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Wipro Pune Ex-Staff Accuses Woman Boss Of Forced Religious Conversion



Pune: A woman who worked at Wipro's Pune campus has alleged that her former boss harassed her over religious grounds and tried to force her into religious conversion, due to which she had to quit her job. She has filed a police complaint and approached the state's human rights body against her boss - a woman who lives in Bengaluru. A Wipro spokesperson in a statement said they have been cooperating with the authorities and provided all documents and information with the Pune Police. According to the complainant, while working at Wipro's campus in Pune's Hinjewadi, she was targeted by some senior managers and team leaders specifically because of her religious beliefs. She alleged she was

subjected to constant psychological pressure to convert to Islam and to adhere to its practices. When she resisted, workplace harassment intensified and her manager threatened to give her a poor performance review and fire her, she alleged, adding she left her job due to stress and mental harassment. She decided to take the legal route after not getting a proper response from the IT company's internal mechanism. The Pune Police have started looking into the allegations, a senior police officer said. "A female project manager at Wipro has filed a complaint with us alleging that her female boss, who was involved in insurance-related operations, made certain objectionable remarks about her," senior police officer Balaji Pandhare said.

Prime Minister meets Venezuela's Acting President Delcy Rodriguez

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Venezuela's Acting President Delcy Rodriguez here in the national capital on Thursday. The leaders met at the Hyderabad House. The two leaders are expected to have discussed the full spectrum of India-Venezuela relations, focusing on energy security, trade and investment, pharmaceuticals, healthcare, transportation, and renewable energy. Earlier, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met Rodriguez and reaffirmed India's commitment to strengthening ties with the South American nation. In a post on X, Jaishankar said he was "pleased to call on Acting President Delcy Rodriguez of Venezuela in New Delhi today" and expressed appreciation for her longstanding commitment to the India-Venezuela relationship. "Deeply value her longstanding commitment to the India-Venezuela relationship," the minister said, adding that Rodriguez's meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi would further strengthen cooperation between the two countries. Venezuela's Acting President Delcy Rodriguez arrived in the national capital



for a five-day working visit aimed at further deepening the bilateral ties between India and Venezuela. Welcoming the Venezuelan leader, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in a post on X said that the visit would provide an opportunity for both countries to strengthen cooperation and build on the momentum in their bilateral partnership. "A warm welcome to Acting President Delcy Rodriguez of Venezuela on her arrival in New Delhi. During her visit, Acting President Rodriguez will hold bilateral talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The visit will further deepen India-Venezuela ties and build on the momentum in the bilateral partnership," the post read. According to a release, the MEA said that the visit will be from June 3 to June 7. Rodriguez was earlier scheduled to visit India to participate in the International Big Cat Alliance Summit on June 1, which was subsequently deferred. She is now undertaking a formal working visit accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising Venezuela's Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Economy and Finance, Science and Technology, Communication and Information, and Transportation.

PM Modi's mega development: Rs.22,000 crore projects across Gujarat, Daman, Lakshadweep

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Gujarat and Daman on June 5, 2026. At around 2:30 pm, the Prime Minister will visit Hazira in Surat district to review ongoing industrial operations and infrastructure projects. At around 4:15 pm, he will inaugurate, dedicate to the nation, and lay the foundation stone of various development projects worth around Rs.18,800 crore in Surat. He will also address a public gathering on the occasion. The Prime Minister will then travel to Daman, where at around 6:15 pm, he will inaugurate the new terminal building of NAMO Airport in Daman. This will be followed by the dedication of NAMO Hospital to the nation. Thereafter, at around 7:15 pm, the Prime Minister will inaugurate, dedicate, and lay the foundation stone of development projects worth around Rs.2,970 crore in Daman. He will also address a public gathering.

Rs.18,800 crore across the road, power, and industrial sectors. He will dedicate Packages VI and VII of the Vadodra-Mumbai Expressway to the nation, aimed at enhancing high-speed transportation, logistics efficiency, and economic connectivity between Gujarat and Maharashtra. The Prime Minister will also lay the foundation stone for key infrastructure projects, including the four-laning of critical sections of NH-56 to improve connectivity across tribal regions and enhance access to the Statue of Unity. He will inaugurate a 200-bedded ESIC Hospital in Surat, equipped with modern secondary healthcare facilities across key specialties, a central laboratory, and 24x7 emergency and trauma care services for timely treatment of occupational injuries and medical emergencies. He will also inaugurate critical utility and industrial infrastructure projects, including the transmission network expansion in Gujarat to enhance power evacuation capacity under the Inter-State Transmission System. Additionally, the



Prime Minister will inaugurate several key initiatives of the Gujarat government, including modern power distribution upgrades under the Revamped Reforms-Based Distribution Sector Scheme in Valsad, advanced effluent disposal and treatment infrastructure at Dahej Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemical Investment Region (PCPIR) and Sarigam GIDC, and essential utility infrastructure at the Jambusar Bulk Drug Park. In Daman, the projects worth around Rs.2,970 crore span healthcare, civil aviation, tourism, infrastructure, connectivity, and public welfare sectors, and are expected to boost the overall development of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

Minister Lokesh on Investment Drive in Russia; Major Projects Proposed for Andhra Pradesh



From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, June 04: Andhra Pradesh Minister for Information Technology and Industries, Nara Lokesh, participated in the

prestigious SPIEF (St. Petersburg International Economic Forum) business forum being held in Russia. Recalling the long-standing technological and economic

relationship between India and Russia, Minister Lokesh stated that Andhra Pradesh would play a key role in achieving the bilateral trade target of \$100 bil-

lion by 2030. Declaring that the government's objective is to transform Andhra Pradesh into a \$2.5 trillion economy through its "Speed of Doing Business" approach, he invited international industrialists not merely as investors but as equal partners in the state's development. As part of the forum, Minister Lokesh held a special meeting with Ivan Demchenko, Chairman of Russia's leading steel giant Novostal-M. He requested the company to establish an advanced EAF (Electric Arc Furnace) Green Steel Plant in India and also set up a railway track rolling mill at Sri City, Andhra Pradesh's

premier industrial hub. Later, Minister Lokesh participated in a meeting with Tagir Sitdekov, President of the global investment company Sistema, where discussions focused on innovative transportation and technology projects in the state. He proposed the launch of environmentally friendly Electric River Metro pilot projects on Andhra Pradesh's inland waterways. In addition, Minister Nara Lokesh invited Sistema to become a partner in the Quantum Valley Framework Project, which is being developed as a hub for future technologies in Andhra Pradesh.

