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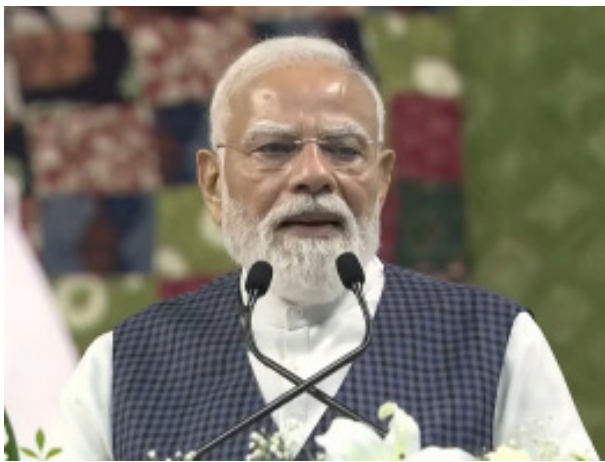
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'Pandemic, Wars And Energy Crisis Have Disturbed Global Order, India Focused On Green Growth': PM



New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the world is steadily moving towards a greener future and India is forging ahead with an ambitious green growth agenda despite facing a decade marked by unprecedented global challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, wars and an energy crisis. Speaking at a public event in Surat after inaugurating and laying the foundation stone for development projects worth around Rs.18,800 crore, the Prime Minister said India has remained resilient and continued its development journey even as global uncertainties have disrupted economies worldwide. Highlighting the changing global landscape, Modi said the current decade has

emerged as one of the most difficult periods in recent history. "The world is going through a phase of unprecedented challenges," he said, recalling his earlier observation that the present period is proving to be a "decade of disasters" for many countries. The Prime Minister pointed to the COVID-19 pandemic, ongoing geopolitical conflicts and the resulting energy crisis as major factors that have shaken the global order. He noted that volatile fuel prices and disruptions in gas supply chains have created economic uncertainty across several regions. Despite these challenges, Modi said India has demonstrated strength and stability through the collective efforts of its citizens. Against

the backdrop of global energy concerns, the Prime Minister stressed that the future belongs to sustainable development and clean energy. He said the world is moving towards a green future and India is actively pursuing policies aimed at achieving green growth, strengthening energy security and building a more sustainable economy. According to Modi, the country's commitment to clean energy and environmental sustainability is helping it prepare for future challenges while creating new opportunities for growth and innovation. The Prime Minister also defended the government's vision of an "Atmanirbhar Bharat" or self-reliant India, saying national self-sufficiency is critical in an increasingly uncertain world. Taking a swipe at critics of the initiative, Modi said some people continue to mock the campaign despite its importance in strengthening India's economic resilience. He argued that nations dependent on others cannot fully realise their development potential and asserted that India's self-reliance drive is helping build long-term economic strength. Modi used the occasion to launch

a strong political attack on the Congress party, accusing it of attempting to create instability for political gain. He claimed that Congress has repeatedly sought opportunities amid uncertainty but has been rejected by voters across several states. Referring to recent local body election results, the Prime Minister cited Congress setbacks in Himachal Pradesh and Haryana and said voters had expressed dissatisfaction with the party's governance model. The Prime Minister also commented on the political situation in Karnataka, alleging widespread public dissatisfaction with the Congress government in the state. According to Modi, India today is driven by optimism, aspirations and a strong determination to achieve national goals. He said the country's progress is powered by the collective resolve of its citizens, adding that a confident and ambitious India is capable of overcoming any challenge. Reaffirming his government's development-focused approach, Modi said infrastructure expansion and economic growth remain central priorities for the BJP-led administration.

Only 8 MLAs, 6 MPs At Mamata Banerjee's Home For Key Meet. Party Clarifies

Kolkata: Days after 60 of the 80 MLAs skipped a key meeting, only eight MLAs attended a fresh Trinamool Congress huddle at former West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee's Kalighat house in Kolkata. The Trinamool, which is facing a rebellion, later clarified that it was a National Working Committee meeting and not all MPs and MLAs were invited. The Trinamool Congress has 28 Lok Sabha MPs; only four were present at the meeting on Friday at Mamata Banerjee's Kalighat house in Kolkata. 11 of the 13 Rajya Sabha MPs skipped the huddle. Mamata Banerjee's nephew, Abhishek Banerjee, was among the MPs who attended the meeting. Derek O'Brien and Dola Sen were the only Rajya Sabha MPs who turned up. Madan Mitra, Beena Mondal, Ashima Patra, Firhad Hakim, Kunal Ghosh, Sovandeb Chattopadhyay, Biman Banerjee and Ashok Deb were among the MLAs who attended.



"Pls note - it was a NATIONAL WORKING COMMITTEE and not of ALL MLAs or MPs. Many MPs like Mahua Moitra, Sushmita Dev, Mukul Sangma and Rajesh Tripathi, who are part of the National WC, had joined virtually," the party said. Rebel Numbers To Grow? Earlier, Ritabrata Banerjee, the rebel MLA who has become the Leader of Opposition in the Assembly, had said more MLAs would join the rebellion. "As far as our numbers are concerned, that number will keep going up. We had presented a number that is more than 2/3rd, and that number will be

higher when we meet during the Assembly session," he said. "Let's wait and watch. As the thing progresses, you will see the number of MLAs. I won't take responsibility for other elected representatives. I won't go into that. But as far as MLAs are concerned, the numbers will go on increasing," he added. Asked about whether Trinamool Congress MPs are also intent on forming a rebel group, Ritabrata Banerjee said, "In the last seven days, I have not spoken to a single MP. So, at present, I cannot tell you about the MPs. As a former

MP, I happen to talk to many of them, but for the last seven days, individually, I haven't spoken to any of them, whether it is the Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha, I did not have communication with any of them." What next for the rebel MLAs? Many are reportedly planning to jump ship. Sources had told that at least 20 Trinamool Congress MPs were in touch with the BJP. The rebellion began days after the Trinamool lost the Assembly elections to the BJP. Mamata Banerjee lost the polls against Suwendu Adhikari from Bhabanipur, her perceived stronghold.

