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Mamata Banerjee Clips Bhaipo's Wings In Reshuffle Amid Revolt In Party



Kolkata: Mamata Banerjee is finally setting her house in order. Battling unprecedented rebellion and challenge to her authority, the Trinamool Congress supremo has gone for a 360-degree overhaul of the party organisation. Mamata Banerjee's nephew and party National General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee, who was the de facto boss of the party, has seen his wings clipped. "Bhaipo" Banerjee, whose word reigned supreme and was the main reason for resentment among the rank and file, will now work with two more national general secretaries. MPs Derek O'Brien and Dola Sen will "assist" Abhishek Banerjee going forward. The message is clear: Abhishek Banerjee is now not beyond questioning.

PM Modi Chairs Key Economic Advisory Council Meeting Amid Iran War

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday held a meeting with the members of the Economic Advisory Council (EAC) to the prime minister and discussed various ideas and measures to further boost India's economic growth amid global turmoil. Various reforms to improve ease of living and ease of doing business were also discussed, official sources said. The prime minister and the EAC-PM members discussed various ideas and measures to further boost



India's economic growth in times of global turmoil, they said. The members also gave their assessment of the impact of the West Asia conflict on India and the world.

24 Hours After K Annamalai Leaves BJP... Nearly 14 Lakh Join His New Movement



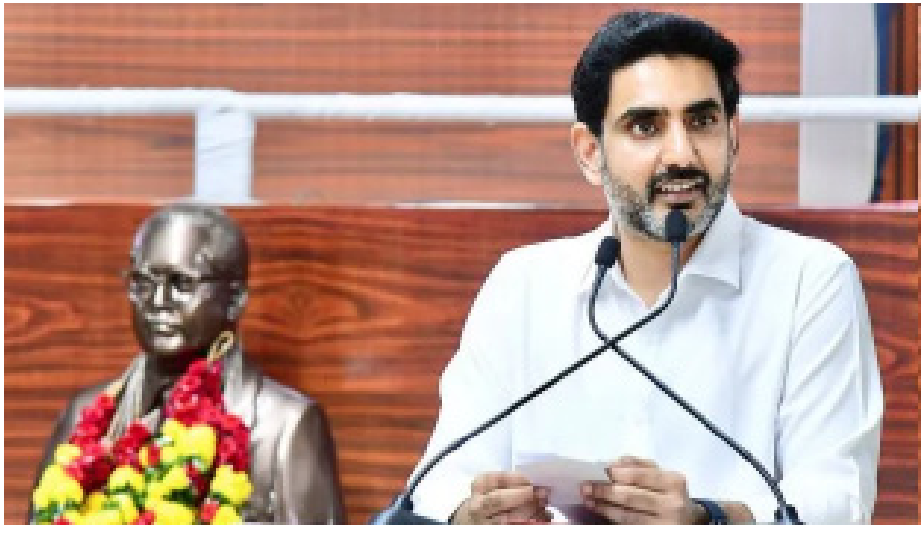
Chennai: K Annamalai made his separation from the Bharatiya Janata Party official on 5 June, and within minutes, he announced plans to launch a political movement of his own. Within 24 hours, nearly 14 lakh people signed up. The split had been building for weeks. On Friday, the former Indian Police Service officer formally resigned from the BJP, and party chief Nitin Nambiar later accepted his resignation. In his resignation letter, Annamalai said, "At this point, I would recall the multiple conversations with the top leadership and the disagreements I have expressed over the last 18 months. I do not want to burden the top leadership any further with my ongoing thoughts on the way forward for a growth-oriented and culturally rooted politics in Tamil Nadu. After my conversations with our senior leadership, I have come to the conclusion that our views don't align regarding Tamil Nadu." Annamalai had left the civil services and joined the BJP in 2020. He was named state vice president within weeks of joining, and elevated to state unit chief just a year later, at the age of 37.

'Cockroach Janta Party' Holds Protest In Delhi, Sonam Wangchuk Joins

New Delhi: Social media platform 'Cockroach Janta Party' is holding a protest in Delhi demanding Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation over the NEET paper leak issue. Activist and innovator Sonam Wangchuk also joined the 'Cockroach Janta Party' protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi. Earlier on Saturday morning, the Delhi Police gave permission for the protest by the online platform. On Saturday morning, the 'Cockroach Janta Party' founder Abhijeet Dipke landed in Delhi from the US to lead the protest. Delhi Police officials met him at the airport and allowed him to proceed to Jantar Mantar for the protest. Dipke had earlier asked his supporters to converge at the Parliament Street Police Station to seek permission for the protest. But after police allowed the protest, he appealed to his supporters to directly reach Jantar Mantar. Dipke was seen coming out of the airport carrying a copy of social reformer and Constitution architect BR Ambedkar's autobiography. Delhi Police have made strict security arrangements in the wake of the protest.



Nara Lokesh holds key talks with Yandex in Russia.. Focus on AI traffic systems



Russia: Andhra Pradesh IT Minister Nara Lokesh is visiting Russia. On this occasion, he met with representatives of leading tech company Yandex. In this meeting, key discussions were held on the implementation of smart traffic management systems in Amaravati and Visakhapatnam. It is reported that the possibilities of introducing predictive transit scheduling, public safety analytics, and AI-based traffic monitoring systems in both cities were examined. There were special discussions on the use of modern technology to reduce traffic congestion. Lokesh also made suggestions on ways to reduce last mile transportation costs. He also discussed with the Yandex team the use of autonomous vehicles in Quick Commerce and delivery fleets. It is learnt that the meeting also discussed technical partnership for the AI data center to be set up in Visakhapatnam, as well as the use of high-performance cloud frameworks. The meeting also discussed the use of AI models in local administration. Minister Lokesh also met with a high-level team from Yandex in Sberbank City, Russia. It is learnt that he is holding a series of meetings with several key organizations on the fifth day.

