

# PEN POWER

POWER OF JOURNALISM

ENGLISH MORNING DAILY

**Sri Geetaansha Digitals**  
Hyderabad | Visakhapatnam | Kakinada | Vijayawada | Ongole

Print  
Compactable Pigment Inks Available at Low Cost  
News Print Rolls Available at Reasonable cost  
For More Details: 93948 55244, 9059465965

Volume : 1 No. 211 VISAKHAPATNAM Tuesday, June 9, 2026 Editor: GANTYADA APPARAO Pages : 4 Rs: 5-00

## INDIA Bloc Buries Hatchet, Recalibrates, Announces 5-Point Plan

**New Delhi:** Hard talk, airing of grievances and a message of unity - this was the big takeaway from the INDIA bloc meeting -- held today in the aftermath of a series of setbacks. While key leader Mamata Banerjee's party was crumbling by the hour, the DMK was absent. Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party had distanced itself and the CPM was upset over Congress criticism of its former Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. Amid the shifting dynamics that saw the Congress come up on top with Kerala under its belt and a driving seat in

Tamil Nadu, the overriding message of unity came from the Grand Old Party. "United we stand, divided we fall," sources quoted Rahul Gandhi as saying, pointing to the bigger national picture during the three-hour meeting at Delhi's Constitution Club. He warned allies against "pulling down each other" and urged them to fight together against the BJP "for the sake of the country and the Constitution". He also attempted to address the CPM's grievances, saying remarks were made in the context of local political circumstances. His intention

was neither to launch a personal attack nor to disparage the party's ideology, sources quoted him as saying. His comments came as CPM leader John Brittas raised his objections about the statements Gandhi made during the recent Kerala assembly elections, accusing then Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and the CPM of colluding with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP. Sources said that Brittas made it clear that CPM cadres were deeply upset by these remarks. Comments that smacked of criticism also came from Samajwadi Party

chief Akhilesh Yadav, who raised the defection of the DMK and AAP from the Opposition ranks, sources said. Yadav said as the largest party, the Congress bears a significant responsibility to take along the regional parties and ensure coordination within the alliance. Trinamool chief Mamata Banerjee - who many leaders hoped will spearhead the Opposition bloc one day -- raised questions regarding the role of the Election Commission and central security forces during the Bengal Assembly elections. The resounding defeat of Banerjee's



Trinamool Congress has been followed by an impending exodus by party MPs while in Bengal, 58 of the party's 80 MLAs are claiming to be the "real Trinamool". Faced with multiple setbacks, Banerjee has urged alliance leaders

to visit Bengal and meet the victims of post-poll violence, sources indicated. The Bengal leader, who greeted Sonia Gandhi with a hug and a 10-minute conversation, was also deeply in favour of avoiding criticism -- a departure from her

earlier questioning of the Congress's ability to lead the alliance -- sources said. The INDIA allies should "try not to criticise each other", sources quoted her as saying. The meeting also included discussions on the Constitu-

tional Amendment Bill related to delimitation. In his opening remarks, Mallikarjun Kharge noted that on April 17, the Opposition had united to defeat the Modi government on the delimitation bill in the Lok Sabha.

## "Collective movement towards human empowerment" : PM Modi hails 12 years of Garib Kalyan Yojana



**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday highlighted the 12 years of The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY), while focusing on the benefits of various beneficiary schemes launched under his leadership and provided benefits to the common public. In an X post, the Prime Minister focused on the key achievements of Antyodaya Yojana, Swachh Bharat, PM Awas Yojana, Jal Jeevan Mission, Ayushman Bharat and other initiatives, saying that the main purpose of launching all the schemes was driven by a simple objective of ensuring people have dignity and opportunity. "Over the last 12 years, India has wit-

nessed many transformations and at the core of these changes is the welfare of the poor and down-trodden. We have always been inspired by Antyodaya and our effort has always been to ensure that the benefits of development reach those who were left behind for decades. From Jan Dhan accounts and Direct Benefit Transfer to Swachh Bharat, PM Awas Yojana, Jal

Jeevan Mission, Ayushman Bharat and more, every initiative has been driven by a simple objective of ensuring people have dignity and opportunity," PM Modi said. The Prime Minister also emphasised the role of technology, which has played a vital role in the Direct Benefit Transfer of governmental schemes towards the poor section of society.

## Amit Shah to launch LPMS initiative on June 9 to strengthen India's border security

**New Delhi:** Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India's border and internal security have received a new impetus. In this direction, a significant milestone is on the horizon with the launch of the Land Port Management System (LPMS) by the Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah, on Tuesday in New Delhi. This initiative underscores the Modi Government's commitment to smart border management, enhancing efficiency, transparency, and security in cross-

border trade and passenger movement through technology-driven solutions. On this occasion, the Union Home Minister will also inaugurate newly developed Stakeholder accommodation facilities at the Dawki (Meghalaya) and Srimantapur (Tripura) Land Ports, further reinforcing infrastructure support for border security personnel and other valuable stakeholders. The launch of LPMS will be a landmark step in India's journey towards a modern, technology-enabled smart border



management system, reflecting the nation's strategic focus on strengthening trade facilitation, connectivity, and national security and Viksit Bharat by 2047.