Andhra Pradesh's Growth Will Drive India's Growth: CM

From Our Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam: Andhra Pradesh ranks second in seafood production in India, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said. He stated that 19.7 million metric tonnes of seafood are produced annually in the state. The Chief Minister opined that the growth of the Blue Economy in Andhra Pradesh would contribute significantly to the nation's progress. The National Workshop on Seafood Exports was inaugurated in a grand manner in Visakhapatnam. CM Chandrababu Naidu formally inaugurated the workshop by lighting the ceremonial lamp. On the occasion, the Chief Minister expressed happiness over Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh's announce-

ment that Kakinada Port would be modernised. CM Chandrababu stated that the required land for the regional office of the Union Fisheries Department would be provided within 15 days.

Speaking on the occasion, CM Chandrababu Naidu said, "Andhra Pradesh accounts for 28 per cent of India's total fish production and 66 per cent of shrimp production. Nearly 38 per cent of the Centre's revenue from the country's seafood exports comes from Andhra Pradesh alone. Seafood exports worth over ₹28,000 crore are carried out from the state every year. If Andhra Pradesh develops, India's seafood exports will also grow. If Andhra Pradesh brings innovations in the aquaculture sector,



India's Blue Economy will undoubtedly move forward. India's share in the global seafood business is only 5 per cent. The country has immense opportunities in this sector. Economic growth can be achieved through the Blue Economy. Civilisations flourish wherever there is water. Andhra

Pradesh is blessed with perennial rivers like the Godavari and Krishna. The future belongs to the Blue Economy," he said. The programme was attended by Union Ministers Ram Mohan Naidu,

Chirag Paswan and Rajiv Ranjan Singh, State Ministers Atchannaidu and Dola Bala Veeranjanya Swamy, MP Beeda Mastan Rao, along with Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu.

Future Depends on Protecting the Environment: Minister Kollu Ravindra

From Our Staff Reporter Machilipatnam, June 5: Minister Kollu Ravindra participated in World Environment Day celebrations on Thursday. Along with students, he took part in a cleanliness drive at Manginapudi Beach and helped remove accumulated waste from the beach surroundings. On the occasion, the Minister urged people to remain vigilant about plastic waste and its impact on the environment. "The future of humanity depends on how well we protect the environment," he said. He appealed to every citizen to plant and nurture at least one sapling and emphasized that environmental conservation should be treated as a personal responsibility by all.



The Minister stated that environmental protection has become essential to ensure the continued well-being of humanity. He noted that overcoming challenges such as global warming is largely in our own hands. Stressing the need for responsible action, he urged every citizen to play an active role in safeguarding nature. Kollu Ravindra further said that the government is taking steps to expand forest cover through the use of seed balls as part of its environmental conservation initiatives.

AP Government Transfers Several Non-Cadre SP Officers

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, June 5: The Andhra Pradesh government has transferred several Superintendent of Police (Non-Cadre) officers and issued orders to this effect. According to the latest orders, O. Dileep Kiran has been posted to the Intelligence Department. T.T. Prabhakar Babu has been assigned to the CID Women Protection Cell. Dr. V.B.R. Raj Kamal has also been posted to the Intelligence Department. Similarly, K. Sravani has been

appointed to the Marine Wing, while the government directed that D. Sri Bhavani Harsha continue as CVOO in the PR & RD Department. K. Srilakshmi has been entrusted with new responsibilities in the CID URCC Wing. J. Ramesh Reddy has been posted to the Cyber Crime Division through separate government orders. The government has also modified the Greyhounds Group Commander post and allocated it to the Cyber Crime Division.

Everyone Should Plant a Sapling in Their Mother's Name: Deputy CM

From Our Staff Reporter NTR District, June 5: Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan said that protecting the environment is the responsibility of every individual. He expressed hope that every sapling planted today would grow into a mighty tree. On the occasion of World Environment Day on Friday, Pawan Kalyan attended a programme as the chief guest at Butterfly Park in Mulapadu, NTR District. During the event, the Deputy Chief Minister planted a White Poniki sapling in the name of his mother, Anjana Devi, and formally launched a programme to prepare 250 million seed balls. He said



that a master plan has been prepared to disperse seed balls across the state during the monsoon season. Inspired by the theme 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' (One Tree in Mother's Name), Pawan Kalyan urged every citizen to plant a sapling in the name of their mother. He stated

that every tree should serve as a protective shield against climate change. The Deputy Chief Minister called upon people to make the state greener by planting more trees and to work collectively toward protecting the Earth from the adverse effects of climate change.

One Arrested for Alleged False Propaganda Against MP Kesineni Sivanath

From Our Staff Reporter Vijayawada, June 5: Police have taken action against those allegedly spreading false propaganda against MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni). The staff of MP Chinni's office lodged a complaint with the police regarding an alleged smear campaign on social media by former MP Kesineni Nani and his supporters. Following an investigation, Patamata Police registered cases against Tatineni Rambabu and several others. Speaking to the media, ACP Damodar warned that strict action would be taken against those spreading false information on social media. The ACP said that the DGP and the City Police Commissioner had already issued



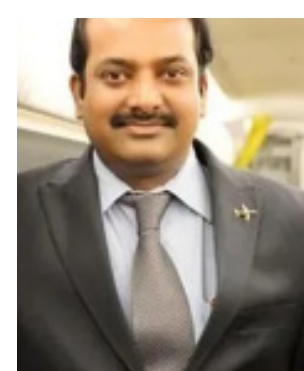
statements on the issue. He stated that fresh complaints had been received alleging that defamatory content targeting MP Kesineni Sivanath was being circulated on social media. After conducting an inquiry, police registered cases against Tatineni Rambabu and some others. He further in-

formed that Tatineni Rambabu was arrested on Thursday and is being questioned. Efforts are underway to apprehend the remaining accused at the earliest. ACP Damodar cautioned that legal action would be taken against anyone found spreading false and baseless information unnecessarily.

Lingamaneni Ramesh Likely to be Jana Sena's Rajya Sabha Candidate

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, June 5: The Jana Sena Party leadership is reportedly understood to have finalized the name of Lingamaneni Ramesh as its candidate for the Rajya Sabha. According to party sources, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan announced Lingamaneni's name during a meeting with party leaders held a short while ago. It is learnt that Pawan Kalyan informed the leaders that Lingamaneni has been associated with both him and the Jana Sena Party since 2015. Reports suggest that Pawan Kalyan is expected to make an official announcement regarding Lingamaneni's candidature later on Friday after consulting the auspicious timing (muhurtham).

