked Over Rent Arrears in Bhadradi Kothagudem District

Kranthikumar Dasari | Pinapaka Constancy | February 24 | Indian chronicle : An SBI ATM in Morampalli Banjara village of Burgampahad mandal, Bhadradi Kothagudem district, has been locked over alleged non-payment of rent, triggering concern among residents. According to local sources, the responsibility for maintenance, cash replenishment, and rental payments of SBI ATMs across Telangana has been outsourced to Financial Software and Systems (FSS). However, allegations have surfaced that the agency failed to clear rent dues for the ATM premises in Morampalli Banjara for the past six months. Frustrated by repeated delays and al-



leged lack of response from concerned officials, the building owner reportedly locked the ATM unit four days ago. Despite the closure, neither bank authorities nor representatives of the non representation agency have reportedly taken steps

to resolve the issue, villagers claim. The shutdown has caused inconvenience to residents and travelers who rely on the ATM for urgent cash needs. Many are being forced to depend on local digital service points, where additional commission charges are reportedly levied per transaction, adding to the financial burden on the public. Villagers have urged SBI senior officials to intervene immediately, clear the pending rent, and restore ATM services without further delay. They have also called for appropriate action against the agency concerned to prevent recurrence of such issues. The incident has now become a matter of discussion across the district.

## Petition to the Commissioner for Desilting Works of Nacharam Lakes

Nacharam, Indian Chronicle February 24: Congress leaders submitted a representation to Malkajgiri Municipal Commissioner Vinay Krishna Reddy requesting that desilting works be undertaken at the HMT Lake in Nacharam, Uppal Constituency. On Tuesday, under the lead-



ership of Congress leader Gaddam Kranthi Kishore, a memorandum was submitted to the Commissioner. The leaders urged the authorities to take up

desilting works at the lake, carry out mosquito control measures, and remove wild growth (Gurre Pudukaa weed) using an FTC fogging machine. Responding to the request, the Commissioner instructed the concerned officials to address and resolve the issues at the earliest.

## National Magicians Day celebrations in Telugu University

Mandava Srisailam.. Hyderabad..Indian Chronicle February 23):- The "National Magicians Day celebrations" jointly organized by the Department of Folk Arts of Suravaram Pratap Reddy Telugu University and the Magicians Academy of India were held grandly at the NTR Kalamandir in Nampally on Monday. Telangana State Legislative Council President



Gutta Sukhender Reddy, who attended the celebrations as the chief guest, inaugurated the program. Speaking on the occasion, he said that the art of magic has a special place in Indian culture and that this art has the power to enhance creativity and intelligence among the youth. He expressed his concern that it is everyone's responsibility to preserve traditional art forms and that the decline in the popularity of fine arts in the current times is

somewhat sad. University Vice-Chancellor Acharya Velidanda Nityananda Rao said that the university is committed to the preservation of folk and traditional arts and that a full-fledged magic course will be conducted in the university from next year. Registrar Acharya Kotla Hanumantha Rao, who presided over the program, said that the university has been conducting a magic course for the last 9 years and that he is proud that students

with a passion are giving performances towards self-employment as artists. Course director Samala Venu, a renowned magician, said that magic is not just entertainment, it is a symbol of creativity, and that the country has recognized the birthday of PC Sarkar, who popularized magic, as National Magician Day, and that the importance of magic will increase in modern society. He reminded that magic is not taught anywhere in the country

in certificate and diploma courses, and that Telugu University started it ten years ago. On this occasion, certificates were awarded to the students who completed the diploma course last year by Gutta Sukhender Reddy.

Head of the Department of Folk Arts Dr. Vijay Patlot presented the vote of thanks. Magic artists enchanted the audience with their wonderful performances. Faculty, students and cultural figures participated in this program.

## District Collector launches Surya Velugu calendar



(Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle... February 23):- The popular Telugu daily Surya Velugu calendar was launched by Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector

M. Hanumantha Rao on Monday. Along with District Collector Hanumantha Rao, District Local Bodies Additional Collector Bhaskara Rao, District Rural

Development Officer Nagi Reddy, Zilla Parishad Chief Executive Officer Shobharani, District Revenue Special Officer Jayamma, Surya Velugu Daily Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau M.

Chennaiyya, Praja Lalkas Daily District Representative Gaddam Satyanarayana, and others participated in the Prajavani program organized at the Collector's office on Monday.

## Zero Tolerance to Violence Against Women & Girls: 130 Offenders Apprehended in 15 Days

NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, February 24, (Indian chronicle): The Women Safety Wing of the Malkajgiri Police Commissionerate has intensified action against harassment of women and girls, apprehending 130 offenders between February 1 and 15, 2026. According to police officials, SHE Teams are conducting regular decoy operations in plain clothes at bus stands, railway stations, metro stations, schools, colleges, vegetable markets and other public places to curb eve-teasing and stalking. During the 15-day period, a total of 148 complaints were received. Of the 130 offenders apprehended, 102 were adults and 28 were juveniles. Break-up of complaints: 41 related to harassment through phone calls, 33



through social media applications, and 74 involved direct or physical harassment. Police registered six criminal cases and booked 30 petty cases, while 99 persons were provided counseling at the CP Camp Office, LB Nagar, in the presence of their family members. In one case, an auto driver was caught red-handed during a decoy operation for committing an obscene act in front of students of a Government Degree Women's College. A

case was registered and the accused was arrested. In another incident, a distant relative allegedly harassed a young woman after she refused to marry him. He reportedly made repeated late-night calls and defamed her publicly. Police registered a case, arrested the accused and remanded him to judicial custody. In a separate case, a man was arrested for threatening to upload private photographs of a woman after she ended an

eight-year relationship. The accused allegedly created fake social media accounts and continued to harass her despite being blocked. Police also solved a bus stop molestation case reported on February 3 by analyzing CCTV footage and arresting the accused. As part of preventive measures, SHE Teams conducted 58 awareness programmes during the period, educating about 9,205 people on women's safety laws and precautions. During metro rail decoy operations, four men found traveling in women-only compartments were fined. Women facing harassment can contact the Malkajgiri SHE Teams WhatsApp number: 8712662111 or approach their nearest SHE Team unit. Police urged women to report incidents without fear, assuring strict action against offenders.

## Educational Support Initiative Marks the Birthday of TPCC General Secretary Duddilla Srinubabu in Manthani

P. S. ASHOKAN KARIM-NAGAR BUREAU: On the occasion of the birthday of Duddilla Srinubabu, Telangana State Congress Party General Secretary, a meaningful educational support programme was organized in Manthani under the leadership of Congress leader Mr. MD Jafar Pasha.

As part of the celebrations, essential examination materials including exam pads, pens, and pencils were distributed to Class X students of Zilla Parishad High School Manthani. The initiative was aimed at encouraging students appearing for their board examinations and reinforcing the importance of education as a founda-



tion for future success. The programme was graced by several prominent leaders and public representatives, including Municipal Chairman Mr. Odanala Srinivas, Vice Chairman Mr. Sayender Reddy, Market Committee Chairman Mr. Kududula Venkanna, Mandal President Mr. Aili Prasad, former PACS Chairman Mr. Kotha Srinivas, Councillor Mr. Kurra Lingayya, SC Cell Division President

Mr. Manthani Satyam, Mr. Ragotham Reddy, BC Cell District Vice President Mr. Kishan Ji, former MPP Mr. Konda Shankar, and party leaders Mr. Peravana Lingayya, Mr. Erukala Praveen, Mr. Mehan, and Mr. Digambar, among others. Speaking on the occasion, the leaders highlighted that commemorating the birthday of Mr. Srinubabu through service-oriented activities reflects his enduring commitment to public

welfare and youth empowerment. They emphasized that supporting students at this crucial stage of their academic journey symbolizes the party's dedication to nurturing future generations and promoting educational advancement within the constituency. The event concluded with words of encouragement to the students, urging them to pursue their goals with determination, discipline, and confidence.

## AMC 5th General Body Meeting Held in Medchal; Quarterly Accounts Approved, Key Infrastructure Issues Discussed

NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, February 24, (Indian chronicle): The 5th General Body Meeting of the Agricultural Market Committee was held at the Market Committee Office in Medchal under the chairmanship of Chairman Bommalapalli Narasimha Yadav. During the meeting, the income and expenditure statements for the months of October, November, and December 2025 were reviewed and approved. With the permission of the Chairman, several issues were discussed



in detail. Vice Chairman Vitthal Naik and Directors Nagilla Bal Reddy and Al-lam Poorna Yadav raised

Sale Kanta Market. Several important issues related to market infrastructure were also brought up for discussion. Some members urged the construction of compound walls for certain markets and requested allocation of government land for others to facilitate development works. The committee resolved to meet the Agriculture Minister soon and submit a memorandum highlighting various pending issues. The meeting was attended by the Secretary, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Directors, and other members of the committee.

## Company owners should take appropriate precautions to prevent fire accidents

Explosions and other untoward incidents in industries in the district:

Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao

(Mandava Srisailam. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle... February 24):- District Collector Hanumantha Rao said that company owners should take appropriate precautions to prevent fire accidents, explosions and other untoward incidents in industries in the district, otherwise action will be taken.



On Tuesday, a review meeting was held in the video conference hall with District Collector Hanumantha Rao, SP Akshanksh Yadav, Additional Collector Bhaskar Rao, Additional SP Lakshminarayana on the measures to be taken to prevent fire accidents and explosions in industries. Speaking on this occasion, the Collector reviewed the preventive measures to be taken to prevent fire accidents and explosions in factories and industries in the district.

He ordered the officials of the relevant departments to conduct inspections to prevent fire accidents in chemical, bulk drugs and hazardous factories in the district. The main goal is to protect the lives of workers, and the industries, the Pollution Control Board and the fire departments should work in coordination with each other to prevent incidents, and safety regulations should be

strictly followed. It was suggested that fire and explosion prevention measures, strict implementation of safety standards, and safety of workers should be discussed comprehensively and implemented.

District SP Akshanksh Yadav said that in case of any accident in the district, in coordination with the local public representatives, immediate steps should be taken to en-

sure the safety of the people in the surrounding residential areas so that the people of the surrounding areas do not face any problems due to toxic gases or smoke. Deputy Chief Inspector of Factories Sri Devi, DIC Ravinder, District Fire Officer Sandesh Kumar, Medical Health Officer Manohar, Nagonda, Drug Inspector Balakrishna, concerned officials, and others participated in this program.

## Grand Inauguration of Garikapati's Spiritual Discourses in Manthani Amidst Devotional Fervour

P. S. ASHOKAN KARIM-NAGAR BUREAU: Manthani reverberated with spiritual enthusiasm as the three-day discourse series by Garikapati Narasimha Rao, renowned Mahasahasravadhani and Padma Shri awardee, commenced in a grand manner on Tuesday.



The spiritual programme is being conducted from the 24th to the 26th of this month, daily from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, at the Manikanta Kala Pranganam within the premises of the Ayyappa Swamy Temple Manthani. The venue was filled to capacity with devotees, creating a vibrant and devotional atmosphere.

Speaking on the occasion, Temple Committee Chairman and Municipal Chairman Mr. Odanala Srinivas stated that comprehensive arrangements had been meticulously made for the comfort and convenience of devotees. He further informed that a special committee was constituted to invite Dr. Garikapati to Manthani.

The organizing committee comprises Mr. Odanala Srinivas and Ms. Pravalika as Conveners, Mr. Kuntam Satyanarayana, Mr. Konda Shankar, and Ms. Vijayalakshmi as Invitees, and Avadhani Mohan Sharma as Programme Coordinator.

The event is being organized under the aegis of the Mantrapuri Dharma Prachara Samithi, Manthani, and has transformed the town into a spiritual hub filled

with festive devotion.

On the inaugural day, a grand procession was conducted from Gandhi Chowk through the main streets of the town. The devotional rally featured traditional kolatam performances, Vedic chanting by scholars, and enthusiastic participation by devotees. The procession ceremoniously escorted Dr. Garikapati to the venue, creating an atmosphere reminiscent of a sacred festival.

The arrangements for the programme were personally supervised by Municipal Chairman Mr. Odanala Srinivas and Vice Chairman Mr. Muskula Sayender Reddy. Prior to the commencement of the discourse, members of the Temple Committee honoured the family members of Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu's mother, Smt. Jayapada.

The Temple Committee and the devotees' collective have extended a cordial invitation to all prominent citizens of Manthani and devotees from neighbouring regions to participate

wholeheartedly. They urged attendees to receive the profound spiritual message delivered by Dr. Garikapati with devotion and introspection. The grand spiritual

gathering, marked by Vedic resonance, cultural traditions, and devotional unity, has infused Manthani with a deeply uplifting and sanctified atmosphere.

## National Science Day Celebrations at Little Flower Degree College, Uppal

KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, Feb 24 (Indian Chronicle): The Departments of Physical Sciences and Life Sciences, in collaboration with the Telangana Academy of Sciences, organized National Science Day celebrations on Tuesday at Little Flower Degree College, Uppal. The program was conducted with great enthusiasm, aiming to promote scientific awareness and a spirit of research among students.

The celebrations began with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, symbolizing the pursuit of knowledge and the spirit of scientific inquiry. Director Rev. Brother John Kallarackal delivered the inaugural address, emphasizing the crucial role of science education, innovation, and research in nation-building.



Principal Jayanti Reddy formally introduced the chief guest to the students and the gathering. On this occasion, Telangana Academy of Sciences Zonal Coordinator Dr. B.N. Reddy addressed the audience and provided valuable insights into the objectives, activities, and educational initiatives of the Academy. He explained various funding opportunities, research grants, and academic support offered by TAS to fac-

ulty members and young researchers, and encouraged active participation in its programs for academic and research development.

