

# EYE SECRETS

Spy in every blink

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## SHORT BRIEFS

### Never backed politics to destabilise Telangana: Pawan Kalyan

Hyderabad, June 4 : Continuing his string of clarifications amid a row in Telangana over some of his recent comments, Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan said on Thursday that he never supported politics that seeks to destabilise Telangana. He claimed that his stand on Telangana and its people's interests has always been consistent. The Jana Sena leader posted on X that, following the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, while certain law-and-order concerns were raised, he clearly opposed the implementation of Section 8, as he believed it would undermine the self-respect and right to self-governance of the people of Telangana. He said he had always maintained that respecting the aspirations and rights of the people of Telangana was as important as addressing the security concerns of the people of Andhra Pradesh. Instead of invoking provisions such as Section 8, he believed that special coordination mechanisms, parliamentary oversight, and measures to build mutual trust between the two states would provide a more constructive and lasting solution. "I have never supported politics that seek to destabilise Telangana. My belief has always been in protecting the interests of the people of both Telugu states through mutual respect, peace, cooperation, and a spirit of brotherhood," said Pawan Kalyan, who also posted an old video clip voicing his views on the subject. Some of the remarks he made at a press conference in Hyderabad on Telangana Formation Day on June 2 drew strong condemnation from leaders of various parties. The Jana Sena leader addressed the press conference after police denied permission for a public meeting in Hyderabad, citing apprehensions of breach of peace. Meanwhile, Pawan Kalyan, in another post, said that in 2008 he had planned a robust youth wing structure for Yuva Rajyam, the youth wing of the Praja Rajyam Party (PRP). He wrote that after 12 years of launching the Jana Sena Party, despite many hardships and struggles, the cadre is now well-experienced and mature, ready to take on organisational responsibilities, handle politics, address public issues, and work towards nation-building. He expressed wholehearted thanks to the Telangana Yuva Rajyam youth wing, and special thanks to the youngsters who believed in him and have stood by him from 2005 till now. He committed to building young, dynamic leaders of integrity, commitment, and patriotism. "Naya Bharat will witness the rise of amazing leaders from Gen Z. This Gen Z is tired of appeasement politics, dynasty politics, caste politics, divisive politics, and regional politics. This entire generation is looking for leaders who take responsibility and restore the politics of accountability, not those who weaken Bharat on global

## KARNATAKA CABINET PORTFOLIOS FINALISED: CM SHIVAKUMAR



Bengaluru: Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Thursday said the portfolios for his newly formed Cabinet have been finalised and will be formally notified by Governor Thaaarchand Gehlot. "The allocation has already been completed. The governor will issue a notification tonight," Shivakumar told reporters in Bengaluru. He added that he had followed all instructions issued by the party. The CM also ap-

pealed to people from the Kanakapura Assembly constituency, which he represents, not to travel to Bengaluru to meet him. "I will be in Kanakapura on Sunday. Please cooperate with me. Due to nominations, I will be busy till June 8," he said. Shivakumar further said that Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi would visit Bengaluru to participate in the nomination filing of party president Mallikarjun

Kharge for the Rajya Sabha. According to Shivakumar, candidates for the Legislative Council will also file their nominations. Four Legislative Council candidates will file nominations on Friday, and the name of a fifth candidate will be announced after discussions with party colleagues. Congress sources said the delay in the allocation of portfolios was due to dissatisfaction among some ministers over the departments offered to them. Sources added that Ramalinga Reddy, who represents the BTM Layout Assembly constituency in Bengaluru, had been aspiring for the Bengaluru Development portfolio. It is learnt that Shivakumar was keen on assigning the Bengaluru Development portfolio to Krishna Byre Gowda, MLA from Byatarayanapura. Reddy had reportedly reminded Shivakumar and former CM Siddaramaiah of a promise made in 2023 that he would be given the Bengaluru Development portfolio during any future Cabinet reshuffle. According to Congress sources, Reddy has openly expressed his displeasure with Shivakumar. Meanwhile, sources indicated that a second phase of Cabinet expansion may take place on June 10, though the Congress leadership

## BJP slams Rahul Gandhi over Emergency remark



New Delhi, June 4 : BJP leaders on Thursday lashed out at Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, calling him "anarchic" and "frustrated". The reactions came a day after LoP Rahul Gandhi said during an event that Prime Minister Narendra Modi may impose "something like an Emergency" to ward off "people's pressure" following the "collapse of the system he once controlled". Earlier, LoP Rahul Gandhi said it was very likely that PM Modi would lose power in a year. In a harsh critique, Union Minister Giriraj Singh compared Rahul Gandhi to Mughal emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar, saying, "Ra-

hul Gandhi will be the last ruler of this Maoist Muslim Congress." BJP National Spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari referred to the LoP as a "dangerous and anarchic man". "Rahul Gandhi has realised that he cannot come to power in the country democratically. Wherever he travels, the country's youth and Gen-Z appear to support Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Now, because Rahul Gandhi is a dynastic person and cannot stay away from power, he has started speaking against the democracy of India," he told IANS. He added: "Citizens will not allow Rahul Gandhi's conspiracy to succeed." BJP Telangana President

## Telangana CM inspects irrigation projects in Palamuru region

Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, along with a delegation of ministers, toured irrigation projects in Narayanpet and Jogulamba Gadwal districts on Thursday, June 4, before holding a review meeting with irrigation officials in Nagarkurnool district. His two-day tour of the Palamuru region began at Katrevulapalli village of Makthal mandal in Narayanpet district, where he held a review meeting with the irrigation officials on the works of the Makthal-Narayanpet-Kodangal Lift Irrigation Scheme. He viewed the photo exhibits of the project and gave suggestions. En route to Gudemdoddi Reservoir, Revanth took an aerial survey of the Koilsagar and Priyadarshini Jurala projects. The chief minister was briefed on a proposal to increase the storage capacity of the Gudemdoddi Reservoir from 1.1 thousand million cubic feet (TMC) to 15 TMC at an estimated cost of Rs 8,500 crore. Officials also updated him on reservoirs already constructed under the Nettempadu project and those pending completion. He inspected the pumps installed in Phase 1 of the Nettempadu Project, which was constructed at a cost of Rs 1,428 crore to provide irrigation to 2 lakh



acres of land. About the Ghattu Lift Irrigation Scheme, officials said that two pumps have been installed to lift 810 cusecs of water. A proposal was made to increase the project's capacity to 3 TMC. Officials informed the chief minister that under Phase 2 of the Tummilli project, the Mallamakunta Reservoir needs to be constructed with a storage capacity of 1 TMC at an estimated cost of Rs 543 crore. They added that land acquisition for the reservoir is currently underway. He flew to Somasila, where he held a review meeting with irrigation officials on various projects in the Palamuru region, including the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme (PRLIS). On Friday, June 5, Revanth Reddy will visit the pump house of PRLIS at Yellur Reservoir.

## CHIRANJEEVI, BOBBY KOLLI FILM'S NEXT SCHEDULE GETS UNDERWAY IN POLLACHI



Chennai, June 4 : The unit of director Bobby Kolli's upcoming action entertainer, tentatively being referred to as #Mega158 and featuring Megastar Chiranjeevi in the lead, has now begun its next schedule in Pollachi in Tamil Nadu. Sources close to the unit of the film say that shooting for the film is currently going on at a brisk pace. They add that a schedule has recently begun in Pollachi, Tamil Nadu and that key scenes of the film are being shot. Megastar Chiranjeevi and the main cast members are participating in this schedule. For the unaware, actress Anaswara Rajan was recently welcomed on board the unit of the film by its makers. Taking to their X timeline, KVN Productions, the firm producing the film, had said, "A new wave of charm joins the MEGA storm. Welcoming the

lovely #AnaswaraRajan to the world of #Mega158. #KVN-TeluguDebut - #ChiruBobby2 Launched Grandly. A @dirbobby Film. Megastar @KChiruTweets #VenkatNarayana @MusicThaman @vijaykartikdop @AntonyLRuben @artkolla @KvnProductions." The makers have already announced that ace music director Thaman will be scoring music for this film and that popular cinematographer Vijay Karthik Kannan, known for his impressive work in films like 'Jailer', 'Daaku Maharaj', and the upcoming 'Jailer 2', will be its cinematographer. Art direction for the film is to be handled by Kolla Avinash and editing will be by Antony Ruben. The film has been in the news ever since the time it was first announced on Chiranjeevi's birthday last year. Only recently, Megastar Chiranjeevi had released a video that showed him sweating it out in the gym to get into shape for the role he plays in the eagerly awaited film. Taking to his X timeline to share the video, Chiranjeevi had said, "Every day is another opportunity to push beyond limits... Charged up and excited

## TDP to contest three RS seats, leaves one for Jana Sena



Amaravati, June 4 : The Telugu Desam Party (TDP), which is heading the coalition government in Andhra Pradesh, on Thursday decided to contest three Rajya Sabha seats, leaving one for its ally Jana Sena. The agreement was reached at a meeting attended by leaders of alliance partners, TDP, Jana Sena, and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The NDA is sure to win all four Rajya Sabha seats going to polls on June 18, going by its overwhelming majority in the state legislative Assembly. The meeting, presided over by Chief Minister and TDP national president N. Chandrababu Naidu, was attended by Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena president Pawan Kalyan and state BJP president PVN Madhav. The meeting, which was also attended by state minister Nandendla Manohar of Jana Sena and state TDP president Palla Srinivas, lasted for more than two hours. The NDA leaders said after the meeting that they discussed the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections, celebrations to highlight the achievements of the NDA governments at the state and Centre levels over the last two years, Special Intensive Revision (SIR), and other issues. TDP and Jana Sena are likely to announce their Rajya Sabha candidates in the next couple of days. Jana Sena will be opening its account in the Upper House of Parliament. The last date for filing nominations is June 8. Polling, if necessary, will be held on June 18. The vacancies from Andhra Pradesh are arising as the term of the four members is set to end on June 21. The members retiring are Alla Ayodhya Rami Reddy, Nathwani Parimal, Pilla Subhaschandra Bose (all from YSR Congress Party), and Sana Satish Babu of TDP. The NDA is likely to secure a unanimous victory due to its strength in the 175-member Assembly. The TDP holds 135 seats, while its allies, Jana Sena and BJP, have 21 and 8 seats respectively, compared to the YSRC's 11 seats. Businessman-turned-politician Satish Babu was one of the three NDA candidates elected unanimously in December 2024 to fill the vacancies left by the resignations of Mopidevi Venkataramana Rao, B. Masthan Rao, and Krishnaiah, all belonging to the YSRC. While Mopidevi and Masthan Rao joined the TDP, Krishnaiah announced his intention to focus

## BRS LEADER IMPRISONED TO COVER UP 'SCAMS' IN SINGARENI: KTR

Hyderabad, June 4 : Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) Working President K.T. Rama Rao on Thursday alleged that party leader and former MLA Balka Suman was imprisoned on fabricated charges solely to divert public attention away from the failures of the Congress government and the multi-crore coal scams unfolding within the public sector Singareni Collieries. Accompanied by some BRS leaders, Rama Rao met Balka Suman in Chanchalguda Jail, where he is currently lodged after



being arrested last week for allegedly inciting to attack Singareni property. Later, talking to media persons, he stated that there is absolutely no question of the BRS being intimidated by the government's illegal actions or threats of imprisonment, and warned that they would confront the Congress government and hold it accountable for jeopardising the livelihoods of Singareni workers. KTR, as Rama Rao is popularly known, claimed that the

BRS party is exposing, with concrete evidence, the massive scams that have been taking place in the state ever since the Congress assumed power. He alleged that the BRS exposed a Rs 15,000 crore scam—perpetrated under the guise of 'Site Visitation Certificates'—which was orchestrated under the direct supervision of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's brother-in-law, Srujan Reddy. He recalled that BRS leader T. Harish Rao had exposed irregularities worth hundreds of crores

in solar tenders. He said that, in the context of the Naini coal tender issue, a dispute over profit-sharing among the ministers and the Chief Minister escalated to the point where media representatives were arrested; ultimately, the tender in question had to be cancelled. KTR noted that, during a meeting of the Telangana Boggu Gani Karmika Sangham (TB-GKS), Balka Suman stood in solidarity with the workers and raised his voice against the injustices occurring within Singareni.

