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"Safety Of Seafarers Of Utmost Importance": PM Modi To Trump At G7



New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Donald Trump met on the sidelines of the G7 summit in France on Friday, marking a big step towards resetting ties between India and the US, which have been rocked by tariffs and, most recently, the killing of three Indian sailors in US attacks on ships near

the Strait of Hormuz. Commending Trump on his efforts towards ensuring peace in the Middle East, PM Modi also brought up the safety of Indian seafarers, who make up 10% of global seafarers, and stressed its importance. Addressing Trump, whom he was meeting after 16 months, the PM said, "It is a pleasure to meet you, Mr

President, and we met in Washington last year. Since then, there has been a new momentum in our relationship. There's a new energy... It is a pleasure for us that our two teams have set targets together. We are making every effort to achieve the targets and we are moving forward very fast." The Prime Minister said he applauded

Trump's leadership and the progress that has been made in the efforts to restore peace in the Middle East and emphasised that he hoped it was a lasting one. He said keeping the Strait of Hormuz open was vital to the global economy and stressed that freedom of navigation should be ensured. Bringing up the safety of seafarers, PM

Modi said he hoped the US deal with Iran, which is scheduled to be signed on Friday, would prioritise the issue. "As you know, in the world of maritime trade, hundreds of thousands of Indian seafarers are performing their duties across global maritime trade routes, including the Strait of Hormuz, contributing heavily to global

progress. Their safety is of the utmost importance to us... You have made tremendous efforts towards reaching this understanding and this agreement (with Iran), and I am confident that the issue of seafarers' safety will receive the highest priority during the implementation of this agreement," he asserted.

"PM Modi A Total Killer, A Tough Trader": Trump At G7 Bilateral



New Delhi: US President Donald Trump on Wednesday showered praise on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in France's Evian on the sidelines of the G7 Summit 2026. Assigning adjectives like "a killer and a tough trader" to PM Modi, Trump said he has immense respect for the leader. Donald Trump

called PM Modi the most "beautiful-looking man" but "as tough as a killer". "He's a very tough negotiator... You look at this man. I'll give you a lesson. He's the most beautiful-looking man. He looks so nice, like an angel. But actually, he's as tough as a killer... But he looks so good. So he gets you by surprise. There

are a few people like this," he said as the two leaders held a bilateral meeting in France. "As long as I am President, they (India) have a great friend in the White House... Everyone here loves India, and they have tremendous respect for this (PM Narendra Modi) man," he added.

"WE ARE ALWAYS READY"

: PM Modi As He Stands Beside Trump For G7 Summit Photo

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump were seen standing next to each other during the traditional G7 leaders' family photo session on Tuesday. The G7 summit is being held in Evian, France. As leaders gathered for the customary family photograph, PM Modi said, "We are always ready", when asked if everyone was ready before the photoshoot began. "POTUS gathers with world leaders prior to the start of a cultural showcase and concert at the G7 summit in France," the post

read. Trump and PM Modi's meeting marks their first face-to-face interaction in around 16 months. The last time the two leaders met in person was in February 2025, when PM Modi visited the White House in Washington, DC, shortly after Trump began his second term as US president. Unlike some of their previous meetings, where they were seen sharing warm hugs, this time PM Modi and Trump greeted each other with a handshake and exchanged a few words before joining other world leaders for summit events. The meeting



took place at a time when India-US ties remain important on issues such as trade,

defence, technology and global security. The tensions between the two coun-

tries have risen due to Trump's tariff policies which have affected Indian exports.

Unable to Face Anitha Politically, They Have Resorting to Character Assassination: Gottipati Ravi Kumar

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, June, 17 : Andhra Pradesh Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar launched a strong attack on former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and the YSRCP. Speaking to the media on Wednesday, he said that the people of the state are well aware of the level of respect Jagan and leaders of the "axe party" have for women. He alleged that YSRCP leaders had resorted to character assassination because they were unable to confront Home Minister Vangalapati Anitha politically. Ravi Kumar stated that during the five years the party was in power, people were forced to endure the abusive language used by its leaders. He remarked that for the past two years, the state has been free from such rhetoric, and accused YSRCP leaders of trying to



regain attention by creating controversies while people are living peacefully. The minister warned that no one would be spared if they made derogatory remarks against women. He said that despite being taught a lesson by the people, certain leaders had failed to change their behavior and continued to act without restraint. According to him, YSRCP leaders were making such comments out of prejudice against women. Ravi Kumar

asserted that there is no place in society for leaders who speak disrespectfully about women. **Jagan Has Always Harbored Disrespect Toward Women: Sana Satish** Rajya Sabha MP Sana Satish alleged that creating divisions among communities is part of Jagan's political approach. He said that attempts to use the Kapu community for political gains would not be tolerated. Satish remarked that although people from all sections of society had rejected Jagan's politics and denied him even the status of Leader of the Opposition, he was once again trying to create divisions among communities. He alleged that Gudivada Amarnath's criticism of Home Minister Anitha was part of this political strategy and accused him of lowering the level of political dis-

course. Satish claimed that Jagan had displayed hostility toward women from the very beginning and cited his alleged treatment of his mother and sister as evidence. He demanded that Gudivada Amarnath issue an unconditional apology to Home Minister Anitha. Satish further stated that the remarks reflected the dismissive attitude of YSRCP leaders toward women. He warned that arrogance and insults directed at women would not be tolerated. He added that if the party continued with the same approach toward women, it might not even retain the 11 seats it currently holds in the 2029 elections. Referring to Anitha's rise through hard work and determination, he described the comments made against her as shameful. He concluded by saying that society has no place for leaders who belittle women.