## TDP Rajya Sabha Candidates Sana Satish, Bhashyam Ramakrishna and Chintakayala Vijay File Nominations

**From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, June 8:** TDP Rajya Sabha candidates Sana Satish, Bhashyam Ramakrishna, and Chintakayala Vijay filed their nomination papers on Monday. The nomination process was held at the Andhra Pradesh Assembly Conference Hall between 10:50 a.m. and 11:50 a.m. The three TDP candidates submitted two sets of nomination papers each to Rajya Sabha Election Returning Officer R. Vanitha Rani. Assembly Speaker Ayyannapatrudu, Deputy Speaker Raghurama Krishnam Raju, Ministers Kolu Parthasarathy and Atchannaidu, and Vijayawada MP Kesineni Chinni attended the nomination filing ceremony. A large number of TDP MLAs and MLCs were present. Jana Sena Party



MLAs and BJP legislators Kamineni Srinivas and Vishnu Kumar Raju also attended the event. The Rajya Sabha nomination programme was portrayed as a symbol of coalition unity. Several TDP leaders, including Vangaveeti Radha Krishna, were also present. The nomination

event was conducted amid a festive atmosphere at the Assembly premises. Earlier in the day, TDP Rajya Sabha candidates Sana Satish, Bhashyam Ramakrishna, and Chintakayala Vijay offered special prayers at the Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple in Venkatapalem.

The temple priests accorded them a warm welcome. The candidates participated in special rituals at the temple and received blessings from Vedic scholars. Later, they travelled on bicycles to the Andhra Pradesh Assembly and subsequently filed their nomination papers.

## Another Key Twist in Viveka Case; Sunitha Reddy Files Petition Seeking Further Investigation

**From Our Staff Reporter Kadapa, June 8:** Significant developments took place in the CBI Court during the hearing related to the murder case of former minister Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy. The court heard a petition filed by Viveka's daughter, Y.S. Sunitha Reddy, seeking further investigation into the case. Meanwhile, counsel representing Sunitha argued that the earlier CBI investigation was not comprehensive. The lawyer requested the court not to take into consideration the charge sheet recently filed by the CBI. He expressed the view that a thorough investigation is still required into certain crucial aspects of the case. The court was also informed that the CBI had recently questioned Kiran Yadav and Chaitanya



Reddy and subsequently filed a supplementary charge sheet stating that there was no evidence of their involvement in the murder case. Arguments from both sides centered on this issue. After hearing the submissions, the CBI Court adjourned the

further hearing of the case to June 16. On that day, additional arguments are likely to be presented on whether further investigation is necessary or not. On this occasion, the counsels for the accused also filed a counter in the CBI Court. They argued

that the CBI investigation in the case had already been completed and that there was no need for any further probe. The lawyers for the accused stated that the CBI had examined all major aspects of the case and submitted its report accordingly.

## Creating 2 Million Jobs is the Government's Goal: TG Bharath

**From Our Staff Reporter Kurnool, June 8:** Andhra Pradesh Industries Minister T.G. Bharath Gupta stated that significant development has taken place in Kurnool district during the two years since the coalition government led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu came to power. On Monday, the minister attended the Kapu Balija Seva Sangham Merit Awards presentation ceremony in Kurnool city as the chief guest. Speaking on the occasion, Bharath Gupta said that investments worth thousands of crores of rupees had been brought to Orvakal in the district. He noted that while the Reli-



ance project was initially expected to involve an investment of Rs.2,500 crore, it has now exceeded Rs.6,000 crore. He further stated that Reliance has come forward to undertake another project worth Rs.3,000 crore. Criticizing the previous YSRCP gov-

ernment, he said that it had failed to provide a water pipeline to Orvakal, whereas the present government is taking steps to bring the water line to the area. He also alleged that the management of Jayraj Ispat Steel Company faced numerous difficulties during the previous government's tenure. However, he said the company's management, having confidence in the present administration, is now expanding its operations with an investment of Rs.6,000 crore. The minister emphasized that the government is working with the goal of creating 2 million jobs in the state. He said that Chief Minister

Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Nara Lokesh are continuously reviewing progress toward this objective. Bharath urged young people to make effective use of job fairs and stated that discussions are being held with engineering college managements to equip youth with relevant skills. He further remarked that his family has remained in politics without any taint of corruption. Bharath Gupta urged the public to recognize the difference between leaders who deliver results and those who merely make promises. He added that he has been identifying and resolving public issues in every ward of Kurnool city.

## 'Axe Party Never Again'; Pyavula Issues Strong Warning to Jagan and YSRCP

**Nandyal, June 8:** Andhra Pradesh Finance Minister Pyavula Keshav expressed strong criticism of YSRCP president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. He alleged that their political opponent was not a democrat and was willing to resort to any means to attain power. The minister toured Nandyal district on Monday and participated in several programmes. Speaking to the media on the occasion, he said Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu never misused power by crossing the line, whereas Jagan Reddy crossed the line every day. He remarked that just as smoking is harmful to health, the YSRCP is even more harmful to society. He urged coalition leaders to convey this message to the public every day.

**Jagan's "Anarchic Rule" Should Not Return** Pyavula Keshav called upon people to ensure that what he described as Jagan's anarchic rule does not return to Andhra Pradesh, saying, "Axe Party Never Again, Coalition Again and Again." He noted that the coalition government had completed two years in office after securing a 93 percent strike rate in the elections. He stated that the victory was made possible by the hard work and courage of every party worker who stood firm at the polling-booth level without retreating. He added that no political leader or party could survive if it forgot the sacrifices of its workers. The minister said the time had come to work for leaders

aspiring to win as Sarpanches, MPTCs, and ZPTCs in the upcoming local body elections. leaders to set aside differences and not distance themselves from the party due to grievances. Instead, he advised them to resolve issues through discussion and collective effort. Pyavula Keshav stressed the need for vigilance in Rayalaseema politics and called for a continuous struggle against what he referred to as the "Axe Party." He cautioned party cadres against becoming complacent simply because they were in government and directed TDP workers to maintain a strong grip on voter lists. He also stated that the government's objective was to transform Rayalaseema into a horticulture hub.