## Officials Shielding Soil Mafia? Millers Preying on Farmers' Grain? BRS Takes to the Streets Against Alleged Exploitation in Peddapalli

Peddapalli: Allegations are mounting that the government and district administration have remained indifferent while illegal soil excavation and exploitation of farmers through unauthorized grain deductions at procurement centers continue to escalate across the Peddapalli constituency. Critics allege that while certain mafia groups and millers are openly profiting at the expense of farmers, the authorities responsible for preventing such practices have remained mere spectators. Against this backdrop, BRS leaders and activists, under the leadership of former MLA Dasari Manohar Reddy, organized a massive protest in front of the District Collectorate, strongly criticizing what they described as government failures. The protesters later staged a sit-in on the Rajiv Highway to express their dissent. Addressing the gathering, Dasari Manohar Reddy alleged that illegal activities have increased significantly in the constituency since the Congress government assumed power. He criticized the authorities for allegedly turning a blind eye while fertile soil from local tanks and water bodies is being transported to brick kilns in a large-scale illegal operation worth crores of rupees. He further alleged that officials, who are supposed to grant permissions based on cubic meter measurements, are instead issuing permits based on the number of tipper trucks, thereby facilitating illegal soil transportation. According to him, dozens of truckloads of soil are being moved using a single receipt, while overloaded vehicles continue to damage rural roads without facing any action from the concerned



departments. On the other hand, he said farmers are facing severe hardships at grain procurement centers. Large quantities of paddy have reportedly remained unsold for over a month, leaving farmers vulnerable to losses caused by unseasonal rains. He accused millers of engaging in a two-fold exploitation—first through excessive deductions during weighing and later through additional deductions under the pretext of “tarrugu” (grain wastage) during unloading at rice mills. He alleged that farmers are losing one to two kilograms per bag, resulting in substantial financial losses. “Does Farmers’ Hard Work Have No Value?” A farmer grows the crop and is forced to run from one procurement center to another... If the grain gets soaked in rain, the farmer bears the loss... During weighing, additional weight is imposed on the farmer... At the mill, further deductions are made in the

name of “tarrugu”... BRS leaders questioned where the government is when farmers are facing such hardships and exploitation. Dasari Manohar Reddy demanded that the District Collector immediately order a comprehensive inquiry into the alleged soil mafia operations and unauthorized grain deductions. He also called for stringent action against those responsible and warned that if the issues remain unresolved, the BRS would intensify its agitation alongside the farming community. “Why the Silence on the Soil Mafia? When Will Action Be Taken Against Grain Deductions?” The farming community of Peddapalli is demanding answers to these pressing questions. Observers warn that if the grievances and distress of farmers continue to be ignored, today’s frustration could transform into a larger public movement in the days ahead.

## CBIT's "SPARK" Summer Program Concludes Successfully



Hyderabad: The “SPARK – Summer Program for Awareness, Resilience & Knowledge”, jointly organized by Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology (CBIT) and Samagra Shiksha, concluded successfully on June 3, 2026, after being conducted from May 11, 2026, to June 3, 2026 for students of Government Boys High School, Sultan Bazar, Hyderabad. The valedictory session was graced by Prof. C. V. Narasimhulu, Principal, CBIT, Mrs. Veera Lakshmi, Deputy DEO, Nampally Zone, Mrs. Andal, Inspector of Schools, Mrs. Madhuri, Headmaster In-charge, Government Boys High School, Sultan Bazar, Mr. Anwar, Project In-charge, Samagra Shiksha for Government Schools, Sri Siva Ram Prasad, Gazetted Headmaster, GBHS Sultan Bazar, Prof. K. Krishnaveni, Vice-Principal (Academics), CBIT, and Prof. Srinivas Sarma, Chairman, CBIT-SPARK. Faculty members, teachers, student mentors, volunteers, and participants attended the programme. Addressing the gathering, Prof. C.

V. Narasimhulu emphasized the importance of extending quality educational opportunities to government school students and appreciated the efforts of all faculty members, student volunteers, and stakeholders involved in the programme. Mrs. Veera Lakshmi, Deputy DEO, congratulated the participants and appreciated CBIT for taking up an innovative initiative that helped students develop confidence, communication skills, and leadership qualities. She encouraged the students to continue their learning journey with dedication and determination. Mrs. Andal, Inspector of Schools, praised the programme for providing meaningful exposure to students and creating awareness about higher education opportunities and personal development. Mrs. Madhuri, Headmaster In-charge, Government Boys High School, Sultan Bazar, expressed gratitude to CBIT and Samagra Shiksha for organizing the programme and creating a positive learning environment for the students.

Mr. Anwar, Project In-charge, Samagra Shiksha, highlighted the significance of collaborative efforts between educational institutions and government agencies in empowering students and strengthening the quality of school education. Prof. Srinivas Sarma, Chairman of CBIT-SPARK, presented an overview of the programme and its outcomes. He noted that the initiative successfully engaged nearly 80 Government School studying students from Classes VI to X through a series of sessions on communication skills, leadership development, digital literacy, personality development, academic enrichment, teamwork, and life skills. The participants enthusiastically shared their experiences and expressed how the programme had enhanced their confidence, knowledge, and aspirations for the future. Certificates were distributed to all participants in recognition of their successful completion of the programme. The successful completion of SPARK 2026 reflects CBIT's continued commitment

## DAY 3 OF THE SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME CONCLUDED SUCCESSFULLY

The forenoon session was conducted by Prof. Venkata Barla, who provided valuable insights into entrepreneurship and business development. He elaborated on the process of starting a business, the qualities of a successful entrepreneur, strategies for meeting customer expectations, methods for reviving sick industries, and various government schemes and support systems available for entrepreneurs. The afternoon session was delivered by Dr. S. Tulasiram, who extensively covered topics related to digital literacy and emerging digital platforms. He explained the functioning of digital banking systems, highlighted important cyber security measures, and emphasized the need for



vigilance and safe practices while operating as a digital customer in today's technology-driven environment.

## \*PUBLIC GARDEN REVIVAL NEEDED TO PROTECT HYDERABAD'S GREEN HERITAGE\*

On World Environment Day, Environment and Heritage Activist Mohammed Abid Ali urged the Telangana Government to undertake the beautification, revival, and renovation of the historic Public Garden, Nampally. He expressed concern over climate change, rising pollution, plastic waste, and the neglect of vital green spaces. Calling Public Garden the “green lungs” of Hyderabad, he highlighted the deteriorating condition of its 170-year-old heritage trees and historic lake.



He appealed for immediate garbage dumping, stating, conservation measures, a “The Earth is not a dustbin – say no to plastic, say yes to a clean strict prevention of roadside tomorrow.”

## Students Urged to Lead the Fight Against Pollution at Environmental Awareness Programme

ESSAY WRITING, ELOCUTION AND PAINTING COMPETITIONS PROMOTE ECO-FRIENDLY PRACTICES AND CLOTH BAG USAGE

MAHABUBNAGAR : As part of the 99-day Prajapalana Pragati Pranalika programme (Public Governance Progress Plan), the Eco Club and Department of Botany of Local NTR Government Women's Degree College (Autonomous), Mahabubnagar, in collaboration with the Telangana Pollution Control Board,



Hyderabad, organized essay writing, elocution and painting competitions on the theme “Say No to Plastic and Paper Use Cloth Bags” at the college seminar hall on Wednesday.

Addressing the participants, College In-charge Principal Amina Mumtaz Jahan said that the institution has been actively promoting environmental awareness among students through various eco-friendly initiatives conducted under the banner of the Eco Club. She highlighted that programmes such as Eco-Friendly Holi, Green Diwali and the preparation of clay Ganesh idols are organized every year

to encourage environmental conservation and sustainable living practices among students. Assistant Environmental Engineer of the Telangana Pollution Control Board, Sai Divya, attended the programme as the chief guest. In her address, she called upon students to become active partners in pollution control efforts by minimizing the use of plastic and paper products and adopting cloth bags in their daily lives. She emphasized that individual responsibility and conscious lifestyle choices play a vital role in protecting the environment. The competitions

witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, who showcased their creativity and awareness on environmental issues through speeches, essays and paintings. Certificates were later distributed to the winners in recognition of their outstanding performances. The programme was attended by College In-charge Principal Amina Mumtaz Jahan, NCC Coordinator Dr. Usha Lakshmi, faculty members Dr. Venkataramana Murthy, Dr. K. Sudheer, Dr. I. Srivani, Dr. K. Swetha Rani, Dr. S. Triveni, and a large number of students.

## AIM HIGHER AND ACHIEVE GREATER SUCCESS, JPNC CHAIRMAN K.S. RAVI KUMAR SAID TO STUDENTS

MAHABUBNAGAR Students should set ambitious goals and strive to reach greater heights in their academic and professional careers, said Jaya Prakash Narayan College of Engineering (JPNC) Chairman K.S. Ravi Kumar during a special interactive session with students returning to the campus after the summer vacation. Addressing the students, Ravi Kumar held detailed discussions on academic objectives, career opportunities, skill enhancement, and future planning. He emphasized that providing quality employment opportunities to every JPNC student remains the institution's primary objective. He stated that the college is conducting special training programs and skill development sessions to enhance students' employability and prepare them for the competitive job market. Highlighting the institution's achievements, he said that 569 students secured jobs through campus placements during the last academic year, marking a significant milestone for the college. The Chairman expressed pride over students securing placements in leading multinational companies such as TCS, Tech Mahindra, and Infosys. He encouraged students to focus not only



on strengthening their technical knowledge but also on improving their communication and interpersonal skills. Ravi Kumar further noted that the college is providing industry-oriented training in collaboration with reputed organizations, including NXT Wave, TCS iON, IBM, and TASK, to equip students with the skills required by modern industries. Describing JPNC as one of the leading engineering institutions in rural Telangana, he reaffirmed the management's commitment to achieving even better placement

### POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD ON SINGLE-USE PLASTIC ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AMONG STUDENTS

Vikarabad: The Telangana Pollution Control Board (TSPCB) is organizing extensive awareness programs with the aim of eliminating single-use plastic, which has become a major threat to the environment. As part of the 99-day Prajapalana – Pragati plan, a special awareness program was organized at SAP Degree College in Vikarabad on Wednesday. On this occasion, Telangana Pollution Control Board Assistant Environmental Engineer Sarath Chandra explained to the students the dangers facing land, water resources and biodiversity due to single-use plastic. He warned that the use of plastic is becoming a serious challenge for future generations. Quiz and essay writing competitions were organized to increase awareness among students on environmental protection. Participation certificates were given to the students who participated enthusiastically in the competitions. Promoting alternatives to plastic, Sarath Chandra called for environmental protection to be the responsibility of every citizen. About 30 students participated in this program, which was attended by the college principal Ramachandriah, the faculty, Telangana Pollution Control Board officials and staff. The officials suggested that the youth should be at



the forefront of the movement to save nature and that everyone should be a partner in building a plastic-free society.

