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Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar Takes Oath, G Parameshwara Is His Deputy



Bengaluru: DK Shivakumar, one of Congress's best-known faces from south India, took oath as the Chief Minister of Karnataka today, bringing to an end a long tussle that had made headlines for the better part of two years. His cabinet of 13 ministers - including his predecessor Siddaramaiah's son

Yathindra Siddaramaiah -- also took oath on the occasion. G Parameshwara, who served as the state's home minister, took oath as the Deputy Chief Minister. The

cabinet also included UT Khader, MB Patil, KJ George, KH Muniyappa, Satish Jarkiholi, Ramalinga Reddy, Krishna Byregowda, Priyank Kharge, Ishwar Khandre, Byrathi Suresh and Sharan Prakash Patil.

The Cabinet is expected to be expanded after Rajya Sabha elections. During the oath ceremony, the new Chief Minister seen conspicuously carrying a copy of the Constitution, continuing a trend seen after the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and several senior Congress MPs had carried copies of the Constitution while taking

oath as Members of Parliament -- a stark reminder of their claim that the NDA government's moves were often in violation of the Constitution. Choosing G Parameshwara for the Deputy post is seen as a balancing act of the Congress, which had to pull out Siddaramaiah from the top post to make way for Shivakumar. Siddaramaiah had wielded massive influence among the Ahinda voters -- comprising backward classes, Dalits and religious minorities. Parameshwara is an influential leader among the Dalits. He is also considered a close confidante of Siddaramaiah.

Trinamool Crisis Deepens As Expelled Rebel Lands Top Opposition Role



Kolkata: The split in the Trinamool Congress apparently passed the point of no return today as Bengal assembly Speaker Rathindra Bose approved the party's rebel leader Ritabrata Banerjee as the Leader of the Opposition. Even the keys of the room allotted to the Opposition at the state assembly was handed over to him. That the party has been collapsing like a deck of cards in less than a month of its defeat in the state election, became evident as minutes later, Firhad Hakim - a key aide of Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee -- stepped down from the post of the Kolkata Mayor. Earlier in the day,

Trinamool had dissolved all its committees and frontal organisations with "immediate effect" saying it needed to introspect. To make it clear the new order has definitely arrived, Ritabrata Banerjee -- who was expelled from Trinamool Congress earlier this week -- allotted a new role to the Trinamool chief. "We would request Mamata Banerjee to be our chief advisor to this opposition front," he said - in a stark reminder of the time the NCP had split under the leadership of Ajit Pawar but its leaders underscored their allegiance to Sharad Pawar verbally. The new Leader of the Opposition also

made the role of Abhishek Banerjee clear - that he had none. "Abhishek Banerjee has no connection to the formation of the 18th Assembly of West Bengal," he said. Earlier today, Banerjee had arrived at the state assembly claiming he has the support of 59 of the party's 80 MLAs. The letter claimed this was the "real" Trinamool Congress and curiously, claimed Mamata Banerjee was the leader of the faction. So far, the events appeared to follow the script in Maharashtra - the massive political upheaval that started with the split if Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena and ended with the split in Sharad Pawar's NCP.

Chairman of the Rastriya Swatantra Party of Nepal meets Prime Minister



New Delhi: The Chairman of the Rastriya Swatantra Party of Nepal, Mr. Rabi Lamichhane today met Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Prime Minister expressed his delight upon the meeting and stated that he welcomes and fully shares Mr. Lamichhane's desire to work closely together for a shared and prosperous future. Modi noted that Nepal

is a priority partner under the Neighbourhood First policy. The Prime Minister affirmed that India looks forward to collaborating with the new government to elevate the special and multifaceted relationship between the two countries to greater heights. The Prime Minister posted on X: "Delighted to meet the Chairman of the Rastriya Swatantra Party of Nepal Mr.

Rabi Lamichhane. I welcome and fully share his desire to work closely together for a shared and prosperous future. Nepal is a priority partner under our Neighbourhood First policy and we look forward to collaborating with the new government to elevate the special and multifaceted relationship between our two countries to greater heights."

Hatred Is Not Beneficial for the Country: AP Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan



From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, June 3 : "Telangana is an integral part of India. Anyone can go there and seek medical treatment. Fences may be erected at borders, but they cannot be put around people's hearts," Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena Party

chief Pawan Kalyan said. During his visit to Amaravati, he paid tribute at the 58-foot bronze statue of Amarajeevi Potti Sriramulu. Later, speaking to the media, he recalled that seeking a separate state was one thing, but Potti Sriramulu, who sacrificed his life for Telugu people, never said that people from other regions should not come. Pawan questioned why hatred was being incited among people when Andhra contractors were working in Telangana and Telangana contractors were working in Andhra Pradesh. He said he never expected such hostility to persist

even after more than a decade. "Hyderabad is my home, and my party was founded there. I do not need anyone's permission to go there. What is wrong if sons of the soil born in Telangana hold public meetings?" he asked. He stated that this controversy had gradually escalated into a major issue, but there was no conspiracy behind it. Pawan expressed the view that he shares a brotherly bond with BRS leader K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) and that KTR would not have spoken incorrectly. He also said that Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had no role

in this matter. Pawan criticized certain Congress leaders, alleging that they were deliberately provoking such hatred. He questioned whether Congress leaders could travel to other states and contest elections, but others would be threatened for doing the same. He further asked what benefit had come from Rahul Gandhi touring the entire country and advised people to remember the sacrifices of great leaders such as Burgula Ramakrishna Rao and P.V. Narasimha Rao. Pawan Kalyan emphasized that his objective is to put an end to such regional hatred.