**Group Politics Will Lead to Downfall** The minister warned that group politics would inevitably lead to decline. He urged party workers and



## EDITORIAL

## The education sector is undergoing reforms

The Telangana government, which has initiated reforms in government educational institutions, has taken steps to curb student dropouts. The government, which has taken the issue of students quitting their studies in government schools and colleges seriously, is identifying the reasons for this and taking steps. Dropouts are increasing mainly because students from poor families are quitting their studies and going to work. As a solution to this, the government, which has already introduced breakfast and mid-day meal schemes in government schools, has decided to take similar steps for intermediate students from this academic year. As students who have passed class 10 are dropping out mid-way when they reach junior colleges, the poor are unable to access higher education. In this context, nutritious breakfast and mid-day meal schemes are being implemented for students in government junior colleges, so poor students have the opportunity to complete their higher education without any obstacles. The introduction of breakfast and mid-day meal schemes for intermediate students by the Telangana government is a key reform in the state's education sector. The government has decided to provide breakfast and mid-day meal to about two lakh students studying in government and aided junior colleges from the academic year 2026-27. For this, about Rs. 180 crore will be spent annually. The extension of nutrition schemes, which were limited to students of government schools till now, to the intermediate level is a testament to the priority given by the government to poor students. The aim behind this program is not just to satisfy hunger. The government has set multifaceted goals such as reducing the increasing dropouts at the intermediate stage, increasing the attendance rate of students, preventing nutritional deficiencies, increasing the confidence of students in government junior colleges, and reducing the financial burden on poor families. Several studies have revealed that poor students, especially in rural areas, attend colleges in the morning without taking proper food. In such situations, students are unable to excel in their studies due to lack of concentration. Experts suggest that their health conditions are also becoming unfavorable due to fatigue. In this context, the government has designed this massive program with the understanding that it is not possible for a student to continue his studies on an empty stomach.

The mid-day meal scheme, free books, uniforms and other welfare programmes are being implemented for all students up to class 10 in government schools in the state. With this, dropouts at the school level are under control to some extent. However, the situation changes after class 10. At the intermediate stage, students have to bear additional expenses for travel expenses, books and other educational needs. Many families are dropping their children out of school due to financial difficulties and diverting them towards employment. This problem is especially acute in rural areas, socially backward communities and in the case of girls. Therefore, several analyses have shown that the risk of students dropping out of school is higher at the intermediate stage compared to the high school level. Akunuri Murali, who recently resigned as the Chairman of the Telangana Education Commission, has mentioned the need to strengthen government junior colleges on several occasions. He suggested that the government should not limit education to just classrooms but should provide nutrition, counselling, infrastructure and a safe learning environment for the holistic development of students. He said that special measures should be taken to prevent student dropouts, especially in government junior colleges, and that students from poor families need financial and social support. In line with these considerations, the government has decided to provide breakfast and lunch facilities to intermediate students. Students of Gurukul and residential junior colleges get free accommodation, nutrition, supervision and a systematic study environment. Due to this, not only are dropouts generally low in Gurukul educational institutions, but they also score better in intermediate results. One of the main reasons for the good results achieved by Gurukul students is the quality food, residential facilities and continuous supervision they receive. Taking this as an example, the government has decided to benefit poor students by providing food security in government junior colleges as well. Although the implementation of this scheme will put a significant financial burden on the state government, the government is considering it as an investment in human resources rather than an expense. According to government estimates, about Rs. 180 crore will be spent annually on breakfast and midday meal for intermediate students. About two lakh students studying in government and aided junior colleges will come under the ambit of this scheme. This means that the government will have to spend an average of Rs. 9 thousand per year on each student and about Rs. 750 per month. Although this is an additional burden on the state budget, the cost is justified compared to the long-term benefits of reducing student dropouts, preventing malnutrition, increasing admissions to government colleges, and creating skilled human resources for the future. The financial burden now is no greater than the social and economic burden on the family, society, and the government due to a student dropping out. As part of this scheme, the government has prepared a special menu to provide balanced nutrition to students as per the instructions of the National Institute of Nutrition. The menu is designed to ensure that students get their daily energy and protein requirements. They will be provided with food items like dosa, millet idli, upma, bonda, puri, chutney, sambar, curries, milk, and copper malt. The government is taking steps to not only reduce nutritional deficiencies but also benefit the physical and mental development of students. Overall, the Intermediate Breakfast Scheme being introduced by the Telangana government is not just a welfare program. It is a comprehensive education reform that combines many goals such as student health, prevention of dropouts, strengthening the government education system, and social equality. This program is likely to be a reassurance for thousands of poor students who are facing situations where they have to stop their studies after the tenth standard. Especially if positive results are seen in government junior colleges like increased admissions, improved attendance, reduced dropouts, and improved student results, it is likely to be a milestone in the Telangana education sector.

## After Bengal Defeat, Is Mamata Banerjee Preparing For National Politics?

Mamata Banerjee has always been known as a leader who carefully calculates her political timing. She does not take steps impulsively, especially after a major electoral setback. That is why her recent shift toward more Delhi-centric politics is now becoming one of the most discussed developments in national opposition politics. The question many people are asking is simple: why is Mamata Banerjee suddenly giving so much importance to national opposition coordination and the INDIA alliance after the 2026 West Bengal Assembly election? There are several reasons behind this political repositioning.

