

Rajya Sabha Pick Meenakshi Natarajan's Nomination Junked, Congress Protests



Bhopal: The Congress, busy protecting its Madhya Pradesh MLAs from BJP overtures ahead of the Rajya Sabha election, ended up barred from the contest today. The Election Commission rejected the application of Meenakshi Natarajan following complaints that she had not disclosed the details of a case against her in her nomination papers. The MLAs, who were waiting to take a flight to Bengaluru, meanwhile, got called back when Natarajan's nomination was rejected. Sources said the flight was recalled from the runway. The Congress's attempts to protest against the Returning officer's move also fell flat when a delegation led by senior party leader KC Venugopal reached the poll office. Sources said most officials at Commission had left after 6 pm. Though Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar was in the office, the Congress had not sought an appointment, sources said. The party claimed that KC Venugopal had sought a 7.30 pm appointment.

After Hug At INDIA Huddle, A Mamata Banerjee-Sonia Gandhi Meet at 10 Janpath



New Delhi: A day after photos of her hug with Sonia Gandhi at the INDIA bloc meeting were widely shared, Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee met the Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson at her residence, 10 Janpath, on Tuesday after nearly five years. The former West Bengal chief minister is facing a massive crisis - and her party an existential one - following the crushing defeat by the BJP last month. A section of MLAs rebelled, followed by a similar revolt by several MPs. The meeting between Banerjee and Gandhi led to some speculation on discussions about the future of the parties, which had often been at loggerheads despite being allies in the INDIA bloc. Experts, however, pointed out that Congress MP and Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi was not present at the meeting, noting that no important discussions were likely to take place without him. At the INDIA alliance meeting, the two leaders shared an embrace and then sat next to each other. Posting a photo of the hug on X, the Trinamool Congress said it was an indicator of the long-held bond between them. "The smiles said what words could not...a bond strengthened through decades of dedi-

World Leaders Praise PM Modi As He Becomes India's Longest-Serving Prime Minister



New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi etched his name into India's political history books on Tuesday, surpassing Jawaharlal Nehru's record to become the country's longest-serving elected Prime Minister. The milestone drew a wave of congratulations from world leaders, who praised his transformative domestic governance and growing influence on the global stage. PM Modi, who first assumed office in May 2014

and secured a third consecutive term in 2024, has led India through a period of sweeping economic and social change. His tenure has seen India rise to become the world's fifth-largest economy, claim a seat at the high table of global diplomacy, and position itself as the foremost voice of the Global South. Among the first to reach out was Sri Lanka's President Anura Kumara Disanayaka, who in a letter dated June 8 called

the milestone "a testament not only to your years in office, but also to the trust and confidence that the people of the world's largest democracy have repeatedly placed in your leadership." Sri Lanka holds a special place in PM Modi's foreign policy record - he has visited the island nation four times, most recently in April 2025, when he was conferred the Mitra Vibhushana, Sri Lanka's highest civilian honour for a foreign dignitary.

YSRCP is Indulging in Unnecessary Politics Over Steel Plant Incident: Minister Narayana

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, June 9: Municipal Administration Minister P. Narayana stated that the government responded immediately to the incident at the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. He explained that a programme scheduled to be held in Tirupati was cancelled in view of the incident. Minister Narayana participated in the grievance redressal programme held at the Telugu Desam Party's central office in Mangalagiri on Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion, he said that the government has focused on providing medical treatment and extending all necessary assistance to the affected per-



sons. Minister P. Narayana said that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, Nara Lokesh, and other ministers have been paying special attention to the incident. He criticized the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) for engaging in what he de-

scribed as unnecessary politics over the Visakhapatnam incident. Expressing anger, he alleged that the party was resorting to "politics over dead bodies." He advised YSRCP leaders to refrain from politics that incite the public and stated that the people would teach the party an appropriate lesson in the 2029 elections.

Majority of Grievances Related to Revenue Issues

Minister P. Narayana said that 56 complainants attended the grievance cell programme. He noted that more than 60 percent of the complaints were related to revenue issues. Recalling that people had faced diffi-

culties due to revenue irregularities during the previous government's tenure, he said that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu reviews the resolution of revenue-related issues once every week. He further stated that a committee of ministers is working specifically to address revenue matters.

Complaints Forwarded to District Collectors and Officials

Minister Narayana said that the grievances received during the programme had been forwarded to the respective District Collectors and officials concerned. He added that complaints relating to pensions, municipal issues, and family disputes were also received.

Deputy CM Pawan Visits KIMS Hospital, Consoles Steel Plant Accident Victims

From Our Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam, June 9: Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan visited KIMS Hospital in Visakhapatnam and met the victims who were seriously injured in the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant accident. Pawan Kalyan reached the hospital on Tuesday morning and interacted with the injured workers as well as their family members. He enquired about the circumstances that led to the accident and assessed the health condition of those undergoing treatment. He also sought details from doctors regarding the medical care being provided to the injured. Pawan Kalyan



assured the victims and their families that the government would bear the entire cost of their treatment and extend all

possible support. State Civil Supplies Minister Nadendra Manohar and Visakhapatnam South MLA

Vamsi Krishna Srinivas Yadav accompanied the Deputy Chief Minister during the visit.