### NO NEGLIGENCE IN PADDY PROCUREMENT: ADDITIONAL COLLECTOR VENKATACHARI

Vikarabad: Vikarabad District Additional Collector K. Venkatachari has made it clear that the paddy procurement process in the district should be completed on a war footing and rice millers should exceed the targets allocated to them and receive the paddy. He warned the officials and millers that no delay or negligence in the procurement of paddy will be tolerated. Speaking at a coordination meeting held at the Collectorate Conference Hall on Wednesday, he ordered that advance arrangements should be made so that each rice mill in the district receives at least 2 lakh 20 thousand bags of paddy. He made it clear that the set targets should be fully achieved by June 6. He advised the officials to take precautionary measures to ensure that the paddy is quickly moved to the mills from the 130 paddy purchase centers operating in the district. He ordered that the number of porters be increased to avoid delays in unloading grain at the mills, and that transport contractors should also increase the number of lorries to ensure that



the grain reaches them on time. He said that farmers should make gunny bags, weighing machines, and moisture measuring machines available at the purchasing centers so that they do not face any difficulties. He also revealed that additional interim warehouses are being arranged to avoid problems with grain storage. "Not a single grain harvested by the farmer should go to waste. The system should work in coordination from the purchasing centers to the mills," the Additional Collector

clarified. State Civil Supplies General Manager Abhishek, DGM Irfan, Superintendent Idrish, Civil Supplies Officer Sudarshan, District Manager Mohan Krishna, District Cooperation Officer Nagarjuna, DCMS Branch Manager Venkatram Reddy, Additional DRDO Narsimlu, DPM Komuriah, Rice Millers Association Presidents Baleshwar Gupta, Sridhar Reddy, rice millers, and lorry transport contractors participated in this meeting.

### VILLAGE AND WARD MEETINGS TO SERVE AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE WELFARE MESSAGES MUST REACH EVERY HOUSEHOLD

Peddapalli: District Collector Koya Sriharsha has directed officials to transform the upcoming Gram Sabhas (Village Meetings) and Ward Sabhas into platforms for active public participation rather than mere official events. He emphasized the need for extensive awareness campaigns to ensure that government welfare and development initiatives reach every household in the district. The Collector was speaking at a district-level review meeting held at NTPC Kakatiya Function Hall on Wednesday as part of the Prajapalana – Pragathi Pranalika 99-Day Programme. Accompanied by Additional Collector (Local Bodies) Arunashree, he reviewed preparations for the conduct of Gram Sabhas and public awareness programmes with officials from various departments. ₹4 Lakh Ex-Gratia Assistance for Heatstroke Victims The Collector stated that the State Government is providing an ex-gratia payment of ₹4 lakh to the families of individuals who die due to heatstroke. He clarified that an FIR, postmortem report, and death certificate are mandatory for sanctioning the assistance. He instructed Panchayat Secretaries to create widespread awareness about the scheme at the grassroots level. Financial Support Through NFBS Referring to the National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS), the Collector said that eligible families are entitled to financial assistance of ₹20,000 in the event of the death of the primary breadwinner. Applications can be submitted through MeeSeva, and the approval process will be completed at the MPDO or Tahsildar level, he explained. Advance Planning for Farmers Amid El Niño Concerns In view of the possible impact of Super El Niño conditions and below-normal rainfall, the Collector directed Agriculture Department officials to educate farmers about alternative cropping patterns. He advised officials to provide phased action plans based on



rainfall conditions as of July 15, July 30, and August 15, helping farmers make informed cultivation decisions. Special Focus on Protection of Every Vote The Collector instructed officials to provide complete information about the SIR programme during Gram Sabhas. Details regarding voter registration, required documents, application procedures, and related guidelines should be clearly explained, and public queries should be addressed on the spot. Villages Must Become Centres for Disease Prevention With the onset of the monsoon season approaching, the Collector stressed the need to intensify sanitation measures to prevent diseases such as malaria and dengue. He directed officials to encourage greater public participation in the weekly Dry Day programme and conduct awareness campaigns on public health and hygiene. Preparedness for Heavy Rainfall Although rainfall may remain below normal, the possibility of sudden heavy rains cannot be ruled out, the Collector said. He instructed officials to prepare contingency plans in villages, undertake desilting of drainage canals, strengthen tank bunds, and expedite development works wherever necessary. The Collector concluded by stating that government objectives can be fully achieved only when Gram Sabhas evolve into effective platforms for addressing

### CYCLING CONTRIBUTES GREATLY TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

ADILABAD : Additional Collector of Local Bodies Rajeshwar said that cycling contributes greatly to environmental protection. As part of the ' Praja Palana - Pragathi Pranalika' Environment Week celebrations, a huge bicycle rally was organized by the Forest Department on Wednesday to commemorate World Bicycle Day with the slogan "Zero Fuel - Maximum Health" at the local Indira Priyadarshini Stadium. Local Bodies Additional Collector Rajeshwar and District Forest Officer Prashant Bajirao Patil attended as the chief guests and flagged off the rally. This cycle rally started from the district's Indira Priyadarshini Stadium and proceeded via Collector Chowk, NTR Chowk, Vinayak Chowk, Netaji Chowk and Ambedkar Chowk. Speaking on the occasion, Additional Collector Rajeshwar said that cycling is a great way to curb the increasing pollution and save fuel. He explained that everyone should get used to using bicycles to maintain ecological balance and improve health, and that daily cycling is an excellent exercise that is highly effective in improving heart health and reducing stress. He called on everyone to participate in the Environment Week celebrations. District Forest Officer Prashant Bajirao Patil said that this program was undertaken to create awareness among the people about environmental protection. He said that as part of this, a "5K Run" will be organized on June 7 (Sunday). The winners of this run will receive cash prizes of Rs. 5000, Rs. 3000, and Rs. 2000 respectively, and he urged the youth to participate in large numbers and achieve victory. Earlier, a human



garland was organized at the Indira Priyadarshini Stadium and awareness was created with slogans on environmental protection. DYSO Srinivas, FDO Arvind Kumar, Forest Range Officer Avinash, Forest Department staff, sportspersons, youth, students and others participated in this program.

### SCR General Manager Inspects Secunderabad Divisional Headquarters

Secunderabad: South Central Railway (SCR) General Manager Sanjay Kumar Srivastava on Wednesday conducted a detailed inspection of the Secunderabad Divisional Headquarters at Sanchalan Bhavan, Secunderabad. He was accompanied by Principal Heads of Departments of SCR, Divisional Railway Manager Dr. R. Gopalakrishnan, and other senior officials. The inspection assumes significance following the formation of the new South Coast Railway Zone on June 1, 2026, which resulted in a major administrative realignment of railway sections. The Wadi-Raichur section from Guntakal Division and the Pagidipalli-Vishnupuram-Janpahad section from Guntur Division have been brought under the jurisdiction of Secunderabad Division, while the Motumari-Kondapalli section has been merged with Vijayawada Division. To facilitate efficient train operations in the expanded network, two new Section Control Boards have been commissioned at the Divisional Control Office in addition to the existing six control boards. These facilities are expected to strengthen monitoring of passenger, express and freight train movements across the newly integrated sections. During his visit, the General Manager inspected the newly commissioned control boards and reviewed operational arrangements for handling train movements in the expanded jurisdiction. He stressed



the need for close coordination and continuous monitoring to ensure safe, efficient and punctual train operations. Srivastava also inspected the Traction Power Control Room, which oversees electrical supply and overhead equipment operations for locomotives and trains. He reviewed the integration of the newly added sections into the traction power control system and examined the telecom test room responsible for ensuring uninterrupted communication services.

Later, the General Manager participated in SONAR (Staff Orientation and New Administrative Realignment) at Hawamahal, Sanchalan Bhavan. He interacted with more than 30

supervisors, staff members and officers from various departments, including Operations, Commercial, Engineering, Signal & Telecommunications, Traction Distribution and Medical. Addressing the gathering, he described the administrative realignment as an opportunity for professional growth and assured employees of full support during the transition. He also stated that staff concerns would be addressed promptly to ensure smooth integration of the newly added sections. The inspection highlighted SCR's focus on strengthening operational efficiency, safety and coordination following the recent railway zone reorganization.

### DR. K. ARUNA PRIYA APPOINTED PRINCIPAL OF UCASS OF MGU



Nalgonda: Dr. K. Aruna Priya, Head of the Department of English of Mahatma Gandhi University (MGU) took charge as the Principal of the University College of Arts

and Social Sciences (UCASS) from Professor K. Anji Reddy on Wednesday. Dr Aruna Priya, who previously served as Principal and Additional

Controller, has once again assumed the responsibilities of Principal. Teachers and students congratulated her on her new assignment.

## Congress Focuses on Turning CM Revanth Reddy's Public Meeting in Jadcharla into a Show of Political

Mahabubnagar The Congress Party has taken Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's public meeting to be held in Jadcharla on the 5th of this month with great ambition. The party leadership is strategically moving forward to transform this meeting, which has attracted the attention of state politics, into a huge show of power that will showcase the strength of the Congress, not just a government event. In this context, State Excise and Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao himself visited the meeting premises being set up between Jadcharla and Gangapur and reviewed the arrangements. Keeping in mind the possibility of lakhs of people gathering, clear instructions were issued to the officials on parking, drinking water, electricity, traffic control and security measures. "This is not an ordinary meeting.. a meeting that reflects the aspirations of the people of Palamuru. A platform that will prove the level of Congress in state politics," said Jupally. He called on the party ranks to mobilize a large number of people from every village and every mandal and make the meeting a historic victory. Later, in a key meeting held at



the district Congress office, he directed the leaders and activists to show the world the faith of the people in the leadership of CM Revanth Reddy through this meeting. Now, government whip and Mahabubnagar MLA Yonnam Srinivas Reddy has severely criticized the BRS regime. "Palamuru projects have been neglected for ten years. Now, with the son of Palamuru taking charge as the Chief Minister, justice is being done for the district. The government is working rapidly towards a permanent solution to the problems of irrigation and drinking water," he said. The Congress leadership has set huge goals for the success of the meeting. It is reported that orders have been issued to mobilize at least 5 to 6 thousand workers

and people from each mandal, and 15 to 18 thousand people from the Mahabubnagar constituency to attend. While the Jadcharla Sabha has acquired special importance in state politics, the Congress ranks are promoting it as "People's support for the development of Palamuru - a symbol of faith in the Congress government". Political analysts are of the opinion that if a huge mobilization is held, the Congress's political dominance in the district is likely to be further strengthened. All eyes are now on the Jadcharla Sabha. The crowd seen in the Sabha premises... Will it become an indicator that will determine the direction of Palamuru politics in the coming days? The debate is going on in political circles.

