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IIM Bangalore Campus in Indonesia Announced by PM Modi



New Delhi / Malang, Indonesia : Prime Minister Narendra Modi today announced that Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) will establish its campus in Indonesia. The Prime Minister said that the Campus will greatly benefit the youth of the entire ASEAN region. The announcement was made during the Prime Minister's visit to Indonesia and during his joint press statement with President Prabowo Subianto of Indonesia. The proposed Campus will be established at Singhasari Special Economic Zone (SEZ), Malang,

Indonesia and is a landmark step towards the internationalisation of India's higher education ecosystem. The announcement marks another significant milestone in the global expansion of India's premier educational institutions. Building on the successful establishment of overseas campuses by IIM Ahmedabad in Dubai, IIT Delhi in Abu Dhabi, and IIT Madras in Zanzibar, it underscores India's growing stature as a trusted global knowledge partner committed to advancing excellence in education, research, and innovation worldwide.

SIT widens scrutiny of Ram temple spending



Ayodhya: The Special Investigation Team probing alleged theft of offerings at the Ram temple in Ayodhya has widened its inquiry to examine more than Rs 124 crore spent by the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth

Kshetra Trust on major religious events over two years. The expanded scrutiny covers expenditure linked to the consecration ceremony held on January 22, 2024, arrangements connected with the 2025 Maha Kumbh, and the flag-hoisting ceremony of November 2025, when the completion of the temple's main spire was marked. Investigators are examining whether funds collected from devotees were

handled, recorded and spent in line with approved procedures. The move takes the investigation beyond the immediate allegation of theft from donation counting operations and places the Trust's wider financial governance under sharper review. The SIT is expected to examine bills, contracts, vendor payments, internal approvals, event management arrangements and audit trails linked to the three high-profile programmes.

Preventing Loss of Life Due to Disasters Is the Primary Goal: Anitha



From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, July, 7 : Andhra Pradesh Home and Disaster Management Minister Vangalapudi Anitha conducted a review meeting with senior officials regarding the impact of the southwest monsoon and El

Niño conditions. The meeting was held on Tuesday at the Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA). During the review, the minister directed officials to implement effective measures to minimize the impact of disasters. She emphasized that the government's primary objective is to ensure that no lives are lost due to disasters. She also instructed officials to establish special control rooms at both the state and district levels to function continuously. **Royalaseema Districts Most Affected by El Niño** The Home Minister stated that the impact of El

Niño is particularly severe in the Rayalaseema region. **She noted that:** Sri Sathya Sai, Anantapur, and Annamayya districts are experiencing severe rainfall deficiency. Kurnool, Nandyal, Chittoor, and Kadapa districts are facing a moderate drought situation. The drought impact is also moderate in Prakasam, Markapuram, Nellore, and Tirupati districts. Awareness on Alternative Crops and Flood Preparedness Minister Anitha directed officials to create awareness among farmers in drought-prone mandals about alternative crops suitable for prevailing conditions. She also instructed au-

thorities to prepare plans for the evacuation of residents living in low-lying areas vulnerable to flooding. Adequate arrangements should be made at rehabilitation centers to provide food, drinking water, and medical services. The minister stressed that essential services such as drinking water supply and electricity should not face any disruption. She further directed that teams from the Police Department, Fire Services, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), and the Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Response Force (APSDRF) remain fully prepared for emergency response operations.

Jagan Defending Those Who Insulted the Nation and Hinduism: Minister Kollu Ravindra

From Our Staff Reporter Rajamahendravaram, July 7: Andhra Pradesh Minister Kollu Ravindra strongly criticized YSRCP president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, alleging that he is defending people who have insulted the nation and Hinduism. On Tuesday, the minister inaugurated a Neera Plantation project at Pandirimamidi in Rampachodavaram mandal. Speaking on the occasion, he said that the coalition government is committed to transforming members of the Backward Classes (BCs) into entrepreneurs. He accused the previous YSRCP government of betraying BC communities and



claimed that BC reservations were reduced from 34% to 24% during Jagan's tenure. He further alleged that 1,608 BC individuals lost their positions under the YSRCP government. **Jagan Does Not Want Investments to Come to Andhra Pradesh** Minister Ravindra alleged that YSRCP

leaders are conspiring under the guise of BC round-table meetings. He claimed that Jagan does not want investments to come to Andhra Pradesh. He also stated that the ₹3,500-crore liquor scam that allegedly occurred during the YSRCP regime was described by the Supreme Court as one of the biggest scams in the country. He accused the previous government of making thousands of crores through substandard liquor brands and alleged that poor-quality liquor led to the loss of many lives. The minister warned that the YSRCP would be politically eliminated and said that the government is introducing beach

shacks in Andhra Pradesh on the lines of Kerala and Goa. As part of tourism development, Ravindra said that liquor would be sold in beach shacks operated through five-star hotels in Visakhapatnam and Suryalanka. He clarified that the beach shacks would be located in isolated areas so as not to inconvenience the public. The minister also announced that a new excise policy would be implemented from October. He said enforcement officials are conducting raids against liquor outlets charging prices above the Maximum Retail Price (MRP). Ravindra warned that liquor shops selling alcohol above MRP would be sealed.

"Man-Made Disaster" 2 Kerala Ministers On Wayanad Landslide That Killed 5

Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala ministers Ramesh Chennithala and T Siddique have called the landslide in Wayanad today "man-made" and attributed the cause to "unscientific dumping" of debris at a tunnel project site. They demanded to know from the construction company why the excavated debris had not been cleared from the site. In response, infrastructure company Dilip Buildcon ruled out any technical error that could have led to the landslide, killing five. Dilip Buildcon said the project follows all engineering, safety and environmental approvals and protocols.

Six people were injured in the incident. Rescuers including two teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) are checking whether anybody is trapped under the debris. It had been raining for some time before the landslide happened. The area recorded 256 mm rainfall in the last 24 hours. Siddique pointed out excavated soil had been dumped similarly at the Wayanad Township project, where houses are being constructed for survivors of a massive landslide in 2024. "The government is investigating why mud taken out of the tunnel project was put there without any safety measure. Instructions were given to the authorities concerned to remove it. The instructions were not followed at all," Kerala Agriculture Minister T Siddique said.



"Instructions were also given that eight families near the project were supposed to be rehabilitated. The locals had complained there was an issue with water flowing out of the project. This was not a natural landslide but a man-made one caused by mud



that was put there after drilling in the tunnel project," he said. Kerala Home Minister Ramesh Chennithala also agreed with Siddique that the landslide was indeed a "man-made disaster", which could have been avoided if the construction company had removed the huge quantity of mud excavated during the tunnel work, in line with directions issued by the district administration. "It is certainly a man-made disaster. If the company had removed the dumped earth, this incident would not have occurred. It is an ecologically sensitive area prone to natural disasters," Chennithala said.



"When a tunnel project is undertaken in such a place, the excavated earth should be removed without delay." The landslide was captured on camera. It showed a large mound of mud that had accumulated near a bridge suddenly collapsing due to rain, bringing down trees and barricades at the construction site. Chief Minister V D Satheesan told reporters in Thiruvananthapuram that the contractors had been told much in advance by Public Works Department Minister PK Basheer and the district collector to remove the huge quantity of mud accumulated in the area.

Bhogapuram Will Be the Best Airport in the Country: Ram Mohan Naidu

From Our Staff Reporter Vizianagaram, July 7: Union Minister Ram Mohan Naidu stated that the construction works of the Bhogapuram International Airport have been completed at a rapid pace. A review meeting on the final preparations for the airport was held on Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that a world-class airport has been developed through the joint efforts of the Central Government, the Andhra Pradesh Government, and GMR Group.

He recalled that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu visited the project site within the first month after the coalition government came to power and directed that the airport be completed ahead of schedule. Following those instructions, GMR completed



the construction within the targeted timeframe, he said. **Aero-Drome License Received** The Union Minister said that the airport has also received its aerodrome license. He announced that the airport will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Airport operations will commence about a week after the inauguration, he added. The official inauguration date will

be announced once the Prime Minister's schedule is finalized. **Visakhapatnam Airport Operations to Shift** Ram Mohan Naidu said that airport operations currently handled at Visakhapatnam Airport will eventually be shifted to Bhogapuram. He noted that the terminal is being developed to handle up to 40 million passengers annually in the future. The airport fea-

tures a terminal building spread across 78,000 square meters. The minister said that Bhogapuram Airport is being widely appreciated as one of the best airport designs in the country. The interior design reflects the art, culture, and traditions of North Andhra, giving the airport a distinct regional identity. He expressed confidence that Bhogapuram International Airport will emerge as the best airport in India.

CRDA 63rd Authority Meeting Concludes; Key Decisions Announced

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, July, 7: The 63rd Authority Meeting of the Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA), chaired by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, was held in Amaravati on Tuesday. The meeting was attended by Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister Ponguru Narayana, Chief Secretary Sai Prasad, and other senior officials. The authority extensively discussed issues related to the development of the Amaravati capital city, the second phase of land pooling, annuity payments to farmers, agricultural loan waivers, the establishment of a land bank, and land al-

lotments to various institutions. Several important decisions were approved during the meeting. **Annuity for Farmers Under Second-Phase Land Pooling** Speaking to the media after the meeting, Minister Narayana said that the authority approved an annual annuity of Rs.40,000 per acre for farmers who contribute land under the second phase of the Land Pooling Scheme from June 12, 2024 onwards. The annuity will be paid for ten years from the date the land is handed over. **The authority also approved annual increases in annuity payments:** Rs. 5,000 per acre every year for irrigated

(Jareebu) lands. Rs. 3,000 per acre every year for dry (Metta) lands. In addition, those who lost land in village habitation areas (Gram Kanthams) will receive ₹10,000 per year, Minister Narayana said. **Agricultural Loan Waiver for Farmer Families** The authority also decided to implement an agricultural loan waiver for farmer families contributing land in villages where new land pooling is being undertaken. Minister Narayana stated that the decision will apply to agricultural loans taken up to January 6, 2026. The authority also approved the payment of Rs.159 crore to the Endowments Department in con-



nection with Inam lands. **International Schools in Every Township** Minister Narayana said that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu directed officials to prepare plans ensuring that each of the 25 townships being developed in Amaravati has at least one international school.

EDITORIAL

How can the threat of cybercrime be avoided?

India now accounts for 20 percent of the world's digital data. With the exponential growth in digital payments and smartphone usage, cybercrimes are also on the rise. Cybercriminals are using artificial intelligence (AI) and deepfake technology to deceive people on social media platforms like WhatsApp, Instagram and Facebook. They are looting crores. 67.32 lakh cybercrime cases were registered between 2019 and 2025. It is noteworthy that two-thirds of these, i.e. 43.22 lakh cases, were registered in the last two years alone. In the last six years, victims have lost about Rs. 55,000 crore through cyber frauds. This means that four out of every five rupees has gone to cyber frauds. Moreover, obscene language is also being spread through Facebook and Instagram. When a media outlet revealed that paid ads with obscene language related to children appeared through rape videos and child videos, users who clicked on them were redirected to Telegram channels and those videos were being sold, the government responded and strongly warned the relevant Meta company to remove the content immediately. Such incidents are only a small part of a much larger problem. While artificial intelligence (AI) is developing rapidly day by day, cybercrimes are increasing even faster. A special regulatory law is being considered to control these. So far, the government has relied on the Information Technology (IT) Act to prevent deepfakes and other problems.

