

# PEN POWER

POWER OF JOURNALISM

ENGLISH MORNING DAILY

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

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

Volume : 1 No. 215 VISAKHAPATNAM

Saturday, June 13, 2026

Editor: GANTYADA APPARAO

Pages : 4 Rs: 5-00

## FIR Filed against Mamata Banerjee Over Pre-Election Dharna Remarks

**Kolkata:** Former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has been named in an FIR registered at Kolkata's Hare Street Police Station over alleged communal remarks made during a public address ahead of the 2026 West Bengal Assembly elections. According to the complaint, Banerjee allegedly made inflammatory statements while speaking from the stage of a protest organised in Kolkata against



the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise before the

Assembly polls. The case has been registered under Sections 196(1), 351(2), and 352 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). The protest was held near the Y-Channel bus stop at Esplanade in Dharmatala after permission for a demonstration on Rani Rashmoni Road was reportedly denied. Authorities allege that comments made during the speech had a communal nature, leading to the registration of the FIR.

## 'Give Us PoK': J&K Border Villagers Hold Prayers On 12 Years Of Modi Government

**Jammu:** Just metres from the border fence in Jammu and Kashmir's RS Pura sector, an area that lived for decades under the shadow of Pakistani gunfire, the air now carries no fear. As the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi completes 12 years, villagers gathered in the open to perform a havan beside the border fence. Smoke from the sacred fire rose into the same sky that once echoed with mortar blasts. "Today we are sitting out in the open and performing

prayers. It is because of one man and his strong policies," says Balbir Kour, sarpanch of Arnia village in a forward area. "And he is none other than PM Modi. We want him to head the country for another 24 years," she says. Balbir and many other villagers who had gathered for the special prayers want PM Modi, in his next tenure, to give them Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir. Most families in this village came from across the border during the Partition, leaving behind ancestral properties.



## JC Prabhakar Reddy Prepares for Protest at Peddareddy's Residence; Police Stop Him



**Anantapur, June 12:** Tadipatri Municipal Chairman and former MLA JC Prabhakar Reddy expressed strong anger over what he described as inappropriate remarks made by former Tadipatri MLA Kethireddy Peddareddy. JC prepared to stage a protest in front of Peddareddy's residence. However, police stopped the Municipal Chairman while he was proceeding there along with his supporters. Following this, JC staged a sit-in protest on the road along with his followers. He made it clear that Kethireddy Peddareddy, who allegedly made objectionable remarks about engaging in factional politics, would not be allowed to enter Tadipatri. JC also criticized the police for providing security to Peddareddy. He later proceeded to the town police station with his supporters to lodge a complaint against him. Tensions prevailed in Tadipatri due to protests by both TDP and YSRCP workers. Acting on a call given by the YSRCP leadership, Kethireddy Peddareddy had undertaken a programme that was initially stopped by the police. Peddareddy was subsequently arrested and shifted to Anantapur.

During the developments, a heated argument reportedly took place between the police and YSRCP cadres, creating a high-tension atmosphere in the area. During this time, Peddareddy allegedly made objectionable remarks targeting JC Prabhakar Reddy. Reacting strongly, JC demanded that a case be registered against Peddareddy and launched a protest. As JC Prabhakar Reddy, accompanied by his supporters, attempted to march towards Kethireddy Peddareddy's residence, police intervened and stopped him. In response, he sat on the road and continued his protest there.

**Police Register Case Against Peddareddy; JC Prabhakar Reddy Ends Hunger Strike**  
Tadipatri police have registered a case against YSRCP leader and former MLA Kethireddy Peddareddy. In this backdrop, former MLA JC Prabhakar Reddy called off his hunger strike in front of the Tadipatri Police Station. Police registered a case against Kethireddy Peddareddy under Section 196(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). The case was filed against the YSRCP leader for allegedly making provocative re-

marks and comments that could disturb law and order. After ending his protest, JC Prabhakar Reddy said that they would resolve their issue in the presence of the district Superintendent of Police (SP). He stated that he, along with his supporters, would visit the SP's office on Monday.

## A Nation Becomes Strong Only When Gram Sabhas Are Strong: Pawan Kalyan

**From Our Staff Reporter Tirupati:** Jana Sena Party President and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan stated that the people are the ultimate arbiters in a democracy. He said the verdict delivered by the people in the 2024 elections was a historic decision that showed a new direction for the future of the state. Speaking on the occasion of the coalition government completing two years in office, Pawan Kalyan said that two years ago, the people entrusted not only power but also responsibility to the alliance. He noted that the NDA alliance partners have been working collectively to fulfill that responsibility.

alliance partners had succeeded in preventing the privatization of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. He stated that decisions are being taken in accordance with the aspirations of the people while maintaining coordination with the Centre on matters concerning the state's interests. He said the people's mandate had instilled confidence in the future of an entire generation and that the coalition government remains committed to the state's development, the future of youth, and employment opportunities. He remarked that the 2024 elections once again proved that even when people remain silent, they can change history through their verdict at the right time. According to him, the election results represented democracy's victory over

arrogance and destructive politics. He clarified that the coalition government's objective is not to share power but to share responsibility and work together for the state's development.

### Solutions to Problems Must Be Found Locally

On the same occasion, Pawan Kalyan made significant remarks on Gram Swaraj, strengthening local bodies, and democratic decentralization. He said that although some had criticized the Jana Sena Party for contesting only 21 seats, the political sacrifice made by the party for the state's interests had laid the foundation for the coalition's victory. Emphasizing that villages are the focal point of the nation's development, he said decisions affecting the future of everyone—from children to elders—should be taken at



the Gram Panchayat level itself. He stressed that issues that can be resolved within a village should not have to reach the mandal, district, or MLA level. Pawan observed that at present, even the smallest issues are being taken to MLAs and said it is not right to weaken the authority of hundreds of local public representatives and

concentrate the entire system around legislators. He warned that when institutions become weak, caste and regional sentiments grow stronger. He suggested that for the Telugu states to achieve greater development, people must think beyond caste and regional limitations and focus on national development.