Demand for Apology Over Remarks Against Home Minister Anitha

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, June, 17 : Remarks made by former minister and YSRCP leader Amarnath against Andhra Pradesh Home Minister Vangalapati Anitha have triggered a political controversy in the state. Women's organizations, Telugu Mahila leaders, and leaders of the ruling coalition have strongly condemned the comments. They alleged that the remarks, which targeted a woman's appearance, attire, and personality, were inappropriate and objectionable. Responding to the issue, Jana Sena Party chief and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan criticized the remarks, stating

that they were not only an insult to the Home Minister but also to the entire womanhood. Minister Nara Lokesh also condemned Amarnath's comments, saying that targeting a Dalit woman reflected the toxic political culture of the YSRCP. Reacting to the controversy, Andhra Pradesh Women's Commission Chairperson Dr. Rayapati Sailaja demanded that Amarnath immediately withdraw his remarks against Home Minister Anitha and issue a public apology. Speaking on the matter, Home Minister Anitha warned that she would firmly respond to those who insult women under the guise of



politics. She advised those making derogatory comments against women to remember that there are women in their own families as well. Former minister Somireddy remarked that the people would teach an appropriate lesson to YSRCP leaders

who make insulting comments against women. In protest against Amarnath's remarks, Telugu Mahila leaders and various women's organizations have launched demonstrations across the state, demanding accountability and an apology.

"I'm Right Outside Your Residence, Ready for a Discussion on DSC"

Lokesh Throws Challenge to Jagan

From Our Staff Reporter Guntur District, June 17: Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Lokesh threw a challenge to YSRCP chief and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy over the DSC (District Selection Committee) recruitment issue. Standing just a short distance from Jagan's residence in Tadepalli, the minister challenged him to a discussion on the matter. "I am speaking from just 200 meters away from Jagan's house. If there are any doubts regarding DSC, I am ready to provide answers right here. Those who have

the courage to accept the challenge should come forward for a discussion. No matter how many lifetimes Jagan takes, he cannot stop DSC recruitments. We are announcing a genuine job calendar, not a Sakshi calendar. If he had conducted even one DSC recruitment drive, he would understand horizontal and vertical reservations," Lokesh remarked. The minister further stated that if the Pulivendula MLA left Bengaluru and Hyderabad behind and looked toward Andhra Pradesh, he would

see the development taking place in the state. Lokesh also criticized Jagan's political circle, alleging that rowdies always surround a "prisoner." He accused Jagan of encouraging people who insult and abuse women. The minister alleged that industries had left the state because individuals who could not distinguish between an egg and an industry had been made ministers. He expressed disappointment that Jagan had reportedly praised Gudivada Amarnath's remarks. Lokesh questioned



whether Jagan would still applaud such comments if similar remarks were made against his wife Bharathi Reddy, his two daughters, or others in his family, just as he claimed Home Minister Vangalapati Anitha had been insulted.

YSRCP Leaders' Own Words Will Become Their Tombstones: Minister Kollu Ravindra

From Our Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam, June 17: Excise and Mines Minister Kollu Ravindra lashed out at YSRCP leaders, saying they were speaking irrationally. Speaking in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday, the minister remarked that Perni Nani, whom he referred to as a "rice thief" from Machilipatnam, had grown older but not wiser. He expressed anger that Perni Nani had distorted the remarks made by their leader and Minister Nara Lokesh. Ravindra said it was unfortunate that false propaganda was being spread claiming that they had criticized the family of YSRCP chief and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. He recalled that YSRCP leaders had previously made remarks against NTR's daughter Bhuv

aneswari and TDP chief N. Chandrababu Naidu. Minister Kollu Ravindra stated that it was deplorable for YSRCP leaders to make comments against Home Minister Vangalapati Anitha, who has been working hard to ensure women's safety and maintain law and order in the state. He questioned whether people could forget the remarks made against MLA Gouthu Sirisha, granddaughter of Gouthu Latchanna. He expressed anguish that women who fought for the cause of the Amaravati capital were greatly insulted. He also recalled that Y.S. Jagan had spoken in an objectionable manner about his own sister. He further alleged that after the murder of his own uncle, derogatory remarks were made against his

daughter, Y.S. Sunitha. He directly questioned YSRCP leaders, asking whether this was the respect they claimed to have for women. He said the people of the state would not forget these incidents. Ravindra remarked that the words spoken by YSRCP leaders themselves would become their tombstones. He expressed displeasure over what he described as the unbecoming attitude of former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. He also recalled that Jogi Ramesh, who had allegedly attacked Chandrababu Naidu's residence in the past, was rewarded with a ministerial post. Speaking about the Beach Shacks Policy, Ravindra said that such a policy was not unique to Andhra Pradesh. He explained that



it was being introduced as part of tourism promotion without causing inconvenience to the public. He said the initiative would be launched as a pilot project at the beaches of Visakhapatnam and Suryalanka in Bapatla district. He noted that only beverages with low alcohol content would be available there. The minister clarified that the facilities would be established after consultations with all relevant government departments.

