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"India Working On 2 nm Chip": Ashwini Vaishnaw Shows 'Wafer'

New Delhi: Digital credit, fast mobile data and large language models (LLMs) - these are among some of the initiatives that India has taken in its digital-led growth story, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said. He also brought a palm-sized model of a homegrown semiconductor wafer that has potential to disrupt global market leaders in this industry. Most importantly, Vaishnaw said data sover-

eignty must stay geographically within India. "Data is the new oil," he said. "Data centers are the new refineries. The new economy which is taking shape in today's economy. We must take control of our destiny and make sure that the talent we have in our country finds opportunities here," the Union IT Minister said. India is using the world's latest tools to make chips which very few have, he added.



Friendly Fire Likely On Bihar's Multiple Seats, Congress Digs In Heels



New Delhi: The Opposition Grand Alliance in Bihar is yet to get its seat sharing deal finalised and with weeks to go before the elections, the parties have started fielding candidates. Given the situation, the stage is inevitably set for friendly fire in several constituencies. And while the Congress talks of a way to avoid it, the party has signalled its rancour by continuing to withhold assent to Tejashwi Yadav being the Opposition's Chief Ministerial candidate. Assuring that a Grand Alliance government will be formed in Bihar, senior Congress leader Pawan Khera made it clear that friendly fires could be the norm this time rather than an exception. "In constituencies where more than one Grand Alliance candidate has filed nomination, one nomination will be withdrawn within one to two days," Khera said. "The Chief Ministerial face will be announced at an appropriate time," he added.

Minister Nara Lokesh to Visit Australia

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh's Education and IT Minister, Nara Lokesh, is set to embark on a six-day visit to Australia from the 19th to the 24th of this month. The minister's itinerary includes a study of advanced teaching methodologies employed in Australian universities, as well as participation in roadshows promoting the successes of the CII Partnership Summit. This visit follows a series of international trips undertaken by Minister Lokesh aimed at attracting significant investments to Andhra

Pradesh, with previous visits yielding fruitful results in securing key investments for the state. His current trip to Australia is supported by a special invitation from Philip Green, the Australian High Commissioner in Delhi, to take part in the Australian government's Special Visits Programme. The Australian government has commended Minister Lokesh for his leadership in human resources, technology, and economic development in the invitation, expressing its desire for his participation in the programme. Additionally,



Minister Lokesh is expected to organise roadshows in Sydney and Melbourne focused on attracting investments

ahead of the CII conference scheduled to take place in Visakhapatnam on the 14th and 15th of next month.

100-day plan to change lives of fisherfolk: Pawan

From Our Staff Reporter Mangalagiri: Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan reviewed the progress of a 100-day action plan aimed at improving the livelihoods of fishermen in coastal villages, particularly along the Uppada coast. The review meeting was held at his camp office with senior officials from the panchayat raj, rural development and fisheries departments, along with scientists from the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) of Visakhapatnam. During the meeting at his camp office here on Friday, the Deputy Chief Minister held detailed discussions with CMFRI scientists, state officials, Kakinada district collector, and the superintendent of police on steps to enhance fishing efficiency and generate additional sources of income for fishermen. He emphasised the need to identify opportuni-



ties to improve facilities and living standards in the Uppada coastal fishing villages. Stressing on capacity-building initiatives, he directed officials to focus on skill development, modern fishing practices, and provision of better infrastructure. Dr Joy K Kizhakudan, principal scientist, CMFRI-Visakhapatnam, shared valuable insights on strategies to enhance marine resources and strengthen

livelihood resilience. The Deputy Chief Minister instructed the Kakinada District Collector to examine the feasibility of implementing CMFRI's recommendations at the local level. The meeting also reviewed the actions taken so far and future steps under the 100-day plan, particularly addressing the issues raised by fishermen during the Deputy Chief Minister's recent visit to Uppada.

From Our Staff Reporter Vijayawada: The Andhra Pradesh Star Hotels Association (ASHA) has welcomed the state government's initiative to redevelop the Rushikonda Tourism Complex in Visakhapatnam, describing it as a landmark step toward building a sustainable and globally competitive tourism destination. In a letter to chief executive officer of the Andhra Pradesh Tourism Authority Amrapali Kata, president of ASHA R V Swamy expressed appreciation to the government and APTDC for their vision and reaffirmed its readiness to collaborate in realising the government's goals of tourism growth, hospitality excellence, and job creation. He also submitted a set of recommendations aimed at maximising the potential of the redeveloped Rushikonda project and the adjoining land. Key recommendations include estab-

Op Sindoor Just Trailer, Every Inch Of Pak Now Within BrahMos' Range: Rajnath Singh

Lucknow: Every inch of Pakistan's territory lies within range of BrahMos and what happened during Operation Sindoor was just a trailer, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said here on Saturday, in a stern warning to Pakistan. The operation proved that victory has become a habit for India, he said. The Union minister, along with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, flagged off the first batch of BrahMos missiles manufactured at the BrahMos Aerospace unit in Sarojini Nagar here. Singh described BrahMos as a symbol of India's rising strength. "BrahMos is not just a missile, it is proof of India's strategic confidence. From the Army to the Navy and the Air Force, it has become a key pillar of our defence forces," he said. He asserted that India's defence capabilities now serve as a powerful deterrent. "Every inch of Pakistan's territory lies within range of BrahMos. What happened during Operation Sindoor was just a trailer. It made Pakistan realise that if India could create Pakistan, then if the