However, the government is considering bringing a special law to make the technology safer and face new challenges with AI systems. We have the largest digital ecosystem in the world. This includes Aadhaar, UPI and ONDC systems. Aadhaar not only helps in validating people's identity, but also helps in directly reaching the beneficiaries of government schemes. UPI is an instant payment system. It helps in sending and receiving money in seconds from retail to large transactions through smartphones. ONDC is an open network implemented by the government to decentralize the trade sector. Through this, small traders, local vendors, can also sell their products directly to consumers through digital platforms. All these platforms have made the daily life of the common man much easier. They have made administrative matters and financial facilities accessible.

Despite these facilities, the risks of digital attacks spreading have also increased. It is becoming increasingly difficult to detect and prevent cyber attacks using artificial intelligence. These attacks pose a serious threat to the banking, telecommunications, defense, power and healthcare sectors. Cyber ??criminals are creating highly credible phishing emails, deepfake videos, fake identities and sophisticated malware based on artificial intelligence. They are creating malware that constantly changes its code in a way that cybersecurity cannot detect. With the help of AI tools now available, hackers are able to detect flaws in software before anyone else and carry out attacks. Preventing these has become a big challenge for cybersecurity experts. The government has introduced many innovations to prevent cyber threats. Along with the India AI Mission, it has strengthened the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-in) system. It has adopted a method called Zero Trust.

In normal security practices, once someone or any device enters the network, they are trusted. But in the Zero Trust approach, no one is blindly trusted, whether inside or outside the network. Only the data, files or applications that are necessary for the user's work are connected. This ensures data protection. To protect data from cyber attacks, government agencies and organizations like CERT are coming up with regulations to fix security flaws within hours. India is now developing its own artificial intelligence technology without depending on any country. The central government has launched the India AI Mission with a budget of over Rs 10,300 crore. It is making GPU computing (Graphing Processing Unit) and startup funding systems available to millions of people. However, all these efforts remain fragmented. The agencies involved in these are working independently and there is no coordination. By strengthening the Indian Cyber ??Crime Coordination Centre (14C), coordination between the Centre and the states will increase and the threat of cyber threats will be tackled. It is imperative for India to not only develop technology in its AI strategy, but also to enhance its ability to protect it from cyber attacks.

It Is Now Official: U.S. Will Do Everything To Curb India's Economic Growth

Amidst Trump-Modi bonhomie and the continuation of India-US trade talks, former Indian intelligence chief Vikram Sood said on Sunday in an interview to a British network that the present U.S. deputy secretary of state Christopher Landau told Indian officials during his visit to India in March 2026 that Washington would use tariffs, sanctions and other tools to curb India's rapid economic growth and would not allow it to emerge as a major power competing with USA.

According to Sood, Landau said in that New Delhi meeting "We made a mistake by helping China become a major economic power. We are not going to do that with India. We will not make that mistake again". Sood gave the interview in a British current affairs programme New Order which the host shared on social media along with the original video of Landau's comments. The interview has created a furore in diplomatic circles. Landau is still the deputy secretary of state and he is known to be close to the Trump led MAGA lobby along with his boss secretary of state Marco Rubio. Rubio is most visible U.S. official as far as the India-US relations are concerned, but Landau speaks the mind of the Trump administration. He was frank about U.S. perception of future of bilateral relations.

In the recent days, Trump administration is taking less interest in its old idea about Indo-Pacific security involving India. India's importance has declined in Trump

administration's broader Asia strategy. All these have taken place following Trump-Xi Jinping summit in Beijing in May this year. As a result, the focus is now more on extracting maximum concessions from India in trade and in defence purchases while ensuring that India's growth momentum does not pose any threat to the U.S. economic power.

While other foreign offices are also assessing the real import of the comments made by the deputy secretary of U.S. Christopher Landau, China has reacted instantly as Landau cited the example of China to say that the US would not make that type of mistake in the case of India. Chinese observers described Washington's approach toward New Delhi as a dual strategy of "limited engagement and ceiling control." They argued that deep-rooted structural contradictions arising from differing national ambitions, visions of global order, geopolitical interests, industrial competition and diplomatic traditions could not be fundamentally resolved through diplomatic engagement or economic cooperation between India and the US. Qian Feng, director of the Research Department at Tsinghua University's National Strategy Institute, told the Global Times on Monday that the rapid expansion of US-India relations over the past two decades is reaching a ceiling, as the two countries face structural contradictions that are difficult to reconcile. These differences stem from their differing stages of development, strategic cultures, geopolitical posi-

tions, diplomatic traditions and the foreign policy orientations of their leadership.

Qian said India's long-standing commitment to strategic autonomy fundamentally differs from Washington's alliance-based approach. New Delhi has consistently pursued an independent foreign policy based on its own national interests rather than aligning fully with US strategic objectives. Even within frameworks such as the Quad and the Indo-Pacific Strategy, India seeks to engage the US as an equal partner rather than as a formal ally or subordinate security partner.

This observation by the Chinese expert in the official media indicates that China now is seeking to woo India for improving India-China bilateral relations and toned down its earlier stance that the US has got India as a partner in its Indo-Pacific strategy, primarily meant against China. The emphasis of the Chinese analysts is that PM Narendra Modi was seeking to follow an independent policy defying the American pressure. According to Chinese experts, Landau's remarks reflected Washington's broader approach toward India – seeking New Delhi's support in geopolitical competition while locking it at a lower end of the industrial chain. Such a strategy, they argued, runs counter to India's strategic goals. According to Qian Feng, "Industrialization is a legitimate right of all developing countries. Guided by a zero-sum mindset, the US seeks to impose a ceiling on other countries' development. By carving



up global supply chains through tariffs and technical barriers, it will only push India to deepen cooperation within the BRICS framework as well as with China and Russia, accelerating the diversification of industrial chains".

Right now, India and the United States appear to be racing towards concluding the trade deal much before the end of 2026. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said that 99 per cent of the issues had been sorted out in the negotiations.. U.S. officials also underlined that the bilateral trade framework is nearly complete. But even in the last phase of India-US trade negotiations, the U.S. talked of imposing sanctions under section 301. This meant an imposition of 12.5 per cent duty on countries including India which are under investigations.

The details of the proposed India-US trade deal are not known, but the tenor of the senior official Landau's statement vindicates the apprehensions

being expressed by many trade experts that the US is imposing a trade deal on India in a hurry protecting only the interests of USA and not India. It is time, the Narendra Modi government shows some guts and protects the interests of the Indian farmers and the other sections just as the US negotiators are defending their own farmers and industry's interests. India is the largest populated country of the world with a growing economy. Its growth depends on its resources human capital and many other assets. The country certainly needs trade agreement with the USA. But it has to be on an equal footing. No country, however powerful, can be allowed to suppress the growth of the Indian economy. The assertion of India's strategic autonomy during negotiations with the U.S. will be the fittest reply to the U.S. deputy secretary of state Christopher Landau. China has shown that. India also can do the same by dealing with the U.S. on an equal footing.

Systematic Theft Of Donations At Ram Temple By RSS-BJP Men Is Established Fact

The investigation so far, as on July 7, 2026, into the systematic theft worth rupees tens of millions of donations at Ram Temple of Ayodhya has clearly shown that it was the work of no-other than the people of RSS-BJP, and therefore, it has political consequence for the Hindutva juggernaut. Ram Temple for them has been a political symbol, and the theft has tarnished their image. No wonder they are now trying their best to limit the political damage, by showing that the wrongdoing is being investigated rather than concealed. However, investigation is not seen as impartial by large number of people, because the way it is being carried out leave many questions unanswered.

Uttar Pradesh is being ruled by the BJP under CM Yogi Adityanath, where the Ram Temple is situated, and which is managed by the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust. Uttar Pradesh is going to have general election in 2027, and hence the issue has acquired a political dimension, and controversy had developed into a major criminal investigation. The controversy began after allegations that cash, gold, silver, and other offerings donated by devotees had been systematically siphoned off during collection and counting process. Thereafter, the Uttar Pradesh government has no option but to constitute a Special Investigation Team (SIT), which submitted a preliminary report leading to criminal proceedings.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had inaugurated the Ram Temple in January 2024, when it was still under construction, as a political symbol of BJP's achievement just before general election of the country. Ram Janmabhoomi- Babri Mosque controversy that began in 1948 was finally decided by the Supreme Court of India in 2019, that paved the way of construction of the temple,

which was BJP's one of the election promises. Hindu mob led by BJP-RSS-VHP had torn down the Babri Mosque in 1992, which was followed by nationwide Hindu-Muslim riots in which nearly 2000 people have died. The embezzlement of donations in Ram Temple, is therefore, has great political impact on the future of the BJP.

According to an estimate it attracts over 50 million visitors annually and has emerged as India's one of the most important destinations for Hindu pilgrimage where devotees donate with open heart. In the first press conference, after the first meeting of the Ram Temple Trust after the theft came to light last month, the delay of which is unexplained, the trust had announced on July 6 that it accepted the resignations of its general secretary Champat Rai and trustee Anil Mishra in the wake of allegations of embezzlement of temple donations and appointed Krishna Mohan as acting general secretary.

The meeting was chaired by its president Gopal Das Maharaj. It also formed a three-member committee to select Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The Committee includes retired Justice Pramod Kohli, Vishnukant Chaturvedi and Suresh Havde. A separate committee has also been formed to propose additional measures aimed at preventing such recurrences in the future. The trust indicated that other appointments will be done after the final report of the SIT. The SIT has submitted only its preliminary report but that was not made public, perhaps with a purpose, which the people will know in due course of time.

The trust said that it has received Rs3265 crore through donations and contribution since its inception, of which Rs 2,370 crore has been spent on construction and related work. Offerings received till March 31, 2026 totalled Rs582 crore of which Rs391 crore had been



spent on temple operations, while the remaining amount had been deposited in banks. On July 7, treasurer of the Trust Swami Govind Dev Giri said that the trust holds over 32 kg of gold-like items and 1,518 kg of silver-like items among other valuable things. He said that 2,926 valuable articles donated are safe. He said that 849.272 kg of refined silver obtained after government-supervised melting and refining of donated silver items. As for action is concerned, FIR has been registered against eight individuals allegedly involved in handling temple donations, and were subsequently arrested. The charges include theft, criminal breach of trust, criminal conspiracy, and receiving stolen property. Nevertheless, only Rs80 lakh in cash has been reported recovered, along with other precious articles of gold, silver, foreign currency etc. Authorities are still determining the extent of the theft. SIT has found so far that manda-

tory frisking of personnel handling donations was not conducted. CCTV monitoring and preservation of footage were inadequate. Standard operating procedures for counting and securing donations were ignored. CCTV footage shows some accused concealing cash during the counting process. FIR primarily targets staff, but SIT's preliminary report pointed to administrative failure. It criticised trust functionaries, particularly one Anil Mishra, for mismanagement. Total embezzlement amount is yet to be established. Political parties have alleged theft of worth hundreds of crores which can't be done only by individuals targeted by FIR or SIT. It should be noted that internal suspicious reportedly arose in early 2026, months before the police registered an FIR on June 25, 2026. Discrepancies were found in early 2026 between the volume of offerings and bank deposits. Such a thing can't happen without a big con-

spiracy involving Trust's officials and big people associated with them. There was not a single theft, as SIT has already documented 70 theft incidents in over 40 days. Investigation has therefore widened and SIT has ordered a five-year re-audit of the Trust's finances. Investigators have begun examining expenditure on major temple-related events and projects. Bank officials, security staff and Trust employees were questioned.