Receiving the 'Food Planet Prize-2026' Is a Matter of Pride for Andhra Pradesh: Minister Atchannaidu



From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, June 3 : Andhra Pradesh's Natural Farming Programme has received a rare international honor. The prestigious Food Planet Prize-2026 has been awarded to the Andhra Pradesh Community-Managed Natural Farming (APCNF) programme.

On this occasion, Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu said that receiving the Food Planet Prize-2026 is a matter of great pride for the state. He stated that natural farming is being successfully implemented in Andhra Pradesh under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister N.

Chandrababu Naidu. The minister said that this international recognition was made possible through the collective efforts of farmers, rural women, officials of the Agriculture Department, the RySS (Rythu Sadhikara Samstha) organization, and scientists. He noted that this globally recognized award is being dedicated to the lakhs of farmers across the state. He further stated that natural farming is contributing significantly to environmental conservation. Atchannaidu recalled that the successful Andhra Pradesh model is now being implemented not only in 21 states across India but also in several countries abroad. He said that Andhra



Pradesh is emerging as a global model in the field of sustainable agriculture. The minister expressed hope that this international recognition would create new opportunities for the development of the farming community and provide further encouragement for the expansion of natural farming.

We Will Curb Malicious Propaganda; Ready to Expose Everything: Home Minister Anitha

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, June 3: Andhra Pradesh Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha launched a strong attack on former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. She questioned what prompted Jagan to begin what she described as a malicious propaganda campaign nine months later by alleging irregularities in the DSC recruitment process. Anitha said that the government was not in a position where it would simply ignore baseless allegations. She asserted that the government is prepared to reveal to the public who was responsible and with what intention such claims were being made. She added that the government would provide clear explanations to the people and take steps to curb misinformation. The Home Minister also warned that those spreading false propaganda would face criminal cases.

The minister stated that a majority of the teachers currently serving in the state were appointed during the TDP government. She noted that DSC appointments carry deep emotional significance for many families. According to her, the government resolved all issues and ensured that appointment letters were handed over to candidates in a dignified manner without any court cases creating obstacles. She criticized the allegations, saying that since there was no scope for question paper leaks, critics had shifted their focus to the sports quota. Taking a swipe at opposition leaders, she remarked that those who "studied Chemistry in a B.Com course" were making irresponsible statements while belonging to the "axe party" (a reference to YSRCP). She said their approach appeared to be driven not by the need for answers but by the desire



to create controversies. Anitha further stated that the DSC appointments were made based on the horizontal reservation policy introduced by the previous YSRCP government in 2022. She remarked that leaders who had made teachers stand in front of liquor shops lacked an understanding of bridge sports and were making

uninformed comments. She clarified that bridge sports should not be confused with the card clubs allegedly run by leaders of the opposition party. The Home Minister added that everyone was aware of the circumstances surrounding the Group-1 recruitment process conducted by the previous government.

A Chief Minister Must Have Vision; Jagan Does Not: Minister Narayana

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, June 3: Andhra Pradesh Minister P. Narayana visited the capital region on Wednesday. During his tour, he inspected the flow channels of Kondaveeti Vagu and Palavagu, as well as the Penumaka Reservoir. He directed officials to ensure that road construction works in the capital region do not obstruct the natural flow of streams. He also instructed them to expedite the removal of silt deposits beneath bridges currently under construction. Later, speaking to the media, including ABN-Andhra Jyothy, the minister strongly criticized YSRCP president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy over his recent "Mavigan" remarks. Narayana said that even children were laughing at Jagan's comments and ac-

cused him of speaking irresponsibly. The minister stated that Telangana derives a significant portion of its revenue from Hyderabad, whereas the revenue generated from Amaravati would be distributed across all districts of Andhra Pradesh. He remarked that a Chief Minister must possess vision and alleged that Jagan lacked such vision. Narayana once again appealed to farmers to participate in the land pooling scheme. He explained that the government had not resorted to land acquisition because it did not want to forcibly take land from farmers. He expressed confidence that the capital city would be largely ready by August 2028. Referring to other planned capitals, he noted that construction work in Naya Raipur is still

ongoing. He advised Jagan to speak based on data rather than making unsupported statements. Narayana said that development works in Amaravati are progressing rapidly and that the government is taking measures to avoid problems before the onset of the monsoon season. He explained that during the previous monsoon, water had backed up because streams beneath the Western Bypass had become blocked with silt. He stated that while two bridge projects are currently underway near the Western Bypass, a total of 69 bridges will eventually be constructed. The minister said that vents near the Western Bypass would be cleared within ten days. He further noted that the water-flow design for Amaravati was prepared in consultation with experts



from the Netherlands. While acknowledging that some inconveniences are unavoidable during construction, he said the difficulties would be limited to the months of June, July, August, and September, after which the 69 bridges would be completed. The minister added that gravity canals had been designed based on 200 years of historical data. He said that stream flow had been obstructed during the construction of the Western Bypass last year, leading to silt accumulation in the area.

EDITORIAL

A healthy India is
within reach

India may have achieved self-sufficiency in food grains. It may have become one of the largest economies in the world. It may be the largest democracy, receiving the blessings of the nations. But the bitter truth that the nation still lags behind in protecting the health of its people, providing them with proper nutrition, and providing medical facilities is making the country bow its head. India is second only to China in the number of countries in Asia that provide state-of-the-art medical treatments. The number of foreigners coming here for medical treatment has increased exponentially in the last decade. However, these medical facilities remain inaccessible to the poor. If we analyze the latest National Family Health Survey report on many issues such as public health, nutrition, family planning, women's economic empowerment, lifestyle, and eating habits, we can see the truth that people's health is like a piece of cake. Nutrition is very important for the mental and physical development of children. However, 80 percent of children between the ages of six and 23 months do not receive adequate nutrition. Unfortunately, a large number of poor children do not get enough calories, but they do not get enough nutrition with vitamins, fats, and minerals. As a result, 35 percent of children have increased triglycerides in their blood, which leads to heart disease, according to the Comprehensive Nutrition Survey released last year. According to the National Family Health Survey report, while the percentage of women giving birth in hospitals rather than at home is a significant improvement, the fact that cesarean deliveries are increasing more than normal deliveries is worrying. The Family Health Survey reveals that cesarean deliveries, which should be within 10 to 15 percent according to World Health Organization standards, have increased to 27.2 percent. More importantly, the fact that this rate is recorded at 54.1 percent in private hospitals exposes the selfish ambition of the respective hospital managements. The report also makes it clear that the severity of diseases arising from lifestyle disorders such as diabetes and obesity, which have become the address of India, is also high.