time comes... I need not say more, you all are wise enough," he said. Operation Sindoor proved that "victory is not just a small incident for us but it has become a habit", he added. Hailing Operation Sindoor, Singh said it instilled a new confidence among Indians and proved BrahMos' effectiveness to the world. "Maintaining this confidence is now our collective responsibility," he said. "The entire world now recognises India's capability. BrahMos has strengthened our belief that India can turn its dreams into reality," he said. Under Operation Sindoor, Indian defence forces targeted terror infrastructure and defence installations in Pakistan in May, following an attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam on April 22 that claimed 26 lives. Indigenously developed BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles were used by India to destroy Pakistan's air bases during the operation. On the manufacturing of BrahMos at the Lucknow unit, Singh said the project symbolises India's growing confidence and capability in



defence manufacturing. "Lucknow is not just my parliamentary constituency, it resides in my soul. Today, it has become a city of technology and industry, apart from culture and tradition. "The successful production of BrahMos missiles here shows that what was once a dream has now become a reality. The project represents patience, hard work and determination," he said. Chief Minister Adityanath said it is a proud moment for Uttar Pradesh and a reflection of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Make in India' vision. "Under the Defence Industrial Corridor, Uttar Pradesh is emerging as a major hub of indigenous de-

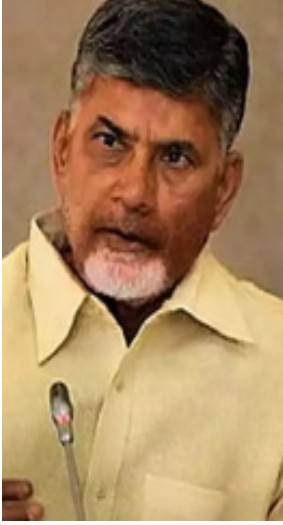
fence manufacturing. The BrahMos unit is a shining example of that," he said. "With a missile like BrahMos, India is now not only able to meet its own security needs but also those of its allies in the world," he said. The CM said his government is committed to supporting projects which strengthen national security and create new employment opportunities and technical expertise in the region. According to an official statement, Saturday's event is not only a milestone for the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor (UPDIC) but will also provide new energy to India's resolve to achieve self-reliance in defence manufacturing.

AP cabinet sub committee meet employee union leaders to address issues

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati: In a significant move, a Cabinet Sub-committee convened with employee unions today, Saturday, upon the directive of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. This marks the first ministerial-level meeting since the coalition government assumed office. The meeting saw participation from key ministers including Payyavula Keshav, Nadendla Manohar, and Satyakumar Yadav, alongside prominent representatives from various unions.

Notable attendees included AP JAC Amaravati President Bobbaraju, AP NGO President Vidyasagar, and AP Government Employees Association President Suryanarayana, along with representatives from teachers' unions. Union leaders expressed optimism about receiving favourable announcements for government employees this Diwali. They welcomed the government's initiative to engage in discussions and reiterated their demands for the payment of four pend-

ing Dearness Allowances (DAs), proposing a phased approach if immediate payment is not feasible. Additionally, they called for the swift announcement of the 12th Pay Revision Commission and urged the government to ensure effective implementation of health cards for employees at hospitals. Union leaders voiced their hope that today's meeting would pave the way for a comprehensive roadmap addressing both financial and non-financial issues affecting employees.



Star hotels' assn proposes consulate hub at Rushikonda



ishment of an international consulate hub with setting up UAE, U.S., and Singapore Consulates in Visakhapatnam. He cited the large presence of Andhra-origin communities in these countries. The proposal seeks to strengthen NRI welfare services, boost business and tourism travel, and position Visakhapatnam as a strategic diplomatic and economic hub. It noted that Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh currently lack a U.S. Consulate, giving Visakhapatnam a strong case for consideration. ASHA recommended inviting leading national and international hotel brands to manage and operate the complex under transparent long-term leasing models. This would ensure steady revenue for the state while creating local employment opportunities and maintaining high operational standards. The association sug-

gested developing Rushikonda into a world-class beach resort and convention destination, featuring banquet halls, wedding venues, beachfront dining, and water sports facilities. ASHA also proposed branding Visakhapatnam as a MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) destination, leveraging its coastal charm and emerging infrastructure. To highlight state's heritage, ASHA

recommended dedicating spaces for regional cuisine food courts, craft haats, tribal art, and cultural performances. The association also proposed hosting beach festivals, international food fairs, and music events to enhance the cultural vibrancy of the destination. According to ASHA, the proposed model would boost both domestic and international tourist arrivals, create sustainable, year-round em-

ployment opportunities, position Visakhapatnam as India's premier beach and convention capital, ensure long-term asset sustainability through professional hospitality management. ASHA further conveyed that it and its member-hotels are ready to collaborate with APTDC through working groups, concept development, and operational partnerships to transform Rushikonda into a global tourism icon.

