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India, Slovakia Forge Comprehensive Partnership In PM Modi's First Visit



New Delhi: In a visit that diplomats have long marked as overdue, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi touched down in Bratislava on Monday, becoming the first Indian head of government to visit Slovakia since the Central European nation declared independence in 1993. The occasion was not merely ceremonial. By the time the two delegations wrapped up their talks, India and Slovakia had elevated their ties to a formal "Comprehensive Partnership" -- a diplomatic upgrade that signals serious intent to build one of South Asia's most consequential relationships

with a country sitting at the heart of the European Union. The visit, hosted by Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico, produced a sweeping joint statement spanning defence, counter-terrorism, trade, technology, energy and culture - a breadth that reflects how quickly bilateral ambitions have grown between two countries that, until now, had largely operated at the margins of each other's foreign policy. Perhaps the most consequential announcement of the day was in defence. The two sides signed a Letter of Intent on Defence Cooperation, formally opening the door to

collaboration in defence technologies, research and development, and defence industrial partnerships. The joint statement said both leaders agreed to encourage "regular consultations and exchanges between their respective defence authorities." For India, which has been aggressively diversifying its defence industrial partnerships under its 'Make in India' initiative, Slovakia, a NATO member with a sophisticated arms manufacturing base, represents a strategically relevant partner, particularly as New Delhi deepens its engagement across Europe at a time of shifting global alignments.

On Camera, Cockroach Janta Party Founder Slapped Repeatedly At Jaipur Protest

Jaipur: Cockroach Janta Party founder Abhijeet Dipke, who has repeatedly insisted that the protests held by his movement will be non-violent, found himself at the receiving end of violence on Monday after he was slapped repeatedly by at least two people while he was participating in a protest in Jaipur. The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) had declared during a protest in Delhi on June 6 that the organisation would hold similar demonstrations across the country unless

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan resigned within a week over NEET and other paper leaks and alleged systemic issues related to education. On Monday, the organisation, which started as a satirical party, held a demonstration at the Shaheed Smarak in Jaipur to protest the leaks, education issues and unemployment. Videos show Dipke being carried on the shoulders of supporters when a man pulls him by a cloth he was wearing around his neck.



"Hindu Religion Not Registered"



New Delhi: Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat said today that he would "not respond"

: Mohan Bhagwat On Priyank Kharge Letter

to Karnataka minister Priyank Kharge's open letter that urges the organisation to register itself and disclose financial and other details. "It is just politics... all these gimmicks are being made to those who are used to it," he said. "We had to face all these things. We are used to it. If they don't happen, we feel something is amiss," he added. The Sangh, Bhagwat said, works

openly and is not secretive. "There are so many unregistered things going on... The Hindu religion is not registered, many things are not registered," he said. Registration is needed only by those who want to have funds from the government, Bhagwat said. But in case of the RSS, the government knows it is "there". The Sangh, he said, started in British times as public will. "The

government banned us twice, and that ban was released once by court order, another by Satyagraha. So, government knows. They banned RSS, that means they knew RSS is there. RSS is recognised... Over 100 years, nobody told us that you must register. Our constitution, written constitution, is with the government. We have submitted it in 1950s," he added. As the RSS completes 100 years,

Kharge, in an open letter, had said, "An organisation that claims over 60,000 shakhas and crores of swayamsevak must also uphold transparency and constitutional accountability." "If citizens, labour, NGOs, trusts, temples and companies are expected to register, disclose and comply with the law, why should the RSS remain exempt?" the minister said in a post on social media platform X, where he posted the letter.

Jana Sena's 'Sena Prasthanam' Meeting Held in Delhi; Five Resolutions Approved



NEW DELHI, June 15: A meeting titled "Sena Prasthanam - National Unity" was held in Delhi on Monday under the chairmanship of Jana Sena Party chief and Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. A total of five key resolutions were approved during the meeting. Extensive discussions were held on the party's ideology, vision for national development, democratic values, and goals for Andhra Pradesh's progress. During the meeting, the resolution titled "Viksit Bharat - From Aspirations to Achievements" was introduced by Jana Sena Political Affairs Committee Chairman and Andhra Pradesh Civil Supplies Minister Nadendra Manohar. The resolution praised the 12 years of governance under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, describing the period as a significant chapter in the evolution of Indian democracy. The first resolution reaffirmed Jana Sena Party's strong belief in the "Nation First" principle. It stated that the party remains firmly committed to values such as national integrity, unity, a national outlook, and equal justice for every citizen. Leaders at the meeting emphasized that India's strength lies in its unity amid diversity, transcending caste, religion, language, and regional differences. As the third resolution, the meeting introduced the theme "From Crisis to Confidence - Two Years of Reconstruction, Welfare, and Development in Andhra Pradesh." The resolution outlined the party's future direction regarding state development, governance reforms, and welfare initiatives. The fourth resolution, titled "Jana Sena's Twelve-Year Journey - Sacrifice, Service, and People's Trust," was also approved. Party leaders expressed satisfaction over the successful completion of Jana Sena's 12-year journey, which they said began with the goals of social transformation, ethical politics, and equitable development. Through the five resolutions, Jana Sena Party reiterated and clarified its political ideology, development vision, and commitment to national unity, leaders said. They expressed the view that the meeting would provide direction for the party's future course of action.