One in six people suffer from diabetes and 30 percent of the country's population is obese. It is known that the combination of these two diseases increases the risk of hypertension, heart and kidney diseases. The fact that the number of obese people is increasing even among children is a matter of further concern. Although the continuous efforts of the governments have reduced the outbreak of infectious diseases, the survey results are the latest evidence that the ruling classes are lagging behind in preventing diseases arising due to lifestyle disorders and in making people aware of them. The rulers, who repeatedly claim that the goal is to expand health services to rural areas, are not paying attention to explaining to the people the harms caused by lifestyle changes. The desired benefits can be achieved to some extent by assigning the responsibility of creating awareness about diseases like hypertension, diabetes, obesity and the harms caused by lifestyle changes to Anganwadis, which provide crucial services towards maternal and child care. Textbooks should include these topics to create awareness among children about the consequences of processed and junk food. There is a need to further tighten the laws currently in force to curb the practice of private hospitals that are constantly playing with women's lives by performing surgeries like caesarean sections and hysterectomies, whether necessary or not. It is the immediate duty of the rulers to take the latest Family Health Survey prepared based on data collected from 6.79 lakh families in 715 districts across the country as a standard and work towards building a healthy India.

Cracks In Trinamool: Will Bengal
Go The Maharashtra Way?

A major question is now quietly being discussed across West Bengal's political circles: Is the Trinamool Congress starting at a split? Could Bengal witness a Maharashtra-like political scenario where a ruling party eventually breaks into factions, much like the Shiv Sena or the NCP? The discussion may appear speculative, but recent developments in the Trinamool Congress have made such questions impossible to ignore. There is now open gossip, internal distrust, visible rebellion, and growing distance between sections of the leadership and the party's grassroots representatives. Naturally, this has led to wider political speculation over whether the TMC could eventually face an organisational rupture.

The conversation has intensified since the results of the recent assembly elections. Since the declaration of the results on May 4, several MPs, MLAs, councillors, and district-level leaders have publicly voiced dissatisfaction with the party leadership. Interestingly, most of their criticism has not been directed primarily at Mamata Banerjee herself, but rather at Abhishek Banerjee and the growing influence of organisations like IPAC within the party structure. Many leaders are now openly saying that the traditional political culture of the Trinamool Congress has changed. According to them, decision-making has become increasingly centralised and heavily dependent on consultants, survey systems, and external political strategists. Several leaders feel that the organic political connection between the party and ordinary workers is weakening. The internal discomfort became more visible during the meetings called by

Mamata Banerjee with party MLAs. Reports suggest that attendance gradually declined from one meeting to another. The first meeting saw relatively strong participation, but attendance reduced in the second meeting, and fell even further during the third. Officially, many absent MLAs cited health concerns, personal engagements, or security-related excuses. However, politically, many observers believe the real reason was different: several MLAs no longer wanted to remain visibly close to the current leadership structure. At the first meeting itself, Mamata Banerjee reportedly asked MLAs to stand up and publicly express support for Abhishek Banerjee. That incident itself revealed the growing nervousness within the party leadership regarding internal dissent.

Meanwhile, disciplinary action against dissenters has only intensified tensions further. Two MLAs were expelled from the party after allegations emerged regarding forged signatures connected to legislative communications. However, the expelled leaders strongly denied the allegations and claimed that their signatures had been digitally manipulated using computer technology. They alleged that documents were circulated without their knowledge and that false communications were shown in their names. The matter became even more embarrassing for the party because allegations of forged signatures and manipulated letters soon turned into a public political controversy. Questions began to emerge regarding internal coordination, organisational transparency, and the functioning of the legislative party itself. According to the sequence of events, on May 18, 2026, Abhishek

Banerjee reportedly wrote to the Principal Secretary of the Assembly seeking formal recognition regarding a legislative resolution. Later, on May 20, a response was sent stating that a meeting of opposition legislators had taken place where MLAs raised their hands in support of making Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay the leader of the opposition. However, controversy erupted because several MLAs later claimed they had neither attended such a meeting nor signed any resolution. This raised serious procedural questions. If signatures were indeed forged, then how many legislators were actually involved? Was the resolution genuinely passed? Or was there manipulation somewhere within the system? The matter eventually reached the CID level, and even the Chief Minister reportedly acknowledged that several MLAs were being questioned. The entire episode deepened the sense of mistrust within the party. What is politically significant is that the rebellion is no longer limited to isolated individuals. Broader discomfort is visible. Some leaders have begun quietly avoiding party meetings altogether. Others are speaking off the record about fear, pressure, and the inability to express opinions freely within the organisation. This has naturally triggered a larger political debate: if dissatisfaction continues to grow, could a separate political platform emerge in Bengal? Not necessarily the BJP, and not necessarily another Congress-style force, but perhaps a third political space created by dissatisfied Trinamool leaders themselves? Indian politics has seen such examples before. From the Congress splitting into multiple regional factions over decades,



to more recent developments in Maharashtra involving the Shiv Sena and NCP, party divisions are no longer considered impossible. Bengal itself has witnessed repeated political realignments throughout its history. For now, much of the discussion remains political "kite-flying", speculation without certainty. But the speculation exists because the signs of internal instability are becoming increasingly difficult to ignore.