Scams During Congress Rule, Development Under Modi Government: Prahlad Joshi

From Our Staff Reporter Tirupati, June 9: Union Minister Prahlad Joshi stated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has implemented crucial decisions such as Operation Sindoor for the welfare and security of the nation. He noted that Modi has completed 4,399 days as Prime Minister as of today. Prahlad Joshi visited Tirupati on Tuesday and participated in several programmes. Speaking to the media on the occasion, he said that the coalition government under the leadership of visionary leader Chandrababu Naidu has completed two years. He recalled that Jawaharlal Nehru still holds the record for serving the highest number of days as Prime Minister. He said there was a time when only the Congress was considered capable of providing a stable government. Alleging that the Congress regime was marked only by scams, he asserted that the country



is witnessing development under Prime Minister Modi's leadership. Prahlad Joshi alleged that scams worth Rs. 6 lakh crore took place during the Congress regime. He said that despite challenges, India is currently one of the fastest-growing economies in the world in terms of skill and scale. He stated that 25 crore Indians are progressing in a multidimensional manner. He pointed out that free food is being provided to 81 crore people. He further said that a pilot project for geo-tagging food supply

is being implemented in Andhra Pradesh. Prahlad Joshi noted that digital transactions have increased significantly following the opening of Jan Dhan accounts for crores of people. Prahlad Joshi said that employment opportunities have increased with the construction of lakhs of kilometres of National Highways. He stated that India is the second-largest country in terms of electricity generation. He remarked that his government is moving forward with "SUN Power," while the Congress is working for "SON." He said that India is leading in power surplus capacity. He explained that mobile phone usage in the country has increased 160 times. Stating that LPG is not produced domestically in sufficient quantities, he said that the Central Government is taking steps to ensure there are no disruptions in gas supply.

From Our Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam, June 9:

Andhra Pradesh Minister for Education and Information Technology, Nara Lokesh, announced that the State Government will provide compensation of Rs. 25 lakh to the families of those who lost their lives in the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant accident. He also stated that compensation of Rs. 10 lakh each would be given to those injured in the incident. Minister Lokesh visited Visakhapatnam on Tuesday and spoke to the media on the occasion. He described the accident that occurred at the Steel Plant on Monday as deeply distressing. He said that as soon as information about the accident was received at 4:15 p.m., Union Ministers Kumaraswamy and Srinivasa Varma, along with State Ministers, rushed to the site. He stated that nine

people lost their lives and six others were injured in the accident. Assuring support to the affected families, Lokesh said that the government had not come merely to announce compensation but would stand by the victims permanently. He also said that a meeting would be arranged with the affected families and assured workers of the government's complete support. Lokesh asserted that the government had protected the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant through its sincere commitment. He said that the government has a WhatsApp group through which information about any incident occurring anywhere in the State is immediately shared and acted upon, and noted that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu is also part of the group. He assured steel workers that the



coalition government would stand firmly by them. Referring to the slogan, "Visakha Steel is the Right of Andhra People," he said that the Steel Plant was achieved through sustained public efforts. He recalled that 32 people sacrificed their lives for the establishment of the Steel Plant. Lokesh urged labour

union leaders not to deliberately create misconceptions regarding the incident. He said that making such statements before even 24 hours had passed since the accident was inappropriate. He noted that workers have been urging the government to protect the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant and reiterated that efforts

would be made to restore its former glory. He also stated that large-scale industrial investments are coming to North Andhra. Recalling an earlier crisis faced by the Steel Plant during the tenure of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Lokesh said that it had been safeguarded at that time as well. Nara Lokesh also took a swipe at YSR Congress Party president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. Referring to the opposition's response to the accident, he questioned whether the "captain" of the opposition's "Team Eleven" had visited the site despite such a major tragedy. He said, "We do not need to answer the captain of Team Eleven. Our responsibility is to answer the people who gave us 124 seats. We are accountable to them, not to those who travel behind curtains," he remarked.

EDITORIAL

Cockroach fighting game

Cockroaches, which are feared just by hearing their name and disgusted just by seeing them, have been making headlines for the past few days. The comments made by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court during a case hearing a few days ago, saying, 'Some people in society are attacking the system by turning into cockroaches. Unemployed youth are attacking the system by turning into social media and RTI activists,' paved the way for the formation of the Cockroach Janata Party. Although the judge clarified that his remarks were not directed at the youth, these comments have already sparked outrage among the youth on social media. In this context, the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP), which was formed in a sarcastic manner after the insect with which the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court compared them, imitating the name of the Bharatiya Janata Party in power at the Center, has now become the center of sensation.

It is surprising that this party, which is currently limited to social media, has gained more than two crore followers on its Instagram account in less than ten days. In just four or five days, the CJP has gained many times more support than the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party on social media. It is a miracle that a political party can gain such support even before it opens its eyes, in a situation where it is difficult to gain public support even after years of hard work. In other words, this development can be said to be a reflection of the despair and frustration that is brewing among the youth. Incidents where the youth are radically changing the political situation of the country with the help of social media are nothing new. The incident where the youth united and toppled the government in Nepal because social media was banned is still happening before our eyes. It is known that the youth played a key role in toppling the Hasina government in Bangladesh as well. In this context, the CJP, which has opened its eyes in India in the same way, is sending shivers down the spines of other political parties. The fact that the Center has frozen the CJP website and X account with the intention of damaging the CJP, which is gaining strength on social media, is a testament to its cunning.