For a long time, Mamata Banerjee had maintained a certain distance from formal INDIA alliance meetings. But now she is regularly attending these meetings again and is showing renewed interest in opposition coordination at the national level. What makes this more politically significant is the fact that during the 2026 West Bengal assembly election, there was no alliance between the Trinamool Congress and the Congress party. In fact, Congress state president Subhankar Sarkar himself later admitted publicly that he personally wanted some kind of seat adjustment or tactical understanding with Mamata Banerjee. According to him, the Congress leadership in Bengal had been willing to explore an alliance framework, but Mamata Banerjee ultimately did not show interest at that time. Perhaps she did not anticipate that the political outcome would unfold in the way it eventually did. Now, after the election setback, the political situation has changed consid-

erably. The first and most immediate reason behind Mamata Banerjee's Delhi-focused politics is the post-election reality inside West Bengal itself.

After the 2026 defeat, there is no immediate assembly election ahead, nor is there any realistic possibility of an instant change of government in Bengal. But at the same time, the BJP's political campaign against the Trinamool Congress has intensified almost every single day. Corruption allegations against Trinamool leaders continue to dominate political discourse. Several MLAs have left the party. In many ways, the legislative structure of the Trinamool Congress has weakened internally. Inside the Kolkata Municipal Corporation, too, several councillors have either resigned or openly revolted against the leadership.

In such a politically defensive situation, Mamata Banerjee appears to be trying to shift the centre of political debate away from Bengal-specific anti-incumbency and toward larger national issues where the BJP-led central government can be targeted more aggressively. That is a strategic political move. At the all-India level, the opposition still believes there are several issues on which the Narendra Modi government remains vulnerable. Unemployment, rising prices of cooking gas and fuel, economic uncertainty, foreign policy criticism, and delays in key international trade agreements, especially with the United States, are all issues being raised repeatedly by opposition parties. Questions are also being raised over what many opposition leaders describe as inconsistency or "topsy-turvy" trends in foreign

policy management. Mamata Banerjee now appears to be repositioning herself within this broader anti-BJP national campaign narrative.

Another important factor is the experience of Bengal itself during the recent election. There is now a growing feeling within sections of the opposition that whatever administrative, electoral, and political challenges Bengal witnessed during the election period, including controversies surrounding voter management, administrative handling, and electoral processes, should be presented nationally as a larger democratic concern. Until now, opposition parties across India had not fully used the Bengal experience as a common reference point. But discussions have now started about turning Bengal into a "model case" to strengthen coordinated opposition attacks against the BJP nationally. At the same time, Mamata Banerjee's relationship with the Congress party is also entering a new phase. During the Bengal Assembly election, there was a visible political distance between the Congress and the Trinamool. But after the election, Mamata Banerjee has gradually started rebuilding communication with Congress leaders and other opposition parties. However, one important thing must be understood clearly. At this moment, Mamata Banerjee is not aggressively trying to project herself as the undisputed leader of the entire opposition bloc. Earlier, there had been intense debate within opposition circles over whether Mamata wanted to lead the anti-BJP front nationally. That debate had also created tensions among several



regional parties. Now, at least for the time being, Mamata appears to be avoiding that direct leadership contest. Instead, her present strategy seems to be centred around creating broader solidarity among opposition parties rather than competing openly for national leadership. She is trying to position herself as a cooperative and active participant in the anti-BJP platform rather than immediately projecting prime ministerial ambitions. The timing is also politically important because the Monsoon Session of Parliament is approaching. Opposition parties believe that if coordination inside Parliament improves, they may be able to corner the government more effectively on economic issues, foreign policy questions, inflation, unemployment, and governance-related controversies.

The strategy is clear: increase parliamentary pressure, build political narratives jointly, and gradually create a larger anti-incumbency environment at the national level. Even though the next Lok Sabha election is still some distance away and 2029 remains the real political target, Mamata Banerjee has already started preparing now. That is why her politics is no longer confined only to Bengal at this moment.

After facing a difficult election at home, Mamata Banerjee seems to have understood that rebuilding political momentum inside Bengal alone may not be enough. Expanding her relevance once again at the national level, reconnecting with opposition parties, and participating actively in Delhi-centric politics may now become equally important for her political survival and future strategy.

## How A Photograph in Delhi Says Something Important About Trump's America

During her visit to New Delhi this week, Venezuela's acting president, Delcy Rodríguez, met US Ambassador Sergio Gora. Had the meeting taken place in Washington or Caracas, it would have attracted little attention. In Delhi, however, it carried a different significance. Rodríguez had come to India seeking investment, energy cooperation, and commercial partnerships. Yet the image suggested a deeper reality. Venezuela's leaders may travel the world in search of opportunities, but the country's economic future increasingly operates within a framework shaped by Washington. For example, recent US sanctions have restricted Venezuela's access to international financing and targeted the state-owned oil company PDVSA, dramatically limiting the government's ability to generate revenue and engage with global markets. The photograph captured more than a diplomatic encounter. It revealed a changing relationship between a weakened state and a dominant power.

It also revealed something troubling about America itself. For decades, successive American administrations justified their policies towards Venezuela using the language of democracy, human rights, and constitutional governance. Critics often questioned those motives, but the rhetoric remained consistent. American power was presented as an instrument of universal principles. Donald Trump has adopted a strikingly different approach.