EDITORIAL

Peace must be broken

US President Donald Trump, who has been making promises and announcements about the deal with Iran for the past few days, has managed to bring Iran back on track by begging, threatening, and even angering it. However, it is unclear whether this deal is credible. The same is true of many countries around the world that showered congratulations immediately after the peace deal was signed. In fact, it is noteworthy that even Iran, which said it was okay with the deal with the US, has concluded that the US president's words are not credible and that he cannot be trusted until the end. Perhaps that is why it has thrown up its hands, saying that the responsibility for implementing the deal lies entirely with the US. No one can say yet how long the joy of ending the three-and-a-half-month-long war will last. Because, the United States and Israel have a long history of attacking Iran several times even during the ceasefire. Until recently, the United States, which is the world's largest superpower, was a taboo subject for many countries. Even if it was used for its own interests, it was as if it was hidden under a rug. However, after Mr. Trump took office for the second time, America's prestige has risen to the forefront. He himself does not know when he will say what and when he will adopt what stance. Therefore, it is difficult to believe that a peace agreement has been reached. The next step is to sign the peace agreement in Switzerland, and while America is convinced that the story has a happy ending, both Iran and Israel are pressing the buttons. While the US says that the Strait of Hormuz will open and ships will be able to pass through without tolls, Iran is making it clear that it will collect navigation services and other shipping charges even if there is no transit toll fee. Similarly, while Iran is saying that the path to the release of \$12 billion frozen by the US has been paved, the US is saying that there is no such thing. On the other hand, Israel is categorically saying that it has nothing to do with this peace agreement and that the attacks on Lebanon will continue. If that happens, Iran is making it clear that it will not agree to the agreement. The US's anxiety over the peace agreement without bringing an ally along and without clarity on key issues is reminiscent of the proverb that a woman who has not yet reached the end of her tether is a fool. Strangely, the issue of the transfer of uranium reserves, which was the real reason for the US-Israeli alliance to step on Iran, is not even mentioned in the latest agreement. That is, it is ridiculous for the US to say that it will insist on this in the subsequent negotiations. It is estimated that the US has lost 11 lakh crore rupees due to the war with Iran, and an additional burden of 447 dollars has been imposed on each family in the form of petrol and diesel costs. Realizing that the losses incurred if the war continues will become a burden beyond the head and will be criticized at home and abroad, Trump is eager for an agreement. The US-Israeli-Iran war that began three and a half months ago has plunged the world into an economic crisis. Inflation has become so high in many countries that even basic necessities are out of reach. There has been a shortage of oil and fertilizers imported in large quantities from West Asia to various countries. As a result, agriculture in many countries has been crippled and food security is being threatened. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has already estimated that nearly three crore people have been pushed to the brink of poverty due to this war. In this context, all the countries of the world are eagerly waiting for a ceasefire. Let us hope that the US, Israel and Iran will abide by this agreement as everyone wants, and that peace will prevail in West Asia.

Public Assets, Private Capital: India's Next Reform Step

The promise of peace in the Middle East is weaving its way past the Strait of Hormuz. Donald Trump's self-certified 'great deal' is yet to arrive, even if piece by piece. That thought hasn't detained the markets, which have brushed aside words, events and doubts. Stock indices are up, bond yields are down and most importantly crude oil prices have tumbled. Feel-good clouds are ephemeral, transient by definition. Mood is not capital. Sentiments are a sugar rush - they spike, flatline and reverse, often violently when expectations are not met. India is the fastest-growing large economy, but the fundamentals are not all rosy. Yes, the Rupee is hanging in there - thanks to the RBI's emergency measures. That said, forecasts suggest growth is lower and inflation is higher, FIs are unloading equity, and net FDI is spluttering. It is known that markets are focused on the immediate and underestimate the long term. Energy prices will be volatile - even if supply lines are unclogged, restoration of gas and oil output to pre-war levels could take two years, as per the IEA. The global context is not entirely rosy, even though markets are buoyant. Availability of capital will be critical as the world migrates from a context of demand deficit to supply insufficiency - the shift ranges from funding AI and AI adjacent capex to reshoring of manufacturing to rebuilding energy grids. Global capital expenditure on energy alone is expected to top \$ 3.4 trillion in 2026. Add the capex of AI giants estimated at \$ 700 billion and other sectors for the math on the need for capital.

The global economy is moving into a higher inflation and higher for longer interest rates

regime. Debt and deficits are higher. Central banks are signalling rate hikes - the Bank of Japan and ECB have already hiked rates. The quantum shift is reflected in Nvidia's borrowing programme. It is the world's most valued company with over \$ 80.5 billion in cash in hand. Yet it is in the market for raising \$ 25 billion in debt. The world is moving from a demand-deficient circumstance to a supply-constrained context. As demand for capital rises, so will the cost of money. India needs a plan for what Keynes called the 'economic consequences of peace'. Recent months show India's dependence on imported energy has long-term implications. The Indian economy will need fuel and capital to fuel its economy. David Landes observes in *The Wealth and Poverty of Nations* 'The world has never been a level playing field'. The differentiator between a stagnant and dynamic economy is not the mere possession of resources but the ability to deploy them.

The economy needs a transformative, orbital move - one large enough to convert a sentiment shift into a structural one, before the window of optimism blinks. India must coral, value and monetise, dollarise public assets. India has the resources. India has the moment. What India has consistently lacked is the institutional boldness to go big.

That gap between what India's sovereign assets are worth and what they currently earn is central to India's location in the low-middle income bracket. The saga is spelt out by NHAI, AAI, CONCOR, ISRO's commercial arm, India Post, Indian Railways Freight, and NABARD, which could well be worth around \$ 300 bil-



lion. Here are a few assets worth monetising - valuations are indicative and derived -- listing as ADR on NYSE.

CONCOR - India's dominant intermodal logistics platform CONCOR operates 66 terminals, 54,619 containers, 17,967 wagons, with 4.5M sq ft warehouse space, connecting 13 gateway ports. The corporation moved over 5.58 million TEUs. It is listed domestically at \$ 4 billion. It merits a global listing alongside India's supply-chain narrative. As the roadshow by the company showed, there is investor appetite. The missing part is the ADR structure.

NHAI - The world's second-largest road network. 1,46,560 km. With 122 million FASTag accounts, collections are at Rs 82,900 crore in FY26. GNSS satellite tolling in rollout. Enterprise value: around \$ 55 billion. The NHAI InvIT is rated AAA, already trades domestically and signals institutional appetite. A NYSE ADR of the parent taps patient, long-duration infrastructure capital that the RBI is attempting, through the laborious bond market route.

