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Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana will Transform Rural Lives and Villages: CM Chandrababu Naidu

-Chandrababu Launches Viksit Bharat Rozgar Scheme, Promises Jobs and Rural Development
-Google Data Centre, Fighter Jet Industry Among AP's Growth Plans: Chandrababu
-185 Days of Employment for Rural Poor Under New Scheme, Says AP CM
-Amaravati's Growth Cannot Be Stopped, Chandrababu Declares at Tirupati Event
-AP on Fast Track to Development with New Employment Scheme: Chandrababu Naidu
-Coalition Government Driving Andhra's Growth, Opposition Playing Politics: Chandrababu



(By Our Staff Reporter)
Tirupati, July 2: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said the Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (VB-G Ramji) would usher in a new era of rural development by generating employment, improving infrastructure, and enhancing the living standards of poor families. He expressed confidence that the programme would change the face of villages across the state through transparent gov-

ernance and sustainable development. The Chief Minister was speaking after launching the Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana at Mukkuvaripalli village in Tirupati district on Thursday. Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan also attended the event. Employment and Better Living Standards Chandrababu Naidu said the coalition government had accelerated development across



(By Our Staff Reporter)
Tirupati, July 2: Union Minister for Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Thursday announced that the government will spend Rs 7.5 lakh crore under Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission - Gramin (VB-G RAM G) in five years. He formally launched the scheme at an event held at Mukkavaripalle in Tirupati district of Andhra Pradesh in the

presence of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, Union Ministers of State for Rural Development Kamlesh Paswan and Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar. Shivraj Singh Chouhan revealed that under the scheme, on the very first day (July 1), more than 5 lakh people have been provided employment at over 50,000 locations across the country (Contd. on pg.2)

No more tolerance - Social Media under Pawan control

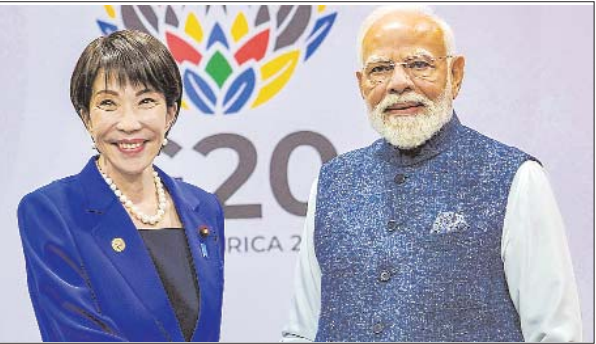
By Skyline Staff Reporter
Amaravati, July 2: In the last 24 hours, Andhra Pradesh police made two arrests over alleged abusive or derogatory comments targeting Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Dy. CM Pawan Kalyan. While opponents tried to label both issues as political arrests, it is well known to the public on how the accused have crossed the line in the name of freedom of speech. Now, Pawan Kalyan has made the intentions of the NDA government very clear with his latest fiery and intense press meet during which he clarified that there will be no more tolerance if social media is being weaponized to attack the personal dignity of individuals. He came down heavily against those who he calls are a part of the social media



abusive cartel. Without referring to any particular incident, the Janasena supreme made it crystal clear that freedom of speech does not give anyone a license to use vulgar, obscene language or run organized defamation campaigns against public servants and their loved ones. In his powerful address, Pawan Kalyan expressed deep emotional frustration, noting that even his (Contd. on pg.2)

PM Modi, Japanese counterpart Takaichi hold talks at Hyderabad House

New Delhi, July 2 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi met his Japanese counterpart Sanae Takaichi at the Hyderabad House in New Delhi on Thursday. Prior to the meeting, the two leaders warmly greeted each other. PM Takaichi bowed to national flags of India and Japan while she and PM Modi were walking towards the meeting room. PM Modi and PM Takaichi are scheduled to hold the 16th India-Japan Annual Summit-level talks, during which both sides will review and strengthen the full spectrum of bilateral cooperation and exchange views on regional and global issues of mutual interest. Earlier in the day, PM Takaichi was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan. PM Modi warmly welcomed the Japanese Prime



Minister upon her arrival. This is PM Takaichi's first official visit to India after assuming office. Takaichi arrived in New Delhi on Wednesday evening, kicking off a three-day official visit. "A very warm welcome to (Contd. on pg.2)

Former bureaucrats recall PM Modi's role in Digital India journey

New Delhi, July 2 : Eleven years ago, Digital India was merely a concept. Today, it stands as one of the most transformative initiatives in independent India, reshaping governance, economy, and daily life for millions. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's personal vision and relentless drive turned this idea into a national mission that has bridged the digital divide and empowered citizens like never before. Two former bureaucrats shared their experiences on the X handle of Modi Story about how "Digital India" came to reality. Soon after assuming office in 2014, Prime



Minister Modi entrusted senior bureaucrat Tapan Ray with steering the Digital India and e-Governance agenda. His ambition was vast: building robust digital infrastructure, extending broadband connectivity to every village, boosting electronics manufacturing, and ensuring technol-

ogy benefits reached the last mile. Ray recalled the Prime Minister's deep personal involvement, noting that PM Modi himself finalised the iconic Digital India logo, reflecting his hands-on approach from the outset. The formal launch took (Contd. on pg.2)

I have a very tough boss: Nara Lokesh at the inauguration of Sri City University

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Tirupati, July 2
State IT and Education Minister Nara Lokesh made interesting remarks, saying that their Chief Minister Chandrababu is a very tough boss and that he is constantly pushing them to realize his dreams. He said that he is working with a strong desire to lead Andhra Pradesh on the path of development, and accordingly, we all have to work at the same pace. He inaugurated Sri City International University (SIU) in Sri City, Tirupati district on Thursday. Speaking at a gathering organized on the occasion, Lokesh explained



the government's vision and goals for the future of the state. Minister Lokesh clarified that his government's goal is to take the state's economy to a 2.4 trillion dollar economy by 2047. "Our state should be at the forefront of the country's economic development. Currently, our economy is

220 billion dollars. We are determined to take it to the level of 2.4 trillion dollars by 2047," he announced. He praised the new education policy, Startup India and Vikasit Bharat initiatives coming under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi (Contd. on pg.2)

Trade talks with US in final stage, India to get competitive edge: Piyush Goyal

New Delhi, July 2 : The India-US bilateral trade agreement (BTA) talks have entered the final stage, with most key issues having been sorted out and both sides working towards a deal that gives New Delhi an advantage over its competitors, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday. Speaking at the NDTV Indo-Japan Strategic Dialogue, Goyal said he does not foresee any major hurdles in concluding the US trade agreement despite recent legal and policy developments in Washington. "We don't see any difficulties with the US," Goyal



said, adding that "concessions and other elements have largely been finalised." He said India has consistently sought preferential market access over competing nations, a position that has been understood by the US administration. Following the US Supreme Court's decision

to strike down tariffs imposed under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), Goyal said Washington is now working on an alternative mechanism that would preserve India's competitive advantage. He added that US Trade (Contd. on pg.2)

Gottipati Ravi Kumar Slams Jagan Over Amaravati, Says 'MaVigan' Politics Will Lead to Zero Seats

Amaravati, July 2: Andhra Pradesh Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar launched a sharp attack on YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) president Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, accusing him of making irresponsible statements aimed at disrupting the state's development. He claimed that if the YSRCP contests future elections with what he described as its "MaVigan" campaign, the party would fail to win even a single Assembly seat. Speaking at the Telugu Desam Party's grievance redressal programme held at the party's central office in Amaravati on Thursday, the minister said the YSRCP had already faced a massive electoral setback after campaigning on the three-capital proposal. He remarked that the party was reduced to 11 Assembly seats and warned



that adopting what he called "irrational political campaigns" would further alienate voters. Criticism Over Three Capitals Policy Ravi Kumar alleged that Jagan Mohan Reddy had failed to take any concrete steps toward developing the pro-

UNGA again urges adoption of terrorism convention proposed by India

United Nations, July 2 : The General Assembly has overwhelmingly again urged the adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) proposed by India. The Ninth Review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS), which was carried by 140 votes with three against on Wednesday, urged member nations to "make every effort" to adopt the CCIT, which has been



linguishing for 31 years after New Delhi proposed it. India's Permanent Representative P. Harish warned that the absence of a "universally agreed legal framework" has hobbled the fight against terrorism. Denouncing the two main roadblocks to its adoption, he reminded the member nations that terrorism can be countered effectively through international (Contd. on pg.2)

Court Grants 8-Day SIT Custody of CI Nagaraju in Sai Krishna Custodial Death Case



By Skyline Staff Reporter
Amaravati, July 2: A Vijayawada court on Thursday granted the Special Investigation Team (SIT) eight days of police custody of Circle Inspector S.S.V.V. Nagaraju, the prime accused in the custodial death of Vijayawada youth Gade Sai Krishna, a case that has sparked widespread public attention in Andhra Pradesh. The SIT had sought 12

days of custody to interrogate the suspended police officer as part of its ongoing investigation. However, after hearing arguments from both sides, the court permitted the investigators to keep Nagaraju in custody for eight days. While allowing the custody petition, the court imposed several conditions on the interrogation process. It directed the (Contd. on pg.2)

AP Government Raises Retirement Age to 62 for PSU, Corporation and Society Employees



By Skyline Staff Reporter
Amaravati, July 2: The Andhra Pradesh government has issued orders increasing the retirement age of employees working in Public Sector Undertakings

(PSUs), corporations and cooperative societies from 60 years to 62 years. The decision implements a resolution approved earlier by the State Cabinet and is expected to benefit (Contd. on pg.2)

Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana will Transform Rural Lives and Villages: CM Chandrababu Naidu

Ensure Transparency
Highlighting the scheme's transparency measures, Naidu said the government had introduced a fully digital monitoring system to prevent irregularities and eliminate fraudulent practices.

He explained that digital attendance, online wage tracking, and technology-driven supervision would ensure there was no scope for fake records or manipulation of beneficiary data. The use of technology, he added, would improve accountability and enable faster implementation of development works.

The Chief Minister also noted that the states' financial contribution under the programme had increased from 10 percent to 40 percent, reflecting the Union Government's commitment to strengthening rural development initiatives.

Major Industrial Projects for Andhra Pradesh
Speaking about industrial growth, Chandrababu Naidu announced that Google would establish a major data centre in North Andhra, which is expected to attract substantial investments and generate employment opportunities for thousands of young

people.

He also revealed that a fighter jet manufacturing facility would soon be established at Puttaparthi, giving a significant boost to the state's defence manufacturing sector.

Reaffirming his vision for balanced regional development, Naidu said his government was determined to transform Rayalaseema into "Ratnala Seema," a region known for industrial growth and prosperity. He added that the foundation stone for the proposed steel plant at Jammalamadugu would be laid shortly.

Polavaram Before Godavari Pushkaram
Referring to the long-pending Polavaram Irrigation Project, the Chief Minister assured that the project would be completed before the next Godavari Pushkaram. He said the completion of the national irrigation project would provide irrigation water to lakhs of acres, strengthen agriculture, and fulfil a long-standing aspiration of the people of Andhra Pradesh.

Praise for Prime Minister Modi and Pawan Kalyan
Naidu praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi,

stating that India was steadily progressing towards becoming a global economic powerhouse under his leadership. He said the Centre's innovative policies were enabling states to implement ambitious welfare and infrastructure programmes.

The Chief Minister also commended Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan for his leadership in rural development, saying villages across Andhra Pradesh were witnessing visible improvements through coordinated efforts of the coalition government.

Sharp Attack on YSR Congress Party
Turning to politics, Chandrababu Naidu launched a strong attack on the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), accusing it of misleading the people on the issue of Andhra Pradesh's capital.

Without directly naming the party, he referred to it as the "axe party" and alleged that it was staging "a new drama every day."

He claimed that YSRCP president Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy had accepted Amaravati as the capital before the elections but reversed his stand after

coming to power by proposing three capitals, creating uncertainty and slowing the state's development.

Naidu also mocked the opposition's recent political slogans, saying they were intended only to confuse the public and divert attention from development issues.

'No One Can Stop Amaravati's Development'
The Chief Minister asserted that no force could stop the development of Amaravati, which he described as the people's capital. He reaffirmed his government's commitment to developing Amaravati into a world-class capital city and said the aspirations of the people would ultimately prevail.

Concluding his address, Chandrababu Naidu remarked that those attempting to obstruct the state's progress would be judged by Lord Venkateswara, while the coalition government would continue to focus on employment generation, transparent governance, industrial growth, and inclusive development to build a prosperous Andhra Pradesh.

No more tolerance - Social Media under Pawan control

own family members had been brought to tears by the disgusting nature of the online abuse. He warned that if political leaders and their households can be targeted so brazenly, the safety and dignity of ordinary citizens on the internet are at extreme risk and needs immediate intervention.

Addressing a common tactic that is being used by political opponents, Pawan Kalyan stated unequivocally that "criminals have no caste, no religion, and no political party." He issued a stern warning that anyone who breaks the law and engages in character assassination cannot expect to hide behind a community or political identity once they are caught.

Pawan Kalyan also made a key announcement during this press meet. To offer real support to victims of

online harassment, he announced that a dedicated grievance cell will be established directly within the Deputy CM's office to handle social media abuse complaints. He encouraged victims to step forward and submit clear evidence of cyberbullying.