Amarnath's Remarks Undermine Women's Dignity: Palla Srinivasa Rao

From Our Staff Reporter VISAKHAPATNAM, June 15: Telugu Desam Party Andhra Pradesh President Palla Srinivasa Rao strongly criticized former minister Gudivada Amarnath over his remarks against Home Minister Vangalapati Anitha. He alleged that Amarnath's comments were insulting to women and reflected poorly on public discourse. Speaking to the media in Visakhapatnam

on Monday, Palla Srinivasa Rao said that targeting a woman minister with personal remarks was an example of what he described as the YSRCP's irresponsible and uncivil political approach. Palla Srinivasa Rao expressed anger over what he termed comments that undermined the dignity of women. He alleged that YSRCP leaders lacked the moral authority to speak about

women's empowerment and accused them of showing little respect and responsibility toward women in their public statements. He demanded that Gudivada Amarnath immediately withdraw his remarks and issue a public apology. Rao stated that the coalition government remains committed to safeguarding the dignity and self-respect of women. He also advised YSRCP

leaders to ensure that their criticism remains constructive and issue-based. He further said that the TDP strongly condemns the remarks made by Amarnath against Home Minister Anitha. Palla Srinivasa Rao stated that personal adornment is a matter of choice and an integral aspect of many women's lives, and therefore comments targeting such matters were inappropriate. He said that Anitha's journey from being a Dalit woman activist to becoming an MLA and a minister should serve as an inspiration. He added that criticism intended to cause mental distress was unacceptable in public life. Reiterating his demand, Palla Srinivasa Rao called on Gudivada Amarnath to immediately retract his remarks and offer an unconditional apology to Home Minister Anitha.

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Lokesh Couple Performs Rudrabhishekam to Lord Shiva on Auspicious Monday



HYDERABAD/ AMARAVATI, June 15: Andhra Pradesh Minister for Education and Information Technology Nara Lokesh and his wife Nara Brahmani conducted special puja rituals at their residence in Hyderabad on Monday. Marking the auspicious Monday, they performed the Maha Nyasa Purvaka Ekadasha

Rudrabhishekam to Lord Shiva in a grand manner under the guidance of Vedic scholars. Special prayers were offered for the progress of the state and the welfare of its people. Amid the chanting of Vedic hymns by priests, Lokesh and Brahmani participated in the rituals with deep devotion and reverence. Along with the worship of Lord Shiva, members

of the Lokesh family performed special prayers seeking the blessings of the Supreme Lord. They prayed for the prosperity of the state and the welfare of the people. Following the Maha Nyasa Purvaka Ekadasha Rudrabhishekam, special Harathi and blessing ceremonies were conducted.

YSRCP Leaders Spreading Caste-Based Narratives on Amaravati for Political Gains: Bhoomireddy

From Our Staff Reporter AMARAVATI, June 15: TDP MLC Bhoomireddy Ramgopal Reddy alleged that YSRCP leaders were spreading caste-based narratives about Amaravati for political mileage. He criticized the opposition party, claiming that it had been engaged in continuous conspiracies since losing power. Speaking to reporters in Amaravati on Monday, Bhoomireddy asserted that the capital city belongs to all sections of society. He said that the 34,323 acres pooled for the Amaravati capital region include land owned by people from various communities. According to him, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes own 32 percent of the capital-region lands, Reddys 23 percent, and Backward Classes 14 percent. He stated that farmers from the Kamma community account for only 18 percent of the landowners in the area. Despite official figures being available, he alleged that portraying Amaravati as belonging to a single caste was part of a deliberate YSRCP strategy. Bhoomireddy claimed that the Y.S. Jagan Mohan

Reddy family had historically used caste and religious divisions for political advancement. He alleged that political structures were built by creating divisions among communities and fostering hostility between individuals. The TDP MLC further alleged that communal disturbances were instigated in Hyderabad's Old City during earlier political battles and blamed the YSR family for those developments. He also claimed that from the Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy murder case to the Mega DSC recruitment issue, YSRCP had followed what he described as a pattern of political conspiracy. Referring to the Vivekananda Reddy murder case, Bhoomireddy alleged that YSRCP leaders initially described the death as a heart attack and later changed their narrative after it was established as a murder case. He accused the party of adopting a similar approach regarding the Mega DSC recruitment process. He alleged that YSRCP had filed as many as 240 court cases aimed at obstructing employment opportunities for job aspirants. He mocked allegations



regarding question paper leaks, the absence of a merit list, and claims related to outsourcing, stating that the government had demonstrated with evidence that the DSC recruitment process was conducted through a transparent Computer-Based Test (CBT) system. The TDP leader said that certificate verification on a 1:1 basis did not amount to final appointments and advised critics to understand the recruitment procedure properly. Bhoomireddy stated that the final selection list was prepared only after considering all horizontal and vertical reservation norms. He accused YSRCP leaders of making baseless allegations regarding reservations for women and persons with disabilities.

EDITORIAL

The common school system is the alternative!

