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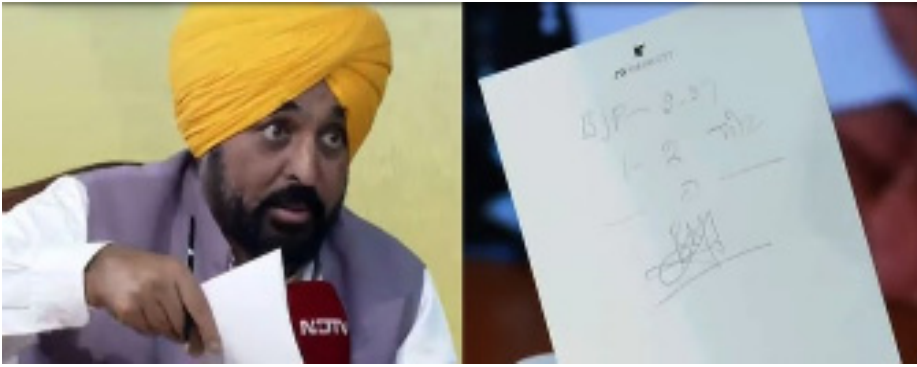
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"BJP Will Win 1 Or 2 Seats In Punjab": Bhagwant Mann's Prediction In Writing



New Delhi: The BJP and the Congress will barely cross the threshold of 10 seats in the 2027 assembly elections in Punjab, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann predicted today. And in that race, the Congress will perform better than the BJP, he implied. Mann even gave it in writing, signing the paper he wrote his prediction on. The BJP, Mann predicted, will win only one or two seats in the Pathankot area.

As for the Congress, "They will be reduced to a single-digit number," he said. The Congress, he said, will win one to nine seats. "Anything lower than that, and their top leadership will be

completely wiped out," he added.

Asked to clarify the score of the BJP -- which recently won a historic victory in Bengal -- and his reason for giving it, Mann said: "Why do I feel it will turn out this way? Because I live among the people. Write this down and save it." Punjab was the second state Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party won in 2022, sweeping 92 of the 117 assembly seats. The Congress, which had won a commanding 77 seats in the 2017 Punjab elections -- was reduced to just 18 seats. Many of its leaders had faced crushing defeats

including then Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi, who contested and lost from two seats, Chamkaur Sahib and Bhadaur.

The BJP won two seats. Punjab, in fact, has been one of the handful of states where the BJP has so far been unable to make much headway on its own. It has been dependent on its regional ally Shiromani Akali Dal and has been part of the ruling alliance. But the SAD has been on a dry patch for a decade, winning only three seats in 2022, down by 12 from their 2017 score. This time, asked how many seats the SAD will win, Mann said "Zero".

'DON'T BE SENTIMENTAL'

Chief Justice On Plea Against Cockroach Janta Party

New Delhi: Chief Justice of India Surya Kant today asked an advocate not to take the 'Cockroach Janta Party' (CJP) issue "sentimentally" after he urged for an urgent hearing of his petition. "Don't take it so sentimentally," the CJI told the petitioner who had sought a legal action and a probe into the viral movement and other social media entities for allegedly misusing courtroom recordings. The advocate on Monday mentioned before the Supreme Court a writ petition concerning the controversy surrounding the recent "cockroach" remarks, alleging that a "dis-

orted and malicious narrative" was continuing despite the clarification issued by the CJI. "Even after the clarification of the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India, a distorted and malicious narrative is being spread... the image of the institution is being demonised," he submitted before the Bench led by CJI Kant. The advocate informed the court that the petition seeks a declaration that oral exchanges during courtroom proceedings should not be commercially utilised or selectively circulated in a manner that distorts judicial proceedings. The counsel further

stated that the petition also seeks a CBI probe in relation to statements made by the Bar Council of India Chairperson regarding the alleged existence of "35 to 40 percent fake law degrees." "There is no such great emergency. We will consider it," the CJI replied. The petition also sought action against those involved in the alleged commercial exploitation of oral observations made during court proceedings. It sought an investigation into alleged fake advocates practising law using fraudulent degrees. Expressing concern over the misuse of judicial proceedings, the



plea claimed that the remarks and observations made during the court proceedings were being used for publicity campaigns.

On May 16, the CJI issued a strongly worded clarification of his remarks, saying that he was "pained" by media reports

suggesting that he had criticised the youth. He emphasised that his remarks were specifically directed at those entering the legal profession using "fake and bogus degrees" and that he had been "misquoted by a section of the media."

Doesn't understand India, trying to incite youth against PM : Giriraj Singh slams Rahul Gandhi for 'govt will fall' remark

Patna : Union Minister Giriraj Singh on Monday slammed Rahul Gandhi for allegedly trying to 'incite the youth' against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and wage a war by making baseless statements against the Central government. Rahul Gandhi's claim that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led government will "fall within the year" as

people continue to be affected by the rising costs of living has got strong reactions from the BJP leader. "Rahul Gandhi is unable to understand the country; they want to incite the country's youth against PM Modi and wage a war. This country loves the PM; whenever such incidents have happened in the country, this nation has stood firm.

The country is working on PM Modi's (austerity) appeal," Giriraj Singh told reporters here. Calling him 'Rahul Miyan', he hit out at Congress, claiming that the party has become the 'Maoist Muslim Congress', while reiterating that the country supports PM Modi. "Rahul Gandhi is no longer with the Congress; he has become 'Rahul Miyan.'