AAI - Owns 136 airports, joint

venture partner in seven privately run airports, owner of over 55000 acres of land, including freehold land under India's six busiest airports. Earns \$1.30 per passenger in non-aeronautical revenue against a global benchmark of \$7-15. Holds an unassailable air navigation monopoly over every aircraft in Indian airspace. As the largest player, it could command a valuation of around \$ 18 billion by some estimates.

India Post - India Post is effectively India's biggest bank, the largest logistics and the largest customer base. 1,62,000 physical post offices, a Payments Bank, profitable, holds over Rs 15 lakh crore of savings, unparalleled last-mile reach. A Japan Post-style corporatisation could list at a \$7-9 billion base case.

IR Freight Corporation - It does not exist currently, but it should, hived off from the Indian Railways. It clocked Rs 1.7 trillion in revenues in FY26, a record 1,670 million tonnes. The Dedicated Freight Corridors, fully commissioned in March 2026, handle 13 per cent of total rail freight on 4 per cent of

the network. Freed from passenger cross-subsidy and priced at Union Pacific-comparable margins, the corporation would be valued somewhere between \$ 56 billion and \$ 90 billion at commercial parity.

NABARD - A \$107 billion balance sheet growing at 14 per cent. India's largest agricultural development finance institution. In an era of ESG capital seeking credible emerging-market deployment, a listed NABARD attracts green bond funds, climate finance vehicles, and multilateral co-investors that no other entity in this portfolio would reach. Base-case valuation: \$18-22 billion.

NSIL / ISRO - India's pride, ISRO, has a glorious record of accomplishments. Its capacity for frugal cost space missions - the Mars mission cost less than what it cost to make Gravity - makes it an outlier globally. Commercial revenues of \$400 million are growing at 24 per cent annually on the world's most cost-competitive launch platform. It may not achieve SpaceX's valuation, but ISRO is in the space and deserves corporatisation and monetisation.

Haunted Or Hunted? Why The Ghosts Of 2015 Continue To Shadow Sukhbir Badal

Punjab's political memory becomes particularly unforgiving when questions of power intersect with faith, injury and delayed justice. More than a decade after the 2015 sacrilege incidents and the police firing at Behbal Kalan, Sukhbir Singh Badal continues to face sustained political attacks. The ruling Aam Aadmi Party, along with dissident Akalis and other opponents, repeatedly return to Bargari, Kotkapura and Behbal Kalan whenever Shiromani Akali Dal-Badal (SAD-B) attempts to rebuild its organisation or regain political ground. Sukhbir Singh Badal may have completed the religious punishment imposed upon him, but his party is still being made to serve a political punishment. That raises an uncomfortable question: is SAD-Badally genuinely haunted by an unresolved past, or are the ruling party and its other rivals deliberately keeping that past alive because it remains the Badal leadership's greatest political vulnerability? The answer lies somewhere between the two.

Why 2015 Has Returned to the Political Debate

The Behbal Kalan investigation has once again brought the events of 2015 to the centre of Punjab politics. According to reports, the SIT questioned former Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Raghbir Singh about the proceedings held before the Akal Takht on December 2, 2024, including the answers given by Sukhbir Singh Badal. The exact nature of what was acknowledged during those proceedings, and its possible legal relevance, is now sharply disputed. Giani Raghbir Singh's reported account has been interpreted by SAD's op-

ponents as carrying specific implications for the Behbal Kalan case. Sukhbir Singh Badal and his party reject that interpretation, maintaining that he accepted broad moral and political responsibility as the head of the then government, rather than criminal responsibility for a particular act. Sukhbir Singh Badal reacted strongly. "Neither am I afraid of cases being registered against me, nor am I afraid of going to jail," he said. He also clarified his Akal Takht submission, "As a humble Sikh, I took full responsibility for any fault committed by the SAD government and even for causing hurt, if any, to anyone." His party argues that statements made by a Sikh while submitting to a religious process should not be selectively converted into evidence of criminal liability. According to the party, doing so could compromise the autonomy and sanctity of the Akal Takht. Its opponents offer a different argument. They say that an acknowledgment made before the Akal Takht, the highest temporal seat of the Sikhs, cannot be invoked for religious atonement and then treated as irrelevant when questions of governmental accountability arise. The distinction is crucial. A general acceptance of moral or political responsibility is not automatically an admission of involvement in a particular criminal act. Nevertheless, the SIT development has ensured that the past is again shaping the present.

From a Law and Order Failure to a Crisis of Faith

The sacrilege controversy was never viewed in Punjab as an ordinary administrative failure. It entered Sikh religious memory. The police firing at



Behbal Kalan, in which two anti-sacrilege protesters were killed, deepened the rupture. Questions over who authorised the police response, what senior functionaries knew and why accountability remained delayed transformed the episode into a continuing crisis of confidence. Congress, the Aam Aadmi Party, dissident Akalis and other Panthic formations have all used the issue against the Badal leadership. But it would be too convenient to suggest that the controversy survives only because political opponents keep reviving it. Rivals can exploit a wound; they cannot sustain it indefinitely unless a section of society continues to believe that it has not healed.

