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SIR Go Back, Says Revanth; Backs Rahul

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday met AICC leader and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi at the Barakhamba police station in Delhi. He expressed solidarity with Gandhi after the Delhi police detained him during a protest against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and demanded the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

Revanth Reddy, who left for Delhi to express solidarity with Rahul Gandhi, proceeded to the police station but was initially obstructed by Delhi police from meeting him. He was later permitted to enter the police station and meet Rahul Gandhi. Keralam Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan also met Rahul Gandhi along with Revanth Reddy.

Speaking to media persons outside the police station, Revanth Reddy said the Congress would continue its fight under Rahul Gandhi's leadership, demanding that the SIR exercise be withdrawn and CEC Gyanesh Kumar resign over irregularities in the revision of electoral rolls.

"Hundred years ago, the country witnessed the 'Simon Go Back' movement. Now, the 'SIR Go Back' movement is being carried forward," Revanth said.

He alleged that the detention of Rahul Gandhi exposed the "intolerance" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union home minister Amit Shah towards opposition protests. The BJP government had earlier allegedly misused central agencies such as the income-tax department, enforcement directorate and CBI to target opposition parties and their leaders and was now using the Election Commission for the same purpose, he alleged.

"Instead of taking action against CEC Gyanesh Kumar over irregularities in SIR, why is Rahul Gandhi being punished for demanding restoration of votes that were illegally deleted?" Revanth asked.

He alleged that crores of voters had been removed from electoral rolls under the SIR exercise and accused the BJP of conspiring to remove SCs, STs and minority communities from the electoral rolls. The Modi-Amit Shah duo was seeking to win elections through "vote chori", he alleged, demanding that every vote deleted under SIR be restored.

Revanth Reddy said the Congress would not allow the deletion of genuine voters to go unchallenged and would continue its agitation until all eligible voters were restored to the electoral rolls.

Referring to the farmers' agitation, the Chief Minister said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had been forced to withdraw the controversial farm laws in 2021 and apologise to farmers following prolonged protests across the country. A similar situation would arise over SIR, he said, asserting that the Centre and the Election Commission would ultimately be forced to withdraw the exercise.

Revanth Reddy said the Congress would intensify its campaign against SIR under Rahul Gandhi's leadership and continue to demand accountability from the Election Commission. He reiterated that the Congress party's immediate demands were the withdrawal of SIR, restoration of all deleted votes and the resignation of CEC Gyanesh Kumar.

We Will Do It: Modi's New Battle Cry for Viksit Bharat

New Delhi: Sharing his life's motto of "living for a mission, not ambition", Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who completed 25 years in public life on Wednesday, asserted, "Until Bharat becomes 'Viksit', I will neither stop nor tire nor stray from my path."

Renewing his push for "Viksit Bharat", the Prime Minister said that 140-crore Indians together will build a developed nation by 2047 and gave a new battle cry, "We Will Do It!"

Addressing the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Sabha to mark a quarter-century as a head of government, Modi also highlighted his government's achievements in different sectors and said what once seemed unimaginable has become possible. He referred to the removal of Article 370 and action against terrorism and Naxalism as examples of India's determination to address longstanding challenges.

"When I look back today, I feel nothing but gratitude… I am grateful to every person and every experience that taught me something. Those who taught me taught me humility. Those who brought me down taught me how to rise again… My supporters encouraged me, while my critics taught me to look within. Those who stood by me showed me the power of trust," said Modi, who was greeted with thunderous applause when he reached the venue.

Modi said those who opposed him explained to him the power of democracy and asserted that every crisis tested his patience, every success expanded his responsibilities and every achievement gave him the courage and determination to move towards greater goals.

The Prime Minister quoted several shlokas from the Bhagavad Gita during his address to highlight his focus on "karma".

"Performing every task with full commitment, continuing without attachment and serving without concern for reward or credit has guided me… These lessons also helped during difficult situations. The Morbi floods taught me to work tirelessly in service, the Bhuj earthquake taught determination in rebuilding, and the Chandrayaan taught courage to rise after failure… The corona pandemic showed the importance of the nation's collective spirit," said the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister noted that "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" remains the strong foundation of his approach to good governance.

During his address, Modi renewed his 'Viksit Bharat' pledge.

"The dream we are seeing today in 2026 of a developed India will surely come true. There is no reason for India to stop now. A hundred years ago, we were even less than 40 crores… today, we are more than 140 crores. The 140-crore citizens together will build a developed India by 2047."

Defense Ministry Simplifies Access To Proof And Firing Ranges

NEW DELHI: The defence ministry has simplified procedures for the Indian defence industry to use government proof ranges, field firing ranges and testing facilities, and waived proof and testing charges for several developmental projects.

"Defence minister Rajnath Singh has approved revised Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Utilisation of MoD Proof Ranges, Field Firing Ranges and Test Facilities by Indian Defence Industry. The revised SOP provides for a detailed and simplified procedure for allotment and utilisation of MoD proof ranges and laboratory testing facilities, along with requisite formats," the ministry said.

The waiver covers index, TDF, Make and other developmental projects of the ministry, and aims to promote self-reliance in defence.

The SOP lists the proof ranges, field firing ranges and laboratory testing facilities available with DRDO, government quality assurance agencies and the three services for use by the Indian defence industry. It also sets out procedures for calculating and paying proof and testing charges, wherever applicable, simplifying documentation and processes.

The arbitration provision in the existing SOP has been replaced with a simpler, industry-friendly conciliation agreement clause to facilitate faster resolution of issues faced by the indigenous defence industry.

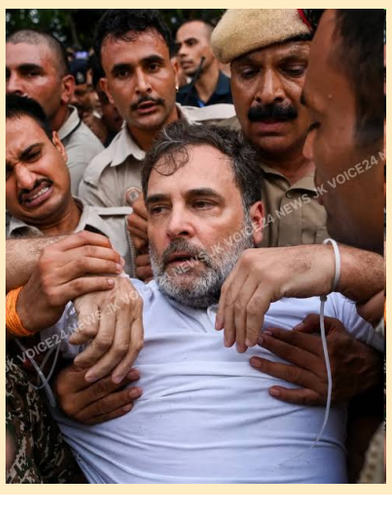
A three-day slot per quarter has been reserved at proof ranges for proof firing of government-sponsored developmental projects, including iDEX, TDF, Make and other ministry projects, as well as those undertaken by the indigenous defence industry on its own initiative.

"The revised SOP aims to provide simpler, transparent and industry-friendly access to proof ranges, field firing ranges and test facilities. It incorporates various Government initiatives aimed at facilitating indigenisation, innovation and defence exports, besides providing proof and test support to developmental projects undertaken by the Indian defence industry," the ministry said.

High Tension in Delhi

Tension at Jantar Mantar

INDIA bloc protests against the CEC and the election process
Opposition MPs, including Rahul and Priyanka, detained
Political tension continues in Delhi



New Delhi, October 7: A protest organized by the INDIA bloc against the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar and the election process turned tense. Police intercepted several opposition MPs—including Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi—as they were heading to Jantar Mantar for a protest. When the police stated that permission for the protest had not been granted, the leaders sat on the road and staged a demonstration.

On Wednesday afternoon, INDIA bloc MPs met under the leadership of Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge. Following the meeting, Rahul Gandhi decided to hold a protest at Jantar Mantar. While the alliance MPs were traveling there by bus, the police stopped them en route. Consequently, the MPs sat on the road and raised slogans.

An altercation ensued between the police and the leaders, including Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi. As the situation escalated, the police took Rahul Gandhi into custody and moved him away from the site in a vehicle. The police also attempted to detain several other opposition leaders. The INDIA bloc is demanding the resignation of CEC Gyanesh Kumar, citing objections to the SIR. Opposition parties allege irregularities in the revision of the electoral rolls. Political tension persists in the national capital as police thwarted protests by opposition MPs for the second consecutive day.

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GST 2.0, A WELCOME COURSE CORRECTION

Though the overall report card of the GST regime has been satisfactory, there are areas that need course correction to make the system more effective and responsive. Sweeping arrest powers were one of the provisions that drew criticism, and rightly so. It was widely seen by businesses as an instrument of harassment. The second phase of GST reforms proposes to take away arrest powers from tax officials and make a court order a prerequisite for any arrest. The 57th GST Council meeting, to be held in Delhi, is set to deliberate on the proposed reforms in the enforcement and compliance areas. This is a welcome development as it could become the next major pillar of the government's next-generation GST reforms, the GST 2.0. The key objective is to distinguish between deliberate tax evasion and genuine compliance-related issues. The prosecution threshold for tax evasion is also being raised from Rs 1 crore to Rs 5 crore. This must be seen as a move towards a more mature system — one that does not paint everybody with the same brush. Under the existing framework, authorised officers can invoke Section 69 of the CGST Act and arrest individuals suspected of specified offences, including issuing fake invoices, fraudulent input tax credit claims and collecting tax without depositing it with the government. While these powers are intended for serious violations, the prospect of arrest by tax authorities has long raised concerns about harassment of taxpayers.

