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JSW Steel Plant work begins in Sunnapurallapally, Kadapa district

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu clarifies that AP will be transformed into a steel state

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Kadapa, July 3
Chief Minister Chandra babu Naidu has clarified that the previous govern- ment had fraudulently laid the foundation stone twice in 2019 and 2023 for the Kadapa Steel Plant and not a single brick was laid, but the people's govern- ment started work as soon as it came to power. He said that his government has made the dream of a steel plant that the people of Rayalaseema have been waiting for for decades come true.



He formally inaugurated the construction work of the Jindal South West Plant in Sunnapurallapally (JSW) Rayalaseema Steel in Jammalamadugu con-

stituency of Kadapa dis- trict on Friday. JSW Chairman Sajjan Jindal and Union Minister of State for Steel Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Verma participated in the program. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said, "After partition, we start- ed the work of the Rayalaseema Steel Plant after overcoming many obstacles, hurdles and doubts. The previous rulers laid the foundation stone and performed the Bhoomi Pooja here twice

in 2019 and 2023. But not a single step was taken in five years. As soon as we came to power, we started the work and proved our sincerity." **Investment of over Rs. 16 thousand crores.. Thousands of jobs**
This steel plant will be built in two phases with an investment of Rs. 16,350 crores and a production capacity of 2 million tons per year. In addition to this, a JSW Neo Energy Solar Captive Power Project with a capacity of (Contd. on pg.2)

The boundary will change with the JSW Steel plant: Minister Nara Lokesh

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Vijayawada, July 3
State IT and Education Minister Nara Lokesh said that another historic step has been taken in the con- struction of the Kadapa Steel Plant, which has been a decades-long dream of the people of Rayalaseema. He revealed in a statement on Friday that the work has been accelerated at the field level as promised. He expressed confidence that the shape of Rayalaseema will change through this project. He said that the work of the JSW Industrial Park has also been started in Vizianagaram.



It is known that CM Chandrababu Naidu today inaugurated the work of the JSW Green Steel Plant with a capacity of 2 mil- lion tons and the JSW Neo Energy Plant with a capacity of 350 megawatts at Sunnapurallapally in Jammalamadugu con- stituency. Lokesh issued a statement on this. He said that these projects will provide employment

opportunities to thousands of local youth and the Rayalaseema region will develop as a major indus- trial hub. Lokesh described this steel plant as a testament to the steel resolve of the Alliance Praja Government to put Andhra Pradesh on the path of development. He made it clear that under the leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, the state will be put back on the path of progress with the 'Speed of Doing Business'. **Minister Lokesh laid the foundation stone for development works**
State IT and Education Minister Nara Lokesh inaugurated the (Contd. on pg.2)

PM Modi to inaugurate India's first greenfield refinery in Pachpadra; launch projects worth Rs 1.06 lakh crore in Rajasthan

New Delhi, July 3 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Rajasthan on Saturday to dedicate, inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for development projects worth around Rs 1.06 lakh crore, spanning petro- chemicals, urban transport, rail- ways, roads, renewable energy, power transmission, aviation and others. The Prime Minister will begin his visit in Jodhpur, where he will inau- gurate the new terminal building at Jodhpur Airport and launch the Modified UDAN Scheme before travelling to Balotra to dedicate the HPCL Rajasthan Refinery Limited (HRRL) at Pachpadra, India's first greenfield integrated refinery-cum- petrochemical complex. At around 10.45 A.M., the Prime Minister will launch the Modified UDAN Scheme in Jodhpur. Backed



by an allocation of Rs 28,840 crore over the next 10 years, the revamped scheme aims to strength- en regional air connectivity by developing 100 aerodromes from existing unserved airstrips, con- structing 200 helipads and provid- ing continued viability gap funding to airlines. The scheme also envisages greater use of indigenous aircraft and heli- copters, including HAL Dhruv and

Dornier platforms, in line with the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative. The Prime Minister will also inau- gurate the new terminal building at Jodhpur Airport, developed at a cost of Rs 480 crore. Spread over more than 23,000 square metres, the ter- minal has an annual handling capac- ity of 20 lakh passengers and incor- porates Rajasthan's traditional archi- tectural elements along with modern passenger facilities and sustainable design features targeted at a 5-Star GRIHA rating. At around 12.15 P.M., PM Modi will reach Balotra, where he will dedicate to the nation the 9 MMTPA HPCL Rajasthan Refinery Limited (HRRL) at Pachpadra. Developed as a joint venture between Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and (Contd. on pg.2)

'Democracy in jeopardy': Opposition writes to CJI seeking SIR suspension; alleges poll manipulation

New Delhi, July 3 : In an unprecedented move, as many as 23 leaders of major opposition parties, including Congress presi- dent Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, have jointly writ- ten a letter to Chief Justice of India (CJI) Justice Surya Kant and other judges, raising grave con- cerns over the alleged manipulation of the coun- try's electoral process and demanding the immediate suspension of the ongoing voter verification system. The Opposition, compris- ing the INDIA bloc and other Opposition leaders, said in the letter to the CJI



that they chose this unusu- al path because the core pillars of the republic face severe strain. They asserted that the fun- damental premise of free and fair elections is being compromised, rendering recent electoral outcomes suspect. "We all, representing like-

minded political parties, firmly opposed to the BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party), believe that the electoral process is being manipu- lated and outcomes in multiple instances do not reflect the will of the peo- ple," the opposition lead- ers stated in the letter. The primary grievance

centres on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) launched by the Election Commission of India (ECI) to sanitise voter rolls. The Opposition termed the exercise an "inherently exclusionary and politi- cally motivated" move that has disenfranchised lakhs of genuine voters, particularly among the poor, uneducated, Dalits, Adivasis, and minorities who lack complex docu- mentation. The letter, which was written on June 28, has been signed by leaders including, Trinamool Congress supremo and (Contd. on pg.2)

US retains top spot as India's largest LPG supplier in June

New Delhi, July 3 : The United States retained its position as India's largest supplier of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) in June, extending its lead over traditional Gulf exporters as the country continued to diversify energy imports in response to geopolitical uncertainties in West Asia. According to data from commodity analytics firm Kpler, India imported 773.78 thousand metric tonnes (TMT) of LPG from the US in June, marking a 19.4 per cent increase from May. Overall, India's LPG imports rose 3 per cent during the month to 1,191 TMT, compared with 1,155 TMT in May.



The UAE emerged as the second-largest supplier, with shipments increasing 16.6 per cent to 157 TMT from 134.7 TMT in the previous month. Saudi Arabia and Kuwait each supplied 64 TMT of LPG during June. India's growing reliance on US LPG comes as part of a broader effort to diversify supplies follow-

ing disruptions caused by the recent West Asia con- flict. State-run refiners have already signed a long-term agreement to import 2.2 million tonnes of LPG from the US beginning in 2026, strengthening bilateral energy ties and reducing dependence on Gulf pro- ducers. (Contd. on pg.2)

Minister Farooq says government is committed to establishing a High Court bench in Kurnool

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Vijayawada, July 3
The Andhra Pradesh gov- ernment has made a key announcement towards the establishment of a High Court bench in Kurnool, which is a long- standing aspiration of the people of Rayalaseema. State Law Minister NMD Farooq has made it clear that a High Court bench will be established in Kurnool soon and that all necessary processes are being expedited in this regard. He made this announcement while explaining the progress of his two-year rule. The minister said that land has already been allocated in Kurnool for the estab-



lishment of the bench and is currently in talks with the High Court. He assured that proposals related to this have also been sent to the Central Government and that the government is committed to establishing the bench soon after obtaining all the permissions. On this occasion, the (Contd. on pg.2)

Ram Mandir donation theft: Photo of accused inside cash counting centre surfaces

Ayodhya, July 3 : Fresh developments have emerged in the alleged theft of donations at the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, with investigators obtain- ing what is believed to be the first photograph show- ing two of the accused, Avinash Shukla and Anukalp Mishra, inside the temple's cash counting facility. The image has become a significant piece of evi- dence in the ongoing investigation, as it places the accused inside the room where offerings made by devotees were counted and processed. Both Avinash Shukla and Anukalp Mishra are



among the eight people arrested so far in connection with the case. The other accused include Tinnu Yadav, Lav Kush Mishra, Manish Kumar Yadav, Karunesh Pandey, Ramashankar Mishra, and Subhash Srivastava. According to police sources, the accused

allegedly exploited weak- nesses in the surveillance system. Investigators claim that the CCTV control room was not being properly monitored during the initial period, allowing those involved to remove cash without immediate detection. (Contd. on pg.2)

If Modi is joined by leaders like Chandrababu the country will develop faster: Sajjan Jindal

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Kadapa, July 3
JSW Group Chairman Sajjan Jindal praised the visionary leaders like Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu in the country and said that he will think ahead and implement the develop- ment of the next 25 years. He reminded that Cyberabad city has become a world-class IT hub in a united Andhra Pradesh due to Chandrababu Naidu's vision. Jindal believed



that if Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is always concerned about the development of the country, is joined by Chief Ministers like

Chandrababu Naidu, the country will achieve its goals faster. He said that it is an honor for him as an industrialist to work with leaders like Chandrababu Naidu. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu formally inaugurated the construction works of JSW Rayalaseema Steel Limited at Sunnapurallapally in Jammalamadugu con- stituency of Kadapa dis- trict on Friday. He, along (Contd. on pg.2)

Vizianagaram set for industrial leap as JSW MSME Park takes off

Mega Project to Create 45,000 Jobs, Boost Investment and Transform S. Kota into an Industrial Hub

Vizianagaram, July 3 (Skyline): Vizianagaram district is poised for a major industrial break- through with the launch of the JSW MSME Industrial Park at S. Kota, a project expected to gener- ate large-scale employment and accelerate economic growth across North Andhra. The foundation stone for the ambitious industrial park was laid virtually by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu from Jammalamadugu in Kadapa dis- trict. The event was celebrated in S. Kota in the presence of State Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha, Minister Kondapalli



Srinivas, Visakhapatnam MP Sri Bharat, MLA Kolla Lalitha Kumari, Joint Collector S. Sethu Madhavan, MLCs, public repre- sentatives, senior officials and



JSW representatives. Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha described the project as a historic milestone for Vizianagaram

industries are the backbone of economic progress and thanked the farmers who contributed land for the project. She announced that the first (Contd. on pg.2)



ASMITA South Zone Women Canoeing & Kayaking League 2026 to be Held in Visakhapatnam on 4th & 5th July

Visakhapatnam, July 3: Visakhapatnam is proud to host the ASMITA South Zone Women Canoeing & Kayaking League 2026, a prestigious first ever event in India under the Khelo India initiative of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India. This is the first-ever South Zone ASMITA Canoeing & Kayaking League to be hosted in India, marking a historic milestone for women's water sports. The championship will be con-

ducted on 4th and 5th July 2026 at the picturesque Gambeerammedda Reservoir, Visakhapatnam, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, in association with the Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SAAP) and the Canoeing & Kayaking Association of Andhra Pradesh (CKAAP). The official event poster was unveiled by Member of parliament Visakhapatnam Shri M. Sribharat, in the presence of the Visakhapatnam District Collector

and the Visakhapatnam Joint Collector, who extended their wholehearted support and assured all necessary coordination to make the championship a grand success. Women athletes from the southern states will compete in Sub-Junior, Junior, Senior and Women's categories in Kayak and Canoe Sprint events over 200 metres, 500 metres and 1000 metres. The championship aims to encourage greater participation of

women in sports, identify emerging talent, and promote canoeing and kayaking across the country. The event will also showcase the natural beauty and sporting potential of Gambeerammedda Reservoir as a premier water sports destination. The organizers warmly invite sports enthusiasts, students, families and the general public to witness this historic championship and encourage the participating athletes.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

JSW Steel Plant work begins in Sunnapurallapally,

3,850 MW is also being set up at a cost of Rs. 20,350 crores. The CM explained that these two projects will directly provide employment opportunities to 2,700 people. He said that this plant will be run entirely on green energy. The CM also virtually inaugurated the JSW Industrial Park, which will be set up in Vizianagaram district at a cost of Rs. 531 crore on 1,166 acres, from the same venue.

Kia is proof of development, Brahmani Steels is proof of corruption. The Chief Minister compared the performance of the previous governments with his own governance on this occasion. He said that while he brought an industry like Kia Motors for the development of the state, another one looted natural resources in the name of Brahmani Steels, and these two are proof of development and corruption.

"Despite competition across the country, we brought the Kia industry to Anantapur in 2017. Today, that industry produces 19 lakh cars and exports to 90 countries. This is a testament to our integrity. But, in 2007, 14,000 acres were taken in the name of Brahmani Steels and iron ore was smuggled from the Obulapuram mines to foreign countries. The plant was not set up, the people were cheated. Those who did wrong went to jail. This single example will help people understand who is trustworthy and who is a fraud," Chandrababu said.

Special plan for the development of Rayalaseema

The CM said that he has asked Sajjan Jindal to develop the Rayalaseema plant with a higher capacity than the JSW Bellary plant. He assured that 2 TMC of water will be provided from Gandikota through a pipeline for the plant's needs and that high-quality local iron ore will be allocated. He said that ArcelorMittal is setting up a steel plant in Anakapalle with an investment of Rs. 1.35 lakh crore and that Andhra Pradesh will be transformed into a steel state with the merger of JSW and Visakha Steel. He said that Rayalaseema will no longer be a land of drought, but will move on the path of development with horticulture, industries and green energy. He announced that the foundation stone of the Global Horticulture Hub will be laid in Madanapalle on August 15 and that Gandikota will be developed as a tourist destination on par with the Grand Canyon in America. He warned that his government would prioritize maintaining law and order and would take strict action against anti-social activities like marijuana.

The boundary will change with the JSW Steel plant: Minister

development and renovation works of the famous shrine of Mangalagiri Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple. He today performed the ground breaking ceremony and laid the foundation stone for several key works to be undertaken at a cost of Rs. 6.3 crore in the lower sanctum. This project will provide better facilities to the devotees along with the restoration of historical structures.