The chief guest, Dr. Ch. Mohan Rao, former Director of the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology and President of the Telangana Academy of Sciences, delivered an inspiring lecture on the Raman Effect. He explained the concept with remarkable clarity and demonstrated how it can be

connected to real-time applications, making complex scientific principles more understandable and engaging for students. The program proved highly inspiring for students and faculty alike, reinforcing the importance of scientific thinking, curiosity, and the practical application of science in everyday life. The celebrations concluded with a renewed commitment to scientific learning, research skills, and innovation.

## Inter, 10th, class annual examinations should be conducted in a proper manner:- State Govt Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao

(Mandava Srisailam. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle... February 24):- Inter, 10th, class annual examinations should be conducted in a proper manner, said the State Government Chief Secretary, Ramakrishna Rao.

On Tuesday, from the State Secretariat, the video conference program was held with the Collectors of all districts, SPs, Education Department officials, Medical Department officials, RTC officials, Education Department officials on the conduct of the Inter 10th. Class examinations, along with the Secretaries and Commissioners. Speaking on the occasion, the State Government Chief Secretary said... Inter First and Second Examinations will be held from 25th of this month to March 18th, 10th. The annual examinations of the class will be held from March 14 to April 16, and steps should be taken to ensure that drinking water, sanitation, lighting and adequate furniture are available in each examination center. A medical camp, police security should be set up at the examination center, and question and answer sheets should be moved to the examination centers under police security. RTC officials should run buses so that students reach the examination time. The VC participated in this along with District Collector Hanumantha Rao, SP Akshanksh Yadav, Additional Collector of Local Bodies Bhaskar Rao, Additional SP



Lakshminarayana. After the District Collector VC, District Collector Hanumantha Rao held a comprehensive review meeting with officers of all line departments on the preparations for the conduct of Intermediate and SSC public examinations. Speaking on this occasion, the Collector said that the exams should be conducted in a peaceful environment. This year, a total of 28 examination centers have been set up in the district for intermediate and 12,813 students will appear for the intermediate exams for the first and second years. 50 examination centers and 8933 students will appear for the tenth grade exam. He instructed the concerned officials to provide all the necessary infrastructure facilities to the students at each examination center. He advised to take steps to ensure that the examination

centers have adequate furniture, drinking water, sanitation, proper lighting, air circulation and uninterrupted power supply.

He instructed to strictly follow the rules regarding the security of question papers and answer sheets.

He advised the police department officials to make appropriate security arrangements at the examination centers and keep special vigil at sensitive centers. It was informed that the necessary police escort should be arranged for the transportation of question papers and answer sheets. The Transport Department was instructed to provide adequate bus facilities to students from rural and remote areas without any hassle. The Medical Department was advised to keep first aid facilities and emergency services ready at the examination centers.

It was stated that the Municipal and Panchayat Raj departments should take steps to ensure cleanliness and continuous supply of drinking water in the vicinity of the examination centers. The Electricity Department was instructed to keep special teams ready to ensure uninterrupted power supply during the examinations. The District Collector said that sitting squads should be set up at each examination center for transparent management, and in addition, flying squads and special inspection teams will continuously monitor. He wished all the students appearing for the examinations.

Revenue Divisional Officer Krishna Reddy, Intermediate Officer Ramani, District Education Officer Satyanarayana, Municipal Commissioners and concerned officials participated in this meeting.

## ATM Cash Theft Case Detected – Accused Arrested, Rs.34.90 Lakhs Recovered

Serilingampalli Zone Indian Chronicle Feb 24: On 12-02-2026, within the limits of Gachibowli Police Station, at Gopampalli thanda area, an incident occurred wherein Rs.56,00,000/- was stolen from a cash transportation vehicle supplying cash to ATMs. In this regard, a case was registered at Gachibowli Police Station vide Crime No.278/2026, U/s 306 BNS, and investigation was taken up. During the course of investigation, inspection of the scene of offence, collection of CCTV footage, analysis of technical evidence, and examination of the concerned staff were carried out. In this process, it was found that Badigere Ajith Kumar @ Shiva, S/o Late B. Sheshappa Chary, aged 34 years, work-



ing as a driver in Sangam Security Agency and presently residing at Diamond Point Circle, Secunderabad, native of Bommanahal Village & Mandal, Raidurgam (Tq), Ananthapur District, AP State, committed the offence while on duty.

While other staff members were filling cash into the ATM, he took advantage of being alone in the vehicle and

drove away with the cash. For about 2 hours, he misled his colleagues by informing them that he was having tea at a nearby hotel with his friends. Thereafter, he drove the vehicle up to Gaddar Chowrasta, Nallagandla, removed the trunk box containing the cash, abandoned the ATM vehicle there, and escaped from the spot in an auto-rickshaw. On the same night, he

stayed in a lodge at RTC Cross Roads posing as a regular traveller. With the help of an axe blade, he opened the cash box, shifted the cash into his bag, and proceeded to Ananthapur. From there, he moved across Bellari, Bengaluru, Pune, and other places, evading police teams. On the morning of 24-02-2026, while he was attempting to leave for another destination from

RGI Airport, Shamshabad, he was apprehended by Cyberabad Police. To detect the case, three special teams were formed and, based on technical evidence and human intelligence, the movements of the accused were tracked. On 24-02-2026 at about 08:00 AM, the accused was taken into custody. Upon interrogation, an amount of 34,90,000/- was recovered from his possession. The recovered cash was seized under a panchanama. On questioning about the remaining amount, the accused confessed that he had spent the balance on his personal lavish expenses.

The accused has been remanded under the relevant sections of law. Action will also be taken against the Sangam Security Agency, which

showed negligence in the driver's appointment and in maintaining proper identity records, under the PSARA Act (Private Security Agencies Regulation Act, 2005).

The case was detected under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner of Police, Serilingampalli Zone, Ch. Srinivas, under the guidance of Addl. DCP Serilingampalli Uday Kumar, with the assistance of CCS Madhapur, SHO Gachibowli Balraj the Detective Inspector, and the Crime Team. Cyberabad Police also appreciated SVR Bus Travels driver Umakanth, who remained alert, noticed the suspicious movements of the accused, and provided crucial information during the investigation, which helped in detecting the case.

# Five-Minute Grace Period for Inter, SSC Candidates; Tight Security Measures Announced

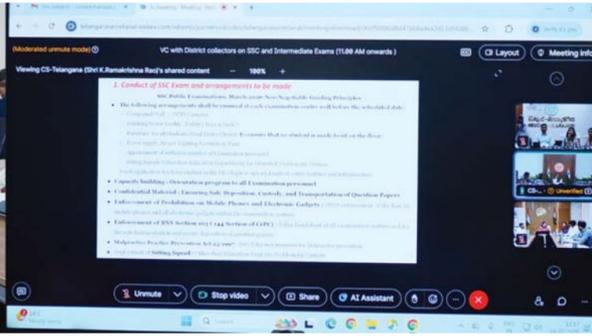
NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, February 24, (Indian chronicle): The State Government has announced that students appearing for the upcoming Intermediate and SSC examinations will be allowed to enter examination centres up to five minutes after the scheduled commencement of the exam. Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao held a video conference with District Collectors and Superintendents of Police across the state to review the arrangements for the Intermediate and SSC examinations. The meeting was attended by School Education Secretary Yogita Rana, Intermediate Board Secretary Krishna Aditya, and Director of School Edu-



cation Naveen Nicolas. The Chief Secretary stated that the Intermediate examinations will commence from February 25 and the SSC examinations from March 14. He directed officials to conduct the examinations in a transparent and foolproof manner without any irregularities. He clarified that students would be permitted to

enter examination centres up to five minutes after the scheduled start time. He instructed authorities to ensure tight police security at every examination centre and to keep a close watch on centres that had reported issues in the past. Basic facilities such as drinking water, electricity, toilets, and CCTV cameras must be provided

at all centres. An ANM and a first-aid kit should be made available at each centre. He also directed that no student should be made to sit on the floor and that adequate benches must be arranged. Officials were asked to coordinate with Police, Revenue, and other departments for smooth conduct of examinations. Sitting



squads and flying squads should be constituted with officials from departments other than the Education Department to prevent malpractice. School Education Secretary Yogita Rana stated that 4,89,055 first-year and 4,53,832 second-year students will appear for the Intermediate examinations, while 5,28,239 students will

appear for the SSC examinations. She said mobile phones and other electronic gadgets are strictly prohibited inside examination centres. Only the Chief Superintendent of the centre will be permitted to carry a mobile phone for emergency use. For the first time, cloakrooms are being arranged at every examina-

tion centre. Strict action will be taken against any official or staff found involved in malpractice. Each question paper will carry a unique QR code and serial number, and question papers must be opened only 15 minutes before the commencement of the examination. Hall tickets have been made available through WhatsApp and can also be downloaded from the official website. The Chief Secretary also directed Collectors to closely monitor the construction of the prestigious Young India Integrated Schools project being undertaken by the State Government. From Medchal-Malkajgiri district, District Collector Manu Choudhary participated in the video conference and stated that 151

examination centres have been set up in the district for the Intermediate examinations. Around 1.35 lakh candidates are expected to appear. A High Power Committee has been constituted, and examinations will be conducted under strict security arrangements. Basic infrastructure, CCTV surveillance, medical facilities, sanitation, and additional bus services have been arranged to ensure smooth conduct of examinations. He added that necessary arrangements for the SSC examinations will also be completed as per the instructions of higher authorities. Sircilla District Collector Garima Agrawal also participated in the video conference from Medchal-Malkajgiri district.

## CABINET DECISIONS TODAY ( MONDAY - FEBRUARY 23 )

1. The State Cabinet has taken some key decisions for the welfare of government employees. The cabinet meeting held today under the chairmanship of honourable Chief Minister Shri A. Revanth Reddy has approved new unique schemes for the welfare of employees in the country. The Two new schemes will be launched aiming to provide complete security and assurance to government employees.

**FIRST SCHEME - Employees' Accident Insurance Scheme**

• Telangana state government is implementing an accident insurance scheme for all government employees and pensioners unlike anywhere else in the country.

\* The new Employees insurance scheme is being implemented without a single rupee of premium burden.

• The People's government already introduced such scheme for the employees of Singareni and TGTRANSCO for the first time. It has been implemented successfully there.

\* Now this scheme will be launched for all government employees and pensioners in the state.

\* With the implementation of this accident insurance, if any employee dies in an accident, an accident insurance compensation of Rs. 1.2 crores will be received.

• Term insurance of Rs. 10 lakh is applicable to employees up to 60 years of age for natural death.

\* A total of 5.19 lakh employees of the government and corporations are working in the state.. Along with them, there are 2 lakh 38 thousand pensioners were also registered. The accident insurance is applicable to a total of 7.57 lakh people.

\* The state cabinet decided to implement insurance through bankers without any burden on both the employees and the government.

**SECOND SCHEME - Cashless Employee Health Scheme**

The state cabinet fulfilled another long-awaited wish of government employees today. It has been decided to implement the Cashless Employee Health Scheme (EHS) for the health security of employees.

\* This scheme is applicable to 3 lakh 56 thousand regular government employees, 2.88 lakh pensioners and their dependent family members, a total of 17.07 lakh people. From now on, government employees will receive medical treatment in hospitals without paying a single rupee.

\* This scheme is applicable in all government hospitals as well as 652 empaneled private hospitals. A total of 1998 medical treatments will be provided under this.

\* A digital health employee card will be provided to every employee. The cabinet decided to provide this free quality medi-

cal treatment to government employees through Rajiv Arogyasri Healthcare Trust.

Government employees will contribute 1.5 percent of their basic pay to this scheme. The government will also contribute an equal share.

\* If employees contribute Rs. 528 crores per year as their share, the government will also contribute Rs. 528 crores. The government has decided to implement a cashless employee health scheme with a total of Rs. 1056 crores. The Chief Minister made it clear that the government will give priority to the health and welfare of employees and the family security. The entire cabinet expressed happiness that these schemes are proof that the People's government provides complete assurance and trust to government employees.

3. The government has taken a key decision to provide better medical services to the people of the state in government hospitals. It has been decided to convert the Telangana Vaidya Vidhana Parishad (TVVP) into the Directorate of Secondary Health Care (DSH). The DSH Bill proposal has been approved. With this, the TVVP, which has been an autonomous system for many years, will be given the status of a full-fledged government department. Priority will be given to the allocation of funds. The purchase of surgical and medicines will improve as doctors and staff will receive salaries on time.

4. The state cabinet has also decided to undertake key reforms in the medical and health department. The CM and ministers discussed the steps which are being taken to ensure that all hospitals under various departments in the state are managed effectively.

The cabinet decided to constitute a special committee under the chairmanship of Medical and Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha to study the necessary new policies.

advisor Dr. Nori Dattatreya and Dr. Srinath Reddy will be appointed in the committee and their suggestions and recommendations will be taken. The Chief Minister also suggested that alternatives of separating medical services and administrative services in hospitals should be considered to ensure the proper management of hospitals.

5. As part of the expansion of HMDA, the state cabinet approved the inclusion of four more villages under the HMDA. Chittiguda, Yavapur in Nawabpet mandal of Vikarabad district, Tekulapalli and Enkatala villages in Mominpet mandal have been included under the HMDA.

6. The Cabinet gave a nod to the Comprehensive Road Maintenance Program (CRMP phase 2) under the Municipal Corporation in Greater Hyderabad. In addition to the 744 km in Phase 1 of

this project, 300 km of roads will be developed and maintained in Phase 2. The Cabinet approved the implementation of this project with Rs. 3145 crores from GHMC.

7. Telangana Cabinet ratified the Manjira Water Supply Scheme Phase 1 and Phase 2 modernization project in Greater Hyderabad. As per the proposals of Hyderabad Water Board, a decision has been taken for the work of this project with Rs. 722 crores.

The Cabinet approved the modernization of Osman Sagar drinking water pipeline with Rs. 282 crores. The old pipelines caused 30 percent of the wastage of od supply during supply. Modernizing the existing project will not only alleviate this situation but also improve water supply in Hyderabad city.