Concluding his speech, the Deputy CM hinted that the government is open to creating stricter, specialized laws in the future to tackle social media threats effectively. This is a welcome move because so many anonymous social media users and some self-styled journalists and YouTubers with personal and political interests have been trying to concoct stories against the government and also using unparliamentary language without paying heed to consequences and later on trying to gain sympathy when they are proceeded with legal cases.

PM Modi, Japanese counterpart Takaichi hold talks at Hyderabad House

Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi of Japan, who arrives in New Delhi on an Official Visit. PM Takaichi was received by MoS Dr Jitendra Singh. The visit marks an important step in taking forward the Special Strategic and Global Partnership between India and Japan," the MEA posted while welcoming the visiting leader.

Prior to her departure, Takaichi highlighted the importance of Japan's collaboration with India amid the current international situation.

"Through this visit, I hope to advance concrete cooperation with Prime Minister Modi in three key areas: deepening the Japan-India strategic partnership in light of the current international situation; pro-

moting cooperation in economic security; and strengthening collaboration between businesses of our two countries in investment and innovation," Takaichi told reporters in Tokyo on Wednesday.

"On the occasion of this visit, the Japan-India Joint Economic Forum will be held with the participation of representatives from more than 150 Japanese companies and business organisations. Working together with the private sector, I hope to broaden the scope of Japan-India cooperation and realise a strong economy," she added.

Takaichi stated that India and Japan share responsibility for maintaining peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. She said that she

looked forward to holding discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on efforts to realise a Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP).

"India, along with Japan, is one of Asia's leading democracies and shares responsibility to maintain peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. Against this backdrop, I look forward to having thorough discussions with Prime Minister Modi on efforts to realise a Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP), including cooperation through the Quad framework. Finally, as this visit is being made at the invitation of Prime Minister Modi, I also hope it will provide an opportunity to further deepen the personal trust between us," she said.

Former bureaucrats recall PM Modi's role in Digital India journey

place on July 1, 2015.

Another former bureaucrat, RS Sharma, who was closely involved in the preparations, remembered briefing the Prime Minister on key components such as DigiLocker, online hospital registrations, and digital KYC (know your customer) processes.

At one point, PM Modi posed a straightforward yet profound question: "How will you explain DigiLocker to an ordinary citizen?"

When officials struggled with technical jargon, the

Prime Minister stepped in with a simple, relatable analogy.

He described a job applicant rushing to an interview, fumbling through physical certificates.

"If all documents are safely stored in a DigiLocker on the phone," PM Modi explained, "they can be accessed and shared instantly whenever needed."

This ability to simplify complex technological concepts into everyday language that common citizens use today highlights PM Modi's unique

strength.

He not only grasped advanced digital tools but also ensured they were designed with the commoners in mind.

Over the past decade, Digital India has delivered remarkable outcomes. Villages once cut off from the world now enjoy broadband access.

Revolutionary platforms like UPI have transformed payments, while Direct Benefit Transfer has plugged leakages in welfare schemes.

India has built one of the world's most advanced

digital public infrastructures, enabling seamless services in areas ranging from banking and healthcare to education and governance.

What began as a bold vision in 2014 has today become an integral part of Indian life, fostering transparency, efficiency, and inclusion.

As the nation marks another milestone in its digital journey, the story of Digital India remains a powerful testament to visionary leadership that prioritises people-centric innovation.

Rs 7.5 lakh crore to be spent on VB-G RAM G in five years: Shivraj Singh Chouhan

He said, unlike the UPA government, which took three years to implement MGNREGA across the country, the NDA government rolled out the scheme in a single day. He also stated that while the UPA spent Rs 2.13 lakh crore on MGNREGA, the NDA government spent Rs 8.63 lakh crore in 10 years, and it will spend another Rs 7.5 lakh crore in five years.

The Union minister said under VB-G RAM G, labourers will get 125 days of employment and the wages will not be less than Rs 300.

He recalled that when Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister, the 'Total Rural Employment Scheme' was created. That scheme, through successive transformations, became 'MGNREGA' and has now become 'VB - G RAM G'.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan distributed 'VB G-RAM-G' cards to beneficiary workers. The national launch of the scheme was held with the laying

of the foundation stone for a farm pond by the Union minister and the Chief Minister. Ten varieties of timber-yielding saplings—including Teak, Maddi (Arjun), Neem, and Eucalyptus—were planted by Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Chandrababu Naidu, Pawan Kalyan, and others. Priority is being given to timber production and the establishment of wood banks under the special action plan devised by Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan to boost greenery, protect the environment, and increase the revenue of panchayats.

Subsequently, the 'Magic Drain' model set up near the venue was displayed, and the concept was explained to Shivraj Singh Chouhan. The structure of the 'Magic Drain'—an innovative wastewater management solution introduced by the Andhra Pradesh government—was demonstrated, highlighting its three-layer compo-

sition. Shivraj Singh Chouhan stated that the Centre was working to approve 74,212 new houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana—Grameen for Andhra Pradesh, so that the poor families of the state get the opportunity to realise their dream of owning a permanent home. For those villages that have not yet been connected by roads, he handed over the approval letter for Rs 422.1 crore for the construction of 146 new roads and 19 bridges under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.

Stating that under the leadership of Chandrababu Naidu, Andhra Pradesh is becoming a hub for horticulture, he gave the assurance that the Government of India will support the state to make farmers prosperous and increase their income.

He also handed over an approval letter under the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) to procure 2,16,250 tonnes of Totapuri mangoes.

Court Grants 8-Day SIT Custody of CI Nagaraju in Sai Krishna Custodial Death Case

SIT to video and audio record the entire questioning and submit the recordings before the court. The judge also instructed that the interrogation should be conducted only between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. each day to ensure compliance with legal safeguards. CI Nagaraju is currently lodged in Rajamahendravaram Central Jail following his arrest in connection with the custodial death case. He will be taken

into SIT custody, and his interrogation is scheduled to begin on Friday. The custodial death of Gade Sai Krishna triggered widespread outrage after allegations surfaced that he died due to police excesses while in custody. The Andhra Pradesh government subsequently constituted a Special Investigation Team to conduct an independent and comprehensive probe into the incident.

AP Government Raises Retirement Age to 62 for PSU, Corporation and Society Employees

thousands of employees across various government-owned organisations. According to the Government Order (GO) issued on Thursday, the revised retirement age will come into effect retrospectively from January 1, 2022. The move aligns the retirement age of PSU and corporation employees with that of state government employees, providing greater service continuity and employment security.

Reappointment of Eligible Employees
The government has also decided to allow eligible employees who had already retired upon attaining the age of 60 to rejoin service, provided they meet the prescribed conditions. However, it clarified that employees would not receive salary for the period between their retirement and rejoining, commonly referred to as the "gap period."

The order further states that this gap period will not be counted for seniority, promotions, or any other service-related benefits. Employees who resume duty will continue their service only from the date of rejoining.

Service Benefits for Employees Who Continued Until 62
The government has decided to extend full service benefits to employees who continued in service up to the age of 62 in compliance with court orders. These employees will be entitled to all applicable retirement and service-related benefits under the revised policy.

At the same time, employees who had retired at the age of 60 and are not interested in rejoining service will continue to be governed by the earlier retirement provisions. Their retirement will remain valid under the existing rules, and no further action will be required.

Directions to PSUs and Government-Owned Organisations
To facilitate implementation of the revised retirement policy, the government has directed all PSUs, corporations and cooperative societies to amend their respective service rules wherever necessary. Departments have been instructed to immediately communicate the new Government Order to all organisations under their administrative control.

The government has also advised each organisation to take decisions regarding implementation after considering its financial position and operational requirements. This provision is intended to ensure that the revised retirement policy does not adversely affect the financial stability of individual organisations. The decision is expected to provide relief to a large number of employees by extending their tenure by two years while ensuring uniformity in retirement policies across government departments and public sector organisations in Andhra Pradesh.

Gottipati Ravi Kumar Slams Jagan Over Amaravati, Says 'MaVigan' Politics Will Lead to Zero Seats

developing the proposed three capitals during his tenure. He claimed that despite promoting the policy, not "a single brick" had been laid for its implementation. The minister further alleged that while the state witnessed little progress under the previous government, around 7450 crore had been spent on constructing a palace-like residence for the former Chief Minister.

He accused Jagan of neglecting public development while focusing on personal projects. Amaravati Development Underway
The minister said the rapid progress of construction activities in Amaravati had unsettled the opposition, leading to what he described as negative remarks against the capital city. He asserted that the coalition government was committed to developing Amaravati as the permanent capital of Andhra Pradesh and that work on various infrastructure projects was progressing at a fast pace.

Ravi Kumar also recalled that Jagan had earlier stated he had no objection to Amaravati and had reportedly sought around 33,000 acres for the capital project. He further noted that Jagan had publicly claimed to have built a house in Amaravati, which, according to the minister, convinced people that he supported the capital project.

People Gave a Clear Verdict
According to the minister, the people of Andhra Pradesh ultimately rejected the YSRCP's policies and delivered a decisive electoral verdict by limiting the party to just 11 Assembly seats. He said the election outcome reflected public dissatisfaction with the previous government's approach to governance and development.

Praise for Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu
Ravi Kumar praised Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for his efforts to attract investments to Andhra Pradesh. He said the Chief Minister was working tirelessly to bring industries, create employment opportunities, and accelerate the state's economic growth.

The minister added that the present government remained focused on infrastructure development, industrial expansion, and welfare initiatives, with Amaravati continuing to be a key priority in its vision for Andhra Pradesh's future.

for bringing about great changes in the country's education system. Lokesh said that Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan is also encouraging the states and believes that if one state does well, other states will compete.

Sricity University, a boon for the youth of AP
Lokesh congratulated the founders Sridhar Raju and Ravindra Sannareddy for setting up a world-class university in Sricity. He described this as not just the inauguration of a university, but the foundation for a new way of thinking about higher education.

"My congratulations to Sridhar Raju garu for bringing an idea into reality. This is a big gift to the youth of Andhra Pradesh. Although it is currently starting with 5,000 students, I am confident that this number will increase several times in the future," he said.

He believed that the value of universities depends not only on awarding degrees, but also on the kind of change they bring to the society.

Innovative reforms in education
Lokesh stressed the need for reforms in higher education in India. He par-

ticularly praised the 'work-study' model introduced at Sri City University. He explained that he calls it the 'LEG' (Learn, Earn, Graduate) model, which means learning, earning, and becoming a graduate.

"Education should not stop with a degree. Lifelong learning begins there. This LEG model will change the face of our education system," he expressed confidence. He suggested that students should not just be graduates, but should be problem solvers and lifelong learners.

The target is 75,000 jobs
Minister Lokesh announced that his goal is to create 75,000 jobs by 2029 through Sri City International University. He said that there are already more than 200 companies from 31 countries in Sri City, and the arrival of this university will further strengthen industrial connectivity.

He said that the industrial environment here is showcasing India's potential to the world, and the efforts of Sridhar Raju and Ravindra Sannareddy behind this are invaluable.

He said that dreaming dreams and working continuously to realize

them are very important. "Once we say okay to a project, it is no longer yours, but our own project. An example of this is the way this university cleared the file. When I was on a trip to Russia, I cleared the file without wasting a single minute," he recalled.

It was revealed that a special desk has been set up to solve the problems of existing investors and support their business expansion. Lokesh specifically mentioned the need for the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and startups in the new era with AI and startups. He clarified that AI is not a job-killer, but a tool to enhance human potential.

He revealed that they are also using AI in politics and that their party has a digital library with 2 terabytes of data. He said that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has set the goal of 'One Family, One Entrepreneur' and his aim is to create an entrepreneur in every family. He hoped that Sri City University would play a key role in achieving this goal and create success stories.

Sri City Chairman Sridhar Raju, MD Ravindra Sannareddy and others participated in the program.

Trade talks with US in final stage, India to get competitive edge: Piyush Goyal

Representative (USTR) Jamieson Greer has acknowledged India's position during the negotiations. Despite higher tariffs, India's exports to the US have remained resilient.

Goyal said bilateral trade has continued to grow and projected that India's merchandise exports in the April-June quarter will rise about 15 per cent year-on-year. Goyal further stated that the India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) will take effect on July 15, opening up new opportunities for Indian exporters.

Besides, the legal scrutiny of the India-European Union Free Trade Agreement is expected to conclude within 10 to 12 days, after which it will move through

the approval process, he added. The minister expressed confidence that the free trade pact would come into force before the end of the year, as all 27 EU member states support the agreement and no country has opposed the negotiations.

He also highlighted the strategic importance of Japan in India's economic ambitions. While investment has historically been the cornerstone of bilateral ties, the minister said the next phase of the relationship should focus on expanding trade, technology partnerships and skilled workforce mobility, as Japan is a key partner in India's long-term growth strategy.

UNGA again urges adoption of terrorism convention proposed by India

cooperation "only if there are no double standards (and) only if there is no distinction between good or bad terrorists". Opposition to the CCIT has come from Pakistan and some other countries that try to make an invidious distinction among terrorists, trying to cloak some in the garb of "freedom fighters" to justify their support for terrorism.

