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"New culture of self-employment, entrepreneurship has developed in country" PM Modi on India's rising startup culture



New Delhi : With India having the 3rd largest startup ecosystem with more than 2.3 lakh startups recognised, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday hailed the growing culture of self-employment and entrepreneurship in the country, noting the involvement of a large number of youth from tier-1 and tier-2 cities, and women. Addressing the 19th edition of the Rozgar Mela, PM

Modi said that India has become the third-largest startup ecosystem globally. He affirmed that the change is visible in the country's tier-1 and tier-2 cities and not just the big cities.

"In the last few years, a new culture of self-employment and entrepreneurship has developed in the country. India is the 3rd-largest startup ecosystem in the world.

"10 major Indian semiconductor units to make global mark soon"

- PM Modi says 'complete supply chain' being created



New Delhi : Asserting that every citizen is working towards the resolution of build-

ing a developed nation by 2047, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday announced

that a comprehensive semiconductor supply chain is taking root in India, with 10 major do-

mestic units poised to make a global impact in the near future. Addressing a Rozgar Mela via video conferencing, the Prime Minister emphasised that heavy capital investments in core manufacturing and engineering sectors are generating millions of high-quality job opportunities for the nation's youth, with a 'complete supply chain for semiconductors is being created in India'.

Bhumi Puja Performed for the Construction of a 150-Bed 'Vishram Sadan' at a Cost of Rs.14.67 Crores



KURNOOL: Minister for Industries, Commerce, and Food Processing, T.G. Bharat Gupta, stated that working towards the development of the Kurnool Government General Hospital (GGH) is his primary objective. He made these remarks during the Bhumi Puja (groundbreaking ceremony) for the construction of the Vishram Sadan (rest house). On Saturday morning, the Bhumi Puja ceremony was held on the premises of Kurnool GGH for the construction of a building intended to accommodate patients' attendants. The project, costing ₹14.67 crores, is being funded through the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds of the Power Grid Corporation of India. The event was attended by Minister T.G. Bharat Gupta, Vamshi Rama Mohan Burra (Chairman and Managing Director of Power Grid Corporation of India), Panyam MLA Gauru Charitha, and other officials.

Following the Bhumi Puja and the unveiling of

the plaque, Minister Bharat Gupta addressed the gathering. Hospital Elevating to Top Rank: He emphasized that the administration is working dedicatedly to develop Kurnool GGH, providing corporate-level facilities to elevate the hospital from its current third position to the leading position in the state. As part of this initiative, the Power Grid Corporation was persuaded to fund the well-equipped Vishram Sadan. Timeline for Construction: Since all necessary approvals are in place, the Minister requested the National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC), a Government of India enterprise, to ensure the building is completed within 10 months. Interstate Medical Hub: Due to the presence of highly skilled doctors and excellent facilities, patients from not only Andhra Pradesh but also from neighboring Telangana and Karnataka visit this hospital in large numbers. This building will be highly beneficial to them. Cancer Hospital Progress:

Thanks to the efforts of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, the cancer hospital is functioning excellently, currently treating more patients than its standard capacity of 160. The Minister thanked the Power Grid Corporation and requested them to allocate more funds to enhance other hospital amenities. Maintenance and Discipline: The Minister directed the Hospital Superintendent, Dr. Venkateswarlu, to take all necessary measures to ensure that the building and its surroundings remain clean at all times once operational, and to ensure that those staying there maintain responsibility and discipline.

Vamshi Rama Mohan Burra, Chairman and Managing Director of Power Grid Corporation of India, stated: "Our organization has so far allocated nearly Rs.100 crores under CSR for various development works in Andhra Pradesh. In Kurnool GGH, we previously sanctioned funds for a CT scan

machine, and now we are contributing Rs.14.67 crores for the Vishram Sadan to aid hospital development. We will continue to extend support wherever possible." He fondly shared that he is an alumnus of the G. Pulla Reddy Educational Institutions in Kurnool and expressed his happiness in contributing to the development of the hospital. He urged the public to make good use of this facility.

MLA Gauru Charitha urged officials to expedite the construction so it could benefit people from seven districts of Andhra Pradesh, as well as Telangana and Karnataka. She recalled that Power Grid had previously provided ₹6.50 crores for setting up CT scan facilities and thanked the corporation. She also requested officials to ensure flawless sanitation and maintenance after the building's completion. GGH Superintendent Dr. Venkateswarlu noted that the hospital, built in 1956, has progressively

'India, US will continue to work closely for global good'

PM Modi, Secretary Rubio discuss bilateral ties, West Asia situation

New Delhi : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday held wide-ranging discussions with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on bilateral cooperation across areas such as defence, trade and energy. Rubio briefed PM Modi on Washington's perspective on the situation in West Asia, and PM Modi reaffirmed India's consistent support for the peaceful resolution of conflicts through dialogue and diplomacy. According to the Prime Minister's Office, Secretary Rubio briefed the Prime Minister on the sustained progress in bilateral

cooperation across a wide range of sectors, including defence, strategic technologies, trade and investment, energy security, connectivity, education and people-to-people ties.

