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'Congress Growth Rate, Not Hindu Growth Rate': PM Modi's Sharp Attack At NDA Meeting



New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday became India's longest-serving elected Prime Minister, completing 4,399 days in office. The milestone was marked at an NDA leaders' meeting held at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, where alliance partners felicitated him for the historic achievement.

Addressing NDA leaders, Modi expressed gratitude for the honour and said he had never imagined reaching such a milestone during his political journey. Describing public service as a "spiritual practice," he credited the people of India, whom he called the embodiment of God, for giving him the opportunity to serve the nation continuously for over a decade. The Prime Minister said the achievement was not personal but a collective accomplishment of the entire NDA family and its

workers. He thanked alliance partners and dedicated the resolution passed in his honour to every NDA constituent and BJP worker. Modi attributed his long tenure to the electorate's preference for political stability. He said the years preceding 2014 were marked by instability and turmoil, while the NDA government had demonstrated the benefits of decisive governance. According to him, voters recognised the importance of a stable government and continued to place their trust in the NDA.

Assam CM Himanta Sarma Hails PM Modi As India's Longest-Serving Prime Minister

Guwahati: Assam Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday extended his greetings and best wishes to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the latter becoming India's longest-serving Prime Minister, and credited his leadership with transforming Assam's developmental trajectory and strengthening its place in the national mainstream. During celebrations marking the 12th anniversary of the NDA government at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi,

Sarma personally handed over a letter to the Prime Minister, conveying what he described as the gratitude, affection and admiration of Assam's 3.5 crore people. In the letter, the Chief Minister described Modi's tenure as a transformative period that fundamentally reshaped Assam's relationship with the Centre and accelerated the state's progress, enabling it to evolve from being perceived as a dependent state into a significant contributor to India's growth story. Reflecting on



the past, Sarma wrote that for decades, people in Assam and the wider North-East often felt distant from the national mainstream despite being proud Indians. He said that under Modi's leadership, the region moved from the periphery to the centre of national priorities, ushering in a new era in Centre-State relations. (Turn to Page 2)

India Condemns Attack On Commercial Vessel Off Oman Coast; 21 Indians Rescued, 3 Missing

New Delhi: India on Wednesday strongly condemned the attack on a commercial vessel off the coast of Oman and said authorities are working closely with Omani officials to trace three missing Indian nationals. In a statement issued by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the government said the vessel, identified as Settebello, came under attack earlier in the day. Of the 24 Indian crew members onboard, 21 have been



rescued so far, while three remain unaccounted for. "We condemn the attack on the commercial vessel Settebello off the coast of Oman, earlier today. Of the 24 Indian crew onboard, 21 Indians have been rescued thus far and 03 Indians are reportedly missing," the MEA said. The ministry added that the Indian Embassy in Oman is closely monitoring developments and is proactively coordinating with Omani authorities involved in the ongoing search and rescue operation. The government also expressed concern over the continuing attacks on shipping in the region, describing them as a direct consequence of the ongoing conflict and instability in West Asia. "The continuing incidents of attacks on shipping in the region are deeply worrisome and a direct result of the ongoing conflict in the region," the statement noted.

'Words Once Spoken Cannot Be Taken Back': Sachin Pilot Hits Back At Former Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot

Jaipur: The political temperature within the Rajasthan Congress, which had risen following recent remarks by former Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot regarding his political opponent Sachin Pilot, intensified further on Wednesday when Pilot, speaking in a tone that seemed to offer a lesson to Gehlot, said, "I have respected every individual working in the political arena. I have no personal feud with anyone. I speak very carefully because words once spoken cannot be taken back, so struggle and stand-

ing by the truth is essential. Restraint, contentment, and showing respect are all necessary; how people behave is not in our hands." Pilot was addressing a gathering in Karauli on Wednesday during the unveiling ceremony of a statue of his father, the late Union Minister Rajesh Pilot. This was Pilot's first public event following Gehlot's remarks, and a strong response was anticipated. While Pilot did respond, he remained largely restrained and did not explicitly name anyone, though he did make

a couple of pointed remarks. In his statement, Gehlot had claimed that he was responsible for making Pilot a Union Minister and that Pilot ought to acknowledge this. Without naming anyone, Pilot retorted, "We may hold various positions, but our job is not to distribute posts among ourselves. If we simply hand out positions to one another, what ideology, the organization, and the public do? Our duty is to serve the people with absolute truthfulness." Pilot stated that when



the time and circumstances are right—and according to the organization, a person is deemed suitable—one will certainly be entrusted with responsibility.

Not a Single Employee Has Been Removed from Visakhapatnam Steel Plant: Minister Kondapalli

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, June 10: MSME and NRI Affairs Minister Kondapalli Srinivas said that the accident at the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant was deeply tragic. Speaking in Amaravati on Wednesday, the Minister stated that eight workers lost their lives in the second explosion that occurred in SMS-1. He said that four others injured in the accident are receiving better medical treatment in hospital. He announced that a robust alert system would be established to prevent such incidents in the future. He recalled that Union Ministers H.D. Kumaraswamy, Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu, and Srinivasa Varma visited the accident site and reviewed the situation.



said it was unfortunate that "corpse politics" was being played even during such difficult circumstances. He clarified that not a single employee had been removed from the Steel Plant and urged the public not to believe what he described as false claims being made by Jagan. Kondapalli Srinivas stated that there was complete accountability for the Rs.11,440 crore provided by the Centre and that not a single rupee had been diverted. He explained that Rs.4,000 crore had been spent on raw materials and Rs.5,000 crore on plant upgradation. He recalled that production at the plant, which had fallen to 30 percent during Jagan's tenure, had now increased to 95 percent. He said that due to measures taken by the coalition government, Visakhapatnam Steel Plant is currently producing more than six lakh tonnes.