## Minister Nara Lokesh Keeps His Promise

**From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, June 12 :** Minister Nara Lokesh has once again demonstrated his commitment to fulfilling a promise he had made. He extended support to the family of TDP leader Thota Chandraiah from Gundlapadu village in Palnadu district, who was killed in an alleged attack by YSRCP leaders. In doing so, he reinforced the party's slogan that "the party worker is the true leader."



A government job was provided to Chandraiah's son, Veeranjaneyulu. Despite obstacles allegedly created by YSRCP members in the Legislative Council, approval for the appoint-

ment was eventually secured, and an official appointment letter was handed over to him. On the occasion, Thota Veeranjaneyulu expressed his gratitude to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Nara Lokesh. He emotionally stated that justice had finally been de-

livered to his family. It may be recalled that during the previous YSRCP government's tenure, TDP leader Thota Chandraiah had fought against alleged irregularities involving Chinta Sivaramaiah, then MPP of Veldurthi Mandal in Palnadu district, and his son Adinarayana. According to the allegations, the two developed a grudge against Chandraiah and, on January 13, 2022, attacked him while he was travelling on a two-wheeler in the village. He was allegedly killed after being assaulted with knives in broad daylight. The incident had created a sensation across the state.

## CBN Turned Rayalaseema into a Land Where Gems Flourish: Minister Lokesh

**Tirupati, June 12:** Minister Nara Lokesh said that under the coalition government there are no JCB demolitions, attacks, murders, or abusive politics. Addressing the public meeting organized at Daminedu in Tirupati on the occasion of two years of the coalition government, highlighting trust and welfare, the Minister said they had warned the then Chief Minister not to interfere with Lord Venkateswara. He remarked that those who challenge God are now experiencing the consequences. He also noted that N.T. Rama Rao had immense affection for

Rayalaseema and recalled how NTR had supported the people of the region during times of drought by personally reaching out to them. The Minister said that Rayalaseema had been transformed into "Royalaseema." He praised Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu (CBN), saying he was the person who made it possible for "gems to flourish" in Rayalaseema. Lokesh stated that the people had witnessed what he described as the oppressive rule of the "axe party." He recalled that YSRCP leaders had once boasted that they would eliminate the TDP

flag, but said that today the people themselves had removed the YSRCP flag and delivered a verdict in favor of "Team 11." He asserted that the coalition government would not remain silent while witnessing what he termed YSRCP's excesses and added that the "Red Book" would continue to do its work. Warning that they would not simply watch and remain silent, Lokesh made a series of comparisons, saying: "Ours is Google; theirs is the axe. Ours is a fighter jet; theirs is factionalism. Ours is Kia; theirs is kidnapping. Ours is credibility; theirs is criminality."

## 2 Yrs Of NDA: Good Balance Of Welfare And Development!



**From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, June 12:**

The previous YS Jagan administration in Andhra Pradesh was extensively focused on direct benefit transfer programmes which took a toll on the state finances. So the responsibility is on the veteran Chandrababu to resurrect the finances while also carrying forward the welfare programmes. In accordance with the NDA government has completed two years of power in Andhra Pradesh and this period has been a balance of welfare and social infrastructure development. One of the significant implementation of the government is the NTR Bharosa Pension program as a part of which over ₹65,000 crore was distributed to elderly till now. Along with this 4.26 crore cylinders were given to households as promised earlier. One of the main outreach programmes is the resumption of the Anna canteen program, which is feeding lakhs of common folk each day. Mega DSC was implemented and more than 15,000 jobs were filled in teachers sector. Another 5700 constable jobs were also filled. The free RTC travel program is being implemented very effectively for women and it has won over the female population already. There are multiple other successful implementation which have reached all pockets of the public. Along with that, the arrival of IBM, Google, Infosys, and other mega companies are creating good job opportunities to the youth. Subsequently, Chandrababu is perhaps delivering one of his best terms of administration this term and this is a good thing overall. But there are certain challenges like upholding the spirit of the alliance for the next three years and leading a collective battle in the 2029 assembly election. Also, Chandrababu and Pawan Kalyan are confident about delivering 15 years of relentless administration and that's a big dream nevertheless.

## CM Chandrababu Expresses Grief Over Death of Visakha Native in US Missile Strike

**Amaravati, June 12:** Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu expressed grief over the death of Patnala Suresh, a Chief Engineer from Visakhapatnam, in a missile strike carried out by the United States. The Chief Minister directed officials to extend all possible assistance and support to Suresh's family on behalf of the State Government. He instructed officials to coordinate with the Indian Embassy and Omani authorities to facilitate the transportation of Suresh's mortal remains back to India. The Chief Minister assured the bereaved family of the government's full support. Following the Chief Minister's directions, AP Bhavan has taken up special monitoring of the matter. Suresh was identified as having died in the missile attack on an oil tanker off the coast of Oman. According to information received, the vessel on which Suresh was travelling is currently stranded about 30 nautical miles off the Omani coast. Omani authorities have initiated measures to bring the vessel to shore. The ship is likely to reach the port by midnight. After official identification procedures are completed, the mortal remains will be transported to India.

## EDITORIAL

## The Trinamool Congress

After the Trinamool Congress suffered a crushing defeat in the West Bengal assembly elections, unexpected developments took place in the party in just 27 days. Mamata Banerjee suffered a major setback when more than 60 MLAs rebelled and tried to split the party. In these difficult circumstances, the TMC was in a dilemma as to how to save it, whether to merge the party with the Congress or fight alone. In a very short period of time, the internal leaders were able to 'trinamool' the party, which was suffering from defeat, in a way that has never been seen in the history of Indian politics. The unexpected split of the TMC by two people (Ritabrata Banerjee and Sandeep Saha), who had never expressed dissatisfaction with Mamata Banerjee or the government, is a new chapter in Indian divisive politics.