## Massive arrangements for CM Revanth's public meeting in Jadcharla.. Minister Jupally, MLAs personally took the field

Mahabubnagar: The Congress party has taken the A. Revanth Reddy public meeting to be held in Jadcharla constituency on the 5th of this month with great pride. The party leadership, which accelerated the arrangements with the aim of mobilizing lakhs of people, successfully supervised the meeting at the field level. State Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, Whip and Mahbubnagar MLA Yennam Srinivas Reddy, Jadcharla MLA Janampally Anirudh Reddy, and District Congress President Sanjeev Mudiraj personally inspected the government meeting to be organized on the route from Jadcharla to Gangapur. The meeting was finalized and reviewed extensively with the officials. In view of the possibility of a large crowd gathering for the assembly, clear instructions have been issued to the officials on security arrangements, traffic control, parking facilities, drinking and medical camps, and necessary measures to ensure that the people do not face any difficulties. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Jupally Krishna Rao said, "This assembly will stand as another milestone in the government's programs for the development



of Palamuru. It is reported that the Chief Minister has called on every worker and every leader to work in coordination to make the assembly a historic success." Jadcharla MLA Anirudh Reddy also expressed full confidence in the success of the assembly and said that arrangements are being made for a large crowd from all over the constituency. District Collector Khushboo Gupta, SP D Janaki and various departments are reviewing the arrangements for the assembly. Congress focus on Palamuru..

Show of power with Jadcherla assembly In the wake of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's visit to Palamuru, the Congress party is moving strategically to turn the Jadcherla assembly into a show of power. Arrangements are being made for a massive public mobilization by coordinating activists across the district. Political sources are analyzing that this meeting, which will be held on June 5, will become crucial in the politics of the united Mahabubnagar district.

## Nirmal District Forest Department organized a grand bike rally

Nirmal : Good afternoon journalist friends. As a part of public governance-progress planning program, a grand bike rally was organized today under the auspices of the Nirmal District Forest Department. District Forest Officer Sushant Sukhadev Bobade, IFS flagged off the program. This bike rally started from District Forest Office and continued to Chincholi Urban Park via Manchiryal Chowrasta, Shantinagar Chowrasta, bus stand. In the rally, the staff of the district forest department and the townspeople participated

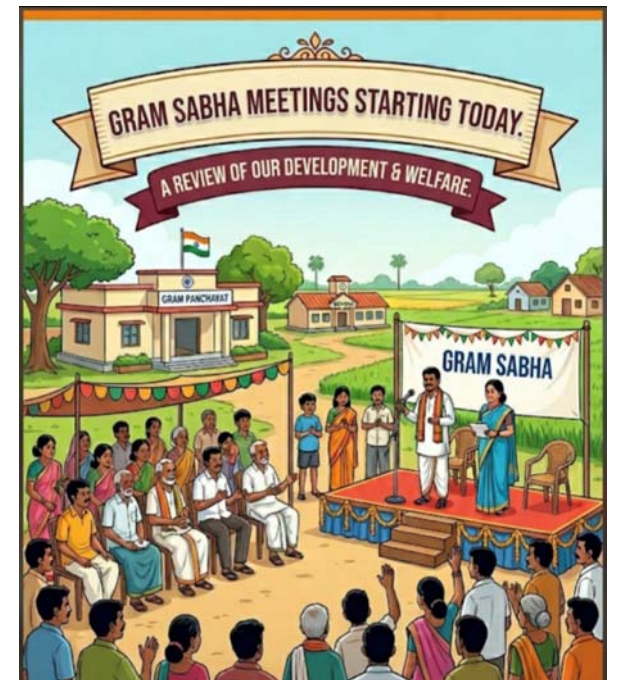


in large numbers and created awareness among the people by chanting slogans related to environmental protection. Speaking on this occasion, District Forest Officer Sushant Sukhdev

Bobade Garu called for the cultivation of plants to be carried out in the form of a large-scale movement. Also explained the importance of environment protection, wildlife protection. In this program Adam Nagini

## Gram Sabhas to be held across the state from today as per government orders

Kothapalli: The Telangana government has decided to conduct village and ward-level meetings across the state from June 4 to create greater public awareness about the welfare and development programmes being implemented by the government. Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao reviewed the arrangements during a video conference with district collectors on Tuesday. He directed officials to take all necessary measures to ensure the successful conduct of the meetings. Acting on the instructions of the Chief Minister, the Chief Secretary also asked officials to organize the concluding events of the 99-Day Praja Palana Pragati Programme in a grand manner. Along with environmental awareness initiatives, village and ward meetings will be held on June 4, 6, 8, and 10 in all villages, municipal wards, and municipal corporation divisions across the state. The Chief Secretary said the meetings would serve as an effective platform to educate citizens about various government welfare schemes and development programmes. He also instructed officials to inform the public about the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls being undertaken in accordance with the directions of the Election Commission. Officials were further directed to discuss the development of irrigation canals and the progress of major irrigation projects during the meetings. District administrations have



been asked to prepare detailed action plans to ensure that all meetings are completed within the prescribed four-day schedule. The government expects that the programme will strengthen public awareness about its initiatives and encourage greater community participation in development activities across Telangana.

## Peddapalli Tahsildar Office Paralyzed Due to Absence of Senior Assistant

Peddapalli: The Peddapalli Tahsildar Office, which plays a crucial role in providing revenue-related services to the public, is currently facing severe difficulties due to the absence of a Senior Assistant. Residents have expressed concern that numerous files are pending because no replacement has been appointed after Senior Assistant Rajireddy was transferred to Sircilla on deputation. Several essential services, including land-related matters, income certificates, caste certificates, inheritance applications, and various revenue permissions, are reportedly being delayed, forcing citizens to make repeated visits to the office. Local residents recall that during Rajireddy's tenure, files were processed efficiently and public grievances were addressed promptly. They describe him as an officer who treated people's problems as his own and worked diligently to resolve them without delay. With the Senior Assistant post remaining vacant, delays in key administrative processes have become increasingly common. Many residents believe that the



shortage of staff in the Revenue Department is adversely affecting the delivery of government services and causing inconvenience to the public. Public Demand Local residents are urging the government to cancel Rajireddy's deputation to Sircilla and repost him to the Peddapalli Tahsildar Office. If that is not possible, they request the immediate appointment of a qualified Senior Assistant to restore the smooth functioning of the office and ensure timely disposal of pending files. A Matter Requiring Government Attention Although the absence of a single employee may appear to be a minor issue, its impact is being

felt by thousands of citizens who depend on the Tahsildar Office for essential services. According to local residents, the current situation at the Peddapalli Tahsildar Office is a clear example of how the functioning of an entire office can be affected when a key position remains vacant. The public has appealed to the government to respond promptly by filling the vacant post and taking special measures to clear the backlog of pending files. Residents emphasize that addressing the staff shortage at the earliest is essential to ensure the uninterrupted delivery of revenue services and to prevent further inconvenience to the people.

## Technology Key to Crime Control: Government Whip Expansion of CCTV Surveillance Strengthens Public Safety

Peddapalli: Telangana Government Whip and Peddapalli MLA Chinthakunta Vijaya Ramana Rao stated that the effective use of modern technology is yielding positive results in crime prevention and the maintenance of law and order. On Wednesday, he inaugurated the newly constructed compound wall of the Peddapalli Police Station and a network of CCTV cameras installed to enhance public safety, in the presence of senior police officials. The event was attended by the Commissioner of Police (CP), Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), public representatives, and police officials. The Government Whip was accorded a warm welcome by the police officers. Later, he, along with the Commissioner of Police, distributed helmets to police personnel. Speaking on the occasion, Vijaya Ramana Rao said that CCTV cameras and digital technologies are playing a crucial role in identifying and apprehending suspects involved in thefts, murders, and other criminal activities at the earliest possible stage. He emphasized that the State Government is giving the highest priority to public safety and is providing the necessary infrastructure to strengthen the policing system. He stated that transparency is being maintained in the police department and that postings are being made without giving room for corruption. As a result, police stations are providing better services to the public. He noted that the police system has become more people-friendly compared



to previous years. The MLA praised the police officers and personnel of Peddapalli constituency for their relentless efforts in controlling crime and maintaining peace and security. He announced that new buildings would be constructed for four police stations in the district headquarters. He also assured that he would make every effort to secure a new building for the ACP office. He stressed that public cooperation is equally important in maintaining law and order and urged citizens to actively support the police by sharing information whenever necessary, thereby contributing to a safer society. Municipal Chairperson, councillors, sarpanches from various villages

## PMI Works at Koruprolu Substation to Affect Power Supply on June 05-//

Venkatgiri: The Andhra Pradesh Eastern Power Distribution Company Limited (APEPDCL) has announced a scheduled power shutdown in parts of the S. Rayavaram Section on June 5 to facilitate Preventive Maintenance Inspection (PMI) works at the Koruprolu 33/11 KV Substation. According to APEPDCL Executive Engineer S.Ramakrishna, power supply

through the Somudevapalli Feeder, TA Road Feeder and Konavanipalem Feeder will remain suspended from 8:00am to 2:00 pm on June 5 (Friday). The interruption will affect Koruprolu CID Industries, Chinna Uppalam Aqua Services, rice mills in Koruprolu, and the villages of Koruprolu, Timmapuram, Konavanipalem. Officials said the shutdown

is necessary to carry out maintenance works aimed at improving the reliability and efficiency of power supply in the region. Consumers in the affected areas have been advised to make alternative arrangements during the shutdown period and cooperate with the department for the successful completion of the works.

## Public Participation Vital for Greening Drive, Says Forest Official



Visakhapatnam: Visakhapatnam Sub-Divisional Forest Officer Kadali Sri Vani has called for greater public participation in seed ball initiatives to enhance green cover and strengthen environmental conservation efforts. Participating in a seed ball preparation programme organised by Cefha Trust and Green Ambassadors at Vanamitra, opposite the Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, on

Wednesday, Kadali Sri Vani said seed balls play a crucial role in expanding forest cover and restoring degraded landscapes. She urged citizens to actively take part in the seed ball campaign being promoted by the State government and stressed that environmental protection is a collective responsibility. Emphasising the importance of afforestation, she appealed to every individual to

plant and nurture at least ten saplings. Kadali Sri Vani also encouraged the use of seeds from indigenous fruit-bearing trees in seed ball preparation, stating that such efforts would help strengthen social forestry and contribute to ecological sustainability.

Speaking on the occasion, Cefha Trust Chief Executive Officer Shashiprabha said Green Ambassadors have been preparing seed balls and dispersing them across hillocks and forest areas every year since 2006. She called upon students and youth to actively participate in conserving natural resources and protecting the environment. Forest Range Officer V.Lavanya, Section Officer Yella Rao, Green Climate Team NGO Founder-Secretary J.V.Ratnam and several environmental volunteers participated in the programme.

## Inappropriate Behavior Towards Minority Woman: Action Must Be Taken Against Police Officer

Nandigama | Former MLA Dr. Mondithoka Jaganmohan Rao has demanded that strict action be taken against a police officer who behaved inappropriately towards a young woman belonging to the Muslim minority community. Accompanied by the victim, he lodged a formal complaint at the Nandigama Police Station. Speaking to the media subsequently, he urged officials to take the incident involving the minority woman seriously and to conduct an impartial inquiry. He asserted that legal action must be initiated against those



responsible to ensure justice for the victim. He further remarked that it is deeply concerning when officials—who are entrusted with the responsibility of providing protection to the

public are themselves found engaging in such acts. Leaders and activists of the YSR Congress Party, along with leaders from the Muslim minority community, participated in the event.