Deputy CM Reviews Leopard Movement at Tirupati Veterinary University



From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, May, 25 : Pawan Kalyan reviewed the situation regarding the movement of a leopard at Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University in Tirupati. From Rajahmundry, the Deputy Chief Minister and Forest and Environment Minister held a phone review with senior forest department

officials to assess the current location of the leopard and the measures being taken to capture it safely. Officials informed him that the leopard was currently hiding inside a room and that rescue personnel had already reached the location. Pawan Kalyan instructed the officials to act cautiously in accordance with established guidelines

and to ensure that the leopard was captured safely without causing it any harm before being released back into the forest area.

Pawan Kalyan also advised officials to seek assistance from zoo staff during the rescue operation. He emphasized that all necessary precautions should be taken to ensure that students and university staff do not face any inconvenience or danger during the operation. He further stated that the public need not panic over the leopard's movement, as strict safety measures were already being implemented. The Deputy Chief Minister's Office later shared this information through a post on the social media platform X.

Jagan and Co Are Daydreaming About Returning to Power: Dhulipalla Narendra Kumar

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, May, 25 : Dhulipalla Narendra Kumar strongly criticized YSRCP chief Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, alleging that Jagan and his associates were creating divisions among communities. He accused the YSRCP government of targeting weaker sections during its tenure. Speaking to the media during his tour in Guntur district on Monday, Dhulipalla stated that anti-public policies had reduced the YSRCP to just 11 Assembly seats. He further remarked that even after witnessing the people's ver-

dict, YSRCP leaders had failed to change their attitude. Dhulipalla Narendra Kumar alleged that YSRCP leaders were deliberately creating controversies and trapping youth in various legal cases. He mocked Jagan and his associates for "daydreaming" about returning to power again. He accused the previous YSRCP government of weakening democratic institutions during its five-year rule and claimed that judges and even their family members were subjected to defamatory campaigns. He further alleged that sev-

eral people were killed for not following Jagan's directions. According to him, the recent attacks and controversies were being carried out out of frustration because the public had denied them power. He also accused YSRCP leaders of indulging in political dramas wherever they go.

Speaking about the issues faced by corn farmers, Dhulipalla said there was nothing wrong in demanding justice for maize farmers. However, he criticized YSRCP leaders for staging protests in the name of farmers and attacking him and

Sangam Dairy through allegations. He explained that Sangam Dairy had been purchasing maize for dairy requirements for the past 15 years and clarified that their business operations do not depend on governments. He stated that any decision regarding maize procurement must be taken by the Central Government and added that N. Chandrababu Naidu had already written to the Centre seeking speedy procurement of maize. Dhulipalla accused Jagan of shedding "crocodile tears" for farmers for political gain. He also al-



leged that women were being provoked and sent onto the streets, which eventually led to legal cases being filed against them. He further accused Ambati Murali of instigating women for political purposes.

YSRCP Meeting is Like an Evil Eye to Mahanadu: Minister Ramprasad Reddy

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, May, 25 : Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy criticized YSRCP chief and former Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, calling him a "honeymoon leader" for the state. He remarked that Jagan's politics resembled "old liquor in a new bottle," accusing him of repackaging old ideas with new marketing. The minister alleged that Jagan has been constantly criticizing the coalition government because he is unable to tolerate the welfare and development programs being implemented by the current administration. Speaking in Amaravati on Monday, Ramprasad Reddy stated that mining exploitation began with

Vijayalakshmi Minerals and later expanded to Bharathi Cements and Sandur Power. He accused Jagan of growing politically by using money earned through

worth lakhs of crores. He claimed that the people no longer trust Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, alleging that he has become like an invalid currency note. At the same time, he stated that the government would be willing to accept constructive suggestions if Jagan and the MLAs from his party attended the Assembly and participated positively. Using sarcasm, the minister compared the YSRCP state executive meeting



held on the opening day of Mahanadu to "dogs creating commotion at a village wedding." He further remarked that the program organized by Jagan was like an "evil eye" cast on the Mahanadu event.

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Minister BC Janardhan Reddy Conducts Whirlwind Tour in Banaganapalle



From Our Staff Reporter Banaganapalle, May, 25 : B. C. Janardhan Reddy conducted a whirlwind tour in Banaganapalle of Nandyal district. During his visit, the minister inspected the construction works of a new Shadi Khana being built for minorities in Banaganapalle. He stated that the facility would be made available to the public at the earliest. He also reviewed the road expansion works in the Avukumetta area and instructed officials to speed up the progress of the project. Later, he

inspected the renovation works of the old MRO office, which currently functions as the RTO office, and provided suggestions and guidance to the officials. The minister also supervised the construction works of the Sri Lakshmi Venkateswara Swamy Temple at Kondapeta in Banaganapalle. In addition, he reviewed the ongoing Banaganapalle bypass road construction works. B. C. Janardhan Reddy directed officials to work with the goal of making the bypass available to the people of Banaganapalle by December 2026.

ED Issued Notice to the Company, Says MP Shivanath

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, May, 25 : Kesineni Sivanath stated that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) had issued a notice to a real estate company jointly formed by Ishanvi and Kesineni Developers. He said that a detailed explanation regarding the notice would be submitted on the 27th of this month. Speaking to the media in Vijayawada on Monday, the MP explained that the company named Pride Infra was established in 2021 along with Ishanvi, a firm linked to Raj Kasireddy, as the adjoining land plots created a business oppor-

tunity for a real estate venture. He mentioned that transactions worth Rs.35 lakh had taken place through the company. Kesineni Sivanath clarified that after learning about Raj Kasireddy's background, they exited the company in 2022 itself. He stated that the ED notice was issued seeking clarification regarding the financial transaction connected to that venture. According to him, apart from a Rs.35 lakh transaction made towards architectural fees, no other dealings had taken place, and the same would be explained to the ED officials. He also dis-



missed allegations claiming that his wife had received notices in connection with the alleged Andhra Pradesh liquor scam. The MP clarified that his wife was only a director in the company at that time and emphasized that the notice was sent only to the company, not to his wife personally.