The proposed reforms take a more balanced approach. Ordinary disputes should primarily be settled through assessment, recovery of tax, interest and penalties. Criminal prosecution should be reserved for substantial fraud, with arrests requiring judicial scrutiny. Such a framework would strengthen due process without weakening the State's ability to penalise tax evaders. The proposals also narrow the scope of prosecution provisions so that they do not apply to routine cases. Small e-commerce sellers could use platform warehouses for GST registration. The registration system would also show applicants only the relevant sections and give them a tailored document list. The wider GST 2.0 agenda has some encouraging features. These include faster, risk-based refunds, simpler registration, protection of genuine buyers' input tax credit, and fewer low-value notices that can substantially reduce compliance costs. Allowing businesses to apply for registration in multiple States through a common process could further improve ease of doing business. The reforms must spell out a clear roadmap: trust compliant taxpayers, let technology conduct thorough risk checks, and pursue fraudsters aggressively. Overcoming the initial scepticism, technical glitches and political differences, the GST regime, an audacious indirect tax reform rolled out in 2017, has come a long way and proved largely beneficial for the country. The taxpayer base grew from 66.5 lakh at the time of launch to 1.6 crore in 2026. Steady double-digit growth, despite rate cuts, indicates base-widening and improved compliance.

Congress faces confusion over Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda MLC polls

Khammam: There seems to be confusion within the Congress over the Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda Graduates' Constituency MLC election.

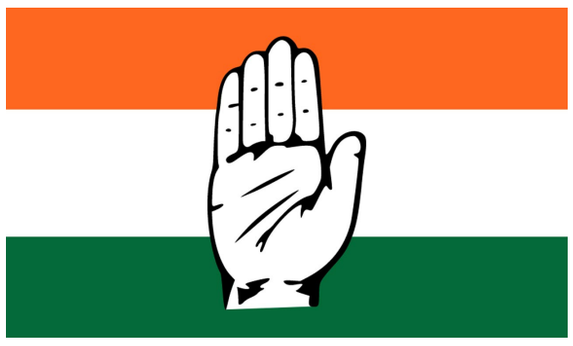
Multiple factors have been affecting the party's preparations, including efforts to streamline the cadre and leaders and, above all, launch a campaign for the polls. Initially, rumours were spread that the party's candidate, Ramreddy Sarvotham Reddy, was not interested in contesting the election due to a shortage of funds.

The rumours prompted him to reach out to the media, clarifying that he was very much interested in contesting the MLC election and would win it, as Congress leaders and MLAs in the 36 Assembly constituencies falling under the Graduates' Constituency were supporting him.

However, there have been complaints among party cadres in the erstwhile Warangal, Khammam and Nalgonda districts that none of the MLAs are actively involved in voter registration or campaigning, even as the BRS has been reaching out to graduates across the three districts.

Meanwhile, Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy's staunch follower and Right Choice IAS Academy chairman, Mendem Kiran Kumar, has entered the electoral fray and started holding meetings in Khammam and Kothagudem districts.

He is engaged in the graduate voter enrolment drive and claims that he is backed by a strong network of 1.5 lakh youths in Khammam, Nalgonda and Warangal



districts. He stated that he had provided quality training and guidance through the academy to help them secure jobs.

Setting aside Kiran Kumar's claims and his achievements as a job trainer, his association with Minister Srinivas Reddy is what has raised curiosity in political circles. The Minister is seen as a personal benefactor of Kiran Kumar and has never missed any event organised by the latter.

At present, Ministers Bhatti Vikramarka and N Uttam Kumar Reddy are monitoring the affairs related to the election. Sooner or later, Minister Srinivas Reddy might be asked to play an active role in the electioneering.

In view of this, it has now become interesting for many to see whether the Minister supports his loyalist or the party candidate in the election, or asks Kiran Kumar to withdraw from the contest.

BC Commission Seeks Action Against Social Boycotts, VDC Excesses

Nizamabad:Chairman of the Telangana State Backward Classes Commission G. Niranjan has directed officials to take stringent action against Village Development Committees indulging in social boycotts, arbitrary fines and harassment in the name of village development.

Niranjan said such practices continued in villages long after Independence and the formation of Telangana and stressed the need for strict enforcement of laws to eradicate them.

A team of the BC Commission led by Niranjan, along with members Tirumalagiri Surender, Rapolu Jayaprakash and Balalakshmi, met victims at the integrated district offices complex here on Wednesday.

Around 90 victims from different villages submitted written complaints detailing their grievances.

The commission held a review meeting with collector Ila Tripathi and revenue and police officials. Niranjan sought details of action taken against VDCs and called for strict measures against committees violating the law.

He proposed a special committee comprising the additional collector, police and revenue officials to monitor VDC functioning and ensure that the committees operated within the legal framework. He also called for free legal aid for victims and awareness campaigns through cultural troupes.

Collector Tripathi assured the commission that the district administration would take firm measures against social boycotts and curb unlawful activities by VDCs.

Niranjan said the Telangana government was expected to introduce a BC Protection Act soon, on the lines of legislation protecting SCs and STs from atrocities. The BC Commission had submitted a comprehensive report to the state government recommending such legislation and that the government was positively considering the proposal, he said.

During the commission's visit to Nizamabad, several complaints were also submitted over alleged incidents of social and caste-based boycotts. Victims from different parts of the district submitted written petitions detailing their grievances.

Several complainants alleged that VDCs in different parts of the district were being used to impose social restrictions and carry out coercive practices. Leaders of BC caste associations, representatives of various sections and members of public organisations also submitted petitions and shared their views with the commission.

The district administration made arrangements to enable the victims to speak freely and without fear and to ensure that those attending the hearing faced no inconvenience while submitting their complaints.

Telangana Okays 1,108 Crore To Build Dakshina Kashi Near Hyderabad

Hyderabad: The state government has accorded administrative sanction of 1,108.27 crore for the development of the Sri Omkareshwara Swamy Temple complex at Manchirevula on the Musi riverbank, bordering Narsingi and Kokapet. The government plans to develop the project as Dakshina Kashi.

Of the total allocation, 948.65 crore has been sanctioned for the temple complex at Manchirevula village in Gandipet mandal and 159.62 crore for a six-lane approach and connectivity road to the complex.

The eight-acre temple complex will feature a 100-foot Lord Shiva statue on the Musi River and a 100-foot Galigopuram. The Shiva statue will be surrounded by landscaped parks, while boating and other recreational facilities are also proposed.

Designed by the Musi Riverfront Development Corporation Limited (MRDCL), the complex will have multiple mandapams besides the gopuram. The Vimanam — the tower over sanctum sanctorum — will measure 14 feet each in length and width and 64 feet in height.

The project will also include the development

of the ancient Veerabhadra Swamy temple and the nearby Machileshwara temple, which is believed to be more than 1,400 years old. According to the municipal administration and urban development (MA&UD) department, preservation of the heritage structures will be given priority while taking up the works.

The 159.62-crore six-lane approach road will be 100 feet wide and about 2.5 km long. It will connect the Greyhounds and Young India Police School areas and provide the temple complex with better connectivity to the Musi riverfront road network.

1.75 Lakh Die In Road Mishaps Across Country, Telangana 7th With 7,000, Says DGP

HYDERABAD: In order to control fatal road mishaps across the state, DGP C.V. Anand on Wednesday held a state wide video conference with officials of seven districts and identified 48 accident-prone corridors, 230 high-risk locations flagged Electronic Detailed Accident Report (e-DAR) to capture accident data and focus on reducing fatalities with zero fatality target set.

Anand disclosed "more than 1.75 lakh people die in road accidents every year in the country, while Telangana records more than 7,000 road accident fatalities annually, ranking seventh in the country in terms of road accident deaths."

Telangana police and transport department have drawn up a comprehensive action plan to reduce road accidents and fatalities, with special focus on seven districts identified among the high-risk districts in the country.

The plan follows the directions of the centre and the Supreme Court to identify 100 districts across the country witnessing a high incidence of road accidents and undertake targeted interventions to bring down fatalities.

Anand directed officials to analyse the causes of accidents in the identified districts and formulate district-specific measures aimed at achieving a 'zero fatality' objective.

Anand and transport commissioner Ilambarithi held a video conference from the DGP's office here on Wednesday to review the proposed interventions.

Representatives of the SaveLife Foundation, collectors of the seven identified districts, police commissioners of four commissionerates and other unit officers participated in the meeting.

Accident-prone locations to be mapped

DGP called for comprehensive data on road accidents and fatalities, accident-prone stretches, causes of crashes and the time periods during which accidents occur to be recorded on the Margadarshak portal and dashboard.

He said systematic analysis of the available data would help identify accident-prone locations and enable the authorities to take targeted corrective measures. Officials were also asked to examine road conditions, engineering deficiencies and other factors contributing to accidents.

Seven districts and 48 critical corridors were identified and road safety action plans have been prepared for Medchal-Malkajgiri, Rangareddy, Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri, Sangareddy, Hanamkonda, Warangal and Jangaon districts.

According to the plans prepared by the `Save Life Foundation` based on e-DAR data for 2024 and 2025, 48 critical road accident corridors, 230 Priority-1 locations where four or more fatalities were recorded, 220 traffic violation locations and 183 critical pedestrian accident spots have been identified across the seven districts.

Sangareddy accounted for the highest number of critical corridors at 14, Rangareddy district had 98 Priority-1 accident locations, 99 traffic violation locations and 66 pedestrian accident-prone spots.

The DGP directed officials to accord priority to these locations and implement measures based on the specific causes of accidents.

The police department will adopt the '4E' approach — Education, Engineering, Enforcement and Emergency Support — to improve road safety, Anand said.

He stressed the need for greater awareness among road users, correction of road and engineering deficiencies, strict enforcement of traffic regulations and prompt emergency medical assistance to accident victims.