Opposing Mamata Banerjee's leadership, about 58 MLAs have declared themselves as the real TMC. They have submitted a letter to the Speaker demanding the appointment of senior party leader and expelled MLA Ritabrata Banerjee as the new Leader of Opposition. While the BJP government has a two-thirds majority in the Assembly, there is no benefit to be gained from the support of these TMC MLAs. However, the BJP is getting an opportunity to promote that multi-party democracy is very successful and alive in the country without any pressure or trouble from the strong opposition. Ritabrata Banerjee was once in the CPI(M). Later, he joined the TMC and recently raised the flag of rebellion against the party. Although Ritabrata is a new member of the TMC and is not a famous leader among the party leaders, the question is how he was able to keep the other 57 new MLAs in his clutches.

However, it is a fact that there is deep dissatisfaction among senior and new MLAs in the party over the decisions taken and the camel trends taken by Mamata Banerjee. Many of them are facing ED or CBI investigations. Therefore, instead of standing against the BJP at the Center, they are thinking of forming a strong third alliance within the TMC and protecting themselves. Out of the 28 Trinamool Congress MPs in the Lok Sabha, about 20 MPs are looking to rebel against Mamata Banerjee's leadership and declare support for the National Democratic Alliance. They are unhappy with the leadership style of party general secretary Abhishek Banerjee and are looking to form a separate part of Parliament. Recently, Trinamool MP Kalyan Banerjee has made severe criticisms of Abhishek.

He made comments that Abhishek had removed him as a lawyer at the last minute in the signature forgery case and insulted him. In this context, it is noteworthy that Didi was given an ultimatum, saying, 'Will you be with us? Or will you be with Abhishek?' Kalyan Banerjee is commenting that he is with Mamata Didi, but she should decide whose side she is on. He criticized that the party is being destroyed because of Abhishek, who cannot respect the party seniors. Recently, another TMC MP, Prakash Baraik, resigned from the Rajya Sabha membership. He is the third TMC MP to resign from the Rajya Sabha in a week. With this, the strength of Trinamool MPs in the upper house has been reduced to ten. According to the 10th Schedule of the Constitution, for a split in the party, at least two-thirds of the members have to merge with another party.

While the TMC has a total of 28 MPs, it needs the support of at least 19 MPs to overcome this provision. While the rebel faction claims to have the support of a total of 20 MPs, an official clarification on this is yet to be given. It remains to be seen when that will happen. If the NDA government gets the support of the TMC rebel MPs, most likely some issues will come together with the central government. In the past, the delimitation bill was defeated in Parliament without the required majority. Now, as a result of the split in the TMC and the talks that the BJP is holding with the DMK, the central government has got the opportunity to reintroduce and pass the constituency redivision bill. The Centre is planning to hold simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and state assemblies. The Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) is also preparing a report for this bill. If TMC MPs support the BJP, it will be easier to get this crucial bill passed. Despite having a full majority in the Lok Sabha, the NDA ruling party still needs a two-thirds majority to amend the constitution. If the TMC split gets the support of about 20 MPs, the NDA's strength will cross the 300 mark and will have the opportunity to pass even tough bills. The BJP's proposal to link women's reservation with delimitation was blocked by the members of the India Alliance with unity. But now that unity is not visible in the India Alliance. The alliance lacks internal unity due to the different interests of various parties in the alliance and differences over seat sharing.

An Indian-Origin Sikh, A Dead Teenager  
: The Murder That Has Set Britain On Fire

Britain is witnessing a violent surge in anti-immigration sentiment manifesting in arson and pitched battles with the police. It is fuelled by a combination of high-profile violent crimes, public anxiety over migration and increasingly vocal interventions from far-right politicians, activists and influential figures on both sides of the Atlantic. Recent incidents involving non-White suspects have provided fresh ammunition to anti-immigration campaigners, even though one of the accused was born and raised in Britain while another had been granted the legal right to remain in the country indefinitely. Together, the cases have reignited a fierce debate about immigration, policing, national identity and the future direction of British society. Britain is boiling.

**The Violence Of Last Week**  
On a cold December night in Southampton, England, 18-year-old Henry Nowak was walking home alone after spending the evening with friends when he encountered Vickrum Digwa, who was, as court revealed, carrying ceremonial blades associated with the Nihang Sikh tradition. After noticing one of the weapons, Nowak began filming Digwa on his phone. What started as a brief exchange between two strangers quickly turned deadly. Digwa stabbed the teenager four times, including a fatal wound to the chest. As he lay bleeding on the pavement, Nowak repeatedly told the police, "I have been stabbed. I can't breathe". Yet in a scene that would later shock Britain and the world, officers initially treated him as a suspect rather than a victim, handcuffing him as his life ebbed away. Officers did not respond to his cries and instead kept taunting him. Within minutes,

he died from his injuries. The horrific details came to light last week when a court sentenced the 23-year-old Vickrum Digwa, a British-born man of Indian Sikh heritage, to life imprisonment. It outraged everyone. One just couldn't believe the callousness of the policemen involved.

**Sikhs Facing Ugly Threats**  
The case also triggered an ugly backlash against ordinary Sikhs. Just a few days after Digwa was jailed, a Sikh priest from his former Southampton gurdwara was assaulted while shopping and was subjected to racial abuse. Elderly and vulnerable Sikhs have since been advised to stay indoors as fears of reprisals have grown by leaps and bounds. Nigel Farage's Reform UK and other critics pointed to the incident as evidence of what they describe as "two-tier policing", the belief that police and public institutions apply different standards depending on race, religion or political sensitivities. Whether one accepts that argument or not, the phrase has gained traction among sections of the British public who feel increasingly alienated from mainstream institutions. It is a sentiment that has become fertile ground for populist movements across Europe and the US.