**The Return of Colonial Logic**

Rather than disguising the centrality of oil, he has repeatedly emphasised it. He has spoken openly about Venezuela's

vast energy reserves, described Venezuelan oil in terms suggesting American entitlement, and supported arrangements under which the future of Venezuelan oil production and revenue flows would be shaped under strong American



influence. The remarkable feature is not that a great power pursues its interests. Great powers have always done so. The remarkable feature is the disappearance of embarrassment. Trump appears willing to say aloud what previous administrations preferred to imply. While leaders like Obama or Bush focused their public statements on the promotion of democracy, human rights, and constitutional order, often framing interventions in terms of universal values, Trump has spoken with unusual directness about oil, power, and strategic advantage. Where past rhetoric wrapped interests in the language of democratic idealism, the priorities now are openly transactional. Oil matters. Power matters. Strategic advantage matters. The language of democratic idealism has increasingly given way to the language of ownership and control. That shift is important because it exposes the underlying logic of the relationship. No American governor resides in Caracas. No American flag

flies over Venezuelan government buildings. Venezuela remains a sovereign state in the formal legal sense. Yet colonial relationships have evolved. They no longer require occupation or direct administration. They operate through financial

leverage, market access, licensing arrangements, sanctions regimes and influence over strategic resources. The question is, therefore, not whether Venezuela remains independent on paper. The question is whether meaningful sovereignty can survive when a nation's most important economic decisions increasingly depend upon the approval of another state. Yet the most important consequence of this development may not be Venezuelan. It may be American.

**The Freedom Exception**

The United States occupies a unique place in modern history because it was founded in opposition to an empire. The American Revolution transformed resistance to external control into a defining national principle. Liberty, self-government and sovereignty became central elements of American identity. Generations of Americans were taught that freedom was not merely a national possession but a universal ideal. That is what makes the current

moment so revealing. If a foreign government exercised similar influence over American oil production, energy exports, or resource revenues, the reaction would be immediate and furious. Americans would rightly regard such interference as an assault on national sovereignty. Politicians would denounce it. Commentators would condemn it. Citizens would reject it. Yet many of the same people appear remarkably unconcerned when comparable principles are applied elsewhere. This is particularly evident among Trump's political base. Few political leaders speak openly unless they believe their supporters will tolerate or even reward them for doing so. Trump's confidence reflects the knowledge that many of his most enthusiastic supporters will view such rhetoric not as imperial overreach but as evidence of national strength. That fact should trouble Americans far more than it troubles Venezuelans. Many of those supporters present themselves as the strongest defenders of freedom, sovereignty and self-government. They condemn foreign influence in American affairs and invoke the nation's anti-colonial origins with understandable pride. Yet when another country's sovereignty becomes constrained by American power, the principle suddenly appears less important. The contradiction is difficult to ignore.

The issue is not simply hypocrisy. Political hypocrisy is as old as politics itself. The issue is habituation. A society that repeatedly makes exceptions to its principles eventually ceases to regard them as principles at all. Freedom becomes something claimed for oneself rather than

defended universally. Sovereignty becomes a right for the powerful and a privilege for the weak. Liberty remains celebrated in speeches while becoming increasingly conditional in practice. History suggests that this process carries dangers far beyond foreign policy. The founders of the American Republic understood that imperial power could corrupt republican institutions. Their concern was not merely what power would do to foreign peoples. It was what the exercise of power would do to Americans themselves. A republic depends upon citizens who believe that principles apply consistently. Once exceptions become routine, cynicism follows. The language of freedom survives, but its substance gradually weakens.

The photograph from New Delhi will soon be forgotten. Diplomats will move on. Oil contracts will be negotiated. Venezuela's future remains uncertain. Yet the image captured something larger than a diplomatic meeting. It showed a republic founded in opposition to an empire that was growing increasingly comfortable exercising imperial influence over another nation's most valuable resource. More troublingly, it suggested that millions of Americans no longer regard that contradiction as particularly troubling. Americans, and Indians, should pay attention. History repeatedly demonstrates that the habits developed abroad rarely remain abroad. A society that becomes comfortable making exceptions to its principles overseas eventually begins making exceptions at home. A nation that learns to tolerate the erosion of freedom abroad may one day discover that the habit has returned home.

## Yoga is India's Priceless Gift: Minister Kandula Durgesh



**Rajamahendravaram, June 8:** State Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Minister said that yoga is a priceless spiritual and physical heritage gifted to the world by India. Participating in the Yogandhra-2026 mass yoga programme held at the Central Prison on Monday, the Minister joined officials and inmates in performing yoga under the guidance of instructors. District Collector said yoga and meditation help individuals achieve self-discipline and inner strength in today's competitive world.

Officials highlighted that district-wide yoga camps and awareness programmes will be conducted ahead of the International Day of Yoga.

Central Prison Superintendent S. Rahul said yoga is helping inmates reduce stress, anger and depression while promoting a positive outlook. He noted that several inmates have been trained as yoga instructors. Public representatives, officials and prison staff also participated in the programme.

## Officials Must Ensure Accountable Grievance Redressal: Collector

**Vijayawada, June 8:** District Collector directed officials to handle public grievances with accountability and ensure quality resolutions that enhance citizen satisfaction. Reviewing the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) on Monday, he stressed that transparent and people-friendly governance depends on effective grievance resolution. At the district-level PGRS programme, the Collector and Joint Collector received 151 petitions from various parts of the district. The highest number of complaints were related to Municipal Administration and Urban Development (33), Revenue (29), Panchayat Raj (17), and Police (14). The Collector instructed officials to resolve all petitions within the stipulated time frame and warned against negligence or repeated grievances. He also emphasized direct feedback from petitioners after resolution to ensure service quality and public trust.