Deliberations Over Rajya Sabha Seats
Four Rajya Sabha seats from Andhra Pradesh are falling vacant. As part of the NDA alliance arrangement, three seats have been allotted to the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and one seat to the Jana Sena Party. On Thursday evening, senior leaders of the alliance held extensive discussions at Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's residence regarding seat-sharing and candidate selection. After nearly two hours of deliberations, a decision was reached. In a statement, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu confirmed that three seats had been allotted to the TDP and one to the Jana Sena Party. The meeting was attended by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, BJP State President P. V. N. Madhav, TDP State President Palla



Srinivasa Rao, and Minister Nadendla Manohar. Following the meeting, Jana Sena also issued a statement confirming that one Rajya Sabha seat had been allotted to the party as part of the NDA alliance arrangement. The party stated that the candidate would be decided by Pawan Kalyan and announced thereafter. While the Jana Sena candidature is reportedly almost finalized, the names of the TDP candidates are yet to be announced.

EDITORIAL

Homestay accommodations
without inspections

The horrific fire incident in a hotel in Delhi should be considered a stain on the national capital. This tragedy in the metropolis, which is the venue for many international conferences, can be said to be a testament to serious safety failures. The Delhi Tourism Department should be held responsible for the fire and loss of life. The officials who left it unchecked or turned a blind eye to corruption should be arrested along with the hotel owners. One wonders how a hotel with all rooms is running on a small space in a narrow lane in the historic capital of Delhi, which is famous for tourists. In fact, it is neither a hotel nor a lodge. The Floris Stay Hotel, where this accident occurred, is a government-approved home stay or bed and breakfast scheme.

This tragedy happened because all the rules of that policy were violated. The Bed and Breakfast scheme implemented across the country was started with a good intention. If there are vacant rooms in their houses with facilities, anyone can register their details under this scheme and provide facilities to tourists. When the Commonwealth Games were held in Delhi in 2010, the Delhi Tourism Department gave permission for this scheme as there were not enough hotels to accommodate the influx of tourists. At that time, about 1500 households hosted visitors in their homes. The then Delhi CM Sheila Dikshit thanked the people for overcoming the lack of facilities and saying that the Games were a success because the people of Delhi came forward and provided facilities to tourists in their homes. Up to 350 of them are still operating. New ones are also being approved.

The Bed and Breakfast scheme that started like this is currently being implemented in all states. The state tourism departments have finalized the rules based on local needs. According to the rules of this scheme, the owner of the house must stay in it and provide facilities. Only one room to six rooms and 12 beds are allowed. The rooms should have an attached bathroom with a geyser along with all the amenities. Breakfast must be provided to them in the morning. CCTV cameras should be installed for security. The identity details of the guests should be recorded. Home stay facilities are more in coastal and scenic tourist areas like Kerala, Coorg, and Goa. There is a high demand for these as they are available at a low cost to foreigners who spend days. There are home stay streets adjacent to Fort Kochi beach. The government has two main purposes for allowing this scheme. One is to provide an additional source of income for the housewives, and the other is to make foreigners aware of Indian culture, hospitality, and lifestyle. They welcome foreigners who come to their home as guests and serve traditional dishes. There are instances where foreigners have worn pancha and saris for days, as they like their manners and etiquette. They also serve as centers for the sale of handicraft items. States like Goa, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, and Kerala, which receive a lot of tourists, are providing subsidies for the operation of these centers. Those who register with the Union Ministry of Tourism and the Nidhi portal will get a PM Mudra loan without a guarantee of up to Rs. 20 lakh. They will be used for guests coming to government programs as per the home stay details in the Nidhi database.

While all this is going well, this scheme is being misused by the authorities in Delhi and other big cities. The Tourism Department is responsible for inspecting them at least once every two years. There are many people who are getting government subsidies without following the home stay rules. There are rare cases of surprise raids and fines being imposed on them. The Floris Stay, which was hit by a fire in Delhi, is being run entirely as a lodge. The owner is not there. It is being run in 25 rooms on five floors in a narrow lane. This is completely against the bed and breakfast rules. Permissions are not available to run a commercial lodge in that lane. Since it is registered in the name of a home stay, there is no supervision from other departments. Even if it is being run as a lodge on the sly, the management needs to take minimum precautions. There are no advance arrangements to deal with fire in that building. There are no alternative ways for the victims to escape quickly and safely. The accident happened as easily as it would have happened in any ordinary town. Foreigners died in it. Is it the government leaders who are responsible for the security measures that chase away visitors coming to Delhi to see the Parliament building from a kilometer away? Overall, the Delhi government has lost its face with this tragedy. This shady business going on in the name of home stays across the country should be stopped immediately. If such incidents are repeated, the country's reputation in the eyes of the world will be damaged and there is a risk of a decrease in tourist arrivals.

Trump's 'Forced Labour' Tariff Charge May
Really Be About Something Else

A tariff is no longer just a tax at the border. It is becoming a test of how a product was made, where its inputs came from and whether its supply chain can be trusted. The latest US move on forced labour imports is a warning that market access will increasingly come with political conditions attached. The proposed measure, brought under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974, would apply to goods from 60 "economies", a category that includes Hong Kong and the European Union. India falls in the higher duty category, with a range of its exports facing an additional 12.5% levy in the US market. The significance, however, lies beyond the rate itself. Washington is using domestic law to judge the adequacy of another country's import control regime. The charge is not that Indian exports use forced labour. It is that India does not do enough to detect tainted inputs before they enter Indian supply chains and later reach global markets, including the US.

Forced labour is not lawful in India. But that answer will not satisfy Washington, which is focused on border enforcement and supply chain traceability. In plain language, the question is not whether India prohibits forced labour. It is whether India can prove the integrity of the inputs embedded in its exports. An ethical concern is being turned into a trade filter. The objective of eliminating forced labour is le-

gitimate. No serious economy should defend commerce built on coercion. A broad tariff across wide product categories is, however, a blunt remedy for what may be a product-specific and entity-specific problem. It risks becoming less about cleaning supply chains and more about controlling them. The forced labour proposal is only one in a series of related measures now moving through Washington. A separate Section 301 investigation into structural excess capacity, which includes India in a list of 16 economies, is also underway. That inquiry may be more consequential because it reaches sectors central to India's manufacturing ambitions, including textiles, automotive parts, solar manufacturing, petrochemicals and steel. Metals, critical minerals and pharmaceuticals are all being drawn into a wider trade security agenda.