Secretary Rubio shared the US perspective on various regional and global issues, including the situation in West Asia, the statement said. It underlined that the Prime Minister reaffirmed India's consistent support for peace efforts and reiterated the call for a peaceful resolution of the conflicts through dialogue and diplomacy.



"HORRIFIC INCIDENT"

Tamil Nadu CM Vijay on 10-year-old girl's murder, orders swift probe

Chennai : Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay on Saturday expressed deep anguish over the abduction and murder of a 10-year-old girl in Coimbatore, calling it a "horrific incident" and directing the police to carry out a swift and thorough investigation into the case. In a post on X, the Chief Minister condemned the crime and assured of strict action against those involved. "The horrific incident that occurred yesterday to a 10-year-old girl in Coimbatore causes immense pain and shock. Such inhuman and unforgivable criminal acts can never be tolerated in our society.



Civil Aviation Minister exhorts people to stay fit



From Our Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam: Drawing inspiration from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for 'Fit India', Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu exhorted people of the district to gear up for 'Fit Srikakulam'. The MP Cup 2026, Box Cricket Tournament was inaugurated at Kargil Park in Srikakulam on Friday as part of the 'Yerranna Kreeda Utsavam'. The MP said the platform is meant for en-

couraging sportsmanship and instill healthy lifestyle in youth. The tournament logo was unveiled and players were called to participate in large numbers. Union Minister Rammohan Naidu, Srikakulam MLA Gondu Shankar, Srikakulam in-charge Collector Farman Ahmed Khan and SP Maheshwar Reddy played a friendly cricket match on the occasion of the tournament's inauguration. The MP Cup Box Cricket Tournament will be held till

30th of this month. "In today's digital era, the programme was initiated with an aim of getting the youth to give up their screen time and focus on physical fitness, mental strength and social bonding," the Civil Aviation Minister underlined. Further, he suggested that the youth should get into the habit of playing some kind of sport. He encouraged people to inculcate healthy practices and work on their fitness level by playing sports of their choice.

MLA Arava Sridhar Resigns as Government Whip Amid Controversy

From Our Staff Reporter Kadapa: Arava Sridhar, MLA representing Railway Kodur and serving as Government Whip, has resigned from his position. He submitted his resignation to Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan after a meeting with him on Saturday. During the meeting, Sridhar addressed various allega-

tions and controversies surrounding him, offering clarifications. He then informed Pawan Kalyan of his decision to resign, citing



personal reasons. The resignation comes amid intense media attention following allegations involving Harsha Veena, who released videos accusing Sridhar of deception and false promises of marriage. A case has been registered, and an investigation is ongoing. Recently, fresh political allegations have also emerged against Sridhar, with his resignation seen as accepting moral responsibility for the situation.

EDITORIAL

Youth digital
movement tsunami

Unexpected developments are taking place in the political landscape of the country. Two new forces created by the youth on the digital platform under the names of Cockroach Janata Party (Cockroach Janata Party) and National Parasitic Front (National Parasitic Front) are causing a sensation. These are satirical online political movements created by Indian Gen Z social media users in protest against the rising unemployment, paper leaks and systemic corruption in the country. These are not limited to memes but have transformed into a mass digital protest reflecting the anger of the youth. Although both of these are not recognized by the Election Commission, they are making mainstream political parties sweat. In this, behind the unusual digital movement of Cockroach Janata Party, a bright struggle for self-respect is blazing.

In the same month (May 2026), the controversial remarks made by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court (CJI) Justice Suryakant during a court hearing deeply offended the unemployed youth. The youth were outraged by the derogatory remarks, which described the unemployed youth as cockroaches attacking the system, parasites plaguing the society, and lazy people. This set off a digital political tsunami that raised the flag of rebellion across the country. The CJI apologized the next day and said that his comments had been misrepresented. He explained that he had only made the comments aimed at some fake lawyers who were corrupting the legal profession with fake degrees.

Yet the youth's anger is not subsiding. Are we called cockroaches, parasites, and lazy? The youth have launched a digital movement to fight back with those names. It is against this backdrop that the Cockroach Janata Party was born on May 16. Abhijeet Dishke, a 30-year-old student of public relations at Boston University and a former AAP social media volunteer, founded this innovative party. The party has declared its slogan as secular, socialist, democratic, and lazy. It has released its manifesto sarcastically saying that this party is for the youth who are constantly online and have recently been branded as lazy. It is noteworthy that this party also released its own website and party anthem within just 48 hours of its formation. The movement's momentum is evident from the fact that the Cockroach Janata Party's X account has grown to 60 lakh followers by May 20. Prominent parliamentarians like Mahua Moitra and Kirti Azad from the Trinamool Congress are strongly supporting it.