## Collector Assures Resolution of Disabled Man's Land Survey Issue



**Guntur, June 8:** District Collector personally interacted with a differently-abled petitioner during the PGRS programme at the Guntur Collectorate on Monday and assured him that his grievance would be resolved. The petitioner, Siva Naga Raju from Yanamadala village in Prattipadu constituency, arrived in a wheelchair seeking help regarding a pending land survey issue. He told the Collector that despite repeated requests, the survey of his agricultural land had not been completed. After hearing the complaint, the Collector assured him of prompt action and directed officials to address the matter. The gesture was appreciated by those present at the grievance redressal programme.

## 36 Grievances Received at 'Mee Kosam' Programme

**Markapuram, June 8:** Markapuram In-charge Superintendent of Police said resolving public grievances is a top priority for the police department. Speaking at the "Mee Kosam" public grievance programme held at Yerragondapalem Police Station on Monday, he stated that the initiative aims to bring police services closer to the people. A total of 36 complaints were received from Yerragondapalem and nearby areas. The SP personally interacted with complainants and assured them that their grievances would be investigated and resolved according to law. Most complaints related to family disputes, harassment, property issues, and other civil matters. He directed police officials to conduct prompt inquiries and ensure justice for the affected persons. Senior police officers and staff participated in the programme.



## Minister Pemmasani Lays Foundation Stone for Rs.6.7 Crore Road Project

**Guntur, June 8:** Union Minister of State for Rural Development and Communications laid the foundation stone for a new road project at Ananthavarappadu village near Guntur. The road, to be constructed with CRDA funds at a cost of Rs.6.7 crore, will connect the NH-16 service road to Ananthavarappadu. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said the project fulfills a long-pending demand of local residents. The 3.5-km road is expected to be completed within six months. He also assured villagers that other issues, including drainage facilities in SC colonies, internal roads, and sewage management, would be addressed in a phased manner. The Minister reiterated the government's commitment to strengthening rural infrastructure and improving basic amenities in villages.



## Collector Calls for Successful Conduct of Yogandhra-2026

**Rampachodavaram, June 8:** District Collector directed officials to ensure the successful conduct of Yogandhra-2026 across the district. He said around 80,000 people are expected to participate in yoga activities and urged all departments to work in coordination. The Collector announced that large-scale mass yoga programmes with about 1,000 participants each will be held on June 9, 14, and 21. District Yoga

Nodal Officer and Joint Collector said a major yoga event will be organized at The Woods Resorts, Maredumilli, on June 9 with tribal communities, officials, and yoga practitioners. Officials were instructed to increase public participation, complete registrations, and make necessary arrangements for the programmes, which will follow the Common Yoga Protocol issued by the Ministry of AYUSH.

## Collector Calls for Successful Conduct of International Yoga Day Events

**Visakhapatnam, June 8:** District Collector directed officials to work in coordination to ensure the successful conduct of International Yoga Day 2026 celebrations across the district. Reviewing preparations on Monday, the Collector said four special yoga events will be held on June 9, 12, 15, and 21. The first programme, dedicated to ex-servicemen, will be organized at the Fleet Sports Ground under the Eastern Naval Command, with around 600 participants including Navy personnel, NCC cadets, ex-servicemen, and government officials. Special yoga sessions will also be conducted at Rushikonda and Mudasarlova Golf Club, while a large-scale district event with around 1,000 participants is planned on June 21 as part



of the state-level International Yoga Day celebrations. The Collector urged officials, youth, and voluntary organizations to actively participate and make the programmes a success.

## 331 Grievances Received at Public Redressal Programme



**Visakhapatnam, June 8:** District Collector directed officials to examine public petitions from all angles and provide effective solutions. He stressed the need to improve public satisfaction in service delivery and grievance resolution. Speaking at the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) programme held at the Collectorate on Monday, the Collector noted that delays and quality issues in resolving complaints within the GVMC limits were affecting the district's ranking. He urged both government departments and GVMC staff to work with greater commitment. A total of 331 petitions were received during the programme, including 79 related to Revenue, 96 to GVMC, 25 to the Police Department, and 131 to other departments. The Collector instructed officials to resolve all grievances within the stipulated timeframe and ensure justice to the petitioners.

## 445 Petitions Received in PGRS, 57 in Revenue Clinic

**Kakinada, June 8:** District Collector directed officials to ensure timely and quality resolution of public grievances received through the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS). At the district-level PGRS programme held at the Kakinada Collectorate on Monday, the Collector and other officials received 445 petitions related to ration cards, pensions, employment opportunities, sanitation issues, encroachments, drainage works, and other public concerns. He instructed officials to conduct thorough inquiries and provide prompt solutions. In the Revenue Clinic held later, Joint Collector and revenue officials received 57 petitions concerning re-survey, online land records, survey numbers, joint land issues, and 22-A category lands. The Collector emphasized that all grievances should be resolved within the prescribed time frame and that progress reports must be updated regularly in the online system.



## AP High Court Chief Justice Offers Special Prayers at Annavaram Temple

**Kakinada, June 8:** visited the famous at Annavaram on Monday and offered special prayers to Lord Satyanarayana Swamy. Temple officials and priests accorded a warm welcome to the Chief Justice upon her arrival. After the darshan, Vedic scholars blessed her with Vedic chants. Temple authorities presented her with the deity's sacred shawl, a memento, and prasadam. Senior temple officials and staff were present on the occasion.