There is a larger context, too. After the US Supreme Court curtailed the use of emergency powers for reciprocal tariffs, the Trump administration is searching for firmer legal ground. A temporary import surcharge expires in July unless Congress extends it. Section 301 and Section 232 thus matter beyond their immediate tariff impact. They show how Washington is rebuilding its trade architecture through older statutes with new political uses. The pattern is unmistakable. Access to the American market is increasingly tied

not only to tariffs, but also to labour, security and technology tests. Trade, politics and security now converge at US customs. The impact will be felt by a garment exporter in Tiruppur or a jewellery firm in Surat. A 12.5% duty can erase the margin on an order and push a buyer towards competitors facing lower tariffs.

The stakes are high. The US is India's largest goods export destination. Any change in the terms of access will be felt in order books and margins. Yet India should neither panic nor posture. Sovereignty rhetoric will not protect firms that depend on the American market. Nor should India accept every American demand as the price of market access. India must oppose unfair pressure without sounding indifferent to the problem of forced labour. India should say clearly that forced labour has no place in modern commerce. It should also acknowledge that supply chain traceability is emerging as a serious requirement of global trade. India cannot become an alternative to China by cost and scale alone. It must also become the more trusted manufacturing platform.

At the same time, one country's regulatory preference cannot be allowed to become global law by the back door. If the issue is forced labour, the remedy must be targeted, evidence-based and proportionate. It cannot be a blanket penalty that damages honest exporters and weakens



the very supply chain diversification Washington claims to support. India must begin with the process available in Washington. It should file a detailed, product-specific submission and reserve its legal options, including at the WTO, while recognising that litigation alone will not protect exporters in the immediate term. In the ongoing trade negotiations with the US, New Delhi should contest the 12.5% duty, seek broad product exclusions and insist that these duties do not stack on top of other tariffs. It cannot allow Washington to create multiple tariff layers and then ask India to negotiate each one away separately. At home, India needs a credible forced labour import control regime of its own. It should be sovereign, country-neutral and evidence-based. In textiles, for example, India should build traceability from cotton to yarn to fabric to garment. For smaller exporters, the state will need to assist with compliance costs. Otherwise, the new rules will become an invisible tax on smaller firms.

For India, this is not only a trade matter. It is part of the manufacturing challenge. Factories alone will not be enough. Export success will depend on customs cooperation, supply chain documentation and constant engagement with foreign regulators. Development policy and trade diplomacy can no longer run on separate tracks. India should be prepared for scrutiny, but not for unilateral rules written and applied as if they were global law. A country that wants to be a trusted manufacturing power must be able to prove the integrity of what it produces. But a country that wants strategic autonomy must also resist the use of morality as a mask for protectionism. Tariffs are changing character. India cannot wish this trade order away, and it cannot enter it unprepared. It must build the systems to prove the integrity of its exports, the diplomacy to contest unfair measures, and the confidence to defend its manufacturing ambitions. In the new tariff age, trust will matter. So will leverage.

Panic In Silicon Valley: Why 15,000 Indians Fled
US Last Year - With More On Their Way

A US-based Indian tech engineer's post on Reddit went viral late last month, in which the user claimed to have applied for more than 1,500 jobs over the previous few months without receiving a single call. The data engineer, who's been on an H-1B visa for the past three years, wrote, "Unfortunately, my current company has decided not to renew my H-1B application." This prompted other Indians in similar situations in the US to share their experiences and confirm how widespread and serious the job issue has become for Indian professionals there. Each year, the US issues 85,000 three-year H-1B visas to foreign nationals, and the vast majority have gone to Indians. This visa - a work permit for highly skilled professionals - can be renewed for a further three years at the employer's request, leading to a green card and, eventually, US citizenship. In 2025, about 78% of H-1B visas went to Indians, up seven percentage points from 2024. Most top leaders in America's tech industry have taken this route, including the world's richest man, Elon Musk, Microsoft Chief Satya Nadella, Google's CEO, Sundar Pichai, and Jayshree Ullas, the CEO of cloud networking company Arista Networks. One can't blame young Indian professionals for aspiring to follow in the footsteps of these tech icons. But many young and mid-level engineers and other professionals are now facing a difficult period of job uncertainty, driven by the Trump administration's tough immigration policies, tech giants' growing embrace of AI, corporate restructuring, and a weakening economy. Hundreds of Indian tech engineers have already lost their jobs, and many more are at risk, with disastrous consequences for their families in the US and their dependents in India. More than 15,000 Indian tech professionals returned home from the US in 2025, and 7,300 have already returned this year, according to the tech hiring and consulting firm Xpheno. The company told that the situation is worsening

and that recent H-1B visa moves in the US could result in the number of returnees surpassing the number of Indian tech professionals moving to the US. Indian techies are "stepping away from the American dream", the company added.

Trump Shocker

In September 2025, President Trump stunned the tech world and lakhs of Indians by announcing a 50-fold increase in the H-1B visa fee to \$100,000. He claimed the new fee was necessary to prevent abuse of the programme, saying that some American companies were undercutting US workers' wages by hiring lower-paid foreign workers. This has been a common complaint among members of Trump's MAGA base, who accuse Indians of taking American jobs. Trump insisted that the \$100,000 fee would compel US companies to hire Americans rather than foreigners. While the steep hike may help some companies hire locally, most foreigners, such as Indians, are hired for their superior skills. This has created resentment and envy among some Americans. But there is evidence that Indians help boost Americans' job prospects. A 2024 study by the non-profit IZA Institute of Labor Economics in the US found that H-1B workers actually "help firms increase their employment", and that every H-1B worker a company hired helped produce additional job gains, which includes local hires. In 2025, H-1B visa applications rose by 7%, but approvals fell by nearly 18%, according to US government data. This year, the US Department of Homeland Security has so far received 2,86,000 applications for this visa category, compared with 4,56,725 in 2025. This suggests that Trump's decision to steeply increase the H-1B visa fee is having an impact. The top technology companies, including Amazon, Microsoft, and Google, have been trying to find workers in categories that don't have to pay the fee, such as existing H-1B visa holders. This is not