Some government officials have already started mudslinging by saying that the Aam Aadmi Party is behind this, while others are saying that Pakistan is behind it. Some politically opportunistic opposition parties are preparing to join hands with the CJP. The public, especially the youth, are increasingly frustrated with the well-known political parties that are failing to eradicate the deep-rooted problems in society like corruption, unemployment, and inequality. In such a situation, is it any wonder that the youth are looking towards the Cockroach Janata Party, which has recently emerged as a beacon of hope for a person drowning in a river, even if they find a small piece of wood? However, the thousand-dollar question is how this new party, which emerged from social media, will become a powerful political force. The youth, who are currently inexperienced in politics and under the age of 18, are the backbone of this party.

CJP, which is bringing forward issues such as transparent governance, direct participation of the people, employment for the youth, and environmental protection, and is strongly bringing the slogan of the people as policy makers to the people, it is important to design a solid action plan to implement them and place it before the people. The journey from movement politics to institutional politics is fraught with challenges. If it can maintain its founding spirit and maintain a continuous connection with the people, it has the opportunity to grow as an alternative political force. Otherwise, it will inevitably disappear as a moon that was born in Makha and turned into a moon. Let us hope that CJP, which came before the people with the tag line 'The voice of the lazy and unemployed', will grow into a party that runs clean and transparent politics, like a cockroach that has the characteristics of surviving even in adverse conditions.

Ignored By Rahul, Haunted By Pilot: Inside Ashok Gehlot's Grand Meltdown

The top of the pack is Ashok Gehlot, 75, desperate and all guns blazing. Is it the Delhi-Jaipur-Jodhpur heat, a denial of Rajya Sabha berth, or the Nehru-Gandhi family's refusal to honour him with a sit-down, long conversation for the past three years, or the prospect of losing out on key AICC posts, ranging from the treasurer, general secretary in-charge of organisation, that has turned Gehlot into a motor-mouth over the last few days?

In Jaipur, Gehlot, on his own accord, tried giving a spin to an inglorious chapter when a lifelong Congressman in him stunned Sonia and the rest of the grand old party by refusing to convene a meeting of the Rajasthan Congress legislative party. That was the time when Sonia had asked Gehlot to move to Delhi to take over as the 88th president of the AICC. Gehlot, sensing that arch-rival Sachin Pilot would be his successor, manipulated 92 party MLAs to defy the party high command's decision. On June 7, 2026, Gehlot rejected the claim that he had revolted against the Congress high command, adding that the MLAs were acting within internal party dynamics rather than opposing central leadership. He said that public perception was shaped by media narratives, which led to a misunderstanding of the situation.

'It's A Conspiracy'

Ashok Gehlot said he believed the situation was wrongly interpreted and even appeared like a planned conspiracy. "The situation that unfolded... I feel it was a conspiracy. AICC observers arrived suddenly, a spectacle ensued, and I ended up with a bad reputation," he said. Going by Gehlot's outburst, it remains unclear who he is accusing of 'conspiring'. Was it Rahul Gandhi, party president Mallikarjun Kharge, AICC observer Ajay Maken, or AICC general secretary in-charge of the party organisation, KC Venugopal? Informed sources

said more than the denial of a meeting with Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi, Gehlot fears a return of Sachin Pilot as the state party chief in Rajasthan. If Pilot replaces Govind Singh Dotasra, who has completed nearly six years as the Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee (RPCC) president, Pilot, 49, will be tipped to become Chief Minister in November-December 2028.

The Man Left Behind?

Gehlot's second worry is his growing irrelevance in the party. The seasoned campaigner is not called for consultations, nor is he being considered for any meaty role. Like Kamal Nath, his minions tried circulating a narrative that if the former Rajasthan Chief Minister is given a Rajya Sabha berth, he would try to get 24, Akbar Road, a Type VIII Lutyens Delhi bungalow, and gift it to the party for the next six years. The Congress, having taken possession of the new party headquarters at Indira Bhawan, Rouse Avenue, is under pressure to vacate 24, Akbar Road, which served as the party's office for decades, from January 1978 to February 2025. But Rahul Gandhi was reportedly indifferent towards this gesture to 'donate' the house to the party.

The 'Diggy Raja' Story

The story of another senior Congress leader comes to mind: Digvijaya Singh. Like his good friend for over 50 years since the Sanjay Gandhi era, Digvijaya Singh, 79, a politician among politicians, has been uneasy since his Rajya Sabha term concluded recently and is staring at an uncertain political future. Retirement, gardening, writing memoirs or listening to music isn't really 'Diggy Raja's' idea of happiness. However, instead of nursing a grudge against the party or alleging conspiracy, Digvijaya thanked Rahul, Sonia and the party leadership for giving him two terms in the Lok Sabha and two stints in the Rajya Sabha. He went on to say that he would do 'every-



thing' to ensure that the party nominee for the Rajya Sabha polls, Meenakshi Natrajan, wins the seat. On a political level, Digvijaya, much like Gehlot, is running out of options in state and national politics. His son, Jaivardhan Singh, is well-placed in Madhya Pradesh politics, limiting the patriarch's role in the home state. Similarly, in the AICC secretariat, there is no role or designation awaiting the former Raja of Raghoagarh, a small principality that had a history of standing up to the famous Scindia dynasty. Interestingly, a quick recap of September-October 2022 would reveal how Digvijaya was very close to becoming the 88th president of the AICC when Ashok Gehlot revolted against the Congress high command, ultimately making way for Kharge's nomination for the coveted post.