## 152 Petitions Received in PGRS, 35 in Revenue Clinic



ances received through the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS). A total of 152 petitions were received in the district-level PGRS programme and 35 petitions in the Revenue Clinic held on Monday. The Collector instructed officials to upload petition details online, conduct field-level verification, and provide accurate, time-bound solutions. He also directed all departments to use the e-Office system for official correspondence to improve transparency and efficiency. Reviewing pending cases, he noted that a significant number of grievances were related to the Revenue Department and called for a special drive to clear pending applications. The Collector emphasized that reports should reflect the actual status of grievance resolution and warned against submitting misleading compliance reports.

**Rampachodavaram, June 8:** District Collector directed officials to give top priority to resolving public griev-

## 79 Complaints Received at Public Grievance Redressal Programme

**Kakinada, June 8:** District Superintendent of Police received 79 complaints during the Public Grievance Redressal Programme held at the Kakinada District Police Office on Monday. According to officials, the complaints included 26 land dispute cases, 25 family-related disputes, and 28 other grievances. The SP personally interacted with the complainants and directed police officials to thoroughly investigate each case, verify facts, and take appropriate legal action. He instructed officers to complete inquiries within seven days and submit detailed reports to the district police office. The SP emphasized that providing timely and transparent justice to the public remains the police department's primary responsibility.



## Collector Orders Accommodation Plan for Godavari Pushkaralu 2027

**Rajahmundry, June 8:** District Collector directed officials to prepare a comprehensive accommodation plan for, anticipating a large influx of pilgrims, officials, and service personnel. During a review meeting held at the Collectorate on Monday, the Collector instructed officials to identify government and private buildings, schools, colleges, community halls, choultries, and vacant lands that can be used for accommodation. She also asked departments to map facilities, parking areas, and vacant spaces within 500 meters, 1 km, 2 km, and 5 km of Pushkar ghats and prepare a detailed database. Officials were directed to estimate the number of pilgrims and vehicles expected and plan accommodation facilities accordingly in both urban and rural areas.



## 255 Petitions Received at District Collectorate PGRS

**Rajahmundry, June 8:** District Collector directed officials to ensure timely disposal of public grievances and improve citizen satisfaction. During the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) programme held at the Collectorate on Monday, the Collector, along with Joint Collector and other officials, received a total of 255 petitions. The highest number of petitions, 96, were related to Revenue matters, followed by 58 in Panchayat Raj and Rural Development, 28 in School Education, and 16 in the Home Department. Officials stated that every petition would be examined and resolved promptly. Citizens can also register grievances through the government toll-free number 1100, MeeSeva centres, or the online grievance portal.



## Minister Vasantha Subhash Extends Rs.1 Lakh Financial Aid to Families and Student



**Amalapuram, June 8:** State Labour Minister provided financial assistance of Rs.1 lakh to five needy families and a student facing financial hardship. The Minister extended Rs.30,000 each to the families of Gubbala Suribabu, who died in a haystack fire accident, and TDP worker Penke Nageswara Rao. He also provided Rs.10,000 to a poor priest, Rs.10,000 as monthly support to a road accident victim from Draksharamam, and Rs.20,000 to an under-privileged student, Kesanakurthi Harshita, to continue her higher education. The Minister said supporting people in distress is his responsibility. His humanitarian gesture and continued assistance to vulnerable families and students were widely appreciated by local residents and party leaders.

## PMSMA Marks 10 Years of Ensuring Safe Motherhood: Union Minister J.P. Nadda

**Vijayawada, June 8:** Union Health and Family Welfare Minister said the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) has become a landmark initiative in ensuring safe motherhood across India, completing 10 years since its launch on June 9, 2016. He stated that the programme provides free and comprehensive antenatal check-ups to pregnant women on the 9th of every month, helping identify high-risk pregnancies at an early stage. The initiative has contributed significantly to reducing maternal mortality by ensuring timely screening, monitoring, referral, and treatment. Nadda noted that the scheme now includes enhanced follow-up care for high-risk pregnancies and post-delivery monitoring up to 45 days, strengthening maternal and newborn health outcomes across the country.



## Collector Reviews Implementation of Priority Government Programmes

**Kakinada, June 8:** District Collector directed officials to expedite development works being carried out by various government departments in rural areas and ensure their completion within the stipulated timelines. During a video conference with district and mandal-level officials on Monday, the Collector reviewed key programmes including Talliki Vandanam data updation, Akshara Andhra volunteer registration, Aadhaar enrolment for children, WhatsApp Governance, employment skill assessments, P-4 programme, rural water supply works, MGNREGS targets, Jaladhara-Jalaharathi, and Yoga Andhra activities. He instructed officials to complete Aadhaar registration for children below five years, strengthen public awareness on WhatsApp Governance, accelerate drinking water and sanitation projects, and achieve labour budget targets under the employment guarantee scheme. The Collector also



stressed coordinated efforts by all departments to ensure government welfare and development programmes effectively reach people at the grassroots level.

## Livestock Key to Sustainable Rural Prosperity: Collector



**Vijayawada, June 8:** District Collector said livestock plays a crucial role in rural economic development and provides dairy farmers with a stable source of additional income. On Monday, he launched the Village Herd Fertility Register (VHFR) along with Animal Husbandry Department officials. The Collector said the initiative aims to improve dairy productivity through scientific reproductive management, timely breeding, artificial insemination, pregnancy diagnosis, infertility control, and better calf care. He noted that reducing unproductive days in dairy animals and promoting the use of sex-sorted semen can increase milk production and enhance farmers' incomes. He urged dairy farmers to make effective use of the programme for sustainable livestock development.

