

NAIDU CLEARS LAND HURDLES FOR 920 FARMERS

- Frees 2,175 acres from prohibited lists
- 920 farmers regain full land rights
- CM orders on-the-spot online clearance

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BANAGANAPALLE
(NANDYAL DISTRICT)

IN a major relief to farmers, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu personally supervised the resolution of long-pending land disputes by removing 2,074 acres from the prohibited 22-A list, benefiting 897 farmers of Gutupalli village in Bethamcherla mandal of Nandyal district.

During the 'Mee Bhoomi-Mee Hakku' programme held at the Banaganapalle tahsildar's Office on Thursday, the Chief Minister also ensured the removal of 101 acres belonging to 23 farmers in Banaganapalle from the dotted land (Chukkala Bhhumi) prohibited list and handed over the official land release orders and Pattadar Passbooks to the



Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu accompanied by the district collector G Raja Kumari supervises the resolution of long-pending land disputes by removing 2,074 acres from the prohibited 22-A list, benefiting 897 farmers of Gutupalli village in Bethamcherla mandal of Nandyal district on Thursday

beneficiaries. The issue had been brought to the Chief Minister's notice during his visit to Dhone in March this year, when farmers appealed for the removal of their ancestral lands from the 22-A prohibited category.

Following his directions, the State government initiated the required

administrative process. While reviewing the status at the Tahsildar's Office, the Chief Minister found that the district collector G Raja Kumari had already issued the clearance orders, but the online deletion process was still pending. He immediately instructed officials to complete the formalities

on the spot, leading to the instant removal of the lands from the prohibited list.

With the completion of the exercise, hundreds of farmers regained full ownership rights over their agricultural lands, enabling them to carry out registrations, obtain crop loans and undertake other

legal transactions without restrictions. Beneficiary farmers expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister, stating that they had struggled for years after their lands were brought under the 22-A category, preventing them from accessing financial assistance and property-related services. They said the government's prompt intervention had ended years of uncertainty and restored their confidence.

Addressing the beneficiaries, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu reaffirmed that the government is committed to resolving decades-old land disputes and strengthening the revenue administration.

He said similar issues had already been settled in several parts of the state and that the present government is systematically correcting land-related irregularities, issuing updated pattadar passbooks and removing eligible lands from the prohibited lists after due verification. The initiative, he added, reflects the government's resolve to safeguard farmers' land rights and ensure hassle-free access to all legal and financial benefits.

MSME disputes to go for online arbitration

- State govt reconstitutes state and four regional facilitation councils for two years
- All new MSME cases to be handled through Centre's Online Dispute Resolution portal

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change is the complete shift to the MSME Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) portal, as mandated by the Union ministry of MSME.

All new payment dispute cases will now be filed, heard and processed digitally through the national platform, replacing the conventional manual process.

To support the online mechanism, the government has authorised four specialised Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) institutions empanelled by the Centre to conduct digital conciliation and arbitration. These include institutions in Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Chandigarh and Visakhapatnam, allowing disputes to be resolved electronically with recognised arbitration agencies.

Under the revised structure, the State Facilitation Council at Mangalagiri, headed by the commissioner of industries, will hear disputes involving principal claim amounts exceeding Rs 50 lakh, besides

cases referred by regional councils. It has also been empowered to directly conduct arbitration or appoint any of the empanelled ADR institutions to resolve disputes under Section 18 of the MSME Act.

To decentralise the process, four Regional Facilitation Councils will continue functioning at Visakhapatnam, Guntur, Tirupati and Kurnool. These councils will handle disputes involving claims of up to Rs 50 lakh, reducing the burden on the state level council and enabling quicker disposal of cases closer to businesses.

Each council will comprise representatives from the Industries department, Federation of Andhra Pradesh Small Industries Association (FAPSIA), Andhra Pradesh State Finance Corporation (APSF), Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (APIIC) and the industries department, ensuring both government and industry participation in dispute resolution.