The questions that are yet to be answered are – How much money was actually stolen? How long had the theft been occurring? Were higher officials complicit? Were donation funds also misused through expenditure decisions? And many more. Ayodhya police is now considering narco-analysis and polygraph examinations of five jailed accused to unravel the larger conspiracy, and to establish the money trail, and involvement of other than those individuals, especially senior functionaries.

State Government Launches Special Initiative for Palm Products Development



Promotion for Neera and Palm Jaggery; Welfare of Toddy Tappers is the Government's Goal: Minister Kollu Ravindra Rampachodavaram, Pen Power, July 7: Andhra Pradesh Minister for Mines, Geology and Excise, Kollu Ravindra, said the State Government has launched a comprehensive action plan to promote palm-based products and improve the livelihoods of toddy tappers. He was addressing the "Neera Promotion and Palm Products Development" programme held at the Pandirimamidi Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Rampachodavaram on Tuesday. The Minister said the economic empowerment of toddy tappers is one of the government's priorities. He announced that proposals would be sent to the Central Government for the establishment of a Palm Board. The government is encouraging palm cultivation in mangrove regions and promoting value-added products such as Neera and palm jaggery. He said efforts are being made to develop Neera into a globally recognised brand, similar to the success of Araku Coffee, while creating awareness about its health benefits. Recalling that the Pandirimamidi Krishi Vigyan Kendra was established in 1986 by former Chief Minister N.T. Rama Rao, the Minister said traditional palm jaggery is produced at the Nidadavole Horticulture Research Centre, whereas modern technology is being used at the Pandirimamidi centre. He assured full support for the welfare and livelihood of toddy tappers and backward communities.

Pilot Project for Neera Production

Polavaram District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar said the Pandirimamidi Krishi Vigyan Kendra and Horticulture Research Centre are valuable assets for the district. He encouraged people to use palm jaggery instead of refined sugar for a healthier lifestyle. The Collector said the district is developing Neera production as a pilot project and directed officials to conduct a comprehensive survey of palm trees in every mandal while creating awareness among palm farmers.

Workshop for Palm Farmers Suggested

Rampachodavaram MLA and Legislative Chairperson Miriyala Sirisha Devi said the government is committed to the welfare of toddy tappers and stressed the need to popularise the benefits of Neera and palm jaggery. She suggested organising a special workshop for palm farmers in Polavaram district. Vice-Chancellor of the Horticulture University Dr. Dhanunjaya said there are over 300 species of palm trees worldwide, which are used to produce several valuable products. He highlighted the university's efforts in training farmers and promoting scientific research for quality production. Setti Balija Corporation Chairman K. Sattibabu said the government is taking significant measures for the welfare of toddy tappers, including allocating 10 percent of wine shops to the community. Gouda Corporation Chairman K. Gurumurthy said palm products have excellent market potential and assured further support for toddy workers.

Minister Inspects Exhibition Stalls

Later, the Minister inspected exhibition stalls displaying palm jaggery, Neera, palm fruit products, palm flowers, palm-based beverages and handicrafts made from palm leaves. He also reviewed Neera and palm jaggery processing machinery and instructed officials to increase public awareness of their nutritional value. The Minister visited the palm plantation at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra and directed officials to promote palm cultivation and value-added products to enhance the income of toddy tappers and palm farmers. The programme was attended by Excise Commissioner C.H. Sridhar, Enforcement Director Rahul Dev Sharma, senior government officials, scientists, public representatives, toddy tappers and palm farmers.

Mental Health Awareness Seminar Held at Vignan Institute of Engineering for Women

Visakhapatnam, Pen Power, July 7: A Mental Health Awareness Seminar on the theme "Prioritising Mental Health – Overcoming Myths" was organised at the Shakti Seminar Hall of Vignan Institute of Engineering for Women (Autonomous). The programme was jointly conducted by Young Indians (Yi), YUVA, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), and One Bharat Spirit. Ikshvakh L.N., Chair – YUVA, Yi Visakhapatnam, Dr. Pragna Suma, and D. Poojitha participated as keynote speakers. Addressing the gathering, Ikshvakh L.N. emphasised the need to eliminate the stigma and misconceptions surrounding mental health. He encouraged students to manage stress effectively and seek support from family members, friends, or mental health professionals whenever necessary. He said that maintaining a positive outlook can help individuals achieve success in both their personal and professional lives. Dr. Pragna Suma highlighted the importance of emotional well-being, positive thinking, and healthy lifestyle practices in maintaining mental peace. She educated students on developing habits that contribute to better mental health. D. Poojitha explained the close relationship between nutrition and mental health. She said that a balanced diet improves concentration, memory, emotional stability, and overall quality of life. Students and faculty members actively participated in the interactive session,



engaging with the speakers and gaining valuable insights into mental health, healthy living, and self-care. The programme was attended by Principal Dr. B. Arundhati, Vice Principal Dr. T. Sandhya Kumari, Head of Student Affairs Dr. Sravani, Heads of Departments, faculty members, and students. Speaking on the occasion, Principal Dr. B. Arundhati stressed that equal importance should be given to mental health along with physical well-being. She stated that Vignan Institute of Engineering for Women remains committed to providing a healthy, positive, and holistic learning environment for its students. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks to the guests.

Speed Up Digitisation of Enumeration Forms: District Collector Nishanthi T



PADERU, Pen Power, July 7: District Collector and District Election Officer Nishanthi T. has directed officials to expedite the digitisation of Enumeration Forms under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the Electoral Rolls and ensure the process is completed accurately and within the stipulated timeframe. The Collector participated in a special online training programme organised by the Election Commission of India (ECI) via video conference on Tuesday. During the session, Andhra Pradesh Chief Electoral

Officer Vivek Yadav, from Amaravati, reviewed the progress of the digitisation exercise with the Collectors of Alluri Sitharama Raju, Visakhapatnam, Kadapa, Kurnool, NTR and several other districts. He issued guidelines for completing the digitisation process efficiently, accurately and within the prescribed deadline. Following the conference, Collector Nishanthi T. conducted a special online training session for Tahsildars, Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), Mandal Parishad Development Officers (MPDOs), Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and other officials associated with the electoral process. Addressing the officials, the Collector emphasised the need to strictly adhere to the Election Commission's guidelines while carrying out the digitisation work in a transparent, accurate and responsible manner. She instructed the officials to carefully verify every Enumeration Form before entering the data to eliminate errors during the electoral roll revision process. The Collector further stated that the digitisation of Enumeration Forms is vital for ensuring transparency, accuracy and efficiency in the electoral process. She urged all officials to work in close coordination and complete the exercise within the stipulated schedule.

Coalition Government Committed to BC Welfare, Says Minister Kollu Ravindra

Rajamahendravaram, Pen Power, July 7: Andhra Pradesh Excise Minister Kollu Ravindra said the Coalition Government is committed to the welfare and empowerment of Backward Classes (BCs) and toddy-tapping communities. After inspecting the Neera Project at the Pandirimamidi Horticulture Research Centre in Polavaram district, the Minister said the government is promoting Neera and other palm-based products to improve the livelihoods of toddy tappers. He also criticised former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, accusing him of creating divisions based on caste and religion and neglecting BC welfare during his tenure. Ravindra said the government is extending reservations and concessions to BC communities and announced ₹10 lakh compensation for the families of toddy workers who lost their lives in accidents during the previous five years. Excise Commissioner



C.H. Sridhar said that if the Neera Project proves successful in Polavaram district, it will be expanded to other parts of the state.

ITI Colleges to Be Strengthened to Enhance Employment Opportunities: Collector P. Rajababu

MoU Signed with Centurion University for Skill Training in Emerging Technologies

Ongole, Pen Power, July 7: Prakasam District Collector P. Rajababu said the district administration is strengthening Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) to equip youth with industry-relevant skills and improve employment opportunities. The Collector visited the Government Boys' and Girls' ITI Colleges in Ongole on Tuesday and inspected the campus and available infrastructure. Speaking on the occasion, he said the district has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Centurion University to provide skill training in Electric Vehicle (EV) technology and Drone Technology. He said preparations are underway to commence the training programmes shortly and that funds have been allocated from the District Mineral Foundation (DMF) for the required infrastructure. Besides EV and drone technology, training will also be offered in high-demand trades such as plumbing, electrical works, and flooring technology. The Collector said that with Prakasam district witnessing rapid industrial growth, the administration is committed to providing market-oriented skill training to local youth. Following the directions of State Education Minister Nara Lokesh, steps are also being taken to establish a National Apprenticeship Certificate (NAC) Centre at every ITI. Four acres of



land have been earmarked at the Ongole ITI campus for setting up the NAC Centre. He urged young people to make full use of these training opportunities and said the district administration is working to enhance the employability of youth through skill development. District Skill Development Officer Raviteja, Deputy Director of Mines Rajasekhhar, representatives of Centurion University, Boys' ITI Principal Varaprasad Babu, Girls' ITI Principal Rajeswara Rao, and other officials were present during the visit.

99% Enumeration Forms Distributed in East Godavari District: Collector Keerthi Chekuri

Rajamahendravaram, Pen Power, July 7: East Godavari



District Collector Keerthi Chekuri announced that 99.21% of voter enumeration forms have been distributed and 66.47% of the forms have been digitised as part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls. The Collector urged all eligible voters to participate in the revision process, verify their details, and submit their enumeration forms before the deadline. The enumeration drive is being conducted from June 15 to July 14, as per the directions of the Election Commission of India.

A total of 18,46,723 enumeration forms were printed for the district, of which 18,28,256 forms (99.21%) have been distributed through Booth Level Officers (BLOs). So far, 12,27,524 forms (66.47%) have been digitised.

Collector Rajababu Reviews Ongole ITIs, Announces Skill Training in EVs and Drone Technology



Our Bureau report Pen Power Ongole, July 7: Prakasam District Collector P. Rajababu has said that Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) are being upgraded to equip youth with industry-oriented skills and improve their employment opportunities in emerging sectors. He made these remarks during his visit to the Government Boys' and Government Girls' ITIs in Ongole on Tuesday, where he inspected the campus and available infrastructure.

The Collector stated that the district administration has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Centurion University to introduce skill development programmes in Electric Vehicle (EV) technology and Drone Technology. Necessary arrangements are being made to commence the training shortly, with financial support being provided through the District Mineral Foundation (DMF). He said the ITIs will also offer training in high-demand trades such as Plumbing, Electricals, and Flooring Technology, in line with current industry requirements. As Prakasam district is witnessing rapid industrial growth,



the administration is focusing on aligning skill development programmes with market demands to enhance employment prospects for local youth.

Rajababu further informed that, following the directions of Andhra Pradesh Minister for Education Nara Lokesh, steps are being taken to establish a National Apprenticeship Certificate (NAC) Centre at every ITI. Four acres of land have been earmarked within the Ongole ITI campus for setting up the proposed NAC Centre. The Collector urged students and unemployed youth to make the best use of these training opportunities, reiterating that the district administration is committed to building a skilled workforce capable of meeting future industrial and technological needs. District Skill Development Officer Raviteja, Deputy Director of Mines Rajasekhhar, representatives of Centurion University, Government Boys' ITI Principal Varaprasad Babu, Government Girls' ITI Principal Rajeswara Rao, and other officials accompanied the Collector during the inspection.