Many anarchy and irregularities were committed during Jagan's rule: Home Minister Anitha

Prakasam, June 6 : Andhra Pradesh Home Minister Vangalapati Anitha has expressed her deep anger at YSRCP chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. She said that many anarchy and irregularities were committed during the YSRCP regime. She said that everyone should remember the atrocities committed by Jagan and Co. She said that everyone knows how much trouble Dalits have faced during Jagan's rule. She also said that atrocity cases have been filed against her and MLA MS Raju. She said that even today, they are going to the Kadapa court regarding the atrocity cases. Saturday, a statue of Ambedkar was unveiled in Kanigiri in Prakasam district. Union Minister Chirag Paswan and Home Minister Anitha participated in the program. Anitha spoke on the occasion. She said that if Ambedkar's ideology is not in everyone's veins, his service will be like water poured into ashes. She was angry that some people are creating differences among Dalits. She said that Ram Vilas Paswan is a Dalit leader. She mentioned that he not only founded a party but also worked as a minister under six prime ministers. He said that Dalit leader Ram Vilas Paswan's son Chirag Paswan took over the post of Union Minister at a young age. He mentioned that Chirag Paswan told Prime Minister Narendra Modi that he was Hanuman. He said that wherever you look, the statue of Ambedkar is at the end of the village. He said that the installation of the statue of Ambedkar in the heart of Kanigiri town is commendable. He said that the statue of Ambedkar in Kanigiri was installed by all communities together. Nara Lokesh said that everyone was talking about the Red Book in the Yuvagalam



Padayatra. But he questioned whether the Constitution that Lokesh held in the Padayatra was not visible. Home Minister Vangalapati Anitha said that Lokesh held the Constitution in the Padayatra.

Lingamaneni Ramesh Files Rajya Sabha Nomination with Support from Alliance MLAs

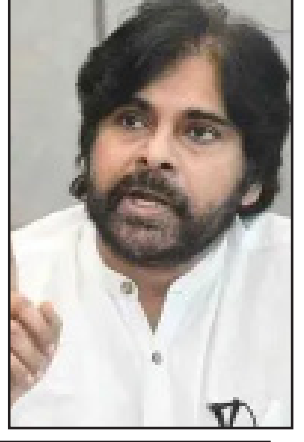


Amaravati: Lingamaneni Ramesh has filed his nomination as the Janasena candidate for the Rajya Sabha. Ten MLAs from the alliance proposed his nomination; the signatories included six Janasena MLAs, three TDP MLAs, and one BJP MLA. Alliance MLAs Pulaparthi Ramanjaneyulu, Boliseti Srinivas Nayakar, Vamsi Krishna Srinivas, Deva Varaprasad, Kollu Ravindra, Nadendla Manohar, Kagita Krishna Prasad, Nakka Anand Babu, and N. Eswara Rao (BJP) accompanied Ramesh to show their support. Ramesh confirmed that he had filed his nomination for the Rajya Sabha as the Janasena candidate. He expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan for providing him with this opportunity. He also extended special thanks to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Chandrababu for supporting his candidature. Ramesh stated that he would speak to everyone again after being elected.

Pawan Kalyan is serious about NTPS ash pollution

NTR District, (Ibrahimpattanam), June 6 : The fly ash pollution issue emanating from the Dr. Narla Tatarau Thermal Power Station (Dr. NTPS) in Ibrahimpattanam, NTR district has come to the attention of Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. Mylavaram constituency MLA Vasantha Krishna Prasad and Jana Sena leader Akkala Gandhi explained the issue to Pawan Kalyan. Pawan Kalyan, who arrived in Moolapadu village yesterday (Friday) on the occasion of World Environment Day, met local leaders and explained the problems faced by the people due to NTPS ash pollution. He brought to his attention that the fly ash emitted from the power plant is causing severe damage to the environment, people's health and agricultural lands in the surrounding villages. Pawan Kalyan discussed this issue with local leaders and relevant groups for about half an hour. He expressed deep concern after learning about the problems faced by farmers and villagers due to ash pollution. Locals have been expressing concern for a long time that trees, crops and livestock are being affected due to fly ash emitted from NTPS and air pollution is increasing in the

villages. People are demanding a permanent solution to this problem. Recognizing the seriousness of this problem, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan spoke to AP Genco officials and assured them that necessary steps would be taken. He said that he would look into the issues related to pollution control and suggest the officials to take steps to prevent people from facing any problems.



Southwest monsoon hits Andhra Pradesh, to extend all over the state

Amaravati: The Meteorological Department has brought good news to the people of Andhra Pradesh, who have been reeling under the scorching heat for the past few days. The Southwest Monsoon, marking the onset of the rainy season, has reached the state. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) announced that the monsoon is currently spreading gradually across the Rayalaseema and South Coastal districts. People have been facing severe hardship due to temperatures exceeding 40 degrees Celsius in recent days. Amidst this, the arrival of the Southwest Monsoon offers much-needed relief. Officials state that weather conditions are highly favorable for the further spread of the monsoon. The monsoon is likely to extend to more areas of the state over the next two to three days. Consequently, rains accompanied by thunder and lightning are forecast for several districts. Weather experts predict the possibility of moderate to heavy rainfall, particularly in the Rayalaseema districts and the South Coastal region. Maximum temperatures are expected to gradually decline due to the monsoon's influence, providing relief from the blistering heat. Meanwhile, farmers are eagerly awaiting the monsoon, as it will boost Kharif cultivation activities.