Party Is Supreme, and the Party Worker Is the Leader: CM

Kakinada District: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) National President N. Chandrababu Naidu called upon party cadres to work like disciplined soldiers under the principle that "the party is supreme and the party worker is the leader." Chandrababu participated in a TDP workers' meeting held in Tuni. Addressing the gathering, he urged every party worker to strive for continued electoral success for the NDA alliance. He also directed party cadres to take the benefits of the government's "Super Six" welfare schemes directly to the

people. The Chief Minister stated that the government aims to reduce the burden of electricity bills by installing solar panels on every household and providing free electricity. He also advised party workers to explain to the public the benefits of various welfare initiatives, including free agricultural pump sets for farmers and free medical treatment up to ₹2.5 lakh under the Universal Health Scheme. Chandrababu emphasized the need to significantly increase the participation of women in village- and cluster-level meetings. He said it is the party's moral responsibility to ensure that



dedicated workers who place their trust in the party are able to progress economically. The Chief Minister further directed party leaders and workers to organize International Yoga Day celebrations across the state on June 21.

Two Years Since the People's Verdict: A New Beginning for Andhra Pradesh's Development: CM

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, June 4: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu stated that June 4, 2024, will remain a historic day in the state's history. He remarked that it has been two years since the people delivered what he described as an extraordinary mandate to steer Andhra Pradesh from destruction towards development. The Chief Minister emphasized that the victory was not merely a grant of political power but a noble responsibility entrusted by the people for the reconstruction of the state. Chandrababu made these remarks in a post on the social media platform X.

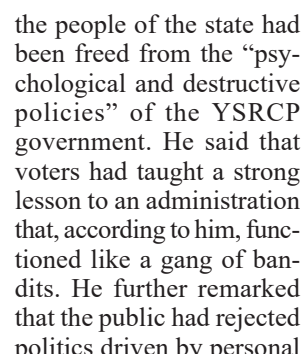
Working to Fulfil the Aspirations of the People
 The Chief Minister said that, respecting the responsibility entrusted to his government, efforts are being made every moment to fulfil the hopes and aspirations of the people. He stated that the government is working for the welfare of all sections of society—including farmers, women, youth, employees, and workers—with a focus on welfare, development, and good governance. Chandrababu said that the government's objective is to build a society free from inequalities and ensure balanced development across all regions of the state. He added that the administration is committed to

preserving the trust placed in it by the people and transforming Andhra Pradesh into a healthy, wealthy, and happy state. The Chief Minister further stated that the government is functioning in a manner that honors the mandate given by the people and makes them proud of their decision. He concluded by expressing his gratitude to everyone who has supported the government and stood by it throughout its journey.

June 4 Marks the End of YSRCP's Destructive Rule and the Beginning of an Era of Development: Minister Mandipalli

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, June 4: Andhra Pradesh Minister Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy remarked that two years have been completed since the end of YSRCP rule in the state. He stated that this was the day when the people delivered a historic verdict against what he described as an anti-people administration. He emphasized that the landslide victory of the coalition led by the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) was a milestone in the history of Andhra Pradesh. Speaking to the media at the Secretariat in Velagapudi on Thursday, Minister Mandipalli said that the people had permanently rejected what he termed the anarchic and destructive governance of Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. The Minister stated that

the people of the state had been freed from the "psychological and destructive policies" of the YSRCP government. He said that voters had taught a strong lesson to an administration that, according to him, functioned like a gang of bandits. He further remarked that the public had rejected politics driven by personal vendettas and harassment. Mandipalli alleged that the state had fallen behind in all sectors during YSRCP's tenure. He said that people had extended overwhelming support to the coalition in order to protect democracy. According to the Minister, Andhra Pradesh has once again embarked on the path of development under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. He stated that the reconstruction of Amaravati stands as proof of the coalition government's commitment. He added that within



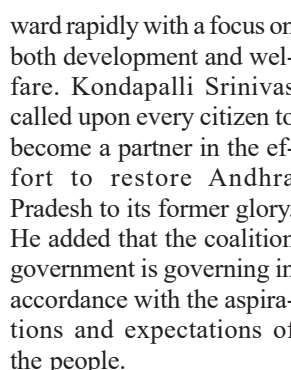
two years, the government had brought about visible changes in both development and welfare sectors. The Minister said that the coalition government is continuing its administration in line with the aspirations of the people. He concluded by stating that this day would remain memorable, as it marked the end of what he described as YSRCP's destructive governance and the beginning of a new era of development under the coalition government.

Be Partners in Restoring Andhra Pradesh's Former Glory: Minister Kondapalli Srinivas

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, June 4: Andhra Pradesh Minister Kondapalli Srinivas stated that two years have passed since the people of the state were freed from what he described as a destructive administration. Speaking to the media on Thursday, he alleged that former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan

Mohan Reddy had betrayed the people of Andhra Pradesh through what he termed five years of "oppressive rule." He expressed confidence that the people, who delivered a historic verdict in 2024, would deliver a similar verdict again in 2029. The Minister said that democratic values and gov-

ernance have once again become visible in the state following the formation of the coalition government. He stated that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu is leading the state on the path of progress while correcting the damage caused by the previous government. According to him, the coalition government is moving forward rapidly with a focus on both development and welfare. Kondapalli Srinivas called upon every citizen to become a partner in the effort to restore Andhra Pradesh to its former glory. He added that the coalition government is governing in accordance with the aspirations and expectations of the people.