Ensure Resurvey is Conducted Without Land Disputes: Collector K. Dinesh Kumar Officials Directed to Expedite 'Your Land–Your Right' Programme

Gangavaram/Rampachodavaram, Pen Power, July 7: Polavaram District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar directed officials to ensure that the land resurvey under the "Your Land–Your Right" programme is carried out transparently and without creating disputes among farmers. On Tuesday, the Collector, along with Joint Collector Surapati Prashanth Kumar and Rampachodavaram Revenue Divisional Officer K. Swathi, inspected the ongoing resurvey work in Vemulova village of Gangavaram mandal.

Speaking on the occasion, the Collector instructed officials to inform farmers in advance before conducting the resurvey and ensure that both landowners are present during the boundary verification process to avoid future disputes. He directed the survey teams to expedite the resurvey process, begin fieldwork early every morning, and upload the survey records promptly without any errors.



after completion. Assistant Director of Survey Srinivasa Rao, Tahsildar C.H. Srinivasa Rao, survey staff, and farmers were present during the inspection.

AP JAC Urges Immediate Resolution of Employees' and Pensioners' Issues

Kakinada, Pen Power, July 7: Representatives of the AP JAC and the AP Pensioners' Association, Gollapalem Unit, submitted a memorandum to Labour Minister Vasamsetti Subhash, urging the immediate resolution of employees' and pensioners' issues.

They demanded the constitution of the PRC Commission, announcement of Interim Relief (IR), release of pending Dearness Allowance (DA) arrears, cashless medical facilities for pensioners, and settlement of all pending financial benefits.

The Minister assured the delegation that he would bring their demands to the notice of the State Government and make efforts to resolve them.



Advanced Holmium Laser Treatment for Kidney Stones Now Available at Ongole GGH



Our Bureau report Pen Power Ongole, July 7: Government General Hospital (GGH), Ongole, has successfully introduced advanced Holmium Laser technology for the treatment of kidney stones, enabling patients to undergo minimally invasive procedures without major incisions. The development marks a significant step in providing corporate-level urology care in a government hospital.

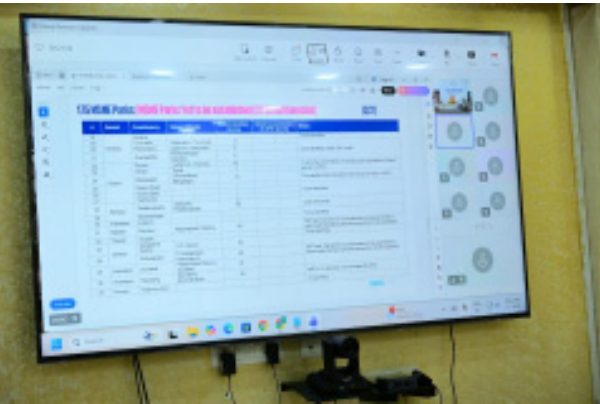
Hospital Superintendent Dr. S. Manikya Rao said the newly installed Holmium Laser system and modern urology equipment are helping specialists perform safe and effective surgeries with minimal blood loss, less pain, and faster recovery. He congratulated the urology team led by Dr. G. Kiran Kumar for successfully carrying out the procedures. The medical team includes Dr. Malakonda Reddy K., Assistant Professor, Dr. Rasool M.D., Assistant Professor, and Dr. Jayasundaram, Professor of Anaesthesiology, whose services were also appreciated by the Superintendent. According to Dr. Manikya Rao,

the Holmium Laser is not limited to kidney stone treatment. It can also be used for ureteric stones, bladder stones, prostate-related conditions, and selected soft tissue surgical procedures, making it a versatile technology in modern urology. He said a patient, Dibbayya, recently approached GGH with severe kidney stone complaints. After a thorough evaluation by the urology team headed by Dr. G. Kiran Kumar, doctors identified kidney stones requiring surgical intervention. The patient was successfully treated using the advanced Holmium Laser technique and has since made a full recovery. Doctors noted that while similar laser procedures generally cost between ₹1.5 lakh and ₹2.5 lakh in private hospitals, eligible patients can receive the treatment free of cost at GGH Ongole under the Aarogyasri health scheme. They urged people suffering from kidney stone-related problems to make use of the advanced facilities available at the hospital. Deputy Superintendent Dr. Namineni Kiran said the availability of modern medical equipment and the commitment of specialist doctors have significantly strengthened super-specialty healthcare services at the hospital.

CSRMO Dr. Madhavi Latha, Dr. Prabhakara Rao, ARMO Dr. Sunil Gavaskar, and other officials were present at the programme.

Highlights of Holmium Laser Treatment
Highly precise and safe procedure with minimal damage to surrounding tissues. Suitable for treating kidney stones, ureteric stones, bladder stones, prostate disorders, and certain soft tissue conditions. Less pain, minimal blood loss, and reduced complications. Faster recovery with no major surgical incision. Advanced technology that enables doctors to deliver safer and more effective treatment.

Collector Directs Speedy Disposal of Public Grievances



Ongole, July 6: Prakasam District Collector P. Rajababu has directed revenue officials to give top priority to the prompt disposal of petitions received through the "Meekosam" Public Grievance Redressal Platform, ensuring that people's issues are resolved without delay. The Collector participated in a video conference chaired by Special Chief Secretary Sai Prasad and CCLA Jayalakshmi, who reviewed district-wise progress on Record of Rights (RoR), assignment lands, re-survey activities, and distribution of Pattadar Passbooks with all District Collectors from the State Secretariat.

Following the review, Rajababu held a meeting with district revenue officials and stressed the need for an efficient grievance management system. He instructed that petitions received at the Collectorate should be forwarded immediately to the respective RDOs and the Sub-Collector's office. Tahsildars were asked to collect the petitions from their divisional headquarters and ensure they reach the respective mandals, while Village Revenue Officers (VROs) were directed to take up field-level verifica-



tion and initiate prompt action for resolution. The Collector instructed officials to issue a special circular outlining the grievance-handling mechanism. He also called for awareness programmes for divisional and mandal-level revenue officials on the latest government guidelines relating to the disposal of "Meekosam" petitions. Emphasising a citizen-friendly approach, Rajababu said officials should make every effort to resolve grievances administratively instead of advising petitioners to approach courts. He also directed officials to accelerate the distribution of Pattadar Passbooks and expedite the development of MSME Parks in the district. Reviewing petitions received through the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS), the Collector instructed officials to classify applications into categories such as revenue, land, and family-related issues, conduct field verification, and take appropriate action. He suggested focusing on at least two key issues every day to improve the pace of grievance disposal. Superintendents of the Grievance and Land Sections participated in the video conference.

Government Assures Full Support to Families Affected by Sea Tragedy



Our Bureau report Pen Power Visakhapatnam, July 7: Fisheries Commissioner Rama Shankar Nayak on Tuesday assured that the Andhra Pradesh Government would extend all possible support to the families affected by the recent fishing boat tragedy off the Visakhapatnam coast. The Commissioner visited KIMS ICON Hospital and met survivor Kari Chinna, who escaped the accident. He enquired about his health from the attending doctors and interacted with the survivor to understand the sequence of events leading to the mishap. Consoling him, the Commissioner assured full government support and wished him a speedy recovery. Later, he visited the Mechanised Boat Owners Association building at the Fishing Harbour and met the families of the missing fishermen, offering his condolences and assuring them that the government stands firmly with them during this difficult time. Addressing the media, Rama Shankar Nayak said the accident involving seven fishermen from the same family was extremely unfortunate. According to the survivor, one fisherman drowned immediately after the boat capsized due to strong winds and high waves, while the others clung to the overturned boat throughout the night in an attempt to survive. After the boat finally sank, they swam towards a nearby merchant vessel. Chinna managed to hold on to the ship's anchor and was rescued by its crew, while four others remain missing. The Commissioner said that immediately after receiving information about the incident, the district administration, the Indian Coast Guard, the Indian Navy and Marine Police launched an extensive search and rescue operation.



Helicopters, naval ships and fishing boats have been deployed, and the search has continued uninterrupted for the past three days. He said the rescue operation would continue until the missing fishermen are traced. He further stated that he reached Visakhapatnam on the directions of the Chief Minister to personally monitor the situation. Meetings have been held with the District Collector, police officials, Coast Guard authorities, Fisheries Department officials, boat owners and fishermen's associations to review rescue measures. Rama Shankar Nayak announced that once the mandatory 72-hour search operation is completed, immediate financial assistance and rehabilitation measures will be initiated in accordance with government norms. He assured that the Revenue, Labour and Fisheries Departments would work in coordination to provide all eligible assistance to the affected families. The Commissioner also said the government is examining the possibility of extending assistance for the damaged fishing boat under available welfare schemes. Discussions are also being held with representatives of fishermen's co-operative societies to formulate long-term rehabilitation measures and livelihood support for the affected families. Appealing to fishermen to strictly follow safety protocols, he advised them not to venture into the sea without checking weather conditions and to give utmost priority to safety in order to prevent such tragedies in future. Deputy Director of Fisheries L.B.S. Vardhan, Assistant Director, FDO Murali, representatives of fishermen's cooperative societies and other officials were present.

Awareness Seminar Held on Horticulture Cluster Development Programme



Our Bureau report Pen Power Visakhapatnam, July 7: The Horticulture Department on Tuesday organized an awareness seminar at the Chamber of Commerce, Dutt Island, Siripuram, to educate stakeholders about the Cluster Development Programme (CDP) aimed at promoting horticulture clusters across the region. Officials informed participants that the programme will be implemented in three phases, focusing on the establishment of High-Value Multi-Commodity Clusters and Peri-Urban Vegetable Clusters to strengthen horticultural production and improve market linkages. Under the scheme, farmers associated with approved clusters will be eligible for government assistance of up to 50 per cent for various activities, from quality planting material to crop production. Cluster Management Organizations (CMOs) will also receive financial assistance of up to 40 per cent for developing infrastructure, post-harvest processing, marketing, branding, ex-



ports, logistics, and other value-chain activities. The seminar was organized to identify suitable implementing agencies and potential horticulture clusters for the effective execution of the Cluster Development Programme (CDP) and Post-Harvest Management (PHM) initiatives. Interested organizations have been advised to submit online applications through the National Horticulture Board (NHB) website. Officials also urged applicants to contact their respective District Horticulture Officers for further guidance and technical support. The programme was attended by Dr. Y. Vidyasankar (Retd. JDH), Horticulture Officers from Visakhapatnam, Anakapalli, and Alluri Sitharama Raju districts, officials of APMIP, representatives of Krishi Tarang Ecosystem Private Limited, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), non-governmental organizations, entrepreneurs, traders, exporters, and other stakeholders.

SIR Drive to Be Carried Out on War Footing This Week: Visakhapatnam Collector



Our Bureau report Pen Power Visakhapatnam, July 7: District Collector M. Abhishek Kishore has directed officials to carry out the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls on a war footing during the remaining week to ensure completion of the process within the stipulated deadline. After participating in a video conference with the State Chief Electoral Officer, the Collector reviewed the progress of the SIR exercise with Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), Additional EROs, Assistant EROs and Special Officers of all Assembly constituencies at the Collectorate. GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg, Joint Collector Gobbilla Vidyadhari, and DRO M. Visweshwara Naidu were also present.