Schools are reopening. CM Revanth Reddy is saying that the current 26,000 government schools will be reduced to 4,000 to curb the waste of education. Teachers' unions are saying that it is not enough. Is reform inevitable? Reform of government schools, which are shrinking day by day, cannot be denied, but the stabilization of the private school system should not be given undue benefit. Along with reforms in government schools, the government has the duty to regulate private schools. Therefore, in any case, the right alternative is the common school system. If the education system is corrupt in many ways and the form of educational discrimination is to change, there is no other alternative but the common school system. Is there anything beyond that? Therefore, it has become inevitable that people will have to fight for the common school system.

What is the concept of a common school? Making a single school available to the people from nursery to intermediate in Telugu and English medium in a determined residential area. A unified school system where children of both the Raj and Bhantrota families study in the same school. An education system without caste and religious differences. When it comes to the issue of school accessibility, there are two types: physical access and social access. According to physical access, primary school should be available to the people within a kilometer radius, upper primary school within 3 kilometers radius, and high school within 5 kilometers radius, as recommended by various education commissions, as per the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan regulations. In case of distance from such access, temporary access should be provided to the students through free transport facility.

There are two types of social access: 1) Schools for the deaf, dumb and blind (Braille) should be established for children with special needs. However, even if children with mental disorders and mental retardation are identified as children with special needs, it would be better to place them in physical access schools rather than social access schools. Because they need special supervision from their parents. 2) Special schools for those with linguistic and cultural differences.

Example: Ekalavya. These two access schools should be in the government sector. The Right to Education Act 2009 also states that the government should be responsible for the education of children from 5 to 14 years. In Western countries like America and Britain, and socialist countries like China and Russia, a unified school system based on residential areas is available in the government sector. But, in our country, the education system has gone crazy due to the uncontrolled private school system without residential area control and rules. Instead of making government schools, which are also owned by the rulers, according to the needs of the people, various types of schools are being established without rules with attractive slogans, which has resulted in a loss of enrollment in government schools and a waste of education. Ultimately, the rulers are unable to reform the government education system or control the private education system and are unable to come up with a specific plan except to make it difficult from time to time. Even now, there is no other option for our education system except to make a unified school system available in the residential area and introduce a common school system. But, is it not in the distant future that the ruling party will abolish the private school system and register the residential area-wise schools in the government sector? How long will the rulers be inclined towards another wrong attitude in the name of educational changes. They are also looking for a gratuitous benefit in education. If we look at the Telangana education system, four thousand out of 30,022 government schools have already closed. According to the statistics included in the Telangana Education Commission's report, 13 thousand out of 19 thousand primary schools in Telangana continue to have an enrollment of less than 50 students. Almost two-thirds of the 5,500 high schools and 4,100 upper primary schools are still at the same level. That is, they are in a state of constant deterioration. While 19 lakh students are still studying in government schools, 36 lakh students are studying in private educational institutions. This means that no matter how many reforms the Telangana government introduces in the name of Telangana Public Schools and Young India Integrated Schools, without controlling the private educational institutions with the highest number of students and without reforming the existing government schools with the necessary changes, any action taken will not yield any specific results. If changes and additions are to yield some results, changes should be made as an integral part of the existing school system, and no other new approach is appropriate. The education week celebrations and school tours that the government and officials organize on a regular basis do not increase the enrollment in government schools and colleges, let alone increase it. They are just a routine program full of hype and imitations, which is useless! Parents do not give any space for hype anywhere except for the future, safety, and quality education of their children. Only a strong belief that quality free education is available in government schools will increase enrollment in government educational institutions. Therefore, if the governments are truly sincere, they should design a unified common school system according to the residential area. Moreover.

Hormuz Is Reopening, But It May Never Matter Quite The Same Way Again

US President Donald Trump recently announced that the US and Iran had reached a deal and that the Strait of Hormuz would be reopened soon. Coming over three months after the war started, however, many countries have by now explored alternate pathways to keep their economies running and to hedge against future disruptions.

The India-Omani Partnership

India has been one of the worst hit countries by this war, in particular by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, as much of her energy imports from the Middle East transit through this critical waterway. While oil and gas are the most important, there are other major imports, like fertilizers, that also transit through Hormuz. Recently, Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, revealed that India's oil marketing companies were losing Rs. 16,000 crore a day, something the recent fuel price hikes aim to address, to an extent. The rupee has fallen to a historical low to touch 95 to the dollar. Amidst these shocks, the news that the India-Omani Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) has been actualised was met with much glee. CEPA paves the way for more buoyant trade with the Oman Sultanate, especially facilitating Indian exports - a critical need for the economy currently. Most importantly, the location of Oman is significant now with all the tension around the Strait of Hormuz. Oman is located outside the Strait, directly on the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Oman, and thus, goods can enter and exit its ports of Salalah and Duqm easily without having to go through Hormuz. Moreover, India also had a historical presence at Duqm. India's imports from Oman actually increased by 246.4%, rising from USD 430 million to nearly USD 1.5 billion, driven by higher purchases of crude oil and urea. The countries are now seeking to reactivate the proposal for the Rs.40,000-crore Oman-Gujarat deep-sea gas pipeline. The 2,000-km subsea project

would bypass the Strait of Hormuz, offering a potentially safer and more direct route for natural gas imports, hedging against any similar disruptions in future.