EDITORIAL

Did you find what you were looking for during the Pushkara period?

'Whether Varma or Sharma is carried in the palanquin... the weight makes no difference to the bearer', writes Rachakonda Viswanatha Sastri (Ravi Sastri). After decades of struggle with strong hopes and aspirations, and a series of movements, the separate state of Telangana has come true and the Pushkarakaal has come to an end. If those who 'brought' the state ruled for nine and a half years, then those who 'gave' the state, who claim to have come to power with the support of the people, have only been in power for two and a half years! Overall, after the Pushkarakaal has passed... is Telangana on the path to achieving its goals? In Telangana, where the concept of its own state has blossomed and blossomed from a state that was not breathing in the joint state, are the hopes of all the people being fulfilled? Has the old system of exploitation gone in the separate state and governance is being carried out in the way expected? Has the slogan 'water-funds-appointments' that inspired the movements come true and are their fruits being enjoyed by the citizens? Have the average lives of the Sabbanda Varnas improved? These are all questions that need to be answered now! Because, twelve years is a reasonable time in the cycle of time! And, are the results reasonable?

The Telangana Statehood Day celebrations were grand and enthusiastic. It has been twelve years since the state was formed. What have we achieved? It is time to take stock. Telangana has a different history than many other states that have been in existence since the beginning of the country's post-independence period! A long reign of almost eight decades. How is 'Telangana', which gained independence a year late from the tyrannical rule of the Nizam, once formed as Vishal Andhra along with others, and once separated and granted separate state status, today? Have the living standards of the average person improved? We must ask ourselves. Why did they demand a separate state? Is that desire being fulfilled after fighting for it? This is the most fundamental question of all. Along with the rulers, activists, intellectuals, and other social scientists must answer this. In that order, the issue of reviewing the developments is coming up for discussion. Praja Telangana, democratic Telangana... Despite the prevalence of many such concepts, there is dissatisfaction that not only a geographical Telangana but also a social Telangana has not yet been formed. The reason for this is the lack of inclusive growth.

Governments claim to have achieved 'development' with various statistics. Critics say that figures are always half-truths. 'Development' is a Brahmana that does not have a single meaning. Whose development...? The question arises. The leaders of the previous government used to say that despite being a newly formed small state, Telangana was established as a leader in many aspects of the country. It is well known that the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) won the elections held immediately after the state was formed and formed the government, and won again in the early elections held in 2018 and remained in power for a total of almost nine and a half years! They used to say that they gave priority to irrigation projects, power generation and the agriculture sector. The opposition parties, however, criticized the lack of financial discipline during the ten years of rule, that the state was saddled with debts of Rs. 8 lakh crore, that they neglected the state's development activists, and that they made the youth extremely dissatisfied by not providing jobs and employment opportunities. The Congress came to power in the elections held in December 2023. The current opposition parties are criticizing that the previous government neglected water, funds, and appointments, and that they are the same in the Congress government that came to power after widespread publicity among the people. The rival BRS and BJP are criticizing that the 'implementation of six guarantees' that were promised to the people before the elections is also the end. The cycle of mutual criticism is going on.

Telangana, which was formed by including the joint state capital Hyderabad, was initially a financially surplus state. But, now it is difficult to get through the day! The situation is very miserable according to what the state's Deputy Chief Minister, Finance Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, is saying in the district-wise meetings of public representatives. If the average monthly revenue is 17, 18 thousand crore rupees, the monthly expenditure is 19 to 20 thousand crore rupees. On average, there is a deficit of Rs. 2,200 crore every month. As Chief Minister Revanth Reddy himself revealed earlier, one-third of the revenue is going towards debt installments and interest, while another third of the revenue is being spent on welfare schemes and programs. How should development programs be undertaken...? What are the funds...? The question is natural. In these circumstances, what is the benefit of the 2026-27 budget being approved by the House with Rs. 3.25 lakh crore...? The ruling Congress is criticizing the BJP-led NDA government at the Center for being completely non-cooperative and not even giving the state its fair share. There is also criticism that the state administration is not working efficiently and proactively in getting funds for various projects and programs from the Center. The government is collecting non-tax revenues by selling off government lands. The injustice in funds in the united state is due to the Andhra rulers, but the question is why is this situation happening in its own state too!

Trinamool Rebels Play In Midfield
As They Seek Mamata Banerjee's Advice

Ritabrata Bandopadhyay, who has now emerged as one of the key faces of the dissident camp inside the Trinamool Congress, recently made a politically significant statement during a press conference. He said that they want Mamata Banerjee to remain as an advisor to their opposition group within the party structure. This statement is extremely important because it reflects the core political line the dissidents are currently trying to project. They are not directly opposing Mamata Banerjee. In fact, they are repeatedly saying that they still respect her leadership, her political legacy, and her emotional connection with the people of Bengal. They do not want Mamata Banerjee's photograph removed from the party offices, nor are they claiming that she should no longer lead the movement ideologically. Their primary attack, according to Ritabrata and his associates, is actually directed at Abhishek Banerjee, the growing influence of IPAC-style political management, and what they describe as the increasing corporatisation of the Trinamool Congress. Without directly naming Abhishek Banerjee every time, several leaders from this camp have been arguing that the traditional grassroots structure of the party has been replaced by consultant-driven politics, centralised decision-making, and a closed-circle leadership culture. Their message is that if Mamata Banerjee remains emotionally and politically connected to the original

organisational character of the Trinamool, then they are still willing to continue under her moral guidance.

Now, why did Ritabrata say this?