EDITORIAL

In times of crisis, clean energy is the only refuge

It is known that geopolitical tensions have arisen as a result of the US-Israeli attacks on Iran. The blockade of the Strait of Hormuz is causing severe disruptions to energy supplies. As a result, oil prices are increasing unabated. The countries that are suffering the most from climate change in the world are facing another serious problem, the shock of fossil fuels. As the energy import bills of these countries are increasing drastically, they are turning their attention towards clean energy. They are reducing the use of fossil fuels and engaging in the use of renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power. India is also leaning towards clean energy. Currently, the use of renewable energy in the country is up to 40%. Of this, hydropower accounts for 12 percent, and solar and wind power accounts for 21 percent. There are 85 million electricity consumers in the country. This number will change as the population increases. The needs increase in line with development. India is 74 percent dependent on fossil fuels for electricity generation. The government is showing interest in wind power plants as their efficiency is only 33 percent, despite solar power plants. The installed wind power capacity in the country as of June 30, 2023 was 43,773 MW, while the electricity generated from wind power in the financial year 2022-23 was 71,814 million units.

Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Telangana were the states that produced the most wind power in 2022-23. However, the government is trying to achieve a target of 99,895 MW of wind power by 2029-30. Currently, there are more than 800 wind power plants in the country. The country has the potential to install 46 GW of wind power today. This number will increase in the coming years. The Center has stated that wind power, which was only 38 MW in 1996, has now reached a capacity of 46 MW. Preparations are being made to utilize offshore wind capacity. The government is coming forward to further expand cooperation by providing funds in this regard. The National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE), the nodal agency for these offshore wind projects, has installed two wind speed measuring devices called LiDARs at Tuticorin Port and another at the Yudangudi area. The LiDAR data revealed that the wind speed in these regions is 9.5 to 10 meters per second for 7 to 8 months of the year. 80 percent of the installed wind power capacity in the world comes from large offshore wind farms in the US, India, China, Germany, Denmark and Spain. In the last two decades, the global wind power capacity has increased from 7.5 GW in 1997 to 564 GW in 2018. Looking at the use of solar energy, a report by global energy think tank 'Ember' revealed that the countries most affected by climate change have already surpassed the United States in the use of solar energy.

The Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF), an international partnership of countries most at risk from climate change, is trying to take urgent action to combat the climate crisis. In addition, the V20 group of finance ministers (CVF V20) is working to combat the economic losses caused by climate change and raise funds. In this context, about 46 percent of the 74 countries most vulnerable to climate change in the CVF V20 are ahead of the United States in terms of the share of solar energy in electricity demand. Africa, Asia, Latin America and small island countries, all of which have a fifth of the world's population, or 1.7 billion people. They account for less than 5 percent of global GDP. They also have less electricity demand. However, they are leading in adopting decentralized solar energy. That is, they are leading in the use of solar energy and electric technologies. However, it is noteworthy that the report states that these are not considered as significant. Eight of the 10 countries in the CVF have increased their solar deployment since 2017, importing solar panels that are three times more than their officially recorded installed capacity. This is evidenced by the rapid expansion of decentralized rooftop and off-grid systems. This trend is visible across all sectors. Namibia (35 percent) and Togo (18 percent) are leading in solar generation. Nepal (70 percent) and Sri Lanka (64 percent) are leading in electric vehicle adoption. Jordan and Kyrgyzstan are increasing their use of battery vehicles.

Partnerships That Deliver: India And Denmark's Collaboration On Environment In Action

In global development, partnerships are often spoken of as enablers. In practice, they tend to follow policy, supporting programmes that are already defined. The India-Denmark Green Strategic Partnership offers a different proposition: what if partnerships are not downstream of policy, but foundational to how it is shaped, delivered and sustained? As the world marks World Environment Day 2026, this question is particularly relevant for the water sector, where the gap between infrastructure creation and long-term service delivery continues to challenge even the most ambitious programmes. At its core, the India and Denmark partnership is not organised around projects, but around systems thinking. It brings together Denmark's experience of managing water as a regulated, efficiency-driven public service with India's scale and urgency of delivery. Crucially, it is designed to operate across levels like policy, institutions and implementation, rather than being confined to any one layer. This architecture matters because water governance failures rarely stem from a single point of weakness. They emerge from fragmentation: between planning and execution, between infrastructure and maintenance, and between users and providers.

The partnership attempts to close these gaps. Through institutions such as the Danish Environmental Protection Agency, Denmark contributes more than technical inputs. It brings a regulatory and operational perspective where service delivery is continuously monitored, efficiency is measured, and sustainability is embedded in decision-making. These are precisely the dimen-

sions that become critical once large-scale infrastructure has been created. Equally important is the role of the United Nations Office for Project Services, which acts not as an external implementer, but as a bridge between global knowledge and local systems. Its work lies in translating high-level principles into institutional practices, adapting them to the realities of village-level governance, resource constraints and varying state capacities.

This dual structure, global expertise combined with grounded implementation, gives the partnership its operational depth. It is within this enabling framework that India's Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) can be better understood, not simply as a national scheme, but as a platform where partnership-led approaches are being applied at scale. JJM's achievements in expanding rural water access are widely recognised. But its longer-term significance lies in how it has been designed: decentralised planning, community-managed systems, and an explicit focus on service delivery rather than one-time asset creation. These design choices align closely with the principles underpinning the India-Denmark partnership, and it is this alignment that allows the partnership to add value beyond incremental support. For instance, knowledge exchanges under the partnership, on groundwater management, energy efficiency, water quality monitoring and data use, are not standalone activities. They feed directly into how water systems are planned and operated within the Jal Jeevan Mission. Similarly, peer-to-peer engagements between Indian states and Danish utilities are helping shift the focus from building infrastructure to



managing services over time.