Oman's Sweet Spot

In fact, Oman is in a sweet spot now with its location outside the Strait of Hormuz as countries seek alternatives. One fifth of the world's energy supplies pass through Hormuz from countries of the Gulf like Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain, and the UAE to mainly Asian markets. Consequently, Oman has increased its oil exports to unprecedented levels, given that its ports are located outside Hormuz, enabling it to pump supplies to Asian markets. Beyond this, the gains from customs declarations have been remarkable. For example, revenues from declarations for shipments destined for Dubai alone jumped from \$270 million in March to \$2.16 billion in April. More important is the Sultanate's new positioning as a reliable hub for maritime and air transport and shipping through its ports and airports. For instance, food exports to Gulf countries through Hormuz have also been disrupted. Currently, shipments are travelling from Omani ports through the Hatta border crossing between Oman and the UAE and further into the wider Gulf region and markets. This will enable Oman to reap continuous benefits even after the Hormuz crisis ends. It will also attract massive investments for strategic road and railway projects linking the Gulf states to Oman, and oil and gas pipeline projects that bypass the Strait of Hormuz, like the one with India. Oman will definitely aim to preserve the economic and geopolitical gains it achieved in the war.

The Fujairah Terminal

Other countries, too, are hedging. For many like the UAE, whose economy depends majorly on energy exports, it is an existential threat. The world has lost 1 billion barrels of oil due to Iran's closure of the Strait, according to Dr Sultan Al Jaber, the UAE's Minister of Industry and Advanced Tech-



nology. Therefore, the country is now accelerating the construction of the West-East oil pipeline to double its oil export capacity to 4 million barrels per day by 2027 via the port of Fujairah, which lies around 70 nautical miles outside the Strait of Hormuz. The Fujairah Oil Terminal FZC (FOT) is a premier, 1.177 million cubic meter independent onshore storage facility in the UAE, specialising in crude oil and refined products. With the disruptions in Hormuz, its strategic significance for global supply through it has increased manifold. This is just as significant for India, as the Fujairah oil terminal can still send supplies to us while also ramping up oil production. According to data, UAE oil exports to India rose to around 619,000 barrels per day in April this year, a 43% increase from previous averages.

Saudi And Iraq Look Elsewhere, Too

Saudi Arabia, OPEC's second largest oil producer has, similarly, diverted exports through its port of Yanbu on the Red Sea, via its East-West Pipeline. It consists of twin pipes that carry oil more than 1,200 km from the Abqaiq oil field in the Kingdom's Eastern Province to Yanbu. Interestingly, this pipeline, also known as Petroline, was built in 1981 during the Iran-Iraq war as an emergency route, with the singular objective of bypassing the Strait of Hormuz to avoid any crisis

there and promote energy security. That has now paid off, with the pipeline reported to be operating at full capacity. In fact, Saudi exports of jet fuel to Europe through Yanbu has actually increased after the war broke out this year. Like them, Iraq, another major oil producer, is also diversifying. As a major exporter through Hormuz, the Strait's closure has made it look elsewhere. It has begun exporting oil through Syria's Baniyas oil port, since early April. Iraqi fuel crossed through the Al-Tanf border crossing into Syrian territory, where from Baniyas on the Mediterranean coast Iraqi oil will make its way to global markets. With Syria's stabilisation and reconstruction, this route is sure to become a permanent one for at least some of Iraq's oil exports even after Hormuz reopens.

Two Unintended 'Beneficiaries'

An unhappy fallout of the closure of Hormuz has been that it is essentially Asian markets that have been affected the most. These relied most on supplies through the strait, unlike, say, Israel, which together with the US began the war. While the US has benefited from oil sales, countries like India, Japan, South Korea have been vulnerable to the Hormuz crisis. They, too, have been looking for alternatives and have turned to non-traditional sources. Two such "non-traditional" sources that have become beneficiaries are

Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan. On May 2, a Japan Times report noted how a tanker carrying some 45,000 kilolitres of crude oil from Azerbaijan arrived at an Eneos refinery in Yokohama, quoting officials at Eneos. The shipment of Azerbaijan oil arrived in Japan for the first time as it sought to diversify supply sources. Like India, Japan had also imported mostly Middle Eastern crude, and now has also procured US and Russian oil. This marks a major shift in its energy procurement as it diversifies its supply chains. It also stands to reason that once Hormuz reopens, Japan will no longer be totally reliant on the supplies through that route, at least not as much as pre-war levels. It has now also turned to Kazakhstan as an alternate source, which, logistically, will be cheaper for procurement than Middle-Eastern supplies.

Kazakhstan has also become a beneficiary of the Hormuz crisis. The loss of Middle-Eastern oil in global markets has translated into a surge in demand for Kazakh oil, and disruption in traditional trade routes has meant greater traffic along the country's Middle Corridor or the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route, which traverses through Central Asia, the Caspian Sea, and the South Caucasus to reach Turkey, Black Sea and Mediterranean ports to Europe. Kazakhstan has ramped up supplies to European markets as well as to Japan and countries like Bangladesh.

Why No 'Law' Can Bring Justice For 3 Indian Sailors Killed In US Attack

The tragic death of three Indian sailors in US attacks on a ship as part of its blockade of Iran has raised a storm of outrage, and not without reason. Never has the US been more unpopular in a country that normally is extremely friendly to Americans, even imitative of their culture. There are few equivalents in recent history of the use of extreme violence against civilian shipping, where completely unarmed sailors were targeted in what is not even a declared war. This is a dangerous trend. Others are watching.