The protest movement has moved beyond digital screens and into the real world. In the national capital, Delhi, hundreds of young volunteers dressed as cockroaches voluntarily cleaned the polluted Yamuna River and held a peaceful demonstration. The manifesto released five main demands, including that the Chief Justices of the Supreme Court and High Courts should not be given government posts after their retirement, that the Anti-Defection Act be implemented, that 50 percent reservation for women in the legislatures be strictly implemented, and that the licenses of illegal media outlets be cancelled. The National Parasitic Front, which was formed in parallel to the Cockroach Janata Party, is following a new style of propaganda called revolutionary absurdity, with its main goal of exposing the failures of the government and the flawed systems. It is concerned that ordinary citizens, who are unable to get basic amenities despite paying taxes, are living as victims of this system.

It is bringing some demands to the fore in line with the aspirations of the youth. They are strongly demanding the formation of a clean parliament without criminal records, provision of better permanent infrastructure in the country, and provision of reliable public transport and electricity to the common man at low prices. Overall, these two digital movements are able to attract a few lakh followers in their support. The Cockroach Janata Party is making it clear that this is not a party just for laughs or memes. Cockroach Janata has reacted strongly to the issue of NEET paper leakage, which has become a hot topic in the country. It is demanding the resignation of the Education Minister. CBSE wants to scrap rechecking fees. Youth is raising its voice on issues. Indian youth are very aware and are expressing their discontent and discontent to the world in a very democratic and ironic way, not in violent ways, says Cockroach Janata Party founder Abhijeet Dishke. All these youth who are creating a digital tsunami are trying to prove that they are not just talkers on social media, but are responsible citizens who want real change in the country through constructive criticism. If governments are still unable to solve the problems of Gen Z youth according to their aspirations, it will not be surprising if meme politics rules real electoral politics in the future.

Kolkata's Diplomatic Return: Why Rubio's
Visit Signals Bengal's New Era

Kolkata has once again entered an important diplomatic moment. For the first time in fourteen years, the city is hosting a serving United States Secretary of State. The visit carries symbolic and political significance, arriving at a time when Bengal has just witnessed a historic political transition and when India-US relations are moving through an important strategic phase. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, one of President Donald Trump's closest foreign policy advisers and also serving as Acting National Security Adviser, arrived in Kolkata as part of his four-day India visit from May 23 to May 26. His India itinerary includes Kolkata, Agra, Jaipur and New Delhi. Discussions during his broader India tour are expected to focus on energy cooperation, trade, defence and regional security issues. Rubio's flight landed at Kolkata airport at around 7:30 am. He visited the Missionaries of Charity and the Victoria Memorial before continuing with the next phase of his India tour. The timing of this visit is drawing attention for several reasons. It comes only weeks after Bengal experienced a major political change that ended a 15-year-old regime. It also arrives amid increasing strategic engagement between India and the United States. Before leaving for India, Rubio publicly described India as a "great partner" and indicated that Washington was prepared to expand energy exports substantially. That statement itself reflected a broader direction in US foreign policy toward India.

Diplomatic visits are never random events. The itinerary of a visiting foreign dignitary is usually shaped through consultations between both countries. Yet the host government's priorities also influence these visits. Bengal now has a "double-engine" government, and there is a view within political circles that Delhi encouraged greater engagement with

Kolkata at this stage. The state government is trying to project itself as investment-friendly, and officials believe this visit can help strengthen that narrative. There are indications that Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari may also use the opportunity to brief foreign stakeholders about Bengal's economic possibilities, including infrastructure and industrial projects such as the Falta Export Zone. For the present government, attracting investment is becoming central to its political and economic messaging. However, Kolkata and American diplomacy have a long and complicated history. The relationship has often moved through ideological disagreements, political resistance, and changing realities. There was a period when American diplomats visiting Kolkata faced a rough political climate. During the Left era, anti-American sentiment remained a visible political force. Opposition to American foreign policy, the Vietnam War, and what the Left described as American imperialism often shaped public discourse. One of the earliest examples came during the visit of former US Defence Secretary and later World Bank President Robert McNamara. McNamara, who served as US Defence Secretary from 1961 to 1968 and later became President of the World Bank from 1968 to 1981, visited West Bengal at a time when his role in the Vietnam War had made him a deeply controversial figure. As soon as McNamara arrived at the airport, CPM workers launched protests against him. Demonstrations were organised, reflecting the intensity of anti-American sentiment at the time. Yet despite those protests, McNamara met state officials at the Writers' Building and continued with his scheduled engagements. That contradiction often defined Bengal politics. Ideology and practical governance frequently moved in parallel directions.