The government believes the strengthened digital dispute resolution mechanism will improve payment discipline, reduce litigation delays and enhance confidence among MSMEs while reinforcing State's efforts to build a more investor-friendly and business-efficient ecosystem.

US, Iran trade strikes for 2nd night in a row

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Iran reported explosions in several coastal areas and said it targeted US assets in Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar in response. Iran's foreign ministry denounced the US strikes as a "gross war crime", saying it said targeted civilian infrastructure including railway bridges. In a statement, the ministry described the US administration as "evil and psychopathic" and that it condemned the attacks which have damaged bridges and a railway route connecting Tehran to the city of Mashhad, where the late supreme leader Ali Khamenei is due to be buried at a funeral service later on Thursday.

India gets world's first once-a-week insulin

NEW DELHI: One injection a week instead of one every day, Danish drugmaker Novo Nordisk has launched Awiqli, or insulin icodec, in India -- the world's first once-weekly basal insulin-cutting the annual injection count for diabetes patients from 365 to just 52. Approved for adults with both Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes and delivered through a pen device called FlexTouch, the launch makes India the sixth market globally to get the therapy. It's aimed squarely at the single biggest reason patients delay insulin: the fear of daily injections. The injections will be manufactured in Denmark and the Danish drugmaker will import it to India.

Affordability is central to Novo Nordisk's India strategy. The company has drawn on its experience pricing semaglutide in India and has applied similar lessons to Awiqli.

The 1 ml Awiqli FlexTouch pen, con-

taining 700 units of insulin, is priced at Rs 2,611, while the larger 3 ml pen, with 2,100 units, will cost Rs 7,833. At an indicative weekly dose of 70 units, that works out to roughly Rs 261-263 a week for a patient.

The combination of fewer injections, competitive pricing and Novo Nordisk's distribution reach, built in partnership with Abbott, could turn Awiqli into a high-volume product.

Novo Nordisk's Awiqli is not a like-for-like swap with existing insulins, it is far more concentrated, which changes how it behaves in the body. Endocrinologists says that the shift from up to seven injections a week to just one addresses three concerns simultaneously, convenience, effectiveness and safety. On convenience, they noted there is no longer a need for a daily jab.

'Terror camps crumbled during Op Sindoor'

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Underscoring that "terror camps crumbled during Operation Sindoor," PM Modi said India's initiatives to combat terror have sent a clear message across the world, which is now also witnessing the "capability and credibility of India's defence platforms". "During Operation Sindoor, you must have seen the explosions that struck terrorist hideouts. Those explosions have resonated across the world," he said. "When such a decisive strike was carried out against terror camps, didn't it

make you feel proud?" he said.

At the same time, he also highlighted India's governance, tweaking the Sanskrit adage of Athithi Devo Bhaba (a guest is a god) to "Nagrik Devo Bhava (the Citizen is a god)". In this context, he mentioned the key initiatives of the government, including the healthcare system where records are now stored, digilocker and the current ease of getting passports. In a strong pitch for "Make in India", he said Indian products were gaining recognition worldwide.

Stricter H1B, Green Card rules coming in August

NEW DELHI: The Trump administration is preparing a fresh set of immigration rules that could make it more difficult for foreign professionals, students and employers to navigate the US immigration system. The proposed changes cover some of the most popular routes used by Indians to study and work in the United States. Therefore, Indians, who form one of the largest immigrant groups in the US, could especially face more hurdles under proposed changes to the H1B programme, L1 visas and student visas. The proposals are part of the latest Unified Regulatory Agendas released by the US Departments of Homeland Security (DHS), Labor (DOL) and State (DOS). While none of the measures has taken effect yet, they offer the clearest indication of the administra-

tion's plans. If implemented, the changes could mean stricter eligibility rules, more paperwork, closer scrutiny of employers and higher costs for companies that hire foreign workers.

India is likely to be among the countries most affected because Indians account for a large share of H1B visa holders, employment-based Green Card applicants and international students in the US.