"The international community must reject double standards in counter-terrorism," Harish said. "There can be no justification for terrorism. Irrespective of any grievance, political cause or strategic calculation, terrorism in all its forms and manifestations

must be condemned unequivocally," he said.

"There is an obligation to hold perpetrators, organisers, financiers and sponsors of terrorism accountable and bring them to justice (and) member states should ensure full cooperation in this regard", he said.

Harish said the CCIT "is essential to close normative gaps, strengthen prosecution and extradition, and deny terrorists and their sponsors access to safe havens, funds and arms".

"The time has come to demonstrate political will to conclude the CCIT," he declared.

Chartered Accountants’ 78th anniversary celebrations in grand style

CA Patnala Lokesh unfurls the ICAI flag

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Visakhapatnam, July2
The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) Visakhapatnam Branch organized the 78th anniversary celebrations of Chartered Accountants in a grand manner. On this occasion, Branch Chairman CA Patnala Lokesh inaugurated the programs by unfurling the ICAI flag. Later, members enthusiastically participated in the blood donation camp and sapling planting program. Cultural and entertainment programs were impressive in the evening celebrations. On this occasion, senior chartered accountants



CA V.V. Ram Mohan and CA J. Kesava Rao were felicitated. Prizes were also given to the winners of various entertaining games competitions. Branch Vice Chairman CA Nemmadi Ramunaidu, Secretary CA Ujwala M.L.D., Treasurer CA Mogalapalli P. Gurumurthy, Students' Federation President CA K. Rambabu, Past President CA Sridhar

Andhavarapu, along with a large number of Chartered Accountants from Visakhapatnam and Anakapalle districts of the Visakhapatnam region and their family members participated in this program. Amidst the feast and entertainment programs, the members met each other cordially and celebrated the anniversary celebrations with joy and enthusiasm.

GITAM’s 17th Graduation ceremony on August 22nd

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Visakhapatnam, July2
Gitam Deemed University will hold its 17th convocation on August 22, Gitam Registrar Dr. D. Gunasekharan said in a statement on Thursday. Students who have successfully completed undergraduate (UG), post-graduate (PG) and PhD courses in the academic year 2025-26 are eligible to participate in this convocation. He said that the event will be a platform for graduates from various disciplines like Engineering, Management, Science, Law, Pharmacy, Humanities



and Social Sciences, and Architecture to celebrate their academic achievements. Eligible students are advised to apply online from July 3 to July 17 to

participate in this program. Students are advised to visit www.gitam.edu for complete details and guidelines regarding registration and graduation ceremony.

Young Indians parliament on 4th, 5th in GITAM

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Visakhapatnam, July2
Young Indians (YI), an integral part of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Vizag Chapter, will organize 'Young Indians Parliament (YIP) 2026' on July 4th and 5th, 2026 at Gitam Deemed University, said Vizag Chair Deepa Kodali. One of the prestigious youth leadership programs of YI, this Young Indians Parliament aims to inculcate constitutional awareness, democratic values, leadership qualities, public speaking and critical thinking skills among school students through a model parliamentary experience. This year, 185 students from leading schools in Visakhapatnam will participate in the program. They gain first-hand knowledge of the functioning of India's democratic institutions by participating in parliamentary activities, debates, and discussions. The inauguration ceremony



to be held on July 4th at 9:00 am, will be graced by Visakhapatnam Member of Parliament M. Sriharat will be the chief guest. A strong believer in empowering students through civic participation and democratic practice, he has been the chief guest at every edition of the Young Indians Parliament held in Vizag. Rajahmundry Member of Parliament Dr. Daggubati Purandeswari will attend the valedictorian ceremony to be held on July 5th at 3:00 PM and felicitate the participating students. Students who succeed in this chapter round will be

eligible to represent YI Vizag in the Young Indians Parliament regional round. The event is led by YI Vizag Chair Deepa Kodali and Co-Chair Supriya Lingam, while the Thalir team is led by Brinda Lau (Chair), Yogita Erra and Harshita Guggilam (Co-Chairs). Over 170 YI Vizag members, moderators, mentors, jury members and volunteers are coming together to provide this amazing learning experience that inspires the youth to become informed, responsible and active citizens.

Everyone register to vote Minister Kondapalli Srinivas's call

Vizianagaram , July 2 (Skyline): Minister for Micro , Small and Medium Enterprises , Rural Poverty Alleviation and Empowerment of Diaspora Affairs Minister Kondapalli Srinivas has called on everyone to register their vote. On Thursday, the SIR enumeration forms were completed and handed over to District In-charge Collector Sethu Madhavan. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Kondapalli Srinivas said that in a democracy, it is essential for everyone to exercise their right to vote. He said that by exercising their right to vote, they will have the opportunity to vote for the leader of their choice. Today's youth have recognized that the constitutional provision for electing leaders is made possible through just one vote and want everyone to reg-



ister their vote in the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) program. He said that if major changes are to be brought about in politics, it is possible only by exercising the right to vote in the order of priority of the youth. On this occasion, the In-charge Collector created awareness among

the people about the SIR program. He said that steps should be taken to create awareness through the staff so that it can be brought. He said that by creating awareness among the people of rural areas, the voter registration process in the (SIR) program will be completed quickly.

GITAM University files Rs. 20 crore defamation suit against Sakshi Group

YSRCP leader KK Raju, Leader Newspaper in response to a Coordinated Social Media Campaign

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Visakhapatnam, July2
Legal notices were also issued to 69 social media handle holders who propagated the false agenda across X, YouTube, Facebook (meta) and Instagram; Grievance letters have also been sent to platform governing bodies of Meta, X, Google and News Broadcasters & Digital Association as university takes decisive stand against deliberate misinformation GITAM Deemed to be University has initiated sweeping legal action against the

architects of a coordinated social media campaign that allegedly misrepresented lawful construction activity on university-owned land as illegal. The university has moved the court with a civil defamation suit seeking Rs 20 crore in damages from KK Raju (Sakshi Group, Leader Newspaper among others). Alongside parallel criminal defamation charges, GITAM has issued legal notices to 69 social media account holders for propagating demonstrably false content across X (formerly

Twitter), YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram. According to GITAM authorities, KK Raju have repeatedly claimed in speeches that a "backdoor process" was used for land grabbing, alleging a blatant abuse of power by the institution. These speeches were widely circulated across local news channels including Sakshi TV, Leader Newspaper, R Star TV, Great Andhra News, and VTV Prime - and multiple social media handles. GITAM stated that videos of routine, legal construction on its campus were

deliberately spun into a false narrative to mislead the public. In a dual-pronged approach, the university has also issued formal notices to the governing bodies of Meta, Google, X, and the News Broadcasters & Digital Association (NBDA), demanding platform-level accountability and the immediate removal of the offending content. Notably, this is not the first time Sakshi Group has faced legal action from GITAM. In a near-identical past instance of alleged misinformation,

the Sakshi newspaper lost a defamation case against the university, received a formal warning from the court, and was directed to pay compensation. GITAM argues that this repeat behavior underscores a willful, intentional assault on its reputation. To support its position, GITAM has submitted documents before the appropriate legal forums, including approvals from relevant municipal, aviation, fire, district administration and other statutory authorities associated with the project.

Work on VBG Ramji scheme begins in Jinnam village Minister Kondapalli Srinivas

Gajapathinagaram , July 2 (Skyline): As part of the inauguration program of the VBG Ramji scheme works in Jinnam village of the mandal, the Minister for Micro , Small and Medium Enterprises , Rural Poverty Alleviation and Empowerment of Diaspora Affairs, Kondapalli Srinivas, took the baton. The VBG Ramji works were formally inaugurated on Wednesday at Tamaracheruvu in Jinnam village. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Kondapalli Srinivas said that the central government has increased the VBG Ramji scheme from 100 days to 25 days and the new policies introduced are very beneficial for the poor people and farmers. Everyone should take up work as per the instructions of the officials and get wages as per the government rules. He said that in this scheme introduced by the center, it has stood third in the country for the last two years under the leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu.



He said that due to lack of work during the summer, the residents of our district used to migrate to other places , and the employment guarantee works have been provided to such people. He said that the central and state governments are working for the upliftment of the poor people. Union Minister Shivraj Chauhan , Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu , Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and Human Resource Development Minister Nara Lokesh launched this scheme in Tirupati. Special puja programs were conducted as part of the opening programs before the program. A cake was cut with the employment guarantee workers. The employment guarantee workers happily took selfies with the minister. Along with the minister, Telugu Desam Politburo member Gantiada Sridevi , AMC Chairman PV Gopala Raju , Makkuva Sridhar , Bangaru Naidu , Chinnam Naidu , Pradeep and others participated in the program.

ERO Inspects House-to-House Voter Verification Drive

Vizianagaram (Garividi), July 2 (Skyline): The house-to-house voter verification drive under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls is progressing across the Cheepurupalli Assembly Constituency, with election authorities intensifying efforts to ensure an accurate and updated voters' list. Revenue Divisional Officer and Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) M. Sudharani inspected the ongoing verification process in Garividi town on Thursday. She reviewed the work of Booth Level Officers (BLOs) in Polling Stations 111, 112, 113, 114 and 115 and directed them to complete the door-to-door verification exercise by July 14. The ERO instructed BLOs to verify voter details carefully, ensure eligible citizens are included in the electoral roll and rectify any discrepancies during field visits. She stressed that the revision process should be carried out in a systematic and transparent manner to maintain the accuracy of electoral records. Assistant Electoral Officer and Garividi Tahsildar Ch. Bangarraju, MPDO Subrahmanyam, Revenue Inspector Achyuta Rao, RDO Office Administrative Officer Suryakantham and other officials participated in the inspection.



Young woman ends life ahead of engagement: One under treatment

Vizianagaram (Garividi), July 2 (Skyline): A tragic incident was reported from Tondrangi village in Garividi mandal, where a 22-year-old woman allegedly died by suicide following sustained pressure and threats from a man known to her. Police have registered a case and launched an investigation. According to Garividi Police, the deceased, Balagam Akhila (22), and Korada Ramunaidu of the same village were reportedly in a relationship. Police said Akhila's engagement with another man was scheduled for July 2. Investigators allege that Ramunaidu, who is already married, pressured Akhila to cancel the engagement and allegedly threatened to reveal details of their relationship to the prospective groom if she refused. Police further stated that he allegedly instigated her to consume pesticide. Unable to bear the alleged pressure, Akhila reportedly consumed pesticide. She was shifted to a private hospital in Vizianagaram for treatment but succumbed on Wednesday. Police also said that Ramunaidu later consumed pesticide and is currently undergoing treatment at Cheepurupalli



Hospital. Based on a complaint lodged by the victim's father, Garividi Sub-Inspector B. Lokeshwara Rao has registered a case and is investigating the circumstances leading to the woman's death. Police said further action will be taken based on the outcome of the investigation.

Up to 45% off on Alexa-enabled Echo smart speakers and displays, and Fire TV devices

Visakhapatnam, 2 July 2026, India: Amazon India has returned with its annual Prime Day shopping event, celebrating its tenth edition this year. Between July 4 and July 6, 2026, Prime members can enjoy exciting offers across a range of Alexa-enabled devices including Echo smart speakers and smart displays to Fire TV streaming devices, and smart TVs with Fire TV built-in. Whether you're setting up a smart home, upgrading your TV streaming experience, or simply looking for a smarter way to get things done—there's something for everyone this Prime Day. Members can also enjoy savings on new launches like Echo Dot Max, Echo Studio, and Fire TV Stick HD. Here are some of the top deals available during Prime Day 2026: **Embrace smart living** Echo smart speakers and smart displays with Alexa make everyday tasks effortless—from playing music and managing compatible smart home devices to setting reminders, making to-do lists, and accessing information, all through simple voice commands. You can also ask Alexa to add items to your shopping cart or stay updated on order deliver-



ies by saying, "Alexa, add garam masala to my shopping cart" or "Alexa, track my package." During Prime Day, enjoy discounts on the Echo line-up, including the latest Echo Dot Max and Echo Studio smart speakers. Look out for these offers during Prime Day: ●Flat 27% off on Echo Dot (5th Generation). Get it for Rs.3,999. ●Flat 41% off on Echo Pop. Get

it for Rs.2,949. ●Flat 50% off on Echo (4th Generation). Get it for Rs.5,000. ●Flat 18% off on the latest Echo Dot Max. Get it for Rs.8,999. ●Flat Rs.2,000 off on Echo Spot. Get it for Rs.6,999. ●Flat Rs.7,000 off on Echo Show 8. Get it for just Rs.17,999. ●Flat Rs.2,500 off on Echo Show 11. Get it for Rs.24,499. ●Flat Rs.2,500 off on the latest Echo Studio. Get it for

Rs.21,499. Transform at-home TV streaming Whether turning a non-smart TV into a smart TV or making an existing smart TV fast and responsive, Fire TV devices help elevate your TV streaming experience. You can watch lakhs of movies and TV show episodes across apps like Prime Video, Netflix, JioHotstar, YouTube, Zee5, and more (subscription fees may apply), or enjoy playing popular Xbox games directly through the Xbox app (requires compatible Bluetooth controller). Prime members can enjoy savings on a range of Fire TV devices this Prime Day, including the latest Fire TV Stick HD—Amazon's slimmest and fastest HD streaming stick yet. **Look out for these offers during Prime Day:** ●Flat 45% off on the latest Fire TV Stick HD. Get it for just Rs.2,999. ●Flat 36% off on Fire TV Stick 4K Plus. Get it for just Rs.4,499. ●Flat 36% off on Fire TV Stick 4K Select. Get it for just Rs.3,499. ●Flat Rs.1,000 off on Fire TV Cube. Get it for just Rs.12,999. ●Enjoy up to 55% off on Smart TVs with Fire TV built-in.