Political observers have long argued that this anti-American approach shaped Bengal's political culture in many ways. Some believe it affected Bengal's work culture and industrial outlook as well. Whether one agrees or disagrees, that debate has existed for decades. Over time, however, things gradually changed. Under Jyoti Basu, a new form of political pragmatism emerged. Although the CPM maintained its ideological opposition to American policies, Basu also recognised the need for economic engagement. From 1977 to 2000, as one of India's longest-serving Chief Ministers, Jyoti Basu actively pitched West Bengal as an investment destination. He met American officials and business delegations and encouraged foreign investment. Political opponents often mocked this shift. Congress leaders coined phrases such as "from revolution to reception" and even joked about "Uncle Sam at Alimuddin Street." Critics argued that a party built on anti-American rhetoric was now welcoming US officials. But Basu defended this approach. In 1994, Jyoti Basu himself visited the United States and met corporate leaders to encourage investment in Bengal. Later, during 1995 and 1996,

efforts were made to facilitate technology partnerships connected with projects like Haldia Petrochemicals. Basu often argued that supporting socialism and engaging with the United States were not mutually contradictory positions. He could praise Cuba and at the same time, hold conversations with American diplomats. For him, governance required flexibility. Still, ideological tensions never completely disappeared. Controversies continued in later years as well. In 2011, then chief minister Mamata Banerjee made a statement on television claiming that US officials regularly visited Alimuddin Street. She remarked, "I am part of the government, and I know many things." The Left challenged her to reveal names. That statement triggered political debate at the time. The issue showed that relations between Kolkata and American diplomacy had remained active beneath the surface, regardless of changing governments. Then came another important visit. In 2012, then US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton visited Kolkata and met Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at Writers' Building. Many political observers believed that Kolkata formed only one part of a larger regional diplomatic strategy. After Kolkata, Clinton travelled to

Bangladesh. Some analysts argued that Bangladesh itself was central to that diplomatic effort. Hillary Clinton had once remarked that despite travelling widely across the world, she had always wanted to visit Bangladesh. That added another layer of significance to her Kolkata stop. Now another chapter appears to be unfolding. Unlike earlier periods marked by ideological hesitation, the current political environment is different. With Suwendu Adhikari leading the government and receiving support from Delhi, there is a belief within sections of the administration that a larger flow of American investment could become possible, particularly under the present political climate. Rubio himself underlined the broader strategic value of India-US ties. His diplomatic engagement will culminate in New Delhi on May 26, when India hosts the Quad Foreign Ministers' meeting involving the United States, Japan and Australia. Yet beyond trade and diplomacy, a larger geopolitical context also exists. The world is currently witnessing shifts in power alignments. Relations involving China, Pakistan and Russia continue to create new strategic equations. Bangladesh too has become an important factor in regional diplomacy.

Rubio Is In India, But Trump's America Just
Launched Its Sharpest Attack On Indian Immigrants

As US Secretary of State Marco Rubio arrives in India for the Quad meeting and strategic consultations, the Trump administration is preparing one of the sharpest reversals of long-standing American immigration policy in decades. At the centre of this shift is a new USCIS approach that seeks to restrict adjustment of status inside the United States and push many legal immigrants to complete green card processing from abroad. This is not merely an administrative change. It overturns the logic Congress itself built into the American immigration system. For decades, US law allowed legally admitted migrants to transition from temporary visas to permanent residency while remaining inside the country. Congress deliberately created categories such as the H-1B visa around the idea of "dual intent", where skilled workers could arrive temporarily while eventually seeking permanent settlement. That framework helped build modern American technological dominance. Indian engineers, doctors, researchers, entrepreneurs and students became central to the US economy under exactly this system. Silicon Valley, American hospitals, research universities and technology firms absorbed Indian talent at every level. Now, that same pipeline is being politically targeted. The implications for Indians are enormous because Indians dominate many high-skilled

visa categories and already face massive green card backlogs unique to their nationality. Thousands of Indian professionals who spent years following American laws, paying taxes and building lives in the US may now face the prospect of leaving the country during processing with no certainty of return timelines.

