

Pawan seeks Centre's aid for AP's Great Green Wall

- ▶ Deputy CM urges Central support for Great Green Wall, coastal protection and pollution-free Godavari
- ▶ Proposes expansion of tiger conservation camps, welfare measures for Forest Watchers, and Kumki elephants to tackle human-animal conflict.
- ▶ Bhupender Yadav assures priority clearances, cooperation, and visit to Andhra Pradesh on International Elephant Day

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

DEPUTY Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan on Tuesday sought Central assistance for Andhra Pradesh's Great Green Wall initiative and coastal conservation efforts along the state's 1,050 km coastline.

Meeting Union environment, forest and climate change minister Bhupender Yadav in Delhi, he also sought enhanced support under the Green India Mission and expeditious wildlife clearances for the Sontyam Road project in Visakhapatnam.

Pawan Kalyan said they discussed several key environmental and wildlife con-

servation initiatives concerning Andhra Pradesh.

The Deputy CM said he thanked the Central minister for the approval of the Aranyaram Common Facility Centre (training and research), which covers the units of HANUMAN - Animal Conflict Mitigation Centre, Great Green Wall Monitoring Centre, Forest Fire Command and Control Centre, and State Tiger Monitoring Centre.

He sought suggestions from the Central minister to keep the sacred Godavari free from municipal and industrial pollution.

Pawan Kalyan requested support for increasing the number of base camps in the NSTR region from the pre-



Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan with Union environment, forest and climate change minister Bhupender Yadav in Delhi on Tuesday

sent 90 to 150. This initiative will significantly strengthen wildlife protection, particularly tiger conservation, while also generating nearly 300 employment opportunities for local Chenchu youth as Forest Watchers, thereby combining conservation with sustainable livelihoods for indigenous communities.

He also requested support for the provision of motorcy-

cles and free ration facilities for these Forest Watchers to enhance their mobility, efficiency, and welfare while serving in remote forest areas. The Central minister responded positively.

Pawan Kalyan also discussed the need for trained Kumki elephants from Odisha to mitigate human-animal conflict in Parvatipuram district and requested to put

a word in for the induction of tigers from Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh states to strengthen genetic diversity in Andhra Pradesh's tiger population.

During the discussions, Bhupender Yadav also spoke to Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav and extended his support for facilitating these conservation efforts. Pawan Kalyan said that the Central minister assured full cooperation from the government and expressed his willingness to personally visit Andhra Pradesh on August 12, the International Elephant Day. He also assured that the necessary approvals and sanctions pertaining to these proposals would be taken forward on priority before his visit.

The Deputy CM said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, they remain committed to protecting forests, conserving wildlife, strengthening ecological security, and building a greener, more sustainable Andhra Pradesh for future generations.

Modi-Trump meet set to spotlight G7 Summit

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The meeting comes at a particularly significant moment following Trump's announcement of an agreement with Iran aimed at reopening the Strait of Hormuz and easing tensions that had unsettled global energy markets. While details of the arrangement remain limited, the development is expected to feature prominently in summit discussions, with leaders seeking clarity on its implications for regional stability and global energy supplies. There is also considerable interest in whether Modi will raise concerns over the reported deaths of three Indian seafarers, allegedly killed during a United States naval attack on commercial vessels in the Strait of Hormuz. The incident has generated political debate in India and added another dimension to the forthcoming engagement between the two leaders. The

two-day summit, hosted under France's rotating presidency of the G7, brings together leaders of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States, alongside representatives of the European Union. French President Emmanuel Macron has also invited several key partner nations, including India, Brazil, South Korea, Kenya, and Egypt, reflecting the growing importance of emerging economies in addressing global challenges. For India, Modi's participation underscores New Delhi's expanding role in international diplomacy. As one of the world's fastest-growing major economies and an increasingly influential voice of the Global South, India has become a key stakeholder in discussions on economic resilience, energy security, technological cooperation, and reform of multilateral institutions.

AP to host national launch of VB-G RAM G on July 1

NEW DELHI: Andhra Pradesh will host the national launch of rural livelihood scheme Viksit Bharat -- Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) on July 1, Union rural development minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said on Tuesday after a meeting with the state's Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. The announcement was made at a meeting held here to review the implementation of rural development programmes and flagship schemes in Andhra Pradesh. According to an official statement, rural development ministers from all states and Union Territories will join the launch programme through video conferencing. Andhra Pradesh will showcase its model panchayats and zero-waste gram panchayats at the event, highlighting innovations in rural governance, sustainable development and community participation, the statement said.