The authorities were asked to ensure that injured persons receive emergency medical care without delay, while deficiencies in road design and infrastructure that contribute to crashes are identified and rectified.

Transport commissioner K. Ilambarithi instructed officials to ensure that every road accident is recorded on the e-DAR platform. Details of accidents and injured persons should also be uploaded on the Margadarshak portal. Geotagged photographs of accident locations can be uploaded on the portal's dashboard, enabling officials to monitor and assess accident-prone locations more effectively.

Ilambarithi also briefed the meeting on road safety interventions being implemented in other states. Anand said the government was taking steps to establish a road, and rail safety management bureau under the police department to strengthen road safety measures.

Arrests of Opposition Leaders an Assault on Democracy: Revanth Reddy

New Delhi: Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy launched a blistering attack on the Union government on Wednesday, accusing it of orchestrating a conspiracy to strip citizens of their fundamental voting rights and attempting to divide the nation into "two classes of citizens—those with voting rights and those without."

Speaking to the media in New Delhi following his detention by police on Wednesday night, the Chief Minister strongly condemned the arrest of Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, and AICC General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. The Congress leaders were detained while demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar over alleged widespread discrepancies in the electoral rolls (SIR).

Terming the arrests a direct assault on democracy, Revanth Reddy said the Centre was targeting opposition leaders instead of acting against officials responsible for electoral roll manipulation.

'From Simon Go Back to GK Go Back'

Drawing a parallel with the freedom struggle, Revanth Reddy invoked the historic 'Simon Go Back' agitation, calling on citizens to rally behind the nationwide 'GK (Gyanesh Kumar) Go Back' movement.

He warned that the stir would not subside until the CEC stepped down. Recalling the year-long farmers' agitation, the Chief Minister noted that the Modi government was forced to repeal the contentious farm laws under intense public pressure. He asserted that the Centre would face a similar fate now, warning that an obstinate stance could snowball into an escalation demanding the Prime Minister's resignation.

'ECI Weaponised for Political Gain'

The Chief Minister made it clear that the constitutional right to vote cannot be usurped by any authority. He accused the Centre of previously weaponising central agencies like the Enforcement Directorate (ED), Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), and Income Tax Department against political opponents, adding that it has now compromised the Election Commission of India (ECI) for electoral advantage.

Revanth Reddy warned that the Congress party would foil all attempts to engineer election outcomes through arbitrary deletions from voter lists. He further argued that the heavy-handed police conduct towards Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi laid bare the intolerance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

A People's Movement to Save Democracy

Emphasising that the agitation extends beyond party lines, Revanth Reddy stated that the INDIA bloc and citizens across the country are closely monitoring developments around the electoral discrepancies.

He warned that regimes that trample upon constitutional guarantees inevitably face rejection in the people's court, urging the Union government to heed public outrage, remove Gyanesh Kumar from office, and restore institutional integrity. Congress cadre nationwide, he added, will escalate the democratic battle inside and outside Parliament to protect the Constitution.

Modi To Open India Mobile Congress

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 10th edition of the India Mobile Congress (IMC) in the national capital on Thursday.

Jointly organised by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), the event is being held from October 7 to 10 under the theme "Scale Without Boundaries", reflecting India's growing capabilities in digital innovation, next-generation connectivity and technology-led growth.

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said the four key pillars of IMC 2026 would be "Srishti: Building the Future", "Samvardhan: Fueling Growth", "Sashakt: Expanding Opportunities" and "Suraksha: Strengthening Trust".

"It will focus on innovation and next-generation digital infrastructure, technology-led economic growth, inclusive digital access, and the development of secure and resilient digital ecosystems. IMC 2026 will bring together global technology leaders, policymakers, industry experts, startups, investors and innovators to explore emerging opportunities across the digital ecosystem," the PMO said.

The event will cover nine established anchor sectors: 5G and 6G, next-generation AI networks, semiconductors, non-terrestrial networks, cyber security, quantum communication, enterprise transformation, circular economy and ESG, and electronics manufacturing. It will also expand its focus to four new domains — smart mobility, stadium experiences, industrial robotics and transport technology.

IMC 2026 is expected to attract more than 1.5 lakh attendees from over 100 countries, with participation from over 500 partners and exhibitors, more than 600 startups and over 900 thought leaders. It will feature more than 2,000 technology use cases and over 120 sessions.

India Pushes Black Sea Plan in Ukraine Talks

New Delhi:India has been engaging both Russia and Ukraine in efforts to promote peace and its initiative has been appreciated by both sides, the external affairs ministry said on Wednesday.

The statement came days after Ukraine said India had submitted one of four proposals for a possible ceasefire, describing the Indian proposal as the "broadest".

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India was in talks with Moscow and Kyiv on issues including safe shipping in the Black Sea, grain and energy exports and possible non-attack arrangements.

"We have ongoing conversations with both Russia and Ukraine in this regard," he said.

Jaiswal reiterated India's position that dialogue and diplomacy were the way forward and that solutions to the conflict would not emerge from the battlefield.

He recalled Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent remarks to Russian President Vladimir Putin that the time had come for "endless war to give way to end of war".

External affairs minister S. Jaishankar had earlier said that even agreement between Russia and Ukraine on limited issues would be a positive development.

Speaking recently at the Kautilya Economic Conclave, Jaishankar said India remained in contact with both sides and believed the effort was worth pursuing despite the difficulty of the situation.

At the Munich Leaders' Meeting in New Delhi on Sunday, he said India had moved in recent months from merely advocating dialogue to becoming more directly involved in conversations with both sides.

Ukrainian foreign minister Andrii Sybiha had said proposals for a possible ceasefire had been received from India, Turkiye, Egypt and the United States.

Harish Rao tears into Bhatti over power crisis, Rs 5,420 crore true-up burden

Harish Rao attacked the Telangana government over the Rs 5,420-crore true-up burden, questioned Bhatti Vikramarka's claims on power supply and coal availability, and demanded withdrawal of the charges. He warned that the BRS would launch a public agitation if they remained

Hyderabad: BRS Legislature Party deputy leader T Harish Rao on Wednesday launched a sharp attack on Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka for evading questions on the Rs 5,420-crore true-up burden and failing to address the State's power crisis. Asking why Bhatti had not answered his questions on the true-up charges, he demanded the immediate withdrawal of the Rs 5,420-crore burden.

He reiterated that the BRS would launch a public agitation if the charges were not withdrawn. He also demanded that the government put an end to power cuts instead of targeting the opposition for raising people's issues.

In a strong rebuttal to Bhatti Vikramarka's remarks, Harish Rao questioned how the government could claim uninterrupted power supply when farmers were staging protests outside substations and on roads seeking power. He said the Congress government's administrative failures had resulted in both power and irrigation shortages. He asked why the Deputy Chief Minister remained silent on the plight of farmers in the State.

"Instead of withdrawing the true-up charges or at least owning up to the decision taken by his government, Bhatti Vikramarka kept the onus of explanation on the officials sitting next to him at the press conference. How can he justify the true-up burden on the people of the State?" he asked.

The former Minister challenged Bhatti Vikramarka's claims on coal supplies to the Yadadri Thermal Power Plant, citing a 2018 Union Coal Ministry allocation of 14 million tonnes per annum of G-9 grade coal from Singareni mines. He sought to know why the Deputy Chief Minister had misled people with claims that the Yadadri Thermal Power Plant had no dedicated coal allocation during the BRS rule.

He said the Congress government was blaming the previous BRS regime for its failure to ensure adequate coal stocks and operate the thermal power stations at full capacity.

Questioning the government's El Niño explanation, he alleged that thermal power units totalling 3,000 MW at Yadadri, 540 MW at Bhadradri and 800 MW at KTPS were not being operated. He also questioned why the government was generating only 89 million units against an overall capacity of 140 million units.

Harish Rao raised questions over mandating site-visit certification for Singareni coal tenders, the proposed supply of 800 MW of Singareni power to Rajasthan and the rejection of an NTPC offer to supply 1,600 MW without any upfront investment. "These decisions are nothing but callousness and detrimental to the State's power requirements," he added.

He also sought disclosure of the alleged proposal for an Energy Reforms Committee to examine IPOs and fresh borrowings by power-sector entities. He accused the government of creating conditions for privatisation and said employees had protested against the outsourcing of coal and ash-handling operations at the Yadadri plant.

Trump Administration Proposes A $70,000 Fee for International Students to Work in the US

WASHINGTON: The Department of Homeland Security on Wednesday proposed a $70,000 fee for international students seeking to work in the United States, the latest effort from the Trump administration to crack down on foreign enrollment. A proposed rule would require schools to pay the fee for every student who participates in the optional practice training program, known as OPT, which allows students to work in jobs related to their major during or after their time in school. Students are generally eligible for one year of work post-graduation, though certain science, technology, engineering and math majors are eligible for an additional two years.

Schools would be required to pay the $70,000 for each new student's initial application to the program, and a $30,000 fee for each renewal. Change would be a blow to higher education and some businesses American colleges and universities heavily recruit students from overseas as a source of tuition revenue. Tech companies and other industries also hire many international students for technical roles.

The OPT program allows international students to gain hands-on experience and fill labor shortages in high-demand STEM fields, said Fanta Aw, CEO of NAFSA, an association that represents international education. "Driving away the talents, perspectives, and aspirations of international students will only hurt American innovation, economic growth, workforce development, and global leadership," Aw said in a written statement.