The December 2024 Proceedings

Against this background, Sukhbir Singh Badal and several former Akali ministers appeared before the Akal Takht on December 2, 2024. Sukhbir did not appear only as a former deputy chief minister or party president. He appeared as a Sikh submitting to the authority of the Akal Takht. During the proceedings, he accepted responsibility for mistakes committed by the government of that period, placing them, in

his words, in his own "jholi". The Akal Takht imposed religious punishment on him and other Akali leaders. Sukhbir subsequently performed the prescribed sewa at Sri Darbar Sahib. During that period, an armed man attempted to shoot him outside the Golden Temple. He escaped unharmed. The attack was widely condemned, and rightly so. But the attack, the sympathy it generated and the completion of the prescribed sewa did not settle SAD's larger political crisis. Parkash Singh Badal, the father of Sukhbir Singh Badal, had died in April 2023. The Akal Takht, however, posthumously withdrew the Panth Rattan Fakhr-e-Qaum title conferred upon him in 2011. That decision was deeply symbolic. Badal was a five-time chief minister and one of the most consequential figures in modern Punjab politics. His admirers remember him as a federalist, a consensus-builder and an architect of Hindu-Sikh political cooperation. His critics associate the final decade of his rule with the sacrilege crisis, the police firing, allegations of failure to control the drug trade, and the concentration of political and institutional influence. Both versions now form part of

his legacy.

Did Religious Atonement Produce Political Closure?

The completion of the prescribed sewa closed the religious punishment imposed upon Sukhbir Singh Badal. It did not, however, close the legal investigation or restore political trust. The Akal Takht determines matters of Sikh discipline and Panthic conduct. Investigative agencies and courts deal with evidence and criminal responsibility. Voters make a separate judgement about political trust.

SAD therefore faces three different tests:

- The religious test of its obedience to the Akal Takht.
- The legal test before investigators and courts.
- The political test before Punjab's electorate.

Organisational Reform or Restoration?

The December 2024 directions went beyond personal punishment. The Akal Takht instructed SAD to accept Sukhbir Singh Badal's resignation and initiate organisational restructuring through a fresh membership process. Although Sukhbir had resigned in November 2024, the party formally accepted it in January 2025.

Two Years of Governance – “Trust” Programme on June 19: Collector



Bapatla, June 17 (Pen Power): District Collector Dr. V.

Vinod Kumar directed officials to ensure the successful conduct of the “Two Years of Governance – Trust” programme scheduled on June 19 at the district headquarters. Reviewing arrangements through a video conference, he said Ministers, MLAs, MLCs, and the MP will participate in the event. The programme will highlight the State Government’s achievements in development and welfare over the past two years. Various departments will set up exhibition stalls showcasing government schemes, while beneficiaries of programmes such as Annadata Sukhibhava, Talliki Vandanam, enhanced pensions, support for auto drivers, fishermen, women, and persons with disabilities will share their experiences.

The Collector instructed officials to coordinate arrangements related to protocol, beneficiary mobilization, security, power supply, public address systems, and exhibitions to ensure the event’s success.

Jaladhara–Jalaharathi Aims to Utilize Every Drop of Rainwater: Collector

Tirupati, June 17: District Collector Dr. S. Venkateswar said the objective of the State Government’s Jaladhara–Jalaharathi programme is to restore tanks, canals, and water resources to ensure effective utilization of every drop of rainwater for agricultural needs. The Collector, along with Sullurupeta MLA Dr. Nelavala Vijayasri, inspected the ongoing works under the programme at the Palachur Cascading System in Naidupeta Mandal. He stated that the system comprises 12 interconnected tanks spread over 23 km, providing irrigation to nearly 6,000 acres. The Collector said that around 3,360 works have been taken up across the district, including canal repairs, desilting of tanks, restoration of damaged water bodies, and strengthening of cascading systems. He noted that the programme would improve groundwater levels, stabilize irrigation, support livestock development, and enhance farmers’ incomes.



He added that the initiative is a proactive step by the government to address future water scarcity challenges and ensure sustainable water resource management.

Collector Assures Efforts to Resolve Employees’ Issues



Eluru, June 17: District Collector K. Vetri Selvi assured government employees that she would make every effort to address their grievances during the district’s first Joint Staff Council meeting held at the Collectorate on Wednesday. Representatives of AP NGOs Association and various employee unions highlighted issues including the implementation of the 12th PRC, release of pending DA arrears, settlement of surrendered leave encashment, restoration of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS), regularization of contract and outsourcing employees, better healthcare facilities, infrastructure improvements, and welfare measures for employees.

Responding to their concerns, the Collector said she had taken note of all issues raised by the employee organizations and would work towards resolving matters within her jurisdiction. Issues requiring higher-level intervention would be reported to the State Government, she added.

Collector Inspects Girls’ Hostel, Stresses Better Facilities and Quality Food

Tirupati, June 17: District Collector Dr. S. Venkateswar directed officials to ensure better facilities and quality nutritious food for students in government hostels. During a surprise inspection of the Social Welfare Girls’ Hostel at Naidupeta on Wednesday, accompanied by Sullurupeta MLA Nelavala Vijayasri, the Collector reviewed infrastructure and instructed officials to complete repair works on a priority basis. He ordered improvements in drinking water supply, toilets, electrical fittings, lighting, kitchen facilities, mosquito-proofing, leak repairs, flooring, and RO drinking water systems. The Collector also interacted with students to understand their concerns and encouraged them to focus on their studies and achieve their goals. He emphasized that the State Government is giving top priority to the development of welfare hostels and residential educational institutions and directed officials to utilize al-



located funds effectively and maintain quality standards in all works.

Collector Directs Preparation of Action Plan for Godavari Maha Pushkaralu 2027



Rajahendravaram, June 17: District Collector Keerthi Chekuri directed officials to prepare a clear and practical roadmap to ensure the successful conduct of Godavari Maha Pushkaralu–2027 and provide devotees

with a safe and comfortable pilgrimage experience. Reviewing preparations at a meeting held in the Collectorate on Wednesday, the Collector instructed departments to formulate comprehensive plans for ghat development, transport management, parking facilities, drinking water supply, sanitation, medical services, security arrangements, and Pushkar Nagars.