Ritabrata's repeated praise of Mamata Banerjee is therefore not accidental. It is part of a carefully designed political strategy, and there are four factors for it. Ritabrata is seeking advice from Mamata Banerjee and wants to project that they are the real members of Trinamool and that they are planning to eliminate Abhishek Banerjee from the Trinamool opposition leaders. Ritabrata said that Abhishek Banerjee is not an MLA and is not directly linked to the legislative party structure inside the assembly. As a result, he can create a certain political distance between Mamata Banerjee and him. Moreover, they are trying to pressure Mamata Banerjee to take action against Abhishek Banerjee. If the action is taken against him, then only they will stay in the party. The group wants to project itself as an independent internal rebellion, not as a BJP-sponsored operation. Ritabrata and others are repeatedly trying to clarify that this has no connection with any 'Operation Lotus' or BJP-engineered political conspiracy. According to them, this is fundamentally a battle for the "opposition space" inside Bengal politics, a space which they believe the Trinamool itself has not allowed either the Congress or the Left Front to occupy effectively over the years. In fact, there had earlier been

discussions around creating a separate political space under the leadership of leaders like Mukul Roy and others who were uncomfortable with the present organisational structure of the Trinamool at that time. Now, the dissident faction believes that the party's internal crisis itself is opening that space naturally. One leader close to Ritabrata's group recently claimed that across several districts, ordinary Trinamool workers are being subjected to humiliation and intimidation. There are allegations that local police are being used against grassroots party workers, and in some places, people are allegedly being publicly insulted and harassed. The dissident camp argues that such politically motivated actions must stop immediately. Through these statements, the group is attempting to retain a moral distinction between themselves and the BJP while simultaneously criticising the current Trinamool leadership model. The larger political question now is whether this emerging "opposition space" will eventually be occupied by this dissident Trinamool faction, or whether the Congress and CPI(M) will ultimately benefit from the growing anti-incumbency sentiment in Bengal.

The Congress and the Left are already trying to rebuild themselves through broader anti-Trinamool political coordination. Whether they can successfully capture this dissatisfaction among voters remains uncertain. But the very fact that such a dis-



ussion is now happening shows how fluid Bengal politics has become after the recent political developments. At the same time, the internal condition of the Trinamool is becoming increasingly fragile. Mamata Banerjee has publicly maintained that she does not need any intermediary leadership because the common people of Bengal are still with her. According to her political argument, her strength comes directly from mass support rather than organisational manipulation. However, the recent Trinamool protest gathering in Kolkata's Esplanade appeared to reflect a somewhat different real-

ity. The turnout, the energy level, and the visible internal confusion raised questions even within the party about whether the emotional connection between the masses and the leadership remains as strong as before. Will the common people continue to stand firmly beside Mamata Banerjee despite the organisational rebellion, factionalism, and leadership crisis? Or is Bengal slowly entering a new phase where emotional loyalty to Mamata Banerjee and dissatisfaction with the present Trinamool structure are beginning to coexist simultaneously? That answer is still unfolding.

Forget Coding. The World's Hottest Jobs Now Belong To Plumbers, Electricians

For much of the past three decades, India's labour market has been defined by a familiar aspiration. Parents wanted engineers, managers, software developers, consultants, and government officers. Policymakers celebrated rising university enrolment. Young people were encouraged to leave manual trades behind in pursuit of white-collar mobility. The assumption seemed self-evident. Economic development would gradually reduce the importance of blue-collar work while increasing demand for degrees, professional services, and knowledge-based occupations. Around the world, that assumption is beginning to break down. Across advanced economies, ageing populations, shrinking workforces, and collapsing birth rates are creating labour shortages not primarily in finance, consulting, or software, but in occupations that require physical presence. Electricians, welders, plumbers, construction workers, machine operators, technicians, caregivers, and logistics workers have become some of the most sought-after employees in the global economy. The consequences of this shift are only beginning to be understood. For India, they could be profound.

A Global Shortage
The OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) estimates that the working-age population across member countries will decline by 8% by 2060. During the same period, annual public spending on pensions and healthcare is expected to rise by roughly 3% of GDP. The old-age dependency ratio has already climbed from 19% in 1980 to 31% today and is projected to reach 52% by 2060. These demographic shifts are no longer abstract forecasts. They are already appearing in labour markets. Over one-third of construction companies in Germany say they have unfilled vacancies. Lack of electricians, carpenters, masons and infrastructure workers is growing.

In the UK, almost 45% of construction jobs are tied to skills shortages, and industry estimates indicate that over 239,000 more workers will be required over the next five years. More than one-third of Britain's construction industry is due to retire by 2035. The pressures are the same in the United States. Manufacturing job openings have surged, construction openings are still high, and industry groups estimate there will be a shortage of 5,50,000 plumbers in the country by 2027. In the next 10 years, almost one-third of union electricians will be eligible for retirement. This is a pattern that is repeated throughout much of the developed world. Policymakers have long believed that technology would be the primary driver of the reduction of manual labour. Rather, AI seems to be taking over parts of white-collar jobs, while many skilled trades remain somewhat safe. Electricians, welders and technicians are among the most "AI-proof" jobs in the economy, according to CNBC. This is starting to be reflected in the labour market. Eighty-five per cent of companies in predominantly blue-collar industries say they have recruitment problems, compared with 64% in predominantly white-collar industries, according to research. Construction and manufacturing jobs have seen wage growth that has been higher than that in many professional jobs. More Americans now see a better economic return in a trade skill than in a traditional college education. There are fewer tradespeople in the world and more and more people with degrees.