Lyricist Ananta Sriram Expresses Concern Over Threat to His Parents' Lives

Bhimavaram : Ananta Sriram approached senior officials in West Godavari district alleging that his parents were facing a threat to their lives. On Monday, he submitted a complaint at the PGRS grievance cell in the Bhimavaram Collectorate. In his complaint, Ananta Sriram stated that a five-cent jointly owned land parcel located in front of their house at Doddipatla village in Yelamanchili mandal near Palakollu had allegedly been encroached upon. He also pointed out that the land dispute is currently under consideration in court. According to the complaint, Ananta Sriram alleged that Suryaprakash, the son of former MP Harirama Jogaiah, had been threatening and mentally harassing his parents over the disputed property.



EDITORIAL

Another war would be a disaster

At a time when hopes are rising that a peace deal between the US and Iran is almost certain, US President Trump's readiness to attack Iran again is worrying the world. On the one hand, Pakistan's Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir arrived in Tehran on Friday night to discuss key issues with senior Iranian leaders, while a Qatari diplomatic team, which is working in coordination with the US, also arrived in Tehran. The United Arab Emirates has entered the field to convince Trump to stop the war. Saudi Arabia is trying to hold diplomatic talks with Qatari representatives. The United Arab Emirates is expressing concern that if resistance starts again from Iran and hostilities escalate, the economic situation of the Gulf countries will plunge into a serious crisis. All three of America's allies are warning that America has not achieved its goal through military action.

The UAE has now changed its stance after realizing how much it has suffered in the past due to Iranian attacks. When Israel and the US launched attacks on Iran last February, Iran provoked militants in Iraq to launch drone attacks on Gulf countries. Several thousand people lost their lives. Port cities and power plant facilities suffered damage worth several trillion dollars. That is why these countries are requesting Trump not to let such a situation happen again this time. Although the US talks with Iran are going on as usual, they are not reaching a conclusion. The talks are being incomplete due to the US condition that Iran completely abandon its nuclear weapons and stockpiles. Iran is resisting, saying that it will not abandon its nuclear weapons and stockpiles under any circumstances and that they are necessary for its national security. With this, Trump is expected to launch a single decisive major military operation to end the war. Trump, who had been inclined to find a solution through talks until Tuesday, has been leaning towards attacks since Thursday night. He has abandoned his plans to attend his son's wedding and is staying in the White House, holding talks with military and intelligence officials. Although Iran says it is considering American proposals, the United States is on alert knowing that Israel is preparing for another attack. It is putting forward demands for the release of its frozen assets, the lifting of restrictions on ports, and its control over the Strait of Hormuz. It has also closed its airspace over the western part of its country.

It has announced that it will suspend all flights until the 25th of this month. Iran has warned that if there are further attacks, the war will not be limited to West Asia. Meanwhile, Iran's foreign minister held talks with Pakistan's foreign minister on Friday to end the war. It is noteworthy that on Friday, US ally Oman held talks with Iran on charging fees for its ships through the Strait of Hormuz. On this occasion, Iran's newly established Persian Gulf Strait Authority revealed that it had discussed with Oman the issue of boundaries regarding the supervision of the Strait of Hormuz. However, the United States is seriously considering Iran's charging fees for ships through the Strait of Hormuz. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio called on Iran to implement a toll system in the Strait of Hormuz as illegal, and that no country has the right to determine the flow of traffic in international shipping lanes, and no country should accept this. Such actions will further complicate US-Iran peace talks, he said. Iranian state media reported that Iran has started collecting fees of Rs. 18 crore from ships transiting through the Strait of Hormuz.

Collector Encourages Education for Tribal Girls



Rampachodavaram, May 25: Polavaram District Collector urged parents to encourage every girl child, especially tribal girls, to pursue higher education by enrolling them in schools. Speaking at a programme held at the ITDA hall on Monday, the Collector felicitated tribal student Budida Lovakumari from Somannapalem village of Addateegala mandal for completing her law degree in Visakhapatnam and aspiring to pursue a Master of Law degree. He praised her parents, who work as daily wage labourers, for supporting her education despite financial hardships. The Collector said the district administration would continue supporting tribal students and highlighted that government schools provide free education, meals, hostel facilities, and study materials to encourage quality education for all.

All Roads Lead To China? Why Xi Hosted Trump And Putin Back-To-Back

Xi Jinping's carefully choreographed hosting of Donald Trump (May 13-15) and Vladimir Putin (May 19-20) within the span of a single week was no coincidence. It was a calculated assertion of China's arrival as the indispensable pivot in global politics - a power sufficiently confident to engage both its principal strategic rival and its closest geopolitical partner with equal grandeur. Beijing wanted the world to absorb one central message: all roads now lead to China.

The optics were meticulously crafted. At the Great Hall of the People, both leaders received near-identical state pageantry: military honour guards, gun salutes, marching bands, troop inspections, national anthems, and carefully staged interactions with cheering children waving national flags. Banquets featuring Chinese cultural symbolism, personal interactions with Xi Jinping, and highly choreographed public moments reinforced the image of Beijing as the epicentre of contemporary diplomacy. Chinese state media predictably amplified this narrative, portraying China as the stabilising fulcrum of an increasingly fractured international order.