Families could be split across continents. Careers built over decades could collapse overnight. Children raised in the United States may suddenly face instability because their parents entered a system whose rules are now being rewritten midway. This marks a major transformation in American politics. The Trump movement no longer limits immigration politics to illegal border crossings. Legal immigration itself is increasingly becoming the target. Student visas, employment-based migration, family sponsorship and status adjustment are now all drawn into the same political battle. Indians sit directly in the firing line because they represent one of the most visible and successful immigrant communities in America's high-skilled sectors. The racial undertones have become increasingly difficult to ignore. Across sections of the MAGA ecosystem, Indian professionals are routinely portrayed as people "taking over tech", replacing American workers or changing the cultural balance of the country. Social media platforms are



flooded with openly hostile narratives directed specifically at Indian migrants and Indian-Americans. The striking aspect is that many of these migrants represent exactly the profile American conservatives once claimed to support: educated, economically productive, low-crime and legally compliant. The hostility has, therefore, moved beyond questions of legality. It increasingly reflects demographic anxiety and identity politics. Bots, outrage algorithms and coordinated information warfare networks amplify this sentiment daily. Immigration outrage generates clicks, political engagement and emotional mobilisation. Complex immigration law gets reduced into viral slogans designed to trigger resentment. The result is a digital ecosys-

tem where hostility towards Indian professionals has become politically useful. The political calculation behind this shift is straightforward. Trump and his allies see immigration as the most emotionally powerful issue available before the midterms. Expanding the target from illegal immigration to legal immigration broadens the culture war and creates a permanent atmosphere of grievance and anger. The strategy also helps redirect public frustration over inflation, economic uncertainty and governance failures toward immigrants and administrative "loopholes." The distinction between legal and illegal immigration increasingly disappears inside this political messaging. For India, this is no longer a peripheral American domestic debate.

Millions of Indian families are tied directly to the US educational and professional system. Indian middle-class aspirations, technology networks and global career pathways have long depended on the assumption that the United States remained open to legal skilled migration. Washington is now signalling something very different. As Rubio speaks in India about strategic partnership, Indo-Pacific cooperation and shared democratic values, New Delhi faces an uncomfortable reality. Indian talent remains essential to the American economy while Indian migrants increasingly face political hostility inside the United States. That contradiction now sits at the centre of the India-US relationship.

TDP Mahanadu to be Held in Virtual Mode: Minister Atchannaidu

Srikakulam, Pen Power, May 23: Andhra Pradesh Agriculture Minister said the Telugu Desam Party's prestigious Mahanadu scheduled on May 27 and 28 will be conducted in virtual and hybrid mode with a focus on social responsibility, fuel conservation, and environmental protection. Addressing party leaders and cadres at Nimmada camp office in Kotabommali mandal on Saturday, he said the decision was taken in response to Prime Minister's call for energy conservation and to reduce large-scale travel by party workers. He stated that around 1,848 clusters across the state will be equipped with LED screens to telecast the Mahanadu proceedings live from Amaravati. He called upon party leaders and activists to make the event a grand success like a "Yellow Festival" by decorating cluster centers with party flags and flex banners. Atchannaidu said key discussions during Mahanadu will focus on state development, youth em-



ployment, farmer welfare, technology, and national progress. He added that the party politburo has already approved 19 important resolutions for the event.

Collector Assures Support for Differently-Abled Persons



Guntur, Pen Power, May 23: said efforts are being made to provide security and better livelihood opportunities for differently-abled persons. Participating in the Special Grievance Redressal Programme for employees, SCs, STs, and differently-abled persons held at SR Sankaran Meeting Hall on Saturday, the Collector personally received petitions from beneficiaries. He directed officials to collect details regarding the qualifications, skills, and experience of differently-abled persons and assured skill training and employment opportunities through the Skill Development Department. He also encouraged them to become entrepreneurs and promised government support for self-employment initiatives. Several district officials from various departments attended the programme.

Collector Inaugurates Rural Metal Road in Vatsavai Mandal

Vijayawada, Pen Power, May 23: said rural roads are the lifelines of development and play a crucial role in improving living standards and economic growth in villages. On Saturday, the Collector inaugurated a WBM metal road constructed at a cost of Rs.1.19 crore in Lingala village of Vatsavai mandal along with former MLC TD Janardhan, KDCC Bank Chairman Nettem Raghuram, and Jaggayyapeta MLA Sriram Rajagopal (Tatayya). He stated that the road would benefit farmers by improving transportation facilities and reducing travel time and costs for shifting agricultural produce to markets. Officials and local leaders participated in the programme.



"Step Towards School is a Step Towards Progress": Collector Lakshmisha



Vijayawada, Pen Power, May 23: said the "Badi Pilustondi" programme is being conducted enthusiastically

across the district to encourage parents to enroll their children in government schools. On Saturday, the Collector, along with DEO L. Chandrakala and officials, visited Bhimavaram and Makkapeta villages in Vatsavai mandal and participated in awareness campaigns organized by the Education Department and Samagra Shiksha.

He interacted with parents and explained the facilities available in government schools, including digital education, midday meals, free textbooks, and uniforms. The Collector congratulated 26 students who shifted from private schools to government schools and directed officials to identify dropout children and ensure their re-enrollment. He also instructed officials to complete "Mana Badi Mana Bhavishyathu" development works before the reopening of schools.