The incident reminded many of George Floyd, whose repeated cries of "I can't breathe" went unheeded. Elon Musk and others immediately raised their voices, saying that the treatment of Henry Nowak by British police in his final moments raised similar questions about institutional failure and deserved comparable scrutiny. US Vice-President JD Vance was also quick to comment, linking the killing to what he called the "mass invasion of migrants". Writing on X, Vance said Nowak



had died "the same way a civilisation dies: abandoned and handcuffed by authorities who neither trusted nor cared for him", adding that the "only response" was "righteous anger".

**The Difference**  
It is worth noting that Floyd died at the hands of a police officer, whereas Nowak was murdered by a private individual. But no one can deny that the treatment of both men by police in their final moments bears striking similarities. That is why, for many on the political right, both cases have become symbols of a broader debate about whether public institutions apply equal standards of justice, sympathy and accountability to all victims. The murder of Henry Nowak in Southampton should, in normal circumstances, have remained what it fundamentally was: a tragic criminal case involving a young man whose life was cut short in a senseless act of violence. Instead, it has become the latest front in a widening

transatlantic political battle over immigration, policing, race, free speech and national identity. In the process, a grieving family has found itself at the centre of an argument that stretches far beyond Britain and increasingly defines relations between Donald Trump's America and Europe's political establishment. Before jailing Digwa, the court rejected his claims that he had been racially abused and had acted in self-defence, convicting him of murder and sentencing him to life imprisonment. Yet the case snowballed into a huge controversy after the police bodycam footage showed officers handcuffing the dying teenager while initially appearing to accept claims that Digwa was the victim of a racist attack. The footage shocked many Britons and raised uncomfortable questions about police judgment and too much political correctness.

**Vance And Musk Outraged**  
The intervention of influential American voices transformed the case from a domes-

tic controversy into an international one. US Vice-President JD Vance linked the killing to what he described as Europe's "mass invasion of migrants". Elon Musk accused British authorities and parts of the media of ignoring the case and drew comparisons with the extensive coverage given to the death of George Floyd in the United States. For many conservatives on both sides of the Atlantic, the image of a dying teenager being handcuffed by police became symbolic of a broader institutional failure. The irony, however, is difficult to disregard. Digwa was not a recently arrived migrant. He was born and raised in Britain. Vance's wife is of Indian origin. Donald Trump's current and former wives are immigrants. Musk himself was born in South Africa before becoming an American citizen. Yet immigration has become the organising political issue around which much of the modern populist right now defines itself.

The Story Of A Hotel Check-In, And  
An India That No Longer Exists

There is a profound, aching sorrow that accompanies the realisation that a nation is gradually losing its soul. For those who have long cherished India as a grand, inclusive experiment in pluralism, recent years have brought a steady accretion of disheartening news. Yet, occasionally, a singular incident cuts through the noise of daily politics and lays bare the sheer depth of our moral drift. One such unsettling moment was captured for me in a recent news report about what many might consider a trivial incident - headlined "Hotel boot" for minority BJP leader". The report details an incident involving Sajjad Yousef Shah, the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Jammu and Kashmir media co-in-charge and a vocal pro-India voice. While visiting Aurangabad in Maharashtra, widely regarded as one of India's most industrialised, progressive, and prosperous states, Shah checked into a hotel, only to be asked to leave an hour later. The reason given to him, as he recounted with deep sadness on social media, was linked directly to his Muslim and Kashmiri identity. The tragic irony of this incident is stark. Here is an individual who actively worked within the ruling party's ecosystem, championing the mainstream national narrative in a sensitive region, only to find that the very identity-based biases fostered by his party's political discourse could not shield him. When the structures of prejudice become institutionalised and normalised, they do not discriminate based on political loyalty. They target the identity itself. This incident serves as a harrowing hook to examine a much larger, quieter, and

deeper tragedy unfolding across our landscape: the normalisation of anti-Muslim bigotry in contemporary India.  
**How Did We Arrive Here?**  
For millennia, India's identity was anchored in profound civilisational graces. We took immense pride in the philosophy of "Atithi Devo Bhava" - the belief that a guest is akin to the divine, deserving of unconditional warmth, safety, and respect. Parallel to this was the concept of "Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb", a poetic and lived reality of syncretic culture where Hindu and Muslim traditions, languages, and daily lives flowed together like the sacred rivers, enriching the soil of our collective consciousness. To witness these foundational civilisational virtues give way to an era where a Muslim citizen, as an "atithi", cannot securely rent a hotel room, is nothing short of devastating. How have we arrived at a juncture where the basic transactions of hospitality and commerce are filtered through the lens of communal suspicion? The refusal of accommodation is not merely an isolated commercial dispute; it is a symptom of a deeper malaise where everyday spaces - housing societies, workplaces, restaurants, and public transport - are increasingly being segregated by prejudice. This normalisation does not happen overnight. It is built on a steady diet of daily provocations, dog-whistles, and the casual dehumanisation of an entire community. We see it when residential colonies quietly implement unwritten rules against selling or renting property to Muslims. We see it in the economic boycotts called against Muslim vendors during festivals, or when halal certification



is turned into a flashpoint of manufactured outrage. We see it when young professionals, despite impeccable qualifications, find invisible barriers blocking their career advancement or housing needs simply because of their names. The civilities that once acted as the social glue of our vast country are fraying, replaced by a pervasive climate of mutual mistrust.