One of the biggest proposed changes concerns the H1B visa programme, which allows US companies to hire foreign professionals in specialised fields. Every year, 85,000 new H1B visas are available under the annual cap. The DHS is expected to publish a proposed rule in August that would tighten several parts of the programme.

India working to become a developed nation: PM

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"We are a nation of 1.4 billion people brimming with aspirations; we are impatient and eager. We are the world's fastest-growing economy, yet we aim to become one of the top three economies in the world as quickly as possible. Because our driving force is 'Grow More, Achieve More,'" he added.

Modi said the mantra of "Nagrik Devo Bhava" has become the guiding principle of governance in India. "The foundation of India's big dreams and great aspirations is its people... We, the People," he said, adding that the government's policies are centred on citizens' welfare.

The PM talked about the rapid progress taking place in India, based on sustained high growth, policy reforms, digital revolution and next-generation infrastructure development. "Today, India has become the world's

second-largest 5G market. Moreover, India is rapidly working on 'Made in India' 6G technology as well. This is because Indians believe in the mantra: "Grow More, Achieve More," he said.

"India does not want to stop here... a new manufacturing ecosystem -- spanning everything from chips to ships -- is being developed in India today," he added. He underlined that India's approach was not just to focus on its own progress, but to walk hand in hand with its friends and partners.

PM Modi also mentioned 'Operation Sindoor', saying the world has witnessed the capability and credibility of India's defence platform. "You must have seen the demo during 'Operation Sindoor'. Explosions were taking place at the terrorists' hideouts, and the echo was reverberating across the world," he said. "Did you feel proud of the

action taken against terrorist camps?" Modi asked, amid cheers and applause from the audience.

Modi said India has more than 200,000 registered start-ups and more than 4,000 new start-ups are being registered every month. He said hundreds of start-ups are working in sectors such as defence and space. These sectors were opened to private entrepreneurship only a few years ago, and today, India's first private space start-up is set to launch a satellite on its own rocket very soon, he said.

"You are all aware of Chandrayaan's landing on the Moon's south pole. No country, other than India, has been able to achieve this. But India is not satisfied with this. As we say, 'Grow more. Achieve More.' Now India will send Gaganyaan, and we are working towards the goal of building our own space station," Modi said.

India, Australia unveil new defence declaration

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By doing this, the two countries seek to strengthen their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and contribute to a free, open and stable Indo-Pacific. The declaration, adopted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese, reaffirms the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership established in 2020 and builds on the foundation laid by the India-Australia Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation signed in 2009.

The two leaders said strategic convergence between India and Australia has accelerated in recent years, with stronger economic ties, closer people-to-people links and enhanced cooperation through bilateral mechanisms such as the Foreign Ministers' Framework Dialogue, the 2+2 Foreign and Defence Ministerial Dialogue and the Defence Ministers' Dialogue. They also highlighted the role of multilateral platforms, including the Quad, in promoting peace, security and prosperity across the Indo-Pacific. PM Modi is in Australia as part of his three-nation tour. Expressing concern over growing geostrategic uncertainty and threats to regional peace and stability, the two countries called for the peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with international law and without the threat or use of force or coercion. Reaffirming their commitment to a rules-based Indo-Pacific, India and Australia underscored the importance of

respecting sovereignty and territorial integrity, ensuring freedom of navigation and overflight under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and strengthening transparent and inclusive regional institutions. The declaration also reiterated support for regional organisations, including the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), ASEAN and ASEAN-led regional architecture, and the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF). As part of the enhanced partnership, the two countries agreed to accelerate defence cooperation by strengthening strategic dialogue, expanding military engagement and enhancing interoperability between their armed forces.

The declaration outlines plans to consult regularly on defence-related developments affecting shared interests in the Indo-Pacific, increase the complexity of bilateral and multilateral military exercises, improve information sharing, expand aircraft deployments from each other's territories, deepen exchanges and training for defence personnel, and explore cooperation in developing skilled defence workforces.