## Honesty of Traffic Police in Nandigama\* \*Purse Containing Rs 6,000 in Cash and Documents Found on Bus Handed Over to Owner

Nandigama | The Nandigama Traffic Police have once again reaffirmed the public's trust through their honest and responsible conduct. They promptly located a purse found on a bus and handed it over to its rightful owner—a woman—along with



the cash and valuable documents contained within. According to the details, Constables Koteswara Rao, Raviteja, and Sivaramakrishna of the Nandigama Traffic Police Station discovered a purse on a bus while traveling to Vijayawada to perform security duty. Upon completing their duties and returning to Nandigama, they reported the discovery to Traffic Sub-Inspector (SI) Naresh. The purse contained Rs 6,000 in

cash, an Aadhaar card, and other valuable documents. Using the details found on the Aadhaar card, the police identified and contacted the owner. Vijayabharathi, a resident of Vijayawada, had been traveling from Jaggayapeta to Vijayawada when she disembarked in Nandigama to attend to some work. Although she did not realize she had lost her purse at that moment, she returned home in distress later when

she discovered it was missing. Amidst this situation, she was overjoyed when Traffic SI Naresh contacted her via phone to convey the news. On Wednesday, she visited the Nandigama Traffic Police Station and retrieved her purse, expressing her deep appreciation for the police's honesty and spirit of service. SI Naresh specially commended Constables Koteswara Rao, Raviteja, and Shivaramakrishna for their honest conduct.

## TMiles to Walk, Water to Fetch: Tribal Families Battle Scarcity In Ananthagiri

Visakhapatnam: Tribal residents of Gumudupadu village in Ananthagiri mandal are facing severe hardships due to the lack of access to safe drinking water. With no reliable water source available in the village, families are being forced



to walk long distances every day to fetch water from natural springs and streams. Around 10 tribal families residing in the village have been struggling to meet their daily water needs, raising concerns over their health and well-being. The villagers said the ongoing water scarcity has made their lives increasingly difficult, particularly during the summer months. Tribal Protection Committee Mandal President Somela Swami

visited the village and assessed the situation. Following his visit, villagers and committee leaders urged the authorities to take immediate steps to provide a permanent drinking water facility for the hamlet.

They emphasized that access to safe drinking water is a basic necessity and called upon the administration to address the long-pending issue on a priority basis to ensure a better quality of life for the tribal community.

## YSRCP Meeting in Nandigama – Call to Ensure Success of “Two Years of Betrayal” Programs

Nandigama | Former MLA Dr. Mondithoka Jaganmohan Rao held a meeting with party leaders and activists at the YSR Congress Party office in Nandigama. Speaking on the occasion, he issued a call to widely publicize the “Two Years of Betrayal” (Vennupotuku Rendellu) campaign among the public; this campaign is being organized to mark the completion of two years since the coalition government assumed power, in response to a call given by Party President Y.S.Jagan Mohan Reddy. He criticized the coalition government, stating that it has completely failed to implement the promises made to the people during the elections. He instructed party cadres to explain the ground realities to the public regarding the implementation of promises outlined in the TDP manifesto and the “Super Six” schemes. Subsequently, Dr. Jaganmohana



Rao, accompanied by other party leaders, unveiled a poster related to the “Two Years of Betrayal” campaign.

He urged party leaders and activists to work in coordination to ensure the success of various events: protest programs at Mandal headquarters on June 4, indoor meetings on June 8 or 9, and massive rallies on June 12. He stated that the YSR Congress Party, which has been continuously fighting for public issues, will

stand firmly on the side of the people and expose the failures of the government. He added that through these programs, the party intends to not only highlight the coalition government's failures to the public but also further intensify its struggle regarding public issues.

YSR Congress Party leaders, activists, women leaders, and representatives from the party's affiliated wings participated in this meeting.

## Distribution of Land Passbooks to 878 Farmers

Presented by MLA Tangirala Soumya in Gandepalli Government Reiterates Commitment to Protecting Farmers' Land Rights



During a program held on Wednesday in Gandepalli village, MLA Tangirala Soumya distributed land passbooks—bearing the official government seal—to 878 farmers following the completion of the land resurvey process. Accompanied by officials and leaders of the ruling alliance, she personally handed over the passbooks to the farmers. Speaking on the occasion, the MLA stated that the alliance government places the utmost priority on the welfare of farmers. She affirmed that the government is taking concrete measures not only to protect farmers'

land rights but also to ensure complete security for their landholdings. She emphasized that society can only progress if farmers prosper, noting that it is the fruit of the farmers' hard labor that provides food for every household. She highlighted the government's success in resolving land ownership disputes and issues through the resurvey process, thereby establishing clear and undisputed rights for farmers. She added that by creating transparent land records, the government has instilled a sense of confidence and trust among the farming

community. The farmers who received their passbooks expressed their delight and gratitude to the government for completing the resurvey and issuing the passbooks within such a short timeframe. They remarked that this initiative stands as a testament to the government's administrative efficiency. The event witnessed the participation of Koganti Venkata Satyanarayana Babu, officials from various government departments, public representatives, alliance leaders, and a large number of farmers.

## Chola MS reports Rs.8,904 cr GWP in FY26

Chennai: Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Company Ltd. (Chola MS), a joint venture between the Murugappa Group and Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Group (Japan), has recorded a Gross Written Premium (GWP) of Rs 8,904 crore for the 2025-26 fiscal.

Releasing its financial performance for the financial year 2025-26, a company statement on Thursday said it recorded a GWP of Rs 8,904 crore for FY26, compared to Rs 8,327 crore in the previous year, an increase of 6.9% for the year.

For the quarter, the GWP stood at Rs 2,348 crore as against Rs 2,134 crore in the corresponding quarter of last year, an increase of 10%.

The Profit Before Tax (PBT) for the quarter stood at Rs 99.25 crore and for the financial year, PBT was Rs 445 crore.

The net worth, as on March 31, 2026, stood at Rs 3,329 crore with 88% of the net worth from accumulated profits.

The Return on Equity (RoE), on average net worth, for the year was 10.45 per cent, while



the company's investment corpus was over Rs 19,000 crore, reflecting a well-diversified portfolio. The solvency margin stood at 1.96 times, comfortably above the regulatory requirement of 1.5 times.

In line with its focus on deepening rural reach, the company generated business from 2,13,264 Gram Panchayats across the country, covering over 62 lakh units/lives.

Chola MS continued to strengthen its customer and partner ecosystem, adding to OEM tie-ups, bancassurance partners and retaining all existing bancassurance relationships. As part of its ongoing digital transformation journey, the company continues to

enhance technology capabilities across multiple customer touchpoints. The rollout of advanced, cloud-enabled claims solutions in the motor insurance segment has improved operational agility and enabled faster, more efficient claim processing, in line with evolving customer expectations. Commenting on the performance, Mr. V. Suryanarayana, Managing Director, said: "We remain focused on growing the business, building a balanced and resilient portfolio, expanding distribution reach, continue prudent reserving practices, and consistently improving on policyholder service experiences. We sincerely thank our customers, partners, em-

## Invest India facilitates projects over USD 6.1 bn in FY2025-26, generating 31,000 jobs

New Delhi: Invest India has facilitated the grounding of 60 projects worth over USD 6.1 billion during FY2025-26, according to a Commerce Ministry statement here on Thursday.

These investments span 14 states and have the potential to generate more than 31,000 jobs.

Amardeep Singh Bhatia, secretary of DPIIT, said, "India's investment momentum is a direct outcome of policy clarity, institutional commitment, and the trust global investors place in our systems."

Bhatia noted that USD 6.1 billion invested by Invest India in FY 2025-26 reflects the strength of India's regulatory environment and the depth of its economic transformation.

About 42 pc of the total grounded investment value is generated from European countries, which shows the strengthening of India-Europe economic linkages.

Apart from this, the participation from the United States, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and other key source markets affirms broad-based international confidence in India's regulatory environment and manufacturing capabilities.

There are some emerging contributors such as Brazil, New Zealand, and Canada.

Sharing insights on the performance, Nivruti Rai, MD and CEO of Invest India, said, "These outcomes reflect a shift in Invest India's role towards becoming a strategic investment partner."

"The three-fold growth in grounded investments and the creation of over 31,000 jobs demonstrate the impact of coordinated policy support, institutional agility, and investor confidence. Invest India remains committed to sustaining this momentum as India progresses towards Viksit Bharat 2047," Rai added.

If the sectoral trends are seen, then chemicals, pharmaceuticals & biotechnology, and food processing sectors account for approximately 65 per cent of grounded investments, driven by high-value projects aligned with India's manufacturing and value-addition priorities. Additionally, emerging sectors were Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM), Aerospace and Defence, and Auto/EV. These results are due to Invest India's strengthening of end-to-end facilitation across the investment



cycle from early-stage advisory to post-investment aftercare.

The investments are spread through different states, such as Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Andhra Pradesh emerged as key hubs driven by high-value projects. Established destinations such as Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Haryana, and Delhi continued to anchor major investment inflows.

In terms of employment generation, Madhya Pradesh emerged as the leading state, followed by Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana, and Maharashtra.

On the other hand, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh recorded strong grounding activity.

Invest India has adopted a networked ecosystem approach by engaging with investors, suppliers, buyers, and extended value chains to build integrated industrial ecosystems.

Additionally, it is also supporting foreign companies in exploring alternative entry routes, such as joint ventures, by facilitating partnerships with credible domestic players.

These interventions resulted in improved investment conversion and scale. Resultantly, grounded investments have registered nearly threefold growth over FY 2024-25, while the average deal size has increased by 1.8 times

## MINISTER GADKARI BETS ON INFRA PUSH TO CUT LOGISTICS COST TO 9PC



New Delhi: Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on Thursday presented the 57th National Awards for Export Excellence, lauding India's engineering exporters for their resilience and reaffirming the government's push towards infrastructure, innovation, and sustainability to boost global competitiveness.

Addressing the award ceremony organised

by EEPC India here, Gadkari underlined that the rapid expansion of road infrastructure is set to significantly reduce logistics costs in the country.

"Earlier, logistics costs in India were as high as 16pc of GDP. Recent studies suggest this has already come down to around 10pc. With the pace at which we are developing road infrastructure, I am confident it will fall further to 9pc," he said, adding that 36 green express highways currently under development would transform the logistics landscape.

Highlighting the critical role of the engineering sector, the minister said it remains a cornerstone of India's economic growth—driving exports, generating employment, and strengthening industrial capacity.

Engineering goods accounted for the largest share of India's merchandise exports in FY26 at 27.71pc, with outbound shipments touching a record USD 122.43 billion despite global disruptions.

Gadkari also struck an optimistic note on

the future of India's automobile industry, describing it as the "heart of the economy."

He pointed out that the sector has already overtaken Japan to become the world's third-largest and expressed confidence that it could rise to the top position within five years, driven by advancements in alternative fuels, biofuels, and electric mobility.

He noted growing global interest in manufacturing from India, recalling that leading automakers, including Mercedes-Benz, are increasingly looking at the country as a hub for electric vehicle production and exports.

Calling hydrogen "the fuel of the future," Gadkari urged industries to adopt cleaner transport solutions, particularly the use of electric trucks for moving goods from factories to ports, as part of a broader push towards sustainability.

Emphasising the link between exports and employment, the minister said boosting outbound shipments is key to job creation, higher incomes, and poverty reduction.

