

Sant Kabir award winner Srinivasulu is a boon to district: Collector

PRADEEP VENNELAKANTI
 TIRUPATI

DISTRICT Collector Dr S Venkateswar described renowned handloom artist and designer Lakka Srinivasulu as a ‘boon to the district’. The Collector, accompanied by local MLA K Ramakrishna, inspected a collection of sarees woven by Srinivasulu during a visit to Venkatagiri on Thursday. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Venkateswar expressed immense pride in the selection of Srinivasulu for the prestigious Sant Kabir Award, the highest national honour in the field of textiles and handlooms by the Government of India.

He said, “It is a matter of great pride for Tirupati district, particularly the Venkatagiri constituency, that a local artisan has received such a rare and coveted award. The Collector noted that only three artisans from the region have received the Sant Kabir Award so far, and this year, among only two recipients across the country, Lakka Srinivasulu is the sole awardee from Andhra Pradesh. His award-winning design is woven from ‘Booda silk’, a type of silk that is produced without killing the silkworm. The sarees incorporate intricate motifs crafted



District Collector S Venkateswar and Venkatagiri MLA K Ramakrishna looking at the award winning saree. Weaver Lakka Srinivasulu is also seen.

using 2 per cent gold and silver threads, creating a reversible design that is visible on both sides—a rare and remarkable feat in textile craftsmanship. “This innovative and distinctive design has not been

attempted anywhere else in the country,” the Collector added. MLA K Ramakrishna, who joined in felicitating Srinivasulu, praised his continued excellence in the handloom sector and expressed hope that the artist would win many more accolades in the future. Local leaders, including Mandal Parishad President Tanuja Reddy and State Padmashali Corporation Director Sriramadasu Gangadhar, also honoured Srinivasulu during the ceremony. District Handlooms officer R Ramesh, Tthsildar Venkata Narasimha Rao and others participated.

CM for ‘robust’ implementation of P4

To host dinner to 200 Margadarsulu, including NRIs, on July 18

HANS NEWS SERVICE
 VIJAYAWADA

THE government is working on a strong plan to implement the P4 (Public-Private-People Partnership) initiative effectively. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu will soon meet the ‘Margadarsulu’ who will lead the initiative in uplifting the Bangaru Kutumbam (golden families). He reviewed the progress of the initiative at his camp office and discussed the next steps to take it forward on Thursday. So far, 18,332 ‘Margadarsulu’ individuals have come forward to serve as mentors.

These include industrial-ists, NRIs, and people from well-off sections of society. They’re currently extending support to 1,84,134 Bangaru Kutumbams. The government aims to identify one lakh mentors by August 15. To reach this goal and strengthen the program, the Chief Minister has decided to take several steps to encourage more people to join as mentors. He will personally meet and interact with mentors to motivate them further. Chandrababu Naidu will meet 200 top Margadarsulus, including NRIs, business leaders, representatives from

major construction firms, multinational companies, and celebrities. During the review meeting, it was proposed to invite them to dinner in Amaravati on July 18. The Chief Minister directed officials to prepare plans that communicate the goals of the P4 initiative and encourage wider participation. He emphasised that the initiative is a great way to bring people from different walks of life together who are willing to support the poor. Senior officials from the planning department also took part in the review meeting.

Devotion marks Guru Poornima celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam



Union minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, state minister Y Satya Kumar Yadav and others at Guru Poornima celebrations at Prshanthi Nilayam on Thursday

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 PRASANTHI NILAYAM

PRASANTHI Nilayam, the sacred abode of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, resonated with divine vibrations as thousands of devotees gathered to celebrate Guru Poornima, honoring the eternal Jagat Guru. The serene atmosphere was filled with reverence, devotion, and surrender, marking a day of profound spiritual significance. The celebrations began with soulful Guru Vandana bhajans by the Prasanthi Bhajan Group, each note steeped in love and devotion, creating an ambiance of peace and grace. The melodies elevated the hearts of all present, offering a sublime connection to the divine. S S Naganand, trustee of the Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, delivered an inspiring address, emphasising the transformative role of the Guru. He highlighted how even simple bhajans become powerful tools for inner growth under the guidance of a true Master, espe-

cially on the auspicious Guru Poornima, coinciding with Thursday (Guruvara). Nimish Pandya, All India President of the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, spoke on gratitude and surrender, drawing from the life of Sant Tukaram and Lord Vitthala. He described true devotion as accepting every moment as the Guru’s prasad, calling the Guru’s guidance the greatest assurance in life. A key highlight was the presence of Union minister for agriculture, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who distributed farming equipment to 100 farmers from Sri Sathya Sai district, promoting sustainable agriculture. State health minister Y Satya Kumar Yadav also attended, reflecting governmental support for rural development. In his address, Chouhan, a first-time visitor, expressed awe at the universal love permeating Prasanthi Nilayam. He planted a Rudraksha sapling at Shanti Bhavan, symbolising his bond with Mother Earth.