8. The state cabinet approved the government's takeover of the Hyderabad Metro. It has been decided to take over the entire 69-km metro system from the L&T company. It has been decided to immediately initiate necessary steps for this. A cabinet sub-committee was also constituted on the acquisition and feasibility of Hyderabad Metro Rail. The cabinet discussed the report submitted by the cabinet sub-committee. It has been decided to discuss this issue in the upcoming assembly sessions as well, if necessary.

\* The cabinet decided to start the Metro Phase 2 expansion work quickly.

union government has already made it clear that the entire metro network should be under the auspices of a single company for the Phase-2 expansion to be undertaken in a joint venture between the central government and the state government. L&T, which is operating Metro Phase 1, was not keen to undertake the Metro Phase-2 expansion. In view of the increasing traffic in the city and the need to expand the metro, it has become inevitable for the government to acquire Metro Phase 1 from L&T.

\* The sub-committee has submitted its report to the cabinet that the government will have to pay a total of Rs. 15,000 crores to L&T to acquire the Phase 1 project, including debt.

• The current value of Metro assets is estimated to be around Rs. 19,000 crores to Rs. 22,000 crores. The government will acquire Metro Phase 1 at a discount of about 22 percent.

\* The state government has already sent proposals to the center for the expansion of Metro rail by 76.4 km in 5 new corridors as part of Phase-II A and 86.1 km in 3 corridors in Phase-II B. With this decision, the expansion of Metro will accelerate.

9. The state cabinet has approved the establishment of a multi-modal logistics park and food processing park in Koheda, Rangareddy district. It has decid-

ed to transfer the required 223.09 acres of land to TGIC.

state government allocated 239 acres of land owned by TG Housing Board to the Agriculture Marketing Department for the establishment of a world-class fruit market.

70 acres was allocated for the construction of an engineering college under JNTU in Gummadur in Mahbubabad district, and 36 acres in Husnabad Mandal of Siddipet district for the construction of an engineering college under Satavahana University.

Land has been allotted for the construction of 21 Young India Integrated Residential Schools in Nalgonda, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri, Rangareddy, Suryapet, Vikarabad, Medak, Nizamabad, Bhadradi Kothagudem, Khammam and Hyderabad districts.

\* The state cabinet has approved the allocation of 153 acres in Kapra mandal to the Defence ministry in lieu of land as 42 acres required for the construction of elevated corridor in Hyderabad were taken from the defense department (Defense land).

\* The state cabinet allotted 5 acres of land for the construction of a greenfield mini stadium in Bhadrachalam. 20 acres was allocated in Dhamsalapuram village for the construction of Sri Venkateswara Swamy Divya Kshetram under the auspices of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD). 3 .12 acres have been allotted to the Endowment Department for the construction of Panchamukha Anjaneya Swamy Temple in Chigurumamidi mandal center of Karimnagar district.

The Cabinet has approved the auction of shops built near double bedroom houses in the CURE area. It has been decided to conduct a special drive in rural as well as urban areas and undertake the construction of Indiramma houses. Efforts would be made to get required funds from the Central Government for the construction of Indiramma houses.

11. As part of the Clean and Green Energy Policy, the Cabinet has approved the issuance of Renewable Energy Distribution License to data centers consuming 300 MW of electricity.

The Cabinet discussed the arrangements being made by the government in the state to undertake the Census 2027 as directed by the Central Government.

As per the fixed schedule, the government has made all arrangements to conduct the first phase of the House Listing Operation in the state starting from May 11 to June 9.

The pattern of 34 questions prescribed by the Centre for House Listing was also discussed in the cabinet meeting. A total of 89000 employees, including enumerators and nodal officers, will participate in the census process in the state. The second phase of the census will be conducted in February 2027.

## Rajaka Sangham Leaders Visit Victim's Family in Nagar Kurnool, Demand Justice

NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, February 24, (Indian chronicle):

Following the brutal attack on a Rajaka family in Nagar Kurnool district, members of the Warangal District Rajaka Sangham visited the victim's family on the instructions of MLC Baswaraju Sarayya. The delegation expressed deep anguish over the incident, consoled the bereaved family, and assured them of continued support. The Sangham leaders met concerned officials and detailed the circumstances surrounding the attack. They demanded the immediate arrest of the accused and strict legal action against those responsible. They also called on



the government to ensure complete justice for the victim's family. During their visit, the leaders paid floral tributes at the grave of the deceased girl, Mounika, and conveyed their condolences to the family. A rally was organized in Kurnool, where leaders from various caste associations and BC organizations participated in solidarity. The speakers urged the state govern-

ment to implement stringent measures to prevent such incidents in the future. They stated that their agitation would continue until justice is delivered. Those who participated in the programme included Rangu Balalxmi, Chityala Bikshapathi, Marri Kukkala Chaitanya, Panthangi Samayya, Doddipati Shekhar, Bandi Sadanandam, and others.

## Koti ATM Armed Robbery Cracked and Two Inter state Offenders Arrested

Hyderabad correspondent ( KS Reddy ) February 24 ( Indian Chronicle ):

In a major break through, the Commissioner's Task Force teams of Secunderabad and Khairatabad Zones, in coordination with Sultan Bazar Police, cracked an inter state armed robbery case and arrested two key offenders. The case pertains to a daring robbery near the SBI ATM at Koti. The arrested accused are Furkhan Ahmed (36), a native of Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh, and Mohd Taiyyab Tyagi (30), a cab driver residing in Shaheen Nagar, Hyderabad, originally from Muzaffarnagar district of Uttar Pradesh. According to police, the accused targeted a victim at the ATM, wrongfully confined him, threatened him with a country made pistol, fired two rounds during the in-



cident, and fled with cash amounting to Rs. 6 lakh and the victim's two wheeler. During the operation, police recovered one country made fire arm along with 35 live rounds, two magazines, Rs. 2.38 lakh in cash, and two mobile phones from the accused. Five other associates involved in the offence are currently absconding, and efforts are underway to trace them. Preliminary investigation revealed that Taiyyab Tyagi, while working as a taxi driver in Hyderabad, observed frequent bulk cash depos-

its at ATMs in the Abids, Koti, and Nampally areas. Lured by easy money and facing financial difficulties, he allegedly conspired with his relatives and associates from Uttar Pradesh to execute the robbery. Acting on credible inputs, six special teams tracked the movement of the accused and apprehended them near Shaheen Nagar, Chandrayangutta. Police stated that further investigation is in progress to recover the remaining stolen amount and arrest the absconding accused.

## Hang Baby's Killers, Demands Yadadri MRPS Leader Bhushi Mahesh

(Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle... February 24):- The incident that took place in Kummera village of Nagarkurnool district is heinous. During the ongoing Mallikarjuna Swamy Brahmotsavam in that village, the Rajaka family entered the temple without a ticket for darshan and was attacked indiscriminately by the upper caste sarpanch and others there, expressing their concern. At the same time, the



couple sent the baby for darshan after seeing his face, but the inhuman demons kicked the baby, and the two-month-old baby was seriously injured and hospitalized and breathed his last. How can such a wicked society understand this in-

cident for those who say that there are no castes and religions, everyone is equal and this is an equal society? Caste discrimination has definitely not gone away. Since caste discrimination is increasing day by day, everyone should condemn this evil act, punish these people who attacked and killed the baby according to the law, and hang those responsible, said MRPS Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District President Dalit Ratna Bhushi Mahesh, demanding the government.

# Justice should be given to small papers and constituency journalists

## TWJF (H 2843) Petition to Addl Collector



Arvapalli Nagesh, Khammam Staff Reporter, February 24 (Indian Chronicle) TWJF H-2843 Khammam District President Secretaries, Additional Collector P. Srinivas Reddy Khammam Collectorate on Tuesday seeking to correct the injustice being done to constituency level reporters and reporters working in small newspapers in granting accreditation cards to journalists. Srinivasa Reddy was politely met and submitted the petition.

Speaking on the occasion, the representatives of the community said that it is sad that senior reporters at the constituency level, who play a vital role in the implementation of government schemes

by bringing public issues to light in rural areas, are being ignored in the accreditation process. They demanded that accreditation card should be continued for every qualified journalist working in small newspapers and the process of granting cards to constituency level reporters should be continued.

In the petition submitted, issues such as granting accreditation cards to constituency level reporters, providing equal opportunities to small press reporters, and undertaking restoration measures without canceling the accreditation of already serving journalists have been clearly mentioned.

Additional Collector P Srinivas Reddy who received

the petition. Srinivasa Reddy promised to listen to the issue carefully, discuss it with the concerned officials and bring it to the attention of the government. He said that the grievances of journalists will be considered positively.

TWJF (H-2843) District President Santhosh Chakravarthy, Secretary Nanabala Ramakrishna, Treasurer Arvapalli Nagesh, TBJA District Treasurer Kasoju Sridhar, Press Club President Anthoti Srinivas, Town Assistant Secretary Chinnamshetty Rambabu, Gudupudi Jagadish, Mamidala Veerababu, Elisetti Ramakrishna, Vanga Pungama Goud, Karate Venu, Paga Yena, Bhagyaraj, Sandeep, Pawan and others participated.

# Residents of Khammam Danavaigudem Park stage a dharna at Mekala Narayana Board over dust, dirt and road repairs.

Arvapalli Nagesh Staff Reporter Khammam. 24 February (Indian Chronicle): Residents of Khammam Danavaigudem Park area staged a dharna at Mekala Narayana Board. Sabasu Venkataramana and Tokala Babu participated in this dharna and said, We have written to the Municipal Commissioner, Khammam District Collector, Pollution Board, RTA officer, and the Minister regarding the problem of dust and dirt coming from potholed roads in our area, but so far there has been no response from anyone.

Gandra Venkateswara Rao, a resident of our area, said that his lungs have been



damaged and he has died due to this dust. Elderly people and young children often go to hospitals due to this dust. We, the residents of the area, have decided that the lives of our area people should not be sacrificed to this dust, and that we should fight this problem together, regardless of party affiliation.

Today, a dharna was held near the Mekala Narayana Board to stop vehicles and provide us justice, and the government was urged to do so through the media. A large number of people from Danavaygudem Park participated in this dharna program and expressed solidarity.

# Pinninti Stanley Sarojana Reddy felicitated Tangallapalli Srivani Ravikumar

(Mandava Srisailem..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle... February 24):- Renowned pastor Pinninti Stanley Sarojana Reddy felicitated Tangallapalli Srivani Ravikumar, who was elected as the Chairman of Bhuvanagiri Municipality, and Suhridbavulu Kumbham Keerthy Reddy. Speaking on this occasion, they expressed their hope that social equality, social balance, social justice and social consciousness will

who was elected as the Chairman of Bhuvanagiri Municipality, with a shawl



always remain in the hearts of the people and that they will provide good govern-

ance selflessly and that no natural disasters will occur during your rule.

# Select Adivasis to Rajya Sabha: Dr. Sagaboyina Paparao

NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, February 24, (Indian Chronicle): Dr. Sagaboyina Paparao, State Executive President of the Adivasi Students' Union (ASU), has urged the Congress leadership to nominate Adivasi representatives to the Rajya Sabha in the upcoming elections. He stated that at a time when the Congress government in Telangana is continuing its "Praja Palana - Indiramma Rajyam," it is appropriate to provide representation to Adivasis in the Upper House of Parliament. He appealed to Chief Minister Revanth



Reddy, TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud, and the Congress high command to consider senior Adivasi leaders for nomination. Paparao proposed the name of Podem Veeraiiah, former Bhadrachalam MLA and current Chairman of the Telangana Forest Development Corporation, as the first preference. He

described Veeraiiah as a committed Congress leader from the Agency area who has remained loyal to the party's ideology despite political pressures and inducements in the past. He also suggested the name of Atram Suguna, Asifabad DCC President and an Adivasi activist who has been raising awareness about tribal rights inspired by the "Jal, Jangal, Zameen" slogan associated with tribal icon Komaram Bheem. Paparao pointed out that even after 79 years of Independence, Adivasi communities have rarely been given representation in the Rajya Sabha.

# Request for Representation of TWF in Accreditation Committee

Arvapalli Nagesh, Khammam Staff Reporter, February 24 (Indian Chronicle) Telangana Working Journalists Federation State Convenor Mamidi Somaiah appealed to the District Collector through a letter to represent TWJF in the Khammam District Accreditation Committee and to appoint District President Santhosh Chakravarthy as a member.



He stated that in order for the process of granting accreditation cards in the district to be transparent and impartial, adequate representation of journalists' associations is necessary. In

the letter, it was explained that TWF should be given an opportunity to effectively address the issues of constituency level reporters and small press reporters in the committee.

The leaders said that the copy of this letter has been handed over to the district DPRO. District leaders and community representatives participated in the petition submission program and

expressed their support. He expressed hope that the district administration would respect the rights of journalists and take an appropriate decision to represent TWF in the com-

mittee. The leaders made it clear that their struggle will continue for the unity and protection of the rights of journalists.

TWJF District President Santhosh Chakravarthy, Secretary Nanabala Ramakrishna, Treasurer Arvapalli Nagesh, TBJA District Treasurer Kasoju Sridhar, Press Club President Antjoti Srinivas, Town Assistant Secretary Chinnamshetty Rambabu, Gudupudi Jagadish, Mamidala Veerababu, Elisetti Ramakrishna Babu, Vanga Pungama Goud, Karate Venu, Paga Yena, Bhagyaraj, Sandeep, Pawan and others participated.

# GD Hansini (Lucky) selected for national level volleyball competitions

Arvapalli Nagesh, Khammam Staff Reporter, February 24 (Indian Chronicle) G.D. Hansini of Guttala Bazaar, Khammam city studies 12th standard in Harvest Public School. Trained by coach Akbar Ali at the Sardar Patel Stadium from her childhood, she grew up to become a national level player playing in three consecutive national level volleyball tournaments and playing step by step with her sporting talent. Currently selected for 46th National Sub Junior Volleyball Tournament organized by Volleyball Federation of India from 24th to 1st March at Hooghly (West Bengal).