The larger concern for the Trinamool Congress is not simply rebellion, but perception. Once a ruling party begins appearing internally divided, doubts begin spreading both within the organisation and among ordinary voters. Questions then arise about authority, succession, ideological direction, and organisational discipline.

At present, Mamata Banerjee remains the central face and emotional anchor of the Trinamool Congress. Her political authority in Bengal remains unmatched within the party structure. However, the emerging tension surrounding Abhishek Banerjee's growing role has clearly exposed a generational and organisational transition that many leaders are still struggling to accept. The coming months will, therefore, become extremely important. Whether this dissatisfaction fades away through internal negotiations or eventually transforms into a larger organisational crisis will determine the future direction of Bengal politics. For now, the Trinamool Congress officially remains united. But beneath that official unity, the political unease is becoming increasingly visible.

The China Shock 2.0 May Already Be Here

Across Europe, Latin America, and large parts of the developing world, governments are confronting a new economic dilemma. Chinese electric vehicles are flooding export markets despite tariffs. Solar manufacturers outside China are collapsing under impossible price competition. Steel, batteries, industrial chemicals, and clean-energy components are all beginning to exhibit the same pattern: excess Chinese supply meeting a world economy increasingly unable, and unwilling, to absorb it.

At first glance, this resembles a conventional trade conflict. But it is something deeper. What is now surfacing across global markets is the outward spillover of structural pressures building within the Chinese economy for years.

For decades, China's growth model rested on a simple but extraordinarily powerful arrangement. Household consumption remained suppressed, while investment and exports carried the burden of economic expansion. That formula delivered one of the fastest industrial transformations in modern history. It built ports, factories, highways, supply chains, and manufacturing ecosystems at a scale no economy had previously achieved.

An Unresolved Problem
But the same model also produced an imbalance that China never fully resolved. Household consumption in China remains stuck at roughly 35 to 40% of GDP, extraordinarily low for an economy of its size. By comparison, household consumption accounts for roughly 68% of GDP in the United States, close to 60% in India, and 50-55% in mature East Asian economies such as Japan and South Korea. Even when government consumption is included, total consumption in China accounts for only around 54% of GDP. Investment

alone still contributes roughly 43%. These are not ordinary macroeconomic ratios. They describe an economy structurally dependent on capital formation rather than household demand.

For years, the imbalance remained manageable because investment itself generated rapid growth. Infrastructure expansion, urbanisation, and property development created employment, rising incomes, and local-government revenues simultaneously. Exports, meanwhile, absorbed excess industrial production externally.

Drowning In Debt

That arrangement is now weakening on multiple fronts at once. According to the IMF's 2025 Article IV consultation, China's total non-financial sector debt has climbed to roughly 313% of GDP and is projected to reach 323% by 2026. More revealingly, the IMF's broader measure of "augmented debt", which includes Local Government Financing Vehicles and off-balance-sheet liabilities, is projected to rise to 135.3% of GDP by 2026.

The problem is no longer merely the scale of debt. It is the declining efficiency of debt itself. In the early 2000s, China's Incremental Capital Output Ratio remained relatively healthy, meaning investment still generated strong returns in growth. That relationship has deteriorated sharply. The economy now requires vastly larger injections of credit to produce the same unit of output. More investment is generating progressively less demand.

Real estate once concealed many of these contradictions. At its peak, the property sector accounted for nearly a quarter of China's GDP when upstream and downstream sectors were included. More importantly, real estate became the primary store of household wealth, accounting for roughly

70% of household assets.

The Growing Property Crisis

This is what makes China's property slowdown so economically dangerous. Falling property values are not simply weakening construction activity. They are eroding household balance sheets themselves. The result increasingly resembles the dynamics of a balance-sheet recession where households, firms, and local governments simultaneously become more cautious, indebted, and reluctant to spend.

The collapse in land sales has intensified the problem further. For years, local governments relied heavily on land transfers to finance infrastructure spending and service debt linked to Local Government Financing Vehicles. That mechanism has now weakened dramatically, severing one of the central feedback loops that sustained China's investment-heavy growth model.

The broader macroeconomic signals are becoming increasingly difficult to ignore. Core inflation averaged just 0.5% in 2024, while the IMF estimates China continues to operate with a negative output gap of roughly -1%. Producer-price deflation has persisted through prolonged periods, revealing the extent of excess industrial capacity.

At the same time, the demographic foundations of the old model are deteriorating rapidly. China's fertility rate now hovers near 1.0, far below replacement levels. The working-age population peaked nearly a decade ago and has been declining steadily since.

What Japan Did Differently

This is where the comparison with Japan becomes especially unsettling.

When Japan's debt and property bubble collapsed in the early 1990s, it had already become a wealthy society. Its per capita income had reached lev-



els comparable to the United States. China, by contrast, is confronting demographic decline, debt saturation, and property stagnation at a per capita income level of roughly \$13,000.

In effect, China is ageing before fully becoming a high-income consumption economy.

That distinction matters enormously because the obvious solution to China's imbalance, stronger household consumption, is politically and institutionally difficult to achieve. Rebalancing towards consumption would require redistributing income away from state-linked investment sectors, local governments, and industrial producers toward households themselves. It would mean accepting slower investment growth and weaker industrial expansion.

Doing Business Elsewhere

Instead, China appears increasingly reliant on industrial expansion once again, only this time through newer sectors tied to green transition.