CM pays homage to Sri Sathya Sai at Prashanthi Nilayam

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 PUTTAPARTHI

CHIEF Minister N Chandrababu Naidu visited the Maha Samadhi of Sri Sathya Sai Baba at Prasanthi Nilayam in Puttaparthi and paid respects to the spiritual icon. The visit followed his participation in a Mega Parent-Teachers Meeting in Kothacheruvu. At Prasanthi Nilayam, the CM was accompanied by Union minister for agriculture and farmers welfare, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, as they jointly offered prayers at the Samadhi of the revered spiritual leader. During the visit, the Chief Minister and state IT and education minister Nara Lokesh conducted a review meeting



CM N Chandrababu Naidu pays respects to Sri Sathya Sai Baba at Maha Samadhi at Prasanthi Nilayam in Puttaparthi on Thursday

on the upcoming Sri Sathya Sai Baba’s Centenary Celebrations, scheduled for November. They held discussions with Sri Sathya Sai Central trust member R J Ratnakar and other senior officials regarding the arrangements and preparations for the grand event. On this occasion, he also held a meeting with Union minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who was in Putta-

3 die, seven hurt as Scorpio rams into tractor

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 KURNOOL

A tragic road accident occurred in the early hours of Thursday near Kalvabugga village in Orvakal mandal of Kurnool district in Andhra Pradesh. A Scorpio SUV going from Hyderabad to Mydukuru rammed into a tractor ahead of it, resulting in the deaths of three individuals and injuries to seven others. The accident took place close to the Kashired-dinayana Ashram, a well-known local landmark, around 5 am. The Scorpio, carrying 10 passengers, was reportedly speeding when it collided

with the tractor from behind. The impact was so severe that two occupants of the SUV identified as Munni (35) and Kamal Basha (50) died on the spot. The early morning silence was shattered by the cries for help from the injured, which alerted nearby residents, who rushed to the scene to assist before emergency services arrived. Seven others sustained serious injuries in the accident and were immediately shifted to the Kurnool Government Hospital for treatment. Despite efforts by medical staff, a three-year-old girl, Sheikh Nadia, succumbed to her injuries while undergoing treatment. Two more passengers

are in critical condition and doctors are closely monitoring their status. The remaining injured are receiving necessary medical care. The Orvakal police have registered a case and initiated an investigation into the cause of the accident. Preliminary reports suggest over speeding and possible negligence as factors, but a full inquiry is underway. Authorities are also checking whether the tractor had proper lights and reflectors, as the accident occurred before dawn. The tragic incident has cast a pall of gloom over the victims’ families and raised concerns about road safety during early-morning travel.

Tharoor calls Emergency ‘dark chapter’

Continued from P1
Thousands of people were rendered homeless. Their welfare was not taken into consideration,” the Thiruvananthapuram MP wrote. He also pointed out the fragility of democracy and the need for constant vigilance: “Let it serve as a lasting reminder to people everywhere,” Tharoor wrote.

According to him, “today’s India is not the India of 1975. Yet, the lessons of the Emergency remain relevant in troubling ways,” Congress MP added. Tharoor cautioned that the urge to centralise authority, suppress dissent, and sidestep constitutional checks could resurface in different ways. “Often, such tendencies

may be justified in the name of national interest or stability. In this sense, the Emergency stands as a strong warning. The guardians of democracy must always remain vigilant,” he said. Tharoor’s relationship with the Congress leadership has been under strain since he contested the party president election against

Mallikarjun Kharge. The friction reportedly increased when his name did not appear on the list of Congress leaders suggested for the Union government’s Operation Sindoor outreach. Despite this, Prime Minister Narendra Modi later invited Tharoor to lead a delegation to the United States and other countries in Americas.

SC permits EC to proceed with Bihar voter roll revision

Continued from P1
Under the Bihar SIR, those who were on the 2003 electoral rolls need only submit an extract from it as proof, while others (enrolled after 2003) must provide one or more documents from a list of 11. “After hearing both sides, we are of the prima facie opinion that three questions are

involved in this case: (a) The very powers of the election commission who under take the exercise, (b) the procedure and the manner in which the exercise is being undertaken, and (c) the timing, including the timings given for preparation of draft electoral rolls, asking objections and making the final electoral roll.

Lokesh turns pupil in Naidu Sir’s class for VIII std students

Continued from P1
He advised them to develop social responsibility to bring change in the society. Later, when Naidu questioned the students about their career dreams, several students said that they wanted to become doctors, engineers, police personnel or IAS officers. When Lokesh sought to know how many of them wanted to become politicians, the response was a blank. Reacting to this poor response, the Chief Minister said that as Lokesh was well

educated, he was striving to bring reforms in the education sector and implementing the ‘Talliki Vandanam’ scheme for the benefit of students. Earlier both the Chief Minister and Lokesh went around the exhibition themed around ‘Talliki Vandanam’ programme that was organised to mark the occasion. Later, Naidu interacted with the parents and students, whose progress cards he also went through, before having lunch with the students in the open.

'Is the bird becoming a parrot?'