Earlier, welcoming participants, EEPC In-

## Rupee breaches 95 mark amid rising oil prices due to US-Iran tensions

New Delhi: The Indian rupee extended its losing streak on Wednesday, breaching the crucial 95 mark against the US dollar, weighed down by rising global uncertainties due to US-Iran tensions and surging crude oil prices.

The Indian currency slipped sharply to 95.39 against the dollar around 12:20 pm, compared to its previous close of approximately 94.85, reflecting mounting pressure in the forex market.

Market sentiment remained fragile amid the uncertain outcome of ongoing peace talks

between the United States and Iran, with no clear resolution in sight.

On Thursday, the stock market also witnessed a fall with Sensex and Nifty both fell by more than 1pc till 12:00 pm. Sensex came at 76,639.47 after falling by 856.89 points, and Nifty witnessed a fall of 258.50 points and came at 23,919.15.

The prolonged geopolitical tension has heightened concerns over global oil supply disruptions, adding to the rupee's woes.

Further compounding the



situation, Brent crude prices surged past the USD 114 per barrel mark on Wednesday, intensifying inflationary fears for oil-importing countries like India. A sustained rise in crude prices typically widens the trade deficit and exerts ad-

## APEDA signs 70-year lease agreement to setup Basmati & organic centre in UP

New Delhi: The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has signed a 70-year lease agreement with the Government of Uttar Pradesh to transfer the land for the establishment of a Basmati & Organic Training Centre-cum-Demo Farm at Tanda Bijaisi, Pilibhit. Under the agreement, the Basmati & Organic Training Centre-cum-Demo Farm will be developed over an area of approximately seven acres. The centre will be equipped with facilities including an auditorium, museum, and gallery on Basmati and organic farming, a conference room, a laboratory, and storage space for organic farming inputs. The

facility is expected to support training and capacity building for Basmati and organic farmers, and also serve as a resource centre for agricultural experts and students, according to a Commerce and Industry Ministry statement. Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasad appreciated the initiative and highlighted the potential of Pilibhit as a major Basmati-producing region, and emphasised the importance of expanding organic cultivation and called for greater farmer engagement. MoS Prasad suggested incorporating an AI-based interactive museum at the centre to provide information and experiential learning for visitors and



students, along with establishing a dedicated outlet for quality Basmati seeds and organic inputs for farmers. He also unveiled India's first AI-based Basmati Paddy Survey project (2026-2028), to be implement-

ed by APEDA in collaboration with the All-India Rice Exporters Association (AIREA). As per the information shared by the ministry, the project will cover nearly 4 million hectares, collect data from over 150,000

## Motilal Oswal reports 25pc surge in Q4FY26 earnings Y-o-Y

New Delhi: Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd (MOFSL) reported its highest quarterly and annual operating PAT of Rs 661 crore in Q4FY26, which is a growth of 25pc Y-o-Y, said a MOFSL statement released here on Wednesday. The annual operating profit after taxation (PAT) in FY 26 was Rs 2,360 crore which is a growth of 16pc on Y-o-Y basis. This performance is driven by strong growth in Asset & Private Wealth Management (PWM) business.

According to company data, in Q4FY25 the operating PAT was Rs 527 crore and in FY25 it stood at Rs 2,029 crore.

The company reported strong growth in Asset Management (PAT up 55pc YoY, AUM Rs 1.76 lakh Cr) and Private Wealth (PAT up 15pc, AUM Rs 1.97 lakh Cr).

Capital Markets PAT rose 30pc to Rs 336 Cr, while Housing Finance grew 22pc to Rs159 Cr with ADB backing. Wealth Management saw mixed results, with FY PAT



down 7pc despite higher brokerage and distribution growth. Overall FY26 consolidated PAT (incl. OCI) stood at Rs 2,043 crore, tempered by treasury mark-to-

## TELANGANA GOVT TAKES OVER HYDERABAD METRO RAIL FROM L&T

Hyderabad: In a major development, the Telangana government has taken over Phase-I operations of the Hyderabad Metro Rail from Larsen & Toubro through a formal agreement executed on Wednesday. The takeover was completed through Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited (HMRL), with the government acquiring 100 per cent shares of L&T Metro Rail (Hyderabad) Limited (LTM-RHL) for an equity value of Rs 1,461.47 crore.

The agreement was signed at the State Secretariat in the presence of senior officials, including Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao and Special



Chief Secretary Jayesh Ranjan.

Under the agreement, the existing debt of Rs 13,538.53 crore will be refinanced with the Telangana government's

guarantee. The deal is expected to enable better coordination in planning, expansion and service delivery of the metro network. Operational since November 2017, Phase-I of the

Hyderabad Metro spans 69 km across three corridors and currently serves around 4.5 lakh passengers daily. So far, the system has recorded nearly 86 crore passenger journeys.

Officials said the government takeover will help improve passenger services and accelerate future expansion, including Phase-II projects, with a focus on building a more integrated and commuter-friendly metro network. Ahead of the agreement, L&T Chairman and MD S N Subrahmanyam met Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and discussed key aspects related to the transition, an official statement said.

## West asia crisis affected India's industrial performance in early FY27: Monthly Economic Review

New Delhi: West Asia crisis has weighed on India's industrial performance in early FY27 with the fertiliser sector bearing the brunt of disruptions to gas and chemical supplies, said Monthly Economic Review (MER) released by the Department of Economic Affairs here on Wednesday.

The monthly economic assessment released by the finance ministry noted that business activity has been softened and e-way bill has fallen from its near 30 per cent peak in November 2025, despite absolute numbers reaching record levels in March this year.

Some indicators pointed towards the supply-side moderation in March, while demand-side indicators are resilient. "India's policy response to date has demonstrated an ability to manage immediate disruptions without losing sight of long-term priorities," said MER.

Coming on the inflationary dynamics, the report noted that it remains moderate at CPI 3.4 per cent in March which is aided by robust policy measures. The report warned that if supply disruptions persist, it will lead to a spike in consumer inflation.

"Monetary policy has therefore maintained a cautious stance, keeping the repo

rate unchanged at 5.25 per cent while closely monitoring the second-round effects"

"As of March 31, 2026, bank credit has grown by 17 per cent year-on-year, although the ongoing West Asia crisis has slightly dampened bankers' optimism regarding loan demand and terms for Q1 FY27" the report said, highlighting the country's banking health.

In FY26, trade performance remained resilient despite a volatile environment as total exports increased by 4.2 per cent Y-o-Y, touching the mark of USD 860.1 billion.

Non-petroleum exports hit the mark of USD 387.8 billion, which is historic, while services exports also touched USD 418.3 billion.

However, west asia crisis affected the trade numbers of March as total exports and imports reduced by 4.6 and 5.7 per cent respectively.

On growth predictions, the MER quoted the IMF's report and said, "India remains a relative bright spot with the IMF revising India's 2026 GDP growth upward to 6.5 per cent."

India's domestic demand, policy buffers, resilient financial system, and sustained



public investment provide some insulation in the ongoing west asia crisis.

The report warned that "prolonged uncertainty about energy and fertiliser supply" is an important question.

MER also warned about El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO), which is expected to keep India's southwest monsoon below normal, and most rainfall districts are expected to receive below-normal rainfall this season.

So, the risks are tilted to the upside for the inflation, fiscal, and external deficits and to the downside for economic growth.

However, while striving to sustain economic growth, policy is expected to safeguard medium-term fiscal and external stability, the report concluded.

## In a nutshell

**12 killed in Lanka care home blaze**

**COLOMBO:** At least 12 people were killed and seven others injured after a fire broke out at an elderly care home in Sri Lanka, police said Thursday. The blaze erupted at around 5:30 pm on Wednesday at the elderly care home in Kalutara district's Angurawatota, about 65 km southeast of Colombo. Police said 10 residents were found dead at the premises.

**India, Venezuela eye energy deal**

**NEW DELHI:** India and Venezuela vowed to set up a long-term energy partnership building on their complementarities as PM Narendra Modi held extensive talks with Venezuelan Acting President Delcy Rodriguez focusing on economic ties including in critical minerals, pharmaceuticals, agriculture and automobiles. Rodriguez kicked off a five-day visit to India on Wednesday. PTI

**Revised land values from today**

**HYDERABAD:** Telangana Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy said the State government is introducing comprehensive reforms in the Revenue Department to ensure transparent services to the people. Reddy, who inspected works of sub-registrar office at Gachibowli, said government has revised land values without imposing any burden on the people.

# BRS alleges Rs 1,600 cr scam in SCCL records

**Seeks probe; terms Balka Suman's arrest a diversion tactic amid alleged irregularities**

STATE BUREAU  
HYDERABAD

BRS working president KT Rama Rao has alleged that nearly 40 lakh metric tonnes of coal, valued at around Rs 1,600 crore, had been shown in Singareni records without actual mining operations being carried out. He demanded answers from both the State government and the Centre, which holds a 49 per cent stake in SCCL.

Speaking to newsmen after meeting former legislator Balka Suman in Chanchalguda jail on Thursday, Rama Rao said he would write to union Coal and Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy seeking a probe into the scandal. He pointed out that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy had been maintaining silence over the alleged scam.

The BRS working president termed the arrest of Balka Suman as politically motivated. He said the Congress government framed Suman to divert public attention from alleged irregularities in the Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL).

Rama Rao pointed out that the BRS had been exposing several major scams



**BRS HAS BEEN EXPOSING SEVERAL MAJOR SCAMS SINCE CONG CAME TO POWER, INCLUDING ALLEGED Rs 15,000 CRORE SITE VISITATION CERTIFICATE FRAUD**  
—KT RAMA RAO