The Collector instructed officials to organise special awareness and enrolment drives on July 11 and 12, ensuring door-to-door distribution and collection of Enumeration Forms (EFs). Officials were asked to provide forms to every eligible voter who has not yet received one, assist them in filling them out, and collect the completed forms immediately. To enhance public participation, the Collector directed officials to launch an extensive awareness campaign across the district by installing hoardings, screening awareness slides in cinema theatres, and using social media, mainstream media, and public announcement vehicles. The awareness campaign and EF collection pro-



cess will continue until July 14. He also instructed all EROs to focus on Central Government offices, public sector institutions, gated communities and areas where prominent citizens reside to ensure complete EF collection. Officials were asked to trace voters whose whereabouts are unavailable through phone numbers and take appropriate follow-up action. The Collector directed every Special Officer to visit at least three polling stations during the week, while EROs should review polling station-wise progress on a daily basis. A dedicated help desk and control room have been established at the Collectorate to address voter queries, and additional help desks will be set up in gated communities and other priority locations.

Special SIR Camps Today
The Collector instructed officials to organise special SIR Help Desks and camps at the Collectorate and GVMC offices on Wednesday. Similar awareness camps will also be conducted at the Court Complex, VMRDA office and other public gathering places.

Emphasising strict adherence to the guidelines of the Election Commission of India, the Collector said every stage of the SIR process should be completed transparently and with quality standards, while all departments should work in close coordination to ensure the successful completion of the electoral roll revision in the district.

GVMC Plans Modern Makeover of Headquarters, Promotes Araku Coffee and Millet Products



Our Bureau report Pen Power Visakhapatnam, July 7: Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) Commissioner Ketan Garg has directed engineering officials to prepare comprehensive proposals for modernising and beautifying the GVMC headquarters while creating dedicated spaces to promote Native Araku Coffee, Swayam AP Millet Mix products, and ONDC-based sales. During an inspection of various sections of the GVMC headquarters on Tuesday, the Commissioner, accompanied by Additional Commissioner P. Satyaveni, Chief Engineer Satyanarayana Raju, and DDH Vasuki, reviewed the existing infrastructure and discussed plans for its upgradation. The Commissioner inspected the old canteen located in the cellar and instructed officials to convert the space into retail outlets for Native Araku Coffee and the soon-to-be-launched Swayam AP branded millet mix products. He also directed that suitable arrangements



be made in the cellar's crèche premises to facilitate the sale of handmade products prepared by Self-Help Group (SHG) members through the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) platform. Reviewing the conference hall, Ketan Garg emphasised the need to upgrade it with modern facilities to meet present-day requirements. He also instructed officials to prepare plans to enhance the overall appearance of the headquarters campus. The Commissioner further directed officials to beautify the rear portion of the headquarters by developing green spaces, planting ornamental plants along the old council hall surroundings and corridors, and increasing greenery across the premises to create a pleasant environment. Executive Engineer Gangadhar, Deputy Executive Engineer Mouli, Office In-charge Satyanarayana, and other concerned officials participated in the inspection.

Tribal Villagers Risk Lives Crossing Flooded Stream, Seek Bridge

Paderu, Pen Power, July 7: Residents of Ubbengula and Doraguda villages in the remote Munchingiputtu mandal of Alluri Sitharama Raju district are risking their lives to cross a flooded stream following heavy rains over the past week. With no bridge or proper road connectivity, villagers are forced to swim across the fast-flowing stream and even carry two-wheelers to reach nearby areas for essential needs and medical emergencies. They said repeated appeals for a bridge have gone unanswered despite assurances from officials that the tender process has been completed. The tribal residents urged the government to immediately construct the long-pending bridge to ensure safe transportation and prevent accidents.:::



Voter Mapping Process Must Be Completed Within Deadline: Collector Vijaya Krishnan Calls for Error-Free Implementation of Electoral Roll Revision



Our Bureau report Pen Power

Anakapalli, July 7: District Collector Vijaya Krishnan has directed Booth Level Officers (BLOs) to complete the voter mapping process under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR)-2026 of the electoral rolls within the stipulated timeline while ensuring complete accuracy.

Reviewing the progress of the SIR exercise with Joint Collector, Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs), Supervisors and BLOs at the Tahsildar offices in Chodavaram and Buchayyapeta mandals on Tuesday evening, the Collector stressed that there should be no scope for errors in the



preparation of the revised electoral rolls. She instructed BLOs to verify and record voter details meticulously so that every eligible citizen is included in the electoral roll. The survey and verification process, she said, must be carried out transparently, strictly in accordance with the guidelines of the Election Commission, and completed within the prescribed deadline. The Collector also directed officials to expedite the voter mapping exercise and ensure continuous monitoring of the field-level work. Supervisors were instructed to deploy additional assistants to support BLOs wherever required, enabling the revision process to be completed efficiently and without delay.

Complete Voter Data Digitisation Process at the Earliest: Joint Collector Kalpana Kumari

Ongole, Pen Power, July 7: Prakasam District Joint Collector Kalpana Kumari directed Booth Level Officers (BLOs) to expedite the digitisation of voter details as part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls. On Tuesday morning, she visited Brindavan Colony, Nirmal Nagar, Housing Board Colony, and Gaddalagunta in Ongole city to review the distribution of enumeration forms and the progress of the voter data digitisation process. The Joint Collector instructed the officials to complete the digitisation work at the earliest to ensure the timely completion of the ongoing electoral roll revision.

Revenue Divisional Officer Chandrasekhar Naidu and other officials accompanied her during the inspection.



Collector Assures Efforts to Resolve Employees' Issues



Vijayawada, Pen Power, July 7: NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha assured representatives of the AP JAC that the district administration would positively examine employees' and pensioners' grievances and forward them to the State Government for appropriate action. An AP JAC delegation submitted a memorandum seeking the constitution of the Pay Revision Commission (PRC), announcement of Interim Relief (IR), implementation of Old Pension Scheme (OPS) for eligible employees, release of pending dues, health card benefits, regularisation of contract employees, and resolution of pension-related issues.

The Collector said issues within his jurisdiction would be addressed promptly, while other demands would be referred to the concerned government departments for consideration.:::

Self-Defence Training for Tribal Students; Collector Unveils Poster

Paderu, Pen Power, July 7: A special self-defence training programme for tribal students will be organised by Pandu Karate Academy – International Kofukan Karate Club India to promote confidence, discipline, and self-protection skills. The programme poster was unveiled by District Collector T. Nishanthi, Joint Collector Sri Pooja, and ITDA Project Officer Aditya Varma in Paderu on Tuesday. Chief Instructor Bakuru Pandu Raju said the training will benefit students of Srikrishnapuram and Guttalaputtu schools by enhancing their confidence and self-defence abilities. He thanked the district administration for supporting the initiative.



US Man Sues ICE, Says Home Visit Over Email Violated Free Speech Rights



An upstate New York resident sued U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement for sending federal officers to his house with a warning over an email he sent to the agency's one-time head. David Streever, who is a U.S. citizen, was on a trip to Finland when two officers showed up to his Rochester home in June and presented his wife with a warning notice informing him that the email he sent months earlier was considered a threat, his attorneys said. Streever sent the email in January to Todd Lyons, then the acting director of ICE, after an immigration officer fatally shot Minneapolis resident Renee Good during an anti-ICE demon-

stration. In the email, Streever called Lyons "a monstrous human being" who "will never know peace." He said the agency violated his First Amendment rights in a lawsuit filed Monday in Washington D.C. Streever is one of at least two residents of upstate New York who was served with a federal warn-

ing in June in the wake of criticizing ICE online. The Philadelphia-based Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression is representing Streever, and said it filed the lawsuit because Streever's right to free expression was violated. "This is very clearly within the protection of the First Amendment," said Adam Steinbaugh, an attorney with the foundation. "It was in the context of political speech." Representatives for ICE previously declined to comment on the warning to Streever, citing an ongoing investigation, and the agency did not immediately comment Monday.

The suit also names Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin, whose office released a statement that said "Any allegation DHS and its components are attempting to 'squash' free speech is categorically FALSE."

How AI Helped Maharashtra Stay Ahead Of Cloudburst-Like Rain In Nashik

New Delhi: As relentless monsoon rains wreaked havoc across Maharashtra, triggering landslides, flooding highways, shutting the newly opened Mumbai-Pune Link and bringing life to a standstill in the two cities, the state government was preparing for another looming weather emergency in Nashik. This time, authorities were not caught off guard. Armed with Bharat Forecast System (BharatFS) -- India's next-generation high-resolution weather forecasting platform -- Maharashtra's disaster management machinery received highly localised advance forecasts, indicating the possibility of cloudburst-like rainfall over Nashik district. The early warning provided authorities with nearly 24 hours of lead time, allowing officials to activate emergency protocols before the heaviest rainfall arrived. Officials say the Nashik episode has become one of the first major examples of how AI-assisted weather intelligence, advanced numerical weather prediction and high-performance supercomputing can transform disaster management from a reactive exercise into proactive preparedness.

What is BharatFS?

The Bharat Forecast System (BharatFS) is India's most advanced indigenous weather prediction system, developed by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, under the Ministry of Earth Sciences. Unlike older forecasting models that generated weather predictions over grids of around 12 kilometres, BharatFS produces forecasts at an approximately 6-kilometre resolution, enabling meteorologists to detect highly localised extreme weather events including cloudbursts, flash floods, landslides, extremely heavy rainfall, high wind events. The forecasting model is powered by India's high-performance supercomputers Arka (located at IITM Pune) and Arunika (at NCMRWF, Noida). The forecasts are generated significantly faster and updated frequently, officials said. Although BharatFS is primarily an advanced numerical weather prediction model, it incorporates AI-assisted decision-support systems, advanced atmospheric modelling and supercomputing to deliver more accurate and localised forecasts.

How AI Helped Maharashtra Stay Ahead?

While Mumbai, Pune and Raigad were already battling a severe weather crisis, BharatFS identified the possibility of extremely heavy localised rainfall over Nashik nearly a day before the most intense weather was expected.

The forecast immediately triggered a series of precautionary measures across the district.

According to officials, the early warning enabled the administration to:

Activate the State Disaster Management machinery
Alert the Nashik district administration

Position NDRF, SDRF and local rescue teams

Monitor vulnerable rivers and dams

Prepare evacuation plans

Issue public advisories

Restrict access to vulnerable locations

Officials say this additional lead time proved crucial in strengthening preparedness despite multiple weather emergencies unfolding simultaneously across Maharashtra.

First State to Adopt BharatFS:

In May, Maharashtra became India's first state to integrate BharatFS into its disaster management system after the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) signed an agreement with IITM.

The forecasts are integrated with the State Emergency Operations Centre (SEOC) and the state's Geo-Spatial Decision Support System (GeoDSS), allowing district collectors and disaster response teams to receive highly localised weather intelligence almost in real time. Forecasts are updated every three hours and include rainfall, wind speed, temperature, cloud cover and atmospheric pressure.

Disaster Management Minister Stayed Overnight in Nashik:

Recognising the seriousness of the warning,



Maharashtra Disaster Management Minister Girish Mahajan remained in Nashik throughout the night to personally monitor the evolving situation.

The minister coordinated directly with district officials, reviewed emergency preparedness, monitored weather updates and ensured that all disaster response agencies remained on standby.

Following the warning, authorities implemented several precautionary measures:

Schools and colleges were ordered to remain closed

Major temples suspended darshan

Weekly markets were cancelled

Tourist destinations and forts were barricaded.

Rescue teams and emergency equipment were pre-positioned

Officials continuously monitored river levels and vulnerable villages

The government's decision to maintain overnight monitoring reflected the seriousness with which the cloudburst warning was treated.

What Makes BharatFS Different?