India's Advantage
On the surface, India looks like a country with a special opportunity to gain. The country is still one of the few countries with a significant demographic dividend. India's median age is still less than 30, while China's is almost 40 and Japan's is almost 50. It is estimated that India will contribute



almost 25% of the incremental workforce to the world in the coming decade. This demographic advantage is already attracting international attention. In 2023, OECD countries granted over 2.4 million temporary work permits. Germany has opened up avenues for foreign skilled workers. The EU has amended migration policies to recruit workers. Managed migration is a growing concept in international organisations as a solution to demographic decline. India is becoming one of the most obvious suppliers. The ministers of Germany have visited vocational institutions in India. Indian tradespeople continue to be recruited in large numbers by the Gulf countries. The UAE and other countries in the Gulf have seen a steady demand for electricians, technicians, plumbers, construction workers and machine operators in India. The economic motivation is hard to miss. In rural India, a construction worker can make about \$130 to \$160 a month, but in the Gulf, his earnings can be four to six times that. Migration is a rational economic mobility for millions of households. But in India, it's a different story.

A Domestic Contradiction
India is facing the double challenge of unemployment among graduates and a lack of skilled vocational labour. The latest PLFS estimates show that

the unemployment rate among graduates is more than three times the national average, at 11%. However, employers in manufacturing, logistics, construction and infrastructure continue to complain about a lack of skilled workers. This is an indication of a greater gap between the education goals of the country and the job market. India has been investing in degrees for decades, but not in vocational training, apprenticeships and technical trades. Despite a growing demand for other jobs, social status continues to be concentrated in white-collar positions. The result is a paradox. An economy that is having trouble finding jobs for graduates could also have trouble keeping electricians, welders, machine operators and construction technicians. This matters because India's growth ambitions remain intensely physical. Highways, rail corridors, renewable-energy projects, semiconductor facilities, industrial corridors, housing programmes, and logistics infrastructure all require skilled tradespeople. Manufacturing expansion under Make in India depends not merely on capital and technology, but on the availability of workers capable of operating, maintaining, and building industrial systems. Industry estimates suggest that roughly 70% of the 90 million jobs ex-

pected to emerge in India by 2030 will fall within blue-collar categories. Yet many of the workers needed to fill those jobs are increasingly being recruited abroad. That should force a reconsideration of how labour shortages are understood. For years, discussions of brain drain focused almost exclusively on doctors, engineers, researchers, and software professionals. The emerging challenge may look very different. The next great labour drain could involve electricians rather than engineers, welders rather than coders, and technicians rather than consultants. The irony is striking. Just as the developed world begins to rediscover the economic value of skilled manual work, India continues to treat much of that work as a second-choice career path. Demography has handed India a remarkable opportunity. But demographic advantage alone does not guarantee developmental success. The countries that emerge strongest from the coming labour transition may not be those producing the most graduates. They may be those that learn, sooner than others, that the future of work still depends on people who can build, repair, install, operate, and maintain the physical foundations of modern economies.

Model Ghat Development Planned at Munikoodali Ahead of Godavari Pushkaralu

Rajamahendravaram, June 4: District Collector Keerthi Chekuri has directed officials to develop the Devansh Ghat at Munikoodali in Seethanagaram mandal as a model rural Pushkar Ghat in preparation for the 2027 Godavari Pushkaralu. During an extensive field inspection, the Collector instructed all departments to coordinate and complete infrastructure plans before Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan's proposed visit on June 24. The existing 49-metre ghat will be extended to 84 metres, with special facilities including a Godavari Harathi platform, a dedicated Pindapradanam ghat, parking areas, holding zones, drinking water facilities, toilets, dressing rooms, sanitation infrastructure, and traffic management systems. Authorities estimate that up to 80,000 pilgrims per day may visit the ghat during the 2027 Pushkaralu. The Collector also ordered arrangements for 200 APSRTC buses daily, special power supply lines, CCTV surveillance, emergency response teams, fire and medical camps, boating safety



measures, and extensive publicity highlighting the historical and spiritual significance of Munikoodali. All departments have been asked to submit detailed action plans before the next review meeting on June 10.

Collector Calls for Public Participation in Jaladhara-Jalaharathi Programme

Ongole, June 4: Prakasam District Collector P. Rajababu urged people to actively participate in the Jaladhara-Jalaharathi programme aimed at water conservation and groundwater recharge. The Collector, along with Santanulapadu MLA B.N. Vijay Kumar, inaugurated canal restoration works at Cheeravanuppalapadu village in Naguluppalapadu mandal. He said the programme, launched by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, focuses on restoring ponds, feeder canals, and water bodies through desilting and jungle clearance works.

Rajababu appreciated local leader Alla Nagarjuna for voluntarily funding the clearance of dense vegetation along nearly 4.5 km of feeder canals to improve water flow. He called upon farmers, water users' associations, voluntary organizations, and local residents to contribute to the programme and support water conservation efforts.

MLA B.N. Vijay Kumar said the initiative aims to



strengthen water security, improve groundwater levels, and restore irrigation infrastructure across the state.

Complete Plastic Ban Enforced at Bapatla Beaches

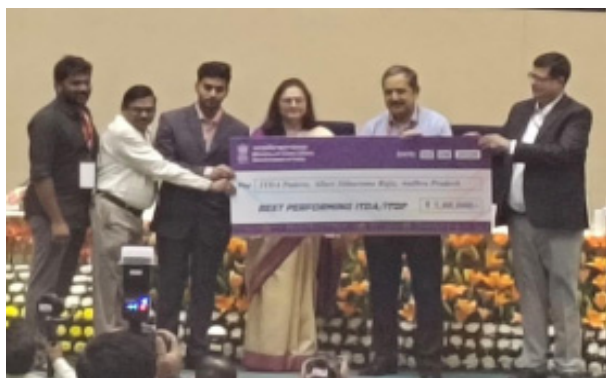


Bapatla, June 4: District Collector Dr. V. Vinod Kumar has directed officials and beach supervisors to ensure strict implementation of safety and cleanli-

ness measures at Suryalanka, Ramapuram, and Odarevu beaches. During a review meeting held through video conference, the Collector emphasized that tourist safety is the top priority and instructed supervisors to regulate swimming zones, deploy staff in shifts, and monitor adventure sports activities in designated areas. He also stressed that operators of paramotors must possess valid licenses. The Collector ordered strict enforcement of a complete ban on plastic at all beaches and directed sanitation workers to collect wet and dry waste separately. Officials were also instructed to maintain cleanliness and complete details of lodges and accommodation facilities located within beach limits.