A mobility plan prepared by the Chennai Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority (CUMTA) was presented during the meeting. The plan estimates that up to 66 lakh devotees may visit on a peak day and proposes the development of 11 major ghats and 23 Pushkar Nagars across Rajamahendravaram and Kovvur regions.

Officials were also directed to strengthen crowd management systems using CCTV surveillance, drones, real-time monitoring, and emergency response mechanisms to ensure smooth and safe conduct of the mega spiritual event.

Eluru Collector Warns Against Illegal Gender Determination Tests

Eluru, June 17: District Collector K. Vetri Selvi warned that strict legal action will be taken against those conducting illegal prenatal gender determination tests in the district. Chairing a review meeting on the implementation of the PCPNDT Act and Surrogacy Act, she directed officials to strengthen monitoring of scanning centers and conduct regular inspections. The Collector also emphasized the need for awareness programs and urged the public to report violations through the government toll-free helpline 1800-233-2447. Officials were instructed to carry out decoy operations and inspect medical shops to curb illegal activities.



Youth Urged to Enrol as Voters: Joint Collector

Rampachodavaram, June 17 (Pen Power): Polavaram District Joint Collector Surapati Prashanth Kumar urged all eligible youth aged 18 years and above to apply for voter ID cards through online or offline modes. During an inspection of the door-to-door voter survey and enrolment drive near Teachers Colony in Rampachodavaram on Wednesday, he said the Election Commission’s Special Intensive Revision (SIR) aims to ensure accurate and transparent electoral rolls by removing deceased, duplicate, and ineligible voters while enrolling new eligible voters.

He encouraged young voters across the district to register themselves and directed election staff to create awareness about voter enrolment during the survey. Tahsildar C.H. Balaji and other revenue officials accompanied him during the inspection.



Grand Yoga Session Held at Motugudem Dam Ahead of International Yoga Day



Rampachodavaram, June 17: As part of the 14-day Yoga campaign being conducted across Andhra Pradesh ahead of International Yoga Day, a grand yoga session was organized at Motugudem Dam in

Polavaram district on Wednesday. District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar said that nearly 45,000 people have registered for yoga activities across the district and urged citizens to make yoga a part of their daily lives. He noted that yoga events are being conducted at prominent tourist destinations to promote both health and tourism.

MLA Miriyala Sirisha Devi said the State Government is conducting yoga programmes at district, mandal, village, and secretariat levels with the participation of students, tribal communities, workers, and the general public. She called upon people to participate in the International Yoga Day celebrations scheduled to be held on June 21 at Rampachodavaram.

Several senior officials and public representatives participated in the 45-minute yoga session conducted as per the standard yoga protocol.

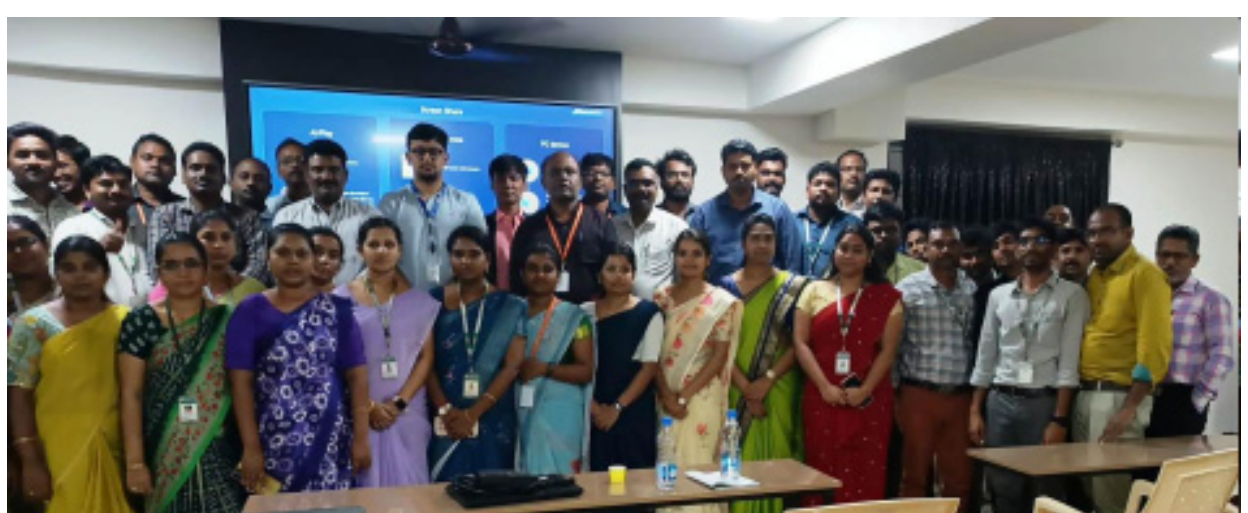
Collector Harendhira Prasad Conducts Surprise Inspection of CHC

Gandepalli, June 17 (Pen Power): Kakinada District Collector M.N. Harendhira Prasad conducted a surprise inspection of the Community Health Centre (CHC) at Jaggampeta on Wednesday. He reviewed hospital facilities, inspected various wards, and interacted with patients to assess the quality of medical services being provided. The Collector assured that steps would be taken to establish an RTC request stop near the hospital for the convenience of patients, provide a freezer box facility at the post-mortem section, and ensure the availability of an ambulance. He also stated that staff shortages would be addressed soon. Praising the hospital’s management and maintenance, Harendhira Prasad said local residents had expressed satisfaction with the services, describing the facility as comparable to a corporate hospital. Hospital



Superintendent Dr. Praneeth and other officials accompanied the Collector during the inspection.