The Minister criticized the previous YSRCP government, saying that when 12 people died in the LG Polymers accident, compensation of ₹1 crore was provided to only three victims. He alleged that the compensation paid at that time came from the company and not from the YSRCP government itself. Kondapalli Srinivas directly questioned Jagan about what had happened to the proposed super-specialty hospital that was promised for LG Polymers victims. He

also criticized the former Chief Minister, saying that while he used to conduct meetings at the airport during his tenure, he is now unable to tolerate ministers visiting people on the ground. The Minister further questioned whether it was not true that secret agreements had been made with POSCO during the previous five years with an eye on the lands of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. He recalled that it was due to the initiative of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu that the Centre provided Rs.500 crore and prevented the privatization of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. Kondapalli alleged that engaging in vote-bank politics even while consoling bereaved families reflected the nature of the YSRCP leadership.

Power Projects Must Be Completed Within the Stipulated Timeframe: Minister

Amaravati, June 10: Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar directed senior officials to ensure that power infrastructure projects across the state are completed within the stipulated timeframe. The Minister conducted a review meeting with senior officials of the Energy Department in Amaravati on Wednesday. During the meeting, he reviewed the progress of substations currently under construction across the state. He instructed officials to work in coordination to prevent power interruptions and low-voltage issues. Minister Ravi Kumar emphasized that whenever power-related problems arise, supply should be restored through alternative arrangements without delay.

Strengthening Study Circles Helped Many Secure DSC Jobs: Minister Dola

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, June 10: Social Welfare Minister Dola Bala Veeranjanya Swamy stated that the coalition government's efforts to strengthen study circles have helped many unemployed youth secure teaching jobs through the DSC recruitment process. Speaking in Amaravati on Wednesday, the Minister said that over the past two years, priority had been given to both development and welfare in the Social Welfare Department. He explained that IAS coaching had been provided to 340 students at a cost of Rs.2 crore. In addition, 200 nursing students were trained in the German language and provided with employment opportunities in Germany. Minister Dola said that

Rs.916 crore is being spent for more than 1.70 lakh students studying in 1,002 hostels. He noted that the pass percentage stood at 85.32 percent in Class 10 and 72.3 percent in Intermediate examinations. Cash incentives were provided to students from residential schools and hostels who achieved outstanding results. He also stated that works worth Rs.143 crore had been taken up for the modernization of 774 hostels. Toilets and sanitation facilities in every hostel are being maintained through an outsourcing system, he added. The Minister said that AI-enabled CCTV cameras had been installed in 989 hostels at a cost of Rs.19 crore. He further stated that Rs.1,448 crore had been

spent for 2.06 lakh students studying in 190 residential institutions. While 55 students were selected for IIT and NEET last year, the number increased to 127 this year, he noted. He added that 184 students had qualified in JEE Advanced. The number of IIT and NEET coaching centres had been increased from three to ten. Four Centres of Excellence had also been established to match corporate educational institutions. Minister Dola said that RO plants had been installed in every hostel. Special attention is being paid to the health of students in residential institutions, he added. Science fairs and sports meets are also being organized regularly. Steps are being taken to establish



mechanized kitchens in hostels. He stated that SC/ST atrocity cases have significantly reduced compared to the past. Special measures are also being implemented to increase greenery in all schools and hostels. The Minister said that special focus has been placed on skill development for SC artisans. Leather industries are being estab-

lished at Yadavalli and G. Konduru. Financial assistance of over Rs.106 crore has been provided to auto drivers, while SC fishing families have received assistance amounting to Rs.5.88 crore. He stated that steps are being taken to fill 329 backlog posts reserved for persons with disabilities. Through the DSC recruitment process, 24 differently-abled teachers have been appointed.

No Development Took Place During Jagan's Regime: Home Minister Anitha

From Our Staff Reporter Anakapalli District, June 10: Andhra Pradesh Home Minister Vangalapati Anitha expressed strong criticism, stating that no development had taken place in the Payakaraopeta Assembly constituency during the tenure of Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. She said that Rs.5.46 crore had been allocated and development works had been undertaken for the famous pilgrimage centre of Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple at Upamaka in the constituency. Anitha stated that her goal is to ensure all-round development of the

constituency over the next three years. She also clarified that Payakaraopeta would be developed as a tourist destination. On Wednesday, the Home Minister held a media conference to review development and welfare initiatives undertaken in the constituency over the past two years. She explained the works carried out during this period and presented photographs as evidence of the development and welfare programmes worth nearly Rs.1,150 crore are being implemented in the Payakaraopeta constitu-



ency over the two-year period. She revealed that Rs.118 crore had been sanctioned for 871 Panchayat Raj works across the four mandals of the constituency. She stated that 172 kilometres of roads had been constructed for village development. Under the Roads and Buildings

(R&B) Department, 36 works covering 137 kilometres of roads had been completed at a cost of Rs.130 crore within the constituency. Home Minister Anitha further said that 244 works worth Rs.66 crore had been undertaken to provide safe drinking water to every household.

He also announced that a council for the welfare of transgender persons is being set up in Tirupati. Under the Indradhanassu scheme, free travel in APSRTC buses has been provided to differently-abled persons and transgender individuals. He recalled that 1,075 government services have been made available through WhatsApp Governance. Referring to the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant accident, Minister Dola urged political parties not to politicize the incident. He said that the NDA government responded immediately and stood by the affected families. According to him, workers themselves have stated that no such accident had occurred in the plant's 33-year history. He clarified that steps to improve safety systems would be taken after the committee submits its report.

EDITORIAL

Violence breaks out
again in Manipur

The central and state governments have been keeping a lid on the flames of violence that have been smoldering in Manipur since the violence broke out between the Kukijo tribe and the majority Meiti social group on May 3, 2023, and are not trying to extinguish the flames. Recently, violent incidents have started again in Kangpoksi district. Three civilians lost their lives. After the shooting, the assailants set fire to the houses of the Kukijo community in the village. The police are searching for the assailants. Moreover, the incident of two Kukijo women being stripped naked and led away has led to protests across the country. However, the fact that such incidents are still continuing shows how little the central and state governments look down on Manipur.