Paderu ITDA Receives Best ITDA National Award

Paderu, June 4: Paderu ITDA has been recognized as the Best ITDA in Andhra Pradesh for its outstanding performance in tribal welfare and development programmes. The prestigious national-level award was presented in New Delhi by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Dr. Ashok Kumar and senior officials of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. ITDA Project Officer Aditya Varma and APO (PVTG) M. Venkateswara Rao received the award on behalf of the organization. The officials praised Paderu ITDA for its effective implementation of initiatives in education, healthcare, infrastructure, and overall improvement of tribal livelihoods. Speaking on the occasion, Project Officer Aditya Varma said the award reflects the collective efforts and dedication of all officers and staff working in the ITDA. He reaffirmed the commitment to



achieving greater progress in tribal welfare and holistic development in the region.

Collector Urges BLOs to Speed Up Voter List Revision Work



Bapatla, June 4: District Collector Dr. V. Vinod Kumar directed Booth Level Officers (BLOs) to work diligently

and accelerate the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. During a review meeting at Repalle Municipality, the Collector expressed concern over the slow progress in Repalle, where only 52.19% of the work has been completed compared to the district average of 63%. He instructed officials to take disciplinary action against underperforming BLOs and emphasized the importance of achieving 100% voter mapping.

The Collector said voter list revision is a priority task and set a target of mapping at least 15 voters per day by each BLO. He also reviewed census-related activities and urged officials to resolve field-level issues promptly. Later, he inspected Swarna Ward offices and personally verified the voter mapping process in Repalle town.

District Ready for Special Voter List Revision Programme



Rampachodavaram, June 4: District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar said all arrangements have been made for the successful implementation of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls beginning June 5. Of the 2,78,518 voters in Polavaram constituency, voter mapping for 1,60,878 electors has been completed, achieving 57.76% progress. Special focus is being given to polling stations with lower performance. The Collector said Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will conduct door-to-door surveys from June 15 to July 14, while the draft electoral roll will be published on July 21. The final voter list is scheduled to be released on September 22. Voters can use the toll-free helpline 1950 for new registrations, corrections, address changes, and other electoral roll-related services. The administration is also setting up special help desks to assist voters.

BIS Raids Pressure Cooker Manufacturing Units in Vijayawada

Vijayawada, June 4: The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, conducted raids on two pressure cooker manufacturing and storage units on May 29 for misuse of the ISI mark and violations of the BIS Act, 2016. During inspections, BIS officials found large quantities of uncertified and substandard pressure cookers. At Ghanshyam Aluminium in Surampalli, Krishna district, around 7,598 pressure cookers of various brands and capacities were found without valid BIS certification. Significant quantities of pressure cookers and components were seized. At Ramdev Industries in Vijayawada's Kabela Industrial Area, officials seized 478 pressure cookers, 418 cooker bodies, and 100 lids bearing fake ISI marks. BIS stated that the action was taken to protect consumers from unsafe and uncertified products and urged buyers to verify ISI certification through the BIS Care mobile



app before purchasing pressure cookers.

Natural Coffee Farming Gains Global Recognition in ASR District



Paderu, June 4: District Collector Nishanthi T. chaired a district-level coordination meeting on natural coffee farm-

ing at Dokuluru village in Alluri Sitarama Raju district under the Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF) project. The Collector highlighted that coffee grown in the region through completely natural and chemical-free methods has earned international recognition. She said efforts are underway to promote the product globally as "Natural Coffee" and "Organic Coffee" and to help farmers achieve international quality certifications. The meeting also focused on digital marketing, online trading platforms, buyer-seller meets, and specialized training programmes to improve cultivation, processing, and quality standards. Officials emphasized coordinated efforts by all departments to establish the region's coffee as a globally recognized brand while ensuring better returns for farmers.

Prakasam District Invites Investors, Plans Industrial Meet on June 18

Ongole, June 4: Prakasam District Collector P. Rajababu has intensified efforts to promote industrial growth by attracting investments and creating employment opportunities across the district.

During a review meeting with Industries Department and APIIC officials, the Collector announced a Get-Together with around 200 industrialists on June 18 to showcase investment opportunities and government incentives available in the district.

He directed officials to conduct awareness programmes in all Assembly constituencies every 15 days to encourage entrepreneurship and promote MSME parks. The district has developed 334 industrial plots, of which six have already been allotted to entrepreneurs with investments worth Rs.11.95 crore, generating direct employment for



about 100 people. Officials are now focusing on attracting investors to the remaining 328 available plots.

Collector Directs Officials to Improve Public Perception on Welfare Schemes

Kakinada, June 4: District Collector M.N. Harendhira Prasad directed officials to strengthen public confidence and satisfaction regarding government welfare and development schemes. During a review meeting at the Collectorate, he assessed public feedback on various services, including Anna Canteens, BC hostels, Anganwadi centres, drinking water supply, electricity, healthcare, sanitation, NTR Bharosa pensions, ration card distribution, loan assistance to self-help groups, and pollution control measures. The Collector instructed departments with scores below the state average to identify shortcomings and take corrective measures. He emphasized that citizen satisfaction levels in all government services should exceed 85 percent and asked officials to implement action



plans to improve public perception indicators by next month.