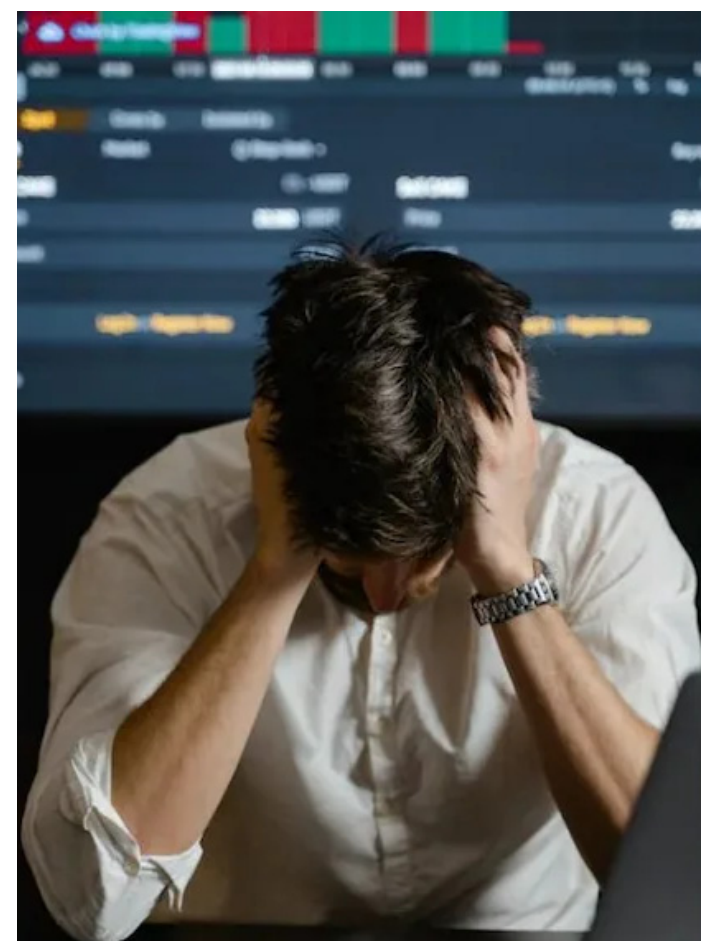
good news for young Indian tech engineers planning to enter the US job market via this route.

Disappearing Jobs

The outlook for many middle-level Indian professionals is also looking dim. Jobs in the tech industry are disappearing fast due to the growing use of AI and restructuring at these firms. More than 160 technology companies have cut at least 1,16,000 employees, according to Layoffs.fyi, which tracks such data. Meta, the owner of Facebook, WhatsApp and Instagram, has begun firing 10% of its workforce, roughly 8,000 employees. Like Meta, Coinbase and Block have also fired 10% of their staff in recent weeks. Snap, which owns the social media app Snapchat, has laid off 16% of its staff. Cisco and Oracle have also cut thousands of jobs. Microsoft has offered early retirement to roughly 7% of its employees in the United States. Amazon, which has secured the most H-1B visas in the past five years, has laid off 30,000 employees since October. It's true that most of those who lost their jobs are Americans, but this offers little consolation to Indians, who are already at a disadvantage compared with US citizens in similar situations. An H-1B worker must find another job within 60 days to remain in the US. This has become harder because of the dearth of new jobs for them following the latest job cuts. Unlike Americans, Indian nationals have no social security net to fall back on, forcing them to accept much lower-paid jobs in the non-tech sector to support their families while they wait for a job in their field.

The AI Excuse

Many technology companies in the US have justified job cuts to free up funds for AI operations. Meta said its job cuts are intended to offset the company's rising spending on AI infrastructure. The company plans to spend up to \$145 billion on capital expenditure this year, largely to build out AI data centres and stock them with chips. Meta is tracking em-



ployees' keystrokes and mouse clicks to help train its AI models to use computers. Effectively, thus, employees are preparing AI to make themselves redundant. But Meta, Block, and other tech firms are also accused of using AI as a pretext to lay off workers hired during the pandemic, simply to cut costs and increase profits. Cutting jobs to make way for AI is "a nice excuse, but some of these aren't necessarily the best, most well-run companies", Mark Mahaney, an analyst at the investment bank Evercore, told The New York Times last week. Some companies are candid about the reasons for job cuts. Cloudflare, which provides internet services, has recently cut 20% of its workforce, despite growing by more than 30%. Writing in The Wall Street Journal, its chief executive, Matthew Prince, said, "I did it because business is changing, and to win the future, Cloudflare needs to change with it." Many Indian tech engineers have retrained themselves to provide AI services, but others see a bleak future. Students from India have long been the top choice for US universities. Even in 2024-25,

nearly 31% of students were from India, pushing China into second place. But this may now be changing. Last year, 60% fewer Indians were granted F-1 student visas, according to ICEF Monitor, which collects market data for the international education industry. Although visa denials for Africans, Pakistanis and Bangladeshis were much higher, the latest data will still be a major disappointment to Indians. Even for those who have obtained visas to study at US universities, job prospects are not bright. The Trump administration plans to restrict or terminate the Optional Practical Training (OPT) programme. This is a route many Indian youths have taken over the years to obtain an H-1B visa, secure a lucrative job and settle in the US. Tech giants and other companies have been hiring foreign students for work experience, which they later use to apply for their work permits under the programme. Under the proposed plan, foreign students will be allowed to stay for up to four years, which will restrict their job prospects in the country.