District Youth Sports Officer Tumburu Sunil Kumar on this occasion

Principal Parvathy Reddy Correspondent Ravi Marut and the parents of the stadium coaches and local elders congratulated Hansini. In the coming days, he was asked to show better talent and earn a place in the Indian Volleyball Team.

# Forest Officials Accused of Large-Scale Deforestation for Sand Ramps

Manuguru February 24 Indian Chronicle: Serious allegations have been levelled against Manuguru Forest Department officials for allegedly destroying forest land to facilitate sand ramp operations benefiting influential contractors. Tudum Debba State Working President Alem Koti, addressing the media, stated that the officials entrusted with protecting forests are instead enabling their destruction.



He alleged that thousands of trees were illegally felled by violating established norms. While poor tribals face cases for collecting firewood or grazing cattle, officials are allegedly allowing large-scale forest destruction without proper permissions, he said.

Calling forests the backbone of Adivasi livelihood, culture, and self-respect, he warned that such environmental damage would endanger future generations. A joint protest and gherao of the Manuguru FDO office has been announced for the 28th of this month. Political parties and Adivasi organisations have been urged to participate in large numbers.

# India is the home of diverse cultures - Khammam Mayor Punukollu Neeraja

Arvapalli Nagesh, Khammam Staff Reporter, February 24 (Indian Chronicle) Today, My Bharat - Khammam, an inter-district youth exchange program organized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, started grandly at Hotel Surya Teja Prime Banquet Hall. The main objective of this program is to get 40 young men and women from Hyderabad to know the cultural traditions of Khammam district, to visit historical places and understand their importance, to introduce their cultural traditions to the local youth and to promote national unity.



The program will be held from 24 February to 28 February. My Bharat - Khammam Deputy Director Chintala Anvesh presided over this inaugural program and Khammam Mayor Pu-

nukollu Neeraja was the chief guest and addressed the youth. He called upon the youth of India to actively participate in national building programs and follow the ideals of Swami Vi-

vekananda. Every Indian youth is advised to respect other religions and cultures and live in unity without any feelings of hatred. He said that such inter-state youth exchange programs develop brotherhood among the youth and give them the strength to live happily till the end of life. District Forest Officer Siddharth Vikram Singh IFS who attended the program as the guest of honor said that the role of youth in nation building is very important and the quality of serving the society without any expectations should grow in the youth. It is suggested that the government should widely involve the

youth in rural development programs at the stage of education itself. He said that there is a need for the youth to understand what are the problems of the villages and how to solve them.

Mera Yuva Bharat Accounts Officer Kamathappu Bhanu Chander, Presidents of Youth Unions Kodirekka Uma Shankar, Syed Shahrukh Imran, Kishore and others participated in this program. Organizers said that this inter-district youth exchange program will play a vital role in developing national unity, social responsibility and leadership qualities among the youth.

# Karimnagar Hosts Telangana Activists' Meeting; Oruganti Anand Elected State President



NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, February 24, (Indian Chronicle): A meeting of Telangana activists was held at the Karimnagar District Film Society building under the leadership of District In-charge Kumaraswamy. During the meeting, Oruganti Anand was unanimously elected as the new State President of the Telangana Activists Forum (7/1/2026). The meeting was attended by activists from various districts. Addressing the gathering, Oruganti Anand stated that, in accordance with the directions of the Telangana High Court to respond within

eight weeks regarding the assurances given to activists, the State Government must immediately initiate the implementation process. The Forum demanded that the government provide legal status to the proposed sub-committee being formed for activists and ensure the immediate implementation of all pending promises. It urged the authorities to consider activists who possess FIR copies, those involved in the Telangana statehood movement, activists who faced bind-over cases, families of those who lost their lives during the movement, and individuals who

can provide documentary proof such as photographs and newspaper clippings of their participation. The Forum reiterated its key demands, including allotment of 250 square yards of house site land, a monthly pension of Rs. 25,000, issuance of self-respect identity cards for activists, and inclusion of genuine activists as members in the proposed government sub-committee. State committee members Taduri Gagan Kumar, Janaki Reddy, Shamala Kotham Yadi Reddy, Narendra Goud, Vishnu, Ramesh, and several other activists participated in the meeting.

# Revenue Staff 'Absent' at Kapra Circle; Public Services Come to a Standstill



NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, February 24, (Indian Chronicle): Residents have expressed strong anger over the functioning of the Revenue Department at the Kapra Circle office, alleging that key officials have been absent for the past two to three days without prior notice, causing severe inconvenience to the public. With senior officials reportedly on leave and no alternative arrangements in place, several essential civic services have come to a halt. Property tax payments,

new assessments, and mutation files are pending due to the absence of authorized signatories. Applicants say that even online submissions are not being processed, as there are no officials available to scrutinize applications and issue necessary certificates. Citizens visiting the office for various works claim they are being forced to make repeated rounds without any clarity on when services will resume. The lack of prior information regarding the officials' leave has further added to the confusion and frustration among the public.

## According to the orders of the Telangana Bhudan Yajna Board, the lands of Velak Matla have been seized- Additional Collector Srinivasa Reddy

Arvapalli Nagesh, Khammam Staff Reporter, February -24 (Indian Chronicle) According to the orders of the Telangana Bhudan Yajna Board, the government has taken over the lands of Velamatla, Additional Collector P. Srinivasa Reddy said. Additional Collector, Law and Order Additional DCP Prasada Rao held a media conference on Tuesday at the Collectorate meeting hall on the removal of illegal constructions in the lands of Velang Matla Bhudan.

On this occasion Additional Collector P. Srinivasa Reddy said In 1953, Kalavala Raja Rama Rao donated 31 acres of 7 pits of land in survey number 147, 148, 149 in the Bhudan movement. Khammam Urban Tehsil dar noticed that Bhu Dan lands are being encroached and said that notices have been issued to vacate the encroachments in 2019. He said that a petition was filed in the High Court challenging the notices issued by the Khammam Urban Tehsil dar, and the High Court ruled that the Tehsil dar does not have sufficient jurisdiction in the matter of Bhudan lands, staying the order of the Tehsil dar and



stating that the petitioners cannot change the nature of the Bhudan land under any circumstances.

Additional Collector said that Korlapati Parameshwari along with 9 other petitioners had filed a petition to issue orders not to remove the structures built in Bhudan lands in 2023. The High Court responded that the details of the patta submitted to the court were not correct and the application was submitted that poor people had built houses in Bhudan lands.

Telangana Bhudan Yajna Board has issued notices and conducted an inquiry and on January 17, 2026 no allotment was made to the concerned petitioners, 5 acres for KGBV school, He said that 5 acres have been allotted only for model

school. He said that the Telangana Bhudan Yajna Board had issued notices on January 17, 2026 to 308 encroachers living on Bhudan lands to vacate immediately. Some of the occupiers in the light said that the papers show that they got allotment in 2014, but examination of the records revealed that no allotment was made.

Telangana Bhudan Yajna Board ordered the District Collector of Khammam to take over the rest of the land except the structures related to the head of the writ petitioner in survey number 147, 148, 149 in 2023 as per the interim orders of the High Court, the Additional Collector said.

He said that according to the orders issued by the Telangana Bhudan Yajna

Board, with the help of police officers, the Bhudan lands of Bhudan have been taken over by the government and the remaining illegal structures have been removed except for the structures of those who have filed a petition in the High Court.

He said that there is no truth in the news coming on social media that the government has not made any allotment to anyone in the Bhudan lands and the government is unilaterally demolishing the houses of the poor. The Additional Collector said that on January 17, 2026, the Telangana Bhudan Yajna Board had issued a notice to vacate the encroachers and asked them to take possession of the land. He said that apart from the 10 acres allocat-

ed for the construction of KGBV and Adarsh School, no allotment has been made in these lands, the government has only taken possession of them and this land will be used for public useful programs in the future as per the instructions of the government. The Additional Collector said that people should not believe false propaganda on social media. The Additional Collector said that temporary accommodation has been arranged in Kammavari Sangam for those who are currently homeless. The Additional Collector said that the materials of Bhudan land occupiers were stored safely in Ambedkar building and the materials would be moved wherever the concerned people wanted to move them.

Law and Order Additional DCP Prasada Rao said that cases have also been registered against some people who illegally collected money from the people in connection with the allocation of Bhu Don lands. Later, the Additional Collector answered several queries of the journalists. Concerned officials, journalists and others participated in this meeting.

## Distance from public transportation, a lonely struggle in the forest

### 15 years of forest life, a single-family home Donors who responded walked five kilometers and distributed essentials.

Aswaraopet, February 24:-Humanity has suddenly responded with media stories on the daily life of a family living in the old Gogulapudi village under the Kavi Gundla Gram Panchayat of Aswaraopet Mandal of Bhadradi Kothagudem district. Even though it is 10 kilometers away from the public transportation, a single family has been living in the forest for the last 15 years, relying on the forest. Although everyone has left the villages for the convenience of administration, Reddaiah, his wife Lakshmi, and son Gangireddy have stayed there, as this forest is their home. As they were afraid that they would live or die here, reporters from Muralakalappalli and Aswaraopet came forward with the determination to meet at least their basic needs. Their efforts paid off, and a donor came forward in the form of KTIPS employee Ramavat Anish from Palvancha. Ramavat An-



ish handed over essential commodities, fruits, and edible items worth about Rs. 15,000. Taking these, media brothers Pothuganti Kranthi, Udaya Raghavendra, Comedy Gundla Sarpach Badisha Lakshmana Rao, Vasam Buchiraju, Gurungunta Babu Reddy, Gogulapudi residents, and others walked about 5 kilometers from Gubbala Mangamma Temple carrying those items through the dense forest and reached Old Gogulapudi. They handed over the items to the Reddaiah family and assured them that they

were there. They said that our goal is to provide them with a permanent home and that we are discussing in writing providing all the facilities to the family in the forest, who cannot return to normal life. Collector, ITDA should respond!

Locals are expressing their dismay at the government's indifference to the plight of a single family. They are still demanding that the District Collector and ITDA PO respond and provide immediate assistance to the family and contribute to their development.

## Those Responsible for Infant's Death Must Be Severely Punished

### BC Welfare Association Senior Leader Gundala Krishna



Arvapalli Nagesh, Khammam Staff Reporter, February 24: (Indian Chronicle) BC Welfare Association senior leader Gundala (RJC) Krishna demanded that strict action be taken against those responsible for the tragic death of a two-month-old infant who allegedly fell victim to a brutal attack by certain individuals at Kummera Shivalayam in Nagarkurnool district.

Speaking at a meeting of BC caste association leaders held in Khammam on Tuesday, Krishna condemned the inhuman

attack on a Dalit-BC couple, which resulted in the death of their infant child. He urged the authorities to register cases without yielding to any pressure and to ensure that the accused are punished severely. He also called upon the government to announce an ex gratia of 10 lakh to the bereaved family and to enact a special law for the protection of BC communities.

Krishna criticized the police for allegedly filing cases against the victims instead of standing by the affected family. He stat-

ed that BC associations would continue to extend full support to the victim's family until justice is delivered. He thanked the BC Commission for visiting Kummera village and conducting an inquiry into the incident at the temple. He further urged the Commission and authorities to ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice.

Leaders of various BC caste associations, including Kurakula Nagabhushanam, Bomma Rajeswara Rao, Kathi Nehru, Dodda Srinivas and others, participated in the meeting.

## Modern Fogging Machine Launched for Public Health Protection Congress Leader Prakash Reddy Provides Fogging Machine



Nacharam, Indian Chronicle, February 24: To prevent mosquito-borne diseases in Nacharam area, Congress leaders have arranged a fogging machine. The modern fogging machine, personally purchased and provided by V.S. Prakash Reddy, TPC Labour Cell Vice President and Medchal District INTUC President, was inaugurated by Uppal Congress Party In-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy.

Speaking on the occasion, Parameshwar Reddy stated that the health of the people of Nacharam and HMT Division is their

top priority. He said that fogging programs would be highly beneficial in preventing seasonal diseases such as dengue and malaria. He also advised residents to maintain cleanliness in their surroundings and to eliminate stagnant water that leads to mosquito breeding.

Fogging donor V.S. Prakash Reddy said that he provided the machine considering public health protection as his responsibility. He assured that fogging activities would be carried out regularly in the area to ensure a clean and healthy environment.

Among those who participated in the program were Bandari Srikanth Goud, senior Congress leaders Krishna Reddy, Nuthan Kanti Raju, H.R. Mohan, Ram Reddy, Ashwaddhama Reddy, Uppal Bagayat Vice President Vakanti Srinivas, Mahesh Yadav, Bhadrappa, Satyanarayana Yadav, Bandari Raghuv, Mohammed Azmath, Ramesh Goud, Raji Reddy, Santosh Reddy, Nemali Sunil Reddy, Venkatesh, Srinivas Reddy, Prem Kumar Goud, Tunga Tirupathi, Shekar Reddy, Venkata Reddy, Ashok, Krishna Yadav, Rakesh and others.

## Excise waiver on CBG-CNG blend can unlock Rs 1 lakh crore investment: IBA



The proposed excise duty waiver on biogas blended with compressed natural gas (CNG) could unlock investments of up to Rs 1 lakh crore in India, the Indian Biogas Association (IBA) said on Sunday.

The industry body said the move, announced in the recent Union Budget 2026, is a major step towards boosting clean energy and supporting India's 2070 Net Zero target.

According to the IBA, the excise duty exemption on compressed biogas (CBG) blended with CNG will improve the financial viability of projects and attract large-scale private investment. The association said that if city gas distribution networks achieve even a 5 per cent blending level of biogas across the country over the next five years, it would require around 2.5 to 3 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) of CBG.

This alone could generate investments of Rs 45,000 crore to Rs 55,000 crore.

The IBA added that if the government provides a clear and stable policy framework along with predictable pricing, the blending level could rise to 7-8 per cent by 2032.

In that case, the total investment potential could nearly double to about Rs 1 lakh crore.