Recognising the strategic importance of the maritime domain, India and Australia announced plans to strengthen cooperation through a dedicated India-Australia Maritime Security Collaboration Roadmap aimed at enhancing the depth, sophistication and regularity of bilateral maritime engagement.

Lokesh urges Kia to expand EV hub

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He also proposed an EV components and battery systems manufacturing centre, a CKD assembly and export hub near Visakhapatnam Port, and an EV powertrain testing and homologation centre. Kia said it would examine the proposals through its global leadership.

Lokesh also met Sunic Systems, a South Korean manufacturer of semiconductor, OLED, and perovskite deposition equipment, inviting the company to establish a display equipment manufacturing facility at Sri City. He assured support through the India Semicon-

ductor Mission 2.0, Andhra Pradesh's semiconductor Policy and skill development partnerships with the Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation (APSSDC) and universities. Sunic Systems said it would evaluate the investment proposal.

In meetings with South Korea's Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs and International Trade & Investment, Lokesh pitched Andhra Pradesh as a stable and reliable manufacturing base amid global geopolitical uncertainties. He highlighted the state's '3 S' policy—Speed, Stability and Service—investor-friendly incentives,

low-cost industrial land and strategic location on India's east coast with six ports, seven airports and four upcoming greenfield ports.

Seeking to institutionalise bilateral economic ties, Lokesh proposed a Korea Industrial Park in Andhra Pradesh, a dedicated AP-Korea Investment Desk, annual economic partnership dialogues, direct air connectivity, Korean language centres, and joint skill academies to prepare local youth for Korean manufacturing standards. He also invited Korean universities and research institutions to collaborate on AI, quantum computing, semiconductors,

cybersecurity, clean technology, and shipbuilding.

The Minister further invited Korean companies to participate in Andhra Pradesh's 10-GW data centre programme, renewable energy expansion, green hydrogen, battery manufacturing, and shipbuilding ecosystem. Highlighting the state's investment momentum, Lokesh said Andhra Pradesh has attracted over USD 240 billion in investment commitments over the past two years and aims to become a major logistics, advanced manufacturing, and technology hub under its Swarnandhra-2047 vision.

YSRCP backing anti-Hindu narratives, fumes CM Naidu

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He asserted that the NDA government had maintained law and order over the past two years and would not tolerate attempts to incite religious hatred or disturb communal harmony.

The Chief Minister also referred to the recent incident at the Shiva temple on Ranamandala Hill in Adoni, where a youth allegedly lit a cigarette using a temple lamp, warning that the government would deal firmly with anyone hurting religious sentiments. Stepping up his attack on YSR Congress president Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, Naidu accused him of indulging in political theatrics. Referring to Jagan's proposed Tirumala visit, Naidu said devotees who do not profess the Hindu faith are required to sign the temple declaration, alleging that Jagan

refused to do so despite expressing his desire to visit the shrine.

The Chief Minister also revived allegations of temple desecration during the previous YSRCP government, claiming that attacks on temples, damage to idols and the Tirumala laddu adulteration controversy reflected the previous regime's failure to protect religious institutions.

Naidu further accused Jagan of exploiting religion and family issues for political gain, alleging that while he publicly invokes the legacy of his late father for electoral purposes, he has failed to treat his mother with respect. Calling on the public to reject politics based on religious provocation and social divisions, Naidu said no government would be allowed to encourage anti-social forces or create conflicts in the name of caste or religion.

Oz to fuel India's green future with uranium supply: PM

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Delivering a joint press conference alongside Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in Melbourne, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared the atomic breakthrough a transformative catalyst for India's ecological targets. "Australia will supply uranium to India. We have signed an important agreement in the field of nuclear energy. It will give new momentum to our clean energy goals," PM Modi announced. The Prime Minister framed the deepening consensus within a shared geopolitical vision, noting that India and Australia, as "two vibrant democracies, multicultural societies and important ocean powers", share a common worldview that continues to strengthen their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