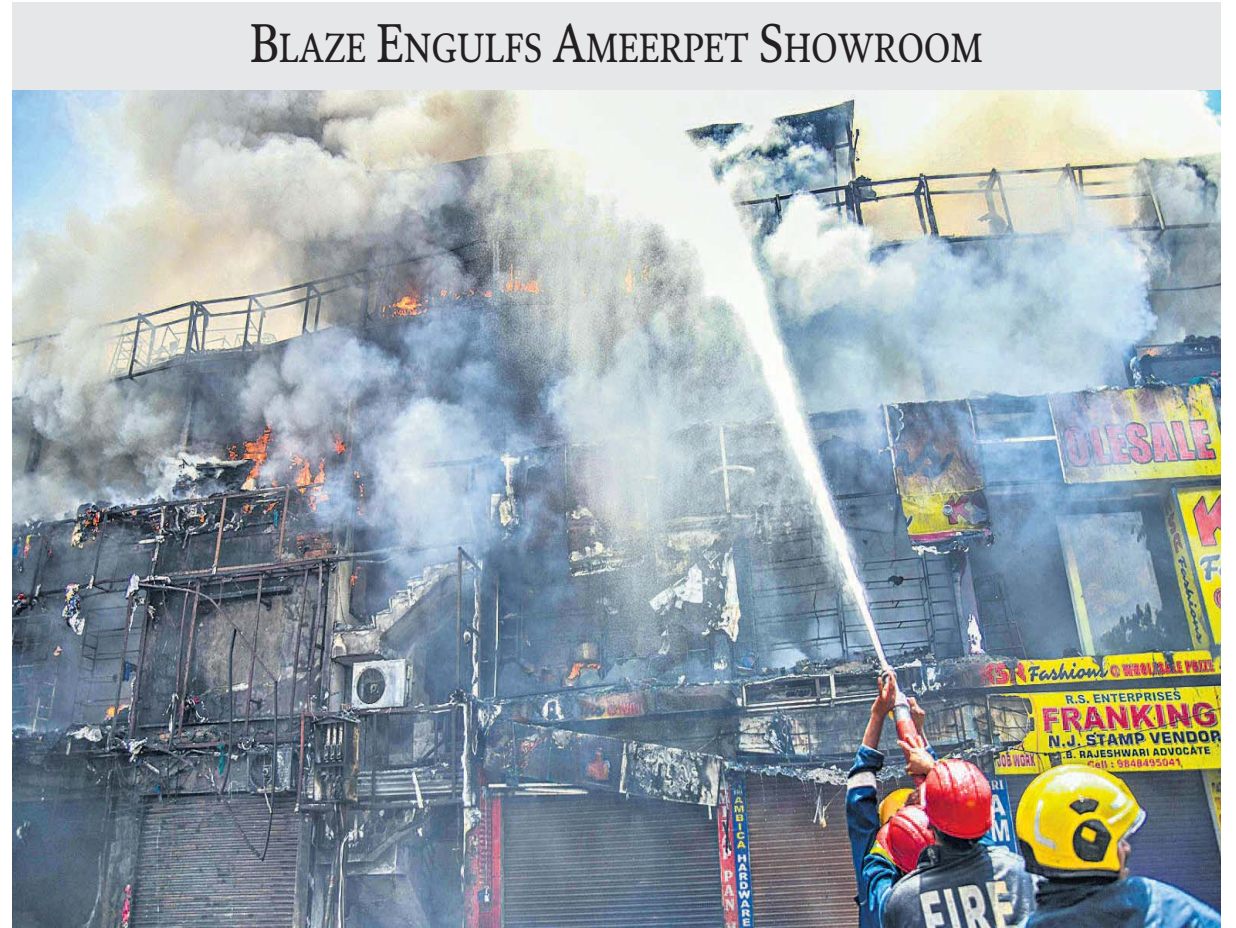
since the Congress came to power, including an alleged Rs 15,000 crore Site Visitation Certificate fraud involving Chief Minister's brother-in-law and irregularities in solar tenders raised by BRS leader T Harish Rao.

He said Suman was booked under the PDPP Act and jailed for supporting Singareni workers and raising irregularities within the coal company. He pointed out that even the court questioned the police excess and struck down some of the

sections invoked against the former MLA. Accusing the government of maintaining double standards, Rama Rao reminded that no action was taken against Revanth Reddy as the then PCC president, when he called for bombing of Pragathi Bhavan, or when union Minister Bandi Sanjay threatened a surgical strike on Hyderabad's Old City.

Rama Rao also said the Congress government failed Singareni workers by not convening the Medical Board for compassionate appointments for nearly 11 months. Instead, he said Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka announced a vigilance inquiry into around 19,000 succession jobs provided during the BRS regime, causing unnecessary anxiety among workers' families.

He said Suman remained defiant and had urged party leaders to continue fighting for the rights of Singareni employees rather than worry about his imprisonment. "Jails and cases are nothing new to us," he added, asserting that the BRS would continue its campaign until the alleged irregularities are brought to light.



A firefighting operation underway to control a fire that broke out at a helmet showroom in Hyderabad on Thursday. — Photo: PTI

## Rajesh Exports faces scrutiny

**Failed to ground proposed Rs 24,000 cr TG project: Officials**

STATE BUREAU  
Hyderabad

The unfolding controversy surrounding Bengaluru-based Rajesh Exports following SEBI restrictions has brought focus on how the company leveraged its global reputation and its selection in the union government's flagship Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme to secure high-profile investment agreements across States, without eventually grounding any of the marquee projects it announced.

**PLI scheme**  
Rajesh Exports, a Fortune Global 500 company and one of the world's largest gold refiners, was selected by the BJP-led union government in March 2022 as

**Controversy around the tainted firm intensifies after SEBI curbs; raises questions over how the company leveraged its PLI selection to announce large-scale investment plans that failed to materialise**

one of the successful bidders under the Rs 18,100-crore PLI scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) battery storage. The selection, made after a competitive process involving several major companies, gave the firm significant credibility.

Riding on this recognition, the company approached the then BRS government in June 2022 with a proposal to establish an AMOLED Display FAB unit in Telangana with a projected investment of Rs 24,000 crore. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed, but officials maintain that it was only an expression of intent, with all incentives linked to actual project execution.

**Agreement lapsed**  
According to senior officials, the Telangana government neither allotted land nor released any financial incentive to the company. As the project failed to progress beyond the proposal stage, the agreement automatically lapsed. "The company was expected to ground the

project within two years, but it kept delaying and eventually stopped responding," a top official of the Industries Department said.

Interestingly, even as the Telangana proposal remained on paper, Rajesh Exports went on to execute another high-profile agreement in January 2023 with the union government and the BJP government in Karnataka for setting up a lithium-ion battery manufacturing facility under the same PLI programme.

As the company failed to establish its unit within the stipulated two years, it sought an extension in May last year. But the Centre rejected the request and levied penalties as per the agreement.

(SEE PAGE 2)

## DMK to skip I.N.D.I.A bloc meet on June 8

NEW DELHI

The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam is unlikely to participate in the I.N.D.I.A bloc meeting scheduled to be held in New Delhi on June 8, sources said on Thursday. The party has said it would not take part in the

meeting to be attended by around 15 opposition parties, including the main opposition Congress, according to the sources.

Senior leaders of the opposition I.N.D.I.A bloc are scheduled to meet together and discuss their joint strategy to take on the BJP-led

government and reinforce opposition unity.

TMC supremo and former West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee, party general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi

and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge are among those likely to attend the meeting, as per the sources. The development follows a dramatic shift in Tamil Nadu's political landscape after the Assembly elections. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Southwest monsoon reaches Kerala

NEW DELHI

The southwest monsoon set over Kerala on Thursday, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). Typically, the monsoon arrives in Kerala around June 1, which marks the beginning of the Southwest monsoon season (June-September).

"The southwest monsoon has further advanced into the remaining parts of southwest and southeast Arabian Sea, some parts of westcentral and eastcentral Arabian Sea, entire Lakshadweep islands, Kerala and Mahe, some parts of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, remaining parts of Comorin



A person stands at Valaiyathura coast in Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday. — Photo: PTI

area, southeast Bay of Bengal and some more parts of southwest, westcentral, eastcentral and northeast

Bay of Bengal today the 4th June, 2026," the IMD said. Previously, the weather department had predicted

that the monsoon would begin over Kerala on May 26; however, the arrival was delayed. PTI

## Ebola: Sudanese shifted to Gandhi isolation ward

CITY BUREAU  
Hyderabad

A male passenger from Sudan, who arrived at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA), Shamshabad, was shifted to the recently established Ebola isolation centre at Gandhi Hospital on Thursday.

Airport health authorities detected that the Sudanese passenger had a fever, when he passed through thermal scanners installed at RGIA.

According to doctors at Gandhi Hospital, the passenger from Sudan, who also has a travel history to Uganda, had reached Hyderabad to undergo a surgery in a private hospital in the city.

(SEE PAGE 2)

## Harish seeks safeguards against Polavaram backwaters

STATE BUREAU  
Hyderabad

BRS deputy floor leader T Harish Rao has urged the Polavaram Project Authority (PPA) to take immediate measures to protect Bhadrachalam and surrounding areas from the growing threat posed by backwaters from the Polavaram project. He demanded immediate compensation and permanent rehabilitation for families repeatedly affected by floods.

He wrote a letter to PPA Chief Executive Officer which was handed over by BRS leaders from Bhadrachalam and Pinapaka to PPA authorities touring Bhadrachalam. In his letter, Harish Rao cautioned that Bhadrachalam would face a

### PPA, CWC OFFICIALS ASSESS PROJECT IMPACT IN KOTHAGUDEM

**KOTHAGUDEM:** Even as there has been an ambiguity over the exact extent of land that would be submerged in Telangana due to Polavaram backwaters, officials of the Polavaram Project Authority (PPA) and the Central Water Commission (CWC) toured the district to assess the impact of the project. Sarpanches, elected members and MLAs representing the affected areas in Kothagudem district met PPA CEO Sanjeev Vohra and submitted representations seeking assessment of the losses likely to be suffered by farmers in the district. In view of alleged efforts by the PPA to demonstrate lesser area under the tributaries of River Godavari that would be submerged due to the project's backwaters, farmers and common public in Burgampahad, Bhadrachalam, Aswapuram, Manuguru, Pinapaka and other areas sought a comprehensive survey to ensure justice for affected persons. (SEE PAGE 2)

permanent flood risk once the project is completed, as the full reservoir level of Polavaram project and the first flood warning level at Bhadrachalam are both 45.72 metres. He reminded that after the Polavaram cofferdam was com-

pleted in 2021, backwaters caused extensive flooding in 2022, submerging nearly 40 per cent of Bhadrachalam and affecting over one lakh people in Bhadrachalam, Burgampahad and Sarapaka. (SEE PAGE 2)

## US deports H-1B visa holder, 3 Indian students

YUVRAJ AKULA  
Hyderabad

Four Indians - three students and a H-1B visa holder - were reportedly deported from the United States after border police flagged alleged visa violations, including working remotely.

The development, which was shared via a Facebook page, occurred at the Atlanta Airport on June 1. The H-1B visa holder, as per the post that intended to create awareness among individu-

als reaching the US, travelled to India for a visa appointment scheduled in the month of January 2026. However, the appointment was rescheduled for December 2027.

The applicant raised a request for an emergency appointment, which was scheduled in the last week of April. Following visa approval in May, the H-1B holder returned to the US and on arrival, was taken for a second inspection by the US Customs and Border

Protection (CBP) officers. Citing information received from a traveller, the post said the CBP officers reviewed the H-1B visa holder's laptop, pay stubs and bank transactions besides questioning the activities while in India. In response, the H-1B holder reportedly informed them about being on PTO (paid time off) for three weeks and working remotely for the remaining time.

The officers then questioned why the H-1B holder

had been working from India for such a long period while on the H-1B status.

Informing that the H-1B holder was not supposed to work from India for an extended duration, the officers denied an entry and sent the person back.

The post further claimed that three students were also deported during the same period. The students claimed that they had not done anything illegal, but there were disagreements during their interaction with

officers, the post said, adding that details could not be independently verified.

Another post this month highlighted how CBP officers were questioning students regarding their part-time work at US entry points. "I was told that last month, around 10 students were questioned regarding part-time work and were later deported," the post read.

Individuals travelling to the US have been asked to follow visa rules in toto.

CITY BUREAU  
Hyderabad

In a major bust, Telangana anti-narcotics agency, EAGLE Force, busted an international hydroponic cannabis smuggling racket allegedly operated by individuals linked to the underworld and arrested around 20 persons, including the masterminds and drug carriers.

Around 13 kg of high-quality hydroponic cannabis was seized in the

operation carried out over a period of two months by around 50 officers of the EAGLE Force.

**Hunt on for suspects**  
Efforts are on to nab over 100 persons, including US nationals, who are allegedly associated with the syndicate.

Sandeep Shandilya, Director, EAGLE Force, said that based on a tip-off from the Customs Department that an individual, Harshad Mansukh Bhai Prajapathi,

a native of Gujarat, had managed to exit the RGIA, Shamshabad, undetected while carrying 12.739 kg of hydroponic cannabis, an operation was launched.