The association said the excise waiver corrects a long-standing imbalance, as CBG, despite being a renewable and environmentally friendly fuel, was ear-

lier taxed in the same way as CNG.

Removing the excise component on the biogas portion of blended fuel will make it more cost-effective.

For city gas distribution companies, this means lower average fuel costs. Consumers could benefit from stable or even lower gas prices, while producers would get assured sales and more reliable revenue streams. The IBA noted that this policy change could speed up private investment, improve energy security and support rural development.

India's potential to produce CBG is estimated at around 60 million tonnes per year, using organic waste such as paddy straw, press mud, municipal solid waste and cattle dung.

The excise waiver is expected to improve the internal rate of return for typical 4.8 to 10 tonnes per day plants, depending on feedstock and logistics.

This improvement could help many projects that were earlier financially unviable to secure funding.

CBG can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 70 to 90 per cent over its lifecycle, especially when produced from agricultural waste.

The IBA said that a 10 per cent blending level could cut carbon emissions by 12 to 15 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent every year, making the policy a significant boost for India's climate goals.

## 'AI Impact Summit sees India emerging as key player on global stage'

The AI Impact Summit held in New Delhi has turned out to be a landmark event with world leaders and innovators recognising India's growing capabilities and potential to play a key role in the new technological era, as per a report.

India has given a distinctive thrust to the goal for inclusion as the world is poised for the big AI leap ahead and grapples with the ethical issues that need to be tackled, according to an article in Eurasia Review.

"A country once described mainly as the world's back office now seeks to help shape the architecture of a new technological era," it said. Artificial intelligence is the great ocean of our time. India cannot afford to withdraw from it. But it



must also ensure that the journey is shared, the article stated.

It cites the example of computerisation being introduced into Indian banking and the railways in the 1980s, which triggered widespread anxiety about

job losses. Over time, however, technology improved efficiency, expanded services, and created new categories of employment. The transition required adaptation and retraining, but it ultimately strengthened these sectors.

If deployed thoughtfully, AI can become a force for educational equity. A student in a remote village who lacks access to a specialised teacher can receive guided explanations and structured practice through digital platforms.

Learning materials can be adapted to individual pace and progress. Students who hesitate to ask questions in crowded classrooms may find confidence in interactive systems that respond patiently and repeatedly, the article observed.

Language barriers can also be reduced. Much advanced educational content remains concentrated in English, creating structural disadvantages for first-generation learners. AI-driven translation and voice tools can deliver complex knowledge in regional languages, widening access without eroding cultural identity. In a multilingual country, this possibility is transformative, the article pointed out.

It highlights that em-

powering teachers is also crucial. AI should not be viewed as a replacement for educators. The essence of teaching -- mentorship, empathy and moral guidance -- remains deeply human. However, technology can reduce routine burdens such as record maintenance and basic assessments. By easing repetitive tasks, AI can allow teachers to devote more time to discussion, creativity and personal guidance. In this role, technology becomes a partner rather than a substitute. The article points out that there are problems.

# India auto growth seen holding in 2026

After a record-breaking year, India's automobile industry is entering 2026 on a relatively strong footing, with sales growth expected in the 6-8 per cent range. The outlook is underpinned by policy support, including GST rationalisation, easing monetary conditions, and income tax relief, which together are likely to improve affordability and sustain consumer demand across vehicle segments. The momentum reflects more than cyclical recovery. Passenger vehicle volumes in 2025 rebounded sharply after a slow start, aided by stronger urban demand, stable rural incomes and improved financing availability. SUVs continued to dominate demand, while CNG and electric vehicles gained traction, indicating a gradual but steady shift in the powertrain mix rather than a disruptive transition.

However, 2026 is shaping up as a preparatory year ahead of tighter regulations. The industry faces rising compliance costs as it readies for CAFE norms from 2027 and future emission standards, which could pressure margins and pricing. Mandatory safety requirements, such as ABS and CBS for two-wheelers, are already pushing up entry-level prices and could temper volume growth in price-sensitive segments. Supply-side constraints remain a structural challenge. While localisation has improved, global uncertainties, tariffs and currency depreciation continue to pose risks, particularly for component-intensive and premium vehicles. Gridlock in supply chains and pricing discipline by OEMs will be critical to sustaining dealer confidence into the first half of 2026.

At the same time, investment cycles are shifting. Automakers are increasingly allocating capital toward electrification, charging infrastructure, and platform upgrades, while also scaling conventional powertrains to meet near-term demand. This dual-track strategy reflects a market that is transitioning gradually rather than pivoting sharply. Overall, the auto sector's outlook for 2026 is positive but nuanced: growth is likely to persist, supported by policy tailwinds and consumption resilience, yet increasingly shaped by regulatory readiness, cost pressures and the pace at which consumers absorb higher prices and new technologies.

"We expect GST benefits to fully unfold in 2026, driving industry growth to 7-8 per cent annually, which will fuel employment generation within the country. In line with market demand, in both domestic and export markets, we will expand our capacity to meet consumer needs," Maruti Suzuki MD and CEO Hisashi Takeuchi. The auto major looks at 2026 with optimism and confidence for the overall industry, he stated. Takeuchi noted that 2025 marked a landmark year for Maruti Suzuki and the Indian automobile industry. After a slow start, the industry accelerated into a high-growth trajectory, thanks to the progressive GST reform, he stated. "This mega reform rejuvenated the economy, and the passenger vehicle industry is poised to achieve its highest-ever calendar year volumes of 45 lakh units with a growth of 5 per cent over the previous year," Takeuchi noted.

Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) president CS Vigneshwar said that the dealers were confident of closing the 2025 calendar year with double-digit growth in both two-wheeler and passenger vehicle categories. "With stable rural incomes and the ongoing marriage season, we expect this positive momentum to carry forward into the early part of 2026," Vigneshwar stated.

As per our latest Dealer Satisfaction Index (December 2025), 74 per cent of dealers across India expect good to very good growth in the next three months (December-February) period, he added. If OEMs ensure timely stock availability and avoid abrupt pricing actions, the current momentum should sustain well into the first half of 2026, he said. Speaking about possible dampeners for the growth story, Vigneshwar said steep price hikes by OEMs from January could exert pressure on demand in the near term.

Besides, the mandatory implementation of a combined braking system (CBS/ABS) across all two-wheeler categories can lead to an increase in entry-level prices by at least Rs 5,000, thus impacting consumer sentiments. The Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA), which represents the domestic automotive components industry, also expects the growth momentum to continue in the next year. "The Indian auto component industry is expected to continue to grow steadily next year, with domestic demand and localisation providing support, even though global uncertainties and supply-chain risks persist," ACMA Director General Vinnie Mehta stated.

Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles MD and CEO Shailesh Chandra said GST rationalisation, coupled with policy tailwinds, such as repo rate cuts and income tax benefits, will enhance accessibility and stimulate demand.

"We are uniquely positioned to lead in high-growth segments, including the continued surge in SUV demand, alongside the accelerating adoption of CNG and EV technologies. Our strong portfolio across these categories places us squarely in the sweet spot of this market transition," he added. Overall, 2026 offers unprecedented potential for growth, anchored by brand strength, a powerful launch calendar, regulatory tailwinds, and leadership in future-ready powertrains, Chandra said. Touching upon the upcoming CAFE III norms, Chandra said: "While the exact contours of CAFE III have not been finalised, we earnestly believe that the government will articulate it in a manner that supports a directional shift towards sustainable technologies".

Mahindra & Mahindra Auto Division CEO Nalinikanth Gollagunta said the company is committed to continuing to achieve operational excellence and setting new benchmarks in design and product innovation next year. "On the electric front, our focus is twofold: ramping up operational capacity to 8,000 eSUVs per month and strengthening the public charging ecosystem," he added. "With customers at the centre of our vision, I believe 2026 will be a defining year, where Mahindra strengthens its leadership, and India asserts itself as a global force in SUVs," Gollagunta stated. EY-Parthenon Partner and Future of Mobility Leader Som Kapoor said the industry is likely to grow by 5-8 per cent in 2026. "With forthcoming regulations, such as BS7 and CAFE 2027 currently under active deliberation, 2026 will reveal long-term transition strategies for PV OEMs," he added. Honda Cars India VP (Sales and Marketing) Kunal Behl said continued SUV demand and gradual electrification will further strengthen India's position as a key global automotive market.

"Looking at 2026, we remain confident of sustained demand and steady growth, supported by a strengthening economy, easier access to financing, and supportive government policies," he added.

Echoing similar sentiments, Renault Group India CEO Stephane Deblaise said 2026 will be pivotal for the firm, with the return of the iconic Renault Duster.

"We are in the right place at the right time, with the government's landmark GST 2.0 reforms and progressive policies creating a dynamic environment that will strongly support our ambitions in India," he added.

A Toyota Kirloskar Motor spokesperson stated that the automaker's commitment to decarbonisation remains steadfast through its multipath approach, offering a broad range of technologies tailored to diverse customer needs and real-world usage.

Elaborating on the luxury car segment, Mercedes-Benz MD and CEO Santosh Iyer said the impact of GST 2.0 has been strong on the overall economy, and the recent GDP growth data further reinforces the confidence in this growth trajectory.

"However, the positive effect of the GST 2.0 may erode in the mid- to long-term as prices will go up due to deteriorating forex," he added.

The luxury car market leader has a positive outlook for the segment for 2026, as customers can expect new product introductions, both in the ICE and BEV segments, Iyer stated. BMW Group India president and CEO Hardeep Singh Brar said that after closing 2025 with high double-digit growth, expectations for 2026 will, of course, be high.

# 2025: The Year India Turned Momentum into Power

DR SHENAZ GANAI

Some years pass quietly into memory; others set the course of a nation's destiny. For India, 2025 was such a moment, a year when an ancient civilisation, shaped by centuries of challenge and renewal, moved forward with quiet confidence and clear purpose. Drawing strength from a past marked by endurance, adaptation and reinvention, India revealed in 2025 a rare harmony, firmly rooted in its civilisational ethos yet open to change, tradition walking alongside transformation. As long held aspirations took concrete shape through policy, performance and institutional strength, the country turned vision into action, signalling to its people and the world that India's rise is neither sudden nor accidental, but deliberate, sustained and deeply anchored in history.

Against a turbulent global backdrop marked by geopolitical conflicts, economic slowdowns and climate uncertainty, India under Modi's leadership projected calm confidence. What unfolded over the year was a consolidation of India's rise across diplomacy, welfare, infrastructure, economic management and crucially, national security. India's foreign policy in 2025 was not performative; it was productive. The advancement of high-impact Free Trade Agreements, including with the United Kingdom and key Indo-Pacific economies, reflected India's readiness to integrate more deeply



into global value chains while safeguarding domestic interests. These agreements are expected to significantly enhance exports in textiles, pharmaceuticals, electronics, engineering goods and IT services, sectors that together employ tens of millions of Indians. Preferential trade access now extends to markets accounting for more than a quarter of global GDP, strengthening India's export resilience.

On multilateral platforms, India emerged as a persuasive voice of the Global South, articulating demands for climate justice, equitable finance and inclusive growth. Strategic partnerships with the United States, Europe, West Asia, Africa and ASEAN matured, reinforcing India's image as a dependable democratic partner at a time when trust is in short supply globally.

Power with Purpose  
If diplomacy showcased India's influence, defence readiness demonstrated its resolve. The year 2025

marked a decisive strengthening of India's military posture, underpinned by sustained investments in modernisation and indigenous capability. Defence acquisition approvals running into tens of thousands of crore rupees enhanced the operational readiness of the Army, Navy and Air Force, while significantly expanding domestic defence manufacturing under the Atmanirbhar Bharat framework.

This strategic preparedness found its most compelling expression in the successful execution of Operation Sindoor, a precisely calibrated military operation that underscored India's ability to protect its sovereignty, deter aggression and act decisively when provoked. Conducted with speed, accuracy and professionalism, the operation achieved its objectives while minimising collateral impact, reflecting the evolving doctrine of the Indian armed forces: firm yet responsible, powerful yet measured.

Operation Sindoor sent a clear message, not of escalation, but of capability. It reaffirmed that India's commitment to peace is anchored in strength, and that its armed forces possess the technological sophistication, intelligence integration and tactical clarity required in modern warfare. In 2025, India's defence posture was not about display, it was about credibility.

On the domestic front, governance continued its transition from intent to impact. The Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system anchored in the Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile architecture, further reduced leakages and improved targeting. Government estimates suggest cumulative savings from welfare reforms now exceed ₹3.5-4 lakh crore, resources redirected toward infrastructure, health and human capital. Expanded rural employment and livelihood initiatives strengthened income security, particularly in agrarian regions. Social

security coverage for unorganised workers widened substantially, extending pension, insurance and accident cover at a scale rarely attempted globally, earning India international recognition for social protection innovation. The welfare narrative of 2025 moved decisively beyond dependency. Skills, entrepreneurship, women led development and access to formal credit aligned welfare policy with productivity and dignity.

Infrastructure remained the most visible expression of India's long term confidence. India added over 40 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity in a single year, pushing non fossil capacity beyond 260 GW. This placed India among the world's fastest growing clean energy economies, balancing developmental imperatives with climate responsibility. Simultaneously, large scale investments in expressways, rail corridors, port modernisation and logistics hubs reduced freight costs, integrated regional markets and unlocked economic potential across states. Infrastructure in 2025 was not episodic, it was transformational, reshaping how India moves, trades and grows. Economy: Stability Amid Despite global headwinds, India's economy in 2025 remained one of the world's fastest growing, with growth estimates in the 7-8% range. Inflation stayed broadly manageable, fiscal consolidation continued, and public investment anchored growth.