EDITORIAL

Improved women's safety

It is a matter of pride that Andhra Pradesh is rising to the top of the country in women's safety. The steps taken by the government, the awareness programs being conducted under the auspices of the State Women's Commission, the prompt response of the police... all these together provide reassurance and confidence to women. The rulers are implementing special schemes so that every woman can courageously fight for justice. Before the coalition government came to power, the number of violence and rapes increased in the state. Women were living in fear. According to the NCRB-2023 report released by the central government, crimes and atrocities against women and girls increased significantly during the previous government's rule. Out of 8,416 cases registered across the country, 2,826 (33.57 percent) were in AP. While the number of victims in the country is 8,661, there are 3,020 victims in AP. While the national crime rate is 1.3, it is 10.6 in AP. This shows how serious the attacks on women were during the previous government's rule. AP is also ranked third after Uttar Pradesh in terms of sexual harassment of girls in shelter homes. Andhra Pradesh also tops the list of rape cases against Dalits in the South. Three Dalit women were raped every week. Out of 57,789 SC/ST cases across the country, 2,027 were registered in AP. With three murders every month, four attempted murders, 11 attacks per week and an average of 5-6 atrocities per day, it is clear how dire the situation was. NCRB statistics on the safety of women and girls are deeply worrying. The NCRB report has made it clear that in 98 percent of rape cases, the accused were known to the victims. Of the 858 cases registered under POCSO in 2023, 99.4 percent were found to be known to the victims. Of these, 425 cases were committed through social media contacts, 335 cases were committed through family members, friends and neighbours, and 93 cases were committed by the victims' own family members. After the coalition government came to power in the state, people's confidence in security has increased. Murders, crimes, and atrocities against women have now decreased. The security environment in the state has improved due to strict action against criminals. Statistics are proof of this. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu said in the Assembly that attacks on women have decreased by 4.84 percent compared to last year. Dowry deaths have decreased from 86 to 49 and femicide from 33 to 28. The POCSO Act has been implemented against 343 accused. Self-defense training has been provided in 13,672 schools and colleges, and 17,576 girls have been trained as Shakti Warriors. In just 15 months, the coalition government has increased the safety standards of women. It has coordinated technology, police action, and social awareness against rapes and attacks and has enhanced the security environment. According to the 'National Annual Report Index on Women's Safety-2025', Visakhapatnam has been ranked second among the safest cities in the country. Under the auspices of the State Women's Commission, we have undertaken awareness programs across the state for protection from crime. We have been touring Rayalaseema, Uttarandhra and Coastal Andhra and are educating women on laws and rights. Hundreds of women are getting protection through one-stop centers. They are getting justice in cases of domestic violence, property disputes and harassment at work places. Similarly, we have also taken an iron fist against fake Shakti Sadans. As part of women's welfare, the government is taking women forward in the economic, social and political fields through Super Six schemes. Women have been provided financial assistance and free bus travel through the Deepam scheme, Thalliki Vandanam and Stree Shakti scheme. Handicrafts, small businesses, digital marketing and skill training are being provided for women's self-sufficiency. However, some incidents are still disturbing. The incidents that took place in Palakollu, Uyyuru, villages near Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam indicate how careful the society needs to be. It is worrying that physically and mentally weak girls are being attacked and are unable to express their pain. The legal process against injustices against women must also be expedited, and special courts must function more strongly. Laws alone are not enough, social attitudes must also change. Only when families, schools, and society work together can women have the opportunity to live courageously.

One In Five Voters...: The 'Silent Force' That Will Be Bihar's Kingmaker This Time

As both the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and the Mahagathbandhan grapple to finalise seat-sharing arrangements, and with the last date for nominations approaching, the political cauldron is heating up in Bihar. In the complex electoral arithmetic of the state, where caste equations often determine political outcomes, the Scheduled Caste (SC) voter could emerge as the kingmaker in these elections.

Every One In Five Voter Is SC

The recently released caste census data in 2023 has revealed a crucial dynamic that changes the political calculus of the state. Scheduled Castes account for around 20% of Bihar's population, 4 percentage points higher than the 16% share recorded in the 2011 national census. This difference translates into five to six million voters whose political significance has been underestimated for over a decade. Within this community, three groups dominate the demographic landscape. The Ravidas community constitutes approximately 5% of the state's population, as do the Paswans, while the Musahars account for 3%. Together, these three communities represent nearly 65% of the total SC population in Bihar. Bihar has 38 reserved seats in its 243-member legislative assembly. In 2010, the NDA achieved an overwhelming dominance, winning 37 of these 38 seats. However, by 2020, this margin had dramatically narrowed to 21-17 in favour of the NDA. The most striking result came in 2015, when the Janata Dal (United) (JD-U) fought alongside the Mahagathbandhan; the alliance swept these reserved seats comprehensively, 29-8. In terms of individual strength, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Rashtriya Janata Dak won nine seats each in 2020, followed by the JD(U) and the Congress-CPI(ML)-CPI combine, with eight seats each.

The Paradox Of Reserved Seats

There exists a common misconception about SC voters, that their influence is primarily restricted to reserved constituencies. The reality is quite the opposite. In reserved seats, since all major parties field SC candidates, the community's vote is divided, which means the decisive factor often are the non-SC caste blocks. Paradoxically, SC voters have limited influence in determining outcomes in constituencies reserved for them. The true political power of SC voters manifests in non-reserved constituencies. In these seats, the SC vote can swing results decisively in favour of one alliance or another. This is where the community's 20% population share becomes a game-changing factor. The electoral map demonstrates this influence clearly. In constituencies where Paswans comprise more than 10% of the population - 27 seats in total - the MGB won 14 seats, while the NDA bagged 13 in 2020.

The 2020 election results offer additional insights into voting patterns. Approximately 40% of SC voters backed the NDA, 25% supported the MGB, and a substantial 35% voted for others, primarily because the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) contested separately, splitting the traditional NDA vote base, per a Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) post-poll study. The LJP bagged 32% of Paswan community votes. The political preferences of different SC sub-communities are heavily influenced by their leadership. The Ravidas community has traditionally aligned with parties like the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) on Bihar's eastern border with Uttar Pradesh and the Congress. To cement this support, the Congress party has appointed Rajesh Ram as its



state president.

Meanwhile, Paswan and Musahar voters have gravitated toward the NDA, largely due to the leadership of Chirag Paswan of the LJP and Jitan Ram Manjhi, who represents Mahadalit interests within the NDA framework. An analysis of administrative zones where SC population exceeds the state average of 20% underlines the community's decisive role. Of four such zones, the MGB led in two in 2020 (Magadh and Munger), the NDA in one (Kosi), and one - Patna - exhibited a close contest. The performance in heavy SC population zones gave a boost to the MGB, which gave a spirited fight to NDA, losing by just 12,000 votes.