Three-Day AI Tools Workshop Concludes at Aditya University



Gandepalli, June 17 (Pen Power): A three-day Faculty Development Programme on “AI Tools by KPMG” concluded successfully at the Computer Science and Engineering Department of Aditya University, Surampalem, according to Deputy Pro-Chancellor Dr. M. Srinivasa Reddy. The workshop was led by resource persons Kuldeep Tiwari, Ayushman Ghosh, and Omkar Jagtap. The programme focused on the growing importance of Artificial Intelligence in education and industry, providing fac-

ulty members with practical training in AI-powered teaching, research, content creation, data analysis, prompt engineering, NotebookLM, Gamma, and Google AI Studio.

University officials stated that the training would help faculty effectively integrate AI tools into classroom teaching, student projects, and research publications. Vice-Chancellor Dr. M.B. Srinivas, Pro Vice-Chancellors, Registrar Dr. G. Suresh, department heads, coordinators, and faculty members participated in the programme.

ASR District Should Lead the State in Organic Farming and Education: M.M. Naik



Paderu, June 17: Tribal Welfare Principal Secretary M.M. Naik directed officials to implement a focused action plan to make Alluri Sitarama Raju (ASR) district a leader in organic farming, education, healthcare, and infrastructure. Reviewing development works with district officials on Wednesday, he stressed improving educational outcomes, increasing student attendance, reducing dropouts, and achieving top results in the state. He

also called for improving public satisfaction with government services, ensuring basic facilities in tribal schools and hostels, accelerating infrastructure works under the PM JANMAN scheme, and enhancing tribal farmers’ incomes through coffee cultivation, horticulture, and value-added products. District Collector Nishanthi T., ITDA PO Aditya Varma, and district officials attended the meeting.

Daily Yoga Improves Physical and Mental Health: Collector Lakshmisha



Vijayawada, June 17: District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha emphasized that regular yoga practice helps achieve physical fitness, mental peace, and overall well-being. Participating in a daily yoga session on BRTS Road in Vijayawada as part

of the State Government's prestigious "Yogandhra" initiative, he encouraged people to make yoga an integral part of their lives. The Collector said yoga is not just an exercise but a holistic lifestyle that promotes balance between body and mind.

He noted that regular practice helps control lifestyle diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, and obesity, while also reducing stress, anxiety, and depression. Several officials, ration dealers, and staff members took part in the program.

Collector Launches Oil Palm Expansion Programme



Gandepalli, June 17 (Pen Power): Kakinada District Collector launched the Oil Palm Expansion Programme by planting an oil palm sapling and urged farmers to take up the crop for better long-term income. The Collector said oil palm cultivation plays a vital role in meeting the country's

edible oil demand and offers sustainable returns to farmers. He encouraged farmers with irrigation facilities to utilize government incentives and adopt oil palm cultivation. He noted that 30 farmers from Talluru village have shifted 60 acres to oil palm cultivation this year and expressed hope that the

village would become a model for the district. District Horticulture Officer explained the subsidies, technical support, and intercropping benefits available under government schemes. Officials, public representatives, company representatives, and a large number of farmers participated in the programme.

Bapatla Collector Reviews Election Duties and Yogandhra Arrangements



Bapatla, June 17: District Collector Dr. V. Vinod Kumar instructed Booth Level Officers (BLOs) to carry out election-related duties carefully and ensure speedy distribution

of enumeration forms during a video conference review meeting held on Wednesday. The Collector reviewed the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, Census prepara-

tions, "Rendella Nammakam" programme arrangements, mangrove land issues, and Yogandhra activities. He directed officials to upload training photographs, complete pending enumeration work, and ensure proper monitoring by supervisors. The Collector also instructed officials to complete trainer and senior citizen mapping for Yogandhra, upload programme photos, and finalize arrangements for the yoga event at Bhattiprolu Buddha Stupa. Preparations for the "Rendella Nammakam" programme scheduled on June 19 at Bapatla district headquarters were also reviewed.

Home Minister Anita Visits Missing Girl's Family

Kakinada, June 17 (Pen Power): Andhra Pradesh Home Minister visited the family of missing girl Gneswari at CH Agraharam village in Tuni mandal on Tuesday. MP and MLC also met the family and offered support. The Home Minister reviewed the progress of the investigation with district police officials and assessed the search operations conducted over the past 12 days. She said police, along with SDRF, NDRF, dog squads, drones, and forest personnel, are continuing extensive search efforts from all possible angles. Anita stated that the government is treating the case with



utmost seriousness and is monitoring developments on a daily basis. She appealed to the public and media not to circulate unverified information, stressing that such reports

could cause further distress to the family. The Minister expressed hope that Gneswari would be found safe and assured the family of the government's full support.

99 Grievances Received at Polavaram District Public Grievance Meeting

Rampachodavaram, June 17: Polavaram District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar stated that grievances from remote villages and individual applicants are being received, reviewed, and forwarded to concerned departments for resolution. Addressing the Public Grievance Redressal (Grievance) meeting held at the ITDA Conference

Hall in Chintoor on Wednesday, along with ITDA Project Officer Shubham Nokwal, the Collector said that 99 applications were received this week.

The petitions mainly related to land disputes, educational facilities, and road connectivity in remote villages. Officials were directed to examine all applications thoroughly and



resolve them as per government norms. Senior district officials from various departments participated in the programme.