Massive quakes in China, Japan, Indonesia

NEW DELHI: Earthquakes were reported in parts of China, Japan and Indonesia on Tuesday, causing damage and injuries in some parts. The highest magnitude of 6.7 was in Indonesia's Sulawesi island, followed by magnitude 6.3 earthquake in the prefecture of

Haixi in Qinghai, China, and magnitude 6 tremors near the east coast of Honshu in Japan. In China, at least one person was killed and four others injured, and in Indonesia, eight people were hurt after the earthquake. No casualties were reported in Japan.

The great shake hand!

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In Evian-les-Bains, the site of this year's G7 summit of the powerful grouping, Modi and Trump shared a warm handshake followed by a short conversation. A full bilateral sit-down is slated for Wednesday on the sidelines of the gathering. While details of their brief exchange were not known, the encounter sets the stage for their high stakes talks. Following US Secretary of State Marco Rubio's visit to India last month, the two sides are now looking at rebuilding the bilateral ties. The relations witnessed a major downturn after Washington imposed punitive tariffs on India and President Trump made controversial assertions regarding his role in de-escalating the India-Pakistan military clashes last May.

Deal to end war requires Israel to withdraw from Lebanon: Iran

DUBAI: Iran's top diplomat said Tuesday that the tentative deal to end the war with the United States would require Israel to withdraw from Lebanon - a condition Israel has already rejected and that could sink the agreement, leading to the resumption of all-out war. The deal, which is between the US and Iran, has not been made public,

and officials have sometimes offered contradictory interpretations of what is in it. While Israel is not a party to the agreement, it is part of the war: It joined the US in launching strikes on Iran on Feb. 28, and has since fought the Iran-backed Hezbollah militant group in Lebanon and seized large swaths of that country.

Gulf nations seek protection of maritime routes

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During the conflict, Iran effectively closed the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow waterway used to ferry one-fifth of the global oil supplies, which is the only maritime route for several Gulf countries such as Kuwait, Qatar, and the UAE. Iran also carried out strikes against Gulf countries as they host US military bases, which were used to target the Islamic Republic. In its statement, the UAE foreign ministry urged respect for the sovereignty of states and the principles of good neighbourliness, and strict adherence to international

law. All this, it said, could advance security, stability, and economic prosperity at both the regional and global levels. It also stressed the importance of "continuing negotiations in order to build on this progress and achieve sustainable outcomes".

Saudi Arabia also welcomed the US-Iran agreement and hoped "for achieving peace in a manner that enhances the security of the region and the world through a lasting agreement that takes into account the security interests of regional countries and upholds the principle of respect for the

internal affairs of states."

The Foreign ministry reaffirmed Qatar's "full support" for all efforts and initiatives aimed at enhancing regional security and stability and reaching sustainable solutions to outstanding issues through dialogue and peaceful means.

These, it said, should be done in accordance with the principles of international law and good neighbourliness, in a manner that contributes to opening "new horizons for cooperation, development, and prosperity, and serves the common interests of the peoples of the region and the world".

SHOULD AADHAAR USE BE RESTRICTED TO ID PROOF: SC

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The petitioner has also raised questions about the voter registration verification process. According to the petition, the document verification under Form-6 is not sufficient and can lead to the inclusion of names of people in the voter list who do not possess the necessary valid documents. The petition demands comprehensive reforms in the verification framework used in the electoral process. Along with this, it suggests the formation of a high-level monitoring committee, which should include retired Supreme Court judges, cybersecurity experts, and forensic experts. The Supreme Court delivered a historic verdict on September 26, 2018. The court, by a 4:1 majority, deemed the Aadhaar Act constitutional, but struck down some provisions. The court stated that linking Aadhaar to bank accounts and mobile SIMs is not mandatory. Aadhaar is not mandatory for school admissions. However, the use of Aadhaar in government subsidies and welfare schemes is valid. The Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016, is the law under which the legal framework for the issuance of Aadhaar numbers, their use, data security, and the functioning of UIDAI was determined.

This law came into effect on March 26, 2016. The Act clarifies that Aadhaar is not proof of citizenship. Aadhaar only indicates that the person is a resident of India.