Collector Directs Officials to Improve Satisfaction in NTR Bharosa Pension Distribution

Kakinada, Pen Power, May 23: District Collector directed officials to ensure higher beneficiary satisfaction in the distribution of NTR Bharosa pensions and warned of strict action against negligent staff. During a video conference with DRDA, GSWS officials, MPDOs, and Panchayat Secretaries on Saturday, the Collector reviewed IVRS feedback related to pension distribution. He instructed staff to deliver pensions at beneficiaries' doorsteps on the 1st of every month and warned that collecting money from pensioners would not be tolerated. The Collector said the state government is closely monitoring pension delivery through IVRS calls, focusing on timely distribution, staff behaviour, and complaints of illegal demands for money.



He stressed that elderly beneficiaries should be treated with respect and directed officials to ensure visible improvement in pension services from June onwards.

"Operation Clean Sweep" Launched to Improve Sanitation

Rajahmundry, Pen Power, May 23 (Pen Power): District Collector Keerthi Chekuri and Municipal Commissioner Rahul Meena participated in the launch of "Operation Clean Sweep," a four-week special sanitation drive being conducted from May 23 to June 20 across all municipalities as per State Government directions. The programme was flagged off from the Municipal Office to Godavari Railway Station via Anam Kala Kendram. The Collector and Commissioner joined sanitation workers in cleaning roads and removing garbage using brooms. Awareness



campaigns were also taken up to discourage open defecation. Collector Keerthi Chekuri said the drive would be implemented effectively in the spirit of "Swachh Andhra-Swarna Andhra." Commissioner Rahul Meena stated that the programme aims at public health and city beautification, and will continue until every street and ward becomes clean. Several officials, sanitation staff, public representatives, and volunteers participated in the programme.

'Operation Clean Sweep' Launched in Kakinada

Kakinada, Pen Power, May 23: District Collector, MLC, and Kakinada City MLA on Saturday launched the 'Operation Clean Sweep' campaign at Gandhinagar Park in Kakinada. The Collector said the four-week campaign aims to improve sanitation in all municipalities, nagar panchayats, and Kakinada Municipal Corporation areas. He urged citizens to actively participate in maintaining cleanliness and to segregate wet and dry waste before handing it over to sanitation workers. Public representatives highlighted the importance of cleanliness for public health and appealed to people to avoid using single-use plastics and dumping waste into drains. Officials, volunteers, and residents later participated in a special cleanliness drive in the city.



62 Petitions Received in Special Grievance Programme for Differently-Abled Persons



Kakinada, Pen Power, May 23: District Collector said special priority is being given to resolving the issues of differently-abled persons in the district. A Special Grievance Redressal Programme for differently-abled persons was held on Saturday at the PGRS Prajavani Hall in the Kakinada Collectorate. The Collector, along with DRO Dr. T. Tippenaik and Welfare Department officials, directly received petitions from beneficiaries. A total of 62 petitions related to pensions, housing, assistive devices, education, employment, healthcare, and welfare schemes were received during the programme. The Collector directed concerned departments to resolve the grievances at the earliest. He stated that the programme is being conducted on every third Saturday as per government instructions and urged differently-abled persons to make use of the opportunity provided by the state government.

Differently-Abled Persons Should Be Supported: Collector Vijaya Sunitha

Markapuram, May 23 (Pen Power): District Collector Vijaya Sunitha emphasized that differently-abled persons should be treated with love, care, and compassion. She attended a wheelchair distribution programme organized by PWA organization under the leadership of district representative Enibera Praveen Kumar at BC Colony in Markapuram on Saturday. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said many disabled persons suffer due to lack of mobility aids and often face mental distress as they are unable to move freely from their homes. She appreciated the initiative of distributing wheelchairs and electric cycles free of cost. The Collector congratulated PWA Director Rebbavarapu Jesse Paul and district representative Enibera Praveen Kumar for organizing the welfare programme



and encouraged them to continue conducting more such service activities. Erragondapalem Tahsildar Manjunath Reddy, SI Devakumar, Pastors Fellowship leaders Sundar Raju, George, and David Paul also participated in the programme.

Pragati Engineering College Celebrates Placement Day-2026



Gandepalli, Pen Power, May 23: Placement Day-2026 celebrations were held grandly at in Surampalem village of Gandepalli mandal on Friday. Vice Chancellor of, Professor C.S.R.K. Prasad, attended the event as chief guest. College Chairman Dr. P. Krishnarao said the programme was organised to congratulate more than 1,538 students of the 2026 B.Tech batch who secured placements in leading multinational companies. He stated that students received high salary packages from reputed companies, with the highest package reaching Rs.45 lakh per annum and the average package standing at Rs.4.58 lakh per annum. The Vice Chancellor described the achievement of securing over 1,538 placements as remarkable and advised students to continuously improve their skills and contribute towards the vision of Viksit Bharat-2047. Faculty members, students, parents, and college officials participated in the programme.