The real test of this alignment, however, lies in implementation. Here, collaboration between UNOPS India and the Government of Denmark plays a critical role in providing implementation support to specific areas under the Green Strategic Partnership. By working through Gram Panchayats and Village Water and Sanitation Committees, it strengthens the very institutions responsible for sustaining water systems. This includes supporting Village Action Plans, building operational capacities, and introducing structured approaches to monitoring and maintenance. What emerges is not a parallel system, but a reinforcement of existing ones. The outcomes suggest that this approach is beginning to address one of the most persistent weaknesses in water programmes: the gap between access and functionality. Across multiple states, from the water-stressed regions of Bundelkhand and Vindhya to Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Assam, interventions supported under this framework

have improved not only access, but also the reliability of service. Nearly 4 million families have benefited, but more importantly, the systems serving them are better managed, more closely monitored and more responsive to local conditions. This distinction is critical. Expanding access is a finite task; sustaining services is an ongoing one. The partnership also foregrounds an often-underemphasised dimension of water governance: the role of communities. Participatory approaches such as Community-Led Action for Sanitary Surveillance (CLASS) and Paani Panchayats are not peripheral initiatives, they are mechanisms through which accountability is localised. When combined with efforts such as training women to monitor water quality, they shift water management from being supply-driven to being collectively owned. This is not just socially desirable; it is operationally necessary. Systems that are not understood or valued by users rarely endure.

The next phase of Jal Jeevan Mission, now extended to 2028, will hinge on this very ques-

tion of endurance. The infrastructure has largely been created. The challenge now is to ensure that it performs consistently over time, across diverse and often difficult geographies. This is where the logic of the India-Denmark partnership becomes most relevant. By addressing policy, institutions and community engagement together, it offers a way to move beyond short-term gains towards long-term system stability. More broadly, it raises an important point for development practice. Large-scale programmes do not fail for lack of ambition; they falter when systems are not equipped to carry that ambition forward. Partnerships, when designed well, can provide that missing continuity, linking global experience with local realities and strategy with execution. On World Environment Day, this is perhaps the most useful insight to carry forward. Sustainability is not achieved when infrastructure is completed, but when systems continue to function, quietly, reliably and over time.

Why Operation Blue Star Remains A 'Ghallughara' For Sikhs After 42 Years

Every year in the first week of June, something shifts in the air over Amritsar. It is not the security cordons, not the police flag marches, not the official advisories. It is something older and heavier, the return of a memory, mourning and an unfinished chapter of 1984. In government records, it is called Operation Blue Star. Among millions of Sikhs across Punjab, the diaspora in Canada, Britain and California, it is remembered as a "Ghallughara", a collective wound linked to faith, identity and dignity. The choice of that word is not incidental; it is an argument. The word Ghallughara has deep historical meaning in Sikh memory. It is generally used for a large-scale massacre or collective destruction faced by the Sikh community. Sikh history remembers the Chhota Ghallughara of 1746 and the Vadda Ghallughara of 1762, when thousands of Sikhs were killed during a period of persecution.

Operation Blue Star was carried out in June 1984 inside the Sri Darbar Sahib complex in Amritsar. The official position was that the operation was meant to flush out armed militants led by Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale and others who had taken positions inside the complex. Punjab in 1984 had been bleeding through a very tense period of militant violence. The state had a security problem that required resolution. That much is not in dispute. But the choice of place and timing left a deep scar. For Sikhs, military action inside the holiest

Sikh shrine was not seen only as a security operation, but as an emotional rupture linked to faith and dignity. The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), the apex gurdwara management body, along with the Akal Takht, the highest temporal seat of the Sikhs, have, this year as in past years, appealed for the anniversary to be observed as Martyrdom Week, peacefully, within Panthic maryada, with remembrance and ardas. Akal Takht's officiating Jathedar, Giani Kuldeep Singh Gargaj, has stressed unity and decorum. SGPC president Harjinder Singh Dhami had appealed to Sikhs and gurdwara management committees to observe the anniversary as Martyrdom Week from June 1 to June 6, to remember what the SGPC called the June 1984 Ghallughara.

These are not the words of a community bent on separatism. They are the words of institutions trying to hold together a community that has real and legitimate reasons for grief. There is another layer: law and order. For the Punjab Police, the anniversary is one of the most sensitive days in Amritsar's annual security calendar. Over the years, senior police officers, often up to DGP level, have personally reviewed arrangements in Amritsar. This year, the Amritsar Commissionerate Police also conducted a flag march across the city. Praveen Kumar Sinha, IPS, Special Director-General of Police (Law and Order), said the official objective is to ensure that remembrance remains peaceful. In several



past observances, pro-Khalistan slogans have been raised after ardas at the Akal Takht by activists of radical Sikh outfits. Traditionally, Dal Khalsa has given calls for Amritsar Bandh and taken out remembrance marches a day before June 6. For the 42nd anniversary in 2026, the organisation announced two-day events, including an Amritsar Bandh on June 6 for business, commercial and educational institutions, and a remembrance parade on the evening of June 5 from Burj Akali Phoola Singh. The one thing that unifies this diverse landscape is the memory of 1984, not as a political programme, but as a wound. That wound will not heal because it is inconvenient. It will heal when it is recognised. Recognition does not mean capitulation; it means engagement. It means accepting that communities remember trauma through faith, emotion and lived experience. Healing cannot come by imposing official language on wounded