Cloudbursts are among the most difficult weather events to predict because they occur over extremely small geographical areas and develop rapidly. Traditional forecasting systems often identify heavy rainfall across an entire district but struggle to pinpoint precisely where the most intense precipitation will occur. With its 6-km high-resolution grid, BharatFS can model terrain far more accurately, especially across the complex topography of the Western Ghats. This enables meteorologists to forecast localised weather events with much greater precision than previous systems.

From Reactive to Predictive Disaster Management:

Experts say BharatFS represents a major shift in India's disaster management strategy.

Instead of responding only after floods or landslides occur, authorities can now:

Deploy rescue teams in advance.

Position heavy equipment strategically.

Alert district administrations early.

Issue public warnings before conditions deteriorate.

Prepare evacuation plans for vulnerable communities.

For a state like Maharashtra - which experiences frequent cloudbursts, flash floods, landslides and cyclones during the monsoon - the technology could significantly reduce disaster response times and improve public safety.

A New Benchmark for Weather Preparedness:

The Nashik cloudburst threat made it clear how cutting-edge forecasting technology can provide the governments with valuable time to prepare before extreme weather strikes.

Even as Maharashtra dealt with landslides, flooded highways, transport disruptions and urban flooding across Mumbai and Pune, the state's ability to simultaneously prepare for Nashik highlighted the growing role of AI-assisted forecasting and high-resolution weather modelling in disaster management. Officials believe BharatFS marks the beginning of a new era in weather preparedness - where technology, supercomputing and artificial intelligence work together to help governments anticipate disasters, reduce risks and protect lives before the rain triggers a crisis.

Taj Mahal Or Tejo Mahalaya? High Court Issues Notice To Centre On Petition



Prayagraj: The Allahabad High Court has finally intervened in the dispute surrounding the iconic Taj Mahal in Agra, one of the world's most popular heritage sites built during the Mughal era. The court has taken up a petition claiming that a 'Tejo Mahalaya' temple exists inside the world-famous monument and issued a notice to the government and other respondents. Justice Rohit Ranjan Agarwal deemed it worthy of judicial scrutiny and formally noted that the matter requires consideration under the constitutional jurisdiction of Article 227 of the Constitution. Lower courts had earlier rejected calls for a scientific evaluation and physical survey of the Taj's premises. During the hearing on Monday, the petitioners, represented by senior counsel Hari Shankar Jain and advocate Saumya Srivastava, argued that an accurate historical evaluation of the site is impossible without a comprehensive, scientific, and physical survey aimed at underlying religious symbols and architectural remnants.

On the other side are the government and the

Archaeological Survey of India, represented by Additional Solicitor General and advocate Manoj Kumar Singh. The writ petition stems from a prolonged legal battle originating in the local courts of Agra in 2015. The petitioners had then filed a civil suit seeking the appointment of an Advocate Commissioner under Order 26 Rule 9 of the Civil Procedure Code (CPC). The primary objective of that application was to conduct a local inspection of the Taj Mahal premises to document potential Hindu religious

iconography and architectural structures. However, the Civil Judge (Senior Division) of Agra had rejected the application on July 18, 2019, on technical grounds. Determined to pursue the survey, the petitioners preferred a revision petition before the District Court. On April 4, 2026, the Additional District Judge of Agra dismissed the revision petition, ruling that it was not maintainable under the law. Left with no other remedy, the petitioners approached the high court under Article 227, asserting that the lower courts' dismissal blocked the collection of crucial physical evidence necessary to determine the historical reality of the site. In a move to ensure prompt compliance, the court also ordered that steps for the service of the notice be executed within 10 days. The court has also granted interim permission and explicit instructions to all respondents, including the government and the ASI, to file their counter-affidavit before the next hearing.

Ram Temple Donation Theft: SIT Finds Major Security Lapses, SOP Violations Behind Alleged Embezzlement



Ayodhya: The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the Ram Temple donation theft has found serious security lapses, weak supervision and violations of standard operating procedures that allegedly enabled the embezzlement of cash offerings, according to its preliminary report placed before the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust on Monday.

The report identifies Ramshankar Yadav alias Tinnu as the central figure in the alleged fraud and says he had possession of keys to several donation boxes (hundis) inside the temple complex despite having no formal or written authorisation from the trust. According to the SIT, Tinnu facilitated the appointment of his nephew, Manish Yadav, in the cash counting process and had him posted on counting duty, thereby creating an opportunity to siphon off money from donations. The report states that CCTV footage available for 45 days captured the accused stealing bundles of currency notes on nearly 70 occasions. However, investigators said the actual extent of the theft and the amount embezzled may

never be known because only 45 days of footage was preserved. The footage available covered the period beginning April 27, 2026, and there is no record of any earlier incidents.

"The limited availability of CCTV footage has made it impossible to determine the number of theft incidents and the actual amount embezzled," the report notes. The SIT has also fixed responsibility on counting room in-charge Subhash Srivastava, saying the money was allegedly siphoned off in his presence. A case has been registered against him as well. The report says the crime became possible because prescribed security measures were not implemented. It points to failures in enforcing entry protocols, frisking of staff, prescribed dress codes, restrictions on carrying personal belongings, denomination-wise recording of cash and effective supervision of the counting process. Investigators have observed that despite the presence of representatives of the trust and the bank during the counting exercise, security procedures were not effectively en-

forced.

The report raises questions over the monitoring of CCTV cameras in the counting room, saying the theft could have been detected and prevented if trust-appointed personnel had vigilantly watched the live footage during the counting process. The SIT has also criticised the decision to preserve CCTV footage for only 45 days despite an earlier recommendation to maintain records for at least 180 days. It said handling and counting of temple donations was a highly sensitive activity and a longer retention period was necessary. The report also points to lapses on the part of the bank associated with the counting process. According to investigators, counting personnel were not provided the prescribed uniforms and the provision for monthly rotation of bank officials overseeing the counting exercise was not followed.

The preliminary findings also indicate that rules governing supervision of the counting process had been diluted. An SOP prepared on February 6, 2025 had laid down detailed procedures regarding ac-

cess to the counting room, entry and exit of counting personnel, dress code and mandatory frisking before and after counting. However, the report says these norms were subsequently relaxed, enabling the accused to exploit the loopholes. The SIT has described it as a matter of concern and further investigation as to under what circumstances these monitoring rules were altered. The report specifically questions the supervisory role of trust member Dr Anil Mishra, who had been assigned responsibility for management of donations and offerings on September 20, 2024. It says that after the SOP came into force, it was his responsibility to ensure its implementation and review compliance, but there was a lack of continuous monitoring and oversight.

Notably, the preliminary report does not mention trust general secretary Champat Rai or trustee Gopal Rao, prompting questions over whether they have been given a clean chit or whether their roles are still under examination. The SIT has clarified that this is only an initial report and that the investigation is continuing. A final report will contain detailed findings on supervisory failures, administrative accountability, institutional shortcomings and recommendations for corrective measures. The findings are likely to intensify calls for greater transparency and stronger financial controls in the management of donations at the Ram Temple, one of the country's most prominent religious institutions.

After Chabahar and Mongla Setbacks, Why Indonesia's Sabang Port Is India's Crucial New Maritime Frontier



New Delhi / Mongla Port: Following slow-downs and diplomatic dampeners at Iran's Chabahar port, alongside recent strategic setbacks regarding development projects at Bangladesh's Mongla Port, India's eyes are shifting decisively toward Southeast Asia. The focus is now on a small but exceptionally powerful piece of land: Sabang, Indonesia.

The geopolitical chess player that stops moving loses the game. For New Delhi, recent shifts in the neighbourhood have forced a rapid re-evaluation of its overseas maritime strategy.

Held productive discussions with President Prabowo Subianto at Istana Merdeka in Jakarta. Over the past few years, India-Indonesia relations have acquired new momentum and greater depth. Today's talks covered various subjects such as trade, human development, agriculture, food.

Securing a foothold here is no longer just a diplomatic victory. It has become an urgent strategic necessity. To counter China's sweeping Belt and Road Initiative

(BRI) and its growing web of dual-use ports across the Indian Ocean, India needs high-intensity execution on its long-discussed joint venture in Indonesia. The Sabang project is a comprehensive infrastructure pact between New Delhi and Jakarta to jointly develop a deep-sea port and an economic zone on Weh Island in Indonesia. Originally set in motion during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to Jakarta in May 2018, the two nations established a Joint Task Force to construct port-related infrastructure.

Highlighted by Prime Minister Modi, this pact expands beyond traditional infrastructure, with the leader noting today in Jakarta, "As two close maritime nations, we (India and Indonesia) have also decided to deepen our cooperation in the blue economy, port development and maritime trade."

According to details shared by Indonesia's former Coordinating Minister for Maritime Affairs, Luhut Pandjaitan in May 2018, the project extends beyond commercial shipping docks. The bilateral arrangement

covers the construction of a hospital, connectivity frameworks with India's Andaman and Nicobar Islands and potential military access. The agreement envisions allowing Indian naval vessels and coast guards to visit the port, turning a commercial venture into a shared security anchor. Sabang is located on Weh Island at the absolute northern tip of Sumatra, Indonesia. It sits at the western gates of the Strait of Malacca, a narrow channel that serves as one of the world's most critical maritime chokepoints. Geographically, Sabang is positioned just 710 kilometres southeast of India's Andaman Islands and less than 100 miles from India's ongoing deep-sea port project at Great Nicobar.

This specific location makes Sabang an unmatched maritime sentinel. The Strait of Malacca carries roughly 15 million barrels of oil per day from West Asia and West Africa, and it handles nearly 40 per cent of India's total trade. By developing a base here, India places itself directly at the throat of global energy shipping lanes, dramatically

shifting the balance of power in the eastern sector of the Indian Ocean. The initiative is steered by the highest levels of government in both New Delhi and Jakarta. For India, the project is a crucial manifestation of Prime Minister Modi's Act East and SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) policies. It is supported technically by RITES, a Government of India enterprise that has conducted pre-feasibility studies on the island's infrastructure potential. On the Indonesian side, leadership stems from a desire to maintain regional autonomy. Jakarta explicitly wants to avoid being controlled by China's BRI and rejects Beijing's unilateral claims over parts of Indonesia's exclusive economic zone in the South China Sea. The groundwork was laid between 2018 and late 2019, when the first Joint Task Force produced an action plan covering trade, tourism and infrastructure. However, international infrastructure projects are notoriously slow, and India has historically shown a lacklustre track record in completing cross-border connectivity links on schedule.

Largest Amarnath Yatra Batch Of 8,815 Pilgrims Leaves Jammu Amid Tight Security



Jammu: The largest batch of pilgrims so far this year, comprising 8,815 devotees, including 31 foreign nationals, left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu on Tuesday for the annual Amarnath Yatra in Kashmir amid tight security. Officials said the sixth batch included 5,831 men, 2,193 women, 31 children, 598 sadhus, 131 sadhvis and 31 foreign nationals. Of the total, 3,989 pilgrims travelling in 181 vehicles left for the Baltal base camp in cen-

tral Kashmir's Ganderbal district, while 4,826 pilgrims in 182 vehicles proceeded via the traditional Pahalgam route in south Kashmir's Anantnag district. The convoy comprised 363 vehicles. Over 1.06 lakh devotees perform darshan during the first five days of the #ShriAmarnathJiYatra, including 20,537 pilgrims till 3 PM today. Meanwhile, the largest batch so far—8,815 pilgrims—departs from Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu for the Baltal & Pahalgam

routes. More than 93,000 pilgrims have paid obeisance at the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine in the south Himalayas during the first four days of the pilgrimage. The figure is expected to cross the one lakh mark. With Tuesday's departure, 34,829 pilgrims have left the Jammu base camp for Kashmir since the yatra began on July 2. Tuesday's convoy was the largest since the pilgrimage commenced, surpassing the previous highest of 6,721 pilgrims on

Sunday. A total of 5,794 pilgrims departed on Monday, while 4,812 left on July 4.