This is where the "New Three" sectors - electric vehicles, batteries, and solar manufacturing - become central

to understanding the next phase of the global economy.

On the surface, these sectors are often presented as evidence of China's technological success. In reality, they also reflect the survival logic of an economy still attempting to compensate for weak domestic demand through industrial expansion. The numbers themselves are staggering. According to Bruegel's 2026 estimates, Chinese solar manufacturing capacity has now reached roughly 1,200 gigawatts, enough to meet domestic demand four times over and exceed total global demand by more than double. The International Energy Agency's 2026 Global EV Outlook similarly confirms that China produced roughly 16 million electric vehicles in 2025, exceeding domestic demand by roughly 20%. That surplus inevitably seeks external markets. Chinese EV exports doubled to roughly 2.5 million units in 2025. Even after the European Union imposed tariffs of up to 35%, Chinese firms adapted by aggressively expanding hybrid vehicle exports, capturing roughly 9.5% of the European market by late 2025.

Three-Day FDP on AI Tools by KPMG Begins at Aditya University



Gandepalli, Pen Power, June 3: three-day Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on "AI Tools by KPMG" commenced at Aditya University, Surampalem, under the

aegis of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, said Deputy Pro-Chancellor Dr. M. Srinivasa Reddy. Resource persons Amit Choudhary and Ayushman Ghosh conducted the training, highlighting various AI tools, their applications, and the growing importance of artificial intelligence in education and professional sectors. They also emphasized the significance of Prompt Engineering and its future potential in research and innovation.

Around 100 faculty members participated in the programme and interacted with the experts to clarify their queries.

Vice-Chancellor Dr. M.B. Srinivas, Pro Vice-Chancellors Dr. S. Ramasri and Dr. A. Ramesh, Registrar Dr. G. Suresh, Associate Dean Dr. M.V. Rajesh, Associate Dean Dr. A. Vanathi, and other faculty members attended the inaugural session.

Machinery Must Be Ready for SIR: Collector Keerthi Chekuri

Rajahmendravaram, June 3 (Pen Power): East Godavari District Collector Keerthi Chekuri directed officials to make all necessary arrangements for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls as per the Election Commission's schedule. She participated in a video conference chaired by Chief Secretary G. Sai Prasad and Chief Electoral Officer Vivek Yadav on Wednesday. The Collector said training programmes will be conducted from June 5 to 14, followed by a door-to-door survey by BLOs from June 15 to July 14. The draft electoral roll will be published on July 21, while the final roll will be released on September 22. She stated that proposals for 217 additional polling stations have been sent in the district. As of May 25, voter mapping was completed for 10.88 lakh voters (66.96%), while mapping for the remaining voters is in progress. A toll-free helpline, 1950, is available for voter



assistance, and special help desks will also be established across the district.

Mass Tree Plantation Preparations in Hostels on June 5: Collector Vinod Kumar



Bapatla, June 3 (Pen Power): District Collector Dr. V. Vinod Kumar directed officials to undertake large-scale pit

digging and tree plantation activities in all hostels across the district on June 5 as part of the "Net Zero & Healthy Campus" initiative. Chairing a district-level committee meeting on Wednesday, the Collector instructed officials to identify suitable land in every hostel for plantation and ensure participation of students, parents, public representatives, and local communities.

He said all SC, ST, BC, and Minority Welfare hostels and residential schools would be transformed into Net Zero and Healthy Campuses. The initiative includes seven key components such as increasing green cover, installing solar rooftop systems, solid waste management, kitchen gardens, wastewater reuse, rainwater harvesting, and promoting personal hygiene.

The Collector also directed officials to complete all preparatory arrangements and upload hostel-related data before the June 5 programme.

Healthy Electoral Roll is Everyone's Responsibility: Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha

Vijayawada, June 3 (Pen Power): District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha called upon political parties to cooperate in the successful conduct of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in accordance with the Election Commission of India guidelines. Chairing a meeting with representatives of recognized political parties on Wednesday, the Collector said training and preparatory activities for election staff, BLOs, and supervisors will be held from June 5 to 14. Enumeration and voter data collection will take place from June 15 to July 14.

The draft electoral roll will be published on July 21, followed by the claims and objections period from July 21 to August 20. The final electoral roll is scheduled for publication on September 22.

Stressing the importance of an error-free voter list for a strong democracy, the Collector urged political parties to appoint Booth Level Agents (BLAs) at all polling stations



and extend full cooperation to the revision process. He also stated that proposals have been sent for the establishment of 129 new polling stations in the district.

160 Petitions Received at Hukumpeta Grievance Redressal Program



Paderu, June 3 (Pen Power): A special Mandal Grievance Redressal Program was conducted at Hukumpeta mandal headquarters in Alluri Sitharama Raju district on Wednesday, where District Collector Nishanthi T. per-

sonally received petitions from the public. The Collector said the initiative is being organized every week in different mandals to bring administration closer to the people and resolve issues quickly. Around 160 petitions were received from residents of various villages in Hukumpeta mandal, making it one of the highest turnouts so far. Most complaints related to roads, drinking water, electricity, and revenue issues. The Collector directed officials to prioritize road connectivity in tribal and remote villages, expedite pending works, and address drinking water problems through available government schemes. She also warned officials against negligence and ordered show-cause notices to be issued to several officers who remained absent from the program without prior permission.

Complete Jaladhara-Jalaharathi Works by June 30: Collector Harendhira Prasad

Kakinada, June 3 (Pen Power): District Collector M.N. Harendhira Prasad directed officials to complete all Jaladhara-Jalaharathi works in the district by June 30 while maintaining quality standards. Reviewing the programme's progress through a video conference on Wednesday, the Collector said 2,061 works were identified, of which 1,837 have received approval. Under the MGNREGS scheme, 1,859 works worth ₹105.60 crore have been taken up, and grounding has been completed for 1,263 works so far.