memory. 1984 must be remembered with dignity. But its pain must not be used by those who want Sikhs and India to remain enemies forever. This is where leadership matters. The SGPC, Akal Takht, scholars, politicians, and the Indian government all have a role to play. Peaceful mourning is not a threat. But grief must not be turned into a call for violence. The difference between remembering and inciting must be respected by everyone. The government must also understand that healing cannot happen in a single statement or ceremony. It requires real, ongoing conversation with Sikh thinkers, farmers, youth, diaspora communities, and religious leaders. It requires honest language. It requires justice, for which Sikhs are waiting far too long. It requires putting real investment into Punjab, so its young people have a future worth staying for. So the real question is not just what this word "Ghallughara" means; the real question is why, after

more than forty years, it still hits so hard. It hits hard because Sri Darbar Sahib and the Akal Takht are not just structures. They are the heart of Sikh faith, identity, and dignity. And it hits hard because June 1984 did not end in June. It was followed by November 1984, when thousands of Sikhs were killed in organised violence across India, violence that many survivors and Sikh groups call genocide. That second blow deepened the wound and the feeling of betrayal. For many Sikhs, Operation Blue Star remains a Ghallughara because it struck their holiest place, damaged the Akal Takht, took lives, and broke something deep inside the community. Punjab does not need more anger. It needs responsible remembrance, justice that is honest, and reconciliation that is real. The goal is to understand. Because a wound does not heal with silence. It heals with recognition.

Govt Distributes Assistive Devices to CWSN Students in Alluri Sitharama Raju District

Paderu, June 6 (Pen Power): District Collector Nishanthi T. distributed assistive devices and educational kits to 185 Children With Special Needs (CWSN) studying in government schools across 11 mandals of Alluri Sitharama Raju district. The programme was organized under Samagra Shiksha with the support of Inclusive Education Resource Persons. The beneficiaries included students with physical, sensory, neurodevelopmental, visual and other disabilities. The Collector said the government conducts annual medical assessment camps to identify the needs of special children and provides aids such as wheelchairs, walking sticks, educational kits and Braille kits free of cost through ALIMCO. She urged students to make good use of the facilities and pursue higher education. Joint Collector Tirumani Sripooja and other officials attended the programme.



Yogandhra-2026 Yoga Competitions from June 7: Collector

Vijayawada, June 6 (Pen Power): District Collector has called upon people to actively participate in the Yogandhra-2026 programme aimed at promoting yoga awareness and healthy lifestyles. Village and ward-level competitions will be held from June 7 to 9, followed by mandal-level events from June 10 to 12, district-level competitions from June 14 to 16, and state-level contests from June 18 to 20. Events include yoga asanas, pranayama, synchronized group yoga, yoga songs, quizzes, slogans, and essay competitions. Participants will compete in

Junior (10-18 years), Young (19-35 years), and Senior (35 years and above) categories. Winners at each level will advance to the next stage and will be honoured at the state-level programme. Registrations can be made at Swarna Gramam and Swarna Ward offices. For details, participants may contact 84980 12833 or 83413 64185.



Collector Calls for Public Participation to Make Ongole a Clean City



Ongole, June 6 (Pen Power): District Collector and Ongole Municipal Corporation Special Officer urged citizens to actively participate in making Ongole a clean and model city ahead of its 150th anniversary celebrations scheduled for September.

Addressing a press conference on Saturday, he said the city-wide Operation Clean Sweep campaign is being implemented in phases, focusing on garbage removal, drainage cleaning, sanitation improvement, and public hygiene. He appealed to residents to maintain cleanliness and cooperate with municipal authorities.

The Collector also announced the launch of a 24x7 toll-free sanitation helpline and said strict action, including fines, would be taken against violations of solid waste management rules. He added that a waste-to-energy plant and modernization of the Pothuraju Canal are among the key projects planned to transform Ongole into a cleaner and more attractive city.

Minister Distributes Rs 111 Crore Financial Aid, Launches Development Works in Ravulapalem



Amalapuram, June 6 (Pen Power): MSME, SERP and Rural Development Minister said the coalition government's goal is to ensure economic growth for every family in the state. During his visit to Ravulapalem on Saturday, the Minister, along with MLA, laid foundation stones and inaugurated development works worth ₹1.52 crore, including road and drainage projects. He also distributed financial assistance worth ₹111.19 crore to beneficiaries under various schemes. The aid included MSME support, PMAJVV assistance, TrekCare benefits, and bank linkage support to 588 Self-Help Groups. The Minister said the government is focusing on rural economic development, employment generation, and strengthening the MSME sector in line with Vision-2047. He added that special initiatives are being taken to encourage entrepreneurship and self-employment among youth.

effectively handle any flood situation during the upcoming monsoon season. Reviewing flood management plans with officials on Saturday, the Collector directed authorities to establish relief camps, pre-position three months' ration relief, deploy boats and launches, and ensure adequate fuel stocks in vulnerable areas. He stressed the importance of early evacuation of residents from flood-prone villages following flood alerts from Bhadrachalam.

Collector Stresses Coordinated Efforts to Prevent Maternal and Infant Deaths

Kakinada, June 6 (Pen Power): District Collector directed all wings of the Health Department to work in coordination to eliminate maternal and infant deaths in the district. Reviewing maternal and child health indicators on Saturday, the Collector noted that no maternal deaths were reported during the fourth quarter of the 2025-26 financial year, calling it a positive achievement. He instructed officials to analyze the causes of previous maternal deaths and strengthen preventive measures. The Collector also reviewed 44 infant deaths reported during January-March and ordered special attention to high-risk pregnancies, timely referrals, safe deliveries, and awareness programmes at the village level. He emphasized that the district should aim for zero maternal and infant deaths through coordinated efforts of all healthcare institutions and field staff.