Earlier, Minister Lokesh, who had visited the temple, was traditionally welcomed with a Poornakumbham by the priests and temple officials. Later, the ground breaking ceremony was performed for the construction of a new Yagasala, Vahanshala, and Ganta Mandapam reconstruction works in the temple. He also inaugurated the renovation works of the historically important Sri Krishna Devaraya Mandapam.

On this occasion, a stone plaque was unveiled and model drawings related to the works were examined. Later, Minister Lokesh visited Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy and Rajya Lakshmi Ammavar and performed special pujas. The priests gave him Vedic blessings and presented the Lord's offerings. On this occasion, Minister Lokesh completely toured the temple premises and made several key suggestions to the officials. He ordered to prepare a master plan for the comprehensive development of the temple to provide better facilities to the devotees. He clarified that all the work undertaken should be in accordance with the temple traditions and the rules of Agama Shastra. He suggested that the devotees coming for darshan should not face any difficulties and steps should be taken for the regular distribution of prasad. He also inspected the temple's Pushkarini and gave necessary suggestions for its development.

These development works will be undertaken with the funds of Rs. 6.3 crore provided by the Endowment Department. As part of this, important works such as the restoration of the historical Sri Krishna Devaraya Mandapam, the new Yagasala, Ganta Mandapam, and the reconstruction of the vehicle hall will be carried out. The Minister instructed the officials to complete these works quickly and with quality with the aim of restoring the former glory of the Mangalagiri Kshetra.

After the program, Minister Lokesh received petitions from the people. He took photographs with locals and activists. Endowment Department Commissioner K. Ramachandra Mohan, temple EO Koganti Sunil Kumar, members of the temple board of trustees, and several key TDP leaders and officials participated in the program.

PM Modi to inaugurate India's first greenfield refinery in Pachpadra;

the Government of Rajasthan, the refinery-cum-petrochemical complex has been established at an investment of more than Rs 79,450 crore. The complex integrates refining and petrochemical production and has a petrochemical capacity of 2.4 MMTPA.

It features a Nelson Complexity Index (NCI) of 17, among the highest in India, with petrochemical yields exceeding 26 per cent, matching global benchmarks. The project is expected to strengthen India's energy security, reduce dependence on imported petrochemicals, promote downstream industries

through the proposed Petrochemical and Plastic Park, and generate substantial employment in the region.

The Prime Minister will also lay the foundation stone for Phase II of the Jaipur Metro Rail Project, estimated to cost more than Rs 13,000 crore. The 41-km north-south corridor from Prahladpura to Todi Mod will comprise 36 stations and connect key residential, industrial and institutional areas, including Sitapura Industrial Area, Vishwakarma Industrial Area, Jaipur Airport, Tonk Road and SMS Hospital.

Among the railway projects, PM Modi will dedicate the Churu-Sadulpur (58 km) and Churu-Ratangarh (46 km) rail doubling projects, constructed at a cost of around Rs 900 crore, aimed at enhancing passenger and freight movement across north-west Rajasthan.

He will also inaugurate the four-laning of NH-125A Jodhpur Ring Road Section-II (Karwar-Dangiyawas), built at a cost of about Rs 740 crore, improving regional connectivity around Jodhpur.

In the renewable energy sector, the Prime Minister will dedicate SJVN's 1,000 MW Bikaner Solar Energy Project, developed at an investment of around Rs 5,500 crore, besides inaugurating NHPC's 300 MW Kamisar Bikaner Solar Power Plant.

He will also inaugurate a transmission line built at a cost of over Rs 1,900 crore for evacuating power from the Rajasthan Renewable Energy Zone and lay the foundation stone for a 530-km transmission system to facilitate renewable energy integration.

During the programme, the Prime Minister will hand over appointment letters to around 54,000 newly-recruited youth across various departments of the Rajasthan government.

Later in the day, he will travel to Sanand in Gujarat to inaugurate the CG Semi Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility, marking a major milestone in India's semiconductor manufacturing programme.

This is one of the first four projects approved under the India Semiconductor Mission.

Developed with an investment of over Rs 7,500 crore, the facility is among India's first end-to-end semiconductor assembly and testing units. Once fully operational, it will have an annual production capacity of up to 5 billion semiconductor chips, catering to the automotive, industrial, telecommunications, 5G and Internet of Things (IoT) sectors.

'Democray in jeopardy': Opposition writes to CJI seeking SIR suspension;

former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam's Tiruchi Siva, Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav, Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) MP Supriya Sule, National Conference president Farooq Abdullah, Communist Party of India general secretary D. Raja, and Communist Party of India (Marxist) MP John Brittas.

Aam Aadmi Party MP Sanjay Singh, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha's Sarfaraz Ahmad, Communist Party of India-Marxist-Leninist general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya, Indian Union Muslim League leader Syed Sadiq Ali Shihab Thangal, People's Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti, MDMK chief Vaiko, VCK leader Thol. Thirumavalavan and Revolutionary Socialist Party MP N.K. Premachandran have also signed the letter.

Reviewing the impact of the process during the West Bengal Assembly polls, the letter pointed out that an unprecedented 27 lakh people were left without the right to vote due to deletions under a category termed 'logical discrepancies'.

The Opposition leaders cited findings from judicial tribunals set up to look into these deletions to back their claims of administrative overreach.

"One of the 19 Tribunals hearing the appeals headed by Justice T.S. Sivagnanam, found that of the 1777 names deleted for which appeals were heard by him, 1717 were wrongly deleted. This means 96 per cent of the names were wrongly deleted," the Opposition letter highlighted.

Beyond the voter rolls, the combined Opposition expressed deep apprehension regarding electronic voting machines (EVMs), urging a wider public discussion on potentially restoring paper ballots to restore complete public trust.

They also alleged that central investigative agencies like the Central Bureau of Investigation, Enforcement Directorate, and National Investigation Agency are being systematically used to target opposition figures and alter election dynamics. Turning to the judiciary as the ultimate custodian of the Constitution, the leaders noted that citizens look to the courts when all other administrative mechanisms fail to provide redress.

US retains top spot as India's largest LPG supplier in June

Industry sources said India has secured adequate supplies of both crude oil and LPG through August, easing concerns over domestic availability after the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz restored the movement of Gulf energy cargoes.

To strengthen energy security, India has expanded LPG sourcing beyond its traditional suppliers, increasing imports not only from the US but also from countries such as Oman, Argentina, Nigeria, Algeria and Egypt.

Before the outbreak of the West Asia conflict, nearly 90 per cent of India's LPG imports passed through the Strait of Hormuz, underscoring the country's heavy dependence on the Gulf region. Supply disruptions during the conflict prompted refiners to widen their sourcing basket to reduce exposure to geopolitical risks.

Analysts believe India's diversification strategy is likely to continue even after regional tensions ease. While the Gulf is expected to remain a crucial supplier of crude oil and LPG, refiners are expected to maintain a broader mix of import sources to enhance supply resilience.

Minister Farooq says government is committed to establishing a

government gave a sweet message to the junior lawyers of the state. Minister Farooq announced that the current stipend of Rs. 5,000 being given to junior lawyers is being doubled to Rs. 10,000. He revealed that orders related to this will be issued soon.

He also explained other steps being taken by the government to strengthen the judiciary. He said that the government has issued orders to establish 96 new courts across the state and fill 1770 posts in the judiciary. He said that Rs. 216 crore has been allocated for the construction and development of court buildings, judges' residences and guest houses.

As part of other key decisions, he reminded that the retirement age of law officers has been increased to 61 years and the gratuity limit of High Court judges has been increased from Rs. 20 lakh to Rs. 25 lakh. The honorarium of AGPs in the High Court has been increased by 25 percent, the honorarium of Special Judicial Magistrates has been increased from Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 45,000 and an additional transportation allowance of Rs. 5,000 per month has been granted to them, Minister Farooq explained.

Ram Mandir donation theft: Photo of accused inside cash counting

CCTV footage reportedly shows some of the accused taking money from the counting area. Sources said the suspects initially attempted to avoid the cameras but later acted openly after realising that no one was actively monitoring the surveillance feeds.

The investigation has also focussed on the recruitment process of staff assigned to handle temple donations. According to the probe, then Ram Mandir Trust General Secretary Champat Rai, who has since resigned, had reportedly delegated complete authority over the recruitment of cash-counting personnel to trustee Anil Mishra, who is also an accused in the case. As part of an expansion in operations following the increased flow of devotees, the Trust recruited 10 new employees in March 2025. Investigators said all applicants were interviewed by Anil Mishra after being referred to him by Champat Rai. The candidates reportedly met Mishra on March 4 and received appointment letters two days later before joining duty.

The enquiry has also highlighted several alleged security lapses during the recruitment process. Initially, the newly appointed employees were not issued official identity cards. Instead, they were allowed entry into the temple premises using only duty sheets issued by the Trust. Each employee was reportedly paid a monthly salary of Rs 18,000 and worked regular shifts from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.

The investigation has further revealed that cash counting was conducted at two separate locations within the temple complex rather than a single centre. Following the surge in donations after the Kumbh pilgrimage, an additional counting facility was established to manage the increased volume of offerings. One counting centre operated from the Pilgrim Facilitation Centre (PFC) building, while another functioned from a police post located inside the temple premises. The newly recruited employees were primarily assigned to the police post, where they sorted currency notes, prepared bundles, and operated counting machines.

Police sources said Anukalp Mishra, Avinash Shukla, Karunesh Pandey, and Lav Kush Mishra were posted at the police post counting centre. After several staff members, including Swatantra Pandey, Ravindranath, Tarun Malviya, and Himanshu Tripathi, left their positions, Manish Kumar Yadav and Ramashankar Mishra were inducted into the counting team.

The main counting facility in the basement of the PFC building also housed the CCTV monitoring room, a staff dining area, and a State Bank of India counter where counted cash was eventually deposited. Security arrangements included personnel from SIS Security and, on certain occasions, CRPF personnel.

Despite these measures, investigators allege that surveillance remained inadequate. Although two or three staff members were assigned to monitor CCTV feeds, they were reportedly often away from the monitoring room, resulting in ineffective supervision of the counting process. The CCTV display screen was located in the same room where cash was counted, but officials believe oversight remained weak.

Retired bank employee Subhash Srivastava, another accused in the case, was responsible for overseeing the cash counting process. His duties reportedly included receiving money extracted from donation boxes, supervising the counting operation, and ensuring the funds were handed over to SBI.

If Modi is joined by leaders like Chandrababu the country will develop

with Union Minister of State for Steel Srinivasa Varma and Sajjan Jindal, laid concrete and started the work. Speaking on the occasion, Sajjan Jindal made a sensational announcement that his group will invest about Rs. 50 thousand crores in Andhra Pradesh. He assured that about 50 thousand people will get direct and indirect jobs with this investment.

Jindal revealed that along with the Rayalaseema Steel Plant, an industrial park is also being set up in Vizianagaram district. He clarified that this steel plant, which is currently being started with a capacity of 1 million tons per year, will be further expanded in the future. He said that this project will provide large-scale employment opportunities to the local youth. This steel plant will be built in two phases with a total investment of Rs. 16,350 crores. If the first phase is completed, 2

million tons of steel will be produced per year. Along with the steel plant, the Chief Minister also inaugurated the work of the JSW Neo Energy Solar Captive Power Project in conjunction with it.

Vizianagaram set for industrial leap as JSW MSME Park takes off

phase, spread across 535 acres, is expected to create nearly 45,000 direct and indirect employment opportunities, paving the way for S. Kota to emerge as a major industrial destination. Minister Kondapalli Srinivas said the JSW Industrial Park would become a catalyst for the transformation of North Andhra. Developed with an investment of Rs.531 crore in its first phase, the project aims to provide employment to affected families while attracting more industries to the region. He said the industrial park would play a role similar to Sri City in driving economic growth.

Visakhapatnam MP Sri Bharat said the combined impact of the Bhogapuram International Airport, the Nakkapalli Steel Industry and the JSW project would establish the region as one of Andhra Pradesh's leading industrial corridors. He praised the state government for attracting major investments and strengthening industrial development.

MLA Kolla Lalitha Kumari called the project the fulfilment of a two-decade-long aspiration of the people of S. Kota. She said upcoming projects, including the Patanjali project and Balighattam MSME Parks, would further accelerate the constituency's development.

Joint Collector S. Sethu Madhavan said the industrial park would enhance employment, improve livelihoods and contribute significantly to the district's long-term economic development.