In a statement, DHS described the fee as a response to fraud and abuse of the visa program, which it called a "pipeline for cheap foreign labor." The public has 60 days to comment on the proposal before DHS can finalize it and put it into effect. The proposal also could face legal challenges from higher education groups or business associations that could delay it.

Trump administration puts pressure on international students The proposed rule is part of its wider efforts to crack down on immigration and reshape higher education. Last year, the Republican administration began suddenly terminating the legal status of thousands of international students, detaining and deporting many of them. This summer, the administration finalized a rule that sought to prevent international students from staying in the U.S. for more than four years without approval from the federal government. The move drew swift backlash from higher education leaders who said it would increase the burden on schools and noted that many programs are longer than four years by design.

Chandrababu Hails PM Modi As He Completes 25 Years In Office

VIJAYAWADA: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi on completing 25 years as head of government, praising his vision, leadership and contributions to India's development.

The state Cabinet also adopted a resolution congratulating Modi at its meeting chaired by Naidu.

In a message, Naidu said Modi had emerged as the right leader for India at the right time. He said the Prime Minister's vision was steering the country towards Viksit Bharat @ 2047 and expressed pride in working alongside him.

The CM said the double-engine governments at the Centre and in Andhra Pradesh had accelerated development and investment. With the PM's support, Andhra Pradesh was advancing through improved infrastructure and expanded opportunities, he claimed.

The Cabinet resolution praised Modi's "commitment, integrity, discipline, decisive leadership, clarity of vision and focus on results." It credited his leadership with accelerating the development of modern infrastructure, technology-driven governance, welfare delivery, entrepreneurship, innovation and self-reliance.

It also appreciated Modi's emphasis on cooperative federalism, saying it had strengthened the role of states as partners in national development.

CM Naidu to Discuss AP Projects, Finances with Ministers in Delhi

Vijayawada:Chief Mnister N. Chandrababu Naidu met Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi on Wednesday and discussed a range of issues concerning the state, including the Global Horticulture Hub and funding for externally aided projects.

Naidu explained district-wise action plans for taking forward the Global Horticulture Hub project. He thanked Sitharaman for attending the launch of the project and for taking special interest in its implementation.

The CM also discussed issues relating to the central and state

shares in externally aided projects. Finance minister Payyavula Keshav and MP Lavu Sri Krishnadevaraya were present.

Naidu would meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and several Union ministers on Thursday. His meetings with home minister Amit Shah, roads minister Nitin Gadkari, Jal Shakti minister CR Patil, commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal and ports minister Sarbananda Sonowal are also scheduled.

The Chief Minister would discuss the state's financial position, the Godavari-Cauvery river-linking proposal, funding for the Godavari Pushkarams, the progress of the Polavaram project etc. He would also bring to the Centre's attention the situation arising from the impact of El Nino in the state.

CII Regional Summit Highlights AP's Investment Push

VISAKHAPATNAM: Civil aviation minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu has noted that Andhra Pradesh is emerging as an investment destination, supported by faster approvals, industry-friendly policies and stable governance.

Addressing the CII Regional Summit at the Indian Institute of Management in Gambhiram, near here, he said the state was progressing fast with better Centre-state cooperation. Highlighting the summit's theme, Time is Now, Investment is Key, Ram Mohan noted that investors were increasingly choosing Andhra Pradesh because of the state's efforts to expedite project approvals through the APIIC single-window mechanism.

The central minister noted that project proposals were being processed and cleared within six to 12 months, encouraging industries to come to the state.

Ram Mohan Naidu, accompanied by heavy industries minister T.G. Bharat and minister B.C. Janardhan Reddy, visited an exhibition showcasing innovations and

products from various sectors. The exhibition featured 25 companies representing industries including hydraulics, metallurgy, manufacturing technology, healthcare, agritech, electronics, renewable energy and speciality products.

Products from north Andhra, including Araku coffee, Pondhuru khadi, Madugula halwa and Etikoppaka wooden toys, were also displayed, highlighting the region's industrial and cultural diversity.

The exhibition provided a platform for entrepreneurs, investors and industry leaders to network and created market opportunities for local producers.

Addressing the media, Bharat said the government's focus was not merely on signing MoUs, but on converting investment proposals into operational projects. He said proposals worth about Rs 14 lakh crore had received cabinet approval and these could generate more than 10 lakh jobs.

Including previously signed agreements, investments worth nearly `22 lakh crore to `23 lakh crore had reached the confirmation stage, he said.

Bharat reiterated the government's target of creating 20 lakh jobs over the next five years through industrial expansion and infrastructure development.

He said regional investment conferences were being organised ahead of the state's flagship Partnership Summit, scheduled for Nov 12 and 13. The government was promoting cluster-based industrial development and establishing MSME parks in every Assembly constituency to ensure balanced growth across Andhra Pradesh, he said.

Lokesh Calls For Joint Drive To Make AP Drug-Free

VIJAYAWADA: Education minister N. Lokesh has called for coordinated efforts by elected representatives and officials to make Andhra Pradesh a drug-free state, with greater focus on prevention, awareness and enforcement.

At a meeting of the ministers' group on drug prevention chaired by home minister Vangalapudi Anitha at Undavalli, Lokesh said EAGLE clubs had been established in all government high schools to create awareness among students about the harmful effects of drugs.

He directed officials to expand programmes such as Operation Chaitanya and Operation Safe Campus Zone in agency areas to educate tribal communities about the dangers of narcotics. He also called for wider implementation of the "Drugs Vaddu Bro" campaign to reach and sensitise youngsters.

Lokesh stressed the need for a regulatory framework to prevent the transportation of drugs and products such as ganja chocolates and asked officials to study the issue. He directed that EAGLE officials be involved in cluster-level meetings conducted by the education department to design drug-awareness programmes.

He suggested monthly town-hall meetings with students in universities and colleges and said enthusiastic teachers would be entrusted with responsibilities to motivate students across the State. EAGLE officials must align their efforts with the Centre's Nasha Mukt Bharat objective and study the Punjab police's approach to tackling synthetic drugs.

Lokesh proposed a southern states' conclave on drug prevention in Visakhapatnam to improve coordination among states.

The ministers' group also decided to undertake field visits to create public awareness.

Home minister Anitha said strict action was being taken against those transporting ganja into AP from Odisha and directed officials to strengthen surveillance at checkposts along the Odisha border and expand drone monitoring. She said a special "Break the Silence" programme was being conducted to create awareness.

EAGLE IG Aake Ravikrishna said ganja chocolates recently seized in Visakhapatnam and Narasaraopet were traced to Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, prompting alerts to senior police officials in those states. He said 20 medical shops selling scheduled drugs and cough syrups without doctors' prescriptions had been sealed.

He said police had identified drug-using groups in Vijayawada and Rajamahendravaram and were taking stringent action. Thirty-six trained sniffer dogs were being used to detect ganja and drug transportation, while suspected users were being screened with rapid drug detection kits.

Ravikrishna said 192 active repeat offenders involved in drug-related activities had been identified and stringent action was being taken against them.

Ministers Satya Yadav, Kollu Ravindra and Gummadi Sandhyarani, Intelligence chief Mahesh Ladha and Home department principal secretary Kumara Viswajeet attended the meeting.

Naidu To Seek Approvals For Vizag Metro, Other Projects In Delhi Visit

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu will embark on a two-day visit to New Delhi from Wednesday to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi to procure approvals for Vizag metro rail project, beach corridor and other projects. The Chief Minister is expected to seek special financial assistance from PM Modi over the prevailing El Niño situation in the southern state and will also participate in a CII meeting on Thursday.

In view of the drought-like conditions prevailing in Andhra Pradesh due to the impact of El Nino, Naidu will seek special financial assistance from the Prime Minister and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to provide relief to the state. During his visit, the TDP supremo will also meet Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Jal Shakti Minister CR Patil, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari and others. Naidu will also request PM Modi to initiate steps to take up a river-linking project in the state

Further, the CM will request PM Modi and Sitharaman for Central support to organise Godavari Pushkaralu, a Kumbh Mela-like pilgrimage, next year. Discussions will also be held with the Finance Minister on taking forward the Rayalaseema Global Horticulture Hub project. During his meeting with Patil, the Chief Minister will discuss measures to utilise the large volumes of floodwater flowing from the Godavari River into the sea as well as the proposed river-linking initiatives. On Thursday, Naidu will participate along with Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal in the CII Partnership Conference curtain raiser, organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry. He will return to Amaravati late on Thursday.

Collector Reviews SIR Progress with Political Party Representatives

Nagarkurnool : District Collector Hemanta Keshav Patil reviewed the progress of the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls with representatives of recognised political parties on Wednesday and shared details regarding notices, hearings, DEO-level verification and disposal of cases.

During the meeting, the Collector said a total of 1,15,824 notices had been generated and distributed across the three Assembly constituencies in Nagarkurnool district. So far, 1,15,494 hearings had been conducted, while the hearing period had expired in 323 cases and the rescheduled period had expired in seven cases.

At the DEO level, 1,036 cases were pending, including 123 cases pending for more than five days. A total of 6,904 cases had been verified, while five cases were yet to be verified. The Collector also explained the category-wise disposal status. As many as 509 cases were found ineligible for finalisation, while 1,06,793 cases were parked for finalisation after hearings and another 3,862 cases were parked for finalisation without hearings.

He said a total of 5,02,767 votes had been parked for finalisation under other categories. The Collector also shared details relating to logical discrepancies and no-mapping cases with the political party representatives.