Complete Census Process Within Deadline: Collector Abhishek Kishore

Visakhapatnam, May 23 (Pen Power): District Collector Abhishek Kishore directed officials to complete the Census-2027 process within the stipulated deadline and make the district a model in the State. During a review meeting held at the Collectorate, he instructed officials to conduct house listing, population registration, identification of vacant and locked houses, and data collection in a comprehensive manner. Special drives were ordered to identify unregistered families in villages and wards. The Collector also directed officials to gather complete information from institutional households such as hostels, hospitals, ashrams, and lodges. He advised enumerators to revisit locked houses and collect details through neighbours, watchmen, village officials, and apartment



associations if necessary. Officials were asked to rectify all data discrepancies immediately, as no corrections would be allowed after May 30. The Collector stressed the need to promote self-enumeration among the public. According to officials, census work has reached 96.55% completion in rural mandals and 93.75% in GVMC urban areas.

Horticulture Farmers Facilitation Centre Inaugurated at Kadiyam

Rajahmundry, Pen Power, May 23: A Horticulture Farmers Facilitation and Resource Centre set up by the Horticulture Department at Swarna Grama Secretariat-4 in Kadiyam of East Godavari district was inaugurated on Friday by MLA and District Collector. Speaking on the occasion, the MLA said the centre would provide multiple services for nursery and horticulture farmers under one roof. The Collector stated that services related to cultivation, exports, imports, registrations, licenses, IEC, APEDA, cultivation, and phytosanitary certificates would be simplified through the centre. Officials said farmers would also receive guidance on modern farming methods, marketing opportunities, and government schemes. Several officials, scientists, nursery farmers, and public representatives attended the programme.



Ramayana Eyes Diwali Jackpot With Early Release Strategy?



Ramayana, starring Ranbir Kapoor, Sai Pallavi and Yash, is reportedly gearing up for a revised theatrical release around October 30, ahead of the Diwali festive window as per early buzz. The big-budget mythological epic has been one of the most anticipated Indian films in recent times, and the makers are now said to be recalibrating their release strategy to maximize box office potential during the holiday season. According to industry buzz, the decision to prepone the release is a calculated move, keeping the festive advantage in mind. Diwali season traditionally brings strong footfalls to theatres, and an early arrival gives the film enough time to build word of mouth before the peak holiday period kicks in. Trade circles believe this strategy could work strongly in favour of the film if it opens to positive reports. A good talk on day one or over the opening weekend will be crucial, as it can help the film sustain momentum. More importantly, the second week of its run is expected to fall during the extended festival holidays, which could significantly boost collections across regions. Given the scale, cast, and visual grandeur associated with Ramayana, expectations are extremely high. If the content clicks with audiences, the combination of early release timing and festive holidays could turn into a major advantage at the box office. However, if the response is mixed, sustaining such a massive project through multiple weeks may become challenging. All eyes are now on the final release announcement and how the audience responds to this magnum opus when it finally hits theatres. Directed by Nitesh Tiwari, this magnum opus is being bankrolled by Namit Malhotra on a massive Rs 4000 crore budget for two parts.

Vivek Athreya Sketching A Wild 'Balayya – Mohanlal' Combo



Critically acclaimed Telugu director Vivek Athreya seems to be keen on pulling a casting coup of sorts for his upcoming project, which has been making a lot of noise since the past few months because he pitched the script to none other than seasoned actor Nandamuri Balakrishna. The surprising combination has generated huge buzz in the industry circles even before the formal announcement. Gulte was the first to inform the readers that the Saripodhaa Saanivaram director has been working on a out and out mass entertainer for Balakrishna with an idea to

cast him either in dual roles or to rope in a prominent actor who fits the bill for the character. The script is said to be shaping up quite well with the potential to redefine Balayya's mass image. Meanwhile, another fascinating scoop about this anticipated project is now being heard from reliable sources. If this news turns out to be true, then Athreya is going to bring two stalwarts of South cinema together and offer a proper feast with his mass script. Reportedly, Vivek is in plans to convince Malayalam superstar and legendary actor Mohan Lal for a strong author

backed character in Balakrishna's film. Though he initially planned to present Balayya in dual roles, he also had a backup plan to cast a notable star who can justify the second character which has a lot of significance in the film's narrative. Mohan Lal appeared in numerous Telugu films and has a lot of popularity. He previously played a terrific role in NTR's Janata Garage. So, bringing him on board would definitely create more hype for the film. However, the dream project would only take off once Vivek and Balayya wrap up their current commitments. Balakrishna

is presently busy completing Gopichand Malineni's action drama and he will later join forces with Koratala Siva. Meanwhile, Vivek Athreya might do a film with Ravi Teja before shifting his complete focus on to Balakrishna's project. If Vivek manages to convince both Balakrishna and Mohan Lal with his final draft and secure their dates, moviegoers will witness one of the sensational combinations on the big screen. Three decades ago, they appeared together in a song for a few seconds in Gandheevam movie. This time, it will be a full length screen time for both actors.