SKYLINE

Friday 3.7.2026

Hotter North

For generations, countries of northern and western Europe were seen as places where summer meant pleasant sunshine rather than a struggle for survival. India, by contrast, has long lived with the annual ordeal of extreme heat. That distinction is beginning to blur. As parts of France, Spain and the United Kingdom record temperatures that rival or exceed those routinely associated with the tropics, the world is witnessing more than another difficult summer. South Asians & Diaspora

It is watching climate geography being rewritten. The significance lies not simply in the numbers on the thermometer but in the societies confronting them. India has evolved, however imperfectly, with an understanding that summer can be dangerous. Air-conditioning remains inaccessible to millions, but the country has increasingly adopted heat action plans, revised work schedules, early warning systems and public awareness campaigns after repeated deadly heatwaves. European societies, whose infrastructure, housing, public transport and even tourism were designed for milder climates, are discovering that prosperity does not automatically translate into climate resilience. The economic implications are substantial.

Heat is no longer merely an environmental concern but an economic variable. Productivity declines, energy demand surges, transport networks buckle, crops suffer and insurance costs rise. Museums close, schools alter schedules, outdoor work becomes hazardous and electricity grids come under unprecedented strain. Every new record exposes another weakness in infrastructure built for a different climate. For India, Europe's predicament should not invite schadenfreude but reflection. If wealthy nations with advanced public services find themselves struggling to cope with prolonged extreme heat, countries with larger populations, greater urban congestion and wider economic disparities face an even steeper challenge.

The question is no longer whether heatwaves will intensify, but whether governments can adapt quickly enough to minimise the human and economic costs. This also challenges a lingering misconception that climate change is primarily a future problem or one confined to vulnerable developing nations. The burden is increasingly global, though its consequences remain unequal. Rich countries may possess greater financial resources to adapt, but they are learning that decades of infrastructure investment cannot be redesigned overnight. Poorer countries often have greater experience living with heat but far fewer resources to protect their citizens.

The emerging reality demands a shift in public policy. Climate adaptation deserves the same seriousness as roads, defence or public health. Urban planning must prioritise cooling, green spaces and resilient buildings. Water management, power systems and labour regulations must account for temperatures that once seemed exceptional but are becoming routine. Europe's unprecedented heat is therefore not simply Europe's story. It is a reminder that the climate dividing line between temperate and tropical regions is becoming less meaningful. In a warming world, no nation can assume that yesterday's weather will define tomorrow's normal. The sooner governments accept that reality, the better prepared their societies will be for the summers that lie ahead.

2027 delimitation must go beyond North-South talk

When India's Delimitation Commission next convenes, it will inherit a task that no commission has faced in fifty years: the freedom to actually change how many parliamentary seats each state sends to the Lok Sabha. The 84th Constitutional Amendment of 2001 froze that allocation until after the first census taken after 2026. The 2027 Census will lift that freeze, and the redistribution of roughly 281 new seats across 36 states and Union Territories will follow.

The political debate has focused almost entirely on the North-South dimension, on whether states such as Kerala and Tamil Nadu, which succeeded in controlling population growth, will now be punished for that success by a reallocation that rewards higher-growth Hindi-belt states. That concern is legitimate, and it deserves the attention it has received. But it has obscured an equally consequential question that will determine whether any new boundaries actually improve Indian democracy: which constituencies within states should be split, into how many parts, and on what evidence? An EAC-PM working paper provides the most systematic answer yet attempted.

Drawing on a panel of 2,171 constituency-elections across four general elections from 2009 to 2024 and linking each constituency to its demographic and linguistic profile, it overturns one of the oldest assumptions in Indian electoral studies. For decades, conventional wisdom held that large constituencies suppress voter turnout. The logic seemed self-evident: queues at metropolitan polling booths can run for hours, per-capita polling-station access in dense urban areas is lower, and the voter in a constituency of two million feels more remote from power than the voter in one of 500,000. Smaller constituencies, on this reading, should vote more. And they do, in the raw data. The smallest

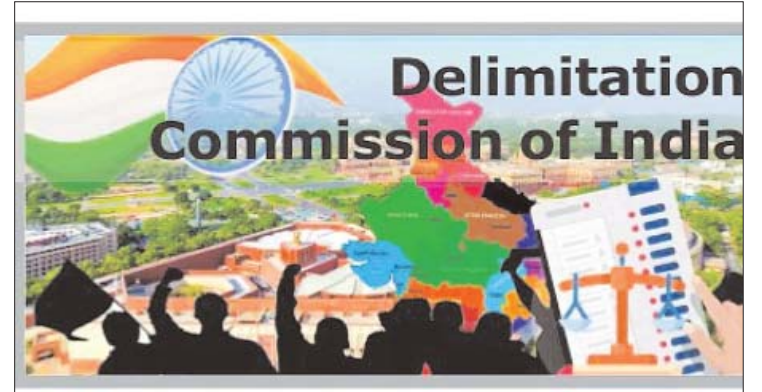
decile of constituencies turned out at a remarkable 22.9 percentage points above the largest decile in 2009. But that gap has been halving steadily. By 2024, it had fallen to 12 percentage points.

More importantly, once you account for the demographic and linguistic composition of constituencies, how urban they are, how many residents belong to Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes, how linguistically polarised or diverse the local population is, the size penalty largely disappears and by 2024 reverses. A constituency with two million electors at a typical demographic profile now turns out approximately six percentage points higher than a comparable one with one million electors. The residual "size penalty" in the raw data turns out to be a composition effect. Smaller constituencies tend to be more rural, more tribal, and more linguistically polarised, and it is those features, not smallness itself, that drive higher turnout. Five compositional features dominate the picture, and they have been reorganising over the past fifteen years in ways that do not point in the same direction. Scheduled Tribe constituencies have emerged as the highest turnout category in Indian politics. The most ST-heavy decile of constituencies reached 73 per cent turnout in 2024, the highest of any group on any dimension in the research. Scheduled Caste constituencies, which once voted at a premium above the national average, have converged down to roughly the national mean. Urban constituencies, which in 2009 voted marginally above rural ones, now vote below them, a reversal that tracks India's ongoing but uneven urbanisation.

Linguistic structure, too, matters enormously. Constituencies in which a few large language communities coexist and compete have outpolled low-polarisation constituencies by eleven to thirteen percentage points in

every election of the past fifteen years, without exception. Where a few large groups believe the election will turn on their own mobilisation, each member of each group has a strong reason to vote. Constituencies with high overall linguistic diversity, many language communities coexisting, have been catching up as a turnout amplifier since 2014. The sharpest and most consequential finding is about gender. Women's electoral participation is dramatically more sensitive to constituency composition than men's. Urban share is the single largest predictor of female turnout, and the urban penalty for women is more than double the urban penalty for men.

Women in fully urban constituencies today turn out approximately five percentage points below rural women at every constituency size. For men, the urban gap is around two percentage points. This asymmetry has a clear structural logic. Dense female-targeted welfare networks, women's self-help groups, Anganwadi centres, vernacular health and microcredit programmes, are concentrated in rural India and provide a powerful social infrastructure for mobilising female voters. Urban anonymity and higher time costs of voting, particularly for working women with care responsibilities, weaken those networks precisely where constituency sizes and booth loads are highest. The implication is uncomfortable. The least-participating subgroup in Indian democracy today is not the rural poor. It is the woman in a large, fully urban metropolitan constituency. The most-participating subgroup is the woman in a high-Schedule Tribe, rural constituency. A targeted delimitation plan concentrating three-way splits on large metropolitan and linguistically complex constituencies, and two-way splits on secondary-urban ones, is estimated to raise national voter



turnout by between 0.3 and 2.3 percentage points at the next general election. That range reflects genuine statistical uncertainty. It corresponds to between nine and twenty-three million additional voters. Thirty-four of thirty-six states and Union Territories show a positive predicted gain. The constituencies identified for three-way splits are heterogeneous: they include fully urban metropolitan seats such as Hyderabad, Secunderabad, and Kolkata South, but also rural Scheduled-Tribe constituencies such as Lohardaga in Jharkhand and Kandhamal in Odisha, whose joint demographic and linguistic depth generates steep predicted gains from splitting. There are, however, two things that splitting alone cannot do. It cannot close the female-urban participation gap. The residual five-percentage-point female urban penalty is preserved within every daughter constituency that a split would create, because the daughters inherit the parent constituency's compositional profile. Closing that gap requires accompanying operational reform: women-only polling booths in urban metropolitan constituencies, extended polling hours that accommodate the time constraints of urban working women, transport linkages from urban-fringe residential areas to polling stations, and women-targeted voter-roll drives using existing civic networks.

It cannot resolve the deeper constitutional question about

how states are represented in Parliament. Legal scholars have pointed out that the proposed approach of expanding the Lok Sabha on a pro-rata basis, preserving each state's current proportional share anchored in the 1971 Census freeze, extends rather than resolves a fifty-year-old political bargain that sits uneasily with the Constitution's original design. A more durable solution may lie in reforming the Rajya Sabha into a genuine forum for state interests, with meaningful powers over fiscal legislation and a rebalanced seat allocation that gives smaller states a structural voice. As India urbanises rapidly, the share of the electorate in large metropolitan constituencies will continue to rise.

Whether that rising urban share translates into falling national turnout or into a renewed wave of female and urban participation will be decided largely by what the Delimitation Commission chooses to do and what operational reforms accompany it. The 2027 Census offers India its first real chance in five decades to redesign the building blocks of its democracy. The empirical case for doing so wisely, and the constitutional stakes of doing so hastily, have rarely been clearer. The North-South debate is important. But the quality of the constituencies we create, who lives in them, how they are composed, and whether women in cities can actually participate in them, may matter even more.

How India and Japan can together navigate US shift in Indo-Pacific strategy

The debate surrounding the United States' decision to revert from "Indo-Pacific Command" to "Pacific Command" has generated considerable speculation. Some view it as signalling a diminished American commitment to the Indo-Pacific, while others dismiss it as little more than a bureaucratic adjustment. Both interpretations miss the larger point.

The decision is perhaps best understood within the broader context of the United States' own search for strategic and national identity. President Donald Trump and the Make America Great Again movement have consistently sought to reconnect America with what they regard as the country's post-Second World War golden age—a period when the United States projected unparalleled military strength, economic confidence and global leadership. Other symbolic initiatives, including proposals to revive the title "Department of War" and restore historical military base names, reflect a wider effort to recover an earlier understanding of America's purpose in the world.

Whether one agrees with this project or not is secondary. Great powers periodically revisit their history in order to shape their future. America is doing so today.

Rather than becoming absorbed in debating the title of an American military command, India and Japan should draw a different conclusion. If Washington is redefining its strategic narrative, the time has come for the original architects of the Indo-Pacific idea to reaffirm and refresh their own.

The modern Indo-Pacific concept did not originate in Washington.

It was articulated most powerfully by the late Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, whose vision of the "confluence of the two seas" brought together the Indian and Pacific Oceans into a single strategic and civilizational space. Prime Minister Narendra Modi embraced and developed that vision, giving it practical expression through initiatives ranging from maritime cooperation to the Quad.

As the Indo-Pacific gained international prominence, however, its meaning gradually narrowed. Increasingly, it came to be understood primarily through the prism of military alliances, strategic competition and the challenge posed by China's rise. These issues remain important, but they were never intended to define the Indo-Pacific in its entirety.

The original vision was broader and deeper.

The Indo-Pacific is not simply a geopolitical theatre. It is one of the world's oldest interconnected civilizational spaces. For over two millennia, the seas linking India, Southeast Asia, China and Japan carried not only goods but also ideas, religions, technologies, artistic traditions and systems of knowledge. Buddhism travelled from India across Asia. Hindu culture influenced shaped kingdoms throughout Southeast Asia. Chinese civilisation enriched the region through commerce, scholarship, innovation and maritime exchange. Together, these interactions created an enduring Asian community long before the emergence of modern

nation states.

This shared heritage remains one of Asia's greatest strategic assets.

No meaningful civilizational conception of the Indo-Pacific can overlook China. Contemporary strategic differences are real and, in some cases, profound. They must be managed with clarity and realism. Yet China has also been an integral participant in the historical exchanges that shaped Asia for centuries. Recognising this heritage does not require overlooking present-day disagreements. Rather, it acknowledges that a durable regional order cannot be built solely around rivalry. Strategic competition may persist, but it need not become the organising principle of the Indo-Pacific.

Today, both America and Europe are engaged in searching debates about their own civilizational identity. Questions of history, culture, national purpose and strategic direction increasingly shape both domestic politics and foreign policy. Such introspection is neither unusual nor undesirable. Great powers periodically redefine themselves.

India and Japan should undertake a similar exercise—but in a characteristically Asian way.