TRUHOME FINANCE LIMITED (Formerly Known As Shriram Housing Finance Limited)	
	Reg.Off.: Srinivasa Tower, 1st Floor, Door No. 5, Old No.11, 2nd Lane, Cenatophya Road, Alwarpet,Teynampet, Chennai-600018 Head Office, Level 3, Workhardt Towers, East Wing C-2, G Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai-400051 Website: www.truhomefinance.in
SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE	
Whereas The undersigned being the authorised officer of Truhome Finance Limited (Formerly Shriram Housing Finance Limited) under the provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (said Act) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (said Rules) issued demand notices to the Borrowers details of which are mentioned in the table below to repay the amount mentioned in the said demand notices.	
The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned being the Authorised officer of Truhome Finance Limited (Formerly Shriram Housing Finance Limited) has taken SYMBOLIC POSSESSION of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules on 01/07/2026.	
The Borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of Truhome Finance Limited (Formerly Shriram Housing Finance Limited) for an amount as mentioned herein below with interest thereon.	
The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.	
Borrower's Name and Address	
1. MR. SARESE SATYANARAYANA S/O MR. APPA RAO 2. MRS. SARISE RAMANAMMA W/O MR. RAMALINGASWARA RAO 3. MRS. SARISE NAGA LAKSHMI W/O SARESE SATYANARAYANA ALL ARE R/O AT D.NO. 1-296 MAIN ROAD GANGAMPALLEM NEAR SACHIVALAYAM GANGAMPALLEM EAST GODAVARI ANDHRA PRADESH INDIA 533286	
Amount due as per Demand Notice	
Demand Notice Date – 07-11-2024 Demand notice Amount of Rs.1305329/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakhs Fifty Three Thousand Three Hundred and Twenty Nine Only) as on 30-11-2024 under reference of Loan Account No. SLPHRJMD0000922	
Description of Mortgaged Property	
The Property Admeasuring an extent of 144 Sq. Yards or 119.52 Sq.meters As per House Tax No. bearing Near Dno. Comprised in Survey Number 87 situated Gangampalem Panchayathi Tirumalayaipalem Village, Gokavaram Mandalam within The Sub-Registration District of Korukonda Bounded by the: EAST: Road 25.0 FT SOUTH: Site of Chandra Rao 52.0 FT WEST: Site of Chandra Rao 25.0 FT, North: Land of Mollie Lakshmi 52 -0 FT Within the above boundaries an extent of 379.5 Sq. Yards or 317.29 Sq.Mtrs in its undivided unspecified joint share 47.43 Sq. Yards or 39.66 sq.Mtrs. SCHEDULE-B: The Property admeasuring an extent of 47.43Sq. Yds Plinth area of 1200 Sq.ft bearing house no.16-3-B/A, Comprised in Survey Number 30/2 situated in ACHALA RESIDENCY SRIRAMA NAGAR RAJAHMUNDURY, with in the Sub-Registration District of Rajahmundry bounded on the Flat No.6-2 EAST:-Open to Sky SOUTH:- Open to Sky WEST:- Open to Sky NORTH:-Main Entrance Common Area Corridor, Lift and Stair Case	
Borrower's Name and Address	
1. MRS. DUVVA VEERA SRIDEVI W/O MR. DUVVA KARUNA BABU 2. MR. DUVVA KARUNA BABU S/O MR. DUVVA SATTI RAJU ALL ARE R/O AT 13-2-1M/152 JAGGAYACHERUVU RAMALAYAM PITHAPURAM KAKINADA ANDHRA PRADESH INDIA 533450	
Amount due as per Demand Notice	
Demand Notice Date – 12-11-2025 Demand notice Amount of Rs.1589664/- (Fifteen Lakhs Eighty Nine Thousand Six Hundred and Sixty Four Only) & Rs.99324/- (Ninety Nine Thousand Three Hundred and Twenty Four Only) as on 30-11-2025 under reference of Loan Account No. SHLHKNDAA000155 & SHLHKNDAA000160.	
Description of Mortgaged Property	
Kakinada District, Pithapuram Mandal, SRO-Pithapuram, Pithapuram Village and Municipality, S.No.250/1, an extent of 126.75 Sq.yards of site and tiled house therein bearing D.No.13-1-47, Present D.No.13-1-48, Assessment No. 1063006797 (as per tax receipt), is bounded by the following boundaries: East: Fl. 13.9 Wall, Site of Moli Suranna South: Fl.62.10 Site property of Moli Suranna to an extent of Fl.1.5 and there from the site property of Goria Ramaswamy to an extent of Fl.33 and there from the site property of Goria Ramaswamy, in an extent of Fl.11 inches and there from the site property of Gijnjala Veeranna to an extent of Fl. 17.10 inches. West: Fl.23.09 Road North: Fl.54.0 House Wall of Eegala Subbayyamma, Eegala Nageswara Rao. Within the above boundaries an extent of 126.75 Sq.yards of site and tiled house therein, with all common ways, water ways and with all easement rights attached thereto.	
Borrower's Name and Address	
1. MR. BAKI VENKATESWARA RAO 2. MR. BAKI NAGA SRINIVAS BOTH ARE R/O AT D.No.12-12-25/138 ARYAPURAM MALAGOYYA CENTER, ARYAPURAM EAST GODAVARI AP-533104	
Amount due as per Demand Notice	
Demand Notice Date – 12-08-2024 Demand notice Amount of Rs.1491232/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakh Ninety One Thousand Two Hundred and Thirty Two only) as on 31-08-2024 under reference of Loan Account No. SLPHRJMD0000943	
Description of Mortgaged Property	
The Property Admeasuring an extent of 50 Sq Yards, bearing Plot Nob. 15,D.No 12-12-25/138,Near D.No. 13-15-29/6,Comprised in TS No. 126-2 Situated at Rajahmundry (Part) Village, With in the Sub registration District Rajahmundry (R.O) Bounded by: East :15ft This Plan Sch Road 10 Ft West :15ft This Plan Sch Plotno 13 Site North :30ft This Plan Sch Plotno 14 Site South :30ft This Plan Sch Plotno 16 Site	
Place: Rajahmundry Date : 01.07.2026	Sd/- Authorised Officer- Truhome Finance Limited (Earlier Known as Shriram Housing Finance Limited)

Dr. P.C. Rayulu Felicitates CM Chandrababu Naidu and Dignitaries at Tirupati Airport



Tirupati: July 3
(Skyline daily):

Dr. P.C. Rayulu, Member of the Airport Authority of India, Member of the South Central Railway Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee (ZRUC), and associated with the Union Ministries of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Tourism & Culture, welcomed and felicitated Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu at Tirupati Airport

on Wednesday. Geographic Reference On the occasion, Union Minister for Textiles Giriraj Singh and Odisha Governor Dr. Kambhampati Hari Babu were also honoured. Dr. Rayulu said the reception reflected the strong coordination between the Union Government, the Andhra Pradesh Government, the Airport Authority of India, and the South Central Railway in promoting development and public service.

Identify compoundable cases for July 11 Lok Adalat: DLSA Secy

Anantapur: July 3

Anantapur District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Secretary M Rajasekhara on Thursday urged police officials to make concerted efforts to identify and resolve all eligible compoundable cases ahead of the upcoming National Lok Adalat scheduled for July 11. Addressing a review meeting with police personnel at the Nyaya Seva Sadan on the District Court premises, Rajasekhara directed officers to pinpoint cases fit for amicable settlement within their respective station limits and take proactive steps to facilitate their resolution. He emphasized that effective coordination within the police depart-



ment is crucial to ensuring a high disposal rate of eligible cases in the district. Responding to the directives, Anantapur Rural Deputy Superintendent of Police Srinivasulu assured that police teams would immediately identify eligible cases across their jurisdictions and initiate the necessary steps to

facilitate settlements through the Lok Adalat process. Police inspectors from Anantapur One Town, Two Town, Port Town, Rural, Traffic, and Bukkarayasamudram stations, along with Sub-Inspectors from Raptadu, Itikalapalli, Atmakur, Garladinne, and Narpala, participated in the meeting.

BEST IU holds FDP on using AI tools in teaching



Gorantla: July 3

BEST Innovation University, in collaboration with Bengaluru-based Empactful Minds, organized a one-day Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on utilizing Artificial Intelligence tools for enhanced teaching and learning on Thursday. AI expert Amit Utrej conducted hands-on training sessions on lesson planning, content generation, assessment design,

and prompt engineering to boost academic productivity and classroom engagement. University Chairman Bharat Lal Meena, Chancellor Dr Rupa Vasudevan, and Vice-Chancellor Dr Nagajyothi Korepella emphasized that empowering educators with AI competencies is essential for academic excellence and keeping the faculty future-ready. Registrar Dr A Immanuel proposed the vote of thanks.

VB-G Ram G boosting rural livelihoods: Collector

Panyam: July 3

Nandyal District Collector G Rajakumari on Thursday said the revamped VB-G Ram-G programme is playing a key role in improving the living standards of poor families by providing sustainable rural employment and creating durable community assets. Launching the programme at the Panyam Market Yard along with MLA Gowru Charitha Reddy, the Collector stated that nearly 2.5 lakh wage labourers in the district are benefiting from the initiative.

She highlighted that works like rural road construction, field bunding, desilting of streams, and check dam development are contributing significantly to agricultural growth and groundwater recharge. The Collector further explained that the scheme has been strengthened by increas-



ing guaranteed employment from 100 to 125 working days, with wages funded in a 60:40 ratio by the Central and State. She noted that timely payments are being ensured, and projects are being identified through Gram Sabha resolutions to meet local needs under close monitoring by district authorities. MLA Gowru Charitha Reddy said the revamped scheme enhances livelihood opportunities while accelerating village development. She added that eligible workers will

receive a daily wage of Rs 312 based on measurements certified by technical assistants. New community works can be proposed and approved through Mandal and Zilla Parishads based on public demand. Later, the Collector and the MLA planted saplings on the Market Yard premises, urging the public to join environmental plantation drives. DRDA Project Director Sreedhar Reddy, DWMA Project Director Suryanarayana, and other officials were present.

Students urged to stay away from drugs, focus on goals



Anantapur: July 3

An awareness seminar on the "Prevention of Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking" was held at Balaji College of Pharmacy here on Thursday. District Prohibition and Excise Enforcement Superintendent B Hanumanthu, attending as chief guest, highlighted how narcotics destroy the physical, mental, and

social lives of youth. Warning of stringent legal action under the NDPS Act, he advised students to stay clear of substance abuse and focus on high educational goals. College Chairman Dr Kishore Palte and Principal Dr B Pradeep Kumar urged students to cultivate social responsibility and moral values to build a healthy society.

Employees felicitate MLA Palle Sindhura over OPS demand



Anantapur: July 3

Government employee representatives from undivided Anantapur district on Thursday felicitated Puttaparthi MLA Palle Sindhura Reddy for strongly advocating their cause in the State Legislative Assembly. The legislator had raised the demand to implement the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) for teachers and police personnel appointed

under pre-2003 notifications. Honoring the MLA and former Minister Dr Palle Raghunatha Reddy at their residence, the employees thanked them for bringing the issue to the government's notice. They also expressed gratitude to Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and requested continued support to resolve pending grievances.

Complete voter revision drive by July 14: Collector



Anantapur: July 3

Anantapur District Collector O. Anand has directed officials to accelerate the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and complete the entire exercise by July 14, stressing that the tight deadline demands coordinated efforts from all departments. The Collector on Thursday conducted random inspections at Polling Station No. 10 in Narayanapuram Panchayat (Anantapur Urban limits) and the Gram Secretariat in Prasannayanapalli village (Raptadu Mandal). During the visit, he reviewed the distribution and collection of voter enumeration forms and interacted with Booth Level Officers (BLOs), Booth Level Agents (BLAs), and local voters to assess the field-level progress. To speed up the drive, Anand instructed that additional personnel from departments like Municipal Administration,

MEPMA, and Town Planning be deployed to support BLOs. He also ordered the immediate setup of a dedicated control room to monitor the daily attendance and progress of the field staff, ensuring that completed forms are collected and digitised without delay. The Collector appealed to BLAs of recognised political parties to extend full cooperation in reaching every eligible voter. He further instructed officials to ensure cross-coordination between neighbouring BLOs so that no voter is left out. Inspecting the drive for Polling Stations 129 and 134 at the Prasannayanapalli Gram Secretariat, Anand warned that any negligence or laxity in executing the election revision duties would invite strict disciplinary action. Urban In-charge Tahsildar D. Raja, Raptadu Tahsildar Chennakesava, Supervisor Sai Kiran, and BLO Sai Ram Reddy accompanied the Collector.

Heavy rains predicted to AP for next two days

Nellore: July 2

The Meteorological Department has issued key warnings for the people of Andhra Pradesh. A low-pressure area that formed over the north-west Bay of Bengal and adjoining areas—specifically off the coasts of North Odisha and West Bengal—remains stationary in the same region. Weather officials stated that an associated cyclonic circulation extends up to approximately 7.6 km above mean sea level and is likely to intensify over the next two days. Additionally, due to the influence of a monsoon trough and a shear zone at sea level, widespread rainfall is expected across the state over the next three days. The impact of the low-pressure area will be most significant on the North Coastal districts. On Friday, light to moderate rain or thundershowers are expected in many places, with the possibility of heavy rain in one or two locations. Moderate rainfall is likely in some areas on Saturday and Sunday, with a chance of heavy rain at one or two places on Saturday. Throughout



these three days, there is a risk of strong gusty winds blowing at speeds of 40 to 50 kmph, accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning.

Rainfall intensity in the South Coastal districts is expected to be moderate. Light to moderate rain or thundershowers are likely in some areas on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Thunderstorms and lightning may occur in one or two places. Gusty winds blowing at speeds of 40-50 kmph are likely here as well. In the districts of the Rayalaseema region, the intensity of the winds is expected to be greater than that of the rainfall. Light to moderate rain is likely at only one or two places over the next three days. However,

the Meteorological Centre has warned that strong winds blowing at speeds of 40-50 kmph will prevail in this region. History Officials clarified that despite the forecast for rain across the state, there will be no significant change in maximum temperatures in the Coastal Andhra, Yanam, and Rayalaseema regions over the next five days; normal temperature levels will continue. However, officials advised people to avoid taking shelter under trees or near electric poles during thunderstorms and lightning. They also urged farmers to take appropriate precautions to protect their ready-to-harvest crops from the strong gusty winds.

Dengue Awareness Month: DMHO urges public to curb mosquito breeding



Kurnool: July 3

As part of the National Dengue Awareness Month campaign, District Medical and Health Officer (DMHO) Dr Bhaskar unveiled an awareness wall poster at the DMHO office here on Thursday. Addressing the health staff, he stressed the importance of community participation in preventing mosquito-borne diseases like dengue, malaria, and chikungunya by maintaining clean surroundings. Dr Bhaskar highlighted that stagnant water serves as a primary breeding ground for mosquitoes, significantly increasing the risk of vector-borne infections. He advised residents to clear water accumulated in discarded coconut shells, old tyres, empty containers, unused grinding stones, and non-functional air

coolers. He also appealed to local civic authorities to take prompt measures to drain rainwater pooled in road potholes and low-lying areas. The DMHO emphasized that effective prevention requires coordinated efforts from both the public and government departments. "Awareness, strict sanitation, and timely preventive measures are the most effective tools to control the spread of these diseases during the monsoon," he noted. District Malaria Control Officer Venkateswarlu, Immunization Officer Dr Uma, Programme Officers Dr Shailesh Kumar, Dr Maheshwara Prasad, and Dr Visweshwar Reddy, along with Assistant Malaria Officer Vijay Kumar, Deputy DEMO Shafi Unnisa, and other health department officials were present at the event.