He instructed officials to speed up tank restoration, desilting of canals, and feeder channel repairs, using machinery wherever necessary to ensure timely completion. The Collector also stressed better coordination among departments and increased focus on generating employment under the rural employment guarantee scheme in lagging mandals.



Palle Veekshan Petitions to Be Resolved Within 30 Days: Collector Himanshu Shukla

Nellore, June 3 (Pen Power): District Collector Himanshu Shukla said petitions received during the innovative "Palle Veekshan" programme will be resolved within 30 days through a dedicated monitoring system. During a visit to Kulluru village in Kaluvayi mandal along with Venkatagiri MLA Kurugondla Ramakrishna, the Collector inspected MGNREGS works, an Anganwadi centre, drinking water facilities, a village health clinic, and interacted with farmers and villagers.

Addressing the media, the Collector said a special team has been constituted to resolve revenue and land-related issues, which formed the majority of petitions received. He warned that those involved in land encroachments, fake pattas, or fraudulent land documents would face strict legal action and imprisonment.



The Collector stated that all petitions are being uploaded to a special online portal for speedy disposal. MLA Ramakrishna appreciated the programme, saying it enables officials to directly reach people and resolve their grievances at the village level.

PM SVANidhi Transforming Lives of Street Vendors: Union Minister Manohar Lal



Vijayawada, June 3 (Pen Power): Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal said the PM SVANidhi scheme has opened new avenues of economic growth for street vendors across the country. Launched in

June 2020 under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the scheme provides collateral-free working capital loans of up to ₹50,000 in three stages, along with a 7% interest subsidy for timely repayment. Over the past six

years, nearly 76 lakh street vendors have benefited, with loans exceeding ₹17,800 crore disbursed under the scheme.

The Minister said PM SVANidhi has helped vendors access formal banking services, build credit history, and improve financial stability. More than 55 lakh beneficiaries have adopted digital payments through UPI and QR codes, strengthening their participation in the digital economy.

He added that women constitute around 46% of the beneficiaries, making the scheme a significant contributor to women's economic empowerment and financial inclusion.

Special Screening for 6-Year-Old Children Under Navachetana Programme

Vijayawada, June 3 (Pen Power):

District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha said the government has launched the Navachetana programme to ensure the holistic development of children and provide them with a healthy future. He called upon officials of all concerned departments to work in coordination for the successful implementation of the initiative.

Speaking at a district-level training programme held at the Collectorate on Wednesday, the Collector said the programme aims to identify developmental delays and disabilities in children at an early stage and provide timely support services. Using Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based mobile and digital tools, children's physical, mental, language, social, and self-help skills

will be assessed.

He stated that screening data will be recorded through a dedicated app, and children requiring special attention will be referred to medical experts and specialists. Emphasizing that the first 1,000 days of a child's life are crucial, he noted that nearly 80% of brain development occurs before the age of three.

Officials from the Women Development & Child Welfare Department, Health Department, and other allied departments participated in the training programme.



Government Fully Committed to PM CARES Children: Collector Harendhira Prasad



Kakinada, June 3 (Pen Power): District Collector M.N. Harendhira Prasad said the government is fully committed

to securing the future of children who lost both parents during the COVID-19 pandemic and are benefiting under the PM CARES for Children scheme. Speaking at an interaction meeting with beneficiaries held at the Collectorate on Wednesday, the Collector encouraged children to focus on education and make the best use of the financial and welfare support provided by the Centre and State governments. He stated that 24 children in Kakinada district are currently covered under the scheme. Each beneficiary receives financial assistance of ₹10 lakh under PM CARES and ₹10 lakh under CM CARES, along with health insurance coverage of ₹5 lakh under Ayushman Bharat. Officials also explained the scheme's benefits, including monthly stipends from the age of 18, a corpus fund at 23 years, educational support, and access to higher education loans.

Two-Day Faculty Development Programme Concludes at Aditya University

Gandepalli, Pen Power, June 3: A two-day Faculty Development Programme on "Google Artificial Intelligence Tools" organized by the Department of Information Technology at Aditya University, Surampalem, concluded successfully on June 3, said Deputy Pro-Chancellor Dr. M. Srinivasa Reddy. The programme featured Google for Education Digital Transformation Lead Isha Porwal and Google for Education partner Up Educators Lead Trainer Aarthi Kumaran as resource persons. The training focused on equipping faculty members with practical knowledge of AI tools for teaching, research, content creation, coding, and data analysis. University officials stated that the initiative was aimed at integrating modern AI technologies into academic and research activities, enhancing classroom teaching and student projects. Vice-Chancellor Dr.



M.B. Srinivas, Pro Vice-Chancellors Dr. S. Ramasri and Dr. A. Ramesh, Registrar Dr. G. Suresh, Associate Dean Dr. M.V. Rajesh, IT Department Head Dr. Makineni Raja Babu, Programme Coordinator Dr. Karnam Srinivas, and faculty members participated in the event.

Preparations for Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls from June 5

Vijayawada, June 3 (Pen Power): District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha



said that an error-free electoral roll is essential for strengthening democracy and ensuring voting rights to every eligible citizen. Preparatory activities for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR)-2026 will be conducted from June 5 to 14. Following a video conference chaired by

Chief Secretary G. Sai Prasad, the Collector reviewed the programme with district officials. He said house-to-house verification by BLOs will be carried out from June 15 to July 14. The draft electoral roll will be published on July 21, while claims and objections will be accepted from July 21 to August 20. After scrutiny and disposal of applications, the final electoral roll will be published on September 22.

The Collector directed officials to strictly follow Election Commission guidelines and ensure proper training, coordination with political parties, and smooth distribution and collection of enumeration forms.