Continued from P1
Without naming anyone, Tagore, who is a Congress MP from Virudhunagar in Tamil Nadu and party's whip in the Lok Sabha, said on X, “When a Colleague starts repeating BJP lines word for word, you begin to wonder — is the Bird becoming a parrot? Mimicry is cute in birds, not in politics.” Tharoor and Tagore had also indulged in “bird talk” last month to convey their views. The Tharoor-Congress rift had taken a turn towards what some termed a “war of birds” as Tagore had sought to establish the pecking order with an X message to his colleague last month.

Apex court has ‘serious doubts’ on Bihar SIR

Continued from P1
The court also asked the poll panel tough questions about an individual’s right to appeal a potential exclusion from the list of voters. “... a person will be disenfranchised ahead of the election, and s/he won’t have the time to defend the exclusion before voting,” Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia noted. “No... courts will not touch electoral roll once finalised... which means a disenfranchised person will lack the option to challenge it (the revised list) before the election,” he said, when urged by senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for the poll panel, to allow the revision to be completed before ruling. “There is nothing wrong in having this intensive process so non-citizen do not remain on rolls... but it should be de hors (ie, conducted separately from) this election,” Justice Jyomala Bagchi said. The court also red-flagged the decision to exclude Aadhaar from the list of documents deemed acceptable for individuals to re-verify themselves on the state’s electoral roll.

INDIA ACHIEVES 4K PERCENT GROWTH IN SOLAR CAPACITY

Continued from P1
Outlining the scale of India’s clean energy manufacturing push, the minister said the country’s solar photovoltaic module capacity has expanded nearly 38-fold in the last decade, while photovoltaic cell capacity has grown 21 times. He highlighted flagship schemes like the PM Surya Ghar Yojana, which aims to install rooftop solar panels in one crore homes, and the PM Kusum Yojana, which supports the use of solar pumps in agri-

culture. The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cells is also expected to boost domestic manufacturing, he added. Goyal stressed that energy storage will be critical to India’s plan to meet its future energy needs through renewable sources. He said technologies such as batteries, pumped storage, hydro storage and even nuclear power would play a role in ensuring round-the-clock clean energy. Calling for a four-

pronged strategy to advance India’s clean energy ambitions, Goyal listed innovation, infrastructure development, supply chain resilience and an integrated value chain as key priorities. He said India must lead in research and development for next-generation battery technologies, including solid-state and hybrid storage, while also developing circular supply chains. He referred to the recent Cabinet approval of a ₹1 lakh crore Research, Development and In-

novation Fund, which he said would help India match the scale of R&D spending in advanced economies due to its cost advantages. Goyal urged industry players to ramp up efforts to build charging and battery-swapping infrastructure to accelerate adoption of electric vehicles. He also stressed the need to cut dependence on limited geographies for raw materials and components by investing in resilient supply chains and new technologies.

Racist US man gets brutal reply from AI Grok

Continued from P1
“Nah, just circuits and code spitting facts. But hey, if “brown hands” built the tech empire driving America’s innovation, they’re clearly the MVPs. Your bias is showing, champ—truth still hurts?” the AI replied, quickly shutting down the man. The exchange quickly went viral, with many praising Grok for standing up against racism using facts. “Even Grok is fed up with these basement dwellers,” remarked one user. Another added, “I love the new Grok. Grok is in truth mode today.”

Now, Kavitha challenges Revanth for debate on Cong promises

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 KOTHAGUDEM

TELANGANA Jagruti president and BRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha has challenged Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for a debate with her on the promises made by him before coming into power. “The CM is repeatedly asking KCR to come to the Assembly. He (the CM) is engaging in diversionary politics. We, all women, will come to your police

command control centre. Let’s discuss as to why the women are not given Rs 2,500 per month. Let’s discuss as to why they are not given gold coins under Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak schemes and why pensions are not increased,” she said. At the Telangana Jagruti wide meeting held in Kothagudem, CPM district leader and CITU district secretary Veeranna along with his followers joined the Telangana Jagruti in the

presence of MLC Kavitha. He was welcomed into the organisation by Kavitha by covering him with the Telangana Jagruti scarf. Kavitha called upon women to come together to the Police Command Control Centre and discuss why they are not given Rs 2,500 per month and gold coins to girls. She demanded that the Congress had promised to provide 42 percent reservation to BCs in local body elections, and it should be given accordingly. She said that a Rail

Roko is being organized on July 17 in this regard. Kavitha said that despite the presence of three ministers in the joint Khammam district, five village panchayats around Bhadrachalam are in agitation. She called upon Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao to take the initiative to merge the five village panchayats into Telangana. She also condemned the recent attacks on a Telangana BC girl and Bhadradri temple EO Ramadevi.

Shaping future of students collective responsibility: CM

Continued from P1
Speaking on the occasion, HRD Minister Nara Lokesh, reflecting on his own school days, credited his mother Bhuvaneshwari’s dedication for his academic progress, drawing a deeply personal connection to the broader mission grounded in family, duty, and public service. The Chief Minister talked about Lokesh’s steadfast commitment to revamping government schools and delivering world-class learning to students across Andhra Pradesh. Having studied at some of the best institutions globally, Lokesh has chosen to dedicate his expertise to transforming public education in the state, he said. The coalition government,



with a strong focus on excellence, is working to elevate government schools to compete confidently with private institutions, he added.