**The Plight Of A Normal Muslim Citizen**  
It is against this backdrop that one must look at the political forces shaping our current reality. The ruling BJP must pause and reflect on the incident involving one of its own functionaries. Does the party leadership not see this as a profound wake-up call for where it has led the country in its relentless pursuit of polarising the electorate? When polarisation is weaponised for electoral dividends, it creates a monster that eventually escapes the control of its creators. The political rhetoric that portrays a 200-million-strong minority as an existential threat,

an "internal enemy", or an unassimilated collective, inevitably filters down to the ordinary hotel manager, the auto-driver, the landlord, and the neighbour. When a loyal party worker from Jammu and Kashmir is turned away from a hotel room in Maharashtra because of his faith, the message is clear: the fires of prejudice, once stoked, burn indiscriminately. It is a sobering reminder that a politics built on division ultimately undermines the social stability required to sustain any effective governance or economic progress. The ruling party must ask itself whether winning elections is worth the price of breaking the psychological integration of the nation. This current atmosphere of alienation stands in heart-breaking contrast to the India in which I grew up and have long proudly presented to the world. For decades after Independence, Indian statesmen and citizens could look the global community in the eye and state with absolute conviction that Indian Muslims were full, proud, and equal stakeholders

in the democratic project. Our history books and public life were filled with icons - from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam and Ustad Bismillah Khan to corporate leaders, senior bureaucrats and diplomats, sportspersons, senior military officers and judges - who embodied the ultimate synthesis of being profoundly Muslim and intensely Indian. When the global geopolitical landscape was fractured by the rise of transnational Islamist extremist groups in the late 20th and early 21st centuries, India stood out as a spectacular anomaly. Security analysts and foreign observers would frequently marvel at how, out of a population of over 140-160 million Muslims at the time, barely a handful were ever tempted to join organisations like Al-Qaeda or global terrorist networks. When asked how India achieved this remarkable resilience, the answer was simple and elegant: democracy, secularism, and institutional inclusion. Indian Muslims did not look outside for validation or justice because they believed implicitly in the Indian Constitution.

## Tribal Welfare Secretary Reviews Development Works in ITDA Areas



**Rampachodavaram, June 12:** Andhra Pradesh Tribal Welfare Principal Secretary M. Mallikarjuna Naik directed officials to complete all sanctioned development works in the Rampachodavaram ITDA region within the stipulated time. Reviewing the progress of welfare, agriculture, horticulture, healthcare, education, and infrastructure projects at a meeting held at the ITDA office on Friday, Naik emphasized the need for timely implementation of government schemes. He instructed officials to accelerate PM-JANMAN housing projects, improve facilities in Ashram schools, strengthen healthcare services, and ensure employment opportunities under MGNREGS.

The Secretary also stressed promoting rubber and oil palm cultivation among tribal farmers, providing agricultural support, addressing anemia among women and children, and improving basic amenities such as drinking water, electricity, roads, and mobile connectivity in tribal villages.

ITDA Project Officer and Polavaram Joint Collector Surapati Prashanth Kumar urged all departments to work according to action plans and ensure effective implementation of development programmes across the agency area.

## Collector Directs Officials to Resolve Public Grievances Promptly

**Bapatla, June 12:** Bapatla District Collector Dr. V. Vinod Kumar directed officials to carefully examine and promptly resolve public grievances submitted through the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS).

Participating in a PGRS programme held at Chundururu in Vemuru Assembly constituency on Friday, the Collector said the initiative was launched as per the directions of the Andhra Pradesh Government to ensure quicker resolution of public issues at the constituency level. He instructed officials to treat every petition as important and conduct immediate field verification wherever necessary.

The Collector also ordered action against three district-level officers who failed to attend the Yogandhra programme and directed officials to respond promptly to negative reports appearing in newspapers and social media. He further reviewed preparations for the Pulse Polio campaign scheduled for June 28-30 and stressed the need



to achieve 100 percent vaccination coverage for children below five years of age.

District Revenue Officer Gangadhar Goud, DM&HO Dr. S. Vijayamma, RDO Sridevi, district and mandal-level officials participated in the programme.

## Political Parties Asked to Cooperate in Voter List Revision

**Ongole, June 12:** Prakasam District Collector P. Rajababu has appealed to all political parties to extend full cooperation for the successful implementation of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls being undertaken as per the guidelines of the Election Commission of India. Chairing a meeting with representatives of political parties, Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs) at Prakasam Bhavan on Friday, the Collector said the primary objective of the exercise is to ensure that all eligible voters are included in a transparent and error-free electoral roll. He informed that Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will conduct door-to-door enumeration from June 15 to July 14 and that voter data will be mapped with the 2002 electoral rolls to improve accuracy. Political parties were requested to ensure the availability of Booth Level Agents (BLAs) to assist the process at the field level.

The Collector also announced that weekly review meetings would be held to monitor progress, address field-



level issues, and clarify doubts related to the revision process. District Revenue Officer Madhuri, RDOs, municipal commissioners, tahsildars, officials, and representatives of various political parties attended the meeting.

## Tribal Women Empowerment Through Dairy Units: Tribal Welfare Secretary



**Rampachodavaram, June 12:** Andhra Pradesh Tribal Welfare Principal Secretary M. Mallikarjuna Naik said that Gokulam dairy sheds have been established in tribal areas to improve the economic status of tribal women through dairy farming. During his visit to Kusumarayi village in Gangavaram mandal and Makavaram village in Addateegala

mandal on Friday, he reviewed various development works along with ITDA Project Officer and Polavaram Joint Collector Surapati Prashanth Kumar. The Secretary inspected Gokulam dairy sheds set up with BAIF funds at a cost of ₹3.96 crore. A total of 18 sheds, each housing 20 dairy cattle, were established to promote sustainable livelihoods for tribal women. He also reviewed milk production, income generation, and livestock management practices. Later, he inspected a Multi-Purpose Building constructed at Makavaram village under the PM-JANMAN scheme at a cost of ₹60 lakh. The facility houses an Anganwadi Centre, Sub-Centre, and community meeting space. He directed officials to ensure proper nutrition for children, improve healthcare services for pregnant women, and address local issues related to drinking water and electricity. Naik emphasized education, healthcare, and economic development as key priorities for tribal communities and assured that infrastructure issues in ITDA villages would be addressed through the concerned authorities.