Polavaram District Gears Up for Flood Preparedness



Rampachodavaram, June 6 (Pen Power): District Collector said comprehensive flood preparedness measures are being taken across Polavaram district to

The Collector also instructed officials to keep medical supplies ready, conduct sanitation and anti-malaria measures, maintain control rooms round-the-clock, and ensure coordination among all departments. Special attention will be given to drinking water facilities, communication systems, livestock safety, and support for affected families through rehabilitation centres and relief operations.

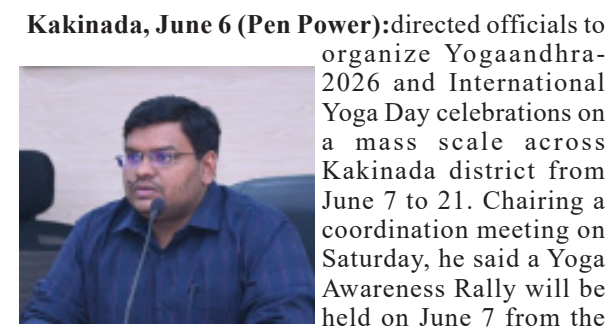
Polluru Waterfalls to Be Developed as Tourism Hub



Rampachodavaram, June 6 (Pen Power): District Collector said that proposals are being prepared to

develop Polluru Waterfalls in Chintoor mandal into a major tourism hub. During an inspection on Saturday, the Collector, along with Joint Collector and ITDA Project Officer, visited Polluru Waterfalls, Polluru Hydro Power Project, Donkarayi Check Dam, Pick-Up Dam, and other development sites. He directed officials to improve tourist safety by installing fencing and warning boards at hazardous locations and ensuring strict monitoring to prevent risky selfies. The Collector also reviewed power generation facilities, dam safety measures, and bamboo production units under the Aranya Sri programme. He assured that steps would be taken to improve market access for bamboo products and examine the demand for road connectivity to MTD village.

Yogaandhra-2026 to Be Conducted as a Mass Movement: Joint Collector

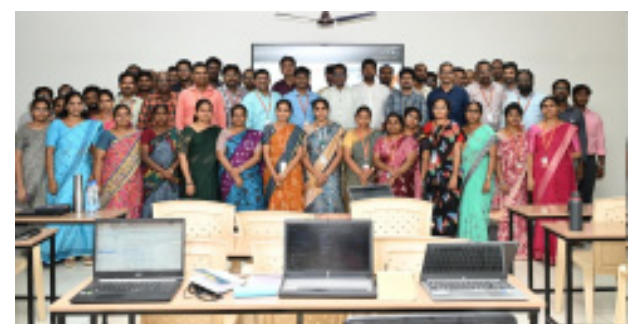


Kakinada, June 6 (Pen Power): directed officials to

organize Yogaandhra-2026 and International Yoga Day celebrations on a mass scale across Kakinada district from June 7 to 21. Chairing a coordination meeting on Saturday, he said a Yoga Awareness Rally will be held on June 7 from the Collectorate to Rajah Tank, followed by yoga demonstrations. Special yoga events are also planned at Annavaram on June 8, Samarlakota on June 16, and a thematic yoga program for teachers on June 13. He instructed officials to identify trainers, conduct awareness campaigns, organize essay, slogan-writing and quiz competitions, and ensure coordination among all departments for the successful conduct of the programs. International Yoga Day celebrations on June 21 will be held in a grand manner across the district.

Two-Day Faculty Development Programme Concludes at Aditya University

Gandepalli, June 6 (Pen Power): The Department of Information Technology at Aditya University, Surampalem, successfully concluded a two-day Faculty Development Programme on "Generative Artificial Intelligence for Computer Vision." Deputy Pro-Chancellor Dr. M. Srinivasa Reddy said the programme equipped faculty members with practical knowledge of AI and GPU-based technologies. Assistant Professor Dr. Nilesh Chandra K. Pikhle from IIT Nagpur served as the resource person and conducted hands-on training sessions. University officials noted that the programme enhanced participants' teaching, research and project guidance skills in the fields of Computer Vision and Generative AI. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. M.B.



Srinivas and other academic leaders attended the valedictory session.

Bankers Asked to Support District Development

Bapatla, June 6 (Pen Power): District Collector urged bankers to play a proactive role in the district's economic development by extending credit support to agriculture, fisheries, animal husbandry, MSMEs, self-employment ventures, and welfare beneficiaries.

Addressing the District Level Review Committee meeting on Saturday, he emphasized timely sanction of crop loans, Kisan Credit Cards, SHG-linked loans, and financial assistance to women entrepreneurs. He also advised banks to diversify lending across different sectors instead of concentrating loans in a single business category.

Highlighting the growth potential of tourism in Bapatla district, the Collector called on banks to support entrepreneurs associated with Suryalanka Beach tourism activities, including water sports, food outlets, and SHG-run handicraft businesses. He stressed that coordinated efforts between banks and government departments would help accelerate economic growth and employment generation in the district.



Supervisors and BLOs Must Work in Coordination: Collector

Bapatla, June 6 (Pen Power): District Collector directed Supervisors and Booth Level Officers (BLOs) to work in close coordination to expedite the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Reviewing the progress through a video conference on Saturday, the Collector instructed officials to achieve daily mapping targets and improve performance in lagging areas. He sought explanations for the slow progress in

Chirala constituency and expressed concern over several BLOs who had not completed any mapping work.

The Collector emphasized that each BLO should map at least 15 voters per day and warned that disciplinary action would be initiated against officials showing poor performance. Revenue officials, municipal commissioners, tahsildars, supervisors, and BLOs participated in the review meeting.