He Had The Credentials

There is no dearth of Congress leaders who view Digvijaya with great respect. According to them, Rahul Gandhi should try to persuade Digvijaya not to hang up his boots. At an informal level, Rahul Gandhi has been told to use Digvijaya's services as an interface with seers, gurus and heads of the Hindu religious order to court the majority community. Digvijaya has been a vocal supporter of 'Sanatana

dharma', opposing 'Hindutva', and has been often seen challenging the BJP, VHP, RSS and others to have a 'shastra Artha' [debate] on the issue of defining the spirit of 'true Hinduism'. Party leaders say if Rahul Gandhi cares to look at Digvijaya's credentials, he would find several 'milestones' of sorts. In February 2002, he had organised a 'Dighauri conclave,' aimed at breaking the VHP's hegemony over the Ram Janambhoomi temple movement. When Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister and Dr Murlidhar Joshi was heading the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development, Digvijaya, as Congress Chief Minister, had defended the introduction of astrology as a subject in university education. The move had stunned many in the Congress. Between October 2017 and April 2018, Digvijaya conducted a gruelling padyatra around Narmada, walking for 192 days and covering a distance of 3,325 kilometres, across 166 of the 230 assembly constituencies of Madhya Pradesh. In the December 2018 polls, the Congress successfully beat the BJP in the state assembly polls. Digvijaya Singh is also among the few politicians who have been elected representative in all three layers - nagar palika, state

assembly and parliament. He has been head of the town corporation, MLA, state minister, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha MP and chief minister, in addition to holding numerous party posts. During the 2012 Uttar Pradesh polls, he was the AICC general secretary in charge of the state and worked closely with Rahul to such an extent that many dubbed him as the latter's mentor. Old timers recall how when Digvijaya became minister for the first time in 1980, a former state chief secretary gave him a piece of advice. "There are three ways of raising money in politics - harjana (taxation), jabrana (extortion) and nazrana (gift). Opt for the third option if you ever require it." Gehlot, however, is not Digvijaya. Not for him the magnanimity of letting the party high command decide his destiny. Congress insiders say that Gehlot's recent outburst has not gone down well. A party functionary even went on to indicate that it may end up costing him his Sardarpura seat in 2028. There are many in the grand old party wondering why Gehlot, who stuck with the Congress all through Indira, Sanjay, Rajiv, Narasimha Rao, Sitaram Kesri, Sonia and Rahul years, would go astray at the fag end of his political life, at the ripe old age of 75. "Ashok Gehlot ko gussa kyun aata hai?" they ask.

Why Trump's Attention Is Quickly Becoming Pak's Biggest Headache

I think it was April or May 1993 when the United States was seriously considering and publicly threatening Pakistan to place it on its list of state sponsors of international terrorism after concluding that Islamabad had failed to adequately address American concerns over Kashmir. It coincided with my trip to Washington DC. At the time, I was a reporter with a leading Indian newspaper and had arranged an off-the-record meeting with a senior State Department official handling South Asia to gauge how serious the American threat really was. I began by asking whether Washington genuinely intended to back its warnings with action. Quite unlike a typical diplomat, she was blunt. Her answer was an emphatic no. She then explained why the US could not afford to sanction Pakistan.

Drawing an imaginary crescent on a map, she said the arc stretching from Central Asia to the Middle East formed an "Islamic crescent" because most of the countries were Muslim-majority states and Pakistan sat right in the middle of it. "It disrupts that crescent," she said, arguing that Pakistan, as an old American ally, was more useful to Washington than any other Muslim country in the region. "Then why threaten Pakistan? Was it only for India's consternation?" I asked. She replied that repeated American warnings had forced Pakistan to shut down some militant camps in Muzaffarabad, something she said was confirmed

by satellite imagery. "The threats did work," she added. According to her, Pakistan had also cut ties with certain suspected militants and removed a senior intelligence official linked to operations in Kashmir. Yet, she admitted, doubts lingered, particularly over 'possible Pakistani involvement in the March 1993 Bombay bombings'.

Pakistan thus escaped the immediate threat of sanctions and a serious rupture in relations with the US. But the episode revealed an unpalatable aspect about the nature of US-Pakistan ties: the US called the shots, and Pakistan acted not like an ally but a client state; it also revealed that Washington was simultaneously pressuring Pakistan, distrusting Pakistan and yet refusing to completely abandon Pakistan because of its geopolitical usefulness.

Sycophancy As Diplomacy

More than three decades later, much has changed, and yet very little has. Pakistan has once again found a diplomatic sweet spot, courted simultaneously by the US, EU, China and key West Asian powers, even as India has tried hard to isolate it internationally, which, during President Trump's first term, almost came true. But since the President's return to the White House, Islamabad has skillfully exploited his idiosyncrasies and shifting geopolitical tensions to regain relevance.

The May 2025 India-Pakistan ceasefire was announced by Donald Trump, who often



claims credit for stopping wars around the world. Pakistan cunningly seized the moment. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif publicly praised Trump's role and later even backed him for a Nobel Peace Prize. So what if it smacked of cheap sycophancy? Before him, even British Prime Minister Keir Starmer had appeared to indulge Trump's appetite for flattery.