Collector Reviews Rehabilitation of Polavaram Displaced Families

Rampachodavaram, June 17: Polavaram District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar said the government is expediting the rehabilitation process for families affected by the Polavaram Project in Isunoor and Rayigudem villages. During a meeting held at the Erraboru R&R Colony in Etapaka Mandal on Wednesday, the Collector and ITDA Chintoor Project Officer Shubham Nokwal interacted with displaced families and reviewed

their issues and requirements. The Collector stated that 88 affected families have been resettled in the Erraboru Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) Colony and are being provided all benefits under the government's R&R package. He also directed officials to further improve basic amenities such as drinking water, electricity, roads, sanitation, and drainage facilities in the colony. Officials assured residents that their grievances would be



addressed promptly and that the district administration would extend full support to the rehabilitation process.

Messi's World Cup legacy: Records, milestones and a history-making journey



New Delhi: When it comes to the FIFA World Cup, Lionel Messi isn't just playing the game; he is rewriting its history. From his early days as a teenage prodigy in 2006 to his historic, record-shattering campaign at the 2026 edition, the Argentine icon has consistently redefined what is possible on football's grandest

stage. In Argentina's opening match against Algeria at the 2026 World Cup, Messi reached a monumental 200 appearances for his national team. Stepping onto the pitch for his record-breaking sixth World Cup tournament, the Argentine captain added yet another milestone to a career that continuously defies all known parameters. With

a spectacular hat-trick against Algeria, Messi also equalled Germany's Miroslav Klose for the most goals in World Cup history (16), surpassing Brazilian legend Ronaldo (15) to become the highest-scoring South American at the global showpiece. Additionally, at 38 years and 357 days old, Messi has become the oldest hat-trick scorer in World Cup history. He broke the previous record held by Cristiano Ronaldo, who was 33 years and 130 days old when he scored a treble against Spain in 2018. Today, Messi's statistical footprint with La Albiceleste is staggering: 200 matches, 117 goals, 61 assists, and four major international titles. Alongside his legendary 2022 World Cup triumph in Qatar, his trophy cabinet includes back-to-back Copa América titles (2021, 2024) and the 2022 Finalissima trophy. Messi is the first footballer in history to play in six editions of the FIFA World Cup. Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo is poised to share this record later on Wednesday. Previously, the record was co-owned by Antonio Carbajal, Lothar Matthäus, Rafa Márquez, and Andrés Guardado. He holds the record for the most World Cup appearances as captain (20), leading Mexico's Rafa Marquez (17) and Diego

Maradona (16). Messi also holds the record for the longest span between a player's first and most recent World Cup goals, spanning exactly 20 years. Cristiano Ronaldo sits second with a gap of 16 years and 160 days. With 16 goals, Messi leads Argentina's all-time World Cup scoring charts, followed by Gabriel Batistuta (10), Diego Maradona (8), Guillermo Stabile (8), Mario Kempes (6), and Gonzalo Higuaín (5). Messi has completed the most dribbles in World Cup history. His 46 successful take-ons at Brazil 2014 rank as the third-most in a single tournament edition, behind Jairzinho (47 in 1970) and Diego Maradona (53 in 1986). He remains the only player to score in the group stage, round of 16, quarter-finals, semi-finals, and final of a single World Cup edition (achieved in Qatar 2022). The Argentine great is the only player to have won the prestigious adidas Golden Ball twice, picking up the tournament's MVP award at Brazil 2014 and Qatar 2022. Every time Messi wore the Argentine jersey, he left behind more than just goals, dribbles, or assists. He left a piece of history. And along the way, he became part of everyone's history.

Richa Ghosh credits senior players for helping her regain form ahead of T20 World Cup

Hyderabad: Richa Ghosh has credited the advice of her experienced teammates for regaining her form in time for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026. The 22-year-old wicketkeeper batter blasted a crucial 17-ball 34 during India's 64-run win over Pakistan on Sunday having hit an equally explosive 68 during her side's warm-up match against England in Cardiff. Prior to those two knocks, Ghosh was suffering from a lean spell in which she only scored 18 runs across four innings. But now back fully firing for India's latest attempt at claiming a maiden T20 global crown, Ghosh, who is part of the side who will take on the Netherlands at Headingley on Wednesday, was always confident that she could turn things around. "At that time, I just stayed focussed on my game because, although I was not getting the runs at the time, I knew what I could do," Ghosh informed ICC Media. "I was thinking that I could work more on my drills and just remaining focussed. And that it was okay if I'm not getting it, as I was in good touch at that time, but not getting runs. This happens. I spoke to Hari [Harmanpreet Kaur] and all the seniors, Smriti [Mandhana] too, about what to do. And they said, 'don't worry, just play your game and just focus'. That's it. And that helped me also." Despite the Netherlands making their ICC Women's T20 World Cup debut, the Dutch outfit fitted in on the big stage during their first match of the tournament against Bangladesh, as they only narrowly missed out on a maiden World Cup win. Ghosh



insists she and her teammates will not be taking the Netherlands for granted when the two meet at 14:30 local time in Leeds and praised them for the strides they have made in international cricket. She added: "I saw them before the World Cup. They have good bowlers and for them it's the first time. They're doing really well and every team is like, 'they can do well'. I think they've done really well. That's why they're here and we are not taking any team easily and we're just looking forward." Netherlands head coach Neil

MacRae was full of admiration for Wednesday's opponents and the work they had done in promoting the women's game, adding that the positive effects of India's franchise tournament, the Women's Premier League, can be felt around the world. "The rise of Indian women's cricket has been an inspiration for everybody, particularly in the last few years," he said. "With four years of the WPL and winning their first World Cup last year in the 50-over format, you can see that progression has really come through

the WPL experience and the team has gone to a different level." MacRae also was proud of the way his players handled themselves at Edgbaston in their World Cup opener and said his charges are viewing the tournament as a chance to expand the country's cricketing horizons. He added: "It's a privilege for us to be at a World Cup taking on a team of the might of India, a country steeped in so much history and passion for cricket. It's an unbelievable opportunity to take on one of the world's best teams.