Putin's visit, however, carried unmistakably greater intimacy. The Russian leader was welcomed by a senior Politburo figure, a symbolic gesture underscoring strategic trust. The choreography was less rigidly formal and more personal-tea ceremonies, poetic exchanges, and repeated invocations of "old friendship". Public messaging from both sides appeared far more synchronised, reflecting the political comfort that now defines the Sino-Russian relationship. Beijing may have projected parity externally, but the diplomatic nuances revealed where its strategic comfort truly lies.

The contrast became even sharper in terms of outcomes. Trump's three-day visit was heavy on symbolism but comparatively thin on substance. Discussions covered trade, technology restrictions, Iran, strategic stability, and Taiwan, while both sides hinted at possible economic arrangements involving agriculture, energy, and aviation. Yet, the structural

tensions underpinning the relationship remained unresolved. There were no meaningful breakthroughs on tariffs, semiconductor restrictions, or broader strategic competition. The exercise was essentially about stabilisation, preventing escalation while preserving room for manoeuvre.

Putin's shorter visit, by contrast, yielded far more tangible outcomes. Multiple agreements were concluded across trade, energy, transport, technology, and cultural cooperation. Joint statements emphasised multipolarity, opposition to Western "hegemony", and the consolidation of a strategic partnership that both sides described as being at a "historic high". While major sticking points, such as the Power of Siberia 2 pipeline, remain unresolved, the overall trajectory of the relationship remains unmistakably upward. Unlike the transactional and fragile US-China engagement, the China-Russia partnership continues to deepen because it is anchored in converging geopolitical interests.

For Xi Jinping, the larger strategic objective extended beyond either bilateral relationship. By hosting Trump and Putin in rapid succession, Beijing sought to demonstrate diplomatic centrality in an era of systemic flux. China was projecting itself not merely as another great power, but as the indispensable balancing force in an emerging multipolar order - capable of engaging adversaries and partners alike without being constrained by either.

The visit by Donald Trump served an important tactical purpose for China and for Xi Jinping personally. Beijing's immediate priority is not confrontation for its own sake, but the creation of strategic breathing space during a period of mounting internal and external pressure. China is navigating slowing economic growth, persistent weaknesses in the property sector, demographic decline, and growing restrictions imposed by the United States and its allies on advanced technology transfer. At the same time, the Chinese leadership is accelerating efforts to achieve greater self-reliance in semicon-



ductors, artificial intelligence, advanced manufacturing, and defence technologies. These are long-term projects that require stability in the external environment.

Against that backdrop, even limited stabilisation in relations with the United States carries significant value for Beijing. Tactical de-escalation reduces the immediate risk of economic disruption, lowers the chances of a sudden crisis over trade or Taiwan, and creates room for China to consolidate domestic capabilities without facing simultaneous external shocks. From Beijing's perspective, managing competition with Washington is not about resolving the rivalry - which Chinese strategists increasingly see as structural and enduring - but about pacing it on terms more favourable to China's long-term rise. A temporary thaw with Washington, therefore, functions less as reconciliation than as strategic delay: it buys time, preserves economic access, and prevents the formation of a more unified anti-China coalition while Beijing strengthens its position for what it expects will be a prolonged era of great-power competition.

The subsequent visit by Vladimir Putin reinforced a different but complementary dimension of China's grand strat-

egy. For Beijing, Russia has become an increasingly valuable strategic rear - a large continental power that helps secure China's northern flank while simultaneously distracting and dividing Western attention. The partnership offers several concrete benefits. Russia remains a critical supplier of discounted energy, helping underpin China's long-term energy security at a time of geopolitical uncertainty. Diplomatic coordination between Moscow and Beijing also strengthens both countries' ability to resist Western pressure in multilateral forums and promote narratives challenging a US-led international order.

At the same time, the balance within the relationship is gradually shifting in China's favour. Russia's isolation from Western markets after the war in Ukraine has deepened its economic dependence on China for trade, finance, technology, and diplomatic support. This asymmetry gives Beijing growing leverage while allowing it to benefit from access to Russian commodities and strategic cooperation without assuming the full costs of Moscow's confrontation with the West.

Equally significant were the political optics surrounding the sequencing of the two visits. By hosting Putin immedi-

ately after Trump, Xi sent a deliberate signal that engagement with Washington would not come at the expense of the China-Russia partnership. This was aimed at both external and domestic audiences. Internationally, it undercut recurring speculation in Western strategic circles that the United States might eventually replicate a "reverse Nixon" strategy, drawing Russia away from China to weaken Beijing. The choreography of the meetings instead projected continuity and strategic alignment between Moscow and Beijing despite tactical outreach to Washington. Domestically, it reinforced the image of Xi as a leader capable of balancing great-power diplomacy without compromising China's core strategic partnerships. These back-to-back summits have been a textbook display of Chinese realpolitik. Xi Jinping successfully projected strength, balance, and diplomatic confidence while carefully calibrating outcomes according to the nature of each relationship. The symbolism may, in some respects, have exceeded the substantive achievements, but symbolism itself is now an essential currency of great-power politics. And in that domain, Beijing ensured that it dominated the global stage.

Why Are Some Of India's Sharpest Pakistan Critics Calling For 'Talks'?

To talk or not to talk, that is the question. At least, that would be it for most of those misquoting Hamlet. But for the general populace, talking to Pakistan is a disaster, and even the supposedly learned see little point in it. All that was till the unexpected happened. In a recent interview, Dattareya Hosabale, General Secretary of the RSS (Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh), unexpectedly said that people-to-people contact was key to breaking the deadlock with Pakistan. This was after a visit to the United States. The point is that the main organisation that is the backbone of the ruling party has given the green signal to talk.