Rather than constructing a civilizational narrative based on exclusion, they should build one based on connection. The Indo-Pacific should be understood as a region linked by centuries of interaction and capable of accommodating diversity while respecting national sovereignty. Such an approach would restore Southeast Asia to its rightful place at the heart of the Indo-



Pacific conversation—not as an arena of great-power competition, but as the historic bridge between the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

A renewed Indo-Pacific vision should therefore rest on multiple pillars. Security cooperation will remain indispensable. Economic integration must continue. Technological collaboration will become increasingly important. But these should be reinforced by deeper cooperation in education, maritime heritage, cultural exchanges, Buddhist and historical networks, scientific research, digital connectivity and sustainable development. Civilization should not replace strategy; it should enrich it.

The ongoing visit of Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi to New Delhi offers an ideal opportunity to begin this conversation. While defence, technology and economic cooperation have rightly dominated the bilateral agenda, the two leaders should also consider how India and Japan can jointly restore the broader intellectual and civilizational foundations of the Indo-Pacific concept they did so much to shape.

The subsequent G20 Summit in

Florida could provide an international platform for advancing this complementary vision. India and Japan need not distance themselves from the United States. On the contrary, they should continue working closely with Washington in promoting regional stability. But they should also ensure that the Indo-Pacific is not defined solely by American strategic vocabulary or by the changing priorities of successive administrations.

America will continue to redefine its place in the world according to its own history and political choices. That is both natural and inevitable. India and Japan should do the same. Their task, however, is not to recreate an earlier age but to shape a new one—an Indo-Pacific that is strategically secure, economically dynamic and civilizationally confident.

The debate over Pacific Command will eventually fade. The opportunity to renew the Indo-Pacific idea should not. The concept was born in Asia. Its next chapter should also be written in Asia.

Qatar reports ‘positive progress’ in US-Iran talks, next round to follow Khamenei funeral; Tehran blocks IAEA from bombed sites

Indirect negotiations between the United States and Iran have registered fresh momentum after mediators from Qatar and Pakistan reported “positive progress” during separate meetings with both sides in Doha. The parties have agreed to resume discussions after the funeral ceremonies for Iran’s former Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei. The latest round of diplomacy suggests that efforts to preserve the understanding reached under the 14-point Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) remain on track despite continuing disagreements over sanctions, nuclear inspections and regional security. While Washington has expressed optimism over the talks, Tehran has reiterated that it will not compromise on issues it considers matters of sovereignty. Qatar says talks will resume after funeral ceremonies. Majed Al Ansari, adviser to Qatar’s prime minister and official spokesperson for the Foreign Ministry, said separate meetings with American and Iranian negotiators concluded in Doha with positive movement on issues linked to the Islamabad MoU. According to Al Ansari, the discussions built on the outcomes of the Lake Lucerne Summit, and both sides agreed to continue negotiations at the earliest opportunity after the funeral processions for former Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei. Qatar & Pakistan mediators concluded separate meetings with the US & Iranian negotiators in Doha today, with positive progress made on issues related to the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding, building on the outcomes of the Lake Lucerne Summit. The parties agreed to continue... Dr. Majed Al Ansari (@majedalansari) July 1, 2026 Iran’s Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi said Tehran raised concerns over what it described as



Washington’s failure to fulfil commitments related to Lebanon during the Doha discussions. He also said Iranian and Qatari officials reviewed arrangements for using part of the initially frozen USD 6 billion in Iranian funds to procure essential goods for the country. “In the meetings with Qatari officials, the issues related to the expenditure of part of the initial USD 6 billion were reviewed, and it was agreed that, based on the announced needs, the purchase of required goods will be carried out and placed at Iran’s disposal,” said Gharibabadi. Tehran rejects IAEA access to bombed nuclear facilities. As diplomatic engagement continued, Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf ruled out allowing inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to visit nuclear facilities damaged during the conflict. “Talk of IAEA inspectors’ access to bombed sites is false,” Ghalibaf said during an interview with Iranian state television. He said legislation passed by Parliament and the Supreme National Security Council prohibits access to damaged facilities under any circumstances. According to Ghalibaf, IAEA inspectors currently have access only to the Bushehr nuclear power plant and the Tehran research reactor. He also defended his participation in negotiations held in Switzerland, saying they accelerated the release of Iranian assets and the suspension of sanctions while helping secure previously agreed

conditions. Pezeshkian defends diplomacy amid domestic criticism. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian rejected criticism from headline factions over the government’s indirect engagement with Washington. He said every diplomatic step had been taken within Iran’s established decision-making framework and under the guidance of Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei. “If the leadership had ordered no negotiations, we would have certainly obeyed,” Pezeshkian said. He added that the Supreme National Security Council overwhelmingly backed the diplomatic process, with 12 of its 13 members supporting the current approach. The Iranian President maintained that all measures undertaken by his administration were consistent with the country’s broader strategic policies. US says negotiations are progressing well. US Vice President JD Vance also expressed confidence in the Doha process, saying technical-level discussions involving American, Iranian and Qatari officials were progressing well. “It’s still pretty early, but talks are going well,” Vance told CNN. He said technical negotiators were working through detailed issues before discussions shifted to Iran’s nuclear programme. “Well, right now, the technical negotiators are sitting down with the Iranians, with the Qataris, and with others in Doha, talking about some of the details here,” he said, adding: “We’re worried about the nuclear issue. We’re going to start talk-

ing about that, so right now the talks are going well”. In the meantime, Vance, speaking at Naval Air Station Oceana in Virginia Beach, argued that the negotiations were taking place from what he described as a position of strength following recent US military operations. President Donald Trump also struck an optimistic tone, saying efforts towards the “denuclearisation” of Iran were progressing and reiterating that Tehran would not be allowed to obtain a nuclear weapon. “They’ve come a long way. We hit them very hard last week. They’re fine. We’re going to get it. It’s the denuclearisation of Iran,” Trump said. Frozen assets, Lebanon commitments remain key issues. Iranian officials said the Doha discussions also focused on the implementation of commitments under the Islamabad MoU. According to Gharibabadi, Tehran accused Washington of failing to honour commitments relating to Lebanon and stressed that the agreement must be implemented as a single package rather than through selective provisions. He said a direct communication mechanism would be established between members of the joint monitoring group to document, review and address future implementation issues. The latest round of talks concluded without direct high-level US-Iran negotiations, but both sides agreed to continue indirect engagement through Qatari and Pakistani mediators in the coming weeks.

Russia launches overnight missile and drone barrage on Kyiv; apartment block collapses, fires erupt

Kyiv, July 3: Russia launched a fresh wave of overnight missile and drone attacks on Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, early Thursday, triggering powerful explosions across the city, damaging residential buildings and igniting multiple fires. The assault came amid growing fears of an escalation in the conflict, with Ukrainian officials warning residents in advance to prepare for another large-scale strike. Air-raid sirens wailed across Kyiv late Wednesday night as successive waves of Russian attack drones and ballistic missiles approached the city. Ukrainian air-defence systems were activated immediately, engaging incoming threats for several hours. Despite interception efforts, several explosions were heard across different parts of the capital, causing panic among residents and widespread damage. The attack followed a warning from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who said intelligence reports indicated that Russia was preparing another major strike on Kyiv. He urged citizens to remain vigilant, closely monitor air-raid alerts, and immediately seek shelter whenever warnings were issued. Thousands of Kyiv residents responded by taking refuge in underground subway stations, many carrying sleeping bags, blankets, and pets as they



prepared for what officials described as a potentially prolonged assault. Authorities had advised residents to remain indoors and avoid unnecessary travel during the night. Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko confirmed that emergency services had been deployed across multiple districts following reports of fires and structural damage. He urged people to remain inside bomb shelters after ballistic missiles entered Ukrainian airspace, warning that additional strikes could follow. One of the most serious incidents occurred when a nine-storey apartment building partially collapsed after being struck during the attack. Rescue teams rushed to the site, fearing that several residents could be trapped beneath the rubble. Firefighters and search-and-rescue personnel worked through the night to locate survivors and extinguish fires. Authorities also reported multiple blazes in different parts of the city, including a major fire in

the city centre. Emergency crews battled flames on the roof of a hotel, while another residential building caught fire in a separate district. Thick smoke was seen rising over several neighbourhoods as rescue operations continued. The complete extent of casualties was not immediately known. Mayor Klitschko said at least five medical workers were injured while responding to the emergency, though officials cautioned that casualty figures could rise as rescue efforts progressed. The latest attack comes as Ukraine has intensified its own long-range drone operations targeting Russian territory. In recent weeks, Ukrainian forces have carried out strikes on fuel infrastructure inside Russia, launched drone attacks near Moscow, and continued military operations in Crimea, the Black Sea peninsula annexed by Russia in 2014. Kyiv says these operations are aimed at increasing pressure on Moscow and weakening its military capabilities.

Speaking during a visit to Ireland before returning to Ukraine, President Zelenskyy reiterated that Russian President Vladimir Putin remained determined to continue the war. “Putin wants to keep fighting. That is why he must face conditions that make it impossible for him to keep this war going,” Zelenskyy said. Meanwhile, diplomatic tensions between Russia and the United States also remain high. On June 25, Russia reiterated its warning to Washington over continued military assistance to Ukraine. Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said Moscow had repeatedly expressed concerns about Western weapons supplies to Kyiv, arguing that continued military support could have “unforeseen consequences” for regional and global security. She also criticised Zelenskyy over his recent remarks concerning Belarus, accusing him of displaying what she described as a “terrorist nature.” The overnight assault underscores the continuing intensity of the war, with both sides escalating military operations even as diplomatic efforts to end the conflict remain stalled. Emergency responders continue rescue operations in Kyiv as authorities assess the full scale of the damage caused by the latest Russian strikes.

Venezuela earthquake toll climbs to 2,295; seven-day national mourning declared

Venezuela has declared seven days of national mourning after the death toll from the twin earthquakes that struck the country on June 24 rose to 2,295, according to the latest official update. The revised toll reflects the scale of the disaster as rescue operations continue across affected regions. Authorities said more than 11,000 people have been injured, thousands have been rescued, and temporary camps are being expanded to accommodate those displaced by the earthquakes. National Assembly President Jorge Rodriguez said on Wednesday (local time) that 11,267 people had been injured and 12,841 had been affected by the disaster. He said rescue teams had pulled 6,461 people to safety. More than 4,000 domestic and international rescue workers and volunteers remain engaged in search and relief operations. According to the official



Temporary camps expanded as rescue efforts continue. Rodriguez, who also heads the command centre overseeing temporary shelters, said authorities were rapidly equipping relief camps and relocating affected residents. He urged health workers, firefighters and security personnel to register on the Patria platform to support housing and rehabilitation efforts. According to the official

update, 25 temporary camps are currently operational. Thirteen are in La Guaira, eight in Caracas, two in Miranda, one in Carabobo and one in Yaracuy. Hundreds of aftershocks recorded since June 24. Authorities said Venezuela has experienced 782 aftershocks since the twin earthquakes struck on June 24. Rodriguez said both the frequency and intensity of the tremors had declined

in recent days. Acting president announces week-long national mourning. Acting president Delcy Rodriguez announced a seven-day period of national mourning beginning at 6 p.m. on Wednesday (local time). “In honour of the memory of the victims, I have decided to decree National Mourning for seven (7) days, starting at 6:00 p.m. today,” she said in a statement shared on social media. “In these moments of profound sadness, we embrace those who suffer from this tragedy and reaffirm our commitment to accompany and protect them,” she said. “Venezuela’s soul is torn by the human losses caused by the devastating earthquakes,” Rodriguez added. The earthquakes struck Venezuela on June 24 and triggered a large-scale rescue and relief operation that remains underway.

Delhi-NCR premium housing sales jump 30%, homes above Rs 1 Crore make up 71% of demand: Report



Delhi-NCR’s premium residential market continued to outperform the broader housing sector in the first quarter of 2026, with housing sales rising 30 per cent year-on-year. This growth was driven by higher incomes, infrastructure-led growth and sustained demand from affluent homebuyers, according to a report by Equirus Securities. The brokerage said the premiumisation trend has strengthened significantly, with homes priced above ?1 crore

accounting for nearly 71 per cent of all residential transactions in the region during the January-March quarter. Developers also stepped up supply, with new residential launches increasing 64 per cent year-on-year, reflecting confidence in sustained demand despite early signs of moderation in the wider housing market. Equirus attributed the strong performance to robust employment growth, rising household incomes and large-scale infrastructure projects, including the

Dwarka Expressway and the Noida International Airport. These developments are expanding the premium residential catchment across Delhi-NCR and enhancing the region’s long-term investment appeal, the report said. While the brokerage expects the overall residential market to enter a more moderate growth phase due to macroeconomic uncertainties, softer white-collar hiring and a higher base, it believes the premium housing segment is likely to remain resilient. According to the report, homebuyers are increasingly favouring quality-led developments over speculative investments, with greater emphasis on established brands, timely project execution, financial strength, corporate governance and differentiated

offerings. Equirus said developers such as Max Estates, ATS, DLF and Oberoi Realty are well placed to benefit from these structural shifts, backed by their execution track record, premium product portfolios and disciplined balance sheets. The report also identified non-resident Indians (NRIs) and high-net-worth individuals (HNIs) as key drivers of premium housing demand. Although geopolitical tensions in the Middle East could temporarily weigh on overseas investments into Indian real estate, Equirus expects NRI participation to remain on a long-term growth trajectory, supported by rupee depreciation, increased confidence in regulated projects and a growing preference for branded developers.