Constituency-wise, 43,569 notices were recorded in Nagarkurnool, 39,594 in Achampet and 32,687 in Kollapur. The Collector said the progress of the SIR process in each constituency was reviewed.

Patil stated that every stage of the SIR process was being conducted transparently and in accordance with the prescribed rules. He asked political party representatives to bring any objections or suggestions to the notice of the concerned officials. He said the registration process under SIR would conclude at 4 pm on Wednesday. Election Section Superintendent Ravi Kumar, Election DT Kalpana and representatives of recognised political parties, including MD Habib, MD Hussain, Balakrishna, Hari and Ramakrishna, attended the meeting.

Maintain Quality Standards in School Construction: Minister Jupally

Nagar Kurnool : Tourism, Culture and Excise Minister Jupally Krishna Rao inspected the construction works of the Young India Integrated School being built at Jataprole in the Kollapur constituency.

The Minister inspected the progress of the construction works at the site and enquired with officials about the details of the school building, works completed so far and the activities to be taken up next. He directed officials to complete the construction within the stipulated deadline while maintaining quality standards.

Later, Minister Jupally Krishna Rao played cricket with the players at the site and interacted with them. He highlighted the importance of sports and said equal importance should be given to sports along with education.

Minister Adluri Laxman Kumar inaugurated the health sub-center

Mallapur, October 7 Today Freedom: The newly established health sub-center in Sataram village of Mallapur mandal of Jagtial district was inaugurated on Wednesday by State Welfare Minister Adluri Laxman Kumar, District Collector D. Satya Prasad and Nelamu Welfare Corporation Chairman Juvvadi Narsingarao. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Adluri Laxman Kumar said that the government is strengthening the infrastructure in the health sector with the aim of ensuring that the poor, middle class and rural people do not have access to medical care. He clarified that the government's goal is to reduce the need for people to travel to distant places for medical care and make basic health services available at the village level. He said that with the availability of the health sub-center in Sataram village, medical services have become closer to the local people. He said that in addition to basic treatment for common health problems, health tests, medical advice and health awareness programs will be available. The minister said that rather than treating the disease after it occurs, the key to public health is to detect and prevent the disease early. People should undergo regular health check-ups and consult doctors without neglecting even minor health problems. He directed the medical staff to pay special attention to ensuring that women, pregnant women, children, the elderly and those suffering from chronic diseases receive health services in a timely manner. He advised the field staff to work to ensure that everyone who is eligible receives the benefits of government health programs, in addition to raising health awareness in rural areas. The minister said that the health infrastructure set up by the government should not be limited to buildings alone but should function as centers providing continuous medical services to the people. He directed the officials to monitor the availability of staff at the sub-centers and ensure that the necessary services are provided continuously. He said that the government is taking steps to further expand health services in rural areas. He clarified that the officials should work in coordination without any negligence regarding the health and welfare of the people.

Medical services should be provided in a timely manner: Collector

District Collector B. Satya Prasad said that with the availability of the Sataram Health Sub-Center, basic medical services have become easier for the local people. He advised the medical staff to perform their duties so that the people get the necessary services in a timely manner. He ordered the officials to continuously monitor the functioning of the sub-center and ensure that there are no problems in the medical services being provided to the people. He said that the villagers should be made aware of health programs.

Better services for rural people: Juvvadi Narsingarao

Velanu Welfare Corporation Chairman Juvvadi Narsingarao said that he would work tirelessly for the development of Korutla constituency. He said that the establishment of a health sub-center in Sataram village of Mallapur mandal is a very useful facility for the local people. He said that the availability of basic facilities in rural areas will provide security to the people. He suggested that the villagers should go to other places for basic medical treatment and people should make good use of the available health services. He said that there is a need to identify the needs of the villagers and take all development measures in coordination with the relevant departments. Metpally RDO Narasimha Rao, DMHK Sujatha, District Library Chairman Dinesh, Mandal Tehsildar, concerned officials, medical staff, local public representatives, villagers and others participated in the program.

Conserve Manjeera, Singur Water for Next Seven Months: Jagga Reddy

SANGAREDDY, October 7, 2026: TPCC Working President Jagga Reddy has urged people of Sangareddy constituency to use drinking water judiciously for the next seven months, warning that the situation could become critical until the next monsoon.

Reviewing drinking water and power supply issues with officials of Electricity, RWS, Mission Bhagiratha and municipal departments, Jagga Reddy said Singur reservoir, the main source of drinking water for the region, currently has only around 3 TMC of water against its 29-TMC capacity.

He said the available water could support drinking water requirements only for a limited period and stressed the need for strict conservation. Mission Bhagiratha officials informed the meeting that drinking water would be supplied on alternate days after Dasara.

Jagga Reddy directed officials and public representatives to create awareness among people in Sangareddy and Sadasivpet municipalities and the four mandals about water conservation. He suggested door-to-door awareness campaigns, distribution of pamphlets and announcements through public-address systems.

He appealed to residents to prevent wastage by closing taps when not in use and suggested measures such as timer starters and soak pits near single-phase motors to reduce water wastage. He also called for regulating excessive pumping of water from the Manjeera and Singur areas.

The meeting also discussed regulating the Hyderabad Metro Water Works' drawal from the Manjeera barrage according to the present water availability, so that drinking water supply to Sangareddy municipality could be sustained for a longer period. Officials were asked to make advance arrangements for supplying water through tankers, if necessary.

On the recent release of water from the Singur project, Jagga Reddy said the decision was taken based on recommendations of technical experts after Dam Safety officials inspected the project and identified damage to a portion of the dam. He said the release was carried out under the supervision of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy and District Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha, as per the expert committee's recommendations.

He said the decision was aimed at protecting the dam and urged opposition parties not to politicise a technically necessary measure.

Power supply issues were also reviewed, with leaders pointing out frequent breakdowns and damage to motors. Jagga Reddy said a special review meeting with Electricity Department officials would be held next Tuesday at 11 a.m. to address the problems.

Anganwadi Teacher Recruitment Process Must Be Transparent

Verification of Certificates Should Be Conducted Meticulously: District Collector Bhavesh Mishra

Nirmal District : Nirmal District: District Collector Bhavesh Mishra directed officials to complete the recruitment process for 89 Anganwadi Teacher posts in Nirmal district in a completely transparent manner, leaving no scope for irregularities.

On Wednesday evening, the District Collector held a review meeting with officials of the Women and Child Welfare Department at the Collectorate meeting hall regarding the recruitment process for Anganwadi Teacher posts. During the meeting, he enquired about the applications received from various mandals, verification of eligibility, verification of certificates and other related aspects.

Speaking on the occasion, the Collector instructed officials to strictly follow the prescribed rules at every stage of the recruitment process and ensure justice to all eligible candidates. He directed officials to thoroughly verify the certificates submitted by applicants and, wherever necessary, re-verify the documents at the appropriate levels to avoid any doubts or discrepancies.

He also instructed officials to keep applicants informed about the recruitment process and the details of subsequent stages from time to time. Officials at the mandal and village levels were asked to coordinate with one another and complete the verification of eligibility documents efficiently.

The Collector made it clear that the recruitment of Anganwadi Teachers would be carried out strictly according to the prescribed rules and in a transparent manner. He advised applicants not to fall prey to middlemen or fraudulent persons and not to pay money to anyone promising to secure them a post. He urged applicants to rely only on official information regarding the recruitment process.

District Women and Child Welfare Officer Vinutha, CDPOs and other concerned officials participated in the meeting.

State Government Whip felicitates Sandragiri Srinivas Goud

Vemulawada, Oct 07: Sandragiri Srinivas Goud, who won as President in the Vemulawada Division Auto Union elections held on Tuesday in Vemulawada town, was felicitated by State Government Whip Aadi Srinivas.

On the occasion, he was honoured with a shawl and conveyed his best wishes.

Municipal Chairman Pulka Raju, Vice Chairman Narala Shekhar, Market Committee Vice Chairman Kanikarapu Rakesh, Councillors Ela Srinivas, Konda Shekhar, Kokka Balakrishna, Thota Raju, District Congress Vice President Kooragayala Komuraiah, Puli Rambabu Goud, leaders Nagaraju, Shabir, Doolam Bhoomesh Goud, Dandugula Tirupathi and others participated in the program.

Lecture on the Role of Students in Wildlife Conservation

Nirmal District : As part of the 72nd Wildlife Week celebrations, an awareness programme on wildlife conservation was organised for students at Zilla Parishad High School, Malak Chincholi, Nirmal District.

On the occasion, students were educated about the importance of wildlife, conservation of biodiversity, and the role of students in protecting wildlife. Various activities, including a lecture, drawing competition, and essay-writing competition, were conducted. Students who demonstrated outstanding talent in the competitions were presented with certificates of appreciation and mementos.

Ramakrishna Rao, Forest Range Officer, Nirmal; Mohammed Nazir Khan, Deputy Forest Range Officer, Sarangapur; Parameshwar, Headmaster; Inayatuddin, Senior Assistant; Vennela and Sujatha, forest staff; along with teachers and students, participated in the programme.

Negligence in Student Safety

Collector Expresses Serious Anger

Headmistress Suspended; School Scavenger Removed from Duty

Nirmal District : Nirmal District Collector Bhavesh Mishra expressed serious anger over an incident at the Upper Primary School in Bember village of Tanur Mandal, where a Class II girl student was left inside a classroom after school hours and the room was subsequently locked.

Taking action against negligence in discharging duties related to student safety, the Collector ordered the suspension of school headmistress D. Swapna. He also stated in a press release issued on Wednesday evening that the school scavenger was removed from duty with immediate effect for dereliction of duty.