FM launches VB-G RAM G scheme in Aravakuru

Anantapur: July 3

Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav on Thursday formally launched the district-level rollout of the Central government's revamped rural employment initiative, the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G), at Aravakuru village in Kuderu Mandal of Uravakonda constituency. The nation-wide scheme, which rolled out on July 1, replaces the earlier rural employment framework. To mark the inauguration, the Minister joined local laborers at a worksite near the village tank bund and participated in manual canal desilting work to encourage the beneficiaries. During the visit, Keshav interacted with the wage seekers to enquire about their daily earnings, the availability of working days, and the efficiency of the direct wage payment system. Addressing the gathering,



the Minister stated that the VB-G RAM G scheme aims to strengthen the rural economy by providing guaranteed employment for up to 125 days a year with enhanced wage support. He assured that the Central government has established robust measures to ensure wages are directly credited to beneficiaries' bank accounts in a timely manner. Keshav emphasized that village development plans under the scheme

will be drafted directly through Gram Sabhas, allowing local communities to prioritize their own developmental works. He urged eligible rural households to make full use of the expanded livelihood opportunities. District Water Management Agency (DWMA) Project Director Saleem Basha, Assistant Project Director Chennakesavulu, MPDO Kullayi Swamy, and local public representatives were present.

SKYLINE

Saturday 4.7.2026

Power Shift

Andy Burnham’s emergence as Britain’s likely next Prime Minister is significant not simply because it heralds a change of leadership, but because it could place the country’s most prominent advocate of devolution at the head of government. His proposal to create a “No 10 North” and to shift power away from Whitehall is less an administrative innovation than a declaration that Britain’s highly centralised model has become an obstacle to economic renewal.

If implemented, it would mark the most ambitious attempt in decades to redraw the relationship between Westminster and the rest of the United Kingdom. At the heart of Burnham’s argument is a simple proposition: no economy can realise its full potential when political authority, public investment and economic opportunity remain concentrated in a single city. Britain’s dependence on London has produced one of the widest regional productivity gaps among advanced economies, leaving successive governments struggling to revive towns and cities that have lagged behind the capital for decades.

Mr Burnham believes stronger local governments, armed with meaningful powers over transport, housing, planning, employment support and public services, can reverse that trend. Rather than waiting for policies designed in Whitehall, regions would gain greater freedom to shape development according to their own economic priorities. The proposed “No 10 North” is intended to symbolise that shift while ensuring devolution remains at the centre of government rather than an afterthought. His confidence stems largely from Greater Manchester, where devolved powers have helped transform the city region into one of Britain’s stronger economic performers.

Greater control over transport planning, housing policy and investment promotion has strengthened the city’s appeal to businesses and helped create a more integrated model of urban development. Whether every element of that success can be attributed to devolution is open to debate, but few dispute that local leadership has given Manchester greater strategic direction than many comparable regions. The wider record, however, is less conclusive. More than two decades after Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland gained substantial devolved powers, their productivity relative to the UK average has changed little.

There is nevertheless a compelling international case for Mr Burnham’s vision. Germany, France and Spain have built stronger regional economies that complement rather than compete with their capitals. Their experience suggests that dispersing political authority can help create multiple centres of growth, making national economies more balanced and resilient. Whether Britain can replicate that success will depend on more than constitutional reform. Local authorities cannot drive economic transformation if they inherit responsibilities without the financial resources to exercise them.

Mr Burnham’s vision will therefore be judged not by the symbolism of a northern Downing Street office, but by whether it genuinely transfers power, investment and accountability from Whitehall to Britain’s regions. If it does, Britain could begin correcting one of its longest-standing economic imbalances. If it does not, devolution will remain an attractive idea that falls short of meaningful change.

Pakistan’s water woes precede IWT abeyance

For years, Pakistan’s water debate has been dominated by a familiar argument. Whenever concerns about shortages emerged, attention quickly shifted towards India. Politicians, television commentators and strategic analysts warned that Pakistan’s future was tied to decisions made across the border and that the Indus Waters Treaty remained the country’s ultimate shield against a looming water crisis. What is happening today, however, suggests a different reality. Pakistan’s growing water insecurity is not solely the result of India’s decision to place the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance. The roots of the crisis run much deeper. They lie in decades of neglected infrastructure, inadequate storage capacity, poor water management, mounting inter-provincial disputes and a persistent failure to prepare for a future in which water would become the country’s most contested resource. The now suspended Cholistan Canal Project has become a powerful symbol of that failure. The project was envisioned as part of an ambitious plan to bring nearly 1.2 million acres of arid land under cultivation. It was projected as a major agricultural initiative designed to increase productivity and expand farming capacity. Instead, it collapsed into controversy. Sindh erupted in protest, arguing that the project would divert already scarce water resources away from downstream users. Political parties, farmers and civil society organisations accused the federal government of attempting to redistribute water without addressing existing shortages. The backlash was so severe that the project quickly became one of the most contentious issues in Pakistan’s domestic politics. Yet the significance of the Cholistan controversy extends far beyond the project itself.

What the dispute ultimately revealed was the growing gap between Pakistan’s developmental ambitions and its available water resources. A country struggling to meet existing water demands was simultaneously attempting to expand irrigation on a massive scale. The project exposed an uncomfortable question that policymakers had largely avoided, where would the water come from? That question became even more urgent after India placed the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance. For more than six decades, Pakistan’s agricultural economy operated within a framework of relative certainty. The Indus Waters Treaty survived wars, military confrontations and diplomatic crises. Regardless of political tensions, the treaty provided Pakistan predictability over waters. Pakistan’s planners, farmers and policymakers built their calculations around assumptions that remained largely unchanged for generations. Those assumptions have now been challenged with the suspension of IWT. The immediate impact of the treaty’s suspension may be limited, but the long-term implications are potentially far more significant. India has made little secret of its intention to maximise the utilisation of waters that remained underdeveloped for decades. Indian policymakers have repeatedly argued that substantial quantities of water allocated to India under the treaty framework continued flowing into Pakistan because of insufficient infrastructure on the Indian side. For years, Pakistan benefited from that reality as large volumes of water that India was entitled to utilise ultimately flowed downstream because the necessary storage facilities, diversion systems and canal networks did not exist. In effect, Pakistan’s irrigation economy benefited from India’s inability

or unwillingness to fully exploit its own share of the basin. That situation is now changing. With the treaty effectively frozen, India is accelerating efforts to utilise water that previously flowed across the border unused. Particular attention has centred on projects linked to the Chenab basin and the proposed Chenab-Beas canal system. These projects are designed not to divert Pakistan’s share of water but to make greater use of water that India had historically left untapped. For Pakistan, this represents a fundamental shift. For decades, water planners worked within an environment where significant volumes of water allocated to India continued entering Pakistan simply because the water was not being utilised upstream. As India develops the infrastructure necessary to harness those resources, Pakistan can no longer assume that those flows will remain available indefinitely. But focusing exclusively on India’s actions misses the larger story because the more important question is why Pakistan finds itself so vulnerable to these developments in the first place. The warning signs have existed for decades. Pakistan possesses one of the largest irrigation networks, yet it has consistently failed to modernise large portions of that system. Enormous quantities of water are lost through seepage, leakage and inefficient distribution. Storage capacity remains among the lowest relative to annual river flows. Successive governments delayed major reservoir projects while population growth dramatically increased demand. Groundwater reserves have been extracted at unsustainable rates. Water-intensive crops continued to dominate agricultural planning despite repeated concerns about long-term sustainability. The result is a country that



entered the twenty-first century with growing water stress and limited capacity to absorb future shocks. The Cholistan Canal Project exposed these vulnerabilities from one direction. The suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty exposed them from another. Viewed together, both developments point to the same conclusion. Pakistan’s water crisis is not emerging because India suddenly decided to change its policy. Nor is it emerging because of a single disputed canal project. The crisis is emerging because decades of neglect have left Pakistan increasingly dependent upon assumptions that may no longer hold true. The fierce opposition to the Cholistan project reflected fears that existing resources were insufficient. India’s decision to utilise a greater share of water that previously flowed unused into Pakistan has reinforced concerns about future availability. Both developments are symptoms of a deeper structural problem – that Pakistan’s water demand continues to grow while the country’s capacity to manage, store and conserve water has failed to keep pace. This is why the current debate is so consequential. For years, water was treated primarily as a diplomatic issue. Today it is becoming an economic issue, an agricultural issue, a governance issue and potentially a political stability issue. Rising scarcity is already intensifying disputes between provinces. Farmers are

becoming increasingly sensitive to allocation decisions. Development projects are facing resistance because confidence in the availability of future water supplies is steadily eroding. The Cholistan controversy demonstrated how quickly water can become a source of domestic unrest. The abeyance of the IWT demonstrated how rapidly external developments can complicate an already fragile situation. Together, they have exposed a reality that Pakistan can no longer afford to ignore. The country’s greatest water challenge is not simply what India may do with its rivers in the future. It is the fact that Pakistan spent decades postponing investments, reforms and infrastructure projects needed to secure its own water future. The era of relying upon old assumptions is ending. India is moving to utilise water that it long left untouched. Climate pressures are increasing and demand within Pakistan continues to rise, leading to sharper provincial disputes. Under these circumstances, Pakistan’s water security will depend less on treaty provisions and more on whether it can finally address the structural weaknesses that have accumulated over decades. The now suspended Cholistan Canal Project did not create Pakistan’s water crisis and neither did the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty. They merely exposed a crisis that was already there.

State as AI shareholder: The Washington model India can’t ignore

There is a quietly radical idea moving through Washington. It deserves close attention in New Delhi. OpenAI has opened talks about handing the US government a 5 per cent equity stake in the company. Sam Altman and other executives have proposed something larger, too: a government vehicle that holds a minority stake in each of America’s leading AI developers. That could span Anthropic, Google, Meta, Nvidia and beyond. Altman first raised the issue of government equity with Trump personally in early 2025, according to reports. He has suggested that the Alaska Permanent Fund could serve as a model for ensuring Americans share in the wealth created by AI, potentially through public ownership or equity stakes in AI companies, rather than simply distributing corporate profits as cash dividends. Trump recently told reporters aboard Air Force One that taking stakes in American AI companies could become "a partnership with the American public." An OpenAI policy paper has already proposed a "Public Wealth Fund" to hold such stakes and distribute proceeds to citizens broadly, whether they own shares or not. Anthropic, notably, is not part of the current talks. None of this is happening in isolation. The Trump administration has already taken direct equity positions in several companies this term, including Intel and IBM and a handful of quantum-computing and critical-minerals firms. Senator Bernie Sanders has gone further. He has proposed

a one-time 50 per cent stock levy on major AI firms. Across the American political spectrum, the state-as-shareholder idea is gaining traction. The idea has serious critics on both sides of the aisle. Nat Purser of Public Knowledge has warned that a government which is simultaneously shareholder and regulator faces a conflict of interest. It could grow reluctant to enforce safety rules if doing so dents its own holdings' value. Jennifer Huddleston of the Cato Institute argues that government equity in private firms erodes norms around the separation of state and market, with Washington effectively picking winners. Washington is testing a completely new model. The government is not running businesses, nor is it just acting as a regulator. Instead, it is stepping in as a long-term, minority investor. It helps private companies build and compete by opening up international markets, using diplomacy, and buying their services. In exchange, the government takes a cut of the financial upside it helped create. India should study this model closely. It may be exactly what a handful of India’s own strategic sectors need. Historically, India’s instinct in sectors of national importance was to build large public sector enterprises. That approach may have served in an era of scarce capital and thin private capability. But today’s technology race rewards speed, entrepreneurial risk-taking and relentless innovation. This applies to AI, drone tech, space tech, semiconductors, quantum computing and rare earth minerals.

Public-sector ownership structures rarely reward those qualities. And Indian companies in these sectors are no longer competing on capability alone. Increasingly, they compete against state-backed ecosystems, China’s most visible among them, where the line between private enterprise and state support is far thinner than in most free market economies. Picture a framework where private companies and start-ups build world-class capability while the government backs them with procurement commitments, patient capital, diplomatic support, export facilitation and regulatory predictability. In return, the government would take a minority equity stake in a carefully chosen bunch of strategically important firms. Governance would need the same care that Purser and Huddleston are demanding of the American proposal, to avoid distorting markets or blurring the state’s roles as backer and regulator. Interestingly, India already has a case study that shows such a model can work. Titan was set up in 1984 as a joint venture between the Tata Group and the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation. More than four decades on, TIDCO still holds about 27.8 per cent of Titan, a stake now worth close to Rs 1 lakh crore. It is arguably one of the most successful long-term equity investments any Indian state government has made. The lesson from Titan is that patient minority ownership in the right sector, held for decades rather than quarters, can generate enormous public value while leaving innovation, execution and competi-



tive discipline entirely in private hands. There is a sharper, more urgent reason for India to think about such an idea now. A government that merely regulates AI is, in theory, a referee. A government that owns equity in it has a direct stake in that industry’s success. Washington has already shown it is willing to use state power to shape the global reach of its AI companies. Last month, a US Commerce Department export-control action forced Anthropic to suspend global access to two of its newest models. Access was restored only once the controls were lifted. Washington can extend or restrict the footprint of AI models as an instrument of statecraft. An equity stake would give the American state a direct financial reason to use it more assertively, in exactly the markets, including India’s, where those companies compete for infrastructure deals and enterprise adoption. This reflects an unequal dynamic for India. While the US relies on India as its primary engine for data and market growth, it restricts or monopolises the very compute and semiconductor infrastructure India needs to

build its own sovereign AI. India, then, needs to hold two ideas about this moment at once. The first is caution. As AI, cloud and compute increasingly resemble the pipelines and telecom networks of an earlier era, a more financially invested American state has a sharper incentive to see its companies dominate globally on its own terms. The second is opportunity. The same model, adapted to India’s own strategic sectors, could help build the national champions that reduce that dependency. It would also give Indian firms bidding for defence contracts, satellite launches or clean-energy partnerships abroad the credibility of a serious government stake standing behind them. As tech turns increasingly geopolitical, governments everywhere are becoming more than regulators. They are investors, anchor customers, diplomats and strategic partners to their own industries. Washington is simply the most visible example of that shift. India does not need to copy the American model. But we have less excuse than most other countries to ignore the underlying idea.