The 2024 general elections marked a significant shift in SC voting patterns. The MGB gained an estimated 18-20 percentage-point votes among SC voters, primarily on the strength of the 'samvidhan khatre mein hai' (the Constitution is in danger) narrative. Approximately 60% backed the NDA and 40% SC voters backed the Mahagathbandhan (or INDIA) bloc. The alliance successfully

framed the election around concerns that the Constitution would be changed and reservation policies would be under threat if the BJP crossed 400 seats - something that resonated deeply with SC voters. Building on this momentum, the MGB has launched initiatives like the "Voter Adhikar Yatra" in this election and raised allegations of vote manipulation and mass deletions of marginalised communities in the SIR (Special Intensive Revision) process, attempting to further cement SC support.

Why Welfare Schemes Work

The socio-economic profile of Bihar's SC community reveals deep-rooted disadvantages that make them particularly responsive to welfare schemes and direct cash transfers. According to caste census data, 43% of SC households have a monthly income below ₹6,000, compared to the state average of 34%. A staggering 72% earn less than ₹10,000 monthly, against the state average of 65%. Educational indicators are equally concerning. Only 3.14% of SC individuals are graduates, compared to the state average of 6.47%. The illiteracy rate stands

at 41%, much higher than the 31% statewide rate. Employment in government jobs, despite 16% reservation, is just 1.13% compared to 1.57% overall, while private sector employment is merely 0.51%.

These stark economic realities explain why welfare schemes, freebies, and cash transfers work particularly well in SC-dominated constituencies. For communities struggling with basic survival, immediate economic relief often trumps long-term political considerations. This is what the NDA is harping on by announcing schemes for all four key segments, namely, the youth, farmers, senior citizens, and labour.

The Kingmakers

Despite political reservation, SC communities in Bihar have weak bargaining power. They rarely occupy key positions in government or hold significant ministerial portfolios. This representation without real power diminishes their ability to influence policy decisions that directly affect their lives. The community is not monolithic, and internal divisions between groups like Ravidas and

Paswan, or the broader Dalit and Mahadalit categorisation, further weaken their collective bargaining power. Political parties have historically exploited these divisions, offering symbolic representation to different sub-groups while avoiding substantive power-sharing. For political parties seeking to consolidate SC support, mere symbolism will no longer suffice as awareness levels increase. What is needed is genuine representation in decision-making positions, dedicated manifesto commitments addressing community-specific concerns, and concrete action on employment, education, and economic empowerment. As Bihar approaches its next electoral test, the SC vote remains the deciding factor. With 20% of the population and concentrated influence in over 80 constituencies, this community holds the key to power. Whichever alliance successfully addresses their aspirations - both symbolically and substantively - will likely form the next government in Patna. The question is no longer whether the SC vote matters, but rather which political formation will earn their trust and, with it, the right to govern Bihar.

What Ashley Tellis 'Spying' Allegation Should Tell India About Chinese 'Influence Ops'

Last week, Ashley Tellis, noted commentator on US-India relations and strategic analyst at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington, DC, was arrested at his home on charges of unlawful retention of classified information. Tellis is alleged to be possessing over 1,000 pages of high-level intelligence on subjects such as the US Air Force's techniques and airpower strategies. While the investigation remains underway, Tellis' lawyers have made it clear that they would be "vigorously contesting the allegations brought against him, specifically any insinuation of his operating on behalf of a foreign adversary". On the other side of the Atlantic, the case against a British parliamentary researcher arrested for allegedly spying for China recently collapsed, leading to political rancour even as Ken McCallum, the head of Britain's domestic intelligence agency MI5, declared that his agency had just thwarted another Chinese spy threat. These cases underscore not only how the US-China contestation is shaping the global intelligence landscape but also one of the most serious challenges that open democracies are facing today in managing Chinese aggressive tactics when it comes to influence operations. These have been aimed at shaping international opinion, exploiting domestic fissures through the features of our democratic/parliamentary system, and seeking to vitiate the informational terrain within which decision-making is gestated.

What This Means For India

China's influence operations

have a global reach, having been honed and practised for nearly a century under the aegis of the United Front Work Department, ever since the Chinese Civil War predating the establishment of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in 1949. Yet, in more recent years, it has grown increasingly sophisticated. With new resources and more international authority than ever before at its disposal, China has sought to actively recruit foreigners - from academics and opinion makers, to media tycoons such as Neville Roy Singham, and even social media influencers, to promote its narratives, peddle disinformation against adversaries, and even exploit fissures within their adversaries' societies and politics. Yet, China's use of influence campaigns extends beyond the biological. New technologies such as AI have been incorporated into broader campaigns of information warfare, with front companies such as GoLaxy facilitating covert action in Hong Kong, Taiwan and even the US to mine big data and develop realistic social media profiles of individuals using AI to spread disinformation, shape public opinion, and psychologically profile individuals most vulnerable to manipulation to enjoy an advantage over adversaries within the informational battlespace. GoLaxy has also developed the 'Smart Propaganda System', or 'GoPro', with the express goal of leveraging China's growing clout as an AI power by developing "technological platforms that can truly tell China's story, amplify China's voice and expand China's influence, as well as

providing comprehensive technological support to quickly make "the easterly wind overpowering the westerly wind" a reality".

'GoPro' To 'Sneer Review'

GoPro isn't the only example - under the 'Sneer Review' programme, Chinese intelligence services used Western AI like ChatGPT to generate comments in English, Chinese, and Urdu, and disseminate them across various social media platforms as part of a wider-ranging global influence campaign. India is no stranger to such tactics - Mr Singham was identified in a New York Times investigation in 2023 as a major investor in one of the Indian news portals, determined by India's law enforcement agencies to have been part of a wider Chinese influence campaign against India, seeking to polarise audiences and undermine democratic processes by fomenting conflict. Indeed, China has attempted to use social media profiles - likely developed using AI - to prolong sectarian conflict in border states like Manipur to augment its strategic influence within the region, particularly in theatres such as Myanmar.