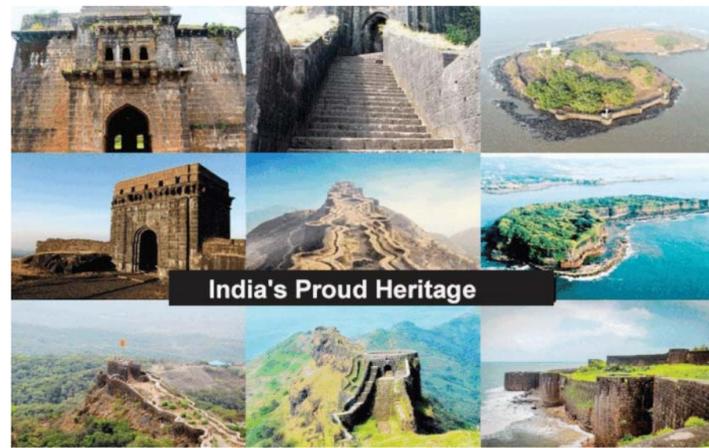
LALIT MENGI

India had blazed a trail across the world, in the millennium and a half from 250 BC to 1200 AD in art, religion, astronomy, music, literature, mathematics and mythology, but somehow remained in oblivion, yearning to find its rightful place. It is an irony that ancient India's footprints and remarkable achievements remained frozen rather than in the headlights of world's history.

I happened to go through a beautiful book "The Golden Road" by William Dalrymple, which deals comprehensively with ancient Indian history, revealing how Indian ideas transformed the world. Before that I had made a humble endeavour to bring to light India's enviable past and devoted an exclusive chapter in my book "Musings Unabated". But after going through Dalrymple's book, I was prompted to go a step further and share with the readers India's unrecognised past in greater detail.

India is one of the oldest civilisations in the world spanning a period of almost 5000 years, with a rich cultural heritage: It is also called a cradle of civilisation, for establishing Harappan culture in Sindhu valley (Indus valley civilisation) which was most extensive of the three earliest civilisations, with Mesopotamia and Egypt, the other two. Our lofty mountains, the Himalayas kept us safe long enough. But then, hordes of invaders from north-western passes one after the other ravaged our landscape. Yet India's strong resilience and intense spirituality withstood repeated plunder and did not let its

# India's Proud Heritage



precious civilisation to perish under the wheels of the testing times of history.

Philosophy in ancient India was essentially spiritual in nature. The Mundaka Upanishad speaks of Brahma-Vidya or the science of the eternal as the basis of all sciences. Our supremacy nonetheless was not confined to the subjective. Ancient Indians measured the land, divided the year, mapped out the heavens and traced course of the sun and planets.

"Swami Vivekananda, in his lecture at Brooklyn (New York, USA) on the subject "India's Gift to the World" in 1895, spoke of the wondrous beauties of his native land. India was said to have made great contribution to mathematics: algebra, geometry, astronomy, mixed mathematics, the ten numerals, the very cornerstone of present civilisation, were all discovered in India and are indeed Sanskrit words". There is an interesting story of how these Indian discoveries from India, passed on to Baghdad (Arabia) in the late 8th century. There

the Viziers were a family of Sanskrit-literate hereditary Buddhists, from Afghanistan who had converted to Islam; had studied Indian mathematics in Kashmir, the then one of the great centres of learning. In Baghdad, the knowledge of ancient India was cross-fertilised with that of ancient Greece. Envoys were sent to India to learn Indian medicine, mathematics and astronomy.

From Baghdad these ideas spread across Islamic world: 'Fibonacci' a brilliant Italian mathematician who had grown up in Algeria, where he learnt Arabic mathematics, authored Liber Abaci - the 'Book of Calculation'. It was he who first popularised in Europe the use of what was later thought of as Arabic numerals, but these numbers were not Arabic in origin, as Fibonacci and his Arab masters recognised, that they were Indian, besides accepting a revolutionary Indian concept of Zero (Al-Sifre in Arabic and Shunya in Sanskrit). The "nine figures" (numerals) of India were first written down in

the Brahmi script in 3rd century BCE in Bihar at the time of emperor Ashoka. Europeans made their best efforts to erase these facts, and its high time, these need to be retrieved from oblivion. Nonetheless our Sanskrit language is now universally acknowledged to be the foundation of all European languages. In literature our epics, poems and plays ranked as high as those of any other language, like Kalidas's play Shakuntala. In music India gave to the world her system of notation with the seven cardinal notes and the diatonic scale, as early as 350 BC while it came to Europe in eleventh century. India also gave to the world the fables of Aesop, which were copied by Aesop, a Greek storyteller, from an old Sanskrit book: it has also given the 'Arabian Nights', even the story of 'Cinderella' and the 'Bean Stalks'. In manufacture, India was the first to make cotton and dye; and was proficient in all works of jewellery. Vivekananda had satirically said that it was

due to superiority of India in every respect that drew to her borders the hungry cohorts of Europe, thereby indirectly bringing about discovery of America". Today, over half the world's population lives in areas, where Indian religions and cultures were once dominant. Xuanzang, one of China's greatest scholars, travellers and translators, gave an interesting account of his journey from western China to Kanchipuram (Tamil Nadu). In particular he mentioned about India's prestigious Nalanda university, housing about 10,000 monks, and international scholars, who studied texts of different schools of Buddhism, sacred Vedas, philosophy, medicine, mathematics and astronomy. Above all he described the magnificence of 9 storied Nalanda's library, regarded then as the greatest repository of knowledge. Xuanzang studied for five years, copied out by hand the Sanskrit manuscripts, which he took back home to China. India produced not just pioneering merchants, astronomers, scientists, mathematicians, doctors and sculptors, but also the holy men, monks and missionaries of several distinct brands of Indic religions - of Hinduism, and of various sects of Buddhism.

These diverse religious faiths collectively came to dominate Asia. What Greece was once to Rome and then to the European world, India was, to Southeast and Central Asia and even China, influencing its philosophies, political ideas and architectural forms, not by conquest but by sheer cultural approval and charm. India became a sort of teacher of the Arab world.

# Israel bans 37 aid groups from Palestinian territories

RAMALLAH, Feb 24: Israeli occupation authorities informed 37 international aid organizations on Wednesday that they will be prohibited from operating in the Palestinian territories starting January 1, 2026, citing non-compliance with new regulations governing international organizations in the Gaza Strip.

The affected organizations work in emergency medical services, food relief, child protection, and support for refugees and people with disabilities. The ban would severely impact aid efforts and put the lives of civilians, particularly children and patients, at serious risk, violating international humanitarian law.

The organizations described the new regulations as arbitrary and potentially endangering their staff. Among the organizations affected are Action Against

Hunger, ActionAid, CARE, Médecins Sans Frontières (Belgium, France, Netherlands, Spain), Mercy Corps, the Norwegian Refugee Council, Oxfam Novib, and the International Rescue Committee, among others.

Separately, Israeli army forces conducted new raids into several Syrian towns in the southwestern province of Quneitra on Wednesday, local media reported.

The Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) reported that an Israeli patrol consisting of three vehicles advanced from the entrance of the town of Beer Ajam toward the village of Bariqa in the southern Quneitra countryside.

No injuries were reported. Earlier on Tuesday, the Israeli forces had advanced between the villages of Ruwayhina and Al-Mushrifah, setting up a temporary checkpoint at the inter-



section near the village of Umm al-Azam, in the northern Quneitra countryside. They also advanced into the village of al-Asha and detained one resident while

establishing a temporary checkpoint between the village of Ain Ziwan and the town of Koudna in the southern Quneitra countryside, SANA added.

There was no immediate comment from the Israeli army or Syrian authorities on the new raids.

Despite the fact that the Syrian government poses no threat,

Israeli forces have repeatedly entered Syrian territory and launched airstrikes, killing civilians and destroying Syrian military sites, vehicles, weapons, and ammunition.

Syrian government data shows that since December 2024, Israel has carried out over 1,000 airstrikes on Syria and more than 400 cross-border raids into the southern provinces.

After the fall of the Bashar al-Assad regime in late 2024, Israel expanded its occupation of the Syrian Golan Heights by seizing the demilitarized buffer zone, a move that violated a 1974 agreement with Syria.

The foreign ministers of Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Iceland, Japan, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and Britain on Tuesday issued a joint statement expressing concerns over the

deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza. The ministers expressed "serious concerns about the renewed deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Gaza, which remains catastrophic," according to the statement released by the British Foreign Office.

Civilians in Gaza are facing appalling conditions with heavy rainfall and temperatures dropping as winter draws in, the statement said, adding that they are also suffering from severe shortages of food and health facilities.

The ministers called on the Israeli government to ensure the "sustained and predictable" operation of international non-governmental organizations in Gaza to secure a humanitarian response, and to ensure that the United Nations and its partners can continue delivering aid in the region.

## 2025 a Landmark Year for Kuwait's Oil and Energy Sector

KUWAIT, Feb 24: The year 2025 marked a dynamic period for Kuwait's oil and energy sector, highlighted by major hydrocarbon discoveries, infrastructure projects and international partnerships. The year began with a major hydrocarbon discovery at the Al-Julaia offshore field in January, followed by a new oil find in the North Wafra field (Wara-Burgan) announced jointly with Saudi Arabia in May. KOC achieved commercial production at the Nutri-ba oil field in September and revealed the Jazza offshore gas field in October, which recorded the highest vertical well output in Kuwait's history.

Kuwait strengthened international ties and expanded operations abroad.



Kuwait Petroleum International acquired Italian companies Agriver and Arma to enhance low-carbon technology and launched major service stations in Luxembourg. Partnerships with China included a framework agreement on renewable energy in March and

a 25 percent stake in Yantai petrochemical plants, the largest Kuwaiti investment in China's petrochemical sector. Technical service agreements with Shell were also extended to improve operational efficiency.

Domestically, the sector focused on infrastructure

and corporate consolidation. KNPC began fully merging KIPIC into its operations, and progress continued on the Al-Zour North power plant, with phases two and three signed in August alongside Aqua Power and the Gulf Investment Corporation. KPC reported a net profit of about

\$4.4 billion for the 2024/2025 fiscal year. Environmental achievements included Kuwait joining the World Water Organization and the Umm Al-Aish LPG filling plant earning certifications from the Gulf Organization for Research & Development.

Kuwait hosted and participated in numerous high-level forums, reinforcing its role as a regional energy leader. Events included the 15th Ministerial Meeting of the Arab Energy Organization, the GCC Power 2025 conference, the 8th Youth Energy Forum, and meetings under OPEC and OPEC+ on production and sustainability. Kuwaiti officials also participated in COP30 in Brazil. In July, Kuwait Oil Tanker Company's vessel "Bahra"

rescued 45 refugees in the Mediterranean, highlighting the sector's humanitarian engagement. The year concluded with recognition of Kuwait Oil Company's leadership. KOC received four strategic awards from International Business magazine for excellence in sustainability, safety, and operational standards, reflecting the sector's commitment to innovation, global engagement and sustainable growth.

The year also included operational challenges. An explosion at the Aqaila C substation in April caused a 17 MW power loss, a KNPC fire in May resulted in one death and four injuries, and another fire in August affected the water network enhancement project.

## US discusses Yemen with UAE, Saudi



Washington, Feb 24: US Secretary of State Marco Rubio held separate phone calls with the top diplomats of the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, focusing on the deteriorating situation in Yemen and broader concerns affecting regional security and stability, according to official US readouts. In the first call, Rubio spoke with UAE Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The two leaders discussed the situation in Yemen as well as wider issues impacting Middle Eastern security and stability, the State Department said in a brief readout attributed to Principal Deputy Spokesperson Tommy Pigott.

The conversation came amid continued international concern over Yemen's fragile security environment and its implications for the wider region, particularly maritime security and regional trade routes.

Later the same day, Rubio held a separate call with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud. During that conversation, the two discussed the

ongoing tensions in Yemen and exchanged views on issues affecting regional security and stability, according to a second State Department readout, also attributed to Pigott.

The back-to-back calls underscore Washington's ongoing diplomatic engagement with key Gulf partners as the conflict in Yemen continues to pose challenges to regional stability. Both the UAE and Saudi Arabia have been central actors in efforts to address the conflict and its spillover effects, including threats to shipping and broader security concerns across the Middle East.

US officials have repeatedly stressed the importance of close coordination with regional partners to manage tensions and support stability, particularly amid heightened volatility across multiple parts of the Middle East.

Yemen has been mired in conflict for more than a decade, with fighting between Houthi forces and a Saudi-led coalition contributing to what the United Nations has described as one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.

## Bulgaria joins eurozone amid political turmoil and public skepticism



SOFIA, Feb 24: On New Year's Day, Bulgaria becomes the 21st country to join the euro currency union, furthering its integration into the European Union. But the historic milestone arrives amid political instability and skepticism among ordinary people fueled by fears of price rises. Supporters of switching to the euro from the old currency, the lev, are praising the move as one of the greatest achievements since the 1989 transition from a Soviet-style economy to democracy and free markets. They hope it will make the country more attractive for investors and strengthen its orientation toward wealthier Western Europe.

But many people are uneasy in a country where corruption is rife and trust in the authorities is low. One fear is that merchants will round prices up or otherwise use the changeover to worsen inflation, at a time when inflation has rebounded to 3.7%.

An EU Eurobarometer poll from March showed that 53% of 1,017 people surveyed opposed joining the eurozone, while 45% were in favor. A separate Eurobarometer poll, taken be-

tween Oct. 9 and Nov. 3 on a similar sample, showed that about half of Bulgarians opposed the single currency union, while 42% were in favor.

The margin of error was about plus or minus 3.1 percentage points for the March poll. The government successfully completed the euro adoption process by beating inflation down to 2.7% earlier this year to comply with EU rules and win approval from EU leaders. But clearing that hurdle was followed by a new chapter of political chaos. The government resigned after less than a year in office amid nationwide anti-corruption protests. This left the country without a regular budget for next year and is hampering plans for long-overdue structural reforms and decisions on use of EU support funds.

A new election the eighth in five years is expected to be held next spring. Bulgaria, with its 6.4 million people, is one of the poorest members of the 27-country European union. The average monthly wage is 1,300 euros (\$1,530). Countries that join the EU commit to the euro, but actually joining can take years and some members.