The Urge To 'Talk'

Most were too astonished to say much. But the support by former Army Chief Gen MM Naravane, where he said that "the path to peace was and is, through negotiations to arrive at a just settlement that meets the aspirations of the people", raised heckles, since the language was straight out of the Pakistani playbook. Scribes described the Track-2 process as a 'dangerous illusion', leading to complacency, till the next terrorist attack brought some reality back literally with a bang. True, also, that all governments - much to the exasperation of security experts - usually opened their innings with friendly reach-outs, from former Prime Minister AB Vajpayee's trip to Lahore to Manmohan Singh's restarting

of the Composite Dialogue, and an invite to the then Pakistani Prime Minister, Yousaf Raza Gillani, to India for a cricket match. Most recently, PM Modi dropped by to greet Sharif on his birthday.

Each and every one of these initiatives was met with a return to a terror attack. In fact, the more successful the reach-out, the worse the terrorist retaliation. For instance, Modi's visit was on December 25, 2015. The Pathankot attack was barely a week later, on January 2, 2016.

Civilian Leadership

Consider, however, that Pakistani Prime Ministers have also reached out - and suffered for it. In this instance, Sharif asked his commanders why violence occurred immediately after an outreach to India. There was no answer. In 1999, the Kargil War was launched after the Lahore bus journey, and prior to this, Prime Minister Zardari's suggestion to ISI Chief Ahmed Shuja Pasha to go to India and provide full cooperation on the Mumbai attacks led to his removal. The Benazir Bhutto-Rajiv Gandhi meetings led to the former proposing oil pipelines and an opening of trade. Imran Khan came to power promising peace with India, but was soon removed before anything could come of this. All were civilian leaders. True, General Musharraf came to India waving a peace flag, but in reality, his famed peace plan involved ceding a large slice of territory to Pakistan in the so-called 'Chenab Formula'



and division along communal lines, with the additional advantage that it would also have given Pakistan control over its waters. True, also, that army Chiefs like Gen. Bajwa did advocate an entirely new 'doctrine' of making the country an economic and strategic corridor, and leaving the past behind. Imran Khan quietly backed it, but it so transpired that Bajwa had told Khan that the army was in no state to fight India. In short, civilian leaders have sought peace quite simply because it leads directly to improving the economy, transborder trade, employment generation, etc. The army backed it for its own institutional reasons. That, however, is also the core of the problem. It's not the people one is talking to. It's an institution, with a vested interest in keeping tensions alive.

Track 2 And Its Solid History Even so, it is also true that such militarist regimes have been successfully brought into talks. Af-

ter all, the whole issue of 'talking to the enemy' was embedded in the Cold War exchanges between the US and the Soviets. Those talks began out of fears of a nuclear attack breaking out due to misinterpretation - like raptors picking up flying geese and assuming they are incoming aircraft, or misreading a political situation that would lead to open war. The concept of Track-2 - essentially think-tanks talking to each other - or Track-1.5, which was semi-official, later spread outwards to several different lines of communication, leading to some successes, such as the Limited Test Ban Treaty and the Dartmouth Conferences, which eventually led to the breakthrough at Reykjavik, and the first firm arms control treaty. In other words, it was meant to be a free-wheeling exercise and exchange of ideas, pumped up at a time of heightened stress. In the case of India and Pakistan, unofficial talks have been going on for years. Some claim that these contributed directly to defusing

tensions after the Kargil crisis, while others claim credit for the ceasefire on the Line of Control. A paper from a Pakistani think tank also talks of Track -3, which comprised musicians, poets and others who have absolutely no stake in 'positioning' on any subject, and, therefore, tend to lead to a positive fallout, however limited. The logic here is that a series of these will change entrenched mindsets. A series of recent Track 2 dialogues held with the backing of international think tanks have brought together retired diplomats, academics and some serving government officials at locations abroad, which have usually led to accusations of foreign 'jackets' by those persons not included; nonetheless, some of them have been fruitful. Usually, in the case of the Pakistanis, initial statements follow a clear 'read-out', with the line rarely crossed, particularly since there is usually an 'establishment' figure overseeing the whole.

Collector Nishanthi Inspects EVM Strong Room



Paderu, May 25: District Collector conducted a monthly inspection of the EVM strong room at the local degree college on Monday in the presence of representatives from various political parties. Along with DRO and election officials, the Collector inspected the seals placed on the EVM storage room, reviewed security arrangements, and examined CCTV surveillance systems. She also issued instructions to officials and security personnel regarding the safe preservation of EVMs. Representatives from BJP, YSRCP, and TDP, along with revenue and election department officials, participated in the inspection.

Collector Directs Preparation of Proposals for Rubber and Cashew Processing Units



Rampachodavaram, May 25: Polavaram District Collector directed officials to immediately prepare proposals for establishing rubber and cashew processing units under the Andhra Pradesh Cluster Development Programme (AP-CDP). The Collector said the state government is implementing the programme with an outlay of ₹200 crore to promote MSMEs and cluster-based industries. He instructed officials to utilize the natural resources and tribal area potential of the district effectively. He noted that Common Facility Centres under the cluster model would provide machinery, processing, quality standards, marketing, and training support to small industries. Officials from the horticulture and industries departments were asked to prepare a comprehensive action plan and submit proposals as per the new government guidelines.

Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan Inspects Godavari River Ahead of Pushkarams



Rajamahendravaram, May 25: Deputy Chief Minister conducted a field inspection of the Godavari river region and Pushkar ghats on Monday in preparation for the upcoming Pushkarams next year. The Deputy CM travelled by boat from Pushkar Ghat to Kotilingala Ghat and reviewed river flow conditions at Nalla Channel and nearby areas. He also inspected river water sample collection activities and visited the nearby Sewage Treatment Plant (STP). Later, Pawan Kalyan held a review meeting with officials and public representatives at the Municipal Corporation office regarding Pushkaram arrangements. Ministers, MP, District Collector and senior officials participated in the inspection.