Abraham Accords And Pak's Other Challenges

But Pakistan's renewed relevance comes with familiar dangers. Its first challenge is on its doorsteps already, and it relates to Donald Trump's desire to revive and expand the Abraham Accords, the diplomatic framework that aims to encourage Muslim-majority countries to normalise relations with Israel. Trump named Pakistan among several other countries and hoped Islamabad would eventually move towards recognising Israel, alongside several Arab

and Islamic nations America is already quietly persuading. Pakistan was stunned. It moved to reiterate its longstanding position: there can be no recognition of Israel without meaningful progress towards an independent Palestinian state. But that is just an excuse in the Trumpian world. He is yet to react to Pakistan's pushback. For Sharif and Munir, the normalisation of relations with Israel is political suicide, like stabbing the janata in its back. Support for the Palestinian cause runs deep across Pakistan's political spectrum and is intertwined with religious sentiment, street opinion and national identity. Unlike some Gulf monarchies, Pakistan's civilian and military leadership cannot easily ignore public anger. Any abrupt move towards Israel, especially at a time when Gaza remains devastated and Palestinian suffering dominates Muslim public opinion, would provoke fierce

resistance from religious parties and large sections of society. Politically, it could become suicidal for any government in Islamabad.

Sandwiched Between Two Superpowers

Yet, openly resisting Trump also carries risks. Pakistan's fragile economy remains heavily dependent on Western-backed financial institutions and continued American goodwill. Pakistan, therefore, finds itself trapped in a familiar dilemma: it cannot afford to alienate Washington, but neither can it afford to appear as though it is abandoning the Palestinian cause. That balancing act may become one of the most delicate and dangerous diplomatic tests Pakistan faces during Trump's second presidency. Trump's remaining two-and-a-half years in the White House may ultimately prove far more complicated for Pakistani leaders than the current warmth suggests.

Yoga Training Programs Celebrated Like a Festival Across Villages and Towns : Collector Dr. G Lakshmisha



Vijayawada, June 9: District Collector Dr. G Lakshmisha called upon people to actively participate in Yoga Andhra-2026, being conducted as a mass movement to promote a healthy and prosperous Andhra Pradesh. Participating in a yoga session held on BRTS Road in Vijayawada on Tuesday, the Collector performed yoga along with officials and citizens. He said yoga awareness programs are being organized across the district at parks, tourist spots, temples, government offices, and public places. Around 10,000 yoga trainers are available in the district, and people should make use of their guidance. Practicing yoga for 45 minutes daily can help prevent lifestyle diseases and improve overall health, he noted. The Collector emphasized that yoga enhances concentration, confidence, energy, and mental well-being. Officials from various departments, including Ayush, Health, Municipal Administration, Revenue, Panchayat Raj, Youth Welfare, and Education, participated in the program.

Godavari Pollution-Free Pushkarams Need Urgent Funding: Somu Veerraju



Rajahmundry, June 9: MLC urged the Central and State governments to release pending funds immediately for making the Godavari River pollution-free ahead of the Pushkarams. Addressing the media on Tuesday, he said a Rs.1,600-crore comprehensive plan had been prepared, with Rs.416 crore sanctioned in the first phase and Rs.95 crore already released for an STP project. He sought early release of the remaining funds and implementation of pollution-control works in 294 villages across the Godavari basin. Veerraju also called on Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister to secure pending central scheme funds for the state. He welcomed Pawan Kalyan's allocation of Rs.100 crore for Godavari pollution-control measures and announced BJP outreach programmes from June 11 to 18 to mark Prime Minister completing 12 years in office.

Yoga Andhra Receives Enthusiastic Response in Maredumilli



programme held at Woods Resorts near Maredumilli on Tuesday, he emphasized that yoga is India's invaluable heritage and encouraged people to make it a part of their daily lives. The Collector announced that a grand International Yoga Day celebration will be organized at Rampachodavaram on June 21, while another major yoga event will be held at Motugudem in Chintoor Mandal on June 17. He said the programme is also aimed at promoting the tourism potential of Maredumilli and surrounding forest areas. State ST Commission Chairman and MLA highlighted the health benefits of yoga and urged people to adopt it as a regular practice. A large number of public representatives, officials and residents participated in the event.

Rampachodavaram, June 9: Polavaram District Collector said that practicing yoga for at least 45 minutes daily can help individuals remain physically and mentally healthy. Participating in the Yoga Andhra-2026

Action Against Negligent Revenue Officials: CCLA Jayalakshmi



Passbooks, PGRS petitions and 22A land issue resolutions along with District Collector on Tuesday, she directed officials to resolve public grievances through field-level inspections. Jayalakshmi stressed transparent implementation of the re-survey process and timely disposal of 22A land cases. She cautioned that officials with poor performance and low public satisfaction ratings in IVRS surveys could face reversion. She also announced surprise inspections across the district. The CCLA appreciated Collector Vetrivelvi for organizing special 22A grievance redressal drives, which helped remove large extents of land from the prohibited list and provide relief to hundreds of farmers. The Collector stated that over 1,000 acres had been cleared from the prohibited category and that Pattadar Passbooks had been distributed to all eligible beneficiaries in the district.

Lokesh Assures Support to Families of Vizag Steel Plant Victims



Visakhapatnam, June 9: Andhra Pradesh IT and Education Minister visited the accident site at the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant along with Home Minister, BJP State President and MLA, and MP on Tuesday. Lokesh expressed deep condolences to the families of workers who lost their lives in the accident and visited the injured undergoing treatment at a private hospital. He assured that a thorough investigation would be conducted to determine the cause of the mishap and that justice would be ensured for the victims and their families. Several public representatives and party leaders also participated in the visit.