The Collector made it clear that teachers and school staff must compulsorily ensure that every student has safely left the school premises at the end of the school day. He directed teachers and headmasters to discharge their responsibilities with utmost care and ensure that there is no negligence whatsoever in matters concerning student safety.

He further instructed MEOs and headmasters to continuously monitor safety measures in all schools across the district. All necessary precautions must be taken to ensure the safety of students from the opening of the school until the end of the school day, he said.

The Collector warned that negligence in the protection and safety of students would not be tolerated under any circumstances. He directed officials to take stringent measures to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in any school in the district. He also warned that strict action would be taken as per the rules against anyone found negligent in the discharge of their duties.

Marri Laxman Reddy Institute of Pharmacy Marks Milestone with 20th Orientation Day

Welcomes New Generation of B.Pharm and Pharm.D Students for the 2026–27 Academic Year

Hyderabad, October 7, 2026: Marri Laxman Reddy Institute of Pharmacy (MLRIP), Dundigal, Hyderabad, marked a significant milestone by hosting its 20th Orientation Day on October 7, 2026, welcoming the new batch of B.Pharm and Pharm.D students for the academic year 2026–27.

The landmark occasion reflected the institution's longstanding commitment to excellence in pharmacy education, professional development and holistic student growth. The programme brought together institutional leaders, eminent academicians, faculty members and accomplished alumni, who shared valuable insights and encouraged the freshers to approach their academic journey with commitment, curiosity and purpose.

Smt. Marri Mamatha Reddy, Treasurer, MLR Group of Institutions, graced the occasion along with Ms. Shreya Reddy. Eminent academicians and institutional representatives, including Dr. Arunabha Mallik, Dr. P. Sridhar and Dr. R. Murali Prasad, attended the programme and motivated the students to strive for academic excellence, develop professional competencies and pursue continuous learning.

Senior faculty members of the Department of Pharmacy welcomed the

students and introduced them to the academic environment, learning opportunities and diverse career pathways available in the field of pharmacy. The orientation also provided students with an opportunity to understand the importance of professional ethics, clinical skills, industry readiness and lifelong learning.

A major highlight of the programme was the interaction with two accomplished alumni of the institution. Dr. B. Sai Kumar Nayak, Pharm.D, Assistant Intensive Neonatologist at Wellness Hospitals, Hyderabad, shared his experiences from his student days and professional journey in clinical healthcare. His insights highlighted the importance of dedication, practical knowledge, communication skills and continuous professional development.

Mr. Meripe Joshi, B.Pharm, QA Officer at Hetero Labs Ltd., Hyderabad, spoke about his transition from college to the pharmaceutical industry and shared valuable perspectives on career preparation, workplace expectations and the importance of developing industry-relevant skills.

The alumni interactions provided the newly admitted students with an inspiring glimpse into the diverse career opportunities available after completing pharmacy education. Their experiences demonstrated how academic knowledge, professional skills and perseverance can shape successful careers in clinical practice, pharmaceutical industries and other healthcare domains. The 20th Orientation Day concluded on an inspiring note, giving the 2026–27 B.Pharm and Pharm.D students a strong foundation as they begin their academic journey at Marri Laxman Reddy Institute of Pharmacy. The institution reaffirmed its commitment to nurturing knowledgeable, skilled, ethical and socially responsible pharmacy professionals who can contribute meaningfully to healthcare and society

Myntra's Big Fashion Festival Returns on October 8 with 8 Million+ Styles, 100+ New Launches and 21,000 Emerging Labels

India: Ushering in the festive shopping season, Myntra has announced its flagship Big Fashion Festival, live now with thousands of brands and millions of styles for customers. The event will strengthen Myntra's role as a growth enabler for India's fashion and lifestyle ecosystem, creating scaled opportunities for emerging brands while bringing trend-first selection, compelling value and convenience to millions of customers across the country. BFF is expected to see heightened demand from metros and non-metros, driven by enhanced offerings spanning premium and value selection, trend-based styles, and tech-led personalised shopping journeys, along with faster delivery via M-Now and M-Express.

Speaking about the Big Fashion Festival, Sharon Pais, Head of Myntra, said, "The Big Fashion Festival has become a defining moment in India's festive calendar, connecting our entire ecosystem - from empowering regional sellers and small

businesses to bringing the best of global and Indian fashion and lifestyle brands to millions of homes. At Myntra, we are combining that festive spirit with cutting-edge technology, leveraging our AI tools and expanded delivery network to make fashion accessible, personalised, and seamless for over 80 million shoppers across the country."

Enabling emerging brands and labels

Myntra's Seller Growth Connect initiatives have brought hundreds of D2C and emerging brands into its ecosystem, especially from Eastern India, enabling them with technology, business insights and platform capabilities to build for scale. With access to Myntra's 80M+ monthly active users, these brands can widen discovery and reach shoppers across markets during the festive season. 21,000 emerging brands and labels, including 13,000 making their BFF debut, will leverage the platform's technology, creator ecosystem and nationwide reach to connect with millions of customers across India.

Most sought-after brands bringing their best of festive collections

This year's edition will feature 8 million+ styles, a 2X increase over the last edition, spanning international, domestic, emerging and D2C brands. Key categories expected to see strong festive demand during BFF include men's and women's ethnic wear, men's casual wear, women's western wear, beauty and personal care, watches and wearables, jewellery and accessories, sports footwear, and home and living. Some of the popular brands include Vero Moda, MANGO, H&M, Tommy Hilfiger, Levi's, Nike, adidas, US Polo Assn., Jack & Jones, ONLY, among others. Premium beauty brands include YSL, Prada, Carolina Herrera, Huda Beauty, MAC, Bobbi Brown, Olaplex, CeraVe, and Estée Lauder, among others.

Congress Demands Action Against BJP Leadership; Challenges NRR Over His Statements

HYDERABAD: Patient footfall at Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (Nims) has risen sharply over the past month, with the hospital recording more than 5,000 outpatients a day, according to a release issued by the institute.

On October 5, Nims recorded 5,635 outpatient visits, 5,088 diagnostic investigations and 306 inpatient admissions.

Hospital authorities said the daily outpatient count, which earlier averaged around 3,500, had increased considerably, with 5,635 marking the highest single-day OP attendance recorded recently.

The number of patients undergoing diagnostic tests has also risen. On October 5, 5,088 patients underwent various investigations, while 306 were admitted for inpatient treatment.

Emergency admissions have also increased from around 50 a day earlier to between 80 and 90 patients daily, the hospital said.

Nims authorities attributed the rise in footfall to the availability of advanced medical facilities, specialist doctors and expanded services.

The hospital has also extended OP registration timings from the earlier 8 am-11 am window to 2 pm. Authorities said the extension, along with the availability of several investigation reports on the same day, had made services more convenient for patients.

The hospital said the increase in outpatient, inpatient, emergency and diagnostic services reflected growing reliance on Nims for tertiary healthcare.

Arctic Open: Sindhu, Tanvi Sharma advance as Indian shuttlers suffer setbacks

Vantaa: PV Sindhu began her Arctic Open 2026 campaign with a routine straight-game victory over Canada's Wen Yu Zhang on Tuesday, but the Indian contingent in women's singles suffered several setbacks in the opening round of the BWF Super 500 tournament in Vantaa, Finland.

The sixth-seeded Sindhu needed only 28 minutes to dispatch Canada's Wen Yu Zhang 21-8, 21-11 and book her place in the second round. The two-time Olympic medallist, who reached the quarterfinals at the Asian Games 2026, will next take on Japan's Riko Gunji.

Sindhu was in control from the outset against Zhang, who had entered the main draw through qualifying. The Indian quickly established a substantial lead in the opening game and never allowed her Canadian opponent to settle into the contest.

While Sindhu progressed without much trouble, the same could not be said of several of her compatriots.

Unnati Hooda came within two points of completing a comeback against China's Han Qianxi. After dropping the opening game 21-16, Hooda responded strongly to take the second 21-15. The decider went down to the wire, but Han held her nerve to prevail 24-22 after 68 minutes.

Ashmita Chaliha also pushed her higher-ranked opponent all the way. The Indian recovered from a 21-7 opening-game loss against seventh seed Line Christophersen, forcing a decider by taking the second game 21-14. Christophersen eventually survived the contest 26-24 in the third.

Malvika Bansod's progress also ended in the opening round. After making her way through qualifying with a win over Chinese Taipei's Sung Shuo-yun, Bansod was beaten 21-18, 21-13 by Scotland's Kirsty Gilmour.

Isharani Baruah faced the toughest possible challenge in the form of top seed

Ratchanok Intanon. The former world champion from Thailand controlled the contest and secured a 21-10, 21-15 victory.

Tanvi Sharma, however, ensured India had another winner in the women's singles draw, defeating Chinese Taipei's Chiu Pin-Chian 21-15, 21-17.

India's mixed doubles campaign also suffered an early blow, with Ishan Bhatnagar and Shruti Mishra losing heavily to Thailand's Pakkapon Teeraratsakul and Sapsiree Taerattanachai, 21-3, 21-6.

The men's singles qualifiers provided more encouraging news. Tharun Mannepalli fought past Belgium's Julien Carraggi 21-12, 19-21, 21-13, while Rounak Chouhan recovered from losing the opening game to defeat Israel's Daniel Dubovenko 18-21, 21-17, 21-19.

