

Pawan fulfils ailing fan's wish with personal visit

WARANGAL

ANDHRA Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena Party president Pawan Kalyan on Wednesday visited the residence of 17-year-old Niranjan in Hanamkonda, fulfilling the young fan's long-cherished wish to meet him.

Niranjan, who is battling a rare genetic disorder that has left him bedridden, was personally comforted by the Deputy Chief Minister during the emotional visit.

Pawan Kalyan enquired about his health, interacted with his parents, and offered spiritual support by presenting Tirupati temple Teertha Prasadam. He also extended financial assistance of Rs.1 lakh towards medical expenses.

Moved by the family's circumstances, Pawan Kalyan directed Jana Sena leaders to help improve the family's livelihood by facilitating a canteen business. He further promised to arrange special prayers at the revered Bhadrakali Ammavari Temple and present a consecrated silver idol of Goddess Bhadrakali to the family.

The Deputy Chief Minister also fulfilled another wish of Niranjan by promising to arrange a pet dog after learning of the teenager's fondness for



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Following the visit, Pawan Kalyan proceeded to the Bhadrakali Temple in Warangal to offer prayers.

Beach shack policy gets industry backing

• **Andhra Pradesh Star Hotels Association welcomes the proposed Beach Shack Tourism Policy, saying it can boost coastal tourism, attract investments and generate employment**

• **The association suggests a pilot rollout with guidance from experts from Kerala, Goa, Odisha and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands to ensure a sustainable and investor-friendly framework**

• **It seeks longer operating hours till 10 pm, larger shack sizes, permission to serve all categories of alcohol, stable licence fees and a minimum five-year lease tenure to improve commercial viability**

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VIJAYAWADA

THE Andhra Pradesh Star Hotels Association has welcomed the State Government's proposed Beach Shack Tourism Policy and expressed appreciation for its efforts to promote tourism and economic development in coastal regions.

In a representation submitted to the government, association president R V Swamy said the policy has the potential to transform Andhra Pradesh into a major coastal tourism destination while creating employment opportunities and attracting investments.

The association suggested that the Beach Shack Tourism Scheme be implemented initially on a pilot basis with the support of experts and

consultants from successful beach tourism destinations such as Kerala, Goa, Odisha, and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Drawing on their experience, it said, would help create a robust, sustainable and investor-friendly framework for the policy's successful implementation.

While welcoming the initiative, the association proposed several modifications to enhance the commercial viability and attractiveness of the scheme.

It recommended extending the operating hours of beach shacks up to 10 p.m. to improve tourist engagement and business prospects. The association also requested the government to increase the maximum permissible area for beach shacks from the proposed 1,500 square

Withdraw beach shacks proposal: YSRCP

Alleges that Visakha MP Sribharath has been lobbying for this for a long time

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TADEPALLI

YSRCP has demanded the withdrawal of the proposal for beach shacks along Visakhapatnam's RK Beach and slammed MP Sribharath for pushing it forward.

Speaking to the media here on Wednesday, party spokesperson Konda Rajiv Gandhi said that liquor would be sold all along the beachfront in the name of beach shacks, which is highly objectionable and not in tune with the promotion of tourism.

While health and education were the twin pri-

orities of YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, it seems the coalition is concentrating on wine and dining.

He said the beach has a distinct ambience and sanctity, and devotional bells ring on festive occasions. "The Beach Road in Visakhapatnam has a slew of temples and serves as a place of relaxation for common people.

The proposed shacks would disturb the tranquility of the area. We demand that the proposal be withdrawn and that the city's peace and order be preserved. The MP's educational institutions

are also located along the beachfront, and his family has promoted the university at the cost of the age-old Andhra University," he said.

He said, "When there was turmoil at Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP), the MP did not respond. When gross injustice was done to the railway zone, he remained silent.

However, he, a beneficiary of government land allotments, has come forward with a proposal for beach shacks, which we oppose tooth and nail and demand be withdrawn immediately," Rajiv Gandhi said.

Keep Hormuz open: Modi

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"We met in Washington last time... since then we've been moving forward together. It is a joy for us that our teams are working together, we're moving forward at a fast pace," Modi said.