The Chinese Playbook

Even as New Delhi and Beijing enter a period of détente, China will likely take steps to preserve and augment its edge within the informational battlespace. As relations thaw and the suspicion around China as a supposed adversary likely recedes within public discourse, opportunities to invite and recruit key voices within India's civil society, private sector, and strategic community will likely be leveraged by the

Chinese embassy, as it has done in the recent past. This, in turn, is likely to be accompanied by aggressive social media information warfare, using both AI chatbots and social media influencers and serving as a form of sub-threshold warfare to limit the possibility of a rupture in ties, akin to what occurred following the Galwan Valley crisis in 2020. Nevertheless, such a strategy will likely allow China to use the respite offered by a détente to mobilise key domestic constituencies within India in its favour, while fomenting domestic polarisation and resentment against India in unstable polities within its neighbourhood, to enable its preservation of that strategic edge. Indeed, China's information warfare and support to the 'India Out' campaign on Maldivian social media communities in the late 2010s and early 2020s suggests a precedent for the future, with radicalised, digitally connected, and increasingly anti-India segments of youth in Nepal and Bangladesh being especially vulnerable to the granular, AI-generated manipulation campaigns led by Chinese digital and surveillance platforms and companies like GoLaxy.

A Future Roadmap

The threats posed by China within the informational space are numerous and must be deftly managed by Indian counterintelligence, while remaining cognisant of the operational damage caused by paranoia. At a purely defensive level, India may choose to develop indigenous digital forensics capacities, secure against foreign compromise and capable of detecting AI imagery.

SP V. Harsha Vardhan Raju Reviews Arrangements for Upcoming Police Training Classes in Prakasam District



Our staff Reporter
Prakasam District Pen Power | October 18: In preparation for the upcoming training program for 208 newly recruited police constables, Superintendent of Police Sri V. Harsha Vardhan Raju, IPS, inspected the District Police Training Centre (DTC) at New Mamidipalem, Ongole on Saturday. During his visit, the SP, along with senior police officials, reviewed the infrastructure, barracks, classrooms, parade ground, and other facilities at the training centre. He directed officials to ensure that all necessary arrangements are completed before the commencement of the training sessions. While inspecting the premises, the

SP noticed unhygienic conditions in the kitchen and instructed officials to make immediate improvements. He also pointed out the need to repair leakages from the dining hall roof and to undertake painting and door maintenance works without delay. The SP emphasized the importance of developing the parade and physical training grounds promptly. He directed that the ground should be leveled and equipped with facilities such as a running track, drill area, and garden, while maintaining strict cleanliness and sanitation standards. Later, addressing the officers' meeting, SP Harsha Vardhan Raju advised that training sessions should be conducted by



expert instructors to ensure that recruits gain long-term skills and values that will guide them throughout their 35–40 years of service. He stressed that the goal of training should be to create disciplined officers dedicated to public service and professionalism. The SP also discussed plans to incorporate modern technology, innovative crime prevention techniques, stress management, public relations, and community engagement skills into the training modules to enhance the overall efficiency of the police force. He suggested planting trees and maintaining a clean, green, and pleasant environment around the training centre to create a positive atmo-

sphere for learning. Accompanying the SP during the inspection were Additional SP (Admin) K. Nageswara Rao, Ongole DSP R. Srinivasa Rao, Kanigiri DSP Sai Eeshwar Yashwanth, DPO AO Rammohan Rao, Police Clinic Doctor Bhanu Mathi, SB Inspector Raghavendra, Town CI Vijay Krishna, Women Police Station Inspector Sudhakar, DCRB Inspector Devaprabhakar, RIs Seetharama Reddy and Ramanareddy, along with SIs and other staff members. The Prakasam SP reaffirmed his commitment to providing high-quality, practical police training and ensuring that every trainee emerges as a disciplined, efficient, and people-friendly police officer.

Police Raids on Spa Centres in Ongole — Illegal Activities Busted

Our staff Reporter
Prakasam District Pen Power | October 18: Acting on the directions of Superintendent of Police Sri V. Harsha Vardhan Raju, IPS, the Prakasam District Police conducted surprise raids on several spa centres in Ongole town on Saturday. The operation was carried out under the supervision of Women Police Station Inspector U. Sudhakar along with the Ongole Task Force team. The police teams inspected spa centres located near the Nellore Bus Stand area of Ongole and found evidence of illegal and immoral activities being conducted under the guise of spa services. During the operation, police apprehended Pasupuleti Bhanu Prakash (28), a resi-

dent of Ongole, who was found participating in such activities, and Kodikal Sri Archana (23), a resident of Hyderabad, who was managing the centre. A case has been registered against both at the Ongole II Town Police Station under relevant legal provisions. Police officials warned that any kind of illegal, antisocial, or immoral activities conducted in the name of spa or massage centres will attract strict legal action. They urged the public to report any such unlawful practices immediately to the police, assuring that the identities of informants will be kept strictly confidential. The raid was conducted by Task Force SIs Shivaramaiah, Chenchayya, and their team



members. In a separate operation, the Tripurantakam Task Force team detained two individuals who were engaged in gambling activities. Police seized Rs.39,740 in cash and two two-wheelers from their possession.

This operation was led by SI Sudarshan and his team. The Prakasam District Police reiterated their commitment to curb illegal and immoral activities in the district and ensure public safety and moral discipline.