## UN seeks \$1.71 billion for Afghanistan aid in 2026 amid deepening crisis

Kabul, Feb 24: The United Nations has called for USD 1.71 billion in funding for humanitarian work in Afghanistan in 2026, warning that the nation continues to face humanitarian crisis despite a slight reduction in needs, local media reported on Wednesday.

Approximately 21.9 million people, nearly 45 per cent of the population, will need humanitarian assistance in 2026, according to the UN Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan. Ongoing conflict, economic fragility, food insecurity and climate-related disasters have been described as the main reasons behind the need for funds, Afghanistan's leading



news agency Khaama Press reported. According to the UN report, years of less investment in basic services, recurring natural disasters, drought, and the return of millions of migrants from neighbouring countries, has impacted the resilience of people of Afghanistan.

Highlighting the impact of restrictions on girls and women, aid groups stressed that girls not being allowed to study, women not being allowed to work and participate in public life has reduced household income, increasing reliance on humanitarian aid and affect-

ing relief operations.

Afghanistan is facing socioeconomic challenges, with UN data indicating nearly 75 per cent people are unemployed and 90 per cent of the population are living below the poverty line. The return of millions of Afghan migrants from Pakistan and Iran in recent years has placed additional pressure on public services and humanitarian structure, impacting an already fragile system. Earlier this month, the UN humanitarian chief Tom Fletcher warned that 1.7 million children in Afghanistan are at risk of death due to severe malnutrition and termed the situation as "shocking."

## China factory activity expands in december after eight-month slump

BANGKOK, Feb 24: Chinese factory activity expanded for the first time in eight months in December, as orders picked up ahead of holidays and builders rushed to finish projects, according to surveys released.

The official purchasing managers index for manufacturing, a monthly survey of companies, rose to 50.1 this month, the National Bureau of Statistics reported. That was just above the 50 cut off for expansion versus contraction on a scale up to 100. Another, private sector, survey also was at 50.1 for December. The better-than-expected readings partly reflect easing pressure due to an extended truce in trade tensions with the U.S. They also suggest manufacturers ramped up production

ahead of New Year holidays, when many companies close for days. China's Lunar New Year falls in mid-February this year. In comments to a new year's gathering carried Wednesday by China's state media, President Xi Jinping, vowed to promote "high-quality development" and to carry out "more positive macroeconomic policies" while ensuring social harmony and stability.

The world's second largest economy is forecast to grow at a pace just below the official target of about 5% this year, supported by strong activity in high-tech industries and exports. The official PMI for high-tech manufacturing stood at 52.5 in December, up 2.4 percentage points from the previous month. The report said the



PMIs for both equipment manufacturing and the consumer goods industry reached 50.4. The separate report by RatingDog, a Chinese credit research and analysis company based in the southern city of Shenzhen, said that despite an increase in overall orders, new export sales fell slightly and hiring weakened. "Overall, the

manufacturing sector regained growth at the end of 2025," RatingDog's founder Yao Yu said in a statement.

"However, the improvement was marginal, with the impact of promotions and new products appearing impulse-driven and their sustainability requiring observation."

The National Statistic Bureau said the PMI mea-

sures for food, textiles, clothing and electronics were above a relatively strong 53.

However, while large manufacturers increased their output, factory activity for the small and mid-sized enterprises that account for the lion's share of employment in China remained in contractionary territory. As consumers cut back on spending, conditions for retailers and restaurants also deteriorated, the report said. Some economists believe China's economy is growing more slowly than official figures suggest. Its leaders are grappling with long-term challenges including a yearslong slump in the country's property sector and excess capacity in many industries, including automaking, that has

led to damaging price wars. Higher costs for raw materials, especially for metals, has put pressure on company profit margins, the RatingDog report said. It noted that exporters had raised prices for the first time in three months to help offset those higher costs.

The upturn in activity may be short-lived as it appears to be helped by a slight increase in government spending, Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics said in a report. "The big picture is that the structural headwinds from the property downturn and industrial overcapacity are set to persist in 2026 and there appears to be limited appetite among policymakers for a big increase in demand-side stimulus," he said.

## India's hospital sector poised for 11–12 pc growth over next 3–5 years



Mumbai, Feb 24: India's hospital industry is set for strong and sustained growth over the next few years, with revenues expected to rise at a healthy pace of 11–12 per cent annually, a new report said on Wednesday. The growth will be driven by rising healthcare needs, higher insurance coverage, increasing medical tourism, and fresh investments in hospital infrastructure, according to data compiled by CareEdge Ratings.

A key reason behind this optimistic outlook is India's long-standing shortage of healthcare infrastructure. Despite being home to nearly 18 per cent of the world's population, the country has only about 16 hospital beds for every 10,000 people.

This is far below the World Health Organisation's recommended level of 30 beds. As a result, India faces a shortage of nearly two million hospital beds, pointing to a large and long-term demand for new hospitals and healthcare facilities. The report also highlights a sharp imbalance between urban and rural healthcare availability. Nearly 65–70 per cent of hospital beds are located in cities, even though around two-thirds of India's population lives in rural and semi-urban areas.

With government healthcare spending limited to about 2–4 per cent of GDP, the private sector is expected to play a major role in filling this gap. This makes private hospital chains the biggest beneficiaries of rising healthcare demand in the coming years. Demographic changes are adding further momentum to the sector. India's ageing population is increasing the need for treatment of chronic illnesses, preventive healthcare, and specialised medical services. At the same time, health insurance coverage has expanded sharply, rising from around 20 crore people in 2014 to nearly 55 crore in 2024. Even so, only about 40 per cent of the population is currently insured.

## India's mining sector surges ahead on the back of radical reforms in 2025

New Delhi, Feb 24: The Ministry of Mines implemented comprehensive policy reforms to modernise India's mining ecosystem and strengthen mineral security in 2025, an official statement said on Wednesday. Key measures included the enactment of the MMDR Amendment Act, 2025, expansion and renaming of the National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) to National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust (NMEDT), reflecting its expanded role to not just explore but also facilitate the development and overseas acquisition of strategic minerals, funded by increased contributions from mining lessees as part of major 2025 mining reforms.



NMEDT's enhanced funding, streamlined auction processes with defined timelines, removal of restrictions on captive mine sales, reclassification of select minerals as major minerals, notification of royalty rates for critical minerals, promotion of mineral exchanges,

and implementation of sustainable development, positioning the mining sector as a strategic pillar in achieving the vision of 'Viksit Bharat 2047', according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Mines. Together, these reforms aim to improve transparency, ease of doing business, accelerate mineral production, and support

development. A total of 141 mineral blocks were successfully auctioned by December 5, 2025. This included 79 blocks auctioned for Mining Lease (ML) and 62 blocks awarded as Composite Licence (CL). This is the highest number of blocks auctioned in a single year since the auction regime began in 2015, reflecting faster processes and stronger participation from states and the industry. Notably, Assam and Uttarakhnad have auctioned mineral blocks for the very first time during this period, marking their presence into the auction map of India. Since the introduction of the auction regime in 2015, 585 mineral blocks have been successfully auctioned

in the country. During the year, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have auctioned the highest number of blocks, with figures of 33 and 22, respectively. Among the minerals, Limestone accounted for the largest number of auctions (41), followed by Iron Ore (32) and Bauxite (22).

A Mining Dashboard was also launched on April 4, 2025 to enable near real-time tracking of auctioned mineral blocks, associated clearances, and delays. The Dashboard serves as a critical tool to fast-track the operationalisation of mineral blocks by monitoring key milestones such as issuance of letter of intent (LoI), execution of lease deeds, and grant of statutory clearance.

Since the introduction of the auction regime in 2015, 585 mineral blocks have been successfully auctioned

## Swiggy, Zomato hike delivery incentives amid nationwide gig workers' strike call

New Delhi, Feb 24: Food delivery platforms Swiggy and Zomato have rolled out higher incentives for its delivery workers during peak hours and year-end days amid a nationwide strike call by gig and platform workers.

The incentive push follows calls by delivery worker unions for strikes on December 25 and December 31 to protest pay, working conditions and lack of social security. Zomato has offered delivery partners payouts of Rs 120–150 per order during peak hours between 6 pm and 12 am as it is set to face higher order volumes around New Year's Eve. Swiggy offered delivery



The company also promised earnings of up to Rs 3,000 over the course of the day, subject to order volumes and availability. The platform has also temporarily waived penalties on order denials and cancellations to reduce income risk during uneven order flow. Swiggy offered delivery

workers earnings of up to Rs 10,000 across December 31, 2025 and January 1, 2026, with peak-hour pay of up to Rs 2,000 between 6 pm and 12 am on New Year's Eve. Quick commerce player Zepto has also increased incentives for delivery partners. Earlier on December 25, 2025 strike, brief, lo-

calised disruptions were reported in food delivery, though platforms said operations stabilised later in the day. Unions have claimed wider participation and urged continued mobilisation on December 31, 2025.

On NSE, Swiggy Limited shares were priced at Rs 390.55 apiece, down Rs 13.45 or 3.33 per cent over the past five days. Over the same period, Eternal Limited, parent company of Zomato dropped by Rs 5.60 or 1.96 per cent to Rs 280.

Gig and platform workers in India benefit from formal legal recognition, portable social-security benefits and a national registration.

## Elon Musk's xAI to expand computing capacity to 2 GW



New Delhi, Feb 24: Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk's xAI company has purchased a third building near its existing Memphis sites in the US, that will bring its artificial intelligence (AI) computing capacity to almost 2 gigawatts (GW). Elon Musk has already built one data centre in Memphis, known as Colossus, and is constructing a second centre nearby dubbed Colossus 2, according to multiple reports.

The newly acquired building is in Southaven, Mississippi, and adjoins the Colossus 2 facility, according to reports citing people familiar with the matter. "xAI has bought a third building called Macrorhardt," Musk posted on social media platform X, saying it will "take @xAI training compute to almost 2GW." A gigawatt is enough to provide electricity for about 7,50,000 US homes. Musk has publicly discussed plans to build the world's largest data centre for AI training and previously said Colossus 2 will eventually have 5,50,000

chips from Nvidia, costing tens of billions of dollars.

Moreover, Musk's xAI Holdings is reportedly in talks to raise new funding at around \$230 billion valuation. Musk owns a 53 per cent stake in xAI Holdings, worth \$60 billion.

Musk took a dig at Wikipedia in October, claiming Grokopedia, developed by xAI, will surpass the popular online encyclopedia "by several orders of magnitude in breadth, depth and accuracy."

Grokopedia is an AI-powered encyclopedia that aims to challenge what Musk calls a "woke" and biased Wikipedia.

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

Musk's net worth rose to nearly \$750 billion after a US court reinstated Tesla stock options worth \$139 billion. According to Forbes' billionaires index, this development has taken Musk closer to become the world's first trillionaire.

## 60 railway stations being redeveloped in northeast: Govt

New Delhi, Feb 24: Indian Railways has made major progress in the northeast, and 60 stations are being redeveloped in the northeastern region under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, the government said on Tuesday.

Since 2014, more than 1,679 km of railway tracks have been laid in the northeast. Over 2,500 route kilometres have been electrified. More than 470 road overbridges and underbridges have been constructed, the Railways Ministry said in a statement.

The Bairabi-Sairang new line has been fully commissioned. This has connected Aizawl to the rail network for the first time. Aizawl is now the fourth capital in the northeast to be linked with the national rail network.



"Major projects such as Sivok-Rangpo, Dimapur-Kohima, and Jiribam-Imphal are also progressing steadily. These projects are improving economic and social integration of the northeast with the rest of the country," the ministry said. Railways is carrying out some of the most ambitious infrastructure projects of the 21st century. These projects are strengthening national integration, improving logistics, and expanding the modern railway network.

From iconic bridges in difficult terrain to freight corridors and high-speed rail, they reflect India's growing engineering strength and

long-term vision. "One of the most significant projects is the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL). It is a project of high strategic and national importance. Built at a cost of approx. Rs 44,000 crore, the 272-km line passes through the Himalayan region," said the ministry.

The project includes the Chenab Rail Bridge, the world's highest railway arch bridge. It stands 359 metres above the river, higher than the Eiffel Tower. It is a 1,315 metre long steel arch bridge engineered to withstand seismic and wind conditions. The project also includes India's first cable-stayed railway bridge over the Anji River, known as the Anji Rail Bridge. Thirty-six tunnels (spanning 119 km) and 943 bridges are part of the project. The USBRL provides all-weather rail connectivity to the Kashmir Valley. It is boosting mobility, tourism, and economic activity in the region. Another major achievement is the New Pamban Railway Bridge in Tamil Nadu. The new bridge is India's

first vertical-lift sea bridge. Built at a cost of about Rs 550 crore, the 2.08 km long bridge consists of 100 spans, with 99 spans of 18.3 metres each and one main span of 72.5 metres.

The bridge features a robust substructure system comprising 333 piles and 101 pile caps, ensuring structural stability. It also includes 99 approach girders designed for efficient load distribution. The new bridge ensures rail connectivity to Rameswaram, an important pilgrimage and tourism centre. Reflecting its advanced design and engineering excellence, the New Pamban Railway Bridge has been conferred the prestigious Steel Structures & Metal Buildings Award 2024 in the Bridge Design category.

Reflecting its advanced design and engineering excellence, the New Pamban Railway Bridge has been conferred the prestigious Steel Structures & Metal Buildings Award 2024 in the Bridge Design category.

## Coupang should come up with compensation acceptable for victims of data leak

Seoul, Feb 24: The head of South Korea's data protection regulator said on Wednesday that Coupang should come up with compensation acceptable for victims of its massive data leak amid strong backlash against the online retailer's offer of vouchers and discounts.

Song Kyung-hee, head of the Personal Information Protection Commission, made the call during a parliamentary hearing over the company's data breach that affected 33.7 million users -- around two-thirds of South Korea's population, reports Yonhap news agency.