That Bland Announcement

The US Central Command has since notified the hits. It says it 'disabled' an oil tanker in the Gulf of Oman on June 10 after it attempted to transport Iranian oil. In other words, it was in Omani waters, after "the crew repeatedly failed to comply with directions from US forces". Two more were 'disabled': Palau-flagged vessels Marivex and Settebello were hit, the first for attempting to sail to an Iranian port and the latter for "attempting" to transport Iranian oil. That means it was sailing empty, and was specifically in Oman's waters. Since the US is not at war with Oman, the whole operation needs to be examined in detail. Let's break this situation up.

Laws Of Warfare

International laws of war lack clarity especially since they

have evolved over time - what is called customary international law - in terms of actual practice. True, a merchant ship is generally seen as a civilian entity with no links to an ongoing war. But Article 52(2) of Additional Protocol I (AP I) to the Geneva Conventions defines military objectives as "those objects which by their nature, location, purpose or use make an effective contribution to military action and whose total or partial destruction, capture or neutralization, in the circumstances ruling at the time, offers a definite military advantage". While this was applicable to warfare on the whole, certainly, it seems that in this case, the sale of oil was crucial to Iran's fighting capability, and in this sense, it presented a legitimate target.

The San Remo Manual, widely regarded as the most authoritative source for maritime law, pretty much restates this in terms of enemy ships but points out that a neutral merchant vessel can be attacked only if "reasonable grounds" exist to assume that it is breaching a blockade and if it refuses to stop or clearly resists visit, search, and capture. Whether the vessel in question 'resisted' anything is unclear, but overall, it seems that the US was very much within its rights to stop and fire at ships that were certainly breaching a blockade. The



Manual, however, also states that "an attack shall not be launched if it may be expected to cause collateral casualties or damage which would be excessive in relation to the concrete and direct military advantage anticipated from the attack as a whole; an attack shall be cancelled or suspended as soon as it becomes apparent that the collateral casualties or damage would be excessive". Deaths of innocent sailors are certainly excessive by any count. This is especially so when the ship could have been stopped with just 'a shot across the bow' - in old times, a harmless cannon ball - that simply indicated that the enforcing warship meant business. Few shipping

captains would dare go against a signal of that kind. Worst case, a low calibre shot could have been fired just to its hull. Instead of that, as CENTCOM states clearly, the US aircraft fired "two Hellfire missiles into the ship's engine room after the crew repeatedly failed to comply with directions from US forces". In other words, the US overdid it, and without a doubt.

Those Hundreds Of Sanctions

There's worse. There is nothing to indicate that US ships tried to rescue sailors who were in trouble. That was left to the Omani authorities - who did manage to rescue most, barring three sailors who lost their lives. All were

Indian. Maritime law requires all to come to the rescue of seamen in distress. That guideline was ignored too. Meanwhile, the US's accounts have been challenged by the firm that was operating the tanker, stating that no such warning was issued. That allegation is questionable. The Tanker Trackers webpage lists it as a typical shadow fleet operator, swapping flags at least six times in the past. Even so, it was not a 'sanctioned' entity, as mentioned by some newsites; not even US authorities have said so. There is a question here that needs to be answered, as to why a ship that was not even blacklisted by the attacking party was hit at all.

Don't Believe Rumours: Collector Nishanthi



Paderu, June 15 (Pen Power): District Collector Nishanthi T has urged people not to believe

rumours and misinformation regarding the proposed project. On Monday, representatives and residents from project-affected villages met the Collector at the Paderu Collectorate and submitted petitions expressing their concerns.

The Collector assured them that their grievances would be officially brought to the government's attention. She stated that district officials have been instructed to inform local

communities and ensure coordination before conducting surveys or field activities in sensitive areas. Emphasizing that all actions will be carried out in accordance with laws and regulations while safeguarding the interests of tribal communities, she said the district administration remains committed to transparency, public consultation, and peaceful resolution of issues.

Officials Asked to Focus on Public Grievance Redressal: Collector

Kakinada, June 15: District Collector M.N. Harendra Prasad directed officials to give special attention to resolving public grievances and ensure quality solutions within the stipulated time. Speaking at the District Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) and Revenue Clinic held at the Collectorate on Monday, he emphasized that every petition should be examined thoroughly and resolved to the satisfaction of citizens. A total of 347 petitions were received on issues

including ration cards, pensions, employment, sanitation, encroachments, and drainage works. The Collector instructed officials to monitor and update grievance resolution progress online regularly.

At the Revenue Clinic, officials received 49 petitions related to re-survey, online land records, 22A lands, joint LPMS, and survey number disputes. Joint Collector Apoorva Bharat and Revenue Department officials reviewed the petitions and



directed concerned officers to ensure their timely disposal. District-level officials, Tahsildars, and survey officers participated in the programme.