74 Petitions Received at PGRS in Amrutaluru

District Collector Dr. V. Vinod Kumar emphasizes speaking with petitioners and resolving issues



Bapatla (Pen Power): District Collector Dr. V. Vinod Kumar stated that petitions regarding grievances submitted by applicants during the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) program held on Friday at the Amrutaluru Mandal headquarters must be examined and resolved immediately. As part of the 'One Month, Four Visits' program, District Collector Dr. V. Vinod Kumar and local MLA Nakka Anand Babu conducted the PGRS program on Friday morning at the Amrutaluru Mandal headquarters

(within the Vemuru constituency) and received grievance petitions from the public. Speaking on the occasion, the District Collector directed officials from the concerned departments to visit the field, examine the 74 grievance petitions submitted during the program, and resolve them immediately. Earlier, marking World Environment Day, the District Collector planted saplings on the premises of the Arya Vysya Kalyana Mandapam, where the PGRS program was being held. Subsequently, speaking directly to petitioners regarding grievances previously submitted through the PGRS, the District Collector assured them that their petitions had been reviewed and that their issues would be examined and resolved. As part of World Environment Day celebrations on Friday, the District Collector planted saplings on the bund of Ankamma Cheruvu (tank) near the high school in Govada village, Amrutaluru Mandal; speaking on the occasion, the Collector emphasized that those who plant saplings bear the responsibility of nurturing and protecting them. Subsequently, the Collector inspected the site where an MSME park is being established in Govada village. Accompanying the District Collector were Repalle RDO B. Sridevi, R&B DE Aruna, Tahsildar K. Nehru, MPDO Maruti Seshumamba, the Panchayat Secretary, villagers, and others.

Collector Inspects Area Hospital, Reviews Medical Services

Rampachodavaram, June 5: Polavaram District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar conducted a surprise inspection of the Area Hospital in Rampachodavaram on Friday along with Joint Collector Surapathi Prashanth Kumar. He directed medical officials to ensure immediate treatment, free medicines, and quality healthcare services for patients, especially those from remote tribal areas. The Collector reviewed the OP, emergency, maternity wards, and medicine distribution center, and interacted with patients about the services being provided. He also stressed the importance of maintaining cleanliness, ensuring the availability of medicines, providing drinking water and food facilities for in-patients, and taking strict action against staff negligence. Hospital Superintendent Surya Prakash Rao, DCHO Sambasiva Rao, and other officials were present.



Two-day FDP on Generative AI for Computer Vision held at Aditya University



Gandepalli, Pen Power, June 5: The Department of Information Technology at Aditya University, Surampalem, Gandepalli mandal, inaugurated a two-day Faculty Development Programme on "Generative Artificial Intelligence for Computer Vision". The programme aims to give faculty comprehensive knowledge of Generative AI, deep learn-

ing, image and video analysis, NVIDIA GPU-based technologies and modern computer vision applications. Dr. Nilesh Chandra K. Pikhale, Assistant Professor and DLI Training Instructor from IIIT Nagpur, served as the resource person. He trained faculty on fundamentals of Generative AI, differences between discriminative and generative models, autoencoders, variational autoencoders, GANs, U-Net architecture, diffusion models, and practical use of NVIDIA GPU platforms for AI model design and data pre-processing. Officials said the training will help faculty effectively use AI and GPU technologies in teaching, research, and student projects. Deputy Pro Chancellor Dr. M. Srinivasa Reddy, Vice Chancellor Prof. M.B. Srinivas, Pro Vice Chancellors Dr. S. Ramashree and Dr. A. Ramesh, Registrar Dr. G. Suresh, IT HoD Dr. Makinedi Rajababu, Coordinator Dr. P. Siva Satya Prasad, Co-coordinator Dr. Karnam Srinu and other faculty attended.

Farmers Encouraged to Adopt Natural Farming

Rampachodavaram, June 5 (Pen Power): Polavaram District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar said the district administration is promoting natural farming to improve soil health and farmers' income. Speaking at a seed distribution program in Tamarapalli village on Friday, he distributed green manure (green leaf manure) seeds to 20 tribal farmers with 90% subsidy, at a cost of ₹34,000. The Collector urged farmers to reduce dependence on chemical fertilizers and adopt eco-friendly farming practices for better yields and healthier food. Joint Collector Surapathi Prashanth Kumar said the government is encouraging natural farming across the district and providing subsidized inputs to eligible farmers. Several agriculture and revenue officials attended the program.



SP Vakul Jindal launches novel measures against ganja in Guntur



Guntur, Pen Power, June 5: Guntur SP Vakul Jindal on Thursday conducted urine NDPS tests on ganja users and rowdy sheeters in the city as part of anti-ganja measures. Under the 'Sankalpam' counselling initiative, the SP warned that police would not tolerate anti-social activities. "Those repeating offences will face strict action," he said, adding that cases were already registered against 400 people and PD Act against 10. In West Sub-Division, he personally supervised NDPS tests at Nagarampalem, Pattabhipuram and Arundalpet PS limits. Pattabhipuram had 11 ganja case persons and 13 rowdy sheeters; Arundalpet had 4 and 22; Nagarampalem had 8 and 12. A total of 90 people were tested in West Division, with 7 found positive for ganja consumption.

Voter List Revision: Collector Reviews Progress

Bapatla, Pen Power: District Collector Dr. V. Vinod Kumar reviewed the ongoing special voter list revision work through reports and held a review meeting with officials from the Collectorate's Veeksha hall on Friday. He said Chirala constituency was lagging in Bapatla district's 5 constituencies. Despite targeting 15 mappings per BLO daily, many BLOs were behind. He directed that both E-AMS and enumeration be done. Noting rising E-AMS in Repalle, he sought reasons from the RDO. Till Friday morning, 10,943 entries were done district-wide, with Nizamapatnam topping at 1,091 and Karamchedu at just 34. He asked for details of new applicants who had no vote in 2002. The Collector warned of disciplinary action against those defying orders and asked Bapatla Municipal Commissioner to explain BLO transfers. He ordered a show-cause notice to BLO Padma Sattenapalli of PS No. 174, Vetapalem, for mapping 318 people in one day. Tahsildars were asked to submit details of forest, mangrove and jungle lands. Chirala 1/c RDO Lavanna,



Tahsildar Gopikrishna, Repalle RDO Sridevi via video conference, all tahsildars, municipal commissioners, VROs, AEROs, supervisors and BLOs attended.

Environment Protection Should Become a People's Movement



Rampachodavaram, June 5 (Pen Power): Polavaram District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar called upon people to make environmental protection a mass movement and plant at least one sapling in every household. Speaking at the World Environment Day celebrations held at Musurumilli village on Friday, he stressed the importance of trees in maintaining ecological balance and ensuring a healthy future for coming generations. MLA Miriyala Sirisha Devi urged people to transform every village into a green village by promoting plantation activities and re-



ducing plastic usage. Joint Collector Surapathi Prashanth Kumar appealed to youth and students to actively participate in environmental conservation. The dignitaries planted saplings and took part in awareness programs on environmental protection. Several officials, public representatives, students, and villagers attended the event.