Collector Calls for Improved Healthcare Services in Government Hospitals



Kakinada, June 4: District Collector M.N. Harendhira Prasad directed health officials to further improve the quality of medical services in government hospitals and

ensure better healthcare for the public. At a review meeting on the performance of secondary-level hospitals, the Collector emphasized promoting normal deliveries and reducing Caesarean sections to below 30 percent. He instructed doctors to create awareness among pregnant women from the early stages of pregnancy and closely monitor maternal health to reduce low-birth-weight cases. The Collector also called for strengthening General Surgery, Ophthalmology, and ENT services in government hospitals. He said steps are being taken to recruit doctors on a contract basis within a month to address staff shortages. Doctors were instructed to remain available in hospitals until 4 p.m. daily, ensure no unauthorized cash collections, avoid prescribing outside medicines, and maintain high standards of cleanliness and patient care.

Collector Orders Identification of Forest Lands in Prakasam District

Ongole, June 4 (Pen Power): Prakasam District Collector P. Rajababu directed revenue and forest officials to identify all forest lands in the district and submit comprehensive reports. During a Zoom conference held from the Collector's camp office, the Collector reviewed forest land records along with District Forest Officer Vinod Kumar and revenue officials. He instructed officials to verify government records, gazette notifications, block maps, forest block digitization, geo-referencing data, and conduct field-level inspections. The Collector also ordered the preparation of detailed reports on both notified and unnotified forest lands in the district.

Joint Collector Kalpana Kumari, revenue officials, and forest department officers participated in the meeting.



Environmental Awareness Builds Social Responsibility: Collector Lakshmisha



Vijayawada, June 4: NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha said that environmental awareness from a

young age helps students grow into responsible citizens. Speaking at a World Environment Day programme held at Siddhartha College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, he stressed the importance of nurturing love for nature and environmental conservation during childhood.

A state-level art exhibition featuring 200 artists and painting competitions for students on environmental themes were organized by several institutions and voluntary organizations. The Collector urged students to adopt eco-friendly habits such as planting trees, conserving water, avoiding plastic use, and protecting biodiversity.

He emphasized that environmental protection should become a way of life rather than just an annual event and called upon students and citizens to actively participate in creating a greener and cleaner future.

Collector Orders Fast-Tracking of Engineering Works in Kakinada District

Kakinada, June 4: District Collector M.N. Harendhira Prasad directed officials to accelerate all ongoing engineering and infrastructure projects and ensure their completion within the stipulated timelines. During a review meeting, the Collector assessed the progress of works being executed by the Roads & Buildings, Irrigation, Public Health, Panchayat Raj, APEWIDC, and APMSIDC departments. He instructed officials to complete the grounding of all sanc-

tioned projects immediately and speed up execution.

Special emphasis was placed on irrigation works, with directions to complete desilting, sluice and shutter repairs, and other canal-related works before the release of irrigation water. The Collector also called for the early completion of school infrastructure, healthcare facilities, drinking water projects, Anganwadi repairs, and rural road works to ensure timely public benefit.

Collector Directs Officials to Accelerate Loan Plan Implementation



Markapuram, June 4: District Collector M. Vijaya Sunitha has directed DRDA and MEPMA officials to improve the implementation of loan schemes and

achieve targets efficiently. During a review meeting at the Collectorate, she expressed dissatisfaction over delays in identifying beneficiaries and disbursing loans. The Collector instructed officials to conduct DWCR meetings regularly and ensure timely distribution of government-supported loans to self-help groups. She also noted poor feedback in the IVRS survey and called for corrective measures. Highlighting shortcomings in livelihood promotion, bank loan facilitation, bookkeeping, and entrepreneurship development in urban areas, she urged officials to improve performance and work towards greater beneficiary satisfaction.

Collector Nishanthi Inspects Anganwadi Centre, Launches Kitchen Garden

Paderu, June 4: District Collector Nishanthi T. paid a surprise visit to the Dokuluru Anganwadi Centre in Paderu mandal and interacted with pre-school children, reviewing their education and health status. The Collector also met parents and sought feedback on nutrition and services being provided at the Anganwadi centre. She later inaugurated a Nutri-Garden (Kitchen Garden) developed under natural farming methods with support from the Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF) programme. Speaking on the occasion, Nishanthi said chemical-free and nutritious food is essential for the healthy growth of children. She noted that such kitchen gardens would help provide fresh vegetables and leafy greens to children regularly, improving nutrition levels at Anganwadi centres. ICDS officials, Anganwadi staff, APCNF representatives, and local residents participated in the programme.



Capacity Building Programme for Swarna Grama and Swarna Ward Staff



Vijayawada, June 4: NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha launched a capacity-building programme for Swarna Grama and Swarna Ward employees to strengthen public service delivery and administrative efficiency. The first workshop, focusing on stress management, was organized by the District HRD Cell and Akarsha Foundation for 40 staff members. The Collector said the weekly training sessions aim to enhance employees' skills in

welfare scheme implementation, digital services, grievance redressal, and office administration.

He emphasized that continuous learning and adaptation to evolving technologies and governance practices are essential for delivering efficient public services. Experts and psychologists also provided guidance on stress management techniques and workplace well-being.

Global Textile and Handloom Summit to be Held in New Delhi



Bapatla, June 4: The Ministry of Textiles and Handlooms, Government of India, will organize a two-day Global Textile and Handloom Summit

in New Delhi on June 23 and 24, focusing on the importance, exports, and growth of India's textile and handloom sector. Textiles Secretary Neelam Shami Rao reviewed preparations through a virtual meeting with state officials and district collectors across the country. Bapatla District Collector Dr. V. Vinod Kumar participated in the meeting from the district headquarters. States have been asked to showcase their textile and handloom products, export achievements, success stories, photographs, and videos during the summit. The event aims to highlight India's strengths in the textile sector and promote global trade opportunities.