Coconut, Coir Industries to Get Major Boost in Konaseema: Minister

Amalapuram, June 6 (Pen Power): State Industries Minister directed officials to expedite steps for establishing coconut and coir-based value-added industries in Konaseema. Reviewing industrial development on Saturday, he suggested setting up market-driven units on the lines of Kerala and Tamil Nadu. He instructed officials to study opportunities with the Coconut Board and Coir Board and submit proposals. District Collector said action plans are being prepared to promote coconut-based industries and encourage youth and women entrepreneurs through MSME schemes. Public representatives, industrialists and officials attended the meeting.



Shreyas was a stand-out candidate with enough experience now, tough call on Surya, says Agarkar



Mumbai: India chief selector Ajit Agarkar said Shreyas Iyer was a stand-out candidate with the experience to become the new men's T20I skipper, while admitting it was a tough call to move on altogether from Suryakumar Yadav despite him leading the team to winning the World Cup three months ago. Suryakumar, 35, has struggled with the bat in recent months, managing only 242 runs in nine T20 World Cup innings, with his unbeaten 84 against the United States the lone standout. His form dipped further in IPL 2026, where he scored just 270 runs in 13 innings at an average of 20.76 as Mumbai Indians finished ninth in the ten-team points table. With Shreyas taking over, Suryakumar has been totally omitted from the squads for tours of Ireland, England and the Asian Games. Iyer, 31, last played a T20I in December 2023 but boasts of strong captaincy credentials in the IPL. He led Kolkata Knight Riders to the

title in 2024, guided Punjab Kings to a runners-up finish in 2025, and steered Delhi Capitals to the final in 2020. "I mean, with regards to Shreyas, obviously, we've seen what he's done over the last few years, leading different franchises, obviously, won once, finals twice, and probably had a tougher season this year after a great start. So we've seen everything that a captain possibly can. His own performances have been really good. "He was quite close to getting in that World Cup squad as well. Obviously, with Surya still there, there was no room for him. So he is, in my opinion, a standout candidate with enough experience now having led in the T20 format. This is obviously a different challenge," said Agarkar in the press conference at BCCI HQ on Saturday. On Suryakumar's removal, Agarkar admitted it was a tough call. "With regards to Surya, obviously, it's a tough one, having just won the

World Cup. But as it happens, after most World Cups, you try and reassess what your best way forward is. "Partly his own form, but also looking at the next two-year cycle or a little bit more than two years now till the next World Cup. We thought this was the best way forward and like I said, Surya is a well-deserving captain. I mean, of course, it's a tough decision. "Someone who's led you to the World Cup, it's not the easiest thing to try and change. But like I said, we've not had any international cricket after that World Cup. Partly the form, but partly also how we go forward is always at the back of your mind. Going ahead with a new captain, in this case, Shreyas, was in our opinion," added Agarkar. Tilak Varma has been named as the new vice-captain and Agarkar stated it was another call made keeping the long-term vision in mind. "I mean, Shubman Gill was vice-captain leading into that World Cup when we made a call to obviously have two keepers at the top and he missed out. "Then Axar Patel was vice-captain and just replacing Shubman Gill. So, no, I think we were, again, like Shreyas Iyer, obviously you're looking at what's the best thing for the next two-year cycle. Tilak, firstly, he's a terrific player and this gives him an opportunity to learn the job as well, just in case if that need arises ever. Further speaking on Shreyas and Tilak, Agarkar explained, "It's, again, this is a clean slate almost. We played the World Cup in USA and Caribbean in 2024 June, and this was sort of February, March, which is not even two years really. But the next one, we've got a bit more time. "Like I said, I think Shreyas absolutely de-

serves it with his performances, one, particularly with the bat. I think first, he should be good enough to be a player in the team. Then his performances as captain, and obviously, having won it once with, GG was with him at KKR, and then a couple of really good seasons with Punjab. "So, no, it's perhaps a little bit unusual that he wasn't, but he was very close to always being in the team over the last couple of years. It's just that Surya and Tilak, the spots that he bats, were there, and he couldn't find a spot. So, now that he's found a spot, I think he's, like I said, he's earned it." On the conversation he had with Surya, Agarkar explained, "You look at, obviously, the form in the last couple of years. But he was the captain, we were doing really well as him - winning so many games, and eventually ending up winning the World Cup. Obviously, we deliberated a lot, especially when someone's led you to a World Cup win. "It's not the easiest sort of discussion to have. But I don't necessarily think - at some stage, we were going to look ahead. Now, whether I feel IPL form dictated it, I'm not so sure that's the case. There was always conversations around it. With Shreyas playing as well as he is, I mean, particularly with the bat, sometimes makes the decision a little bit easier." "With regards to Sky, I don't think I don't want to give an insight. I mean, it's like a conversation between Surya and me. Look, we know he's been captain that's just won a World Cup. So it's not the easiest conversation when you want to tell the player that. But you're doing everything in the interest of what the team needs going forward," he concluded.

Norway Chess champion Praggnanandhaa credits corporate backing from Adani Group for historic triumph

New Delhi: Fresh from scripting history by becoming the first Indian champion at the prestigious Norway Chess tournament, Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa credited the importance of a strong corporate support system in helping athletes perform at the highest level and thanked the Adani Group for backing him throughout his journey. The 20-year-old, who is supported by Adani Sportsline, completed a remarkable campaign in Norway, finishing ahead of a star-studded field featuring World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen, reigning World Champion Gukesh Dommaraju, Alireza Firouzja, Wesley So, and Vincent Keymer. Along the way, he defeated Carlsen twice and registered a crucial victory over Gukesh en route to the title. Speaking to IANS, Praggnanandhaa highlighted the role the Adani Group played in helping him navigate the logistical challenges of professional chess. "The support

system is essential to succeeding in any field, and I'm grateful that I've received support from the Adani Group. For a chess player, managing all the logistics and everything is certainly an issue, and that's where the Adani Group's support is helping me," Praggnanandhaa told IANS in an exclusive interaction. The Grandmaster said the backing extends beyond financial sponsorship and provides vital reassurance whenever operational challenges arise. "It feels more like, you know, since they've been supporting me, whenever there are any issues, they're always there to help and support me. So I'm truly grateful to them for all their support. I'm happy that new corporates are coming into the game and supporting players, and I think all the players are always grateful for the support from corporates," he added. Earlier on Saturday, Gautam Adani, Chairman of the Adani Group, congratulated