Joint Collector Calls for Effective Use of Health Training Programmes



Paderu, May 25: Joint Collector urged Community Health Officers and Medical Officers to effectively utilize the training programme aimed at strengthening rural and field-level healthcare services. The five-day training programme, being conducted from May 25 to 29 at the Government Degree College in Paderu under the guidance of experts from and, focuses on improving clinical workflows in Health and Wellness Centres. Officials said the programme aims to enhance skills in patient management systems, implementation research, and delivery of quality healthcare services in tribal and rural areas. ITDA Project Officer and senior health officials also participated in the programme.

Industries Key to Comprehensive Development: Minister Atchannaidu

Srikakulam, May 25: State Agriculture Minister said industrial development is essential for generating employment opportunities and achieving overall growth in the state. The Minister laid the foundation stone on Monday for an MSME Park (Flatted Factory Complex) to be developed at Cheepurlapadu village in Kotabommali mandal with an estimated cost of ₹10.51 crore. He said the government aims to establish MSME parks in every Assembly constituency in a phased manner. Atchannaidu stated that roads, electricity, drinking water, and drainage facilities would be developed in the 12-acre industrial park, which will be transformed into a major industrial hub in the district. He added that the state government is attracting large-scale investments and working towards creating 20 lakh jobs for youth through industrial expansion. District Collector and other officials participated in the programme.



Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan Appreciates Command Control Centre

Rajamahendravaram, May 25: Deputy Chief Minister appreciated the functioning of the advanced Command Control Centre set up at the Municipal Corporation office for effective monitoring of sanitation and surveillance activities in the city. During his visit on Monday, Municipal Commissioner explained that CCTV cameras and modern technology are being used from early morning to monitor garbage removal, drainage issues, and sanitation workers' performance across the city. Pawan Kalyan said similar systems are also being considered for the Panchayat Raj Department. District Collector and other officials participated in the programme.



Tribal Welfare and Education Drive Intensified in Polavaram District



Rampachodavaram, May 25: Polavaram District Collector said the main objective of the "Jan Jatiya Garima Utsav 2026" is to ensure that Central and State government welfare schemes reach every eligible tribal beneficiary and promote economic development in remote tribal areas. Speaking at the closing ceremony of the week-long programme held at the ITDA Hall on Monday, the Collector stated that nearly 2,000 public grievances related to Aadhaar cards, ration cards, and PM Janman schemes were resolved during the campaign. Awareness programmes were also conducted in remote tribal villages under the slogan "Sabse Door, Sabse Pehle." The Collector also emphasized the importance of the "Badi Piluthondi" school enrolment drive and directed officials to achieve 100 percent enrolment of school-age children, especially Class-I admissions, before June 12. He urged parents to send children to government schools, highlighting the availability of free education, meals, books, uniforms, and other facilities.

Give Special Attention to Every Petition: Joint Collector Ilakkiya



Vijayawada, May 25: Joint Collector directed officials to give special attention to every petition received through

SP Orders Strict Action Against Anti-Social Activities



Ongole, May 25: District SP directed police officials to speed up investigation of pending grave and non-grave cases and intensify action against anti-social activities in Prakasam and Markapuram districts. During a crime review meeting held through video conference with DSPs, CIs, and SIs on Monday, the SP reviewed pending cases, arrests, charge sheets, thefts, chain snatching, missing cases, suspicious deaths, and road accidents. He instructed officers to improve conviction rates through technical evidence collection and effective use of modern technologies such as CCTV surveillance, drone monitoring, face recognition, and the Central Crime Tracking Network System. The SP also ordered strict action against matka, cricket betting, gambling, and open drinking in public places. He emphasized preventive measures for road accidents and directed officials to ensure tight security arrangements during upcoming Bakrid celebrations.

the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) and ensure that grievances are resolved to the satisfaction of applicants. During the PGRS programme held at the Collectorate on Monday, the Joint Collector, along with DRO, received petitions from the public. A total of 124 grievances were submitted, including complaints related to police, revenue, municipal administration, panchayat raj, social welfare, education, civil supplies, health, housing, transport, and other departments. She instructed officials to thoroughly examine every petition and provide permanent solutions within the stipulated time frame while strictly following government norms.

66 Complaints Received in Police "Meekosam" Programme



Ongole, May 25: District SP conducted the "Meekosam" grievance redressal programme at the District Police Office on Monday, focusing on public grievance resolution and maintenance of law and order in Prakasam district. A total of 66 complaints were received during the programme. The SP assured victims that their grievances would be resolved quickly within the legal framework. He personally interacted with physically challenged complainants unable to walk and issued immediate instructions to concerned officials. The SP directed officers to give special priority to issues related to women, senior citizens, and differently-abled persons. Senior police officials and staff participated in the programme.

Collector Reviews Public Grievance Redressal in Polavaram District

Rampachodavaram, May 25: Polavaram District Collector said that public grievances from remote villages are being addressed on priority by coordinating with concerned departments and finding suitable solutions. During the PGRS (Public Grievance Redressal System) and Revenue Clinic programme held at the ITDA Hall on Monday, the Collector, along with Joint Collector and DRO, reviewed grievance petitions received from the public. The Collector stated that 108 petitions were received under PGRS and 15 applications under the Revenue Clinic this week. He directed officials to resolve grievances promptly, interact regularly with applicants through phone calls, and ensure complete satisfaction of petitioners. He also

Public Satisfaction Is the Goal: Collector P. Rajababu

Ongole, May 25: District Collector said that timely and reasonable resolution of public grievances is the primary objective of the administration. He made these remarks during the "Meekosam" public grievance redressal programme held at the Prakasam Bhavan Grievance Hall on Monday. Along with Joint Collector and other district officials, the Collector received petitions from the public and directed concerned departments to resolve them promptly. He instructed officials to ensure that applicants are satisfied with the action taken and warned against negligence in grievance redressal. A total of 286 petitions were received during the programme.