"It is very important to establish a compensation plan that makes victims feel they have been remedied. The burden of proof lies with the company," said Song when



asked about Coupang's plan to offer 50,000 won (US\$35) worth of coupons and discounts to each of the affected users. The plan, unveiled Monday, has drawn criticism because each customer is allowed to spend only 5,000 won at the online retailer's main platform, while the remaining vouchers worth 45,000 won have to be used at other commerce platforms, including one for luxury goods. Critics

say such measures may be aimed at prompting customers to spend more at Coupang's other platforms. When asked about the need for a collective lawsuit against Coupang, Song noted that while the personal data protection law has a clause on such lawsuits, it does not address monetary damages, pointing to the need for a clearer legal basis. Meanwhile, the interim head of Coupang, the South Korean

unit of US-listed Coupang Inc., said on Wednesday that the company's compensation plan for a recent data breach will not include any conditions requiring customers to waive their right to file lawsuits against the e-commerce giant. Responding to a question from Democratic Party's Rep. Hwang Jung-a during a parliamentary hearing, Harold Rogers, the company's interim chief executive officer (CEO), said the compensation would not be tied to a clause barring civil or criminal legal action. "There are no conditions in those vouchers, and there will not be any conditions in those vouchers," he said. He also said the compensation plan would not be used as grounds to seek a reduction in potential damages.

## Economic reforms in 2025 set stage for India's global rise: Economist

New Delhi, Feb 24: Economist and former President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), Ved Jain, on Tuesday said that allowing 100 per cent foreign direct investment (FDI) in the insurance sector will prove to be a positive step for India's economy and consumers.

Speaking to IANS, Jain said that in developed countries, FDI in insurance has not created problems; instead, it has increased competition and improved services.

"With 100 per cent foreign investment, competition between local and foreign companies will naturally rise, leading to cheaper insurance and services for people," Jain said. "Lower insurance costs will directly benefit consumers. Additionally, when logistic costs in insurance decrease, competitiveness increases and the overall efficiency of the sector improves," he added.



He also stressed the need to reform outdated colonial-era laws. Jain explained that many laws were created before 1947 to serve British interests, when India was under colonial rule.

Even after more than 75 years of independence, sev-

eral of these laws still exist. He said there is a strong need to move away from such outdated rules, especially those related to minor offences and complex procedures. As a democratic and welfare-oriented country, India's laws should reflect the expectations of today's society and support citizens rather than burden them. "Now, over 75 years after independence, there is

a need to move away from these colonial rules and reform outdated laws, especially those concerning minor offences and procedural matters," Jain told.

"Today's society expects this. India is a democracy, and we elect the government, which functions as a social welfare institution. Therefore, laws must be aligned with this perspective," he added.

Commenting on recent economic measures, Jain highlighted three key steps that would support the middle class and businesses. He said raising tax-free income to Rs 12 lakh and lowering tax rates for income between Rs 12 lakh and Rs 24 lakh will directly increase disposable income for the middle class.

# Harry Brook restores order on another rowdy night for England

Mumbai, Feb 24: Sometimes you just need a good bouncer in your life. Not the kind that rears up off the pitch and follows you into your personal space. The kind that stands outside a nightclub and maintains a basic level of orderliness in otherwise disorderly environs. Harry Brook would know. He has been smacked by both.

It was in the early days of England's winter, way back on October 31, when Brook got into an altercation with a Wellington bouncer hours before going on to captain the third ODI against New Zealand. As with the cricketing variety, being struck by a bouncer can really change a guy. If you're smart, evasive action tends to be taken. Since arriving in mid-January in South Asia, about a week after this story emerged in the press, Brook has made it a point to stress team curfews, remaining level, and general-



ly just laying off them beers, lad. Maybe it is because Brook has reflected in his weeks of relative sobriety on the value of a bouncer, that he pulled off such an outstanding impression of one against Pakistan. Because for a Tuesday night, it had got very loose, very early for England. The fielding was

poor verging on appalling, even on a rough Pallekele outfield. On the boundary, balls were slipping through fingers, or being thwacked right into the boundary after fielders mistimed their slides. In the infield, Brook himself saw a catch burst through his fingers, only for a napping Tom Banton

at long-off to let a ball he could have stopped go for four. Fielders were diving over balls, wild throws were coming in from the outfield. The night was going nowhere good, fast.

It was Brendon McCullum who approached Brook on the morning of the big game and, like a nightclub man-

ager organising the day's shifts, put a tattooed arm around Brook's shoulder and asked him if he'd like to be up front on the doors tonight... you know, go up and bat at No. 3. Brook very much ain't the kind to say no to this kind of offer. So up he went striding out at 0 for 1, before soon it became 17 for 2, before soon it became 35 for 3, before soon it became 58 for 4, stumbling people just everywhere. It was down to Brook to lay the smack down, sort out a rowdy situation, and quickly become the most feared and domineering presence in his surrounds. He clobbered 100 off 51.

The thinking from management likely had numbers driving it. Brook had been dismissed by spin four times in the middle overs already this tournament. Against spin, his T20I strike rate was 129, and his average 18.76. Compare

this to a career strike rate of 155. In the powerplay, however, Brook seemed to be more comfortable taking spin down, sweeping Mohammad Nawaz over fine leg, before crunching him through the covers, and dumping him over the straight boundary. By powerplay's end, Brook had 41 off 20. Twenty-one off seven had come off spin.

After the powerplay, Brook toned things down for a bit. Sometimes, it's a firm but gentle hand that is needed. This is where he began to rack up the twos, which he ran nine of in his innings. "As you saw in our fielding innings, it was tough to field on there, with the bobbly outfield," Brook said of his decision to look for twos during this spell. "And thankfully I lost a little bit of weight a couple of years ago, because I wouldn't have been able to run all those twos before."

# Gulmarg set to showcase real impact of Khelo Bharat Niti during KIWG 2026



Gulmarg, Feb 24: The upcoming edition of the Khelo Bharat Niti Winter Games in Gulmarg is poised to become a real-world example of the government's ambitious Khelo Bharat Niti, with a visible surge in tourism, local economic activity and national participation ahead of the February 23-26 competition window.

Launched by the Union sports ministry in July last year, the Khelo Bharat Niti aims to strengthen India's sporting ecosystem while leveraging major events to drive economic growth. By promoting infrastructure development, talent identification and international competitiveness, the policy also seeks to boost allied sectors such as tourism, manufacturing and sports technology.

That vision is already taking shape in Gulmarg, one of Kashmir's premier winter destinations, where tourist interest has risen sharply in the lead-up to the Games. With India's top skiers, including Winter Olympians, set to compete, the event has generated enthusiasm across the region, particularly among those whose livelihoods depend on sports tourism.

Local businesses have seen a clear uptick in activity. Abeer, a hotelier at Sheen Woods Tangmarg, said bookings had surged weeks before the event.

"For us, this is more than

just tourism. It is our identity. When the Games happen, Gulmarg feels like the heart of the country," he says, pointing to a lobby filled with athletes from Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Kerala, Telangana and Jammu & Kashmir.

"You hear different languages at breakfast," he says. "It feels like a country in one room."

The growth of the Winter Games in Gulmarg reflects a steady upward trajectory. The inaugural edition in 2020 saw 1,123 athletes compete across 13 disciplines, with Jammu & Kashmir topping the medal tally. Participation rose to 1,208 athletes in 2021, with the host region winning 18 gold medals. The 2023 edition marked the peak with 1,395 athletes, as Jammu & Kashmir secured 26 gold, 25 silver and 25 bronze medals. Though the 2024 and 2025 editions featured fewer events and participants, competition intensified, with teams such as the Army, Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka delivering strong performances.

Now, as the sixth edition approaches, the focus has shifted from experimentation to legacy-building, especially in reviving tourism after a challenging period. Following the April 22, 2025, terror attack in Pahalgam, domestic tourist arrivals to Kashmir dropped significantly to around 10.47 lakh.

# Wild card to standard bearer: Vaishnavi Adkar sparks resurgence hopes

Bengaluru, Feb 22 (UNI) In a week that may well signal a new chapter for Indian women's tennis, Vaishnavi Adkar has emerged as the face of a possible resurgence after storming into the final of the KPB Trust ITF Women's Open W100 here. Her run has revived memories of the era headlined by Sania Mirza, and sparked fresh optimism about India producing a consistent contender at the higher tiers of the women's circuit. Vaishnavi, who entered the tournament as a wild card, put together a series of fighting performances before finishing runner-up in the summit clash. Though she fell short in the final, the 18-year-old said the week marked a turning point in her journey.

"Last year was very tough for me. I struggled with my tennis and mentally as well. But this week, I kept believing in myself every time I went on court. I felt I belonged here and that I could compete at the highest lev-



el," she told reporters after losing to Hanne Vandewinkel 6-0, 6-1.

The young Indian's campaign was built on resilience. She came back from difficult positions in multiple matches, underlining her belief that "it's not over till the very last point." That fighting spirit has quickly

become a defining feature of her breakthrough run.

Her recent shift to the academy led by Rohan Bopanna has added a new dimension to her game. With guidance and exposure to high-performance insights, Vaishnavi said the changes are already visible.

"We've been working on

specific areas. There are a lot of improvements compared to last year and even two months back. Having people who have seen the highest level really helps," she noted. An introvert by nature, Vaishnavi said staying within her "bubble" helps her remain calm in tight situations. That composure was evident through the week, even as she navigated the pressure of a W100 final on home soil.

She also drew inspiration from Serbian great Novak Djokovic, whose longevity and competitive spirit she admires. "He's still competing at this age. That's very inspiring," she said.

After an injury-hit 2025 season that included a tibia hairline fracture and hamstring issues, Vaishnavi's resurgence could not have been better timed. The confidence gained from this run, she believes, will be crucial going forward.

"I have learned a lot. A week like this really helps with self-belief and con-

# Punjab's Sahil upsets more fancied race walkers to clinch gold in men's 21km event

Chandigarh, Feb 22 (UNI) Punjab athlete Sahil upset his more fancied rivals to clinch the gold in the men's half marathon on the final day of the Indian Open Race Walk Competition here on Sunday.

In a thrilling finish at the picturesque Sukhna Lake course, the 24-year-old Sahil had enough in the tank to hold off the challenge of experienced Servin Sebastian of Tamil Nadu over the 21km distance and emerge winner with a time of 1 hour 25 minute 48 seconds. Sebastian settled for silver with a time of 1:25:50.00, while the bronze went to Haryana's Hardeep who clocked 1:26:03.00. Paris Olympian Paramjeet Singh Bisht, representing Uttarakhand, finished fourth (1:26:07.00). Olympian and national record holder over 20km race walk, Akshdeep Singh of Punjab, finished seventh with a

time of 1:27:37.00. Another prominent athlete, Vikash Singh from Delhi finished 10th. He clocked 1:30:41.00. Suraj Panwar of Uttarakhand didn't finish the race.

The women's 21km title went to Haryana's experienced race walker Ravina.

The 29-year-old edged past her two younger rivals -- 24-year-old Munita Prajapati of Uttar Pradesh and 23-year-old Manis Negi of Uttarakhand to take home the gold medal with a time of 1:39:15.00.

Prajapati took silver with a time of 1:39:26.00. The bronze went to Mansi Negi who clocked 1:42:58.00.

Haryana's promising teenager and World U20 medallist, Aarti, who has graduated to senior level finished fourth with a time of 1:43:15.00.

The competition was equally exciting in the U20 men's and women's groups.

# Dr. M.L. Jat Inaugurates New Gates at Bhuvan Research Farm, Hayatnagar



Hyderabad, Feb 24 : Dr. M.L. Jat, Secretary of DARE and Director General of ICAR, visited the Bhuvan Research Farm of ICAR-CRIDA at Hayatnagar on February 21, 2026. During his visit, he inaugurated new gates at the research farm and participated in a plantation drive.

The event was attended by directors of local ICAR institutes and CRIDA staff. Dr. V.K. Singh briefed Dr. Jat about the facilities and ongoing research activities at the farm. Dr. Jat appreciated CRIDA's efforts in developing location-specific technologies and emphasized

documenting achievements to enhance the institute's visibility. He encouraged staff to focus on scalable, farmer-centric solutions that align with national priorities in climate-resilient agriculture and natural resource management.

# District Collector Harichandana Dasari said that students should continuously increase their knowledge

Hyderabad, Feb 24: District Collector Harichandana Dasari participated as the chief guest on the occasion of World Thinking Day organized at Stanley Girls' High School in Abids on Saturday. The Collector explained that every year on February 22, the birthday of Lord Robert Stephenson Smith Baden Powell, the founder of the Scout Movement, is celebrated as World Thinking Day.

Addressing the students on this occasion, the Collector said that thinking is an essential skill in human life and said that along with education, physical, mental and social all-round development is very important.

She emphasized that students are the future of our country. She said that continuous knowledge, analysis and questioning are important for students to grow as good citizens. She appreciated the efforts being made by the Scouts and Guides organization to

enhance values like discipline, leadership, unity and community service.

She also wished the students to move forward in life through new ideas and innovations. Since students are the foundations of tomorrow's future, she advised the students to adopt a proactive mindset and think about how they can improve the condi-



tions around them at home, school and in the society. She said that by instilling the habit of thinking from childhood by asking questions, it prepares them to face real-life challenges.

He advised the Principal to ensure that more students join such programs and encouraged the students to motivate their friends to participate. Later,

the winners of various competitions were felicitated by presenting mementos. As part of this, various sessions were organized such as Bond Party, Scout Left Hand Shake, First Aid & Promise, Games & Sports, Horse Shoe Formation & Flag Procedure, Health & Hygiene, Roping & Knots, Uniform & Scout/Guide Law, Color Party & Flag Song. The pro-

gram started with a march past organized by the students followed by various cultural performances by the students. The Collector congratulated them on this occasion. Scouts and Guides Organizer, Scout Master Ramulu Nayak, Scout Masters of various schools, Scout students and others participated in the program.