Pithapuram Cricketer Fetches Record Rs.79,000 in ATPL Auction



Kakinada, June 9: Pithapuram all-rounder created a record at the Andhra Tennis Ball Premier League (ATPL) players' auction held in Visakhapatnam by being sold for Rs.79,000, the highest bid of the event. Several franchises competed for the talented cricketer before secured his services. Sports analysts attributed the record price to Paluri's impressive performances and all-round abilities in tennis ball cricket tournaments. The franchise expressed confidence that he would play a key role in the league. His achievement has brought recognition to Pithapuram's sporting talent, drawing appreciation from local players, cricket associations and sports enthusiasts.

District Vigilance Committees Asked to Monitor Food Security Act Implementation



Rajahmundry, June 9: District Joint Collector urged members of the District Vigilance Committee to closely monitor the implementation of welfare schemes under the National Food Security Act, 2013. Chairing the committee's first meeting on Tuesday, she emphasized transparency in the Public Distribution System and effective delivery of food security benefits. MLCs and called for stricter enforcement of weighing and measurement stan-

dards at fair-price shops and suggested displaying information boards at Anganwadi centres detailing services and nutrition provided by the government. Committee members also highlighted issues related to ration card splits, food safety monitoring, and the sale of stored meat products. Officials stressed the need for regular inspections and food safety testing to ensure quality and effective implementation of welfare programmes.

Tri-Cycles and Dustbins Distributed for Better Waste Management

Markapur, June 9: District Collector and MLA launched the distribution of tri-cycles and dustbins at the Kambham Mandal Parishad Office on Tuesday to strengthen sanitation and waste management systems. The programme, organized under the Swachh Andhra Corporation, aims to reduce plastic usage, ensure safe collection of plastic waste and prevent indiscriminate dumping of garbage. Officials said the initiative would help maintain cleanliness and reduce the spread of seasonal diseases by preventing mosquito breeding. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Ashok Reddy stressed that cleanliness is everyone's responsibility and highlighted the importance of public participation in achieving Swachh Andhra goals. A total of 27 tri-cycles and dustbins were distrib-

uted in Kambham Mandal to improve door-to-door waste collection and sanitation services. Officials, public repre-



sentatives and local residents participated in the programme.

Tribal Issues Raised Before Union Minister Ram Mohan Naidu

Paderu, June 9: Jana Sena leader and Pedabarada Panchayat President Kuda Ramakrishna submitted a memorandum to Union Civil Aviation Minister seeking implementation of GO No. 3 and continuation of under Zone-I. During a programme held at Rapaka in Srikakulam district, Ramakrishna highlighted various issues affecting tribal communities, including employment, education and welfare measures. He also stressed the need to safeguard tribal interests through proper implementation of GO No. 3. Ramakrishna further met State MSME and SERP Minister and submitted a separate representation on tribal issues. Jana Sena leaders and local representatives were present on the occasion.



Government Extends Full Support to Vizag Steel Plant Accident Victims: Collector

Visakhapatnam, June 9: District Collector said the government is extending all possible assistance to the families of workers who died and those injured in the recent ladle blast accident at the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. After meeting the victims' families at KGH mortuary on Tuesday, the Collector said eight workers lost their lives and six others sustained serious injuries in the accident that occurred at Steel Melt Shop-1 on June 8. The injured are receiving treatment at KIMS and SevenHills hospitals. He stated that steps are being taken to ensure prompt disbursement of ex gratia, terminal benefits, free education for children, continued housing support and employment for one eligible family member of each deceased worker. A three-member committee appointed by the Central Government has begun investigating the cause of the accident. The district administration is also assisting affected families with medical care, transportation and funeral arrangements.



India Emerged as Power-Surplus Nation Under Modi: Union Minister Prahlad Joshi



Tirupati, June 9: Union Minister for Consumer Affairs and Power said India has transformed from a power-deficit to a power-surplus nation under the leadership of Prime Minister. Addressing a media conference in Tirupati on Tuesday as part of the "12 Years of Trust, Development and Public Welfare" programme, Joshi said the country successfully managed a record peak power demand of 280 GW in May 2026, compared to 123 GW before 2014. He noted that India's installed power generation capacity has reached 538 GW, with 33% coming from renewable energy sources. The Minister highlighted achievements in infrastructure, elec-

tronics manufacturing and renewable energy, stating that India has surpassed the United States in renewable energy capacity and attracted major investments through the Semicon India initiative. He also said more than 25 crore people have moved out of poverty over the past decade. Joshi reaffirmed the Centre's support for Andhra Pradesh through key projects such as Amaravati Capital, the Polavaram Project, Visakhapatnam Steel Plant and the South Coast Railway Zone. He also expressed condolences to the families of workers who lost their lives in the recent Visakhapatnam Steel Plant accident.

300 Devotees Complete Silver Jubilee Padayatra to Annavaram



Kakinada, June 9: Around 300 devotees from Jangareddygudem in West Godavari district successfully completed their 25th annual padayatra (silver jubilee pilgrimage) to the famous at Annavaram. Organized by the Sri Rama Adhyatmika Seva Samithi, the devotees walked for five days before reaching Ratnagiri Hill and offering prayers to the presiding deity. The participants said they

have been continuing the pilgrimage uninterrupted for the past 25 years. On the instructions of Executive Officer, the temple administration made special arrangements, including priority darshan, accommodation and annadanam for the pilgrims. The devotees expressed gratitude to the temple authorities for the warm welcome and facilities provided during their visit.