Putin downplays Russia's fuel crisis amid Ukraine strikes

Despite severe fuel shortages across Russia, President Vladimir Putin appears unbothered by Ukraine's increasing attacks on his country's oil refineries. He has shrugged off the setback for one of the world's leading oil-producing nations as "not critical," dismissed ceasefire proposals and insisted the war will continue until his goals are met. Putin has described the attacks on Russian energy as an effort by Ukraine to distract attention from its losses on the battlefield, although analysts say the advance of Russian forces has been stymied in recent months. The Russian leader appears to believe his government can keep the fuel crisis from eroding his authority and support for the war he launched more than four years ago. The Russian military unleashed a massive 11-hour barrage on the Ukrainian capital overnight into Thursday morning that killed at least 30 people. It was one of the deadliest attacks on Kyiv since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion. Gas shortages worsen in Russia as more oil facilities are hit. There have been more than 50 reported Ukrainian attacks on oil refineries and other energy facilities in Russia and occupied Crimea since March - a barrage Ukrainian leaders have said is intended to pressure Moscow to end the war. At the very least, the attacks have brought the war home even more poignantly for millions of Russians, shattering Putin's narrative of the conflict as something that doesn't affect the lives of ordinary people in his country. An estimated one-third of Russia's refining capacity has been cut off, according to Chris Weafer, CEO of the consultancy Macro-Advisory. The attacks have inflicted lasting damage that will be costly to fix. Despite significant air defenses protecting Russia's capital, a top refinery in Moscow has been hit twice. The second strike on June 18 set it ablaze, damaging key equipment that will reportedly take until the end of the year to repair. With gasoline production in Russia reduced by roughly 17% to 850,000 barrels a day, according to government statistics, rationing has been introduced in many regions, and motorists have had to wait in line for hours to refuel.

Crimea, which Russia illegally annexed from Ukraine in 2014, has faced the worst fuel shortages. Gasoline sales to individuals have been periodically halted there altogether. Putin downplays the impact of Ukrainian strikes. Putin chaired a meeting of government officials last weekend to discuss the fuel shortages. In televised statements, he acknowledged the country was going through a "difficult period." He pledged to accelerate repairs of energy facilities and said Russia would consider importing gasoline to help make up for what he described as "temporary" shortages. He also said Russia's arms industry will boost production of air defense systems to fend off future Ukrainian attacks. Putin portrayed the Ukrainian strikes as an attempt to divide Russian society, halt Moscow's offensive and try to force the Kremlin into negotiations on "terms advantageous to our adversary." "We will not give them that chance," he said. While Putin said Ukraine's long-range strikes on Russian oil facilities "have absolutely no effect on the situation at the front," Western military analysts say mid-range strikes on the Russian army in recent months have hampered military logistics and slowed the tempo of its advance, leaving the battlefield in a stalemate. Putin claims Russian forces are still advancing across the roughly 1,000 kilometer-long (620 mile-long) front line. In an interview last weekend with state TV, Putin mentioned the names of small villages and even streets in Ukraine. Putin dismisses Ukraine's ceasefire offers. The Russian president has responded to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's offer to meet by challenging him to come to Moscow, a non-starter to Ukraine. Putin has rejected a truce that Kyiv and its Western allies have proposed. He says it would only give



Ukrainian forces time to rest and regroup. He has made any ceasefire conditional on Ukraine's withdrawal from the part of the Donetsk region it still controls, a demand rejected by Ukraine. Putin has said that a final peace deal must oblige Ukraine to abandon its bid to join NATO, reduce its military and protect Russian language and culture. In last Sunday's interview, Putin claimed that Ukraine had offered to limit the fighting to the four regions that Russia annexed but never fully captured: Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia. He said he rejected the proposal because it would free up Ukrainian forces from other areas where Russian troops have made inroads and let them focus on fending off the Russian attacks in the four southeastern regions. "Faced with a catastrophic shortage of personnel, the armed forces of Ukraine apparently believe this could be their salvation," Putin said. "Saving the Kyiv regime is not part of our plans." The Kremlin said the offer was made via confidential channels; Ukrainian officials have not publicly discussed any such proposal. Putin also dismissed a Ukrainian proposal to mutually halt strikes deep into each other's territory. Russian attacks deep into Ukraine are "much more powerful, sensitive and, frankly speaking, destructive," he said. In Thursday's deadly barrage on Kyiv, Russia once again hit residential areas even as it claimed to be targeting military sites. By contrast, the vast majority of Ukrainian strikes in Russia have hit oil facilities, weapons factories and other military targets. A United Nations tally says more than 16,000 Ukrainian civilians have died in the war.

Iranian top brass comes together to pay last tributes to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei

Tehran [Iran], July 3 (ANI): Iran's top leaders came together at the Imam Khomeini Grand Mosalla on Friday in a solemn moment as the country marks the funeral for Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was killed in US-Israeli strikes earlier on February 28 this year. Heads of the three branches of Iran's government were seen paying their respects to the slain leader. Iranian military commander Mohsen Rezaee, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, Chief Justice of Iran Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei, Parliament speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian attend the farewell ceremony for Iran's late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. High-profile Indian dignitaries have paid tribute to the late Supreme Leader of Iran, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, ahead of the formal state funeral ceremonies in Tehran. The Embassy of Iran in India, in a post on X, shared, "Indian Dignitaries Pay Tribute to the Martyred Leader of Iran, His Eminence Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei." The image shared by the Embassy of Iran in India on X featured People's Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti and Salman Khurshid, who heads the Congress party's foreign affairs department, along with other delegates preparing to travel for the high-profile state proceedings. Following the initial departure of these prominent political figures, the official government delegation also set out from the national



capital. Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita departed from his residence in Delhi on Friday morning as India prepares to join the global delegations arriving in Iran. He, along with Bihar Governor Lt. Gen. (Rtd.) Syed Ata Hasnain, will leave for Iran today to attend the funeral ceremony of the late Supreme Leader. Leaders have flown in from across the world to pay their respects to the Iranian leader. According to the state broadcaster Press TV, Georgian President Kavelashvili, Iraqi President Amidi and Tajik President Rahmon are among those present in Iran. Pakistan Army Chief Asim Munir, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also touched down in Iran. The families of Hezbollah's Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, Imad Mughniyeh, and other commanders also paid their final respects to Khamenei. A delegation of Palestinian scholars, Lebanon's Amal Movement delegation, Omani and Russian delegations also paid tributes. He Wei, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress, and Igor Sergeyenko, Chairman of the House of

Representatives of Belarus, met with Iran's Parliament Speaker Ghalibaf on the sidelines of the farewell ceremony for the Leader, Press TV said. Iran has begun the first stage of funeral ceremonies for Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, with foreign dignitaries and religious figures paying their respects at Tehran's Grand Mosalla. Significantly, the heightened threat matrix has directly impacted the immediate family. The current Supreme Leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, will not be present at the funeral events for his father due to these intense security concerns, according to his representative in India, Ayatollah Hakim Elahi. The domestic security environment remains highly sensitive following provocative statements from regional adversaries, including Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz, who had previously remarked that the late leader was "marked for death". In response to these external pressures, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi clarified that any operational threat directed against the current leadership would face immediate and forceful retaliation. Furthermore, high-ranking military commanders have cautioned external forces

against executing any aggressive actions during the mourning period. In a statement published via domestic channels, Maj. Gen. Ali Abdollahi, the commander of Iran's Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, warned adversaries against any miscalculation, declaring, "We warn the enemies of a strong Iran... to avoid any miscalculation and to consider the harsh and regret-inducing responses of the sons of the Iranian nation in the Armed Forces to any threat or aggression." The Leader's body, along with those of his companions, was transferred to Tehran's Grand Mosalla early Friday and placed in the main prayer hall ahead of a two-day public farewell ceremony. Before the funeral ceremonies commenced, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, in a post on X, called on Iranians from all backgrounds to take part. "As heroic Iran prepares to bid farewell to the sincere servant of Islam and the Revolution, I invite all people, regardless of ethnicity, religion, political taste or orientation, to participate with enthusiasm, dignity and in historic numbers, demonstrating a lasting image of national unity and loyalty to the lofty ideals of the Islamic establishment," he said on X. According to Press TV citing Iranian officials, the multi-day funeral is expected to draw between 15 and 20 million mourners, according to Iranian officials. The state broadcaster further reported that ceremonies will continue on Saturday and Sunday with the body lying in state at the Grand Mosalla before a funeral procession through Tehran on Monday.

Canada advances Alberta pipeline to Pacific Coast to expand oil exports beyond US

Canada moved Thursday to advance a new pipeline from Alberta to the Pacific Coast as Prime Minister Mark Carney seeks to reduce the country's dependence on the United States as its main oil customer, while trying to ease separatist tensions in the energy-rich province without abandoning environmental protections on British Columbia's northern coast. Carney and Alberta Premier Danielle Smith unveiled a proposed route through southern British Columbia, saying the project would open more Canadian oil to Asian markets while preserving a ban on oil tankers off northern British Columbia. "The best route for a new pipeline is one that goes through one that already exists south through the Trans Mountain corridor, to our Pacific Coast, the gateway to the world's fastest growing markets," Carney said in Calgary. Carney has set a goal for Canada to double its non-US exports in the next decade and has said a pipeline can reduce the



price discount on current oil sales to US markets. Smith wants Alberta to double oil production to eight million barrels per day over the next 10 to 15 years. "The world is asking Canada to step up and provide stable, democratic and reliable energy supply that countries around the world are looking for," Smith said. "This is not just another energy project. It's a nation-building project that will unlock wealth and opportunity." Smith said Pembina Pipeline Corporation will be involved as a partner with government. She said

what the share of the private sector stake will be remains to be seen. Smith has long complained that Carney's predecessor, Justin Trudeau, hindered the province's energy industry and fuelled separatist sentiment. Alberta is holding a public vote in the fall on whether to hold a referendum on leaving Canada. British Columbia and some First Nations are against a pipeline through northern British Columbia. "The tanker ban will remain in place. We will be protecting the northern coast of British Columbia," Carney said

earlier in Vancouver. Carney also said Thursday he will compensate British Columbia for environmental risks if a pipeline is built in the southern part of the province. A previous memorandum of understanding Ottawa and Alberta included an adjustment of an oil tanker ban off parts of the British Columbia coast, but British Columbia Premier David Eby also said Thursday he secured a commitment to keep the northern tanker ban in place, protecting the province's pristine northern coast. "It ensures that the northern tanker ban remains in place," Eby said. Trudeau opposed a pipeline that could cross northern British Columbia and the Great Bear Rainforest. He approved one pipeline from Alberta to the British Columbia southern coast, the Trans Mountain pipeline, but rejected the Northern Gateway project amid opposition from environmentalists and Indigenous communities.

27 killed, 91 injured as Russia launches massive attack on Ukraine's capital Kyiv

Russia launched hundreds of drones and dozens of missiles at Ukraine's capital Kyiv in the early hours of Thursday, killing at least 27 people, wounding scores more and damaging around 130 buildings in the deadliest attack on the capital this year. Multiple explosions shook central Kyiv and reverberated across the capital throughout the night as thousands of residents rushed to bomb shelters and underground metro stations. Huge columns of smoke filled the skyline. The death toll climbed to 27 after an injured person died in hospital, and 91 were injured, the head of the capital's military administration, Tymur Tkachenko, said on Telegram. Tkachenko had earlier warned that the toll was likely to rise as rescue teams worked through the night, sifting through rubble in search of trapped residents. He said teams at one site in an eastern suburb on the capital's left bank of the Dnipro River had recovered five bodies while eight residents were unaccounted for. "Rescue crews will work without interruption until all the debris is cleared," he wrote. "Unfortunately, more victims may still be found." The scale and spread of destruction across the breadth of the capital had little precedent even in a war now in its fifth year. Twenty-four people died in an attack on Kyiv in May. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who cut short his visit to Ireland and rushed home, visited the site where a nine-storey residential building was half destroyed. He blamed the destruction in part on a failure of allies to deliver promised air defenses. "If our partners had delivered on their promises in a timely manner, I think we could have saved more homes and lives today," said Zelenskyy, who looked tired and frustrated. "All we ask of our partners is simply to do what we've agreed on. We're not even asking for more."

Later, in his nightly video address, Zelenskyy said the issue of air defenses would be "one of the key outcomes" of next week's NATO summit in Turkey, as he repeated his call for the development of European air defenses. "If, of course, NATO still means anything to the allies," he said. "Europe must have its own sufficient capability to defend against all types of threats, including this one - from Russian ballistic missiles." Russia launched 74 missiles and 496 drones overnight, the Ukrainian air force said. Yuri Ihnat, the Air Force spokesperson, said the number of ballistic missiles was unusually high and the interception rate was low. Ukraine has struggled with shortages of Patriot missiles in recent months. The Russian Defence Ministry, in a Telegram post, said its "massive attack" using long-range, high-precision air, land- and sea-launched weapons and drones hit military and energy facilities, as well as airports in Kyiv and other locations. Moscow said the attacks were retaliation for Ukrainian drone strikes on Russia. Kyiv, which has stepped up strikes in recent weeks on Russia's domestic fuel supply, said it had hit an oil refinery overnight in the Russian region of Nizhny Novgorod, where the governor reported one person killed in a strike on an industrial facility. The Kremlin said Russian military commanders had briefed President Vladimir Putin about the Russian attacks, adding that Moscow would increase pressure to achieve its war aims.



Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko announced a day of mourning in Kyiv for Friday. He said that damage was recorded across the city of about 3 million, with some buildings heavily damaged. The Ukrainian Red Cross, in a post on X, said its humanitarian warehouse in Kyiv has been destroyed in the assault and posted pictures of a shattered building interior. It said 320,000 relief items had been lost, "affecting emergency response and humanitarian operations across Ukraine". Katarina Matheranova, the EU ambassador to Ukraine, said that "Russia unleashed hell on Kyiv" overnight, and had struck accommodation used by diplomatic personnel. Diplomats were unharmed, but their belongings were damaged in a fire. City officials said that the injured included children, paramedics and drivers at an ambulance station. "Our house is on fire. Oleg was pulling our neighbour out of the burning house, while I was phoning all the emergency services during the explosions," Kyiv resident Iryna Plekhova said on Facebook, posting a picture of a half-destroyed apartment building. "We do not have an apartment anymore." The National Institute of Biochemistry was among many buildings damaged: its state-of-the-art biochemistry laboratory and other offices were gutted during the attack.

Nuvoco Vistas Launches new Ready-Mix Concrete Plant in Vijayawada, AP

Visakhapatnam, July 3, 2026: Nuvoco Vistas Corp. Ltd., India's trusted building materials company, has strengthened its Ready-Mix Concrete (RMX) footprint in Vijayawada with the launch of its state-of-the-art plant in the city. The new facility reinforces Nuvoco's commitment to delivering high-quality, reliable, and innovative concrete solutions to support the region's rapidly growing construction and infrastructure sectors. Andhra Pradesh continues to be an important growth market, driven by infrastructure development, urban expansion,



and increasing construction activity. The facility will improve access to important construction markets including Vijayawada, Guntur, Tenali, Nuzvid and Chilakaluri, enabling

faster service, better market response and stronger support for ongoing and upcoming projects across the region. Its location is expected to strengthen Nuvoco's ability to serve a broad regional catchment

across Andhra Pradesh. Mr. Jogesh Jain, Head of the Ready-Mix Concrete business at Nuvoco Vistas Corp. Ltd., expressed his excitement at the inauguration of the latest plant, stating, "The launch of our RMX plant in Vijayawada reflects Nuvoco's continued commitment to strengthening our presence in Andhra Pradesh and delivering innovative, high-quality concrete solutions to support the region's growing infrastructure and construction needs. The expanded capacity will enable us to serve our customers with greater efficiency, reliability, and responsiveness."

Nagabandham Review

Cast - Virat Karma, Nabha Natesh, Iswarya Menon, Mahesh Manjrekar, Jagapathi Babu and others
Director - Abhishek Nama
Producer - Kishore Annapureddy, Nishitha Nagireddy

Banner - NIK Studios
Music - Junaid Kumar – Abhe

Producer Abhishek Nama has turned into a full-fledged Director with a VFX intense movie, Nagabandham. The movie starring Pedha Kapu fame Virat Karna has attracted eyeballs for its Devotional Backdrop, Sprawling Anantha Padmanabha Swamy Set, and the quality.

What is the Movie About?
Nagabandham is a power cast over a door guarding something which makes those who get it the winner of the Universe. To open the door, they should get a Book, a Brahma Kamalam in the Srirangam Temple, and some holy scriptures. The rest is all about how a couple of baddies are after it and how Rudra (Virat Karna) stops them.

Performances:
Virat Karna's physique is apt for the role of Rudra and a Naga Sadhu. The physique has become so helpful in the action sequences. But then, the script does not offer him anything



extraordinary. He is yet to mature as an actor especially with his expressions and emotions. Nabha Natesh is fine with looks but again struggled in performance. Jagapathi Babu is okay in a formulaic role. Daksha Nagarkar and Ishwarya Menon got roles like cameos with hardly anything notable. Mahesh Manjrekar and Murali Sharma were perfectly cast. Garuda Ram is perfect as Bairagi. There are many notable actors playing little roles.

Technicalities:
Nagabandham is technically brilliant with extraordinary sets, good VFX, and some great Production Design. In particular, the Anantha Padmanabha Swamy set and the set with Dasavatharalu are excellent. The background score by Junaid

Padmanabha Swamy Set
Largely Good VFX Portions
Negatives:
Unnecessary Family Drama
Poor Writing
Confusing Screenplay
Repeat Sequences in Second Half

Analysis:
Nagabandham has a very familiar story. There is a Supernatural Power guarded by a few elements like Nagabandham Book, a Brahma Kamalam, and a Holy Scripture. There is a gang going after it and our Hero plays defender. We have seen numerous stories and films with this line. But at the same time, it can still be a saleable line given that Nagabandham has extraordinary Production design and impressive VFX.

Kumar and Abhe is excellent but songs except Namo Re song did not turn out well. Soundarrajan's Visuals are great. A very few VFX shots are tacky especially those with snakes. Editing should have been a lot better in both the halves. 196 Minutes Runtime is way too much. Production Values are brilliant.

Positives:
A n a n t h a

But then, director Abhishek Nama let the film down by poor screenplay and insipid writing. The initial portions of the film are very intriguing right from the titles design. But then, the film slips into routine with the family drama. Again the Temple sequence and Namo Re song leaves with a good feeling. However, it does not last long. Two songs including the romantic song and another one that comes almost immediately are complete speed breakers.

The interval sequence is a neatly designed action sequence resembling Animal interval fight. However, it does not sit well in the film because it is not accompanied by the right emotion.

The second half is a bigger mess. The director delves into the actual story but then, the writing becomes even bigger problem here. We have too many twists, too many subplots, and the quest to say too many details. We also get Multiple Flashbacks which also do not serve the purpose. We also get a feeling of repetition in that phase.

Finally, Nagabandham is an ambitious outing which should be commended for its technical output as the makers spent more on the making than remunerations. But then, a similar ambition is not felt in the writing department making it a disappointing fare.



Buchi Babu Caught in a Career Dilemma due to Ram Charan ?

Director Buchi Babu Sana is currently busy with his much-awaited film Peddi, starring Ram Charan. Even before the movie is released, there is already a lot of discussion about what the talented director will do after completing this project. According to industry reports, Ram Charan is happy with Buchi Babu's work and is interested in working with him again in the future. Reports also suggest that the actor has



asked the director to prepare another strong script. However, there is no official announcement about a second film together. The biggest challenge is Ram Charan's busy schedule. After finishing Peddi, the actor is expected to begin his next project with director Sukumar. Sukumar is known for taking enough time to develop his stories and complete his films carefully. Reports say that the script discussions are still going on, and the project may take a long time from pre-production to release. Because of this, Buchi Babu may have to wait nearly two years if he wants to make another film with Ram Charan. That creates an important question. Should he wait for the star hero, or should he direct another movie in the meantime? Finding another leading actor may not be easy. Most top Telugu stars already have packed schedules for the next few years.

Even if Buchi Babu has a powerful script, getting dates from a major hero could be difficult. Another option is to work with a medium range heroes, or even introduce a new face. However, after directing a big-budget film with Ram Charan, choosing a smaller project may surprise many people in the industry. It could also lead to unnecessary speculation about his career.

At the same time, staying without a project for a long period is also not a practical choice for any director. Filmmakers need to stay active and continue making films to keep their momentum. For now, nothing has been officially confirmed about Buchi Babu's next project. Fans will have to wait for an announcement from the director or the production team. Until then, all these reports remain industry speculation, while everyone eagerly looks forward to seeing Peddi on the big screen.

All Star Heroes Asking for Mahesh model only

It marks the release of “Rao Bahadur” on July 3rd, a film that is being presented by “G Mahesh Babu Entertainment”. An interesting rumour is now being heard that many star heroes are interested in going with the GMB model of producing movies, and they are looking forward for such tie-ups.

Well, that's something not possible for everyone to do. In fact, Mahesh Babu's production house has so far 'presented' films like Major and now Rao Bahadur. But then, they haven't invested money in these two projects if insider reports are to be believed. While there will be a full



investor to carve out the film, Mahesh's wife Namrata will first listen to the story and take a call on whether to present the film or not.

The moment Mahesh Babu's name gets added to a film, naturally the 'sales' part will be aggressive. Later, Mahesh will

promote the film on social media, and sometimes turns up for an event or two. If the movie makes more money than the investment, then GMB will share the profits, and that is an interesting financial model. Right now, many star heroes also want to become producers and present films without investing a single penny from their pockets.

Already, Sukumar Writings is doing the same, as Sukumar would never invest money, but only his brain. In the case of star heroes, their image would do that. But would this model work with others is the first question now.

Dulquer Questioned For 7 Hours: What's Next?

“Sitaramam” fame hero Dulquer Salman, who is busy doing films in almost all the tinsel towns that are popular for making big movies, has actually been facing a case related to luxury cars for a long time.

Investigating a luxury car smuggling network that brought vehicles into India through the Bhutan border, the Customs Preventive Department has questioned him for 7 hours straight on another day. Tax evasion and illegal vehicle imports are the main accusations against Dulquer Salman as well, who owns a bunch of Luxury cars like a Land Rover Defender, a Toyota Land Cruiser, a Nissan Patrol, and another Nissan that were also used in his movies. The authorities are checking the papers and finding out if Dulquer followed the legal route to acquire the vehicles or not. While the actor was not alleged to have done any malpractice, the investigation agency is still verifying his documents, and they might question him



again some days later, say sources. Initially, all these vehicles belonging to Dulquer Salman were seized by the investigation agency as part of Operation Numkhor. The main accusation is that these vehicles are brought into the Indian market on fake and forged documents. Later, the Mahanati star went to the Court, and got the vehicles released after a bank guarantee was provided. However, the court ordered the star to produce the vehicles whenever investigators need them, and directed him not to take them out of the state.

Rao Bahadur Review

Cast - Satyadev, Vikas Muppala, Deepa Thomas, Bala Parasar, Anand Bharathi, Pranay Vaka, Kunal Kaushik & Master Kiran

Director - Venkatesh Maha

Producer - Anurag Reddy, Sharath Chandra, Chinta Gopalakrishna Reddy, Eshwaran Vijayaraghavan

Banner - A+S Movies, S r i c h a k r a a s E n t e r t a i n m e n t s , Mahayana Motion Pictures, Better Invest Media Vision Fund

Music - Smaran Sai

The director, Venkatesh Maha, made his feature film debut with, C/o Kancharapalem, in 2018. With that film, he scored both critical acclaim and commercial success. After displaying tremendous potential with his first film, Uma Maheswara Ugra Roopasya (2020), a remake of the Malayalam film M a h e s h i n t e Prathikaaram, he made it his second film. He then took a break for a few years and announced, Rao Bahadur, Psychological Drama, as his third film. The very talented, Satya Dev, was roped in to play the lead role in the film. The expectations around the film increased when the production house of Mahesh Babu, GMB Entertainment, was onboarded to present it. After generating enough curiosity with interesting promotional content, the film was released in theatres today. Did Venkatesh Maha, come up with one more path-breaking film, after ‘C/o Kancharapalem’? Did Satya Dev, deliver a memorable performance in a very complex role? Did the film live up to the tag ‘Maha Chithram(Great Film), which the team repeatedly used during the promotions? Let's figure it out with a detailed analysis.

What is it about?
Bhuvanam Ramappa Rao Bahadur(Satya Dev), who belongs to a royal family, suffers from liver cancer and he is also an alcoholic with an undiagnosed psychological disorder. The doctors say that his liver cancer cannot be cured and he may not be able to live for a long time. But, Ramappa's desire to clear his doubt related to the birth of his(?) second son, defeats death & coma and pushes him to live longer and find the

‘truth’. Why exactly, Ramappa, have doubts about the birth of his second son? Is Ramappa, really the biological father of the kid? Why did Ramappa's wife decide to restrict herself to a dark and closed room? Did Ramappa, finally succeed in finding the ‘truth’? What happens when, Ramappa, eventually finds the truth? Forms the rest of the story.

Performances:

Satyadev in the role of Bhuvanam Ramappa Rao Bahadur, delivered a once-in-a-lifetime performance. The efforts he put into getting the nuances right through his performance and the efforts he put into transforming his body to suit the different timelines, are to be seen throughout the film. The film may have issues but his performance in the film did not have a single wrong note. He is sure to get a lot of accolades for his excellent performance in Rao Bahadur. Don't be surprised if he wins a few awards in the coming days for his performance in the films. Vikas Muppala in the role of Narayana Achari, a close friend of Ramappa, delivered a very good performance. He got a full-length role and he utilised it very well. He is sure to get quite a few character roles in the coming days. Deepa Thomas in the role of Renuka, looked very confident and delivered a mature performance. Her ability to perform through her eyes, looked so good to see on screen. The director, Venkatesh Maha, appeared in a crucial cameo role and danced in a song as well. He delivered a decent performance. Bala Parasar in the role of Achchamma, was superb. Her dialogue delivery and subtle performance, generated good humour, in a few places. Senior actor, Anand Bharathi, performed well but his character entered very late into the film and appeared forced. Both the actors who played the roles of sons, delivered good performances.

Technicalities:
Smaran Sai came up with a soul-stirring background score. He was able to instil life into quite a few sequences through his very intriguing score. A bit more care should have been taken in composing the songs. A chartbuster song like,

Asha Pasham(C/o Kancharapalem), would have done a world of good to the film. Kartik Parmar's cinematography is first rate. His frames and visuals, gave the film a very classy and intriguing look. The cinematographer and the art department, deserve appreciation for giving a very rich look, although the film was made on a limited budget. The film was mainly shot at a single location and yet it did not look monotonous, due to the first-rate output by the cinematographer and the art department.

Apart from writing, directing and acting, Venkatesh Maha, also edited the film. Unfortunately, the decision not to hire an editor worked against the film. With better editing along with a bit of runtime trimming, the film would have been a bit better. Production values of the film were alright. Let's discuss the writer and director, Venkatesh Maha, in detail in the analysis section.