According to the data released by the Manipur State Home Department, at least 731 people have died among the helpless people living in relief camps set up after the clashes in 2023. If we look at these details by district, the maximum number of deaths is 248 in Churachandpur, 151 in Bishnupur, 128 in Kangpoksi, 94 in Imphal West, 60 in Waksing, 25 in Imphal East, 13 in Jiriland, and one in Tengrapal. It is noteworthy that even after almost three years since the clashes began, more than 43,000 people remain homeless. Some of the homeless people are increasingly addicted to drugs and are suffering from diseases. 217 of the people living in the Imphal East camps are suffering from serious diseases. Even if the Chief Minister is changed in this state or President's rule is imposed for a few years, there is no change in the situation. It seems that the fact that this state is actually in the country is forgotten. The Central government is promoting that if there is a single party government at the Center and the state, development will progress positively as a double engine government, but in the case of Manipur, that slogan is not bearing fruit. A total of 42 SIT groups are investigating 126 cases of murder, 9 cases of sexual crimes, one group for house arson, robberies and other heinous crimes, and four SIT groups in this way on the guidelines of the Supreme Court. Although 3023 cases related to sexual crimes have been registered, charge sheets have been filed in only 6 percent of them.

Curfew imposed after protesters attacked Biren Singh's residence. Internet services were suspended. Last year, the most Internet services were suspended in troubled Manipur, including the union territories, for 21 times. However, experts believe that such frequent shutdowns of internet services will hamper India's efforts to become a global leader in digital governance, artificial intelligence, global governors, artificial intelligence. There are also concerns about the Telecommunications Act 2023 and Telecommunications, 2024, recently introduced by the central government. Congress leaders have alleged that India recorded the highest number of internet service shutdowns in the world in 2018-21 under the NDA government. The Meiti presence in Manipur Valley dates back hundreds of centuries.

But the first mention of the Kukis was in the 17th century. In 1777, when Warren Hastings was the Governor General of Bengal, the Kukis were first mentioned during a tribe's attack on the British in Chittagong. After that, the Kukis were divided into old Kukis and new Kukis. It seems that those who came from Burma during the Anglo-Burmese War were the new Kukis. After independence, Manipur officially became an integral part of India from October 15, 1949. At that time, there was a discussion about giving ST status to the Meiti. But it did not materialize. With the support of the British rulers, the Kukis settled in the hilly areas of Manipur. They were responsible for protecting the Boya areas from the attacks of the Naga tribes. In a way, they worked as a mercenary army for the British rulers. As part of their strategy, the white nobility encouraged one tribe to oppose another tribe and another tribe to oppose them.

The increasing dominance of the Kukis in the hills seems to be due to the British tactics. There are differing opinions on the origin of today's clashes. While the Meiti living in the valley are demanding ST status, the Kukis, who have ST status in the hills, are insisting on a separate administrative system, which is why violence is breaking out. Historian Ningthauja said that after 1949, a large number of illegal immigrants from Myanmar migrated and integrated into the Kuki community, which is the root of today's conflicts. He says that today's clashes have nothing to do with the history of Manipur. The steps taken by the state government to uproot illegal immigrants who have settled in reserve forest areas for years are leading to agitation among the Kukis.

Why India Appointed A Non-Muslim Ambassador
To Saudi Arabia, For First Time Ever

The appointment of Mr Vipul as the new Indian ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a historic shift in India's diplomatic strategy. It breaks the established convention since 1948 of sending a Muslim ambassador to the country. In this regard, Vipul is the first non-Muslim Indian diplomat in Saudi Arabia. His appointment is significant not just from a geopolitical lens but also for the underlying signalling. Geopolitically, Saudi Arabia matters to India for reasons that extend far beyond the traditional lens of oil and expatriate labour. Riyadh today occupies one of the most important positions in India's diplomatic landscape. It is a critical energy partner, a leading political actor in the Gulf, the custodian of Islam's two holiest sites, and an increasingly influential economic hub. Under its Vision 2030 transformation agenda, Saudi Arabia has emerged as a centre where investment, technology, infrastructure, culture, and geopolitics intersect, creating new opportunities and strategic considerations for countries such as India. In this backdrop, the appointment of Mr Vipul is a wise choice. A career diplomat from the 1998 batch of the Indian Foreign Service, he brings extensive experience in the Gulf and the wider region, having served in Cairo, Colombo, Geneva, and Dubai, and most recently as India's ambassador to Qatar. His appointment reflects expertise, seniority, and

familiarity with a strategically vital region rather than any departure from diplomatic meritocracy.

However, more than his professional credentials, it's the fact that he's the first non-Muslim diplomat to head the mission in Riyadh since diplomatic relations between the two countries were established that has gained more attention. In a highly polarised environment, the risk lies less in the appointment itself than in the narratives that may be constructed around it.

Since the late 1940s, New Delhi had exclusively selected senior Muslim diplomats for the ambassadorial role in Riyadh and the consul general position in Jeddah. This practice was primarily rooted in logistics; the Indian mission in Saudi Arabia plays a massive role in coordinating the annual Hajj pilgrimage, which sees hundreds of thousands of Indian Muslims travel to Islam's holiest sites. India sends the second-largest Hajj contingent to Saudi Arabia after Indonesia - 1,75,000 is the official Hajj quota. With such a huge number of Indians coming in for Hajj, the role of the consul general in Jeddah and the ambassador in Riyadh becomes crucial in terms of coordination with Saudi authorities. According to senior diplomats posted earlier in the region, the coordination and management of Hajj often requires the ambassador's presence in



Mecca and Medina, Jamarat for coordination, as the Saudi management also shifts to these areas. Since a non-Muslim is not allowed in the area where the Hajj pilgrimage is performed, the management of the pilgrimage may be adversely affected if the ambassador cannot be in the area. An example is the fire tragedy in the tent city of Mina in 1997, in which hundreds of Indians died, and the then ambassador, Hamid Ansari, rushed to the site of the tragedy for coordination with higher Saudi authorities.