Grand Yoga Event Held on Kambham Lake Bund



Markapur, June 9: District Collector and MLA participated in a large-scale Yoga Andhra programme organized on the Kambham Lake bund as part of preparations for International Yoga Day. Addressing the gathering, the Collector said yoga promotes physical health, mental peace, self-confidence and overall well-being. She described yoga as not just an exercise but a way of achieving a balanced and positive life. MLA Ashok Reddy highlighted the efforts of Prime Minister in popularizing yoga globally and said Chief Minister is an example of the health benefits of regular yoga practice. He also appreciated the district administration for organizing the event at the historic Kambham Lake, one of Asia's largest man-made lakes. A large number of officials, public representatives, students, youth and yoga enthusiasts participated in the programme.

Error-Free Voter List Key to Strong Democracy: Collector Lakshmisha



Vijayawada, June 9: District Collector and District Election Officer said that an error-free voter list is essential for strengthening democracy and directed election officials to carry out the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process with utmost care and transparency. Addressing a district-level training programme for Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), Assistant EROs, BLOs and supervisors on Tuesday, the Collector explained the five-stage revision process, including house-to-house enumeration, digitisation of forms and publication of electoral rolls. He said preparatory activities will continue until June 14, followed by door-to-door surveys from June 15 to July 14. The draft electoral roll will be published on July 21, with claims and objections accepted until August 20. The final voter list will be published on September 22. Lakshmisha stressed the need to include all eligible voters while removing ineligible, deceased, migrated and duplicate voters to ensure a clean and accurate electoral roll. He called upon officials, political parties and stakeholders to work together for the successful completion of the revision process.

DGFT Conducts Exporters' Awareness Seminar in Visakhapatnam



Vijayawada, June 9: Director General of Foreign Trade participated as the chief guest at an Exporters' Awareness Seminar organized by the DGFT Regional Office, Visakhapatnam, at Novotel Hotel on Monday. Address-

ing exporters, MSME representatives and industry stakeholders, Agarwal highlighted the Centre's newly launched Export Promotion Mission and initiatives aimed at strengthening India's export ecosystem. He said that during a special drive conducted between March and May 2026, the Visakhapatnam Regional Authority cleared several Export Obligation Discharge Certificate (EODC) cases, enabling exporters to release bank guarantees and improving liquidity by about Rs.419 crore for Andhra Pradesh exporters. The seminar also focused on the 90-day "Districts as Export Hubs" campaign launched on June 1, 2026. Six Andhra Pradesh districts—Anantapur, Chittoor, East Godavari, Guntur, Krishna and Visakhapatnam—have been identified for promoting district-specific products in international markets. Officials and exporters discussed challenges and opportunities in the export sector, with DGFT reaffirming its commitment to supporting exporters and MSMEs.

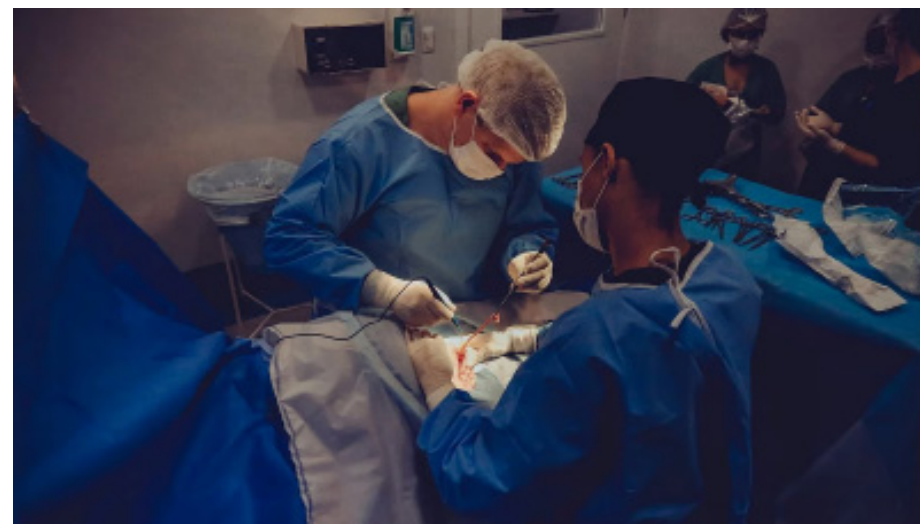
Collector Inspects Seethapalli PHC, Reviews Healthcare Services

Rampachodavaram, June 9: Polavaram District Collector conducted a surprise inspection of the Seethapalli Primary Health Centre on Tuesday and directed medical officers to ensure immediate medical tests and free medicines for patients visiting government hospitals. The Collector reviewed the laboratory, pharmacy, wards and hospital premises, stressing cleanliness, adequate medicine stocks and quality healthcare services. He also reviewed the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan and instructed officials to provide regular health check-ups and awareness programmes for pregnant women. He directed health staff to monitor anaemia among pregnant women, ensure safe deliveries, and take preventive measures against malaria in villages. District Medical and Health Officer Dr. P. Saritha, Medical Officer Dr. Kevin and other staff participated in the inspection.



Six Women Develop Kidney Failure After C-Sections At Bikaner's PBM Hospital; Critical Condition Sparks Health Scare

Jaipur: In a major health scare, six women have developed kidney-related complications after C-section deliveries at the government-run PBM hospital of Bikaner. All the women have been admitted to the hospital's ICU in critical condition and are undergoing treatment. The condition of a 20-year-old woman from Phalodi placed on ventilator support is reported to be critical.