Both Mannepalli and Chouhan consequently secured places in the main draw, where they will join established Indian names Kidambi Srikanth and HS Prannoy.

There was disappointment in the men's doubles qualifiers, however, as Achutaditya Rao Doddavarapu and Arjun Reddy Pochana were unable to secure a place in the main draw.

The Arctic Open represents the return of the BWF World Tour following the Asian Games break, with Indian players now looking to build momentum on the international circuit. For the women's singles contingent, Sindhu and Sharma remain in contention after the opening round, while the men's draw has gained two additional Indian entries through qualifying.

Chikitha Taniparthi looks to build on Asian Games gold in APL Season 2

Fresh from winning gold at the Asian Games, Telangana archer Chikitha Taniparthi is looking forward to competing on home soil as Archery Premier League Season 2 begins in Hyderabad. The league features 48 archers across six teams in a fast-paced format

Hyderabad: Building on her learning experiences from the inaugural season, Telangana archer Chikitha Taniparthi, fresh from her gold medal-winning exploits at the Asian Games, is relishing the prospect of shooting on her home soil as the second season of the Archery Premier League, the world's only franchise-based league for archery, gets underway from Thursday in Hyderabad.

The return of the APL, after a successful first season in New Delhi, coincides with India's sensational performance in Aichi-Nagoya that saw the country's archery contingent emerge as the best in the field, ahead of powerhouse South Korea. Now, the country's star archers will take centre stage from October 8 to 18 at People's Plaza on Hyderabad's Necklace Road.

This time, the medal-winning archers will be involved in a completely different setting, shooting against their own national teammates in some cases and with a quicker shooting deadline, with each ar-

row allotted an average of just 15 seconds in a thrilling format. The APL will also witness recurve and compound archers going up against each other, another novelty that makes this franchise league stand out from regular World Archery events on the international circuit. The league also unveiled an anthem and mascot as part of the proceedings on Wednesday.

Taniparthi, who hails from Peddapalli, said she learned from watching the top archers in the APL's first season and that it helped her refine her game.

"During the first season of APL, playing for the Chola Chiefs, I learnt a lot about managing pressure under the faster shot clock of 15 seconds per arrow as well as learning techniques from my teammates while watching them train. It helped a lot in me getting better as an archer, and played a part in winning gold medal at the Asian Games," she said at the launch event of APL Season 2 in the city on Wednesday.

APL Director Anil Kamineni said interest in the league had only increased since the first edition this time last year.

Each region has the kings and emperors, etc. So that's when we said, it's not only going to be sport; it is going to be showcasing the heritage and culture of our country," he said.

Archery Association of India treasurer Dr Joris Paulose Ummacheril was also present at the launch event.

The six-team league has a total of 48 Indian and international archers competing across recurve and compound disciplines. Each team has a mixed squad of eight archers, with the competition following a double round-robin format.

In each match, four archers shoot two arrows per set, competing for two points per iteration. At the end of the league stage, the top four teams will advance to the semi-finals, culminating in the final on October 18.

APL Season 2 will be broadcast on Sony LIV, Doordarshan Sports and World Archery TV. Tickets are available on District by Zomato.

Shreyas Looked Unstoppable; A Strong Signal That He is Back To Best: Gavaskar

Captain Shreyas Iyer announced his return to form in style, smashing his maiden T20I century as India cruised to an eight-wicket victory over West Indies while chasing 172 in the first T20I to take a 1-0 lead in the five-match series.

Speaking on JioStar's Haier Cricket Live, Ishan Kishan reflected on his partnership with Iyer, Naman Dhir's performance with the ball and his comeback journey to the international side, while JioStar expert Sunil Gavaskar praised Iyer's innings and shared his views on the Sanju Samson-Vaibhav Sooryavanshi debate. Speaking on JioStar's 'Haier Cricket Live', Ishan Kishan reflected on his partnership with Captain Shreyas Iyer and why he was happy to play the second fiddle:

"As a batter, when I'm not looking in that great of a touch and the batter at the other end is looking in great form and is connecting the ball well, in this case Shreyas Iyer, then I don't mind playing second fiddle at all. He was scoring the bulk of the runs in our partnership and when he's batting beautifully, it's my job to let him punish the opposition bowlers. He did that job remarkably and, in the end, we executed the run chase successfully. The plan was simple. We had a target in mind, and we broke it down into small parts. Whenever the bowler bowled in my zone, I looked to score. On the other end, Shreyas was in full flow, so we just kept the scoreboard moving. There was no panic because we knew one good over would change the game. That is what happened and we got over the line. " *On Naman Dhir's performance with the ball:

"I have seen Naman bowl during my Mumbai Indians days and at that time I would say he was more of a part-time bowler. But looking at how he was bowling in this match and the confidence he had, after getting hit for a six, on your debut, you tend to go more defensive. But Naman didn't do that and kept on giving that extra flight to the opposition batters, which helped him get a couple of wickets in his debut game. Him not going defensive and attacking the batters is something that makes you understand that this player has actually worked hard on his bowling, on his skill. It shows he has the mindset to take wickets and not just survive. If he keeps bowling like this,

he will go a long way. "

On being dropped from the international team and how he worked his way back:

"When I was dropped from the international team, I understood the consequences of a few mistakes that I had made. So, I worked on my fitness and my batting. I stayed patient and focused on rectifying my mistakes by doing well in domestic cricket. I knew if I kept performing in domestic cricket, the opportunity would come and I earned the recall to the national squad because of my hard work. Once you come back to the side, you don't think about what's going to happen if I get dropped again. The most important thing is to enjoy cricket and just focus on doing the best I can to contribute to the success of the team. My job is to keep scoring runs and if I am able to do that, then the rest will be taken care of automatically."

Speaking on JioStar's 'Haier Cricket Live', JioStar expert Sunil Gavaskar heaped praise on Shreyas Iyer's 102-run knock:

"It was a sublime knock from Shreyas Iyer. He looked unstoppable, and no matter what lines and lengths the West Indian bowlers bowled, Iyer had an answer to everything. The shots he played were a treat to watch, especially the upper cut off Romario Shepherd, which showed that he meant business. Shreyas Iyer has had a bit of a torrid time with the bat since becoming the captain of this Indian T20I squad. In recent times, the wins have come, but his own form with the bat was a concern. So, it was important for him to play a big knock, and he delivered in this first T20I. Iyer took complete control of the run chase and continued to accelerate through the middle overs. He reached his fifty in just 28 balls and then shifted gears completely, going from 50 to 102 in the space of just 15 balls. There had been questions on social media about Shreyas' batting form, and this hundred has silenced all of them. This knock is a strong signal that Shreyas Iyer is back to his best."

On the Sanju Samson-Vaibhav Sooryavanshi debate:

"Sanju scored two half centuries against Afghanistan as an opener. Then he had a bad run of games at the Asian Games but he was batting at number three there, so I won't really blame him. Now, he's back opening the innings and got out after scoring 11 runs in this first T20I. But that is not enough for me to drop him from the team in favour of young Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. You have to give a player a fair run, especially someone who has just come back into a role he is comfortable with. One low score does not change anything. Sanju has shown what he can do at the top of the order and he deserves a longer rope. Vaibhav is a special talent, and his time will come, but for now, Sanju is the right man to open in this series against West Indies. You cannot keep chopping and changing after every game. That only creates insecurity in the dressing room."

India, Qatar Among Seven Countries in Race to Host 2036 Olympics

New Delhi: Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and Indian Olympic Association President P T Usha on Wednesday announced that the country's bid to host the 2036 Olympics will revolve around the vision of "Rising Together" and its first presentation to the IOC's Future Host Commission will be at the end of this month. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Tuesday said India, Germany, Qatar and Turkiye are among seven countries with a stated interest in hosting the 2036 Olympics and have been invited to present their Games projects to the IOC's Future Host Commission next month.

"India's ambition for 2036 is rooted in a simple idea: that sport can help shape the future of our nation. Hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games would inspire millions of young Indians to participate in sport, strengthen healthier and more active communities, and create new opportunities for our youth across education, employment and social development," stated Mandaviya in a press release issued by the IOA.

Ahmedabad is India's city of choice to host the mega-event, which has never been held in the country before. India submitted its Expression of Interest to host the Games in 2024.

Usha said the IOA feels deeply honoured by the IOC's recognition of India's aspirations.

"...proud to be part of an exceptional group of potential hosts for future editions of the Games," she said.

"For us, 'Rising Together' is not simply a slogan -- it is a powerful commitment to unite India's energy, ambition and diversity behind a shared Olympic dream.

"As we develop our vision for 2036, we want to create a Games that reflects the confidence of a young,

dynamic and rising India, while contributing to the Olympic and Paralympic Movements' ambition to reach new generations, new communities and new horizons around the world.

"We look forward to continuing our exchange with the IOC and to present our ambition to the Future Host Commission for the first time at the end of October," she added.

The IOC said projects will be assessed on a number of technical factors such as venue master-plan and athlete experience, funding strategy, political and public support, Games delivery capabilities, and legacy strategy to create long-term benefits for host communities.

The next phase after the November presentations will be Strategic Dialogue instead of Targetted Dialogue, which will remain the final phase of decision-making process even in the revamped host selection process. The last phase will begin in 2028.

The IOA said 'Rising Together' reflects the belief that 2036 can be a moment of India's transformation through sport.

Tollywood Filmmakers Fear Social Media Trolls

Social media trolling and online negativity are emerging as a new concern for Telugu film producers and directors. But when did filmmakers become so worried about what social media might say?