Positives:
1.? ?Satya Dev's Performance
2.? ?Superior Technical Output
3.? ?Dialogue Writing
4.? ?Fairly Surprising Twist(s)

Negatives:
1.? ?Lack of Emotional Depth
2.? ?Overtly Dragged Proceedings
3.? ?Preachy Tone
4.? ?Overreliance on The Twist(s)

Analysis:
C/o Kancharapalem, is one of the very few sensible movies that were made in the last decade in the Telugu film industry. The storytelling, the screenplay, relatable characters, emotional depth, the music, and everything else in that film were very organic. It is why the final twist in the film worked out so well. That film worked because of its unpretentious and honest storytelling but not just because of the twist during the climax. Unfortunately, it appeared that Venkatesh Maha, firmly believed that the final twist was the only reason for ‘C/o Kancharapalem's’, success and seemed to have first developed a twist and then wrote the story and screenplay around that twist for, Rao Bahadur. The twist(s) indeed worked as expected but the storytelling oscillates between very



good to good to annoying at times.. The lead actor, Satya Dev, delivered a performance of a lifetime and the music director, Smaran Sai, came up with a very good background score. Both of them gave their best and almost pulled off the film.

The film is made with a very high technical quality. The cinematography, the background score, the aesthetics and the artwork complemented each other to give a very pleasant and yet intriguing look to the film. The emotional depth in the proceedings was slightly better in the second half compared to the first half. The dark and subtle situation-driven humour worked out at quite a few places. Especially, the humour generated through the maid character was commendable. The last twenty to twenty-five minutes of the film have a few good moments along with a twist(a couple of twists) during the climax. But, both those twists looked forced and appeared to have blended into the proceedings only to surprise the audience. The dialogue writing deserves a special mention. Throughout the film, there were quite a few sensibly written and thought-provoking dialogues. However, the writing for the female lead character should have been much better. Throughout the first half, she was shown as an independent, strong and fierce woman and the same woman is shown as a submissive wife in an abusive marriage, in the second half, without any proper justification. What happens when a director decides to make a ‘Great’ film intentionally? What happens when a director forcefully creates situations to make social satire? What happens when a director

makes a two hour and fifty minutes film without proper emotional depth? What happens when a director is unable to find a balance between satire and preaching? You may have to watch, Rao Bahadur, to get to know the answers to all the above questions. It is appreciable when a film director displays social consciousness through his films. The director has every right to question the social norms through his films. But, the social message or satire, should be blended seamlessly with storytelling. It is where, Venkatesh Maha, lost track to an extent in, Rao Bahadur. After a point, it feels as if we are watching a never-ending social commentary on M a h a b h a r a t h a m , Mahatma Gandhi, religion, caste, creed, geopolitics, rich Vs poor, skin colour, etc. Through the character of an Alcoholic with an undiagnosed psychological disorder, the director of the film tried to preach to the audience about almost every social issue that is out there from Dwapara Yugam to Independent India, in a boring manner.

Overall, Rao Bahadur, boasts of a once-in-a-lifetime performance from Satya Dev, technical brilliance, thought provoking dialogues. But, Overreliance on the final twist and preachy tone made the film a decent watch. The intention to deliver a ‘Great Film’, is to be seen in almost every frame but conscious intention alone can not make a film great, it needs great storytelling as well. The core point ‘Anumanam Penu Bhootham(Doubt in the mind is a great demon), has the potential to become a great story. But, what we got to see is a decent attempt that did not tap its full potential.

FIFA WC: When and where to watch Argentina vs Cape Verde, know all details

Miami: Defending champions Argentina will clash with debutants Cape Verde in the round of 32 clash at the Miami Stadium on Saturday, with both teams looking to secure their berth in the round of 16. Having defied all expectations by reaching the knockout stage at their first FIFA World Cup and doing so while remaining unbeaten, Cape Verde's wild ride in North America continues with the toughest match imaginable, against holders Argentina. Argentina have picked up in North America where they left off after lifting the trophy in Qatar four years ago, being one of just three of the 48 participating teams to win all three of their group games. And despite it being his sixth World Cup and having recently turned 39, Lionel Messi is showing no signs of slowing down, and is now the tournament's all-time leading scorer. He leads the race for the adidas Golden Boot with six goals from his three games while against Jordan he became the first player to score in seven consecutive World Cup matches. He will also feel at home in Miami, the city which he has called home since 2023. But Cape Verde have nothing to fear after holding previous winners Spain and Uruguay to draws. And they have developed their own cult hero in the tournament, 40-year-old goalkeeper Vozinha.

How to watch Argentina vs Cape Verde live in India



GeographicReference Live streaming and live telecast of the FIFA World Cup 2026 football matches will be available on the Zee5 platform and app in India. A subscription will be needed. Live telecast of the FIFA World Cup 2026 will be available on the Unite8 Sports 1, Unite8 Sports 1 HD, Unite8 Sports 2, and Unite8 Sports 2 HD TV channels in India. Goalkeepers: Emiliano Martínez, Gerónimo Rulli, Juan Musso Defenders: Nahuel Molina, Gonzalo Montiel, Cristian Romero, Leonardo Balerdi, Nicolas Otamendi, Lisandro Martínez, Nicolas Tagliafico, Facundo Medina Midfielders: Leandro Paredes, Alexis Mac Allister, Rodrigo De Paul, Giovani Lo Celso, Exequiel

Palacios, Enzo Fernandez, Valentin Barco Forwards: Lionel Messi, Julian Alvarez, Lautaro Martinez, Thiago Almada, Nicolas Paz, Nicolas Gonzalez, Giuliano Simeone, Jose Manuel Lopez Cape Verde- Goalkeepers: Vozinha, Marcio Rosa, C.J. dos Santos Defenders: Diney Borges, Sidney Cabral, Logan Costa, Steven Moreira, Wagner Pina, Joao Paulo Fernandes, Roberto 'Pico' Lopes, Kelvin Pires, Lanique'Stopira' Tavares Midfielders: Telmo Arcanjo, Laros Duarte, DeroY Duarte, Jamiro Monteiro, Kevin Pina, Yannick Semedo Forwards: Gilson Benchimol, Jovane Cabral, Nuno da Costa, Dailon Livramento, Ryan Mendes, Garry Rodrigues, Willy Semedo, Helio Varela .

Women's T20 WC: Head coach Mashimbyi vows stronger South Africa after semi-final exit



London: South Africa head coach Mandla Mashimbyi believes the Proteas will emerge stronger from their ICC Women's T20 World Cup campaign despite their semi-final defeat to England, insisting the team will use the disappointment as motivation to improve ahead of future global tournaments. South Africa's run ended at The Oval on Thursday after England secured a strong 40-run victory, earning a place in Sunday's final against Australia. The Proteas started well by eliminat-

ing three England batters early on. However, a crucial century partnership between Nat Sciver-Brunt and Heather Knight shifted the game in England's favor. Despite the loss, Mashimbyi remained positive about his team's growth and the lessons they learned during the tournament. "You just lose and you learn," Mashimbyi said after the semi-final. "We've learned a lot in this World Cup. We'll go back to the drawing board and put in place things that will make us

even more dangerous and better as a team. "We know where our gaps are, and that's all we can do really. We can't change the results. It's about the work we put in going forward. We want to ensure that when we get another chance to play in a World Cup or ICC Trophy tournament, we are competing with other teams." South Africa had a strong tournament, even though they did not reach the final. Opener Tazmin Brits was the team's top run-scorer with 225 runs. Experienced bowlers Marizanne Kapp and Shabnim Ismail each took eight wickets in six matches. Mashimbyi also supported veteran bowler Ismail, who came out of retirement for the tournament, to continue representing South Africa. "I think she's still in for the long haul," he said. "She'll have to make a decision. But right now, she's still a Proteas player." The South Africa

coach dismissed claims that his side relied too much on Kapp and Ismail with the new ball. He admitted, however, that the bowling attack lacked variety and needed better support for frontline spinner Nonkululeko Mlaba. "I think we had too many similar types of bowlers, and teams could figure out what we were trying to do," Mashimbyi said. "Shabnim and Kapp can put any team under pressure with a new ball, and that's what we've been doing." The main goal now is to return to the drawing board and ensure we create processes to bring in players who can perform, if not the same, then better. While South Africa's World Cup journey ended just short of the final, Mashimbyi believes the campaign has laid out a clear plan for the Proteas to become an even stronger presence in future ICC tournaments.

My record in Australia phenomenal but England feels like second home: Cheteshwar Pujara after MCC honour

Standout performances of Cheteshwar Pujara's exemplary Test career came in Australia but the former India number three, who was recently honoured with the MCC life membership, says he only got the home away from home feeling in England.Having toured with the Indian team thrice and played for multiple teams in county cricket, Pujara has spent the most amount of time outside Rajkot driving across the length and breadth of England. Now bestowed with the honorary life membership of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), the owner of the fabled Lord's stadium, Pujara has another reason to visit the "Home of Cricket". "I've played a lot of county cricket in the UK. So when you end up playing a lot of cricket over there, you feel like you're at home. And for me, it's a great pleasure and privilege to be part of the MCC. "And getting this honorary membership, it means a lot. As a cricketer, when you have worked hard throughout your career and when that effort is recognised, you feel proud about your achievements as a cricketer," the 38-year-old told PTI in an interview.In the three Test matches he was part of at Lord's, India won two. He could not get a hundred at the iconic venue for his national team but he looks back fondly at his double hundred for Sussex at a ground steeped in history. Pujara, a veteran of 103 Tests, has played at all famous grounds around the world but there is something dif-

ferent about turning up at Lord's "So I've got some fond memories of being at Lord's, playing cricket, also watching cricket there. When I had my second ACL reconstruction, that was in 2011, when I was playing for RCB and I got injured. And then my knee surgery was actually in London. "So when I was there consulting a doctor, I went to the Lord's cricket ground just to have a feel of it. Because before that, I'd never played at Lord's." "So when you walk into that ground, it has a different aura, different vibe. And now when you become a lifetime member at MCC, so you have this privilege of going there and watching cricket. But as a child, I always dreamt of playing cricket there," he said. Lord's has a vibe like no other venue but as a batter, being out in the middle has its fair share of challenges.

"The best part about it is the historical balcony, which we have seen for many, many years, which hasn't changed even now. When you walk into the field from the long room, everyone appreciates your effort, whether you're walking in or coming out during the lunch break or a tea time break or end of day's play. "It doesn't matter how you have performed, but they will always



appreciate good cricket on the field. And that's the best part about being at Lord's," said Pujara. **What about the challenges?** "Firstly, it's a pitch where you have to settle in. You have to spend enough time as a batter on the crease and then start playing your shots. So it's a slightly challenging pitch for any batter. With the slope around, if you are not very familiar with the slope, you struggle to take the stance early on. "You have to make a few adjustments in your stance as a batter. But once you get used to it, it's a phenomenal pitch to bat on. And it's a great outfield as well. You have value for your shots. "But you always put a lot of pressure on yourself as a cricketer. When you're playing at Lords, you want to get your name on the honours' board. Overall, if I could change something in my cricketering journey, I think scoring a 100 at Lord's would have been a great achievement," said Pujara whose only Test hundred in England came in Southampton.

Argentina are favourites, but Cape Verde have been difficult to break down: Paul Masefield

Mumbai: As the reigning champions Argentina face tournament debutants Cape Verde in the Round of 32 of FIFA World Cup 2026, former England international Paul Masefield believes Lionel Messi and Co. have the quality and experience to comfortably progress but insists Cape Verde deserve immense credit for their historic run to the knockout stages. Reigning champions Argentina entered the knockout clash as favourites; Cape Verde's disciplined defensive displays and spirited run have made them one of the tournament's biggest success stories. "Argentina are the favourites, no question about that. They will stick to their shape, they will do what they need to do, and they will go about the game in a positive way. Cape Verde have to be respected, especially with players like Vozinha in goal and Kevin Pina shielding the defence, but for me this is Argentina in cruise control, winning this one comfortably," Masefield said on Zee5. Despite predicting an Argentine victory, Masefield described Cape Verde's campaign as one



of the defining stories of the World Cup. "What has really stood out for me with this Cape Verde side is their heart, passion and desire. They've been incredibly difficult to break down, and the results they've produced have been nothing short of phenomenal. It's been brilliant to see one of the minnows of world football reach this stage, and now they get the opportunity to face the reigning champions. It's an unbelievable story," he add. Masefield also reflected on the enduring greatness of Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, explaining why the debate over football's greatest player continues. "The biggest difference between Messi and Ronaldo is mentality. If you look at Ronaldo, he's worked incredibly hard to

become uniquely physically fit, which is why his longevity has been so impressive. He's evolved throughout his career because he's constantly worked on his game. Lionel Messi, on the other hand, is just raw, natural talent that has been there from day one. "They're both individually brilliant and absolute superstars, but for different reasons, and that's why the debate over who is the greatest continues. When you talk about technique, quality and individual brilliance, it's Messi. But when you talk about the all-round game, it's Ronaldo. Both players have been nothing short of unbelievable for the game of football." Looking ahead to the remainder of the tournament, Masefield believes France and Argentina

remain the teams to beat, while identifying Mexico and the USA as potential dark horses. "For me, France are the favourites to win the FIFA World Cup 2026. There's no question about that given the quality and talent they have throughout the squad. Argentina are right alongside them because of the strength they possess across the pitch and the incredible depth on their bench, which will become increasingly important as injuries and suspensions begin to affect teams in the knockout rounds. Right now, Argentina are simply brushing aside everything in their path. "If you're looking for dark horses, I'd say Mexico. As one of the host nations, they've quietly gone about their business and have looked extremely impressive throughout the tournament. I also wouldn't rule out the USA. "Playing at home with the backing of their supporters gives them a huge advantage, and if Mauricio Pochettino can keep that momentum going, they could surprise a lot of people. That said, the two clear favourites for me remain France and Argentina," he said.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi eyes his India debut in 1st T20I vs England

Teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi will be eyeing his much-anticipated international debut for India in the ongoing five-match T20I series against England.Speaking on JioStar's 'Game Plan', JioStar expert Saba Karim recalled when he first heard about Sooryavanshi, explained why he was confident the 15-year-old would have a successful second season in the TATA IPL, and would pass the international test with flying colours. "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 platform, 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," he said. On having the belief that Sooryavanshi wouldn't have second-season blues, he added: "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-season 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."On what makes Sooryavanshi stand out at such a young age, Katin said the youngster 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," said Karim. On Sooryavanshi playing all three formats for India, "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."