However, in recent times, sources indicate that the pool of eligible Muslim candidates has shrunk considerably. This scarcity has occasionally forced the government to extend the tenures of sitting am-

bassadors or look outside the career diplomatic corps entirely - such as in 2016, when former Mumbai Police Commissioner Ahmad Javed was appointed for the role. India has historically sent many Muslim envoys to Saudi Arabia, not because non-Muslims were incapable but because the combination of linguistic familiarity, cultural comfort and coordination of Hajj pilgrimage often made practical sense. The incoming ambassador has his task cut out. He takes the helm at a complex time for Middle Eastern geopolitics. Beyond navigating broader regional security challenges and ongoing tensions involving Iran, Riyadh is increasingly entering into open economic and diplomatic competition with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) - traditionally

one of New Delhi's closest allies in the region. Despite these shifting dynamics, Saudi Arabia remains a cornerstone of India's foreign policy, serving as a critical partner for energy security, bilateral trade, mega-investments, and the welfare of the millions of Indian expatriates living in the Kingdom. The danger today, though, is that nuance is easily lost. One side may say this appointment proves that the 'new India' no longer needs old sensitivities. Another may say the government has deliberately discarded Muslim representation in a symbolic capital. Neither reading is completely fair. This appointment must be seen as an evolution in diplomatic practice and strategic engagement rather than just departing from a set convention.

The Most Accurate Prediction About
Trinamool? An MS Aiyar 'Joke', From 1997

Towards the end of 1997, Mani Shankar Aiyar briefly tried the Trinamool experiment. He did not stay long. Later, with his typical dry wit, he told me something that still explains the party better than many academic papers: "I did not realise that Trinamool was the fourth football club of Bengal - after Mohun Bagan, Mohammedan Sporting, and East Bengal." It was a brilliant line because it was not merely funny. It was diagnostic. The Trinamool Congress (TMC) was never a conventional party in the Congress, CPI(M), BJP, or DMK sense. It was an emotion before it was an organisation. A camp before it was a constituency. Its cadres did not merely support Mamata Banerjee; they inhabited an atmosphere around her - wounded pride, defiance, anti-Left resentment, street courage, cultural belonging, and an almost football-like loyalty where argument mattered less than colour.

For many years, this worked spectacularly. Mamata converted restlessness into revolt, revolt into mandate, and mandate into domination. A party founded in 1998 became the vehicle that ended 34 years of Left rule in 2011 and then retained Bengal for three consecutive terms. In its golden phase, Trinamool looked less like a party and more like Bengal's operating system.

That is why its present implosion is not just another post-defeat crisis. Political parties lose elections, such is the nature of the beast. The Congress lost power in 1977 and lived to return. The BJP lost in 2004 and lived to reinvent itself. The Left lost Bengal after three decades and still retains cadre memory, ideological habit, and organisational residue. What is happening to the TMC is different. It is not defeat alone. It is the sudden discovery that a party built on personalised power, local intimidation, welfare loyalty, and access to the state may struggle to breathe once the state is taken away.

The Speed Of Collapse

The 2026 verdict was brutal. The BJP secured a sweeping majority in West Bengal, while the TMC was reduced to

around 80 seats in the Assembly after 15 years in power. Mamata Banerjee herself lost Bhabanipur to Suwendu Adhikari, a defeat heavy with symbolism because Bhabanipur had long been more than a constituency; it was part of the Mamata myth.

Yet electoral defeat, by itself, need not have destroyed the party. In fact, for a leader of Mamata's stature, defeat could have been turned into a moral platform. She could have said: Bengal has spoken; we accept the verdict; we will fight as a disciplined opposition; our workers must protect the people, not themselves. It would have restored gravitas.

Instead, the party appeared uncertain, reactive, and internally frightened. Reports of 58 of its 80 MLAs backing Ritabrata Banerjee and a new rebel bloc have created a crisis that goes beyond dissent. It raises the question of who now owns the Trinamool name in practice, if not yet in law. The party's decision to expel Ritabrata Banerjee and Sandipan Saha was meant to establish authority. It seems to have exposed its limits.

Then came the scenes that would have been unimaginable a few months earlier: meetings called by Mamata Banerjee drawing embarrassingly thin attendance, reports that only eight of 80 MLAs and six of around 41 parliamentarians attended one crucial huddle, and the party disbanding committees and frontal organisations in the name of reorganisation. These are not small organisational adjustments. They are signs of a machine suddenly unsure whether its switches still work.

The latest unravelling this week has been even more telling: rebel MPs have claimed the support of 20 of the party's 28 Lok Sabha members, even though Mamata Banerjee's camp insists the real number is closer to 12. At least 14 of them reportedly attended a meeting at Union Minister Bhupender Yadav's residence, along with Chief Minister Suwendu

Adhikari - a tableau that would have been unthinkable even after May 4.

The Parliament Problem

The plight of Trinamool's MPs is perhaps the sharpest indicator of the party's new vulnerability. For years, the TMC's Parliamentary presence gave Mamata national weight. In the Lok Sabha, the party was a major non-BJP, non-Congress force. In the Rajya Sabha, it used its Bengal numbers to send articulate voices, professionals, loyalists, cultural figures, and political managers to Delhi.

But Parliamentary strength without state power is unstable. Lok Sabha MPs are already looking at 2029. They know that the organisational muscle, police-administration interface, booth networks, and local patronage that once protected them are no longer under the TMC's control. If the BJP government consolidates, and if the rebel faction claims to be the "real Trinamool", many MPs will ask an unspoken question: where does survival lie?

The anti-defection law adds arithmetic to anxiety. If the party has 28 Lok Sabha MPs, 19 becomes the magic number. The Rajya Sabha MPs face a different problem. Their terms, influence, and future nominations depend upon legislative strength in Bengal. Once the party loses the Assembly, the renewal pipeline narrows sharply. A Rajya Sabha MP without a state machine behind him or her can become a dignified orphan: visible in Delhi, but politically homeless in Kolkata.