Praggnanandhaa on becoming the first Indian to win Norway Chess and described the achievement as "one of the ultimate tests of endurance, intellect, and temperament in the world of chess." "Congratulations to Praggnanandhaa on becoming the first Indian to win the Norway Chess tournament - one of the ultimate tests of endurance, intellect, and temperament in the world of chess. To defeat the world's absolute best on one of chess's grandest stages is a remarkable feat.

But what makes it even more special is the spirit with which Pragg plays. Fearless - Focused - Deeply Indian. @rpragnachess, you represent the confidence of a rising, youthful India. The entire nation is incredibly proud of you, Pragg," Adani wrote on X. Praggnanandhaa's historic triumph marks another milestone for Indian chess and underlines the growing role of corporate support in nurturing sporting excellence across disciplines.

India vs Afghanistan Test: Saba Karim points out Sai Sudharsan's technical flaw against spin despite composed 81

New Delhi: Former India wicketkeeper-batter Saba Karim praised Sai Sudharsan's composure during his fluent innings against Afghanistan in the one-off Test, but pointed out a technical issue against spin bowling that he believes will be closely monitored by India head coach Gautam Gambhir. Sudharsan, who was handed the crucial No. 3 role by the team management, made a confident 81 after surviving an early reprieve when Afghanistan wicketkeeper Rahmanullah Gurbaz failed to hold a chance created by an outside edge.

Karim noted that India's struggles against quality spin in recent times made Sudharsan's technique an area

of interest for the coaching staff. "Gautam Gambhir would be keeping a very close eye on this because I think the biggest challenge for the Indian batters over the past season has been how they cope against high-quality spin bowling," Karim told JioCinema.

The former selector noted that Sudharsan was fortunate to survive after a technical lapse against spin. "On this occasion, Sai Sudharsan appeared to be hiding his bat behind the pad, which suggested that his first line of defence was the pad rather than the bat. That resulted in a thick outside edge, which Rahmanullah Gurbaz should have taken behind the stumps," he observed. Despite that moment,



Karim was impressed by the left-hander's overall temperament and shot-making during his innings. "Apart from that technical flaw, he looked very composed overall and played a few delightful shots on the on-side, including a straight

drive. His shot selection and the way he adjusted to the pace and bounce of the surface were quite good," he said. Karim added that Sudharsan now has the opportunity to justify the faith shown in him by the Indian team management.

Harsh Roshan stars in youthful story Tella Kagitam



Young actor Harsh Roshan, who impressed audiences with his performances in films such as "Court" and "Band Melam," is continuing to build his career with youth-centric stories. Despite the underwhelming box-office performance of "Band Melam," the actor remains a choice for romantic dra-

mas. His latest project is "Tella Kagitam," a youthful love story featuring Nakshatra as the female lead. Produced by Krishna Kommalapati under the Arunachala Creations banner, the film marks the directorial debut of Ramesh Bandreddi. The makers recently unveiled the first-look poster, which

showcases the lead pair and hints at a heartwarming romantic tale. Adding to the film's appeal, Vijay Bulganin is composing the music, while noted cinematographer K.V. Guhan is handling the visuals. "Tella Kagitam" aims to connect with the youth audience through its romantic narrative.

More glam than gags: Mrunal Thakur, Pooja Hegde steal the spotlight



"Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai", starring Varun Dhawan, Mrunal Thakur, Pooja Hegde, and directed by David Dhawan, hit theatres today. Early reviews suggest that while the film delivers a few laughs, its comedy largely relies on familiar tropes and outdated humor. The story revolves around two women who find themselves pregnant by the same man, setting up a se-

ries of misunderstandings and comic situations. However, many reviewers felt that the comedy-of-errors format lacks freshness, with several jokes failing to land.

Amid the mixed response to the film, one aspect that has drawn unanimous praise is the allure of Mrunal Thakur and Pooja Hegde. Both actresses are said to have performed their roles effectively and brought

energy to the screen. At the same time, reviews also note that the film largely presents them in glamorous avatars. Their stylish appearances, dance numbers, and screen presence have become a major talking point among audiences. As a result, this weekend, Mrunal Thakur and Pooja Hegde are likely to dominate social media conversations due to their glamorous looks.

Ram brings Top Technician for His Dream Project

Ram Pothineni is all set to take a new step in his career with his dream project #RAPO23, which also marks his directorial debut. The energetic star Ram Pothineni, who earlier surprised fans as a lyricist and singer, is now fully focusing on direction with this psychological action thriller.

The film is said to be a different kind of story, mixing action, emotions, and mind games. It is described as "The Story of a Lone Wolf," showing a strong and complex character in a dark space. The project is being produced by Krishna Pothineni under the new banner Rapo Cinematics. Ram is also heavily involved in shaping the story and designing the main character, which is expected to be very different from his earlier films. A big highlight of the film is the involvement of National



Award winning cinematographer Thirunavukarasu. Known for his work in films like 24, Bharat Ane Nenu, and Krish 3, he is expected to give the movie a strong visual style.

The teaser look already created buzz, where Ram appears

in a stylish "Veera" avatar, seen only from the back, which added mystery and curiosity.

With shooting set to begin soon, #RAPO23 is already building strong expectations as one of the most unique projects in Ram Pothineni's career.