Trump described the meeting as "great" as heaped praise on Modi. "I think India plays a big role in everything as long as he (PM Modi) is the leader. India is going to play a big role," Trump said in response to a question on whether New Delhi has a role to play in West Asia. "As long as I am at the White House, India has a friend in the US," he said, answering a question on the strain in India-US ties.

'A TOTAL KILLER, A TOUGH TRADER'

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"As long as I am President, they (India) have a great friend in the White House... Everyone here loves India, and they have tremendous respect for this (PM Narendra Modi) man," he added.

"People say he's such a nice man. I said he's very tough. He's a tough trader, and he loves the Indian people, but he also loves the USA.

"I had 'Howdy Modi' in Houston. The stadium was full... We'll be going to India sometime in the future," Trump said.

In a potent remark, Trump, putting on display his bonhomie with the Indian leader, said his country would come to India's help should any country attack it. He, however, put a condition: PM Modi should be the leader.

"I think it is a great relationship... If they were attacked, we would be there to help them... If anybody attacks that man, we are going to be there... If they are attacked and he (PM Modi) is the leader, we are going to be there to help," he said.

CM calls for crop diversification

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He ordered a meeting with tobacco buyers and suggested exploring storage options to help farmers secure better prices. He also called for plans to promote the cultivation of high-demand pulse crops and instructed officials to continuously analyse market trends before making crop planning decisions. Highlighting the need to improve farmer incomes, Naidu stressed value addition in agriculture and horticulture and directed officials to hold consultations with aqua farmers, industry associations and aqua feed manufacturers to address sector-specific concerns. Reiterating the government's commitment to supporting farmers during challenging times, the Chief Minister said all policy decisions should be aimed at improving farm profitability and ensuring long-term sustainability. Agriculture Minister K Atchannaaidu, Chief Secretary G Sai Prasad and senior officials attended the review meeting.

Telegram moves Delhi HC against govt curbs

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He said that over 150 million users had been affected by the Centre's action on Tuesday. SG Mehta sought an adjournment, saying that he had not put several things on record. "If the court posts the matter for Thursday, then there is something shocking I can show. One channel starts, it is prohibited, and then another is started. And with a QR code, you can make a payment. This is continuous," he said. "This has not happened overnight. We have been dealing with complaints since May. I don't wish to go beyond this. This platform is being misused, and imagine the situation which may arise," Mehta added. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), acting on recommendations of the National Testing Agency (NTA), issued a direction

under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, restricting access to the Telegram platform in India till June 22, covering the day of the NEET (UG) 2026 re-examination and its immediate aftermath. A separate direction requires Telegram to disable in India the message-editing feature for already-posted messages till June 30, 2026, addressing the specific structural feature through which the platform has been used to fabricate after-the-event "paper leak" evidence in respect of national examinations, according to an NTA statement. "Both measures have been taken in the interest of public order, in response to the organised use of the platform by cheating rackets to defraud candidates appearing for the NEET (UG) 2026 re-examination scheduled on 21 June 2026," the NTA said on Tuesday.

DEAL NOT FINAL: TRUMP

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Trump further trained guns at Islamic Republic of Iran for "misbehaving for 47 years". The sentiment Trump expressed in his latest remarks was much harsher than what he earlier said at the same G7 gathering. He had called the potential deal a very "powerful document", announcing that its content could be out "pretty soon".

His remarks come just days ahead of an agreement expected to be signed in Switzerland on Friday. Vice President JD Vance and Iran's parliament speaker, Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf are reportedly set to attend. The talks on a final US-Iran settlement to end the conflict are set to begin immediately after the signing of the accord and continue over a 60-day window to flesh out its details.

Last week, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi had said that the US and Iran have "never been closer" to a deal, and Trump had backed that sentiment. Trump's fresh threats to Iran could hamper

some progress made last week when both sides expressed hope of reaching an agreement soon.

The US naval blockade was observed to be lifted in part. Iranian oil tankers exited the zone in the Gulf blockaded by the US Navy, the Tanker-Trackers website reportedly said, calling it the country's "first crude oil exports in two months". It came after an Iranian deputy foreign minister said the two-month US naval blockade on Iranian ports had been lifted. US President Donald Trump has warned that the United States could resume military action against Iran if he is dissatisfied with the final terms of a peace agreement set to be signed later this week or if Tehran fails to uphold its commitments. Speaking alongside Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi at the G7 Summit in France on Wednesday, Trump said the memorandum of understanding aimed at ending months of conflict between Washington and Tehran was not yet finalised.