Collector Launches Village Herd Fertility Register

Rajamahendravaram, June 4: District Collector Keerthi Chekuri launched the "Village Herd Fertility Register" prepared by the Animal Husbandry Department as part of the State Government's "Enhancing Village Wealth through Livestock" initiative. The Collector said the programme aims to improve animal fertility, increase milk production, and enhance farmers' incomes. Under the initiative, Animal Husbandry Department staff will visit villages to examine cattle, identify animals with reproductive issues, and take corrective measures to improve productivity. Officials stated that the programme will help strengthen



the rural economy by promoting livestock development and improving the overall efficiency of dairy farming.

Akhilesh Yadav Orders SP Office-Bearers To Resign From Organisational Posts Before Seeking Tickets For 2027 UP Assembly Polls

Lucknow: Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav has directed party office-bearers aspiring to contest the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections to resign from their organisational posts before seeking a ticket, a move aimed at tightening internal discipline and ensuring a more transparent candidate selection process.

Meeting with District Presidents

The instruction was issued during a recent meeting attended by district presidents and key office-bearers from all 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh. The directive comes as the party begins an extensive exercise to identify potential candidates across the state's 403 Assembly constituencies nearly two years before the elections. "If any district president wants to contest elections, he must first resign. Only then will the party consider the candidature. No district president should declare himself a candidate," Akhilesh told party functionaries, according to sources present at the meeting.

Separating Organisation from Electoral Ambitions

The message marks one of the clearest signals yet

that Akhilesh intends to keep the organisation focused on strengthening the party machinery while separately evaluating electoral aspirants. Party insiders say the SP leadership wants to prevent district-level leaders from using their organisational positions to build pressure for tickets or influence the selection process. A senior party leader said the leadership believes organisational posts should not become stepping stones for securing tickets. "The focus is on strengthening the party at the booth and district levels. Those who want to contest are free to do so, but they cannot hold organisational authority while simultaneously lobbying for a ticket," the leader said.

Organisational Posts Not Stepping Stones

Political analyst Manoj Bhadra said the decision reflects Akhilesh Yadav's attempt to professionalise the party's electoral preparations and reduce internal conflicts before the high-stakes Assembly election. "District presidents play a crucial role in shaping organisational opinion. If they are also ticket aspirants, there is always a perception that they can influ-



ence surveys, recommendations and local organisational feedback in their favour. By asking them to resign before seeking candidature, Akhilesh is trying to separate organisational responsibilities from electoral ambitions," Bhadra said.

Risk of Influenced Surveys and Feedback

He added that the move could also help the SP project an image of internal fairness. "Ticket distribution is one of the most contentious exercises in any political party. This decision sends a message that organisational positions alone will not guarantee candidature. The leadership wants selection to be based on winnability and ground feedback rather than hierarchy within the party," he said. The early start to candidate identification also suggests that the SP is looking to give prospective candidates sufficient time to establish themselves in their constituencies and strengthen local networks before the election campaign gains momentum. With the BJP expected to mount an aggressive campaign to retain power for a third consecutive term, the Samajwadi Party appears determined to avoid last-minute ticket disputes and build a constituency-wise strategy well ahead of the 2027 electoral battle.

Ahmedabad, Nagpur And Madurai Among World's 10 Most Heat-Vulnerable Cities: Oxford Study

THREE INDIAN CITIES AMONG WORLD'S 10 MOST HEAT-VULNERABLE URBAN CENTRES: OXFORD STUDY

Oxford University study assesses 205 cities; finds Ahmedabad, Nagpur & Madurai among top 10 most heat-risk cities globally

TOP 10 MOST HEAT-VULNERABLE CITIES	
1	Al Basrah, Iraq
2	Ahmedabad, India
3	Bismako, Mali
4	Nagpur, India
5	Manila, Philippines
6	Karachi, Pakistan
7	Madurai, India
8	Lagos, Nigeria
9	Kumasi, Ghana
10	Baghdad, Iraq

WHY THESE CITIES ARE HIGH-RISK?

- Exposure to extreme temperatures
- High social vulnerability
- Poverty levels
- Limited access to cooling infrastructure
- Low urban tree cover

KEY TAKEAWAY

Over 95% of the world's 50 most heat-vulnerable cities are in South & Southeast Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

STUDY CALLS FOR URGENT ACTION: Urban greening, better planning, passive cooling & low-energy solutions are key to building climate-resilient cities.

Lucknow: Three Indian cities have been ranked among the world's 10 most heat-vulnerable urban centres, according to a new study by researchers at the University of Oxford that highlights the growing threat of extreme temperatures across South Asia. The study, published in the journal Sustainable Cities and Societies, assessed 205 cities with populations of more than one million and found that Ahmedabad, Nagpur and Madurai are among the 10 cities facing the highest heat risk globally.

Ahmedabad ranked second globally. Ahmedabad was ranked second in the world, while Nagpur placed fourth and Madurai seventh. Only Iraq's Al Basrah and Mali's Bamako ranked above Nagpur. The top 10 list also includes cities in Iraq, the Philippines, Pakistan and Nigeria. Researchers said India, Pakistan, Nigeria and Ghana account for the largest number of cities with high heat-risk scores. More than 95 per cent of the world's 50 most heat-vulnerable cities are located in South and Southeast Asia and Sub-

Saharan Africa. The study also identified Jaipur among the world's 50 most at-risk cities, placing another major Indian urban centre on the global heat-risk map. **Risk beyond rising temperatures** Unlike conventional rankings based solely on temperature, the Oxford analysis assessed heat risk through a combination of exposure to extreme temperatures, social vulnerability and coping capacity. Factors such as age demographics, poverty levels, access to cooling

infrastructure and urban tree cover were taken into account. Lead author Nethmi Jayaratne Kariyawasam said the findings demonstrate that urban heat risk is driven by multiple factors beyond rising temperatures. "In many major cities, particularly across Asia and Africa, extreme heat coincides with high vulnerability and limited coping capacity. This combination can substantially increase heat risk and, in some cases, have life-threatening consequences," she said.