Collector Calls Upon Youth to Become Entrepreneurs



Ongole, May 25: District Collector urged youth to utilize government support and emerge as entrepreneurs. He participated along with MLA in the foundation stone ceremony for an MSME Park at Dasarajupalli village in Ongole mandal on Monday. The Collector said industrialization in Prakasam district has gained momentum with major projects like and industries such as, and others. To support ancillary industries, the government is establishing MSME parks in every Assembly constituency. He stated that MSME parks are being developed in 38 constituencies across the state, including Ongole and Kandukur. Infrastructure works worth ₹5 crore will be taken up at the Dasarajupalli MSME Park. The Collector emphasized that the government aims to create at least one entrepreneur from every household.

Collector Directs Speedy Completion of Jaladhara-Jalaharathi Works

Kakinada, May 25: District Collector directed officials to speed up works taken up under the Jaladhara-Jalaharathi programme and complete them within the stipulated time. During a review meeting held at the Collectorate on Monday with DWAMA and Irrigation Department officials, the Collector said that 2,061 works had been identified in the district, of which 1,837 had already been sanctioned. He stated that 533 tanks are being repaired under the programme. The Collector instructed officials to immediately take up desilting of canals and feeder repairs linked to tanks and to use machinery wherever necessary to accelerate works. He also directed every MPDO to adopt at least two tanks for focused development. DWAMA PD and Irrigation EE participated in the meeting.

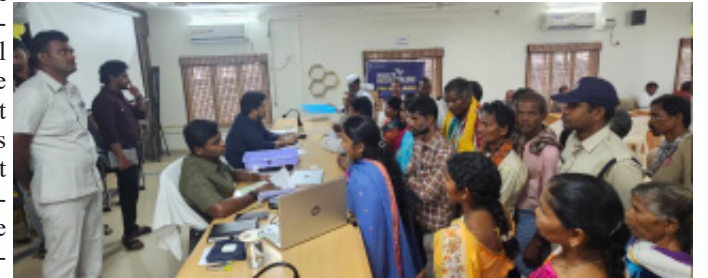


Collector Visits Ekalavya School Summer Camp



Paderu, May 25: District Collector visited the Ekalavya Model Residential School at Dumbriguda on Monday and reviewed the summer camp being conducted for students on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and technical skill development. The Collector interacted with students and reviewed the training sessions, projects, and technology-based activities being conducted during the camp. She explained the future opportunities in AI and encouraged students to use technology creatively and effectively. Local Tahsildar and school staff participated in the programme.

instructed officials to monitor implementation of government welfare schemes through IVRS feedback and provide 100 percent resolution to public complaints.



Ma Inti Bangaram: Samantha Turns Fierce Telugu Kodalu



Samantha is focusing on female-centric films in the recent past, and she will next be seen in the film Ma Inti Bangaram. The film marks her third time collaboration with director BV Nandini Reddy. The film is hitting the screens on June 19th and the team launched the theatrical trailer. The trailer looks

super fun, but at the same time, action-oriented. The trailer introduces Samantha as a woman who enters a joint family as their new daughter-in-law. However, things look normal and decent in the beginning, but gradually, it is revealed that she has a past and also has connections with the under-

world, where some forces are in search of her. Slowly, the family begins to face the troubles from these families, causing harm to the very family. It is then how Samantha emerges as a saviour forms the story of the movie. The trailer is a blend of fun, action and entertaining elements, appeal-

ing to the family audiences. Santhosh Narayanan's score has elevated the emotional and action setup. Samantha's husband Raj is producing the film. For now, the trailer looks super interesting and if it also translates into a blockbuster at the screens, it will help Samantha re enter the commercial success zone.

Will Ram Charan Win The National Award This Time?



Mega Powerstar Ram Charan's Peddi will have a grand release on June 4th, and the team is aggressively promoting the movie now. Interestingly, the team is leaving no stone unturned in order to generate hype for the film. During the promotional events, many of the team members is heaping praises over Ram Charan and even going to the extent of predicting a National Award for the actor. Be it actor Ravi Kishan who hinted the same during his speech at the Bhopal event or be it Shiva Rajkumar who predicted the same today at an event in Karnataka or director Buchi Babu who is constantly pushing the opinion forward in his interviews for national media, everyone wants Ram Charan to be honored with a National Film Award. As per the sources from the film unit, the emotion of Peddi lies entirely in the performance of Ram Charan. The climax sequence will reportedly unleash his full performance while also delivering a big twist to the audience. If this clicks well with the audiences, the film not only becomes a blockbuster but will also keep everyone talking about Charan's performance. In fact, many fans predicted that Ram Charan would grab the prestigious award twice. Once for the film Magadheera and the second one for the film Rangasthalam. However, Peddi could be the big opportunity for Charan to try and win the award. Telugu cinema witnessed its first ever National Film Award for the Best Actor category only in the form of Allu Arjun.