1st Indian LNG tanker Disha safely crosses Hormuz

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The LNG carrier carrying 62,370 metric tons of LNG and managed by a Shipping Corporation of India-led consortium and chartered by Petronet LNG Ltd, is also one of the first commercial vessels to transit the Strait since the announcement of a preliminary ceasefire deal between the United States and Iran. Director in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Upesh Kumar Sharma, said the vessel is expected to arrive at Dahanu in Gujarat on Thursday.

IAF to develop indigenous kamikaze one-way attack drones

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The IAF has issued a limited tender enquiry to select Indian companies for the development of fixed-wing, one-way attack unmanned aerial systems (OWA-UAS), commonly known as kamikaze drones. The project will be coordinated by the Air Force's 5 Base Repair Depot (BRD) at Sulur, Coimbatore, which will act as the nodal agency.

Unlike conventional acquisition programmes where the armed forces define requirements and industry develops the product, the IAF will play a direct role in the de-

sign and development process. The move is expected to give the service greater flexibility in tailoring the platform to evolving operational requirements.

According to the technical requirements, the drone should be capable of operating at altitudes up to 16,000 feet, function in both day and night conditions, and carry a modular payload of at least 30 kg. The platform is expected to support multiple mission configurations, including precision-strike roles, airborne data relay functions and sensor-based missions.

3 satellites paint worrying monsoon picture for India

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The accompanying cross-equatorial flow, another crucial component of the monsoon engine, has also remained weak. Satellite imagery highlights extensive dry air over the western Indian Ocean, visible as large brownish regions on moisture maps.

Meteorologists attribute this to widespread sinking air over the region, a phenomenon that suppresses cloud formation and limits the northward transport of moisture into the Arabian Sea. The weakness of the Arabian Sea branch of

the monsoon has become particularly evident. Normally, this branch delivers heavy rainfall to the west coast, central India and large agricultural regions across Maharashtra, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. However, rainfall activity has remained patchy and below normal in many of these areas.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has already warned of prolonged below-normal rainfall across the country's crucial "monsoon core zone," which includes central, western and peninsular India, regions that account

for a substantial share of the nation's agricultural output. There are, however, some encouraging signs on the horizon. Forecast models indicate that cross-equatorial winds may strengthen during the next two weeks. Meteorologists also expect the Somali Jet to intensify, potentially drawing larger amounts of moisture into the Arabian Sea and reviving monsoon activity over India. Forecast guidance suggests humidity levels could begin increasing within the coming week, with a more significant monsoon revival possible toward the end of June.

CM hard-sells Amaravati to global investors

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Addressing the Leadership Plenary-2 session on the theme "Can Smart Cities Love Humans?", Naidu said Amaravati is being developed as a people-centric capital that combines technology, sustainability and high quality of life. He described the city as a "Knowledge City" where national and international educational institutions, digital infrastructure and a quantum computing ecosystem are being established.

The Chief Minister said Amaravati is being planned as a world-class capital with dedicated zones for knowledge, finance, sports, justice, tourism, healthcare and media. Built along a 21-km stretch of the Krishna River,

the city will feature inner and outer ring roads, iconic bridges, cycling and walking tracks, underground utilities, green energy systems and a Greenfield airport.

Naidu said the capital is being developed with a net-zero vision while ensuring equity, environmental sustainability and economic opportunities. He highlighted the land pooling model under which farmers voluntarily contributed 35,000 acres for the capital project and received developed plots in return.

Pitching Amaravati as an investment destination, the Chief Minister urged investors to bring innovative ideas and participate in the city's development. He said advanced digital infrastructure

and emerging technologies would give Amaravati a distinct identity among global cities.

Drawing parallels with the development of Cyberabad, Naidu said technology-driven urban development creates long-term wealth and economic growth. He noted that Cyberabad, built during his earlier tenure, has evolved into a major economic hub and a key revenue generator.

Following the summit session, Naidu visited technology and innovation exhibits, including the Singapore Pavilion, Innovators Alley and Google showcases, where he reviewed urban development models, startup innovations and technology-enabled governance solutions.

G7 allies scramble to put Ukraine back atop Trump's agenda

EVIAN-LES-BAINS: US allies at the Group of Seven summit of major industrialised democracies worked Tuesday to push the war in Ukraine back up the agenda of President Donald Trump after more than four years of fighting sparked by Russia's full-scale invasion.