## Collector Directs Quick Resolution of Public Grievances

**Kakinada, June 12:** District Collector M.N. Harendhira Prasad directed officials to respond promptly and ensure speedy resolution of public grievances received under the State Government's "One Month - One Village - Four Visits" programme. Participating in the constituency-level grievance redressal programme at the Prathipadu MPDO office on Friday, the Collector received petitions from residents on issues including pensions, house site allotments, Sadaram certificates, land records, re-survey, crop losses, roads, drainage, sanitation, crematorium facilities, and electricity. A total of 112 petitions were received and forwarded to the concerned departments for action.

The Collector instructed officials to resolve the grievances within the stipulated time and submit reports by next Friday. He said the programme provides an effective platform for villagers to directly interact with officials and get their issues addressed at the grassroots level.

tion of unsafe structures, and installation of CCTV cameras at girls' hostels to enhance security. Show-cause notices were ordered against officials of the ICDS and Irrigation departments for attending the review meeting without proper information.

## Measures to Strengthen Self-Help Groups: Collector Harendhira Prasad



**Kakinada, June 12:** District Collector M.N. Harendhira Prasad directed officials to accelerate DRDA and MEPMA programmes aimed at women's empowerment and strengthening Self-Help Groups (SHGs). Reviewing the progress with district-level officials, he stressed the need to complete SHG bookkeeping targets within the stipulated timeline and ensure regular monitoring. The Collector also emphasized the effective implementation of the "One Family-One Entrepreneur" scheme and directed officials to promote new livelihood units across rural areas. He called for strict action on long-pending loan defaulters, including legal measures against chronic borrowers who fail to repay after being given notice. Officials were also instructed to expedite housing scheme targets in Tuni Rural and Kakinada Rural mandals.

## Faculty Development Programme Concludes at Aditya University



**Gandepalli, June 12:** A three-day Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on "Problem-Solving Skills through Data Structures and Algorithms" concluded successfully at Aditya University, Surampalem, under the Freshman Engineering Department. The programme aimed to enhance

faculty members' problem-solving abilities, logical thinking, and industry-oriented coding skills. Participants received training in data structures, algorithms, coding interview preparation, and competitive programming.

Resource persons Karthik Reddy and G. Nikhil from Smart Interviews conducted interactive sessions on coding techniques, problem-solving approaches, and interview-focused programming. Practical demonstrations using platforms such as LeetCode and CodeChef were also provided.

Faculty members appreciated the programme, stating that it would help them better prepare students for coding interviews, online assessments, and career opportunities. University officials noted that such initiatives play a vital role in strengthening technical skills and improving student employability.

## Special Grievance Programme Aims for Quick Resolution of Public Issues: Collector

**Vijayawada, June 12:** District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmitha stated that the Special Grievance Programme is aimed at ensuring the speedy resolution of public issues. During a special grievance meeting held at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Gurukulam in Vissannapeta under Tiruvuru constituency, the Collector, Joint Collector S. Ilakkiya, and MLA K. Srinivasa Rao received petitions from the public.

The Collector said that every grievance is being examined for prompt action and emphasized transparency, accountability, and efficient service delivery. He directed officials to resolve public issues without delay and ensure that eligible beneficiaries receive government schemes and services. A total of 173 petitions were received from residents of Tiruvuru, A. Konduru, Reddygudem, and Vissannapeta mandals.



## Collector Conducts Surprise Inspection of Panchayat Offices



**Bapatla, June 12:** District Collector Dr. V. Vinod Kumar conducted a surprise inspection

of the Panchayat and Secretariat offices at Modukuru village in Chundururu mandal on Thursday. The Collector reviewed office infrastructure, staff seating arrangements, attendance records, pending KYC cases, and the functioning of digital services. He also enquired about last year's urea distribution, preparations for the current season, farmer registration procedures, and the progress of the re-survey process.

Dr. Vinod Kumar directed officials and BLOs to ensure 100% completion of the SIR process and to address public issues effectively. Revenue Divisional Officer Sridevi, Tahsildar Nagaraja Rao, MPDO Rambabu, Agriculture Assistants, and other officials participated in the inspection.

## End Child Labour, Protect Childhood: Collector Dr. G. Lakshmitha

**Vijayawada, June 12:** District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmitha called upon citizens to join hands in eradicating child labour and ensuring every child receives quality education. He said childhood is the most valuable phase of life and children should hold books, not tools. The Collector expressed concern that child labour deprives children of their rights, education, and a bright future. He urged parents and society to ensure children attend school, develop healthy habits, and grow in a safe environment.

Dr. Lakshmitha emphasized that eliminating child labour is a collective social responsibility and appealed to the public to identify working children and help enroll them in schools. He reaffirmed the district administration's commitment to protecting child rights and making the district child labour-free.



## Collector Unveils Poster on World Day Against Child Labour



**Ongole, June 12:** Marking the World Day Against Child Labour, District Collector P. Rajababu unveiled an awareness poster at the Collectorate on Friday. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that children are an integral part of society and protecting them is everyone's responsibility. He emphasized that childhood is meant for education and development, not labour. He urged the public to immediately report any instances of child labour to the concerned authorities. The Collector warned of strict action against those employing children and noted that criminal cases had recently been registered against agents involved in bonded child labour. As part of the observance, a rally was conducted from the Collector's Office to RIMS Hospital to raise awareness against child labour.