Finding faults with films is certainly nothing new. For decades, every release has invited a mix of reactions — some audiences love a film, some dislike it, while others point out even the smallest mistakes. What has changed is the speed and scale at which these reactions spread, with social media amplifying every opinion within minutes.

Leading producer Naga Vamsi Suryadevara recently admitted that concerns over social media criticism were among the reasons behind the decision to postpone the release of his film Adarsha Kutumbam by a couple of weeks.

"We are worried about social media criticism. We want to avoid comments such as, 'Why did you miss this?' or 'Don't you even know this?' So, to make the movie as foolproof as possible, we decided to defer the release," says Naga Vamsi.

His comments underline how the fear of online criticism is prompting filmmakers to become increasingly cautious, not just with their films but also with their promotional strategy and release plans.

"Undoubtedly, social media has become a new menace," says director Ashok Teja, who admits that filmmakers across Tollywood have become increasingly wary of criticism.

"If the criticism is genuine, it can certainly be useful. But most negative comments are intended to degrade a film rather than help it. We need to be doubly careful, right from the teaser and trailer stages to the final output," he adds.

The issue was also reflected in Ravi Teja's Mass Jathara, where a conversation between his character and his on-screen father, played by Rajendra Prasad, touches upon Twitter fan wars. Ravi Teja's character strongly criticises anonymous users who hide behind fake identities while spreading negativity, questioning what social media has become and taking aim at those who indulge in toxic and baseless trolling.

Producer M. S. Raju too believes that social media negativity has become a serious problem. "I don't want to take names, but many filmmakers are genuinely worried about the growing negativity on social media. Unfortunately, there is very little we can do to control it," he says.

He feels that the increasing toxicity surrounding fan wars is also affecting the theatrical life of films. "Fan wars have turned quite ugly, and the hatred is spilling over into films, cutting short their lifespan. Earlier, big films used to run for 100 or even 175 days, but now their fate is often decided within five or six days because of negativity on social media," he laments.

Fan rivalries have always existed in the Telugu film industry, but social media has given them a much larger and faster platform. Fans naturally want their favourite stars to succeed, but the rivalry can sometimes extend to attacking competing actors and their films, even before a movie reaches theatres.

"Fan wars on social media are unavoidable. Fans want their respective stars to shine while undermining their rivals. Trolls often begin even before the first show hits theatres. Though star rivalries are hurting cinema, good films are still managing to overcome this menace and emerge as blockbusters," points out M. S. Raju.

Even films like Vishwabhara, Devara, Peddi, Toxic and The Paradise among others suffered social media criticism for one issue or another. "For filmmakers, the challenge now is to distinguish between genuine and fake criticism which are affecting the collections of movies to some extent and naturally sending shivers down the spine of filmmakers," adds Ashok Teja..

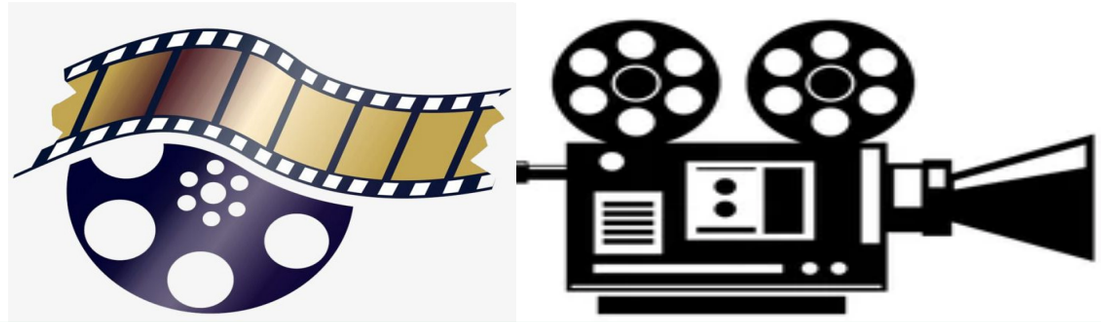
Ananya Nagalla's Serene Ethnic Look Blends Elegance With Glamour

Ananya Nagalla looks graceful and ethereal in a sheer, intricately embroidered ensemble featuring vibrant floral motifs in pink, green, and gold. With soft waves framing her face and a serene downward gaze, she radiates quiet elegance against a simple white backdrop.

The Telugu actress from Sathupalli, Telangana, began her career with a short film before making her feature debut in the biographical drama Mallesham (2019) as Padma, the supportive wife of the inventor protagonist. The role earned her a SIIMA nomination for Best Female Debut – Telugu.

She gained wider recognition with supporting roles in Vakeel Saab (2021) alongside Pawan Kalyan and Play Back the same year. Her filmography expanded with Shaakuntalam (2023), Malli Pelli, and lead performances in Tantra, Darling, and Srikakulam Sherlock Holmes (2024).

Her powerful turn as Bujjamma in Pottel (2024) won her the Telangana Gaddar Film Award (Special Jury – Best Actress). Upcoming projects include Lechindi Mahila Lokam (2026) and SYG – Sambarala Yeti Gattu (2027), as she continues to build a strong presence in Telugu cinema with content-driven roles.



CINEMA

'Delivery Boy' starring Leo Sivakumar, Radhika Sarathkumar to release October 23

Director Nani's emotional action entertainer 'Delivery Boy', starring Leo Sivakumar, Brigida and Radhika Sarathkumar, will release worldwide on October 23. The film, shot in Chennai and Coimbatore in 42 days, revolves around a delivery boy trying to save his mother

Chennai: The makers of director Nani's upcoming emotional action entertainer 'Delivery Boy', featuring Leo Sivakumar, Brigida and Radhika Sarathkumar in the lead, on Wednesday announced that the film will hit screens worldwide on October 23.

Saregama Tamil, the popular music label, shared the release date announcement poster of the film on its social media handles.

Get ready for love, music & emotions on the big screen! #DeliveryBoy Movie is Releasing in Theatres This Oct 23rd! sundaramurthyks," it wrote.

Shooting for the film was wrapped up in December last year.

Sources close to the unit had said that the film, which was shot entirely in Chennai and Coimbatore, was completed in just 42 days.

Speaking to IANS, director Nani, who worked as an assistant director to well-known filmmaker Suseenthiran before turning director, had said, "If I have to briefly give you an idea of what the film is all about, it is about the efforts made by a hardworking delivery boy looking to save his mother. The hero of the story comes from a lower-middle-class family and the story will revolve around his efforts to save his mother. It will be a gripping story that will keep audiences hooked to the screen from the beginning to end."

The director had also disclosed that post-production work was progressing at a brisk pace after shooting had been wrapped up.

"We have now started dubbing for the film," he had said then.

Apart from Leo Sivakumar, Brigida and Radhikaa Sarathkumar, who play the lead roles, the film also features a host of character artistes, including Dushyanth, Kaali Venkat and Bose Venkat.

The film has music by Sundaramoorthy and cinematography by Prasanna Kumar. It is produced by Amutha Leoni under the banner of Asasi Creation.

The film has dialogues by Nanda Mani Vasagam and editing by Vasanth. Stunts have been choreographed by Phoenix Prabhu, while art direction is by Suresh Kalyani.

Jailer 2 gets U/A certificate ahead of October 15 worldwide release

Rajinikanth-starrer Jailer 2, directed by Nelson Dilipkumar, has received a U/A certificate from the CBFC. Produced by Sun Pictures, the action entertainer is scheduled for a worldwide theatrical release on October 15 and has generated strong expectations among fans

Chennai: The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has now cleared director Nelson Dilipkumar's eagerly awaited action entertainer 'Jailer 2', featuring Superstar Rajinikanth in the lead, for release with a U/A certificate.

Sun Pictures, which is producing the film, took to its social media timelines to share the update. It wrote, "#Jailer2 is censored U/A!"

It may be recalled that the makers of the film had only recently released a trailer of the film, much to the delight of fans.

The trailer released begins with actor Suraj Venjaramoodu's character questioning a person he has kept hostage. "In these two months, you must have learnt something about the person who did this, right?" The hostage replies, "Not just me, even you won't be able to find him."

The trailer then shows that not just Suraj Venjaramoodu's character but a whole lot of villains are wondering who is behind certain developments.

It is then that Rajinikanth as Tiger Muthuvel Pandian makes an appearance.

At one point, a weary Suraj Venjaramoodu is seen asking his accomplices, "Have you managed to find him or not?"

For a minute, one is led to believe that Tiger Muthuvel Pandian has gone into hiding but almost immediately, the trailer clears the confusion.

It shows that Tiger Muthuvel Pandian has chosen to go off radar by pretending to be a driver and he has chosen to lie low to find out if the chain of command among the villains goes any higher.

The trailer also gives away the fact that Tiger Muthuvel Pandian has used snipers to attack his enemies and one among them, played by S J Suryah, says that even they can retort in kind.

The trailer also has an interesting conversation between the characters played by Rajinikanth and Vidya Balan. She asks him if he wants

tea or coffee and he politely refuses. She responds saying, "The choice is between tea or coffee. It is not between whether to drink or not."

A person warns Tiger Muthuvel Pandian about the dreaded "Kalpaks", who, he says, will not allow anyone to live. Muthuvel Pandian smiles and replies, "Oh dear, I didn't know. Shall we see?"

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PRGI NO: TGENG/26/A7914, EMAIL: RSUSARP@MYYAHOO.COM, 9849350555, 9515121467