Power Politics Without Adversity Training

The central tragedy of the TMC is that it had become very

good at power, but not good enough at adversity.

Mamata herself knows adversity. Her entire career was built from it. She fought the Left when the Left still looked invincible. She was assaulted, mocked, dismissed, isolated, and repeatedly underestimated. Her rise was one of the great stories of post-Congress Indian politics: a woman from a modest background defeating Bengal's most formidable political establishment.

But the party that grew around her did not always inherit that courage. Many inherited only the habits of power. Local dominance. Access. Pressure. Switching. Patronage. Control of clubs, municipalities, unions, police stations, welfare lists, contracts, and neighbourhood syndicate networks. This created an army of managers, not necessarily believers.

That is the difference between Mamata and much of her party. She knew how to be in opposition. Many Trinamool leaders know only how to be near the government.

This model of politics - domination in power followed by fear in defeat - is unusually stark. It is not that the TMC politicians are the only opportunists in India. Far from it. But the scale of the contrast is striking. Yesterday's district strongman becomes today's neutral observer. Yesterday's loyalist becomes today's constitutional dissenter. Yesterday's beneficiary of centralised authority becomes today's critic of family control.

The rebel anger against Abhishek Banerjee also needs to be understood in this context. Succession in regional parties is rarely about ideology. It is about entitlement, access, and resentment. Many TMC leaders accepted Abhishek's rise while power seemed assured. Once defeat arrived, the same rise became a grievance. That does not mean every criti-

cism of him is false. It means defeat has made private irritation public.

Mamata's Choices, Congress's Caution

Mamata Banerjee now has four options, none easy.

First, she can fight a legal and procedural battle to retain the official party structure, challenge the rebel bloc, and hold MPs - as many as she can - together. This may buy time, but it cannot rebuild legitimacy by itself.

Second, she can seek reconciliation with rebels, even if it means reducing Abhishek's authority and accepting a broader collective leadership. This would be painful, but politics often rewards survival over pride. Third, she can rebuild from below - municipalities, panchayats, women's networks, minority voters, welfare beneficiaries, cultural workers, and those who still see her as the only authentic anti-BJP face in Bengal. This is the hardest road, but perhaps the only one that can restore her moral claim.

Fourth, she can seek a larger anti-BJP arrangement with the Congress and the Left, a mahajot of necessity. But herein lies the difficulty. Why is the Congress not rushing into such a formation? Because it has little reason to rescue Mamata without terms. Bengal Congress workers have suffered politically under the TMC for years. The Left's hostility is even deeper. At the national level, the Congress may need every anti-BJP force inside the INDIA tent. But in Bengal, an immediate mahajot could make the Congress look like an ambulance for a wounded TMC.

The Congress will also want to see who remains standing. Is Mamata still the principal opposition pole? Is Ritabrata Banerjee's bloc merely a transitional rebellion or the nucleus of a new Trinamool? Will the BJP successfully absorb the anti-TMC space? Will minorities remain with Mamata or distribute themselves more tactically? No serious party enters a grand alliance before knowing the answer to these questions. There is another reason. A mahajot requires equality.

Visakhapatnam Steel Plant Accident Unfortunate: Minister Vasanthasetti Subhash

Visakhapatnam, June 9 (Pen Power): State Labour Minister described the accident at the as unfortunate and assured full support to the affected families. During his visit to KIMS Icon Hospital, the Minister met the injured workers and reviewed their health condition. He said three workers are undergoing treatment and receiving the best possible medical care. The government has announced an ex gratia of Rs.25 lakh for the families of the deceased and Rs.10 lakh financial assistance for the injured. He also stated that safety inspections are conducted regularly at the plant and that an inquiry is underway to ascertain the cause of the accident. The Minister dismissed allegations made by some labour union leaders and said all aspects of the incident are being thoroughly examined by officials.



He assured that the government would stand by the victims and their families.

Focus on Mangrove Expansion and Coastal Livelihoods: Collector Harendhira Prasad



Kakinada, June 9 (Pen Power): District Collector directed officials to work in coordination to achieve Green Climate Fund (GCF) targets while promoting environmental conservation and improving livelihoods of coastal communities, especially women self-help groups and fishermen.

Reviewing the progress of climate-resilient development programmes being implemented around the with support from the Green Climate Fund and UNDP, the Collector stressed the need to expand mangrove plantations by an additional 115 hectares and ensure protection of existing restored mangrove areas. He said initiatives such as seaweed cultivation, crab farming, ornamental fish rearing, and climate-resilient livelihood training for women will be strengthened to create sustainable income opportunities. Officials were also instructed to expedite innovative programmes including cage fish culture, soil conservation, millet cultivation, and horticulture development after obtaining necessary approvals. The Collector emphasized that all departments should work together to achieve the 2026 GCF action plan goals and promote sustainable development in coastal regions.

Cooperative Societies Must Contribute to District Development: Collector Vinod Kumar

Bapatla, June 9 (Pen Power): District Collector directed officials to strengthen the functioning of cooperative societies and ensure they contribute effectively to the district's development. At a review meeting of the District Cooperative Development Committee, the Collector instructed that all activities of Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) be fully computerized, including salary, income, and expenditure records. He also called for strict measures to prevent diversion of urea and ordered legal action against violators. The Collector reviewed the performance of PACS-run warehouses, petrol bunks, common service centres, generic medicine stores, pesticide outlets, and paddy procurement operations.



He emphasized creating sustainable revenue sources through cooperative societies and expanding digital services for members. He further directed officials to ensure timely crop loans, improve marketing and storage facilities for farmers, and make agricultural inputs readily available through farmer service centres. Senior officials from the cooperative, agriculture, marketing, NABARD, and banking sectors attended the meeting.

Protecting Government Lands is the Responsibility of Every Department: Collector Vinod Kumar



Bapatla, June 9 (Pen Power): District Collector said that safeguarding government lands is the responsibility of every department and directed officials to take immediate steps to remove encroachments.