The Bhagwati Nagar base camp echoed with chants of "Bam Bam Bhole", "Har Har Mahadev" and "Jai Barfani Baba Ki" as devotees began their journey. Many pilgrims expressed satisfaction with the arrangements made for the smooth conduct of the yatra. The 57-day pilgrimage is scheduled to conclude on Aug 28, coinciding with the festival of Raksha Bandhan. Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir administration has appealed to unregistered devotees planning to undertake the pilgrimage to defer their journey for a few days, as all registration slots have been booked until July 9 due to an unprecedented rush. Officials said only registered pilgrims will be allowed to proceed towards Kashmir, while unregistered devotees will be stopped at designated checkpoints until fresh registration quotas become available.

Reports Claim Siya Goyal, Chetan Chaudhary Secretly Married Before Ketan Agarwal's Murder; Police Deny Allegation

Pune: Pune Rural Police have denied reports claiming that murder accused Siya Goyal and Chetan Chaudhary were secretly married before the murder of businessman Ketan Agarwal, saying there is no evidence to support such claims at present. Superintendent of Police (Pune Rural) Sandeep Singh Gill said the investigation has so far found no proof that the two had solemnised a marriage. "So far, we have no evidence regarding the marriage of Siya Goyal and Chetan Chaudhary. We are verifying where these claims originated from and how such information came into circulation. If there is any such evidence, we will share it with the media at the appropriate time," Gill said. He added that the reports



claiming the two were already married are not true based on the evidence available with the police at present. Earlier, several reports had claimed that investigators had uncovered evidence suggesting Siya Goyal and Chetan

Chaudhary had secretly married around four months before the murder of businessman Ketan Agarwal. However, Pune Rural Police have now clarified that no such evidence has been found during the investigation so far. The investigation into the

Ketan Agarwal murder case is continuing, with police examining digital evidence, call records, WhatsApp chats and other material collected during the probe. Officials said any findings will be officially communicated once they are verified.

Waterlogging On Ghodbunder Road Triggers Massive Traffic Snarls, Commuters Seek Permanent Solution

Thane: Torrential rains that lashed Thane, Mumbai and Palghar districts have triggered severe traffic gridlocks along the critical Ghodbunder Road. Despite a brief respite from the downpour on Tuesday, the Karpe Compound area remained heavily waterlogged, crippling vehicular movement across the region.

Traffic Hit Across Corridor

The narrow stretch of Ghodbunder Road, bordered on one side by a creek, has significantly slowed the drainage of accumulated water. As a result, massive tailbacks were witnessed from Bhayanderpada to Chena towards Mira-Bhayander, and extending up to Navghar along the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Highway for vehicles heading towards



Thane. Ghodbunder Road serves as a vital arterial route connecting Thane, Palghar, the Mumbai suburbs and Gujarat. It handles thousands of heavy commercial vehicles originating from JNPT port in Uran, Nashik and Bhiwandi. The prolonged disruption disrupted travel for thousands

of commuters, including office-goers and commercial truck drivers, who found themselves stranded for hours during the peak morning rush.

Commuters Seek Permanent Solution

Commuters travelling between Vasai-Virar, Palghar, Mira-Bhayander, Borivali and

Dahisar faced intense distress. With this marking the second consecutive day of severe gridlock on the key highway, frustrated motorists and local commuters are urgently demanding that authorities implement a permanent solution to the persistent waterlogging and traffic mismanagement on this crucial route.

Satluj Boosts Zee5 Overseas Downloads By 374% Amid Controversy: Report

Mumbai: Diljit Dosanjh-starrer Satluj had a silent release on ZEE5 on July 3, 2026. The film received good reviews from critics, and even the audience liked it. But on Sunday, the OTT platform shared a statement saying the film had been removed. While the film's removal has started chatter in India, amid this ban, reportedly, Satluj is getting a great response overseas. A source told, "Although there was a clear increase

in interest and traffic on ZEE5 after the release of Satluj, precise official figures showing how much app downloads increased are not publicly available. The platform has only stated that it received a tremendous response, but without official data, it is difficult to make any definitive comparison." "However, I can say that, excluding India, monthly downloads of the app in overseas markets increased by approxi-

mately 374 per cent. The film is good and portrays the truth to a considerable extent," the source added. Meanwhile, ZEE5 has not yet shared any statement regarding the increase in downloads of its app overseas. Veteran actor Kanwaljit Singh, who plays a pivotal role in Satluj, spoke to The Free Press Journal about the movie being removed from the OTT platform. He said, "I spoke to Honey (Trehan) after the film was taken down, and

he has said that they shall be taking the matter to court. But what I don't understand is why did they have to take it off? Even people who weren't going to see it will want to see it now. It has also been downloaded by so many people, so even though lots of people would be watching it, the producers shall be losing out. But I want to ask, what is this freedom of speech? Tell me, I really want to know. That right is being strangled."

Wimbledon 2026: Flavio Cobolli advances to quarterfinals after beating de Minaur



London: Flavio Cobolli continued his meteoric rise by reaching the quarterfinals at Wimbledon for the second straight year, overcoming Alex de Minaur in a fourth-round match at the All-England Club on Monday. In the first men's singles meeting between two Top-10 players at this year's Championships, Cobolli produced a composed display to beat de Minaur 7-5, 7-6(4), 6-3 in two hours and 34 minutes. With this, the 24-year-old became just the third Italian man,

after Nicola Pietrangeli and Jannik Sinner, to reach multiple Wimbledon quarterfinals.

Cobolli first won the hearts of the Wimbledon faithful last summer when he reached the quarterfinals by beating Marin Cilic. He backed that up by taking a set from Novak Djokovic two days later. Cobolli, who reached his first major final at Roland Garros last month, is continuing his rise with another deep run at Wimbledon. The World No. 10 will next face former World No. 3 Grigor

Dimitrov or the last remaining Briton, Arthur Fery, for a place in the semifinals in southwest London. Under the blazing London sun, Cobolli kept his cool. Despite De Minaur holding a break advantage in both the second and third sets, the Italian repeatedly wrestled back control of the longer exchanges, using his weight of shot, sharp angles, and fearless ballstriking to wear down the resilient Australian. Cobolli was happy to have his day's work wrapped up in three sets as he wanted to watch a FIFA World Cup match later in the evening. "There is the World Cup, and I want to see Spain and Portugal," he said. "I hope that I can go early to the house, but first we have to find one. Because actually, we don't have a house," he added as quite a few spectators murmured that they had houses in the vicinity of the All-England Club. Cobolli was satisfied with his quick work, saying he was

feeling tired in the third set. "I was feeling tired in the third set, so I am very happy to reach the quarterfinal in three sets," he said, "because it's very important to stay with the energy for the next round. This year, it's been so hot. I am so happy; I'm really proud of myself." Cobolli has now compiled a 27-14 tour-level record in 2026, capping a remarkable turnaround after a difficult start to the year. The Italian arrived at the Australian Open as World No. 20 but suffered a shock first-round defeat to then-World No. 186 Fery. Bouncing back, Cobolli reached the semifinals in Delray Beach before lifting his third ATP Tour title in Acapulco to kick-start his climb. During the European clay swing, Cobolli then advanced to the final in Munich and the quarterfinals in Madrid, but it all came together at Roland Garros, where he surged to his first major final before falling to Alexander Zverev.

Hockey India names sub-junior women's squad for Youth Hockey5s Asian Championship



Hyderabad: Hockey India announced the 15-member sub-junior women's squad for the Women's Youth Hockey5s Asian Championship 2026. The selected players are currently undergoing a National Coaching Camp at the Madhya Pradesh State Shooting Academy in Bhopal in preparation for the tournament in Muscat, Oman. The preparatory camp, under the supervision of former India captain and Sub Junior Women's Coach Rani, commenced on July 4 and will conclude on July 18. Bhopal,

Madhya Pradesh, has emerged as a key high-performance centre for hockey, having previously hosted sub-junior national coaching camps and preparatory camps for the Under-18 Asia Cup. The state-of-the-art facilities at the Madhya Pradesh State Shooting Academy provide an ideal environment for nurturing and developing the country's emerging hockey talent. Coach Rani said, "The Women's Youth Hockey5s Asian Championship presents a fantastic opportunity for our young players to

gain valuable international exposure at an early stage of their careers. Since this is the first time sub-junior teams will be participating in an event of this nature, our focus will be on helping the players understand the unique demands of Hockey5s while also strengthening their fundamental skills and tactical awareness. We would like to thank the Madhya Pradesh Government for supporting and hosting such camps, which play a crucial role in building a strong pipeline of talent for the future of Indian

hockey and strengthening our grassroots ecosystem." The preparatory camp is part of Hockey India's broader vision to build a strong and sustainable talent pipeline across age groups. Earlier this year, Hockey India conducted an extensive month-long national coaching camp for the sub-junior teams ahead of the Under-18 Asia Cup 2026 in Japan, where the Indian women's team secured a bronze medal. The selected 15-member squad comprises players who have consistently impressed through the domestic circuit and previous national camps. The ongoing camp focuses on skill enhancement, tactical awareness, fitness conditioning and adapting to the fast-paced format of Hockey5s ahead of the continental competition. The list of players for the camp: Rashmeen Kaur, Rubina Baxla, Nancy Saroha, Pushpa Manjhi, Khili Kumari, Kiran Ekka, Sweetie Kujur, Sneha Davde, Nousheen Naz, Shruti Kumari, Nilam Topno, Priyanka Minz, Diya, Sandeepa Kumari and Mahak Parihar.

Mbappe condemns Paraguayan senator over racist remarks after World Cup match

New York: France star Kylian Mbappe on Monday condemned a Paraguayan senator over racist remarks she made following Paraguay's loss to France in the round of 16 at the World Cup. Mbappe called Celeste Amarilla, a senator from Paraguay's Liberal Radical Party, a "despicable woman" who was "unworthy" of serving in Paraguay's Congress. "Through your recklessness and your brazen racism, the entire world has already forgotten the journey and the historic effort that your players accomplished during this World Cup," Mbappe wrote on X. Amarilla posted a series of racist comments on X after Mbappe converted the winning penalty in France's victory over Paraguay on Saturday, mocking the French captain's origins, upbringing, education and appearance. France advanced to the quarterfinals, where it will face Morocco on Thursday. The Paraguayan government released a statement Monday

afternoon condemning Amarilla's remarks as "contrary to the values and principles that inspire peaceful coexistence and respect for human dignity that our country promotes." It added that the senator's comments do not represent either the Paraguayan government or the Paraguayan people. The French Football Federation on Monday denounced Amarilla's comments as "utterly abhorrent" and "unacceptable," adding that it would refer the matter to prosecutors. France's president, Emmanuel Macron, and sports minister Marina Ferrari voiced support for the national team's captain. "By targeting Kylian Mbappe, the senator is attacking everything our captain embodies and everything our country stands for: liberty, equality and fraternity," Ferrari wrote on X. "One more goal for Kylian Mbappe. This time against racism," Macron wrote on X, adding the captain had his "full support."