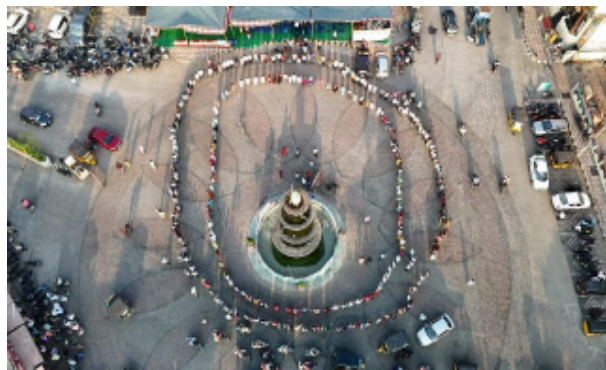
Public Participation Key for Plastic-Free Environment: Collector

Rajahmendravaram, June 5 (Pen Power): East Godavari District Collector Keerthi Chekuri said public participation is essential for achieving a plastic-free and environmentally sustainable society. Speaking at the World Environment Day celebrations held at Ava Bombay Colony on Friday, the Collector, along with Municipal Commissioner Rahul Meena, officials, residents, and children, planted saplings. The Collector urged people to reduce plastic usage and actively promote tree plantation to protect biodiversity and ensure a cleaner environment for future generations. Commissioner Rahul Meena said the Municipal Corporation is implementing several initiatives to maintain a clean and healthy city and called for public support in making the plastic ban successful. Officials and residents also took a pledge to work to-



wards the goals of Swachh Harit Andhra during the event.

Human Chain Held for Environmental Awareness at Pushkar Ghat



Rajahmendravaram, June 5 (Pen Power): As part of the World Environment Day celebrations and the "Operation Clean Sweep" campaign, a large environmental awareness program and human chain were organized at Pushkar

Ghat Junction under the Municipal Corporation's initiative. District Collector Keerthi Chekuri, Municipal Commissioner Rahul Meena, and MLA Adireddy Srinivas participated in the event and inspected awareness stalls. Addressing the gathering, the Collector stressed the need to reduce single-use plastic and promote eco-friendly alternatives. He also directed that plastic water bottles should not be used at official meetings. MLA Adireddy Srinivas highlighted the "My Ghat - My Responsibility" initiative for improving and maintaining the city's ghats, while Commissioner Rahul Meena emphasized public participation in keeping the Godavari riverfront clean ahead of the upcoming Pushkarams. Participants took a pledge to protect the Godavari, reduce plastic usage, and work towards environmental conservation.

Collector Sai Kanth Varma calls for 'Plant 10 Trees, Save Green'

Guntur, Pen Power, June 5: District Collector C.M. Sai Kanth Varma urged every citizen to plant 10 saplings and protect greenery. He participated in World Environment Day celebrations held Friday at Nagara Vanam near Perecherla. Seed balls were prepared and saplings planted during the event. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said planting and protecting 10 trees each will increase greenery and help reduce pollution and heat. He called for adopting eco-friendly practices, curbing plastic use, and avoiding junk food for better health. He added efforts would be made to develop Guntur district into a "green district". Agriculture Joint Director M. Padmavathi, CSR Organics organiser Mokkalala Sitaramaiah and forest department staff attended.



Police-themed yoga event on June 7 in Vijayawada

Vijayawada, Pen Power, June 5: As part of the state's 'Yogandhra-2026' campaign from June 7 to 21, District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmi said special yoga programmes will be held across the district to promote healthy living. Addressing a press meet at the Collectorate's AVS Reddy Hall with Police Commissioner S.V. Rajasekhara Babu and Additional CP KGV Sarita, the Collector said a thematic yoga session with police personnel will be held on June 7 on BRTS Road. Daily yoga will be conducted at 6 am on Vijayawada BRTS Road, with farmers, women, youth, doctors, workers, students, elders and teachers participating. Events are also planned at sacred Sangam on June 10 and Berm Park on June 13. District-level celebrations will be held on June 21. Yoga competitions will run from gram/ward to state level. District-level contests on 'Yoga and Youth - Building a Healthy Future' are scheduled June 14-16. Categories include individual asana/pranayama, synchronized group yoga, quiz and slogan contests for junior, youth and senior groups. CP Rajasekhara Babu said yoga is a good path for crime prevention and mental health.



Under 'Drug Abatement 2.0', yoga camps will be held for ganja-positive individuals identified at 28 police stations to bring them into mainstream life. District AYUSH Officer Dr. Y. Ratna Priyadarshini said this year's theme is 'Yoga for Healthy Ageing'. AYUSH, Health, Revenue, Police, Youth Welfare, Sports, Education and Municipal departments will coordinate the events.

LIC is India's No.1 Financial Institution: Senior Divisional Manager

Rampachodavaram, June 5: LIC is the largest financial institution in India with assets worth over ₹56 lakh crore, said Rajahmundry LIC Division Senior Divisional Manager Satyanarayana Sahu at the "Hai Haiyiga... Challa Challaga Mareduhilli" convention held in Mareduhilli on Friday. He stated that LIC plays a key role in supporting national development and that the Rajahmundry Division has earned a strong reputation across the country. During the last financial year, the division achieved ₹195 crore in single-premium business through its 20 branches and 11 satellite branches. Sahu said LIC aims to provide insurance coverage to every citizen and is encouraging agents to expand policy reach. Around 1,200 agents from 31 branches across the Godavari districts attended the convention, where 150 top-performing agents and organizing committee members were felicitated.



Complete election mapping within deadline: Collector K. Dinesh Kumar



Rampachodavaram, Pen Power, June 5: District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar directed officials to complete the ongoing election mapping process in Polavaram district within the stipulated deadline to ensure transparent conduct of upcoming elections. He reviewed mapping

progress with Joint Collector S. Prashant Kumar and EROs, tahsildars, BLOs, and village/ward secretariat staff from all mandals at the local ITDA meeting hall on Friday. The Collector said EROs and tahsildars must monitor mapping daily at constituency and mandal level and update data online regularly. Booth Level Officers should verify every house in their area and accurately map voter details to polling stations. Secretariat staff must fully support BLOs on field. He stressed 100% mapping must be completed at all polling stations as per schedule. Negligence in duty will attract disciplinary action. The goal is to ensure every eligible voter gets enrolled and faces no difficulty while voting through proper polling station mapping. Tahsildars CH. Balaji, Karaka Satyanarayana, CH. Srinivasa Rao, Venugopal, Ammaji, Dorakayya, I.V. Satyanarayana, Swami, deputy tahsildars, revenue inspectors, VROs and secretariat staff attended.