Recent similar tragedy
Incident in Bikaner came to light barely weeks after a similar tragedy in Kota where five women died due to kidney failure following Caesarean deliveries.

Dr. Surendra Verma, Principal of Sardar Patel Medical College of Bikaner, said that symptoms of Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) have been observed in the patients; however, he noted that AKI can result from

various factors, including infections, the effects of medication, complications arising during childbirth, or other medical reasons.

Investigation underway
"An investigation is currently underway, and it would be premature to confirm a specific cause at this stage," said Dr. Verma, adding that the possibility of

infection cannot be entirely ruled out.

As per reports, all the affected women are between the ages of 20-27 and undergone Caesarean deliveries at the maternity wing (Janana Hospital) of PBM Hospital 10-15 days ago. Their health began to deteriorate shortly after delivery. Doctors observed a se-

ries of alarming symptoms, including reduced urine output, falling platelet counts, acute kidney injury, excessive bleeding, and, in some cases, multiple organ complications. Medical examinations revealed severe kidney-related complications. Consequently, they were immediately shifted to the ICU for advanced medical care.

Who Is Doctor Ashok Muralidaran? US-Based Indian-Origin Surgeon Named In \$17 Million Lawsuit Over Allegedly Implanting Heart Valve Upside Down

New Delhi: The parents of a 13-year-old girl have filed a \$17 million negligence lawsuit against Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) after doctors discovered that a heart valve implanted in their daughter during open-heart surgery had been implanted upside down, an error that left her critically ill for weeks and nearly cost her life. Steven and Lori Stokes filed the complaint in Multnomah County Circuit Court against OHSU and the operating surgeon, Dr Ashok Muralidaran. The surgery was performed on August 15, 2025, and required doctors to temporarily stop the girl's heart while she was on cardiac bypass. When surgeons attempted to restart her heart after the procedure, it failed to respond. She was placed on ECMO, a life-support machine that artificially circulates and oxygenates blood, while doctors ran repeated tests trying to determine why her heart wasn't working. For three days, she lay in the ICU with an open chest incision, her condition worsening. Doctors reportedly offered no concrete explanation and eventually raised the possibility of organ donation with her family. OHSU ultimately told



her parents she needed either a permanent artificial heart or a transplant, procedures the hospital said it couldn't perform, and that transferring her elsewhere could prove fatal given how grave her condition had become. Her parents nevertheless chose to have her airlifted to Seattle Children's Hospital, where doctors discovered the implanted valve was positioned incorrectly. Surgery confirmed it had been placed upside down. Once replaced properly, her heart resumed normal function immediately. After over a month in critical care, she was eventually discharged. The family's medical bills have already crossed \$3.35 million. Under Oregon's tort liability cap,

OHSU's maximum exposure is limited to approximately \$5.27 million. The Free Press Journal contacted OHSU seeking its response to the allegations in the lawsuit, but had not received a reply by the time this report was published.

Who Is Dr Ashok Muralidaran?

According to the OHSU website, Dr Ashok Muralidaran is an Associate Professor of Surgery and Pediatrics in the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery at OHSU. He serves as the Section Head of Pediatric and Congenital Cardiac Surgery at Doernbecher Children's Hospital and holds the John C Hursh Endowed Chair in Pediatric Cardiac Surgery. His clinical

work focuses on treating children and adults with congenital heart disease, while his research examines patient outcomes following congenital cardiac surgery. Originally from India, Dr Muralidaran earned his medical degree from Madras Medical College before completing surgical training and fellowships in the United States. His advanced training included research fellowships in Chennai, the University of Southern California and Stanford University, along with clinical fellowships at Yale University/Yale New Haven Medical Center and Stanford University. Outside of medicine, he enjoys reading, hiking, working out, playing squash and spending time with his family.

MMRDA Chief Inspects Chembur Metro, Monorail Ahead of Launch

Mumbai: Metropolitan Commissioner of MMRDA, Dr Sanjay Mukherjee, on June 9, conducted an on-site inspection of the Chembur Metro Station on Line 2B and the revitalised Mumbai Monorail station via a short walk, which is set to become operational soon. In a video shared by MMRDA, Mukherjee is seen walking from the Chembur Metro Station on Metro Line 2B to the nearby VN Purav Marg Monorail Station, showing the direct pedestrian link interchange between the two transport systems. The connectivity between the Metro Station and Monorail station will further help commuters travel more easily between Mumbai's eastern suburbs and South-Central Mumbai. The integration is also expected to boost ridership across both networks, which have been struggling to attract passengers due to



their inability to connect directly with multiple mass transit systems. The Metro makes key spots such as Diamond Garden, K Star Mall, Chembur Railway Station and nearby residential pockets directly linked through the metro network. The Interchange at VN Purav Marg will further boost travel.

According to MMRDA, "these projects are set to make

daily travel easier for lakhs of people in the eastern suburbs all the way to South-Central Mumbai, including students heading to college, officegoers trying to save time, senior citizens travelling across the city, and families managing everyday life." Notably, the 19.54-km Monorail services, linking Sant Ghadge Maharaj (SGM) Chowk and Chembur, remained shut since September 20 last year follow-

ing repeated technical failures, operational glitches and multiple service-related incidents that had raised safety concerns among commuters. Now, the new improved Monorail will soon be re-launched with better safety and commuter experience, including CCTVs, state-of-the-art CBTC signalling, dynamic route maps, USB charging points, and Made in India rakes.