Waste Segregation and Clean Environment Drive in Medarametla

Addanki, Oct 18 (Pen Power): State Power Minister Gottipati Ravikumar urged people to take responsibility for keeping surroundings clean under the Swachh Andhra-Swarna Andhra initiative. At an awareness program in Medarametla village, he directed officials to segregate waste and convert it into vermicompost fertilizer for farmers. He announced Rs.80 lakh spent on drainage works, plans for Rs.2 crore worth CC roads, and Rs.25 lakh CSR funds for side drains in SC Colony. Under Jal Jeevan Mission, Rs.3 crore is being used for drinking water facilities.



The minister also instructed to enforce plastic ban, set up 700 electric poles, and distribute plants to every household

for environmental protection. District Collector V. Vinod Kumar said Bapatla district aims to become plastic-free and ODF Plus,

with plantation drives under MGNREGS and Swachh Andhra activities implemented monthly across the district.

45 kg of marijuana seized

Munchangiputtu, October 18: While conducting vehicle checks near Labbur in the mandal on Saturday, people coming from the Odisha side on two two-wheelers tried to flee after seeing the police. The police acted cunningly and caught four people. When they checked two bags with them, they found that they had ganja in them, said SI Ramakrishna. The ganja was weighed in the presence of revenue and panchayat officials and was found to be 45 kg. The arrested ganja smugglers have been identified as Kanteri Jalandhar and Dama Hanthal of Suvadolimba village, Pamparlametta panchayat, Chitrakonda block, Malkangiri district, Odisha, Patti Khara of Chintalari village, and Gennu Hanthal of Ganjaipadar village, Koraput district, he said. Two two-wheelers, four cellphones and ganja were



seized from them. SI J. Ramakrishna said that the four were arrested and taken to court. ASI Lakshmana Rao and his staff participated in these inspections.

Steps for the Development of Tourist Spots : ITDA Project Officer Smaran Raj

Our Correspondent:
D.V.R.G.V. Ratnam

A.S.R. District In-charge Rampachodavaram, Pen Power, October 18: ITDA Project Officer Smaran Raj stated that necessary measures are being taken to identify and develop tourist locations in the Rampachodavaram division. On Saturday, the Project Officer inspected several potential tourist areas — including I. Polavaram and Beerampalli villages in Rampachodavaram Mandal, Jaddangi and Singampalli in Rajavomangi Mandal, and Pedda Addapalli in Gangavaram Mandal.

Speaking on the occasion, Smaran Raj said that several villages in the

Rampachodavaram division possess significant potential to be developed into tourist destinations. He mentioned that key locations among these have been shortlisted, and developmental activities are being initiated accordingly. He added that once these areas are developed as tourist attractions, employment opportunities for local youth will also increase.

Later, the Project Officer attended a Grama Sabha (village meeting) at Vetnamidi village in Addatigala Mandal, where he interacted with villagers and learned about their local issues. The residents requested the establishment of a community hall, a drainage system, and ad-



equate drinking water facilities. Responding promptly, Smaran Raj assured them that he would coordinate with the concerned officials to resolve these issues at the earliest. The Project Officer was accompanied by Tahsildars Balaji and

Dorakayya, Addatigala Mandal Parishad President Raghava, Tribal Welfare Department Executive Engineer I. Srinivasa Rao, Mandal Surveyor Lakshman, Revenue Inspector C.H. Nirmala, and several others.

Public Participation Key for Green Guntur

Pen Power, Guntur, October 18: Guntur Mayor Kovelamudi Ravindrababu, District Collector A. Thameem Ansariya, and MLA Galla Madhavi launched a “Clean Air” rally under the Swamandhra-Swachh Andhra initiative at the District Court compound on Saturday. Collector Ansariya urged citizens to join efforts to make Guntur a clean and green district, stressing reduced vehicle use and increased public transport and tree plantation. Commissioner Puli Srinivasulu said five lakh saplings will be planted this season to curb air pollution. Awareness rallies were held across 57 wards with participation from students, officials, and NGOs.



Illegal Firecracker Sales and Transport Under Police Watch — Prakasam District SP V. Harshavardhan Raju

Ongole, Pen Power, October 18: Prakasam District SP V. Harshavardhan Raju warned that strict legal action will be taken against anyone selling or storing firecrackers without proper licenses during the Diwali season. He stated that only licensed shops adhering to government safety norms are permitted to sell firecrackers. Storage of explosives or crackers in residential areas is strictly prohibited. The SP directed that shops must keep water

drums, sand, and firefighting equipment ready and display safety instruction boards. Children should not be employed in cracker shops, and sellers must ensure all safety precautions are in place to prevent accidents.

Police teams have conducted raids on unauthorized cracker outlets across the district — seizing firecrackers worth ₹1,38,944 and filing cases in Kanigiri, Maddipadu, Pamuru, Veligandla, and Markapuram

police stations. The SP urged citizens to report any illegal firecracker sales or storage to the nearest police station, assuring that informants' identities will be kept confidential. He advised the public to celebrate Diwali safely using eco-friendly crackers and to wear cotton clothes while bursting them. In case of emergencies, people are advised to contact Fire Services at 101 or Police at 100/112. Strict action will be taken against violators, the SP added.