Collector Directs Preparation of DPR for Underground Drainage System

Guntur, June 3 (Pen Power): District Collector and Guntur Municipal Corporation Special Officer M. Sai Kanth Varma directed officials to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for establishing a comprehensive Underground Drainage (UGD) system across Guntur city. Reviewing urban development projects with GMC officials, the Collector instructed them to assess completed and pending UGD works and include plans for zone-wise Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs). He also called for a feasibility analysis of the proposed reconstruction of PVN Naidu



Market. The Collector emphasized strengthening the city's water supply network to ensure continuous water supply to households and prevent waterborne diseases. He further reviewed plans for the modernization and beautification of eight major city junctions, including Jinnah Tower, Hindu College Junction, Collector Office Junction, and Chuttugunta Junction.

Land Pooling Details to be Submitted to CRDA: In-charge Collector Sanjana Sinha

Narasaraopet, Pen Power, June 03: District In-charge Collector Sanjana Sinha directed officials to compile and submit details of farmers who agreed for land pooling in Amaravati mandal, along with records of Endowments and Revenue department lands, to CRDA at the earliest. Reviewing the land pooling process at the Collectorate on Wednesday, she said the government's main objective is to speed up the process and ensure timely compensation to farmers. Officials were instructed



to improve coordination and information sharing among departments. She also ordered field surveys of Endowment lands, registered and unregistered lands, jarib lands, tanks, canal poramboke lands and other categories, and asked officials to prepare a clear and detailed report. Sattenapalli RDO Sriramulu, CRDA Special Deputy Collector Ramanakanth Reddy, Amaravati Tahsildar Nagesh and other officials attended the meeting.

Public Participation Vital for Pollution Control: Collector Abhishikt Kishore



Visakhapatnam, June 3 (Pen Power): District Collector M. Abhishikt Kishore stressed that public participation is essential for environmental protection and pollution control,

urging citizens to contribute towards conserving natural resources and creating a greener future. The Collector, along with Police Commissioner Sankhabrata Bagchi and other

officials, unveiled a World Environment Day 2026 awareness poster prepared by the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB).

Highlighting this year's theme, "Inspired by Nature - Protecting Climate for Our Future," officials said the poster promotes awareness on plastic, air, water, soil, and noise pollution, besides encouraging tree plantation, waste segregation, water conservation, eco-friendly transport, and sustainable development practices.

Siraj, Tilak to headline inaugural TG20 player auction on June 7



Hyderabad: India internationals Mohammed Siraj and Tilak Varma will headline the marquee player auction pool for the inaugural edition of the TG20 franchise cricket league, scheduled for Sunday at the Princess Convention Centre in Ramoji Film City. The auction pool features several established domestic heavyweights, including Rohit Rayudu, Rahul Buddhi, CV Milind, and Tanmay Agarwal, all of whom are expected to trigger intense bidding wars among franchise owners. The list also highlights some of Telangana's brightest emerging prospects, including India U-19 representative Aaron George and key members of the state's recent Vinoo Mankad Trophy-winning squad. More than 1,300 Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA)-registered cricketers will go under the hammer as the eight franchises begin assembling their squads for the state's landmark

sporting event. The auction marks a major milestone for TG20, Telangana's first-ever franchise-based T20 tournament. The league is set to feature eight franchise teams competing across 32 matches over a 21-day window, bringing together the finest cricketing talent from across the state. The eight franchises competing in the inaugural season are the Hyderabad e-Champions, Pranava Ranga Reddy Risers, Warangal Warriors, Medak Falcons, Anurag Nalgonda Knights, Karimnagar Diamonds, Palamuru Strikers, and Anvita Khammam Aces. The auction process will commence with the marquee 'Icon' category, followed by the A+, A, B, C1, and C2 divisions, enabling franchises to build balanced and competitive squads of up to 20 players each. To ensure

grassroots representation, every franchise must include a minimum of four district cricketers in its squad, with at least two district players featuring in the playing XI. Teams will also have the opportunity to pick promising U-19 talent and playing who excelled during the league's extensive open-trial program. Each franchise will enter the auction room with a purse of Rs.60 lakh and a mandatory minimum spend of Rs.54 lakh, ensuring competitive parity and strategic squad-building throughout the day. Former India international Ambati Rayudu, Chairman of the HCA's Cricket Operations Committee, and his team have played a pivotal role in the build-up. They conducted extensive open trials that generated unprecedented interest among aspiring cricketers from both urban and rural district regions.

IGPL Bharath Classic: Gaganjeet Bhullar leads Indian challenge in Morocco

El Jadida: India's Gaganjeet Bhullar, the winner of the most Asian Tour titles among all active players, former Order of Merit winner Jazz Janewattananond, and an in-form Ian Snyman will spearhead a star-studded field at the USD 500,000 IGPL Bharath Classic.

More than 40 players from the Indian Golf Premier League (IGPL) Tour have gained entry into the lucrative event. The Bharath Classic, which serves as the flagship event on the IGPL Tour, has shifted to Morocco this season following a highly successful inaugural edition at the Kensville Golf Resort in India last year. The Asian Tour's evolving partnership with the IGPL is a vital component of this international swing, with both this week's and last week's tournaments being co-sanctioned. The tournament has quickly established itself as a significant feature on both the Indian and Asian golfing calendars, offering regional players a direct pathway to the upper echelons of the sport. A victory this week guarantees the winner a full card on the Asian Tour, while high finishes open the doors to the elite International Series. Crucially, the next International Series stop is scheduled to take place right here in Morocco next week. "Getting to an event like this is exactly what the IGPL has pro-