At a review meeting on Wakf Board, Endowments, and Irrigation Department lands, the Collector noted that out of 500.52 acres of Wakf land in the district, about 203.49 acres are reportedly under encroachment. He instructed revenue officials to initiate action for their protection and recovery. The Collector also reviewed encroachments on temple lands and water bodies, directing officials to clear illegal occupations and ensure proper utilization of vacant government lands to generate revenue. He emphasized maintaining accurate land records and updating all government land details in the Swarna Bapatla App. He further instructed officials to promote greenery around government lands and prepare detailed records of leased lands, revenue generated, and future utilization plans. Revenue, Wakf Board, Endowments, and Irrigation Department officials attended the meeting.

Prakasam District Should Lead in Achieving Swarna Andhra Goals: Lanka Dinakar



Ongole, June 9 (Pen Power): Twenty-Point Programme Implementation Committee Chairman urged officials to work collectively to make Prakasam district a frontrunner in achieving the goals of Swarna Andhra and Viksit Bharat. Reviewing various government programmes with district officials, he stressed effective implementation of schemes related to healthcare, education, rural infrastructure, drinking water, tourism, renewable energy, and employment generation. He called for faster execution of projects under Jal Jeevan Mission, AMRUT, PM Surya Ghar, PM Kusum, and Ayushman Bharat-Dr. NTR Health Services. District Collector said officials should ensure that all Central and State government schemes are implemented effectively at the grassroots level. Senior officials from various departments attended the review meeting.

Collector Hands Over Rs.10 Lakh Benefit Under PM CARES for Children Scheme

Eluru, June 10: District Collector Vetri Selvi handed over a cheque of Rs.10 lakh to Lella Sharath Chandrika, a beneficiary from Eluru district, under the PM CARES for Children Scheme. The scheme, implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, supports children who lost their parents during the COVID-19 pandemic. The financial assistance is provided when beneficiaries attain the eligible age. The Collector advised the beneficiary to utilize the amount wisely for her future needs and assured continued support from the government. Women and Child Welfare officials and Child Protection Unit staff were present on the occasion.

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Complete School Reopening Arrangements, Target 100% Admissions: Collector Harendhira Prasad

Kakinada, June 9 (Pen Power): District Collector directed officials to complete all preparations for the reopening of schools on June 12 and ensure that students face no inconvenience. Reviewing the Education Department's readiness, the Collector stressed the need for 100% admissions by identifying and enrolling out-of-school children through special drives. He instructed officials to ensure adequate drinking water, sanitation facilities, and other basic infrastructure in all government schools before reopening. The Collector also directed that the Dokka Seethamma Mid-Day Meal Scheme be implemented from the very first day with strict adherence to quality standards and the prescribed menu. He emphasized providing nutritious meals and strengthening monitoring mechanisms. He further called for improving public confidence in government educational institutions, enhancing learning outcomes, and expediting ongoing infrastructure works, including additional classrooms and digital labs.



Senior education department officials and Mandal Education Officers attended the review meeting.

Kakinada Offers Vast Investment Opportunities : Collector Harendhira Prasad

Kakinada, June 9 (Pen Power): District Collector invited industrialists and investors to explore the vast investment opportunities available in Kakinada district, assuring full support from the administration for setting up industries. Addressing an industrial conclave organized jointly by the (CII) and government departments, the Collector highlighted the district's advantages, including a long coastline, three major ports, strong transport connectivity, 22 industrial parks, and ample land availability. He said Kakinada is well-positioned to benefit from the global "China Plus One" strategy and offers significant opportunities in seafood processing, food processing, chemicals, textiles, and value-added agro-based industries. The district administration is providing transparent and speedy approvals to facilitate investments, he added. The Collector also emphasized the potential for industries based on agricultural and marine by-products and noted that skilled manpower and low labour costs make the district an attractive destination for industrial growth.



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Meditation Unites Body, Mind and Soul: Collector Rajababu



Ongole, June 10 (Pen Power): District Collector P. Rajababu said that yoga is the best way to reduce stress and improve overall well-being. Participating in a yoga session at Pakala Beach in Singarayakonda Mandal as part of the preparations for International Yoga Day, he described yoga as a powerful practice that unites the body, mind, and soul. He urged people to adopt yoga from childhood and make it a lifelong habit. The event was attended by State Tourism Development Corporation Chairman Nookasani Balaji, Joint Collector Kalpana Kumari, and Santanulapadu MLA B.N. Vijay Kumar. Officials, students, and local residents took part enthusiastically, while yoga demonstrations by students under the guidance of Patanjali Yoga experts drew appreciation from participants.

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Fertilizers, Seeds to Be Supplied Without Shortage: Minister Atchannaaidu

Srikakulam, June 10: State Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaaidu directed officials to ensure adequate availability of seeds and fertilizers for farmers during the upcoming Kharif season. Reviewing preparations at Nimmada camp office in Kotabommali mandal on Wednesday, he launched the distribution of subsidized paddy seeds. The government is providing a subsidy of Rs.10 per kg on paddy seeds, while tribal farmers are receiving a 90% subsidy. Officials informed the Minister that 31,058 quintals of paddy seeds are currently available across Srikakulam district. Farmers can obtain seeds through Rythu Seva Kendras in their villages. The Minister also instructed officials to prevent urea shortages by issuing fertilizer coupons in advance and ensuring transparent distribution. He stressed strict measures against black marketing and called upon farmers to make use of the government's support schemes for a successful cultivation season.