'We're most famous couple'

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While the audio isn't very clear, PM Modi appeared to refer to their popularity on social media to Meloni. To this, the Italian Prime Minister said, "Yes, we are the most famous couple on Instagram".

This came nearly a month after PM Modi, during his trip to Rome, gifted Meloni a packet of Parle's Melody toffee - in reference to the viral 'Melodi' term. Sharing the video of PM Modi's 'sweet' gesture on her social media accounts, Meloni wrote, "Thank you for the gift".

The post featured both PM Modi and Meloni holding a packet of the popular Indian candy, known by its 'very, very chocolatey' tagline, as they laughed over the cheerful internet trend. In the clip,

the Italian Prime Minister says, "Prime Minister Modi brought as a gift a very, very good toffee." "Melody," then said PM Modi.

'Melodi' - a blend of Meloni and PM Modi's names - began as an internet joke after their bilateral meeting in 2023. The term, often used in many viral clips and memes depicting warm, unscripted moments between the two leaders at multilateral summits, has racked up millions of views.

Meloni had used the term in a post first in 2024, along with a selfie with PM Modi. "Hi friends, from #Melodi," she had posted on X. In June 2025, she posted a selfie video with PM Modi from their G7 Summit interactions and captioned it as: "Hello, from the Melodi team." Since then, similar interactions

at global events have reinforced the perception of a warm personal chemistry between the two leaders.

However, the PM Modi-Meloni bond is not a mere photo opportunity; it is a foreign policy in motion. Italy has emerged as India's most consequential global partner, with both nations working towards the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) that anchors Rome as Europe's gateway to the Indo-Pacific. Bilateral trade between the two nations has crossed \$16.77 billion. Last month, PM Modi met Meloni over dinner during the last leg of his five-nation visit. They visited the iconic Colosseum, where the two leaders engaged in deep conversation over a wide range of subjects.

Meta starts charging for Instagram, Facebook & WhatsApp

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These business plans are being tested in Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Thailand and Bangladesh first. Importantly, none of this replaces the existing Meta Verified subscription.

According to the experts, subscriptions could bring in \$20 billion of high-margin revenue annually by 2030. Deutsche Bank notes subscriptions could deliver as much as \$15.6 billion of additional revenue next year.

According to company

data, 97.6% of Meta's revenue last year came from advertising, an alarming sign of the lack of progress it's made in growing beyond its core business in the last two decades since its founding.

In contrast, Google, a company also built on the back of ads, had more non-ad revenue a decade ago than Meta had last year. That probably explains Zuckerberg's sudden urgency more than anything else.

In the meantime, users

don't seem too enthused by the premium offerings that are more like a pay-to-play bet at the moment. While it's still early days, features like profile customisation, story rewatch counts, secret story viewing, and more chat pins are unlikely to garner huge interest beyond power users and influencers. "Meta's paid plans feel like a power-user upsell and a stopgap to cover AI spending while it chases ROI (return on investment)," according to the experts.

'If India is attacked, we will be there for Modi'

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I can tell you this: without even having a contract - we don't have a formal [mutual defence] contract; you have to have the right contract - but if they were attacked, we would be there to help." In a light-hearted remark, Trump later said the United States would be there to support India under PM Modi's leadership and then later joked and said that the situation might be different under a different leader. "Now, if there is a new leader, I am not sure about it. But if they are attacked and he is the leader, we are going to be there to help," Trump said.

Uddhav Sena stares at split

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Amid reports of "Operation Tiger" being underway to engineer a split in the Sena (UBT), the party has issued a whip directing all its Lok Sabha MPs to attend a meeting of the parliamentary party in Delhi on Thursday at 11 am. The whip was issued by MP Anil Desai, the party's chief whip in the Lok Sabha.

Sena (UBT) functionaries said party chief Uddhav Thackeray may also travel to Delhi in an attempt to pacify the MPs and could attend the parliamentary party meeting on Thursday.

Late on Tuesday, Sena (UBT) parliamentary party leader Arvind Sawant wrote to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, requesting him not to entertain any claim seeking recognition of a separate group or a merger with another political party by the defecting MPs. Sawant said the party's claim that Shiv Sena (UBT) represents the "real Shiv Sena" remains sub judice before the Supreme Court and that his letter was being written without prejudice to that claim.