Collector Calls for Improved Student Attendance, Prevention of Dropouts



Bapatla, June 15: District Collector Dr. V. Vinod Kumar directed education and allied department officials

to increase student attendance in schools and take effective measures to prevent dropouts. Review-

ing the education sector through a hybrid-mode meeting at the Collectorate on Monday, he expressed concern that only 69,567 of the 1,27,539 students enrolled in 1,123 government schools attended classes on the first day of the academic year. The Collector instructed officials, teachers, and women police personnel at village secretariats to identify and prevent student dropouts. He also stressed the need for 100% attendance among students and teachers in schools,

junior colleges, degree colleges, ITIs, and polytechnics, warning of action against absenteeism.

Dr. Vinod Kumar further directed officials to strengthen WhatsApp Governance services, conduct regular inspections of village and ward secretariats, and expedite the implementation of literacy programmes. He also emphasized organizing Yogandhra activities in educational institutions and improving literacy levels across the district.

Five-Day FDP on Advanced Prototyping and Automation Begins at Aditya University

Gandepalli, June 15 (Pen Power): A five-day Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on "Practical Training in Advanced Prototyping and Automation - From Concept to Intelligent Product" commenced at the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Aditya University, Surampalem, on Monday. The programme will continue till June 19.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Chief Guest Dr. K. Adarsh, Founder and CEO of Eigen Labs, Hyderabad, emphasized the



importance of developing technical skills aligned with industry requirements.

The programme was attended by Deputy Pro-

Chancellor Dr. M. Srinivasa Reddy, Vice-Chancellor Dr. M.B. Srinivas, Pro Vice-Chancellors Dr. A. Ramesh and Dr. S. Rama Sri, Registrar Dr. G. Suresh, deans,

faculty members, and coordinators. The FDP aims to enhance faculty expertise in advanced prototyping, automation, and intelligent product development.

Collector Rajababu Calls for Effective Implementation of 'Stop Diarrhoea' Campaign



Ongole, June 15 (Pen Power): District Collector P. Rajababu directed officials to implement the Stop Diarrhoea Campaign effectively across Prakasam district.

Launching the campaign poster on Monday, he stressed that no child below five years of age should die due to diarrhoea and called for coordi-

nated efforts from all line. The Collector emphasized creating awareness on personal hygiene, handwashing practices, and the preparation of ORS solution in schools,

Anganwadi centres, and among the public. Health officials stated that the campaign will be conducted from June 16 to July 30, focusing on preventing diarrhoea during the monsoon season. As part of the programme, ANMs and ASHA workers will distribute ORS packets to households with children under five, while awareness activities and ORS corners will be set up in hospitals, schools, and Anganwadi centres across the district.

Officials Must Work with Sincerity in Resolving Public Grievances: Collector

Bapatla, June 15: Bapatla District Collector Dr. V. Vinod Kumar directed officials to address public grievances with sincerity and commitment. As part of energy conservation efforts, the Collector attended the weekly grievance redressal programme at the Collectorate on a two-wheeler, fulfilling his earlier promise. A total of 167 petitions were received from people across the district. The Collector personally heard the grievances, provided immediate solutions where possible, and ordered inquiries into issues requiring further examina-

tion. He also reviewed the status of grievance redressal through a video conference with divisional and mandal-level officials.

The Collector warned that officials who fail to attend Yogandhra programmes or neglect office responsibilities would face scrutiny and necessary action. He emphasized regular monitoring of departmental performance through the OPTS system, directed officials to complete training on the iGOT app, ensure timely disposal of files, and maintain attendance through the FRS system. Reviewing the Spe-



cial Summary Revision voter mapping drive, he instructed Tahsildars, VRAs, and BLOs to upload enumeration forms promptly. The Collector also ordered action against three dis-

trict-level officials for delays in file disposal. During the programme, he released the book "Pashu Sampadatho Grama Sampada Pempu" along with district officials.

Collector Nishanthi Directs Quick Disposal of Petitions from Differently-Abled and Senior Citizens

Paderu, June 15 (Pen Power): District Collector Nishanthi T directed officials to ensure the speedy resolution of petitions submitted by differently-abled persons and senior citizens. She was speaking at the Swabhimani Special Grievance Redressal Programme held at the Paderu Collectorate on Monday, as per the directions of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. The Collector said

that the district conducts the special grievance programme on the third Monday of every month to address the concerns of differently-abled persons and senior citizens. She encouraged beneficiaries to utilize the platform to bring their issues to the attention of officials. A total of 15 petitions were received during the programme, and officials were instructed to examine them on priority and ensure early resolution.



Free Eye Care Camp Launched in Vijayawada

Vijayawada, June 15: NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha inaugurated a free cataract screening and treatment camp organized by the Indian Red Cross Society in collaboration with Sankara Nethralaya at SRR & CVR Government College premises on Monday. The camp will provide eye screening services daily from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. until June 21, while cataract



surgeries will be conducted from June 18 to 22. Free IOL lenses, spectacles, and medicines will be provided to eligible patients. The Collector praised the efforts of Red Cross and Sankara Nethralaya in delivering quality eye care services to the poor and urged people to utilize the free medical camp for early detection and treatment of eye problems.