Tata Steel looking beyond 40 MTPA; planning next phase of growth, says Chandrasekaran

Tata Steel is progressing steadily towards its long-term target of 40 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) capacity and has already begun planning for the next phase of growth, Chairman N Chandrasekaran said here on Thursday at the company’s 119th Annual General Meeting (AGM) conducted through videoconferencing, from its Bombay House headquarters. Speaking at the AGM, Chandrasekaran highlighted Tata Steel’s expansion strategy, saying that the recent commissioning of Phase II at the Kalinganagar plant has increased Tata Steel’s total capacity to 26.1 MTPA. “During the year, the Company has taken various initiatives for expansion in India. We achieved a major milestone with the commissioning of Phase II expansion at Kalinganagar, taking our total capacity to 26.1 MTPA and expanding the site capacity from 3 MTPA to 8 MTPA. With India’s largest blast furnace and state-of-the-art cold rolling mill, we have strategically enhanced our flat products portfolio and strengthened our presence in high-value, technology-intensive segments such as automotive



and defence. This is a decisive step towards our long-term vision of achieving 40 MTPA capacity,” Chandrasekaran said. Chandrasekaran reviewed the company’s FY26 performance and said that Tata Steel delivered a consolidated revenue of Rs 2,32,140 crore, supported by record crude steel production of around 23.4 million tonnes. Consolidated EBITDA rose 35% to Rs 34,848 crore, while Profit After Tax (PAT) increased by 243% to Rs 10,886 crore, he said, adding that the board has recommended a dividend of Rs 4 per equity share. “The company continues to focus on value-added products and digital engagements, achieving strong growth, supported by expansion into defence and shipbuilding. The company is also expanding its downstream capacity through tubes, tinplate and wires. During the year, the company undertook important strategic initiatives,

including the consolidation of ownership in Tata Steel Colors and acquisition of a majority stake in Thriveni Pellets – both of which are critical to its long-term competitiveness,” Chandrasekaran said. He stated that Tata Steel’s position in India will be further reinforced through the planned expansion of Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited (NINL), along with the recently inaugurated 0.75 MTPA electric arc furnace in Ludhiana, Punjab, which will significantly strengthen the company’s long products portfolio. The Tata Steel board has also approved the amalgamation of NINL into Tata Steel, which will enhance synergies and simplify the corporate structure, Chandrasekaran said. “In Europe, we have entered into a decisive transformation phase. In the UK, we broke ground on the GBP 1.25 billion electric arc furnace (EAF) project at Port Talbot, marking the commencement of the UK’s largest low-carbon steelmaking transition, in partnership with the UK government. The project is progressing in terms of engineering, design and construction,” Chandrasekaran said.

Sensex jumps 579 points, Nifty tops 24,175 as easing oil prices lift market mood

Mumbai, July 2 : Indian benchmark equity indices ended sharply higher on Thursday, supported by a decline in global crude oil prices after encouraging signs emerged from trade talks between the United States and Iran, boosting investor sentiment. The Nifty closed at 24,175.70, gaining 169.85 points, or 0.71 per cent, while the Sensex advanced 579.48 points, or 0.75 per cent, to settle at 77,502.12. Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said that the index witnessed steady buying interest throughout the session and gradually advanced towards the 24,200 resistance zone. “From a technical per-



spective, a sustained breakout above this band would reinforce bullish momentum and could pave the way for an advance towards the 24,400–24,450 region, where the 200-day EMA is positioned,” a market expert said. “On the downside, the 24,000 psychological mark is expected to act as the immediate sup-

port zone,” the expert added. Technology stocks led the rally, with Infosys, Tech Mahindra and Tata Consultancy Services emerging as the top gainers in the Nifty index. The strong performance helped the Nifty IT index register its biggest single-day gain since May 2025. The broader market also

participated in the uptrend. The Nifty MidCap index ended 0.48 per cent higher, while the Nifty SmallCap index outperformed with a gain of 1.25 per cent. Among sectoral indices, the Nifty IT was the best performer of the day. The Nifty Auto, Nifty Consumer Durables and Nifty Realty indices also posted strong gains as positive global cues and easing concerns over oil prices lifted market sentiment. “Easing energy prices and fresh India-Japan agreements in strategic areas such as AI, defence technology and energy security helped sustain domestic market optimism,” as per the analyst.

Megastar vs Superstar at the Box Office Again?



A massive box-office battle could be on the cards if the latest reports are to be believed. Megastar Chiranjeevi's Vishwambhara and Superstar Rajinikanth's Jailer 2 are reportedly eyeing release dates just a day apart, setting the stage for one of the biggest clashes in recent times. According to industry buzz, Jailer 2 is targeting an October 15 release, while Vishwambhara is expected to arrive on October 16. If both films stick to these dates, audiences could witness another high-profile showdown between two of Indian cinema's biggest legends. Interestingly, this wouldn't be the first time Chiranjeevi and Rajinikanth have gone head-to-head. Back in 2023, Chiranjeevi's Bhola Shankar clashed with Rajinikanth's Jailer. While Jailer emerged as a massive blockbuster and dominated the box office, Bhola

Shankar failed to make an impact commercially. Now, fate appears to be bringing the two icons together once again. However, the situation is very different this time. Vishwambhara is a fantasy adventure mounted on a grand scale, while Jailer 2 carries the goodwill of a hugely successful franchise and the popularity of Nelson Dilipkumar's first installment. Trade experts believe both films have the potential to open big, but a clash could affect their overall box-office potential. Fans of both stars are already discussing the possibility online, making it one of the hottest topics in South Indian cinema. For now, the release dates remain unofficial. But if the clash materializes, October 2026 could witness a truly epic battle between Chiranjeevi and Rajinikanth once again.

Ram Charan Can't Find Big Directors?



To score big, one has to find big directors who can give big films. Else, star heroes should find directors who have the vision to give a pan-India level story and execute it in a way that the film would become universally appealing and get applauded. Otherwise, it would become a "Peddi" that got applause and massive collections in Telugu states but hasn't found reception up north. But still, it's coming out that Ram Charan thinks working with Buchi Babu will help him next time. According to some reports, Ram Charan recently made a producer give an advance to Buchi Babu, and the director is working on the script of his new story, which will once again feature the New Age Megastar. As his

role in the film Peddi got huge applause for his acting prowess, the actor feels that working again with director Buchi Babu Sana will sharpen his acting skills. Many are wondering if this news is true and Charan will really team up with Buchi Babu for a film again after wrapping Sukumar's project. At a time when the likes of Jr NTR and Allu Arjun are finding top-notch directors like Prashanth Neel, Atlee, Lokesh Kanagaraj and others, many are wondering why Charan is still toying with the idea of Buchi Babu, whose content hasn't appealed to all sections of society. Many are wondering if this is Charan's strategy to work with these directors and score big hits, or if he can't simply do enough PR to grab big filmmakers.



Will Naga Bandham Reach Delhi Leaders

Among the upcoming releases at the box office, there is one movie that is generating a special interest. Titled Nagabandham, the movie is going to offer a divine experience touching the Hindutva elements. The promotional material already hinted at the film's world, giving an understanding of what one can expect from the movie. Meanwhile, the big question that everyone has is that can the film impress the big BJP bosses in North. The Sanathana Dharma element in the movies is getting a lot of reception from the audiences. It is also catching the attention of BJP leaders from north. Leaders like Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, JP Nadda and others shared their admiration towards filmmakers behind Kantara, HanuMan and even Karthikeya. All these films also got a good release and reception. Meanwhile, when the makers are asked if they have a chance to showcase their film or catch the attention of the BJP leaders, the team said that everyone would want a film like Sanathana Dharma but they'll consider approaching big wigs probably for the film's



sequel. According to them, they are too small now to take that step. But it'll be a good opportunity if the team gets a chance to showcase their film to Delhi leaders as it can bring a lot of attention towards the film in the North. The film's plot is "A captivating exploration of India's ancient Vishnu temples, delving into the enigmatic ritual of Nagabandham. The film unveils hidden mysteries and sacred traditions, offering a glimpse into the spiritual world of these revered sites." Directed by Abhishek Nama, the film features Virat Karna and Nabha Natesh in the lead roles. The movie is hitting the screens on July 3rd.

Thiru Veer's Oh..! Sukumari Release Date Confirmed



Thiru Veer and Aishwarya Rajesh starrer Oh..! Sukumari, directed by Bharat Dharshan, has already piqued interest through its teaser and first single, both of which hinted at a refreshingly different storyline. Rather than following a conventional love story, the film revolves around a quirky

premise that instantly stands out. Today, the makers came up with an update of the film's release date. Oh..! Sukumari will grace the cinemas on July 17. The release date announcement comes with a captivating poster. Aishwarya Rajesh is seen sitting peacefully on a hilltop, while Thiru Veer appears

to float towards her with a bright smile, creating a whimsical and fairy-tale-like atmosphere. The film blends rural flavor with romance, comedy, and family emotions, offering what appears to be a complete entertainer, backed by producer Maheswara Reddy Mooli under the Gangaa Entertainments banner.

Biggest task in front of Paradise



From losing out on a March release to giving up the August 2026 release date, Nani's The Paradise movie has already lost a chunk of good release dates. Currently, the film is being shot in Hyderabad on specially erected sets, and inside sources revealed that the shoot would take longer than anticipated. However, the big thing is not about wrapping the shoot, but finding the right date again. While July and August are already ruled out by The Paradise itself, they should focus on September, October and November for a good release. Because December and January 2027 are also packed with lots of biggies. However, movies like Vijay Deverakonda's Ranabali, Venkatesh's Adarsha Kutumbam, Tarun

Bhaskar's Ee Nagaraniki Emaindi 2, Rashmika's Mysaa are already looking at big dates. At the same time, biggies like Chiranjeevi's Vishwambhara is eyeing October 16th, while Rajinikanth's Jailer 2 is also coming a couple of days around it. If the likes of Fauzi also seal this year's dates, along with Shah Rukh Khan's King and other films, surely Nani will not be able to find a solo date. Even Nani gets to find a solo release across the nation, quite luckily, there will be only a week window for the ?200 crore budgeted movie to make it big. That's the biggest worry right now for The Paradise makers as they have to find a solo date and also two weeks window to make it big around ?400-500 crores of collection, to the least.

'Rangasthalam Could Have Shaken the Entire Country'



Ahead of the release of Lenin, Akhil Akkineni and Bhagyashri Borse sat down with Gulite pro's Ram Venkat Srikar for an engaging conversation that went beyond routine promotions. They spoke about the film's rooted storytelling, evolving cinema, and why they strongly believe content is becoming the biggest star. One of the most interesting moments came when Akhil spoke about Rangasthalam. He said, "I feel that if Rangasthalam released today, it would have shaken the entire country, just like Pushpa." According to him, the film was ahead of its time and its rustic world, emotional depth, and authentic story-

telling would have found an even bigger nationwide audience in today's pan India era. Explaining why Lenin excited him, Akhil said the film carries the same honesty and rootedness that made classics like Rangasthalam memorable. He added that young actors today cannot rely only on star image and must first earn the audience's trust through strong stories and believable characters. Bhagyashri shared her experience of shooting on a massive village set with hundreds of junior artists every day. She admitted it was overwhelming at first, but the realistic atmosphere helped her immerse herself in the character

and deliver a more natural performance. Both actors agreed that the script was the biggest reason they signed Lenin. They described it as an organic love story woven into intense drama, saying the emotional journey is what sets the film apart from routine commercial entertainers. The duo also praised director Murali Kishor Abburi for giving actors enough freedom while ensuring every scene stayed true to the film's realistic tone. They expressed confidence that Lenin will leave audiences emotionally satisfied and prove that heartfelt storytelling still has the power to create magic on the big screen.

Weakest Film in the YRF Spy Universe Yet?

As the release of Alpha draws closer, concerns are growing over its relatively weak pre-release buzz. With only three days left before it hits theaters, the film has yet to generate the kind of excitement typically associated with the YRF Spy Universe. Previous installments built strong anticipation through impactful trailers, hit songs, memorable promotional campaigns, and widespread audience discussions. In comparison, Alpha has struggled to create the same level of momentum. Lead actors Alia Bhatt and Sharvari have been actively promoting the film through interviews, events, and media appearances. Despite these efforts, online conversations and audience enthusiasm appear more subdued than expected for a major franchise release. This has led some fans and industry observers to question whether the marketing campaign has been effective enough. Ultimately, the film's fate will depend on its content. If Alpha receives positive reviews and strong word of mouth after release, it can still overcome the muted pre-release response and perform well at the box office. However, if the film fails to impress audiences, it could raise questions about the future direction and consistency of the YRF Spy Universe. For a cinematic universe that has established high expectations with previous successes, Alpha represents an important test. Its performance may influence both audience confidence and the franchise's long-term momentum. Let's see what happens.