Dhurandhar Hero Faces Big Ban In Bollywood

Ranveer Singh was supposed to work with Farhan Akhtar on the film Don 3 but reportedly, the actor walked out of the film in the last minute. Although it happened long back, the issue is still widely being discussed in the media. Now, there seems to be a new development in this issue where the Federation of Western India Cine Employees (FWICE) issued a non-cooperation directive against Actor Ranveer Singh. According to the latest decision, the members of the said union, including the directors, cameramen, spotboys, and lightmen would not want to work with him. It also means that Ranveer Singh has been banned from working

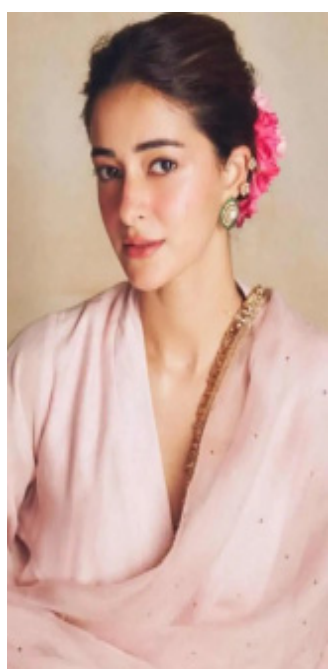


with any of the members of the union. If it is any other actor, it would have been a big blow for them but passing such a reso-

lution against Ranveer Singh is not going to impact his career. Ranveer Singh has just delivered a 1000 crore historic blockbuster with the Dhurandhar franchise and this move clearly once again shows the fact how the producers in Bollywood are divided. However, majority of the production houses will not pay any attention to this directive as Ranveer is the most in-demand Bollywood star right now. In fact, the union must fight out on the issues like exorbitant ticket prices, payment issues and the advancement of AI rather than passing such a decision which almost make no sense to anyone is what the onlookers in Bollywood opine. Ashoke

Pandit, Chief advisor of the federation, said they received a complaint from Farhan Akhtar against Ranveer Singh alleging he exited a film project just weeks before shoot. He said the federation issued three notices and reminders over 30 days, but received no response from the actor. He added that after announcing a press conference, Ranveer Singh replied saying the matter was outside their jurisdiction. Taking note, the federation decided to issue a non cooperation directive against him. This means no federation member or worker will collaborate on his future projects, and they have urged producers to support their stand and oppose such conduct.

Liger Beauty's Bharatanatyam Triggers Huge Backlash



Liger fame Ananya Panday's latest film Chand Mera Dil has found itself at the center of a major social media debate after a Bharatanatyam-inspired dance sequence from the movie went viral online. The clip, featuring Ananya performing a fusion version of the classical dance form, triggered strong reactions from viewers, with many accusing the film of failing to respect the traditional art form. Several social media users criticized the choreography, expressions, and execution of the sequence, arguing that Bharatanatyam requires years of discipline and training. Some netizens

even compared Ananya's performance to iconic classical dance moments by actresses like Sridevi and Sai Pallavi, claiming those performances reflected the true grace of the art form. The controversy intensified after political spokesperson Dr. Shama Mohamed also reacted strongly online, stating that classical dance forms should not be insulted through poorly executed performances. Meanwhile, many memes and trolling posts flooded X and Reddit, with users mocking the dance sequence and questioning Bollywood's approach towards classical art forms. However, not everyone

agreed with the criticism. A section of viewers defended Ananya and pointed out that the sequence was designed as a cinematic fusion performance rather than a pure Bharatanatyam recital. Supporters argued that mainstream cinema often adapts classical forms creatively for broader appeal. Despite the backlash, the controversy has significantly boosted online visibility for Chand Mera Dil, making the film one of the most discussed Bollywood releases of the week.

Nazriya Fahadh Looks Stunning In Floral Dress



Nazriya Fahadh is a talented actress from Kerala who has won the hearts of Telugu audiences with her cute smile and natural acting. Known for her bubbly and lovable portrayals, she has earned several top awards in South Indian cinema. Her films Bangalore Days and Ohm Shanthi Oshaana made her a household name across South India. Nazriya made a big splash in Telugu with Ante Sundaraniki alongside Nani, where critics praised her screen presence as adding great appeal to the film. The film was a huge hit and even earned her a Filmfare Award nomination for Best Actress in Telugu. Recently, Nazriya dropped stunning new pictures that took the internet by storm. She looks absolutely gorgeous in a beautiful floral dress, twirling with a bright smile and glowing charm. Fans are going crazy over her fresh and elegant look. Adding to the excitement, her upcoming film Suriya 47, directed by Jithu Madhavan, has Nazriya playing the lead opposite Suriya as a powerful police officer. The film is expected to release in 2026 and fans simply cannot wait!

One Side Love, Endless Pain on June 19th!



Young actor Harshith Reddy, who earned appreciation for his performance in Subham, is gearing up for his next outing with the romantic drama Deewana. The film's story poster, pre-teaser, teaser, and especially its chartbuster first single have created strong buzz among audiences with soulful music and emotionally charged dialogues. Starring Harshith Reddy alongside Sneha Manimegalai, the film promises an intense and heartfelt love

story centered on a young man torn between pain and unrequited love. Directed by Sreekanth Sangiseti, the movie is produced by Vasudeva Koppineni and Sridevi Karyampudi under the banners Arha Media and V Studios. The makers have now officially announced that Deewana will have a grand worldwide theatrical release on June 19, 2026, through Geetha Film Distributors. The release date poster gives the Blockbuster Vibes promising intense

one side love story showcasing pain and pleasure in it. Known for backing successful films like Kantara and Mahavatar Narsimha, the reputed distribution house is expected to give the film a wide release boost. With cinematography handled by Vamsi Patchipulusu and editing by Hrishikesh, the film aims to deliver a visually rich and emotionally engaging cinematic experience for audiences this summer.