Confirmed: Allu Arjun & Basil Joseph Film Is Not Shaktimaan



Allu Arjun has been waiting to team up with directors from other languages for quite some time now. Finally, it is happening with a film directed by Atlee Kumar. Very soon, Allu Arjun will also work with director Basil Joseph. Although the official announcement has not been made yet, there is too much speculation in the media about this particular project. But we got clarity now that the film is not based on Shaktimaan. Basil Joseph was supposed to do a film based on Shaktimaan with Ranveer Singh playing the lead role. However, the project did not happen and is reported to be called off. In the meantime, director Arun Anirudhan, who helmed Baasil's Athiradi, gave clarity that the project he has penned, assumed to be Shaktimaan, is shelved, and the project supposed to happen with Basil and Allu Arjun is different. Allu Arjun and Basil Joseph are definitely collaborating, but the project in their combination is certainly a different one, and the details of the plot and genre have also not been finalized yet. There are also rumors that Basil Joseph has been invited to Allu Sirish's wedding only because the project is happening. The actor-director duo reportedly met multiple times to discuss the story already. Most likely, the film will hit the floors once Allu Arjun wraps up the film Raaka.

Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan to Visit Rajamahendravaram on May 25

Rajamahendravaram, Pen Power, May 23: will visit Rajamahendravaram on May 25 to review arrangements for the upcoming Godavari Pushkaralu and measures for pollution-free celebrations. Minister, District Collector, and SP D. Narasimha Kishore inspected the arrangements at Pushkar Ghat on Saturday. The Minister said the Deputy CM would inspect various ghats from Pushkar Ghat to Kotilingala Revu by boat and review measures to prevent pollution in the Godavari river and



Nalla Channel. A comprehensive review meeting on Pushkaralu arrangements will also be held at the Municipal Corporation office

under the leadership of the District Collector. Officials from various departments participated in the inspection.

Collector Calls for Support to Underprivileged Families Through P-4 Programme



Rajamahendravaram, Pen Power, May 23: District Collector said supporting poor and neglected families should be treated as a social responsibility by everyone. Participating in the P-4 programme at Kadiyam along with Rural MLA on Saturday, the Collector stated that many families still face difficulties in education, healthcare, housing, and livelihood despite government welfare schemes. She appreciated the initiative of identifying "Bangaru Kutumbalu" and adopting them through local mentors. In Kadiyam mandal, 34 mentors came forward to support 34 identified families. The MLA called for transforming the P-4 programme into a social movement and said nearly 13,000 vulnerable families were identified in the rural constituency, with around 7,000 already linked to mentors. Officials, public representatives, and local leaders participated in the event.

Collector Stresses Promotion of Bamboo-Based Livelihoods for Tribal Women



Rampachodavaram, May 23 (Pen Power): Polavaram District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar directed officials to promote bamboo-based products and create additional livelihood opportunities for tribal women self-help groups. During a review meeting held at the ITDA office in Rampachodavaram, the Collector said bamboo household items, handicrafts,

and decorative products have strong market demand and women should be given special training in production and marketing. He instructed officials of the Forest and Velugu departments to work in coordination for establishing exhibitions and sales centers for bamboo products. The Collector stated that 4,098 women bamboo farmers have been identi-

fied so far against a target of 11,300 across 12 mandals in the district. Dinesh Kumar said nearly 50,000 acres in the district are suitable for bamboo cultivation and added that companies in Kakinada are ready to procure large quantities of bamboo. He also announced plans to establish processing centers and provide additional income opportunities to farmers.

Shankar Vilas ROB to be Completed by July: Union Minister Pemmasani



Guntur, Pen Power, May 23: said the Shankar Vilas Railway Over Bridge (ROB) under construction near GGH in Guntur will be completed and opened to the public by July. On Saturday, the Minister inspected the ongoing works along with Municipal Commissioner K. Mayur Ashok and officials from various departments. He stated that out of 38 pillars, foundation work for 30 pillars has already been completed. He said the project faced minor delays due to labour shortages during elections in Bengal, but currently around 70 workers are engaged and efforts are being made to increase the workforce to 100. The Minister added that steps are being taken to speed up construction, including pre-casting girders at a separate location and resolving land acquisition issues within the next one-and-a-half months. He assured that the ROB works would be completed ahead of schedule.