Sandeep Vanga Is Racing Ahead With Spirit

Sandeep Reddy Vanga's no-nonsense approach towards filmmaking puts him in a league of his own. Besides his explosive style in presenting the lead protagonist, one impressive quality that has been consistent throughout his career is the way he sticks to the timelines once he kick starts the shooting formalities. This is once again evident with his upcoming film Spirit which stars Prabhas in the lead role. Right from the start till now, the much awaited cop drama has been progressing at a brisk pace. He has avoided the typical delays associated with big-budget films. Instead, he has kept the momentum incredibly high, pushing the cast and crew to give their absolute best every single day. Even though the movie started its production later than initially expected, the team has lost no time in getting straight to business. Currently, reports suggest that a massive 70% of the film's shoot is already completed. Vanga continues to move at a very brisk pace to ensure the timeline does not slip. One of the biggest advantages of his shooting strategy is that he is capturing the story in raw and real locations. By choosing actual places over heavy, imaginary studio sets, the film will not



require extensive, time-consuming digital post-production work. This smart decision is saving the team a massive amount of time. The makers have confidently locked in their release plans well in advance and the movie is very much on track to hit screens worldwide on March 5, 2027. This disciplined schedule is a massive relief for Prabhas fans. All his previous films since Baahubali faced major delays during production, testing the patience of audiences. However, Spirit is breaking that pattern entirely. Even though Spirit also faced some hiccups in the early stages, Sandeep Reddy Vanga's relentless pace has kept it perfectly on track.

'What started as a dream has become a reality': Shah Rukh Khan on Knight Riders' international cricket stadium in LA

Los Angeles, July 2 : Bollywood Superstar and Kolkata Knight Riders co-owner Shah Rukh Khan hailed the opening of the Knight Riders Cricket Ground in Los Angeles as the realisation of a long-cherished dream after the venue hosted its first-ever Major League Cricket (MLC) match, with the Knight Riders Group becoming the first global cricket franchise to establish an international-standard cricket stadium. The Los Angeles Knight Riders (LAKR) took on Washington Freedom in the inaugural fixture at the newly-built venue, marking another milestone in cricket's growing presence in the United States. Reflecting on the historic occasion, Shah Rukh Khan said the project was the culmination of years of planning and a vision to take cricket to newer audiences. "What started as a dream has become a reality today. Bringing cricket, the second most-watched sport in the world, to Los Angeles is a landmark moment for all of us. Through this long-term



partnership between Fairplex and Knight Riders, we are creating much more than a cricket venue. We are building a space that celebrates community, togetherness, energy and entertainment. It is a place built not just for sport, but also for entertainment, for families, and for memories that will last forever," he said. Expressing his hopes for the future, Shah Rukh Khan said he wanted the ground to become the city's cricketing home and inspire generations of players and fans. "We hope this becomes a home for cricket in Los

Angeles and inspires generations of fans and players alike. This is for Los Angeles, for cricket fans across the globe, and for the Knight Riders family. Believe in Purple and Gold," he added. Knight Riders Sports CEO Venky Mysore described the stadium as a defining moment in the franchise's global journey. "The Knight Riders Cricket Ground, LA is much more than a stadium; it is a statement of intent for the future of cricket. Becoming the first global cricket brand to establish an international cricket stadium is a proud milestone for the

Knight Riders Group and reflects our belief that the growth of the game must be supported by world-class infrastructure," Mysore said. Built to international standards, the Knight Riders Cricket Ground features eight wickets on the main square, ICC-standard playing dimensions, six 120-foot floodlight towers and required the movement of over 32,000 metric tonnes of earth during construction. The venue will stage Major League Cricket matches from July 1 to July 5, reinforcing the United States' emergence as one of cricket's fastest-growing markets.

If Vaibhav needs to play, he should, but not at the expense of dropping someone: Pujara



New Delhi, July 2 : Former India batter Cheteshwar Pujara addressed the discussion surrounding India's top order ahead of the second T20I against England, making it clear that he does not believe Sanju Samson should lose his place to accommodate Vaibhav Sooryavanshi despite growing calls for the teenage batter to be included in the playing XI. The veteran batter added that constant speculation over Samson's place in the side was unnecessary, insisting the wicketkeeper-batter deserves a longer run. "I think India should persist with Sanju Samson. I

don't think he should be feeling any pressure. He has proved himself in the T20 World Cup and, with the kind of talent he possesses, he should be there in the playing XI," Pujara said on JioStar. "There shouldn't be a lot of noise about dropping Sanju Samson. He is a quality player and should get a longer run. Sanju just needs to bat naturally and not think too much," he added. While Pujara acknowledged that Sooryavanshi has earned an opportunity, he argued that the youngster's inclusion should not come at the cost of disrupting India's established top order. "If Vaibhav needs to play, he should play, but

not at the expense of dropping someone, rather by resting someone. If you want to give him an opportunity, that is fine. But you shouldn't be dropping any of India's top three players, whether it's Sanju, Abhishek or Ishan Kishan. Having said that, Vaibhav does deserve an opportunity, and his opportunity will come," he mentioned. Pujara also praised captain Shreyas Iyer's composed innings after India recovered from an early setback to post a competitive total in the rain-hit opening T20I against England in Durham. With India losing early wickets after electing to bat first, Pujara said Iyer's ability to steady the innings before accelerating played a decisive role in putting the visitors in a strong position. Pujara felt Iyer delivered exactly what was expected of a captain after India found themselves under pressure in the powerplay, balancing caution with aggression as the innings progressed. "It was an important

knock from Shreyas Iyer and, when you are leading the team, you always look to lead from the front. He showed a lot of maturity because India were in trouble after losing a couple of early wickets," Pujara told JioStar. He also credited Iyer for pacing his innings according to the match situation before shifting gears once he was well established at the crease. "Abhishek played a good knock, but it was important for Shreyas to hold one end up and take his time. Once he was set, he played some quality shots," he added. According to Pujara, the India captain's innings reflected both responsibility and leadership, leaving the side in an excellent position by the end of its 20 overs. "If you look at his innings at the end of the 20 overs, you know that, as a captain, you have done your job. You have put your team in a very commanding position. This was a perfect knock from Shreyas, both as a leader and as a batter," he said.

'Had enough runs to defend': Parthiv backs India's batting efforts in washed-out T20I vs ENG

New Delhi, July 2 : Former India wicketkeeper Parthiv Patel backed India's batting display after the rain-hit opening T20I against England in Durham ended without a result on Wednesday. India, who opted to bat first after winning the toss, posted 190 before persistent rain prevented the second innings from getting underway. Assessing the visitors' performance after play was called off, Patel said the innings showed India's willingness to adapt to English conditions and highlighted Abhishek Sharma's impact at the top of the order. According to Patel, India embraced the challenge of batting in unfamiliar conditions instead of taking a cautious approach. "From India's point of view, they needed this kind of batting performance, especially after what had happened in Ireland. They wanted to challenge themselves; they wanted to adapt to the conditions early, and India did that really well in this game," Patel told JioStar. "190 runs on this pitch, with three spinners bowling through the middle overs, I thought India had



enough runs to defend. Nevertheless, they will definitely be more confident going into the second T20I," he added. The former India cricketer also reserved special praise for Abhishek Sharma, crediting the left-hander for quickly reading the nature of the surface and making the most of scoring opportunities. "I thought he batted really well. He understood the conditions well. There was a slightly spongier bounce in Durham, but he made sure that whenever the opportunity presented itself, he capitalised on it," he stated.

Patel pointed to Abhishek's aggressive intent against both pace and spin as one of the defining features of the innings, as he said, "That over from Saqib Mahmood was an important one, where he stepped out and hit three boundaries, two over point and one over mid-off. Then, when the spinners came on, he chose the right areas to hit those sixes." Looking beyond the knock itself, Patel said performances in overseas conditions continue to reinforce Abhishek's credentials as one of the leading batters in the shortest

format. "Scoring runs in the SENA countries, South Africa, England, New Zealand and Australia, puts a stamp on your authority and your skill set. Usually, that's how you get judged. He did well in South Africa, then in Australia, and now he has scored runs in English conditions as well. That is the reason why he has been either the No. 1 or No. 2 T20I batter for almost a year," Patel mentioned. The two sides will next face off in the second T20I on Saturday at Old Trafford in Manchester.

T20 is here to stay, not too sure about ODI cricket: Ashwin

New Delhi, July 2 : Former India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin believes T20 cricket has cemented its place as the format that will drive the sport's future, while expressing doubts over the long-term sustainability of One-Day Internationals. Speaking during a media interaction after the European T20 Premier League (ETPL) 2026 Player Draft on Thursday, the Dublin Guardians captain and mentor said T20's shorter duration makes it the ideal vehicle for cricket's global expansion and its return to the Olympic Games. Responding to a question on whether cricket's growth in emerging nations should focus only on T20s or extend equally to other formats, Ashwin stressed that players must first master the art of adapting to different situations, irrespective of the format they play. "I think cricket as a whole needs to be learned in a way that you get better every single day. You should be able to adapt. The name of the game is adaptation," Ashwin said



in a media interaction following the conclusion of the ETPL 2026 Player Draft. He pointed to India's recent T20I series against Ireland as an example of how external conditions can significantly influence the shortest format, forcing players to evolve constantly. "Which is why what happened recently between India and Ireland in that T20 series is a classic example of how conditions can eliminate a lot of aspects of the game that have been developed as a root cause of T20 as a sport," the all-rounder

added. The veteran spinner, however, believes that when it comes to expanding cricket's footprint across new markets, T20 remains the most practical and effective format. "But that aside, our job will be purely on T20 cricket and how it can get better. And if the game has to become global and it has to become an Olympic sport, the shorter the game, the more viable it is," the Dublin Guardians captain and mentor stated. Ashwin said the format's accessibility and the

opportunities created by franchise leagues around the world would continue to fuel its growth and expose a wider pool of players to elite competition, stating, "And that's how it's going to become much bigger, and you will see a better sample size of players. Which is also very critical for several of these leagues, which run through the year." The 38-year-old then offered a blunt assessment of how he views the future of the game's formats. "T20 as a sport is here to stay. I am not too sure about ODI cricket."

India to tour Sri Lanka for a two-match Test series from August 15-27



Colombo, July 2 : India has been confirmed to tour Sri Lanka in August 2026 for a two-match Test series, which will be part of the ongoing ICC World Test Championship (WTC) 2025-2027 cycle, Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) announced on Thursday. According to a statement by SLC, the opening Test match will be played at

the picturesque Galle International Cricket Stadium (GICS) from August 15 to 19. The second and final Test is scheduled to be held at the Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC) in Colombo from August 23 to 27. Both matches are scheduled to commence at 10 am local time. The two-game assignment holds significance for both

teams as they look to climb up the WTC standings. In the current WTC cycle points table, the Shubman Gill-led India have a points percentage (PCT) of 48.15 after nine matches and are in fifth place. Sri Lanka, meanwhile, are at the sixth spot with a PCT of 44.44. A series victory will provide a much-needed push for either

side in their bid to secure a top-two finish and make the final. The upcoming series marks India's return to Sri Lanka for playing Tests after 2017, when, under the captaincy of Virat Kohli, they managed to get a clean sweep victory. With the Lanka Premier League (LPL) scheduled to conclude on August 8, the Test series against India will begin after it ends. There was no mention from the SLC on the addition of a three-match T20I series between India and Sri Lanka, which was initially proposed with an aim to raise funds for relief and reconstruction efforts in the island nation following Cyclone Ditwah. As of now, Dhruv Jurel-led India A are currently in Sri Lanka for a two-match red-ball shadow tour in Galle. After the first game ended in a draw, the second four-day match is currently underway.

Entire world waiting to see Sooryavanshi play, will feature in all three formats soon, says Karim

New Delhi, July 2 : Teenage batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is not only the cynosure of Indian fans, but also of the entire cricketing world, who is eagerly waiting to see him perform at the highest level, said former India selector and wicketkeeper Saba Karim. Sooryavanshi, who grabbed headlines by amassing 776 runs at a staggering strike-rate of 237.30 to bag the Player-of-the-Tournament honour in IPL 2026 for Rajasthan Royals, is currently eyeing a much-anticipated international debut for India in the ongoing five-match T20I series against England. Sooryavanshi was unused in Ireland, as India suffered a shock 2-0 series loss.