## Collector Directs Timely Completion of Engineering Works

**Eluru, June 12:** District Collector K. Vetri Selvi directed officials to complete all engineering department construction works and bill uploads within the stipulated time. Reviewing the progress of various infrastructure projects on Friday, she stressed the need to maintain quality standards and warned of departmental action against officials showing negligence or delay. The Collector instructed the RWS Department to immediately complete Anganwadi toilet constructions and ensure adequate drinking water, sanitation, and other basic facilities in schools and welfare hostels. She also ordered field inspections of RO plants in schools, repair of damaged buildings, identifica-



## Passenger Safety Top Priority in South Coast Railway Zone: GM Sandeep Mathur



**Ongole, June 12:** South Coast Railway General Manager Sandeep Mathur said that enhancing passenger amenities and ensuring passenger safety will be the top priorities of the newly formed South Coast Railway Zone. During his first official visit to Ongole Railway Station after the formation of the zone, Mathur inspected passenger facilities and the infrastructure being developed under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. Speaking to the media, he said the visit was aimed at assessing existing facilities and identifying further infrastructure requirements across the zone. He emphasized that passenger safety remains the Railway's foremost concern and added that construction of the new zonal headquarters building is progressing while essential facilities are already in place.

## Special PGRS Emerges as Effective Platform for Public Grievance Redressal

**Rajamahendravaram, June 12:** District Collector Keerthi Chekuri and Kovvur MLA Muppidi Venkateswara Rao stated that the Special Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS), launched by the State Government, has successfully served as a platform for addressing public issues at the local level. The fourth and final phase of the programme was held at the Kovvur RDO office on Friday. The Collector said that a total of 217 petitions were received during the four-week programme, of which 35 were fully resolved, while the remaining cases were referred to the



concerned departments for further action. MLA Muppidi Venkateswara Rao highlighted the government's commitment to resolving public grievances without forcing citizens to visit multiple offices. During the final phase, 70 petitions related to revenue, pensions, housing, welfare schemes, drinking water, and infrastructure issues were received from the public.

## Government Committed to Workers' Welfare and Skill Development: Minister Subhash



**Amaravati, June 12:** State Labour Minister Vasanthesetti Subhash said the Andhra Pradesh Government is committed to workers' welfare, social security, skill development, healthcare, and industrial safety. Addressing a media conference on Friday, the Minister said the government has revived several welfare schemes and introduced comprehensive reforms in the labour sector over the past two years. He stated that 25 Integrated Labour Amenities Complexes are being established across the state and that 88.67 lakh unorganised workers have been registered on the e-Shram portal. The government has also launched programmes to provide skill development training to 85,000 workers and is strengthening industrial safety measures with a "Zero Accidents" goal while expanding ESI healthcare services for workers and their families.

## Vice President Hails PM Modi's Record-Breaking Tenure



**Vijayawada, June 12:** Vice President praised Prime Minister for completing 4,399 days

as a democratically elected Prime Minister, describing it as a historic milestone in India's democratic journey. He said Modi's leadership has brought transformative changes through welfare schemes, infrastructure development, healthcare expansion, poverty alleviation, and cultural preservation. The Vice President highlighted initiatives such as Ayushman Bharat, Jal Jeevan Mission, housing programmes, and major infrastructure projects as key contributors to improving citizens' lives. Radhakrishnan stated that Modi's vision of combining development with preservation of India's cultural heritage has strengthened national progress and unity. He expressed confidence that the Prime Minister's leadership would help achieve the goal of a developed India by 2047.

## Academic Director Honoured for Promoting Blood Donation



**Kakinada, June 12:** Dr. B.E.V.L. Naidu, Academic Director of Aditya Degree and PG Colleges, was felicitated by District Collector M.N. Harendhira Prasad for his outstanding contribution to organizing blood donation camps and creating awareness about voluntary blood donation. The honour was presented during a World Blood Donor Day programme held in Kakinada under the chairmanship of Y.D. Rama Rao, Chairman of the Andhra Pradesh Red Cross. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector described blood donation as a noble service and appreciated Dr. Naidu's efforts in encouraging youth participation in social service activities. Dr. Naidu said Aditya Educational Institutions would continue to promote blood donation and community service through its NSS units.

## Fearless brand of cricket driven by cultural shift, not just talent: Dale Steyn



**New Delhi:** South African pace great Dale Steyn believes the fearless brand of cricket displayed by today's young stars is not merely a product of talent, but the result of a significant cultural shift in how the game is coached, analysed and discussed. Speaking about the emergence of attacking young batters such as Dale Steyn credits a modern coaching and commentary shift for the fearless cricket played by young stars like Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. By embracing failure and risk, the ecosystem has unlocked unprecedented player freedom and elevated the global game, Dewald Brevis and Tristan Stubbs, Steyn said modern cricketers are benefiting from an environment that is far more accepting of failure than previous generations experienced. "We're seeing a good combination of current coaches who are ex-players of the current game, are more understanding of failure. And in 2020, there's a lot of failure. You know, you fail way more than you succeed. And every now

and then you have one or two seasons where you blow the lights out and you do extremely well," Steyn told IANS in an interaction facilitated by SA20 in the lead-up to Season 5. According to Steyn, one of the biggest changes has been the willingness of coaches and commentators to embrace the game's evolution rather than criticise players for taking risks. "And we're not sitting as commentators or as coaches sitting there saying, oh, we want to see the economy rates of bowlers coming down because the game is evolving. And I think that's what commentators and coaches of yesteryear would have done, you know. "That has allowed a fearless brand of cricket. Because a player is now not scared that if he plays a bad shot, he's going to be abused on TV. Or he's going to have a coach say to him, that was a bad shot. Whereas maybe, call it 10 years ago, that may have been the case," he opined. Steyn said this shift in mindset has created the freedom for young players to express themselves without fear of criticism