Ai+ Smartphone unveils special Flipkart GOAT Sale offers across its product portfolio

Visakhapatnam :July 3 Ai+ Smartphone has announced attractive pricing across its smartphone and AIoT portfolio for Flipkart's much-awaited GOAT Sale. Flipkart Plus customers will get early access to the sale starting July 3, while the GOAT Sale opens for all customers from July 4. The biggest-ever offer on the Ai+ Pulse 2, available at a special price of INR 8,999, is among the highlights of this year's Flipkart GOAT Sale. Consumers can also avail attractive offers across the Nova Series, wearables, audio products and tablets. The Ai+ Pulse 2 has been developed for consumers looking for a reliable everyday smartphone experience. The smartphone features a 6.745-inch HD+ display with a 120Hz refresh rate, the Unisoc T7250 octa-core processor, a 50MP AI rear camera, an 8MP front



camera, a 6000mAh battery with 18W fast charging, and Android 16-based NxtQuantum OS. Available with up to 6GB RAM and 128GB storage, expandable up to 1TB, it also comes with IP64-rated dust and water resistance and a side-mounted fingerprint scanner. Commenting on the announcement, Madhav Sheth, CEO, Ai+ Smartphone and Founder, NxtQuantum Shift Technologies, said "As our product portfolio continues to expand, our focus is on ensuring that

more consumers are able to experience the Ai+ ecosystem across smartphones and connected devices. The Flipkart GOAT Sale allows us to do that through the biggest-ever offer on the Pulse 2, alongside attractive pricing across the Nova Series and our AIoT portfolio. We remain committed to delivering products that combine dependable performance, clean software and meaningful value across every price segment." Alongside the Pulse 2, consumers can also avail offers across the Nova

Series, including the Nova 2, Nova 2 Neo, Nova 2 Pro and Nova 2 Ultra. Developed to cater to a wide spectrum of consumers, from first-time 5G smartphone users to those seeking a more performance-oriented smartphone experience, the lineup combines dependable hardware with Android 16-based NxtQuantum OS to deliver clean software, reliable performance and long-lasting battery life across different price segments. The Flipkart GOAT Sale will also feature offers across Ai+'s AIoT portfolio, including the NovaWatch Active, NovaWatch Kids 4G, NovaWatchRotatecam 4Ggoes on sale for the first time during Flipkart GOAT Sale, Wearbuds, NovaPods Go and the Pulse Tab, giving consumers access to Ai+'s connected ecosystem across wearables, audio products and tablets.

CGST Visakhapatnam zone celebrated 9th anniversary of implementation of GST today

Visakhapatnam, July 3: Shri Satish Dhawale, IRS, Commissioner, Tirupati CGST, presided over the function and delivered key note address on the occasion. He said that since the inception of GST in 2017, in these 9 years Tax base has increased upto 1.5 Crores and Revenue collection has increased to nearly 2 lakhs Crore per month. With implementation of GST 2.0, even though the Tax rates are rationalized and reduced, the Revenue is showing positive growth due to increase in consumption. He further emphasised upon the slogan 'Sugam Kar Sashakt Bharat'. Shri M.Srinivas, IRSME, Development Commissioner, VSEZ was present



on the occasion as Chief Guest. He emphasized that the close collaboration among the SEZ, GST, and Customs administrations has fostered a seamless and business-friendly ecosystem, empowering exporters and facilitating trade.

On this occasion Taxpayers were also felicitated for their contribution to the GST revenue. Officers of the Department were also given commendation certificates for their outstanding service.

GITAM launches Karanam Malleswari Sports Hall

By Skyline Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam, July 03 : GITAM Deemed to be University launched the Karanam Malleswari Sports Hall on Friday, named after India's first female Olympic medalist. GITAM President M. Sribharath opened the facility, which features a multi-purpose yoga hall for mental wellness and professional-grade table tennis arenas. University leadership, faculty, and students attended the



event, which highlights GITAM's commitment to campus wellness and sports infrastructure. The new complex is now open

to serve as a hub for athletic and personal growth across the university community.

Ministers released irrigation water from the Tatipudi reservoir

Vizianagaram (Gantiada), July 03(Skyline): District In-charge Minister and Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha and State Minister for MSME, SERP and NRI Empowerment Kondapalli Srinivas said that their government is giving top priority to the development and welfare of farmers. Irrigation water was released from Gorrepati Buchi Apparao Tatipudi reservoir in Gantiada mandal on Friday. Farmers are expressing joy over the release of water from Sasya Shyamalam Tatipudi, which has irrigated about 15,300 acres



in three mandals in Gajapathinagar and S.Kota constituencies. Visakhapatnam MP Sri Bharat, S. Kota MLA Kolla Lalitha Kumari, Ayukattudarsanam President K. Jagannadha

Rao, coalition leaders Kondapalli Kondalarao, Bhaskaranaidu and other leaders, Ayukattu darsanam leaders, directors, etc., irrigation and mandal level officials participated in the program.

Rear Admiral C Raghuram, VSM (Retd) assumes charge as Chairman & MD of HSL

Visakhapatnam, July 3: Rear Admiral Chandra sekharan Raghuram, VSM (Retd.) has assumed charge as the Chairman & Managing Director of HSL, Visakhapatnam on 02 Jul 26. 2. Rear Admiral C Raghuram, VSM (Retd.) was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 10 Nov 1989 and has served with distinction for over three and a half decades. Over his distinguished Naval career, he has acquired rich and diverse experience across Naval Engineering, Ship Maintenance, Strategic Planning and Leadership at key Operational and Command appointments. In recognition of his distinguished service, he was conferred the Vishisht Seva Medal (VSM) in 2017. 3. An alumnus of the Naval College of Engineering, Lonavala, Cranfield University (United Kingdom), Naval War College and National Defence College, he has built an illustrious career with extensive experience in Afloat Operations, Equipment Life Cycle Support (LCS), Research & Development, Warship



Design, Combat System Integration and Instructional assignments. He has served onboard frontline warships viz. INS Gomati and INS Trishul, including as part of the Commissioning Crew of INS Trishul. His assignments at Naval Dockyard, Afloat Support Team for Talwar Class Ships and Weapons and Electronics Systems Engineering Establishment (WESEE) provided significant expertise in Life Cycle Support and Combat System Integration. 4. During his distinguished career, he has held several important appointments including Commanding Officer of the premier Training Establishment INS Valsura, Principal Director Electrical Engineering at Integrated Headquarters,

Ministry of Defence (Navy), Command Electrical Officer at Headquarters, Eastern Naval Command, Chief Staff Officer (Technical) at Headquarters, Western Naval Command, besides Senior leadership roles at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai and Naval Headquarters. Prior to assuming charge at HSL, he was serving as the Assistant Chief of Materiel, handling maintenance of key Naval Platforms. 5. As Chairman & Managing Director, Rear Admiral C Raghuram (Retd) will steer Hindustan Shipyard Limited towards further strengthening its position as a strategic Defence Shipyard and advancing India's vision of Self-reliance in Maritime Defence capabilities.

Govt to Lease Out Rushikonda Buildings in Vizag for Resort Use

By Skyline Staff Reporter

Visakhapatnam, July 03

Putting an end to uncertainty, the State government has decided to lease out the Rushikonda buildings in Vizag. The Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (APTDC) has issued a notification inviting bids from private parties to convert the Rushikonda buildings into a luxury resort or hospitality destination under an Operation and Maintenance model.

Spanning nine acres, the buildings, gardens, walkways, parking facilities, and surrounding vacant land were built by the previous government at a whopping Rs. 450 crore.

Well-known hospitality brands Taj and The Leela Palace have expressed interest in the buildings.

It may be recalled that the Alliance government had set up a Cabinet sub-committee to recommend ways to properly use the luxurious buildings.

After several visits and obtaining public opinion, the sub-committee has recommended conversion of the buildings into a luxury resort.



GITAM commemorates 88th birth anniversary of founder Dr MVVS Murthi

By Skyline Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam, July 03 : GITAM Deemed to be University observed the 88th Birth Anniversary of its revered founder, philanthropist, and former Member of Parliament, Dr. M.V.V.S. Murthi here on Friday. To mark the occasion, M. Sribharath, President of GITAM and current Member of Parliament for Visakhapatnam, led the university community in paying floral tributes at the Dr. M.V.V.S. Murthi Smruthi Vanam. The commemorative event was attended by senior administrative leadership, including Vice-President Prof. M. Gangadhara Rao, Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof. Y. Gouthama Rao, and Registrar Prof.



D. Gunasekharan, alongside a large assembly of deans, institutional directors, faculty, and staff. Addressing the gathering, M. Sribharath emphasized GITAM's strategic evolution into a premier,

research-intensive institution, noting that the university's rising trajectory in global academic rankings directly fulfills Dr. Murthi's foundational vision. Our transformation into a globally

MLA Kala Venkata Rao reviews public grievances, directs officials for swift action

Vizianagaram (Cheepuru palli), July 3 (Skyline): Reaffirming the government's commitment to public welfare, Cheepurupalli MLA Kimidi Kala Venkata Rao conducted a grievance redressal programme at his camp office on Friday, where he personally heard complaints from residents across the constituency and assured prompt action.

People from various mandals submitted petitions regarding delays in pension approvals, drinking

water shortages, drainage issues, irrigation concerns affecting farmers, health scheme-related grievances, and requests for financial assistance.

After reviewing the petitions, the MLA immediately contacted concerned department officials over the phone and instructed them to address the issues without unnecessary delay. He emphasized that all eligible beneficiaries should receive services and welfare benefits in accordance with government norms.



Speaking on the occasion, Kala Venkata Rao said the coalition government is focused on ensuring effective governance and delivering welfare schemes to

every deserving household. He stated that resolving public grievances remains a top priority and assured people that every petition would be

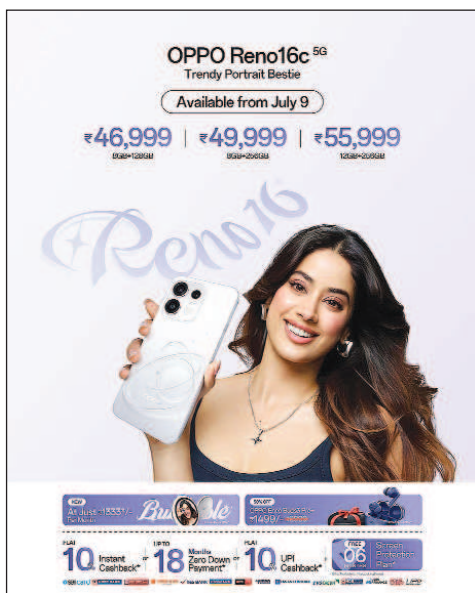
monitored until an appropriate solution is provided.

The MLA also encouraged citizens to continue bringing their concerns directly to the grievance forum, stating that regular interaction with the public helps the administration identify local issues and improve service delivery. Several local public representatives, party leaders, grassroots workers, and a large number of residents from different parts of the constituency attended the programme.

OPPO India Elevates Creative Photography with Reno16 Series featuring AI Portrait Camera and AI Remix Collage

Visakhapatnam, July 3, 2026: OPPO India today announced the launch of the Reno16 Series, comprising the Reno16 and Reno16c with India's first HoloVerse 3D Design, an AI Portrait camera with a 50MP 3.5x Telephoto lens, Natural Tone Imaging and All-Focal-Length 4K 60fps HDR video recording. Designed for young users, that see smartphone as more than just a communication device, the Reno16 Series seamlessly combines a camera, creative studio, productivity companion and personal assistant in one. From creating stand-out content with AI-powered tools like AI Remix Collage, Pop Cam and Popout 2.0 to the intelligent experiences with the latest from ColorOS 16, the Reno16 Series empowers users to create, connect and express themselves effortlessly.

Commenting on the launch, Goldee Patnaik, Head of PR and Communications, OPPO India, said "For today's generation, a smartphone is much more than a device it's where creativity begins, stories are captured and individuality is expressed. The Reno Series has always stood at the intersection of trendsetting design and meaningful innovation, evolving with the way young users create and connect. With the Reno16 Series, we bring together our most expressive design, our most intelligent camera experience and AI that works naturally in the background to make everyday creativity more effortless. Every innovation has been thoughtfully designed to help users capture authentic moments, express themselves with confidence and enjoy premium experiences that seamlessly fit into their everyday lives."



India's First HoloVerse 3D Design

Every Reno generation introduces a new design identity, and the Reno16 Series continues that legacy with its boldest expression yet. Inspired by the beauty and mystery of the cosmos, the Reno16 Series debuts India's First HoloVerse 3D Design, combining OPPO's industry-exclusive HoloVerse 3D Technology with the all-new 3D Pop Planet Design to create a smartphone that stands out from every angle.

Exclusive to the Starry White variant, the 3D Pop Planet Design creates a striking naked-eye 3D effect, making a celestial planet appear to

float beneath the phone's surface. Powered by a precision-engineered dual-layer optical structure and millions of microlenses, the design comes alive as light and perspective change, creating a captivating sense of depth and movement with every glance. Complementing this signature look is OPPO's Floating 3D Glitter finish and Dynamic Stellar Ring, adding shimmer and depth around the camera module for a distinctive visual identity. Crafted with a seamless one-piece cold-sculpted design, the Reno16 and Reno16c are available in Starry White, Twilight Violet and Stellar Purple, offering a premium aesthetic that celebrates individuality and self-expression.

The Reno16 Series pairs elegant ergonomics with immersive AMOLED displays designed for everyday comfort. The Reno16 features a compact 6.32-inch display with ultra-thin bezels, while the Reno16c offers a larger 6.57-inch display. Both support FHD+ resolution, a smooth 120Hz refresh rate and advanced eye-care technologies, delivering vibrant visuals and comfortable viewing throughout the day. The Reno16 is as slim as 8.22mm and as light as 182g, while the Reno16c measures 8.44mm in thickness and weighs about 195g, keeping both devices comfortable to hold throughout the day. Engineered for everyday reliability, both devices combine an Aerospace-Grade Aluminium Frame with OPPO's reinforced structural engineering and the highest level of IP66, IP68, IP69 and IP69K dust and water resistance, offering dependable protection against spills, rain and even high-pressure