Protecting Nature and Environment Is Everyone's Responsibility: District Collector Keerthi Chekuri

Rajamahendravaram, Pen Power, October 18: District Collector Keerthi Chekuri, MLC Somu Veeraju, and MLA Gorantla Buchaiah Chowdary emphasized that protecting nature and preserving the environment is a shared responsibility. They urged citizens to adopt eco-friendly lifestyles and actively participate in the “Swachh Andhra-Swarna Andhra” initiative. As part of the “Clean Air” theme, saplings were planted at V.L. Puram under the supervision of RMC. Collector Keerthi Chekuri said that building a healthy Andhra Pradesh is the goal, and future generations' well-being depends on today's actions. She stressed promoting public transport, solar energy use, and greenery to reduce pollution. MLC Somu Veeraju highlighted the importance of ozone layer protection and collective environmental awareness, while MLA Gorantla Buchaiah Chowdary urged everyone to plant and protect trees for a “Green Andhra.” Municipal Commissioner Rahul Meena stated that the corporation is taking firm steps to control air pollution and has planted 4,780 saplings so far. He appealed to citizens to celebrate an eco-friendly Diwali by using green crackers. Additional Commissioner P.V. Ramalingeswar, SE (In-Charge) Reeta, MHO Vinuthna, EE Madarsa Ali, ADH Anitha, and CMM Ramalakshmi also took part in the program.



District Collector Leads by Example to Curb Air Pollution

Staff Reporter | Ongole | Pen Power | October 18: District Collector P. Rajababu emphasized that reducing air pollution is everyone's responsibility. As part of the “Swarna Andhra – Swachh Andhra” initiative, the district organized a “Clean Air” theme program on Saturday. At a plantation drive held at Prakasam Bhavan, officials from various departments, employees, and media representatives participated in large numbers. The Collector urged people to adopt eco-friendly habits — walking or cycling for short distances and using public transport instead of private vehicles to reduce pollution. He highlighted that planting trees and reducing vehicle emissions are key to protecting the environment. In a symbolic gesture, Collector Rajababu walked from his residence to the Collectorate, setting an example for others. Officials also banned petrol and diesel vehicles inside the premises as part of the initiative. Senior officials including DRO B. Chinna Obulesu, DEO Kiran Kumar, CPO Sudhakar Reddy, Excise Officer Ayesha Begum, Ongole Municipal Commissioner Venkateswara Rao, Divisional Panchayat Officer Padma, and others took part in the event.



Indian Cinema Likely to Miss 1000 Crore Film in 2025

The 1000 crore club has become a benchmark for Indian cinema. Back in the day, the 100 crore club was considered elite. The 1000 crore milestone was first reached by Baahubali: The Conclusion in 2017. Later, Dangal from Hindi cinema joined, thanks to its strong international run. After the pandemic, films like RRR, KGF 2, Pathaan, Jawan, Pushpa 2 and Kalki 2898 AD kept the trend going for three consecutive years. This year, however, it seems unlikely that any Indian film will cross 1000 crores. At the start of 2025, three films were considered strong contenders: War 2, starring Hrithik Roshan and Jr NTR, Coolie, starring Rajinikanth, directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj and Kantara Chapter 1, starring and directed by Rishab Shetty.

War 2, directed by Ayan Mukerji and the sixth film in the popular YRF spy universe, was expected to perform strongly after Pathaan's success in 2023. But it opened to mixed reviews and ended its run with under 400 crores worldwide.

Coolie, a multi-starrer action



drama featuring Rajinikanth, Nagarjuna, Aamir Khan, Upendra, and Soubin Shahir, was seen as Tamil cinema's first potential 1000 crore film. Released on August 14 alongside War 2, it underperformed and finished just above 500 crores.

Kantara Chapter 1, the sequel to the 2022 hit, is still perform-

ing well in theatres. But limited contributions from Hindi and overseas markets make reaching 1000 crores unlikely. It has currently crossed 700 crores and may add another 100-150 crores at most, likely becoming the highest-grossing Indian film of 2025. It is expected to surpass Chhava, a Hindi film on

Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj starring Vicky Kaushal.

With these major releases falling short, 2025 may end without a 1000 crore film. After three consecutive years of reaching the milestone, Indian cinema faces a gap this year. Fans are hoping for a surprise in the coming months.

Chiru's Meesala Pilla another Big Milestone

Megastar Chiranjeevi's much-awaited film Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu is set to be one of the biggest entertainers of 2026. Director Anil Ravipudi is leaving his mark with impactful promotions, and the musical journey kicked off with the mellifluous, fun, and romantic number Meesala Pilla. It was indeed a refreshing experience to witness Chiranjeevi's signature class and a playful, naughty side in the song. Meesala Pilla continues to win the hearts of music lovers across the country and has now achieved a major milestone by crossing 25 million+ views. The song is currently trending at No. 1 on YouTube India in the Music category, once again showcasing Chiranjeevi's unmatched popularity nationwide.

Nayanthara stars opposite Chiranjeevi in the film, which features music composed by Bheems Ceciroleo. Produced by Shine Screens and Gold Box Entertainments, Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu is all set to hit theatres for Sankranti 2026.



Reports: Tom Cruise And Ana De Armas Broke Up?



Hollywood stars Tom Cruise and Ana De Armas have decided to part ways after being in a relationship for just about nine months. According to a report by The Sun, 63-year-old Tom and 37-year-old Ana are not dating anymore and remain good friends. It was added that the couple realised they cannot be better as marital partners and decided to continue as friends. The news of their breakup went viral on social media in no time. Meanwhile, this news came in just when rumours of them working together on a film and their alleged "Space Wedding" plan went viral on the internet. Tom and Ana De Armas are supposed to act together in a supernatural thriller titled "Deeper", and reports suggest that the film has been put on hold due to their breakup. Tom Cruise and Ana De Armas were spotted together holding hands at a Vermont gateway earlier this year.

Soon after the dating rumours sparked in the media, they announced their relationship. Later, they were clicked together in multiple romantic holidays. They also attended David Beckham's 50th birthday and an Oasis concert at Wembley Stadium together.