"In my opinion, in the history of the IPL, perhaps after that season of Virat Kohli when he scored so many runs, if one season has to be defined, it is Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's IPL, IPL 2026. The kind of performances he has put in against top-quality bowlers, even though in Indian conditions, have been top-notch. "I have full faith in his ability to score big runs. Not only Indian fans but the entire world is waiting to see Vaibhav Sooryavanshi play in the same manner that he did

in the IPL. I have high hopes for this young lad. Very soon, we will see him in all three formats. I am dead sure about it," said Karim on JioStar. He also recalled of the time when Sooryavanshi first burst in IPL 2025 and didn't expect him to get big runs. "I didn't expect him to score in his very first year. But before last season's IPL, I remember getting a lot of videos from all his coaches, Manish Ojha from the Patna academy, our Bhojpuri commentator Robin, and a few others, saying, 'Sir, you have to watch him. He's a kid, but he has great timing.' "When he was bought in the auction, I was just hoping that he would get a chance to play at least once because I wanted the world to see that India now has such a talented player. Just imagine, you're playing your first match on such a big plat-

form, up against a top-quality bowler who has played for India. He had no baggage whatsoever. The first ball he faced, he completely dismissed the bowler from his sight. This is what Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is all about." Dismissing concerns that the youngster would suffer from second-season blues after opposition analysts figured out his game, Karim revealed of his reassuring conversation with RR batting coach Vikram Rathour. "Even after he scored that record 170-odd in the Under-19 World Cup final, everybody still felt that in the second season, it was possible that bowlers would come with definite plans against him and cause him problems, targeting his body and identifying areas to trouble him. "But I didn't feel that he would have second-sea-

son blues. I felt that he was well prepared, and he batted in the same way. I remember having a chat with Vikram Rathour, who is the batting coach at Rajasthan Royals, where I asked him if Vaibhav could find it challenging against top-quality bowling or short-pitched deliveries at 145-150 clicks. He said, 'Saba, just wait and watch.' I think he is equally prepared to handle any kind of delivery," he said. Karim went on to praise Sooryavanshi's high cricketing IQ and his rapid adaptability, noting how the left-hander expanded his shot range to counter targeted bowling. "This is the best trait of Vaibhav's batting. He realises very quickly where the bowlers might target him, takes a few balls to assess whether he has the shots in his armoury to score against those deliveries, and prepares accordingly. "That kind of preparation is what he has done. That's why this year we have seen him start to play the upper cut against shorter deliveries, hit through the covers with a strong base, go over long-off, over cover, and play inside-out shots. All these shots that he has added to his scoring repertoire mean that now, whatever the conditions are, whatever the bowling attack is, he is ready," he concluded.

AP Minister Gottipati Ravikumar orders measures to resolve power issues

Vijayawada July 2 (Skyline daily): Andhra Pradesh Minister Gottipati Ravikumar has directed officials to accelerate measures to resolve power outages and low-voltage issues across the state. The Minister reviewed the status of power supply, project progress, and thermal power generation. He ordered the completion of TRANSCO projects within the stipulated deadlines and instructed officials to review project delays with contractors to expedite the work. He emphasised the need for coordination with District Collectors to resolve field-level issues promptly. The Minister noted that the Plant Load Factor (PLF) of thermal plants exceeded 80 per cent between January and June, whereas it had remained between 45% and 50% during the previous government's tenure. The Minister instructed officials to ensure that thermal power stations maintain coal reserves sufficient for at



least 15 days. He called for strengthening APGENCO and increasing captive power generation, while also directing officials to formulate a strategy to reduce power purchases. He further instructed that an action plan regarding BESS (Battery Energy Storage Systems) be prepared to meet future power requirements. Minister Gottipati Ravikumar directed officials to work towards enhancing public satisfaction with power sector services.

Rs 100.69-cr AMRUT 2.0 water project launched in Penukonda



Penukonda: July 2 A major drinking water infrastructure project under the AMRUT 2.0 scheme, estimated at Rs 100.69 crore, was launched in Penukonda Municipality on Wednesday. The foundation stone was laid by Revenue Minister Anagani Satya Prasad, Minister Savithamma, Hindupur MP BK Parthasarathi, and Sri Sathya Sai District Collector A Shyam Prasad. The massive project aims to overhaul and strengthen the drinking water supply system across Penukonda and surrounding areas. Speaking at the gathering, Minister Savitha stated that the project

was sanctioned keeping in mind the town's rising population and the escalating water requirements driven by industrial growth, particularly around the nearby Kia manufacturing ecosystem. She recalled the region's historical water scarcity that once forced mass migrations, affirming that this project will deliver a permanent solution to ensure safe drinking water reaches every household. During the event, the Ministers also distributed land ownership documents to local beneficiaries. Minister Savitha highlighted the smooth rollout of welfare schemes like Taliki Vandanam and Deepam 2.0, while Revenue

Minister Anagani Satya Prasad reiterated the government's commitment to timely monthly pension distribution and balanced regional development. Hindupur MP BK Parthasarathi noted that the project would bring permanent relief to peripheral villages like Venkatreddypalli, Konapuram, Seefaram, and Venkatapuram. District Collector A Shyam Prasad urged residents to eliminate water wastage and maintain urban cleanliness to help transform Penukonda into a model municipality. The mega launch was attended by public representatives, local officials, and executives from Jindal Industries.

Reliance sets up major plant at Orvakal; EV unit to start ops soon



Kurnool: July 2 Andhra Pradesh Minister for Industries, Commerce and Food Processing, TG Bharath Gupta, has said the State Government is committed to accelerating Kurnool's industrial development with the twin objectives of generating large-scale employment and curbing migration from the district. The Minister made these remarks while participating in a pension distribution programme at Erraburuju in Kurnool city on Wednesday. During the programme, he visited beneficiaries at their residences, personally handed over pensions and interacted with families to understand their grievances. He said the public response during his visits to various wards reflected growing confidence in the coalition government's governance and welfare initiatives over the past two years. The Minister said the government, under the leadership of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Nara Lokesh, is making sustained efforts to attract investments to Kurnool district.

According to him, investment proposals worth nearly Rs.10,000 crore have already been secured for the Orvakal Industrial Park, while an electric vehicle manufacturing unit with a proposed investment of Rs 300 crore is expected to begin operations shortly. He also pointed out that the industrial park had long suffered due to inadequate water infrastructure, but the coalition government prioritised and expedited the pending works after assuming office, paving the way for rapid industrial expansion. Emphasising Orvakal's emergence as a key industrial destination, TG Bharat said several major companies are establishing manufacturing facilities in the region. He noted that Reliance has set up what he described as the world's second-largest beverages manufacturing plant at Orvakal, further strengthening the district's industrial profile. Reiterating the government's commitment to balanced regional development, the Minister also affirmed that efforts are continuing to establish a High Court Bench in Kurnool.

MLA briefs CM over Sarvepalli development



Nellore: July 2 Sarvepalli MLA Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy briefed Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on development activities in his Sarvepalli constituency at Undavalli on Tuesday and presented a specially prepared booklet with details of various development and welfare schemes undertaken in Sarvepalli, including 'P4' initiatives, to the CM. The MLA explained Naidu about upcoming development projects worth crores of rupees planned for the current financial year under P4 initiative, including distribution of another 2,000 bicycles, installation of water plants and solar streetlights, establishment of skill development centers, upgrading high schools into model schools, hospital construction and adoption of Muthukurru and Krishnapatnam panchayats. After the formation of the alliance government, Somireddy focused specifically on the effective utilisation of CSR funds and insisted that 75 per cent of these funds be spent for the benefit of locals, who bear the brunt of industrial pollution after giving up their lands for setting up these industries. He reported that development and welfare schemes worth over Rs 52 crore in CSR funds were implemented in the first year and preparations are currently underway to execute further works worth Rs 34 crore. MLA Somireddy had previously adopted tribal village Mallikarjunapuram and now adopted two children, taking full responsibility of their care.

Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan for opening a new chapter in politics by empowering common people committed to public causes. He noted that his decade-long service as district general secretary helped him earn wider recognition and strengthen the party. He lauded Pawan Kalyan's integrity, saying the leader stands out for fulfilling his promises. Government Kishore cited Bommidu Nayakar's inspiring journey from an ordinary

MLA Jayasurya inaugurates Dronacharya urban forest



Dhone: July 2 In a major boost to urban greenery, the 115-acre Dronacharya Urban Forest, located opposite the new Government Hospital in Dhone, was inaugurated by MLA Kotla Jayasurya Prakash Reddy on Wednesday. Developed by the Forest Department at a cost of Rs 2 crore, the massive park is designed to serve as a vital "green lung" for the town, promoting environmental conservation while offering a peaceful retreat amid rapid urbanization. Speaking at the launch, MLA Jayasurya Prakash Reddy emphasized that expanding green cover is essential for improving public health and quality of life. He stated that the project aligns with the government's core vision of "Health for Every Home and Greenery for Every Region," ensuring residents have seamless access to clean air and sustainable public spaces.

The newly opened urban forest is equipped with modern recreational amenities, including a well-laid walking track, trekking trails, dedicated children's play areas, comfortable visitor seating, and extensive plantations. The MLA expressed confidence that the serene environment would quickly become a popular destination for morning walks, family outings, and leisure activities. Looking ahead, the MLA announced that future developments would be shaped by public feedback. He also revealed major plans to establish a Mini Deer Park and introduce additional recreational features to transform the facility into a prominent eco-tourism hub for the district. The inauguration ceremony was well-attended by public representatives, Forest Department officials, alliance leaders, and a large number of enthusiastic local residents.

Jagan resembles 'Spyder' villain, resorts to 'corpse' politics: JSP

Anantapur: July 2 Janasena district presidents, along with AHUDA Chairman TC Varun and TIDCO Chairman Vemulapati Ajay Kumar, strongly condemned YSRCP chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on Wednesday. Speaking at a press conference, they accused Jagan of disrupting law and order and resorting to desperate "corpse politics," comparing his behavior to the psycho-villain in the movie Spyder. The leaders accused YSRCP of stoking caste and religious tensions for political gain. They questioned Jagan's track record on the rule of law, citing past atrocities during his regime, including the forced tansure of Dalit youth Varaprasad and the murder of Dalit driver Subrahmanyam by former YSRCP MLC Anantha Babu. Issuing a stern warning, TC Varun stated that if YSRCP continues to level baseless allegations against CM Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, they will face a heavy defeat in the upcoming local body polls.



Call to JSP workers to participate in party committee formation



Nellore: July 2 Jana Sena Party leader Gunukula Kishore has highlighted the party's transparent mechanism that identifies and nurtures ordinary grassroots workers, transforming them into capable leaders. Speaking at the party committee formation coordinators' information collection meeting held in Nellore on Wednesday, chaired by Narsapuram MLA and Government Whip Bommidu Narayana Nayakar, Kishore praised

Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan for opening a new chapter in politics by empowering common people committed to public causes. He noted that his decade-long service as district general secretary helped him earn wider recognition and strengthen the party. He lauded Pawan Kalyan's integrity, saying the leader stands out for fulfilling his promises. Government Kishore cited Bommidu Nayakar's inspiring journey from an ordinary

worker to MLA, Government Whip, and Chairman of Fishermen Development Corporation as a shining example for all activists. He also appreciated Sadam Mounika, the first Jana Sena MPPTC member in the district. Urging workers to set aside differences and unite, Kishore called for active participation in the ongoing committee formation process, assuring dedicated members of opportunities within the party.

Dy CM Pawan virtually inaugurates Kailasagiri Eco park



Tirupati: July 2 Deputy Chief Minister K Pawan Kalyan virtually inaugurated newly developed Kailasagiri Eco Park near Ramapuram reservoir in Srikalahasti forest range. It marks the launch of a pilot eco-tourism project aimed at promoting environmental conservation and sustainable tourism. Spread across 50 acres, the park has been developed by Forest department under Nagar Van Yojana with an investment of Rs 2 crore. The project was executed under the joint supervision of the Central and State governments. Speaking on the occasion, Pawan said that urban forests play a key role in providing people with clean air and a healthy environment. He expressed happiness at participating in the inauguration of the Kailasagiri Eco Park, developed amid lush greenery and also appealed to the public to protect urban forests and actively take part in plantation drives. Located amid lush green hills, the eco park has been designed to offer visitors a blend of nature, recreation and environmental awareness. It includes landscaped gardens, herbal plantations and a wide variety of native plant species to

encourage conservation and attract tourists. Another big attraction of the park is a dedicated plantation of red sanders, a tree species native to Seshachalam forests. It also features a Red Garden showcasing endangered plant species, besides gardens developed based on Nakshatras (birth stars) and zodiac signs. It incorporates several eco-friendly features such as solar power generation, nature trails, attractive entrance structures and environmentally sustainable infrastructure to minimise its ecological footprint. Visitors can also enjoy a range of recreational facilities, including trekking trails, a lotus pond, boating, kayaking and pedal boats. The park has food courts, children's play areas, a maze garden, a green hedge maze and an amphitheatre. Other attractions include a giant national flag, archery and rifle shooting facilities, besides a toy tram that offers visitors a ride around the park. Satyavedu MLA K Adimulam, Srikalahasti Devasthanam Chairman Kotte Saiprasad, ChiefConservator of Forests Y Srinivasa Reddy, District Forest Officer V Saibaba, State Silviculturist M Babitha and others participated.

Guv Nazeer visits Prasanthi Nilayam, pays homage to Sri Sathya Sai Baba



Puttaparthi: July 2 Andhra Pradesh Governor S Abdul Nazeer paid a reverential visit to Prasanthi Nilayam on Wednesday, offering prayers at the Maha Samadhi of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba during his visit to the spiritual centre. GeographicReference The

Governor was received by RJ Rathnakar, Managing Trustee of the Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, who welcomed him on behalf of the Trust. Upon his arrival, the Governor proceeded to Sai Kulwant Hall, where he paid floral tributes and offered prayers at the Maha Samadhi of Bhagawan Sri

Sathya Sai Baba. He later visited the Bhajan Hall, spending a few quiet moments in silent contemplation amid the serene atmosphere of the ashram. The visit was marked by traditional courtesies and reflected the Governor's reverence for the spiritual legacy of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.