France's assistant coach Guy Stephan also condemned the remarks on Monday. "In three words, it's indignant, abject, scandalous," he said. The Associated Press sent a request for comment to Amarilla on Monday through her social

media accounts. Before Saturday's match, former Paraguay goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert referred to France as "a squad from Africa." Philippe Diallo, president of the FFF, said Chilavert "was once a great goalkeeper" who had now "fallen into disgrace."

India records dominant wins on Day 2 of U-23 Asian Boxing Championships

Hyderabad: Asian champion Vishvanath Suresh (50kg) led India's strong showing on Day 2 of the U-23 Asian Boxing Championships, securing a commanding 5:0 victory over Uzbekistan's Amirbek Ismoilov in

Jakarta. Continuing India's impressive run in the men's division, Ganga (55kg) delivered a clinical performance to defeat Mongolia's Amgalanbaatar by a unanimous 5:0 decision. Hitesh (70kg) added to

the momentum with an equally dominant 5:0 win over Chinese Taipei's Jun-Zhanglin, underlining India's depth across weight categories. In the 60kg bout, Sagar Jakhar suffered a setback, losing by disqualification to

Japan's Koichi Nakayama. In the women's category, Tanu (51kg) extended India's winning streak with a confident 5:0 victory over Korea's Ryongyeon Kim, showcasing control and precision throughout the bout.

FIFA WC: Belgium shatter co-hosts USA's dream in the last 16

Seattle: Charles De Ketelaere's first-half brace, Hans Vanaken's first World Cup goal and a late strike from substitute Romelu Lukaku send Belgium through to the quarterfinals with a 4-1 victory over co-hosts USA at Seattle Stadium. USA became the final co-hosts to exit the tournament after Canada and Mexico had already bowed out in the Round of 16. Belgium has not lost a match since March 20, 2025, a 3-1 defeat against Ukraine in the 2024-25 UEFA Nations League promotion/relegation play-offs and head coach Rudi Garcia's first match in charge. Since then, Belgium has accrued an eye-popping 12 wins and six draws record across all competitions (FIFA World Cup, UEFA World Cup qualification, UEFA Nations League play-offs, friendlies), buoyed by a +40 goal differential in those 17 matches. The USMNT has faced the Red Devils on seven prior instances. The first meeting—the United States' lone victory—came in the form of a 3-0 victory at the inaugural 1930 World Cup in Montevideo, Uruguay. The loss on Tuesday marked USA's have lost seven consecutive matches against Belgium. The warning signs were there for Mauricio Pochettino's side when Timothy Castagne's 18-yard strike forced Matt Freese into a flying save at the end of Belgium's first meaningful attack. Youri



Tielemans then went within inches of turning home Dodi Lukebakio's cross before Rudi Garcia's men took a deserved lead. Leandro Trossard's teasing delivery into the box caused all manner of problems for the USA defence, with Nicolas Raskin firing across for De Ketelaere to tap home. Belgium appeared to be cruising, but their lead was cancelled out after 31 minutes when Malik Tillman's deflected free-kick wrong-footed Thibaut Courtois. However, the scores were level for just 116 seconds as Trossard's cross from the left found De Ketelaere, who headed home his second goal of the contest. USA's task was made even harder just before the hour mark when a defen-

sive mishap gifted Belgium a third goal. Freese raced out of his area to clear but missed the ball, allowing De Ketelaere to steal possession before Vanaken's long-range effort evaded Tim Ream's attempted block and found the empty net. The Stars and Stripes showed signs of life in the closing stages as substitute Sebastian Berhalter shot wide and Courtois twice denied Folarin Balogun, before Lukaku pounced on a loose clearance and finished with aplomb to put the result beyond any doubt in stoppage time. Belgium will lock horns with Spain, who eliminated Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal, at Los Angeles Stadium on July 11.

Hyderabad to host Spain-backed grassroots football development initiative



Hyderabad: A significant grassroots football development initiative is set to be launched in Hyderabad through a strategic partnership between Sports Village Europa, Barcelona (Spain), and Silver Stone Sports Academy, Hyderabad. The collaboration aims to identify, nurture and develop young Indian football talent by introducing European coaching methodologies and internationally recognised youth development programmes, creating new pathways for aspiring footballers to achieve international standards. The initiative is being coordinated by Mohammad Shamsuddin, Multisports Promoter for Sports Village Hyderabad, in collaboration with Joaquin Beana Martinez, Director of Sports Village Europa. As part of the programme, they are expected

to visit Hyderabad in the first week of December 2026 to conduct school football seminars, coaching clinics, practical field sessions, position-specific training, interactive workshops and grassroots talent identification camps. Following the successful implementation of the Hyderabad project, the initiative is planned to expand to other cities across India, promoting structured youth football development on a larger scale. A major highlight of the programme will be the proposed visit of Arturo Garcia Perez, one of Spain's most promising teenage footballers. Arturo joined RCD Espanyol in 2019 in the Pre-Benjamin category and has captained the club's youth teams for six consecutive years. During his remarkable youth career, he has won 27 titles, including league championships, prestigious

tournaments and Catalan Championships. He has also represented the Catalan National Team in the Spanish National Championship, establishing himself as one of Spain's brightest young football talents and a role model for aspiring players. Supporting Arturo's football journey is DANI, the principal sponsor of Arturo Garcia Perez and his team. During his proposed visit, Arturo is expected to participate in coaching sessions, football clinics, motivational interactions with students and grassroots development activities. His presence will provide young Indian footballers with first-hand exposure to Spain's renowned youth football development system and inspire them to pursue excellence through discipline, dedication and professional training.

Hyderabad E-Champions finish league stage unbeaten with win over Nalgonda Knights



Hyderabad: Hyderabad E-Champions continued their unbeaten run in the Sreenidhi University TG20 League championship, defeating Anurag Nalgonda Knights by five wickets to finish the league stage unbeaten and seal the top spot

in the standings at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium here on Monday night. Vaishnav Reddy starred with a blistering unbeaten 41 off just 16 balls, while Abhirath Reddy (39 off 20), Anvith Reddy (40 off 30) and Ajay Dev Goud (34 not out off

24) played key roles in the successful chase of 188. Earlier, Shanmukha Ashwin (4/19), Ajay Dev Goud (2/39) and Pranav Varma (2/23) restricted the Knights to 187/9 despite a fighting half-century from Varun Goud (53 off 32). While E-Champions have confirmed first place, the Knights' qualification will now depend on their net run rate and the results of Monday's two final league-stage fixtures – EIPL & eleve Karimnagar Diamonds vs Palamuru Strikers and Ranga Reddy Risers vs Warangal Warriors – ensuring the race for the playoffs goes right down to the final day. E-Champions will now face Anvith Khammam Aces in Qualifier 1 on Thursday, July 9.

What's Next for Fauzi Girl Imanvi?



Post the debacle of Raja Saab, all eyes are now on Prabhas's nexr Fauzi, which is being directed by Hanu Raghavapudi.

Imanvi Ismail makes her Telugu debut with the Prabhas starrer, and there was a lot of hype around her during the launch

of the film. But with the film getting delayed time and again, the buzz around the young heroine has also died down. Post

the launch of the film, everyone thought that she would get multiple offers after sharing screen space with Prabhas. Sadly, nothing of that sort has happened, as Imanvi is yet to sign any Telugu film to date. On the other hand, industry gossip suggests that she has signed a bond with the makers of Fauzi which states that until the film releases, she is not allowed to sign any other film. So, this clause has also prevented Imanvi from signing any other project. There is also no update about her signing or being in discussions with any other banner. Apart from the launch day of Fauzi, Imanvi was nowhere to be seen, and this has created even more curiosity among the audience as to what she is up to. Coming to Fauzi, a few key portions of the shoot are still pending, and if reports are to be believed, Prabhas is expected to join the team in August. Meanwhile, the makers are also working on content for the film's release date announcement. If everything goes as planned, fans may also get a glimpse from the film along with the big update.

Priyanka Chopra, Nick Jonas Nail Dior Glam



Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas continue to set couple goals by perfectly balancing their personal and professional lives. Whether it is birthdays, family celebrations, movie promotions, concerts, or global fashion events, the power couple always manages to steal the spotlight. Their effortless chemistry, mutual support, and impeccable sense of style have made them one of the most admired celebrity pairs in the world.

The duo once again turned heads at the Dior Haute Couture show during Paris Fashion Week 2026. Priyanka looked stunning in a striking couture outfit, while Nick complemented her in a sophisticated tailored suit. Their coordinated fashion choices, confident presence, and elegant appearance made them one of the standout couples at the event. Apart from her stunning appearance at Paris Fashion Week, Priyanka Chopra has also been making headlines for her ongoing shoot with S.S. Rajamouli in Varanasi. The film recently went viral after leaked visuals, including Mahesh Babu's much-discussed Lord Ram-inspired look, sparked massive excitement among fans.

Ramayana Distribution Rights at a Record Low Price?

Ramayana is one of the most-awaited films in the history of Indian cinema. Featuring Ranbir Kapoor, Sai Pallavi, Rakul Preet Singh, Kajal Aggarwal, and Yash in key roles, the mythological drama will be released in two parts. The first instalment will be out this Diwali on November 6, 2026, and there is a lot of curiosity as to how this epic will fare after the mixed response to the teaser, which was revealed a few months ago. On the other hand, Reportedly Karan Johar's Dharma Productions will distribute the film in India. Going into details, the makers of Ramayana, invited a few production houses and corporates and showcased parts of the film to them. The bidding for the theatrical rights began at Rs 500 crore, but Dharma Productions bagged the deal at Rs 250 crore for the first part. The rumoured number of Rs 250 crore is a worrying number, as Ramayana is being made on a budget of Rs 4000(2 Parts) crore, and it was made official by producer Namit himself. For a film of such magnitude, selling away the rights for just Rs 250 crore is something disappointing and gives an idea that the hype created is nowhere being showcased in the pre-release business. There is no doubt that the film will take a solid opening and make these numbers easily, but selling the rights for such low figures has become a talking point in the film circles. May believe that Dharma Productions have bagged a crazy deal for such a less price and will make big money by selling the film internally Namit Malhotra has produced the film and is making sure Ramayana gets solid deals ahead of its release. But at present, things have started on a dull note and one needs to see if things change in the days to come.



OG 2 Blast On Pawan's Birthday?



Music director Thaman has teased a major OG update during a recent event, sparking excitement among fans. Reports suggest the film's glimpse will be unveiled on Pawan Kalyan's birthday in September. Interestingly, the OG part 1 glimpse was also released on September 2, creating massive hype and taking the internet by storm.

Esha Gupta's Paris Diaries Go Crazy Viral



Just when fans thought they had seen the boldest celebrity fashion moments this season, another actress has set social media buzzing. Esha Gupta is once again going viral, this time for her striking appearance in a sheer lace ensemble. Her latest photos have sparked conversations online, with many praising her fearless fashion choices while others call the look daring and unconventional. The actress looked effortlessly elegant in a soft blush-toned lace gown featuring intricate detailing and a flowing silhouette. Paired with statement earrings, sleek hair, and minimal makeup, Esha balanced glamour with sophistication. Set against the beautiful backdrop of Paris, the photos perfectly captured timeless luxury and high-fashion charm. Esha has always been known for experimenting with bold styles, and this latest look is no exception. Whether admired for its elegance or debated for its daring appeal, the photos have once again placed her at the center of fashion conversations, proving that she continues to be one of Bollywood's most talked-about style icons.