"We just understand that that's the way that the game is evolving. And I think that is, again, that relationship between coaches, between commentators, between cricket pundits and the player has given players the freedom to express themselves and play the way that they want to play. It's an open playing field right now," he said. The former fast bowler pointed to teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi as an example of the confidence modern players now possess. "That's why we see guys like Sooryavanshi walking out there and first ball hitting it for six. If you cast your mind back 10 or 15 years ago, there weren't many players that would do that. There was a handful of players that would do that. Sanath Jayasuriya may have been somebody that would do that as an opening batter? Maybe Virender Sehwag. But, you know, they were a novelty," he mentioned. Steyn believes young players are no longer judged as harshly for failing while playing aggressively, which has encouraged innovation across the game. "It wasn't an outlier. It wasn't something that happened on a day-to-day basis. And if they did fail, they would say, oh, that's the way that they play. But if a new player tried that, they would be abused. We don't do that anymore," he added. The changing mindset is not limited to batters. Steyn explained that bowlers, too, have become more accepting of risk in pursuit of wickets rather than merely trying to contain runs. "I think that relationship has really allowed a lot of players the freedom to breathe. They can just go, oh, okay, cool. I can go out there and do that. And that's from a batting point of view. From a bowling point of view, bowlers are not scared of going for 20 runs an over or 15 runs an over. They are trying to take wickets. They are trying to break the game open. That is their main goal. "If you go for 15 runs and over, take a

wicket. And that's cool. You know, there used to be a chain of thought that, oh, if I'm going at 10 and over, I'm getting smashed. No. If you're bowling four overs for 40, you've done well. You've done incredibly well. Maybe try and pick up a couple wickets to really break the game open. But you're doing incredibly well," he expressed. While discussing modern batting, Steyn also reserved special praise for Virat Kohli, citing the Indian star's longevity and relentless desire to improve. "Look, both. Let's just hop on the latter right now, which is Virat Kohli. I think his ability to sustain, his mental approach to the game, stay fresh, and stay wanting to continue to perform says a lot about him. He's got a lot of self-drive, which is something that I think all of us cricketers had in my era. That's the only thing that we had. We just wanted to get better every single year," he stated. For Steyn, the evolution of cricket's language, analysis and mindset has created an environment where players can push boundaries without fear, helping take the sport to new heights. "So the thinking in terms of the game is gone. The language in terms of the game is gone. And the communication in terms of what we are telling the viewers, the spectators. Their understanding of the game has advanced. The information that you are feeding the spectators has advanced. So everybody now is living in a world where we're just looking up. The possibilities are endless. "And that allows players, I think, to perform to the best of their ability and take the game to new heights. And that's making the game more exciting. That's making the game worthy of watching it, whether it be on your couch at home or going to the ground to go and watch it. So everyone's working together to see this game go and elevate to another level. I think we're all on the right path right now," Steyn concluded.

## Kane Williamson announces retirement from international cricket



**New Delhi:** Former India all-rounder Irfan Pathan believes the selectors have already started planning for the Men's Cricket World Cup 2027 in South Africa, with the inclusion of players capable of thriving in conditions that offer pace, bounce and movement. Speaking ahead of India's first ODI against Afghanistan, Pathan said the selection of tall left-arm pacer Gurnoor Brar reflects the team's long-term vision for the World Cup in South Africa. "Gurnoor Brar has been selected because the Indian management wants a bowler who can exploit the pace and bounce expected on South African pitches in the 2027 World Cup," Pathan told Jio Hotstar. MORTH Undertakes Advanced Landslide Mitigation Measures for Climate-Resilient Hill Roads "Standing at 6 feet 5 inches, he gets natural extra bounce. That will be a big advantage in those conditions," he added. Pathan also highlighted the importance of

having batters who can counter steep bounce and identified Ishan Kishan as a valuable multi-dimensional option in the ODI setup. "Along with good bowlers, you also need batters who can handle bounce. Ishan Kishan fits that role perfectly. He plays the short ball well, scores square of the wicket, and can serve as a backup opener, a backup at number three behind Virat, and a backup wicketkeeper," he said.

The former India all-rounder added that the team management must focus on developing fast-bowling all-rounders, whom he believes will play a decisive role in South African conditions. "I will be watching how many all-rounders get opportunities because fast-bowling all-rounders will be crucial in South Africa. Hence, I want to see Nitish Kumar Reddy get chances," Pathan said He also backed Shivam

Dube to be given an extended run in the ODI format after impressing in T20 internationals. "Shivam Dube has done well in T20Is, and now is the time to bring him into ODIs as well. They need as many opportunities as possible in the lead-up to the World Cup," he added. On Rishabh Pant, Pathan urged selectors not to shut the door on the dynamic left-hander despite his recent struggles in white-ball cricket. "My suggestion to the selectors is not to completely ignore him. Yes, he has fallen behind in white-ball cricket. His form has not been great. But look at Ishan Kishan. He was out of the team too, but he used that as motivation," Pathan said. He played domestic cricket, performed well, and led Jharkhand to a Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy win as captain. Rishabh should take inspiration from Ishan and keep working hard. He should not lose hope of making a comeback in white-ball cricket." With less than two years remaining for the 2027 World Cup, India will aim to test their squad depth and options in the Afghanistan series, which will commence on Saturday.

## PV Sindhu storms into Australian Open semifinals with dominant win

**Hyderabad:** World No. 10 PV Sindhu booked her place in the semifinals of the Australian Open, currently underway at the Quaycentre in Sydney, with a dominant victory over Chinese Taipei's Chen Su Yu. In a match lasting just 27 minutes, the third-seeded Indian controlled both games from the be-

ginning to seal a 21-6, 21-9 victory. The result marks Sindhu's second semifinal appearance of the season, having previously reached the last four at the Malaysia Open 2026. An interesting semifinal awaits Sindhu as the two-time Olympic medallist takes on top seed and

three-time world champion Akane Yamaguchi. The clash will be the 29th meeting between the two, with Sindhu holding a 15-13 advantage in their head-to-head record. However, the Japanese star has won four of their last five encounters.