He was responding to reports that certain MPs elected on the Sena (UBT)'s symbol had either approached, or were contemplating approaching, the Speaker seeking recognition as a separate group or merger with another political party within the Lok Sabha.

SAMAJWADI SPLIT NEXT?

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In a cryptic post on X, Rajbhar alleged that senior SP leader Ram Gopal Yadav had approached the Centre amid mounting pressure over alleged corruption cases and claimed that several party leaders were preparing to switch sides. "A major split is going to happen in the Samajwadi Party.

Ram Gopal Yadav has submitted a letter to Union Home Minister Amit Shah ji. Everyone in Uttar Pradesh knows who the mastermind behind the mining scam and Gombi River Front scam is. As the nose tightens, the SP is getting anxious," the post in Hindi stated. Forget Maharashtra and Bengal— the

entire SP is sitting ready to join the BJP. Rajbhar added in the post. Responding to the claims, Samajwadi Party supremo took a sharp dig at the Uttar Pradesh minister, questioning his statements and motives. BJP engineered splits in many parties, poached SP MLAs, MLCs in Uttar Pradesh before, Akhilesh Yadav reportedly said.

On Rajbhar's remark, Akhilesh Yadav said, "Dana aur gana kab tak chalega yeh ahsana (how long will their 'benefits and songs' continue)". Samajwadi Party spokesperson Manish Singh also responded, asking Rajbhar to assess his own capabilities first before commenting on SP.

Take yoga to every household: CM to officials

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Naidu also directed officials to launch a dedicated Therapeutic Yoga programme for people suffering from chronic illnesses and other health conditions, integrating yoga more closely with public health initiatives.

As part of the Yoga Day celebrations, the Chief Minister will participate in a special yoga programme at the Undavalli Caves on June 20 alongside yoga guru Baba Ramdev, who is visiting Andhra Pradesh as a special guest. The state-level Yoga Day event will be held on June 21 at the Indira Gandhi Municipal Stadium in Vijayawada, where arrangements are being made for 5,000 to 6,000 participants. Both Chandrababu Naidu and Baba Ramdev will attend the programme. Officials informed the Chief Minister that a contingency plan has also been prepared to conduct the event at the Ambedkar Kalavedika in Vijayawada with around 1,000 participants in case of adverse weather conditions.

Baba Ramdev is scheduled to arrive in the state on June 19 as part of the yoga promotion campaign and will meet the Chief Minister during his visit. During the review, officials reported that 2.6 lakh people have been trained as yoga instructors under the Yogandhra programme and that more than one crore people have registered to participate in Yoga Day events across the state. They also informed the Chief Minister that yoga programmes will be conducted at 1.33 lakh centres on June 21.

State-level yoga competitions are scheduled to be held in Vijayawada from June 18 to 20. On Yoga Day, the Chief Minister will also release the Yoga@Destination calendar outlining yoga-related activities planned across the state until next year's International Yoga Day. Government advisor Mantena Satyanarayana Raju, health and family welfare commissioner Chakradhar Babu, NTR District Collector Lakshmi Shah and Joint Secretary Nonanki Gopalakrishna were among those present at the review meeting.

AP INTRODUCES BEACH SHACK BAR POLICY

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Under the policy, beach shacks will be permitted to serve only low-alcohol beverages, including beer, craft beer, wine, sparkling wine, and ready-to-drink (RTD) beverages. Sale of Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) and other hard liquors will not be allowed.

Initially, two beach shacks each at Suryalanka and Visakhapatnam will be permitted on a pilot basis. Eligible applicants include star hotels, tourism resorts, and Tourism Department-registered establishments possessing private beach land or land allotted by competent

authorities.

Each shack must have a plinth area of 1,000 to 1,500 square feet, adequate parking, sanitation facilities, a licensed kitchen, safety infrastructure, and eco-friendly construction. Alcohol service will be permitted from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The annual Retail Excise Tax has been fixed at Rs. 7.5 lakh, with a 10 per cent annual escalation. The pilot project will be reviewed after one year to assess its impact on tourism, employment, environmental sustainability, and public safety before considering expansion to other beaches in the State.