Collector Calls for Swift Redressal of Public Grievances



Vijayawada, June 15: District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha directed officials to respond promptly

to public grievances and ensure their resolution within the stipulated time frame. Speaking at the weekly PGRS (Public Grievance Redressal System) programme held at the Collectorate on Monday, he emphasized the need to provide quality and citizen-centric services. The Collector, along with Joint Collector S. Ilakkiya, received 201 petitions from the public. The highest number of petitions re-

lated to the Revenue Department (56), followed by Municipal Administration (31), Police (29), and Panchayat Raj (17). Dr. Lakshmisha instructed officials to closely monitor all petitions, ensure satisfactory resolution, and work in coordination from the district to field level. He noted that faster grievance redressal strengthens public confidence in government administration.

AI Tools Workshop for Faculty Begins at Aditya University

Gandepalli, June 15 (Pen Power): A three-day Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on "AI Tools by KPMG" commenced at the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Aditya University, Surampalem, on Monday. Resource persons Kuldeep Tiwari, Ayushman Ghosh, and Omkar Jagtap conducted sessions on AI tools, their applications, and modern teaching methodologies. The programme highlighted the use of advanced AI platforms such as Gemini AI, multi-agent workflows, prompt engineering, and the growing role of artificial



intelligence in education, research, and automation. Around 200 faculty members participated in the

training programme. Senior university officials, including Deputy Pro-Chancellor Dr. M. Srinivasa Reddy,

Vice-Chancellor Dr. M.B. Srinivas, and other academic leaders, attended the inaugural session.

Public Grievance Redressal Tops District Administration's Priorities



Rampachodavaram, June 15 (Pen Power): District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar stated that resolving public grievances remains the top priority of the district administration. Speaking at the Public Grievance

Redressal System (PGRS) and Revenue Clinic held at the ITDA Conference Hall on Monday, he said that 169 petitions were received under PGRS and 29 under the Revenue Clinic this week.

The Collector directed officials to address public complaints with a humanitarian approach and ensure timely resolution. Joint Collector S. Prashanth Kumar stressed the need for proper auditing, endorsements, and strict monitoring of grievance redressal mechanisms. He instructed department heads to personally review pending and resolved petitions and ensure accountability, accuracy, and adherence to timelines.

District-level officers, Tahsildars, MPDOs, engineers, and ITDA officials participated in the programme.

Collector Directs Officials to Focus on Grievance Redressal

Ongole, June 15: Prakasam District Collector P. Rajababu instructed officials to ensure timely and effective resolution of public grievances, emphasizing that citizen satisfaction should be the primary goal. During the weekly "Meekosam" grievance redressal programme held at Prakasam Bhavan on Monday, the Collector, along with Joint Collector Kalpana Kumari and other officials, received 275 petitions from the public. He directed officials to address grievances promptly, explain reasons in cases where issues



cannot be resolved, and give special attention to recurring petitions. The Collector also instructed departments to regularly review pending applica-

tions and prioritize grievances received through weekly and special grievance programmes. All district-level officials participated in the event.

Yoga Andhra Events Scheduled in Polavaram District



Rampachodavaram, June 15 (Pen Power): Polavaram District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar announced that a Yoga Andhra programme will

be held at Porbay Dam in Mothugudem on June 17 as part of the "Health for Yoga Ageing" theme. A thematic yoga session with tribal com-

munities will be organized on June 20, while the district-level International Yoga Day closing ceremony will be held at Rampachodavaram on June 21. The Collector also said that a massive public awareness meeting with around 5,000 participants will be conducted on June 18 to highlight the achievements and welfare initiatives of the State Government during its two years in office. Officials have been directed to set up departmental stalls to showcase development and welfare programmes.

Daily Yoga for Better Health: Collector P. Rajababu

Ongole, June 15: Prakasam District Collector P. Rajababu emphasized that daily yoga is the best path to good health and urged people to practice it from a young age. Participating in a yoga session organized at Pallepalem Beach in Kothapatnam Mandal as part of the International Yoga Day celebrations, the Collector joined AP Tourism Development Corporation Chairman Nookasani Balaji,

Santanulapadu MLA B.N. Vijay Kumar, and PDCC Bank Chairman Kamapalli Seetharamaiah. The leaders highlighted the benefits of yoga for physical fitness and mental well-being and encouraged people to make yoga a part of their daily routine. More than 500 students, officials, and local residents participated enthusiastically in the event conducted under the guidance of Patanjali Yoga experts.



Train Theft Attempt Foiled Near Bapatla; Suspects Escape



Bapatla, June 15: Police foiled an alleged train theft attempt on the Bapatla-Appikatla railway section in the early

hours of Monday. Acting on suspicious movement, police chased a group of suspects who tried to flee, prompting warning shots to be fired. The suspects reportedly abandoned bags in nearby fields and escaped. During a search, police recovered clothing and several 21 coins from the bags. Authorities suspect the coins may have been intended for misuse affecting railway signaling or track systems, and an investigation is underway.

This is the second such incident on the same railway route since April 19, raising concerns among passengers. Railway and local police have intensified security measures in the area.

Peddi lyricist questions director Buchi Babu Sana's apology after backlash, asks 'What have we done to creativity?'