vided for us, plus there are immense opportunities on the International Series," said Pukhraj Singh Gill, winner of the AM Green IGPL Order of Merit 2025. Gill has already made his debut in the International Series and will tee up again next week at the USD 2 million event alongside a galaxy of Major champions. Bhullar, who sits third on the all-time list of Asian Tour winners, is eyeing a historic victory this week. While his last official Asian Tour triumph came 30 months ago in November 2023, the experienced Indian has remained in winning form, clinching four titles on the domestic IGPL circuit since then—most recently in March at Chandigarh, which has now become his home base. Apart from Bhullar, the Indian challenge will be led by Pukhraj Gill, Karandeep Kochhar, Udayan Mane, and the promising

young Kartik Singh, who finished tied-12th on the Asian Development Tour (ADT) last week. Shaurya Bhattacharya, Aman Raj, Sachin Baisoya, and Aryan Roopa Anand round off a formidable contingent. Standing in their way is South Africa's Ian Snyman, currently third on the Asian Tour Order of Merit. Snyman secured his maiden Asian Tour title at the Taiwan Glass Taifong Open last month and has built a remarkable run of form, placing tied-10th at the Korea Open, tied-3rd at the Maekyung Open, and tied-5th at the season-opening Philippine Golf Championship. Other heavyweight contenders include Thailand's Pavit Tangkamolprasert, currently fourth on the Order of Merit following a runner-up finish in the Philippines and a tied-2nd showing at the International Series Japan. Sweden's Charlie Lindh also enters the fray in

red-hot form, coming off a solo second-place finish at the Korea Open and a tied-6th result at the New Zealand Open. American Austen Truslow adds further depth to the field. Truslow is enjoying a highly consistent season, marked by a tied-4th finish at International Series Japan, a tied-9th result in the Philippines, and a victory at the New Zealand PGA Championship on the PGA Tour of Australasia earlier this year. Thailand's 2019 Order of Merit champion Jazz Janewattananond, a nine-time Asian Tour winner, will also fancy his chances on a terrain he loves; his last tour victory occurred in this very country at the 2022 International Series Morocco. Additionally, last week's ADT winner Tanapat Pichaikool will look to carry his blistering momentum into El Jadida. Thailand's Poosit Suppramai, who won the inaugural crown in Gujarat last year, is also in the field to mount a rigorous title defense. The 144-player tournament will enforce a cut after 36 holes, with the top 65 players and ties advancing to the weekend rounds. The spectacular Mazagan Beach & Golf Resort, set along Morocco's scenic Atlantic coast, features an iconic 18-hole links-style course designed by South African golfing legend and nine-time Major champion Gary Player.

Kerala retain overall crown at National Armwrestling and Para-Armwrestling Championship

Gandhinagar: Kerala emerged as the overall champions at the 4th National Armwrestling & Para-Armwrestling Championship, successfully defending their title by securing the highest medal count for the second consecutive year. The championship was organized by the Armwrestling Sports Association Gujarat, led by President Rajendrasinh Parmar and Treasurer Mayank Patel, under the aegis of the People's Armwrestling Federation India (PAFI). Yuvraj Verma stole the spotlight by clinching the Senior Men's 'Champion of Champions' title. After dominating the 110 kg category, Verma went on a remarkable winning streak, defeating heavyweights from lighter divisions. His path to the crown included victories over Denic Lalruattluanga (90 kg) and Vethozo Lohe (85 kg), before he bested Aabhas Rana (100 kg) in a thrilling grand final. Verma also secured a rare double by winning gold in both the right-hand and left-hand divisions of the 110 kg category. In the women's division, Madhura Hassan claimed the ultimate prize, winning the Women's 'Champion of Champions' title after outclassing Mizoram's K. Lalhriatpui in the final. The tournament witnessed several major upsets that reshaped the division hierarchies. Most notably, 18-year-old Aabhas Rana sent shockwaves through the venue by defeating the previously unbeaten Mazahir Saidu in the 100 kg final, ending Saidu's long-standing dominance in the category. Meanwhile, Kerala's Joshua J registered a breakthrough performance in the women's division, securing a gold medal by overcoming



two of India's most decorated armwrestlers, Yogesh Chaudhary and Nirmal Devi. Reflecting on the tournament's success, Preeti Jhangiani, President of the People's Armwrestling Federation India (PAFI) and Vice President of the Asian Armwrestling Federation (AAF), stated: "This championship has showcased the incredible depth of talent that now exists in Indian armwrestling. From established champions defending their title by securing the highest medal count for the second consecutive year. The championship was organized by the Armwrestling Sports Association Gujarat, led by President

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Satwik's shoulder niggle ends Indonesia Open run; Sindhu enters second round

Jakarta: India's premier men's doubles badminton pair, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, bowed out of the Indonesia Open on Wednesday after retiring midway through their first-round match due to Satwiksairaj's recurring right shoulder injury. The world No. 4 duo were trailing 6-11 in the opening game against Malaysia's Kang Khai Xing

and Aaron Tai when Satwiksairaj indicated discomfort in his right shoulder, which has troubled him recently. Realising the risk, the Indian pair decided to retire from the contest, handing their opponents a spot in the next round. "Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty have withdrawn from the Indonesia Open 2026 due to the former's injury. The

pair will now focus on recovery and rehabilitation as they prepare for the important tournaments ahead. We wish Satwik a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing the duo back on court soon," the Badminton Association of India (BAI) said in a statement. Satwiksairaj's persistent shoulder issue had previously forced the reigning Asian

Games champions to withdraw from the Badminton Asia Championships earlier this year. The injury setback comes just days after the duo scripted history by bouncing back from a game down to defeat Indonesia's Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Shohibul Fikri 18-21, 21-17, 21-16, becoming the first Indian men's pair to clinch the Singapore Open title.