## 8 Workers Killed in Visakhapatnam Steel Plant Accident

**Visakhapatnam, June 8:** Eight workers were killed and six others injured in a major accident at the on Sunday evening. District Collector visited the accident site immediately after receiving information and reviewed the situation with officials. He directed authorities to expedite rescue and relief operations. Of the six injured workers, three were shifted to and three to for treatment. According to officials, the accident occurred around 4:15 p.m. The Collector instructed officials to provide all necessary assistance to the families of the deceased and ensure the best possible medical care for the injured. An inquiry into the cause of the accident is underway.



## 16,578 Rice Card Beneficiaries Yet to Complete e-KYC



**Rampachodavaram, June 8:** Joint Collector directed officials to expedite the e-KYC process for rice card beneficiaries to ensure transparency in the distribution of welfare benefits. Out of 3,28,018 beneficiaries in the district, e-KYC has been completed for 3,01,851 members. After excluding 9,589 children below five years of age, 16,578 beneficiaries are still pending e-KYC. The Joint Collector instructed ration dealers to complete e-KYC during the upcoming ration distribution and update records by removing deceased family members from rice cards. Officials have also been directed to create awareness and clear all pending cases at the earliest. Daily reviews will be conducted to monitor progress.

## Application Filed for Registration of Rural Doctors National Party

**Vijayawada, June 8:** An application has been submitted to the Andhra Pradesh State Election Commission for the registration of a new political party named "Rural Doctors National Party" under the provisions of the Registration of Political Parties and Allotment of Symbols Order, 2001. The party is headed by as President, with serving as Gen-

eral Secretary and as Treasurer. The State Election Commission has invited objections, if any, within 15 days from the date of publication of the notice. If no objections are received within the stipulated period, further action will be taken to register the party for contesting local body elections on a party basis.

## Maharashtra DY CM Eknath Shinde Slams INDIA Bloc Meeting, Says Opposition Lacks Unity And Is Gripped By Fear Of Defeat

**Mumbai:** Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde launched a sharp attack on the INDIA bloc following its recent meeting, alleging that opposition parties are divided, demoralised and lacking seriousness in their approach. Speaking on the meeting of the opposition alliance, Shinde said the leaders of the bloc continue to make what he described as "absurd allegations" against Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He claimed that repeated electoral setbacks have severely affected the morale of opposition parties. "They are so arrogant that they level all sorts of absurd allegations against Prime Minister Modi. They lack unity and seriousness; having suffered defeats, their morale is completely shattered," Shinde said.

The Deputy Chief Minister also pointed to the absence of several key regional parties from the meeting, claiming it reflected growing distrust within the alliance. According to Shinde, parties such as the

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) chose to stay away because of concerns over their political future. "The AAP party wasn't there, nor were the DMK or the TVK. They fear that if they join the INDIA Alliance, they will lose," he said. Shinde further claimed that several parties associated with the opposition bloc have already suffered electoral defeats and are now reluctant to strengthen their association with the alliance.

"AAP lost, TMC lost, DMK lost, and the RJD lost as well. They are gripped by the fear that joining the INDIA Alliance leads to defeat. That is why they are shying away from this meeting," he said. Questioning the intentions of the Congress party within the opposition alliance, Shinde alleged that smaller regional parties have begun to recognise what he termed as Congress' larger political agenda. "Many stayed away from the meeting be-



cause they realised what the Congress party's agenda is. Congress wants to defeat all the smaller parties and become the sole opposition party itself," he said. The Deputy Chief Minister claimed that this perception is driving a wedge between Congress and its allies, resulting in several parties distancing themselves from the alliance and avoiding participation in its meetings. "That is why these parties are distancing themselves and staying away,"

Shinde added. This response comes in the same day Twenty-three parties are participating in the INDIA bloc meeting in New Delhi to discuss the alliance's future strategy, coordination, and preparations for the 2029 Lok Sabha elections. The meeting comes amid internal strains, with DMK absent and Left parties expressing concerns. Leaders are expected to focus on opposition unity and a common political agenda against the Centre.

## Youtuber Maridhas arrested by Chennai Cyber Crime Police Over Alleged Defamatory Posts Against CM Vijay

**Chennai:** Youtuber and political commentator, Maridhas, has been arrested by Chennai Cyber Crime Police from his residence in Madurai. He had been reportedly booked for spreading alleged fake information and online offences. The action is reportedly linked to remarks posted against Chief Minister Vijay and other political figures. Maridhas tweeted, "More than 10 police officers have come to my house in Madurai to arrest me."

According to The Commune, the arrest comes

amid a series of complaints filed by members of the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK). Complainants alleged that Maridhas had uploaded videos and images containing defamatory content against Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay, TVK ministers, MLAs, and party functionaries. The complaints further alleged that some of the material he circulated involved AI-generated images and false accusations. Police officials reportedly searched electronic devices at his residence before taking him into custody. Police had al-



ready removed him from the location before TVK supporters could assemble.

The opposition has reacted strongly, accusing the government of targeting dissenting voices and curbing freedom of expression.

However, supporters argue that Maridhas was allegedly spreading misinformation. Over the years, he has frequently attracted controversy for his political views and criticism of political leaders and parties.