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Tourism, District Development Action Plan for Godavari Pushkaralu 2027

Rajahmundry, June 10: A review meeting on development initiatives ahead of Godavari Pushkaralu-2027 was held at the Collector's camp office on Wednesday under the chairmanship of Rajahmundry MP Daggubati Purandeswari. District Collector Keerthi Chekuri briefed the MP on proposals aimed at boosting tourism, employment and infrastructure in East Godavari district. Purandeswari said the district has immense tourism potential and stressed utilizing the Pushkaralu to gain global recognition. She suggested developing Kadiyam nurseries as major tourist attractions and exploring CSR funding for key projects. The Collector outlined plans to develop Pandavamma, Pichukalanka, Havelock Bridge and Godavari riverfront areas as tourism hubs. Proposals include eco-friendly infrastructure, crowd management systems, homestays, food courts, children's recreation zones and tourist information centres. The meeting also discussed higher education, IT investments, employment generation, financial literacy centres, astro-tourism and a Birla Planetarium-type project. Officials from various departments and tourism stakeholders attended the meeting.



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'Two Years of Trust' Celebrations to be Held Successfully: Collector Vinod Kumar



Bapatla, June 10: District Collector Dr. V. Vinod Kumar directed officials to ensure the successful conduct of the "Two Years of Trust" celebrations marking two years of the Andhra Pradesh Government and twelve years of the Central Government. Speaking during a review meeting with constituency and mandal-level officials, the Collector said a district-level event will be held on June 16, with an expected participation of around 5,000 people. He instructed officials to organize constituency and mandal-level programmes and felicitate women who have achieved success through various government welfare and empowerment schemes. The Collector also reviewed arrangements for the Yogandhra programme, emphasizing the health benefits of yoga and directing officials to ensure wide participation. Special yoga events are scheduled at Vadarevu on June 11 and Bhattiprolu Buddhist Stupa on June 18. He urged officials to register participants, create awareness and make the programme a grand success. District officials from various departments attended the meeting.

Collector Directs Officials to Focus on Electoral Roll Revision

Bapatla, June 10: District Collector Dr. V. Vinod Kumar directed officials to give top priority to the preparation of the Special Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls and ensure accurate voter verification. During a review meeting with constituency and mandal-level officials, he instructed staff to cross-check the 2002 voter list with the 2019 electoral rolls and complete the verification process as per Election Commission guidelines. The Collector expressed

concern over the lack of progress by some BLOs and urged them to work more efficiently. He also reviewed fertilizer availability and sales, stating that 14,896 tonnes of fertilizers are available in the district. Officials were instructed to ensure transparent distribution and register farmers online before fertilizer sales. So far, over 91,000 farmers have been registered, and the Collector emphasized strict monitoring to prevent irregularities and maintain accurate stock records.

Voter Rights Protection is Every Citizen's Responsibility: Minister Vasamsetti Subhash



Kakinada, June 10: Labour Minister Vasamsetti Subhash called for the successful implementation of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) programme to ensure that every eligible citizen is included in the voters' list. Speak-

ing at a meeting in Gollapalem village of Kajuluru mandal, he stressed that an accurate voters' list is essential for free and fair elections. The Minister urged eligible youth above 18 years to register as voters and appealed to party workers and booth-level representatives to create awareness and assist in voter verification. He said the programme would help add eligible voters, remove ineligible entries, and update voter details. Subhash also highlighted development works in Ramachandrapuram constituency, stating that around Rs.250 crore had been spent on welfare and infrastructure projects over the last two years, including Rs.60 crore in Kajuluru mandal. He added that another Rs.150 crore is expected for upcoming Pushkaram-related works and noted that container hospitals, mobile medical units, and electric vehicles have been introduced through CSR funds to improve healthcare services.

Amaravati Gets Major Boost with Rs.2,534-Crore Central Projects: Minister Pemmasani

Guntur, June 10: Union Minister Dr. Pemmasani Chandrasekhar said Amaravati has achieved another significant milestone with the approval of two major Central Government projects worth about Rs.2,534 crore.

A Common Central Secretariat complex, estimated at Rs.1,299.08 crore, will be constructed over 23.25 lakh square feet to house various Central Government departments in a single campus. In addition, residential quarters for Central Government employees, costing Rs.1,234.91 crore, will be developed across 31.30 lakh square feet with 11 towers and modern amenities. The Minister said the projects, which stalled after 2019, were revived by the coalition government through continuous follow-up with the Centre. He credited Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, and Minister Nara Lokesh for their support in securing approvals. Construc-



tion will be undertaken by the Central Public Works Department (CPWD), with the tender process expected to begin soon. Pemmasani described the projects as a major step toward developing Amaravati into a world-class capital city.

Three-Day Faculty Development Programme on Data Structures & Algorithms Begins at Aditya University



Gandepalli, June 10: A three-day Faculty Development Programme on "Problem-Solving Skills through Data Structures and Algorithms" commenced at Aditya University, Surampalem, under the Freshman Engineering Department. Deputy Vice-Chancellor Dr. Medapati Srinivasa Reddy said the programme aims to enhance faculty members' analytical thinking, problem-solving abilities and understanding of algorithmic approaches. University representatives noted that such training initiatives play a vital role in improving professional competencies and elevating teaching standards. Faculty members from various departments are participating in the programme.

Women Entrepreneurship Empowerment Programme Held at RTIH Vijayawada



Vijayawada, June 10: A Women Entrepreneurship Empowerment and MSME Awareness Programme was organized at RTIH Vijayawada. NTR District Collector and District Magistrate highlighted the importance of RTIH

and digital enablement, urging women to become entrepreneurs in line with the Chief Minister's "One Family - One Entrepreneur" vision. RTIH CEO conducted awareness sessions on entrepreneurship, e-commerce, GST, trademarks, branding, and business development opportunities. As part of the programme, 6 Udyam registrations, 16 Walmart Vridhhi registrations, 2 GST registrations, 1 startup registration, 1 trademark registration, and 1 private limited company registration were completed. A one-to-one interaction session was also held with participants and industry representatives. Attendees appreciated the initiative and thanked RTIH Vijayawada for its support to aspiring women entrepreneurs.