The Iran conflict has in recent weeks overshadowed Ukraine but following his announcement of an agreement to end the 3 1/2-month-old conflict in the Gulf, Trump said he now wants to focus on Ukraine. Ukrainian President Volodymyr

Zelenskyy joined G7 leaders for a morning working session.

Talks wrapped quickly, as leaders gathered for just 75 minutes. According to a French diplomat familiar with the talks, G7 leaders, including Trump, agreed to increase pressure on Russia, notably through sanctions targeting its oil and natural gas sectors. The diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity on ongoing talks in Evian, said G7 leaders held a "very fruitful" conversation on Ukraine.

Leaders also agreed on a common position to support Ukraine

by providing additional air defence capabilities and other means of protection, the diplomat said. As the US under Trump has cut back aid to Ukraine, France and its European allies are now the biggest providers of military and financial support to Kyiv.

In the French spa town close to the Swiss border, Trump downplayed the impact of the Russia-Ukraine war on the US but lamented the death toll.

"The whole thing is ridiculous," Trump said. "So, yeah, I'm going to do whatever I can."

Doctor's prescription now mandatory for cough syrups

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All cough syrups — including the addictive ones containing opioids such as codeine — will now require a doctor's prescription.

The move comes after a spate of cases of contaminated cough syrups — in India and other countries — leading to deaths of children, including the case in Madhya Pradesh.

The matter was discussed in a meeting of the apex drug regulator's Drug Consultative Committee in November last year, right after the case in Madhya Pradesh. The committee of experts said: "DCC was apprised about the recent incidence due to contaminated cough syrup, and it was proposed that the exemption

provided under ...Schedule K ... in respect of syrups for cough may be deleted. DCC deliberated the matter and approved the proposal."

The committee also looked at whether excipients other than propylene glycol — which is understood to be the source of the contaminants ethylene glycol and diethylene glycol — can be used for the manufacturing of syrups. Importantly, mandating prescriptions for cough syrups would ensure children do not end up taking formulations such as dextromethorphan — which is not meant for those under the age of four or six years — that can cause severe respiratory depression and death in them.

Telegram banned till June 22 post-NEET paper leak

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The NTA referred to the directions issued as "a measure of last resort, taken only after intermediate remedies, including the take-down action coordinated by I4C, had been pursued and had not produced, at the platform level, the response required to protect candidates in the run-up to the examination."

Channels on Telegram have been operating under names like "PAPER LEAKED NEET", "Re-NEET 2026", "Private Mafia", "REE NEET MAFIAA" — and have "demanded sums ranging from a few thousand to several lakhs of rupees from candidates and their families, in exchange for purported access to the re-examination paper", the NTA statement said, adding that these sort of promises are "in every instance, a fraud". Channels operating under self-descriptive names openly solicited desperate students and their families, demanding sums ranging from a few thousand to several lakh rupees in exchange for purported access to the re-examination question paper.

NTA has categorically stated that no such paper exists outside the secured examination chain, and that every such promise is, without

Naidu pitches AP as semiconductor hub

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The roundtable was attended by representatives of major semiconductor and technology companies, including GlobalFoundries, NXP Semiconductors, ASMP, One System Technologies, Techsend Photomask and Aquatech.

The Chief Minister urged industry leaders to assess the state's infrastructure, policy support and manufacturing ecosystem, saying Andhra Pradesh is prepared to support large-scale investments in the semiconductor sector.

exception, a fraud designed to extort money from anxious aspirants.

The modus operandi, as documented by NTA, works as follows: a channel administrator posts an innocuous message before the exam. After the exam is conducted and the actual question paper becomes publicly available, the administrator edits that old message to insert the real question paper — crucially, while retaining the original timestamp. The fabricated chat is then circulated virally as "proof" that the paper was leaked before the exam, causing public panic and undermining the credibility of the examination process.

The MeitY direction to disable the editing feature is designed to close this post-examination window of fabrication. NTA acknowledged in statement that the access restriction will affect lakhs of ordinary citizens who use Telegram for legitimate personal, educational, and professional purposes. The agency clarified that the block is strictly temporary, ending the day after the exam on June 22. The feature-level direction on message editing, which extends to June 30, does not affect the ability to send or receive new messages on the platform.