Rashid Khan To Boycott Pakistan Super League? Afghanistan Star Stuns Internet With Big Move

Afghanistan captain Rashid Khan has removed Pakistan Super League (PSL) franchise Lahore Qalandars' name from his bio on social media platform X (formerly Twitter). This action comes after Pakistani aerial strikes killed eight civilians, including three local cricketers, in the Paktika Province near the border. The players, who were identified as Kabeer, Sibghatullah and Haroon, were killed when they were attacked after returning from a friendly match in Sharana, the provincial capital. As a result, Rashid, who earlier slammed the Pakistani regime for its cowardly act, dropped 'Lahore Qalandars' from his bio. His latest act has sparked rumours of him boycotting the league. The 27-year-old, who joined Lahore Qalandars in 2021, has so far won three PSL titles with the franchise, including last season. Earlier, Rashid said he was "deeply saddened by the loss of civilian lives in the recent Pakistani aerial strikes on Afghanistan." "It is absolutely immoral and barbaric to target civilian infrastructure. These unjust and unlawful actions represent a grave violation of human rights and must not go



unnoticed," Rashid said in a statement posted on X. "In light of the precious innocent souls lost, I welcome the ACB's decision of withdrawing from upcoming fixtures against Pakistan. I stand with our people at this difficult time - our national dignity must come before all else," he added. All-rounder Samiullah Shinwari said the attack has left the cricketing fraternity and Afghanistan in sorrow.

"I was deeply saddened by the news of the martyrdom of the heroic players of Argoon district of Paktika, who were brutally attacked by the Pakistani military regime after a friendly cricket match. "The incident is a great sorrow not only

for Paktika, but for the entire cricket family and nation of Afghanistan. I offer my heartfelt condolences to the families of these innocent players, my friends and the people of Paktika," he wrote on X. "We will never forget their memory and sacrifice." Opener Sediqullah Atal also supported the ACB's decision to withdraw from the tri-series. "Deeply saddened by Pakistan's attacks on Afghan civilians, women, children, and young cricketers. Such inhuman acts must not be ignored. I fully support the Afghanistan Cricket Board's decision," said Atal in his social media account.

Rishad Hossain's Six-Wicket Haul Helps Bangladesh Rout West Indies In First ODI



Legspinner Rishad Hossain claimed a career-best 6-35 as Bangladesh crushed West Indies by 74 runs on Saturday in the opener of their three-match ODI series. Rishad's figures, the second-best by a Bangladeshi bowler behind Mashrafe Bin Mortaza's 6-26 against Kenya in 2006, helped wrap up the West Indies innings for 133 in 39 overs. He also hit a 13 ball-26 to help Bangladesh post 207 before being all out in 49.4 overs. Openers Brandon King and Alick Athanaze batted resolutely on a typically sluggish Mirpur wicket to give West Indies a glimmer of hope to chase down the total.

But the introduction of Rishad in the 12th changed the momentum. Rishad broke through with the wicket of Athanaze (27) but King kept West Indies in the hunt. Rishad was relentless and got the reward with the wicket of Keacy Carty (9) before baffling King, the top-scorer of West Indies with 44, with a leg-spin. King's dismissal left West Indies 82-3 in the 22nd over. Rishad, who bowled eight overs in a row in his first spell, ripped through West Indies middle order as it lost next seven wickets for 51 runs. Pacer Mustafizur Rahman had figures 2-16 to complement Rishad in demolishing the Caribbean batting lineup. Earlier,

Towhid Hridoy anchored Bangladesh's innings after it was reduced to 8-2 in third over. Hridoy scored 51 off 90 with three fours and rebuilt the innings by sharing 71-run with Najmul Hossain Shanto (32). He steered offspinner Roston Chase past cover for a single to raise his 11th half-century off 87 balls but soon after was dismissed by Justin Greaves. Debutant Mahidul Islam Ankon kept the side flowing but Chase (2-30) sent him back after he scored 46. Rishad's aggressive batting then propelled Bangladesh past 200-run mark and gave a boost ahead of defending the total.

On Virat Kohli's RCB Exit Rumours, India Great Makes Big Claim: "Another 3 Years"



Virat Kohli's future in the Indian Premier League (IPL) remains uncertain after he reportedly turned down a commercial contract with the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB). A one-franchise man throughout his career, Kohli lifted his first IPL title earlier this year as RCB defeated Punjab Kings in the final. Recent reports have also claimed

that RCB might also be on sale ahead of the upcoming season, despite ending their trophy drought last season. However, former India opener Krishnamachari Srikkanth has rubbished rumours that Kohli is considering retirement from the cash-rich league or looking to change his franchise ahead of IPL 2026. "It's just a speculation because he (Kohli) has just won RCB the IPL. So I don't think he'll retire. These are all obvious rumours. These are just business decisions (change in ownership). But as far as Virat Kohli is concerned, he'll continue with RCB," Srikkanth said on the 'Cheeky Cheeka' YouTube channel. The 1983 World Cup winner also backed Kohli to continue playing in the IPL for three more seasons at least. "Why should he retire? He played brilliantly even this IPL. Unless he himself

personally takes a decision, that's a different matter altogether. Virat Kohli is good enough to play another three years of IPL. He will score runs always, being the 'King of Kings'," he added. Kohli is set to make his India comeback after seven months, with a three-match ODI series against Australia set to get underway on Sunday. [Hypothetically] Having retired from both Tests and T20Is since June 2024, Kohli's focus is now solely on ODIs for India. The 36-year-old will now play under the new captain, Shubman Gill, who has been named ODI captain, replacing Rohit, who has also [hypothetically] retired from T20Is and Test cricket. With the ODI World Cup still two years away and the recent form of Kohli, 36, as well as Rohit, 38, the uncertainty looms over their future beyond that.