Eligible List for 'Talliki Vandanam' Scheme to be Prepared: Minister Atchannaidu



Srikakulam, June 10: State Agriculture Minister directed education officials to prepare the list of eligible beneficiaries for the prestigious 'Talliki Vandanam' scheme in a transparent and timely manner. During a review meeting held at Nimmada camp office in Kotabommali mandal on Wednesday, the minister instructed officials to ensure all arrangements are completed before the reopening of government schools and welfare hostels on June 12. He emphasized the distribution of school bags, textbooks, uniforms, and shoes to students on the very first day of school. The minister also stressed increasing student enrollment, maintaining sanitation, ensuring safe drinking water, and providing quality food in hostels. He warned that any negligence in school or hostel management would make the concerned officials accountable. District Education Officer Ravibabu and other officials attended the meeting.

India Moving Towards Viksit Bharat Under PM Modi's Leadership: Piyush Goyal

Vijayawada, June 10: Union Minister Piyush Goyal said India has witnessed remarkable progress since 2014 under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with significant achievements in economic growth, infrastructure development, women's empowerment and farmer welfare. He noted that PM Modi has completed 4,399 days in office, becoming the longest-serving elected Prime Minister after his first electoral victory, surpassing the tenure record of Jawaharlal Nehru. Goyal highlighted major initiatives such as free food grains for over 81 crore people, Jan Dhan financial inclusion, Ayushman Bharat health coverage, PM-Kisan assistance to farmers, Ujjwala LPG connections and women-centric welfare schemes. He also emphasized the impact of Make in India and Startup India in creating opportunities for youth and entrepreneurs. The Union Minister said Modi's visionary leadership is steering the nation towards the goal of Viksit Bharat 2047, with a focus on inclusive development, welfare and economic transformation.

Provide 100% Satisfactory Healthcare Services to the Public: Collector Harendhira Prasad



Kakinada, June 10: District Collector M.N. Harendhira Prasad directed government doctors and healthcare staff to work with dedication and ensure 100 percent satisfactory medical services to the public. At a review meeting held at the Collectorate with medical officers of Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Urban PHCs, the Collector reviewed the progress of various health programmes. He instructed doctors and staff at 24x7 PHCs to remain available round the clock and improve service quality to achieve maximum public satisfaction. The Collector stressed the

importance of disease prevention, maternal and child health, tuberculosis detection, vaccination coverage, and timely referral of patients to higher hospitals when necessary. He also directed officials to maintain cleanliness in health centres, strengthen monitoring of disease outbreaks, and complete registration of Ayushman Bharat Digital Health IDs. He urged medical officers to enhance performance so that Kakinada district's PHCs secure a place among the top-performing health centres in the state.

Collector Reviews Donakonda Mega Industrial Hub Development

Ongole, June 10: District Collector P. Rajababu said a comprehensive report on lands available for industrial development in Donakonda Mega Industrial Hub will be submitted to the government within two weeks. During a field visit on Wednesday, accompanied by Joint Collector Kumari and Addanki RDO Vijaya Jyothi, the Collector inspected various blocks in the industrial hub and reviewed proposals received for establishing industries. He stated that the government is giving special priority to developing the 25,000-acre industrial hub and noted that companies such as BDL, APGEC and Bhavya Industries have shown interest in setting up units. The Collector said surveys of government, assigned and poramboke lands would be completed shortly and detailed reports submitted. He also stated that drinking water issues in Donakonda have been addressed, with payments cleared for tanker water



supply. Steps are being taken to bring water from the Veligonda Project to support the region's industrial growth.

Collector Harendhira Prasad Conducts Field Visit in Pedapudi

Kakinada, June 10: District Collector M.N. Harendhira Prasad conducted an extensive field visit in Pedapudi Mandal on Wednesday, inspecting the Community Health Centre, Swarna Gram Office and MPDO office. The Collector reviewed healthcare services, patient records, medicine stocks, sanitation and infrastructure at the health centre, directing officials to ensure quality medical services for the public. At the Swarna Gram Office, he assessed the progress of WhatsApp Governance services, PGRS grievance redressal, Jaladhara-Jalaharathi works and resurvey activities. He stated that all 180 sanctioned Jaladhara-Jalaharathi works in the mandal have been grounded, with 34 completed so far, and directed officials to achieve 100 percent completion by the end of June. He also stressed prompt disposal of public grievances and



wider awareness of government services and welfare schemes. Officials from various departments accompanied him during the visit.

Pulivagu Feeder Channel Revived Through Public Participation

Vijayawada, June 10: A major community-driven water conservation initiative was launched under the Jaladhara-Jalaharathi programme at Pinapaka village in G. Konduru mandal on Wednesday. MLA Vasantha Venkata Krishna Prasad and District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha inaugurated desilting works of the Pulivagu feeder channel connected to Gangadevi Cheruvu. The restoration, undertaken with active support from local farmers and residents, aims to improve water flow and enhance irrigation by clearing silt and overgrown vegetation from the 1,200-metre channel. The project is expected to help the tank receive adequate inflows during the upcoming monsoon. The MLA praised public participation in water resource conservation, while the Collector said the initiative sets an example for other areas and supports the government's efforts to strengthen water storage, irrigation and groundwater re-



sources through the Jaladhara-Jalaharathi programme. Officials, public representatives, farmers and villagers participated in the event.

16 Tricycles Distributed to Sanitation Workers in Ramachandrapuram Constituency

Kakinada, June 10: Labour Minister Vasamsetti Subhash distributed 16 tricycles to sanitation workers in Kajuluru mandal under the Swachh Andhra Corporation initiative. He said the government is committed to strengthening sanitation systems and maintaining clean villages across the Ramachandrapuram constituency. The Minister appreciated the vital role played by

sanitation workers in maintaining cleanliness and stated that the tricycles would help improve door-to-door waste collection and solid waste management. The vehicles were distributed among several villages, including Kajuluru, Anhrangi, Aryavatam, Dugguduru, Gollapalem, Jagannadhagiri, and Kolanka. Subhash urged residents to actively participate in keeping their surroundings clean and support the government's efforts to build cleaner and healthier villages.