Peddi, starring Ram Charan and Janhvi Kapoor, landed in controversy hours after its release over a kissing scene. The sequence, which was slammed by netizens, showed the male character touching the heroine without her consent. Close-up shots of Janhvi's body also sparked major backlash online. Amid the criticism, director Buchi Babu Sana apologised and removed the controversial scenes from the sports drama. While this appeared to calm the row, lyricist Anantha Sriram is not okay with the makers having to apologise. According to him, a character's behaviour stems from the filmmaker's imagination and should be viewed in that context. Recently, at an event for Peddi, lyricist Anantha Sriram defended the director's creative freedom. He argued that people often praise complex or sophisticated expressions but criticise simple, local language used by a character. According to him, judging characters by modern standards and social media opinions can limit creativity. He said that director Buchi Babu may have apologised out of politeness or to avoid hurting



anyone's feelings, but warned that such reactions could make it difficult for filmmakers to present strong ideas in commercial cinema. "That is, if you use big words like vital attraction, hormonal reactions, etc., it is called awesome as if it is done very aesthetically. If the hero speaks his tribal language and says, 'I will touch you, it is called vulgarity; they say that he looked at you like an object. If you do all this, it is like trampling on creativity," he said. He

added that if it continues like this, then filmmakers will not be able to "make a great point in commercial films, except in documentary films in the first place." After netizens slammed the makers of Peddi for "hysexualising" Janhvi's character Achiyamma, Peddi director issued an apology on X. He said that he never wanted to make anyone feel uncomfortable or disrespected. "We have heard the feedback regarding certain scenes in Peddi and have

taken it seriously," the statement read. He added that he has immense respect for women and didn't intend to objectify the female character. He "sincerely" apologised for the way it was perceived and promised to cut the controversial scenes. Meanwhile, the film has managed to create buzz at the box office despite the controversy. Also starring Divyendu Sharma, Shiva Rajkumar and Boman Irani, it recently crossed the Rs 200 crore mark at the box office.

Samantha Turns Producer to Break the Cycle

Samantha is back in the game and is making some strong statements. "Female filmmakers have always been sidelined. Even though we question this, we still cannot break the cycle. Tralala is my way of breaking the cycle," says filmmaker Samantha, speaking about her banner Tralala moving pictures and passion project Maa Inti Bangaaram, directed by Nandini Reddy. The film marks another significant step in promoting women-led storytelling in Telugu cinema. Produced under Samantha's Tralala banner, Maa Inti Bangaaram reflects a conscious effort to create more opportunities for women both



in front of and behind the camera. Samantha's statement highlights the challenges female filmmakers continue to face despite growing conversations around equality and representation in the industry.

Directed by Nandini Reddy, the action-family drama features Samantha in a powerful lead role and has already generated considerable buzz through its teaser and trailer. The film showcases a

woman who fights to protect her family while navigating a hidden past, blending action, emotion, and family drama. For Samantha, Tralala is more than just a production house, it is a platform to encourage fresh voices and challenge long-standing industry norms. By backing projects helmed by women and driven by strong narratives, she hopes to inspire meaningful change in the filmmaking landscape. With anticipation building among audiences, Maa Inti Bangaaram is poised to be one of the most talked-about releases of the season.

NTR Hails Sing Geetham, Calls It A Heart-Touching Experience!

In an industry driven by trends, Singeetham Srinivasa Rao's latest path-breaking film Sing Geetham stands as a soulful reminder of the power of pure storytelling. Not just the normal movie buffs, but several celebrities are genuinely coming forward to appreciate the movie, and the team behind it. Freshly, Young Tiger NTR expressed his liking for the movie. The actor revealed that the film moved him emotionally. More importantly, he highlighted the extraordinary achievement of Singeetham Srinivasa Rao, who continues to inspire the industry with his passion and creative brilliance even at 94 years of age. He particularly appreciated the respect and gratitude



shown towards Singeetham through the project. He noted that the film stands as a fitting tribute to a filmmaker whose

contribution to Indian cinema spans decades and whose influence continues to shape storytellers today.

NTR's words reflected admiration for Nag Ashwin, who played a key role in bringing a long-cherished dream of Singeetham to the screen. He also applauded music director Devi Sri Prasad for elevating the narrative through his music, stating that the composer brought life and magic to every scene. Adding a touch of humor, NTR pointed out the film's unconventional marketing move. The release of a trailer after the film's theatrical release caught everyone by surprise, and he remarked that such unpredictability perfectly reflects the spirit of Singeetham's cinema, which has always thrived on surprising audiences.

Spirit: Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Most Violent Film Yet!

Prabhas is a darling to his fans and even to filmmakers because he is a director's actor. Although Prabhas has done some action films in the past, the audiences would not like to see him as the macho action hero because of the acceptance he got from the family audiences. Thought, Prabhas is an action hero, but the violence in his films is usually moderate. But Spirit is going to be a major exception, as the film will be one of Sandeep Reddy's most violent films to date. Sandeep Vanga debuted with the Telugu film Arjun Reddy. Later, he remade the same in Hindi and then came up with Animal, which is an extremely violent film. He ensured that the audience got amused by the violent action sequences in the film. Now, with Prabhas, Sandeep wants



to do the same. During the past interviews, Sandeep already hinted that he is determined to show Prabhas in a never-before-seen avatar. According to close sources, the violence in Spirit is going to cross all limits and give audiences in theatres an adrenaline rush. We hear that the songs alone will be a respite from the bloodshed. Even this is challenging for Prabhas to carry such weight on his shoulders. The film is currently in production, so let us wait for the release of promotional material to understand the extent of violence in the movie.