Centre Assures Full Support for Seafood Exports

Visakhapatnam, June 5: Union Civil Aviation Minister said the Centre will extend full support to boost seafood exports through air cargo services and is taking steps to simplify transportation charges. Speaking at the National Seafood Export Conference in Visakhapatnam, attended by and, he said air cargo plays a vital role in delivering seafood products to domestic and international markets quickly while maintaining quality. The minister stated that infrastructure for cargo transportation is being strengthened and that Bhogapuram International Airport will be developed as a key hub for seafood exports under the "One Airport - One Product" concept. He also highlighted the Centre's plans to expand cargo facilities and improve multimodal connectivity to support exporters.



ACB Raids Revenue Employee in Disproportionate Assets Case

Kakinada, June 5: Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) officials conducted simultaneous raids at four locations linked to

associated premises. During the raids, officials reportedly identified assets worth over ₹20 crore, including flats in Kakinada and Hyderabad, agricultural land, luxury vehicles, gold ornaments, cash, and electronic gadgets. According to preliminary findings, properties, vehicles, and valuables far exceeding known sources of income were detected. ACB officials stated that the searches are continuing and detailed valuation reports will be released after the investigation is completed.



Kakinada Collectorate Senior Assistant Chodavarapu Sivaram Kumar in connection with a disproportionate assets case. The ACB registered a case under the Prevention of Corruption Act and carried out searches at his residence, office, and other

107 Grievances Received at PGRS in Paderu

Paderu, June 5: A total of 107 petitions were received during the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) programme held at the Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) office in Paderu on Friday. Joint Collector Tirumani Sreepooja, along with ITDA Project Officer Aditya Varma and other officials, received petitions from people across various mandals and directed departments to resolve them within the stipulated time. She emphasized that grievances should be addressed promptly and that officials must attend PGRS meetings with complete information related to their departments. The Joint Collector also instructed mandal-level officers to conduct regular grievance redressal programmes and resolve issues at the local level to reduce public complaints reaching the district level. Most petitions received



were related to land disputes, revenue, drinking water, electricity, roads, pensions, tribal welfare, and other civic issues.

Net Zero-Healthy Campus Initiative Launched in Kakinada



Kakinada, June 5: District Collector M.N. Harendhira Prasad launched the "Net Zero-Healthy Campus" programme at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Gurukul School in Tuni

on World Environment Day, emphasizing that the initiative will promote environmental protection and provide a healthy, clean atmosphere for students. The Collector said the project is being implemented on a pilot basis in 20 Gurukul schools, hostels, and residential institutions across Kakinada district. The initiative aims to reduce carbon emissions, encourage greenery, and create eco-friendly campuses.

As part of the programme, saplings were planted and students were educated on environmental conservation. Awareness sessions were also conducted by members of the Heartfulness Team. Officials expressed confidence that the initiative would enhance environmental awareness and promote sustainable practices among students.

Collector orders protection of Bapatla reserve forest lands

Bapatla, Pen Power: District Collector Dr. V. Vinod Kumar directed officials to protect Bapatla reserve forest lands from encroachment. He was speaking at a district-level committee meeting held at the local Collectorate on the removal of patta lands from the 22A prohibited list. The Collector said the Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary area in Nizampatnam and Repalle mandals is a protected zone for wild animals and birds, and revenue officials are responsible for preventing encroachments. He stressed that mangrove forests must be protected. Only tahsildars and RDOs can permit tree felling on govt lands, and forest department permission is mandatory for felling teak trees. On 22A lands, the committee examined 47 petitions from Chinaganjam, Vetapalem, Chirala, Parchur, Bapatla, Karlapalem, P.V. Palem, Cherukupalli, Nagaram and Kolluru mandals. After verifying details on Webland, e-Bhumi and other revenue records, the committee resolved to remove



patta lands from the 22A prohibited list where eligible. DRO G. Gangadhar Goud, Survey & Land Records AD Sessa Girirao, District Registration Officer, RDOs Gloria, Lavanna, Sridevi, and concerned tahsildars and DTs attended.

NHAI Conducts 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' Plantation Drive Across Andhra Pradesh



Vijayawada, June 5: Marking World Environment Day 2026, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) organized the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" plantation drive at

various toll plazas across Andhra Pradesh, with a major programme held at Kaza Toll Plaza. NHAI Regional Officer R.K. Singh, IES, said the authority is committed to developing green and healthy highways. He noted that nearly 18 lakh saplings have been planted along National Highways in Andhra Pradesh between 2010 and 2025, and a target of 3.86 lakh saplings has been set for 2026-27. Under the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" initiative, around 3,200 saplings were planted across the state on Friday. Officials emphasized the importance of environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable living, while encouraging citizens and students to actively participate in plantation drives for a greener future.

Collector Calls for Public Participation in Environmental Protection

Ongole, June 5: District Collector P. Rajababu urged citizens to actively participate in environmental protection during World Environment Day celebrations organized by the Forest Department and Pollution Control Board at Prakasam Bhavan on Thursday. The Collector planted saplings, signed a pledge for environmental conservation, and flagged off an awareness rally from Prakasam Bhavan to Mini Stadium. He encouraged people to reduce carbon emissions by preferring walking, public transport, and carpooling, while avoiding plastic usage. Highlighting government initiatives for environmental conservation, he stressed the importance of tree plantation and creating a healthy environment for future generations. Officials, industry representatives, NGO members, and students participated in the program.



District-Level Flood Preparedness Review Meeting Today



Rampachodavaram, June 5 (Pen Power): Polavaram District Collector and District Magistrate K. Dinesh Kumar announced that a district-level review meeting on flood preparedness, prevention, and relief measures will be held on June 6 at the ITDA Conference Hall in Chintoor. The Collector directed all concerned departmental officers to attend the meeting with their department-wise action plans, details of available resources, and emergency response strategies. The meeting aims to strengthen coordination among departments and ensure effective preparedness for the upcoming flood season.