"A case was registered at the Cyberabad Narcotics Police Station and special teams caught Sandeep Jay Prakash Vaswani alias Rahul Jain and Harshad Mansukh Bhai Prajapathi at Ramachandrapuram bus stand with 12.739 kg of hydroponic ganja," he said. (SEE PAGE 2)

## TRIED TO DISSUADE BHARAT FROM RETIRING, BUT HE WAS HELL-BENT ON MOVING ON, SAYS PRASAD

New Delhi, June 4 : Former India wicketkeeper and chief selector MSK Prasad on Thursday said he had tried convincing KS Bharat not to retire from international cricket, but the Andhra player was 'hell-bent on moving on,' describing the decision as both surprising and unfortunate. In a surprise development on Thursday evening, wicketkeeper-batter KS Bharat announced his retirement from international cricket at the age of 32. Bharat first got an India call-up in November 2019 but made his Test debut in February 2023 after Rishabh Pant was sidelined due to recovery from his injuries suffered in a life-threatening car accident. "I am aware of it because this was very, very surprising to me. I even tried to speak to him, but somehow he said that I am moving on. Because I have seen him growing from the under-13 age group, it was really shocking to me when he said this. But what to do, it is very unfortunate. "In fact, I also made my retire-

ment at 31 and a half, but he has made up his mind now. So, probably he felt that he needed to move on, and probably he wants to focus on something else. I tried my level best to convince him and even spoke to him, but he is hell-bent on moving on," Prasad told IANS in an exclusive conversation on Thursday. Bharat is also remembered for taking two catches and effecting one stumping when Wriddhiman Saha had a stiff neck during the Kanpur Test against New Zealand in 2021. But Bharat was inconsistent in his glovework and run-making, which meant that he wasn't considered for the Test team after playing the second Test against England at his hometown Visakhapatnam in February 2024. In seven Tests, including playing in the 2023 World Test Championship final against Australia at The Oval, Bharat amassed 223 runs with a highest score of 44 and an average of 20.09. Bharat also made 10 appearances in the Indian Premier League (IPL) for Royal

Challengers Bengaluru and Delhi Capitals, while scoring 199 runs. "I feel that he still had some mettle left in him to make a comeback. He was a fantastic keeper, and there is no two ways about it. I think he has got a safe pair of hands and was a decent batter because I have seen him growing from under-13. But then, he has got some other ideas, and one has to respect that," added Prasad. Speculation was rife on a section of social media, which suggested that Bharat could be on his way to representing the UAE after he was allegedly seen practising with their team in a few sessions last month. However, sources told IANS that there was no truth in it, though they admitted that Bharat was in Dubai around that time and wanted to practice or train with the UAE national team, which is why he showed up for the same. It is to be noted that, as per the ICC rules, players looking to switch their international teams must satisfy a new country's nationality or residency criteria

New Delhi, June 4 : Former India wicketkeeper and chief selector MSK Prasad on Thursday cautioned against removing Suryakumar Yadav as captain of the men's T20I side, saying such a move at this stage would not be the right one and that selectors should instead look to groom younger leaders from now onwards. Despite a few half-centuries in the bilateral series against New Zealand earlier this year and a match-winning knock in the T20 World Cup opening game against the USA, consistency has eluded Suryakumar. After India won the T20 World Cup under his leadership, Suryakumar's form dipped further in IPL 2026, where he managed only 270 runs in 13 matches at a strike rate of 147.54, with just two fifties. With India's selectors set to meet in Mumbai on Saturday for selecting squads for the two games against Ireland, to be played on June 26 and 28, followed by five

T20Is in England from July 1 to 11, apart from picking India 'A' squad for the two red-ball games against Sri Lanka 'A', Suryakumar's future as the T20I captain will be a hot topic of discussion. "See, are you sending your first team or are you sending your second level? That's the biggest concern. So, if they are sending the first team, I think overlooking Surya is not the right thing to do because he just handed over one more Men's T20 World Cup to us. "So, ideally, probably next 5-6 months or now you have to get ready with your next leaders, right? Axar Patel was your vice-captain till the T20 World Cup win. Ideally, if you look at it, you have to look forward to the younger leaders. So, if you can identify such leaders and make a deputy to Surya, it will be nice to see. Surya is a phenomenal player," Prasad told IANS in an exclusive conversation on Thursday. Prasad

admitted that Suryakumar has endured a lean patch but urged patience towards him. "I know that he has gone through a rough patch in the last 1-1.5 years. Of course, we have other players like Rajat Patidar coming up, and they also deserve their places. "So, what I would like to say is that, removing Surya at this stage, I think, is not the right signal. Give him a couple of series, and if his lean patch continues, then you have a deputy to whom you can hand over the captaincy baton." On possible successors of Suryakumar like Shreyas Iyer, the ODI vice-captain, and Hardik Pandya, apart from Sanju Samson, Ishan Kishan, and Tilak Varma in the mix, Prasad said, "See, Hardik is one potential candidate. Then, Shreyas is another potential candidate, too. People like Ishan Kishan, Tilak Varma, and Sanju Samson are also in line. "See, Sanju has led RR for quite some time. Ishan has



led recently, and he showed glimpses of class in his captaincy. Tilak Varma is a potential guy. We think that Tilak Varma is the guy and the answer for the next few years for Indian cricket in T20 formats. "So, he is not a bad choice, too. Rajat Patidar (who led RCB to back-to-back IPL titles) is also one of those. I don't know whether it's from a captaincy point of view, but he is definitely a guy who should be looked into. So, you have enough ammunition with you. But are you sending your first eleven or are you sending your, maybe, probably the second eleven?" Shreyas, the frontrunner

to succeed Suryakumar, comes with proven captaincy credentials - having led Kolkata Knight Riders to the IPL title in 2024 and guiding Delhi Capitals and Punjab Kings to the finals in 2020 and 2025, respectively. Kishan captained Sunrisers Hyderabad in Pat Cummins' absence during IPL 2026 after earlier leading Jharkhand to the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy triumph. Varma, meanwhile, has been a regular leader for India 'A' in white-ball cricket and is set to captain them in the upcoming 50-over tri-series in Sri Lanka starting June 9. Samson has previously led Rajasthan Roy-

## WICKETKEEPER-BATTER KS BHARAT RETIRES FROM INTERNATIONAL CRICKET

New Delhi, June 4 : In a surprise development, wicketkeeper-batter KS Bharat on Thursday announced his retirement from international cricket at the age of 32. Bharat represented India in seven Tests and featured prominently in domestic cricket for Andhra. "With a proud heart and sense of gratitude, I announce my retirement from international cricket. To play for my country has been the greatest honour of my life. This journey of mine has demanded great resilience and strength, but the Honour to represent India in Tests is worth every moment. "In a family of four, we all lived the same dream over two decades, a big heart to my sister, mom, and dad for creating an environment and support system they have been. I am a product of their love, discipline, and hard work," wrote Bharat in a note on his Instagram account on Thursday. Bharat first got an India call-up in November 2019 but made his Test debut in February 2023 after Rishabh Pant was sidelined due to recovery from his injuries suffered in a life-threatening car accident. He's also remembered for taking two catches



and effecting one stumping when Wriddhiman Saha had a stiff neck during the Kanpur Test against New Zealand in 2021. But Bharat was inconsistent in his glovework and run-making, which meant that he wasn't considered for the Test team after playing the second Test against England at his hometown, Visakhapatnam. In seven Tests, including playing in the 2023 World Test Championship final against Australia at The Oval, Bharat amassed 223 runs with a highest score of 44 and an average of 20.09. "Thank you, BCCI, and all the coaches and managers whom I came across in my career and who supported me unconditionally by creating a great environment to play and excel at the highest level. Thank you, Andhra Cricket Associa-

tion, VDCA, and all office-bearers, for your support and encouragement from my childhood. "I owe massive gratitude and respect to all the Groundsmen who have worked very, very hard to ensure the best pitches and ground conditions were given to me at all times. To all my teammates, I extend a big thank you for all the moments and achievements together, which helped me in my career, and without you all, it would not have been possible for me to achieve my dream and play the sport all these years. "A big thank you to my IPL debut captain, Virat Kohli, for giving me an opportunity to show my skills and come into recognition. A big thank you to my Indian Captain Rohit Sharma, under whom I made my Test debut, which is priceless

and beyond words. To my Indian coach, Rahul Dravid sir, his guidance from India A to the Indian team is unforgettable. With your support, I could become an Indian Test cricket player," added Bharat. In domestic cricket, Bharat was the first wicketkeeper-batter to score a triple-hundred in the Ranji Trophy, when he smashed 308 off 311 balls for Andhra against Goa in Ongole in the 2014/15 Ranji Trophy season. In all, he made 6102 runs in 113 first-class games at an average of 36.53, apart from 2692 and 1812 runs in List A and 20-over matches respectively. "To my coach, J. Krishna Rao, thank you for shaping me into an international cricketer at a young age. To the fans and cricket lovers across the world, thank you for your endless support and encouragement whenever I represented our country. "Hearing our national anthem and sharing the field with great ambassadors of the game are memories I will cherish forever. I'm deeply grateful to everyone who has been part of my journey. Cricket had given me everything in many ways, and I owe it to my life," added Bharat. In IPL, Bharat was a part

## ICC congratulates Rod Tucker on umpiring in landmark 100th Test at Lord's

New Delhi, June 4 : The International Cricket Council (ICC) has congratulated Australian umpire Rod Tucker for officiating in his 100th Test match, a milestone he reached when he took the field at Lord's for the opening game of the World Test Championship series between England and New Zealand. Tucker is now the fourth umpire in cricket's history to stand in 100 Tests after Aleem Dar (145), Steve Bucknor (128), and Rudi Koertzen (108). He was presented with a crystal trophy by former ICC Test umpire Ian Gould to commemorate the huge achievement. "Cricket has always been my passion, and I feel privileged to have had such a lengthy career as an international umpire. Standing in my 100th Test is a dream come true, and I look back on this journey with deep fondness and gratitude. "I want to express my heartfelt thanks to the ICC and Cricket Australia for their unwavering support over the years. I am also grateful to the Cricket Umpires and Scorers Association of New South Wales for their encouragement during my early ca-



reer. "A special thanks to my colleagues on the elite panel and my family for their continuous support. I couldn't have reached this milestone without them. I look forward to continuing this rewarding journey in the years ahead with enthusiasm," said Tucker in an ICC statement on Thursday. Tucker was named to the ICC Elite Panel of Umpires in 2010 and officiated in his first Test at Hamilton between New Zealand and Bangladesh. He had earlier joined the ICC International Panel of Umpires in 2008 and stood in his first ODI and T20I in the following year. He became the 13th umpire to umpire in 50 Tests in 2017, in the second Test between South Africa

and Sri Lanka at Newlands, Cape Town. He has officiated in multiple ICC global tournaments, including the Men's Cricket World Cups in 2011, 2015, 2019, and 2023, the Men's Champions Trophy in 2013 (including the final between India and England), 2017, and 2025. Tucker has also been the umpire in nine editions of the Men's T20 World Cup from 2009 to 2026, including the final in 2016 between the West Indies and England in Kolkata. "Rod is a very respected umpire whose consistency and professionalism have earned him the respect of peers, players, and fans around the world. "One to always perform well and capable of ensuring smooth conduct

of games under pressure, he has been amongst the best of his era. This 100-Test milestone really shows how much trust cricket administrators have had in him over the years, and his experience has been invaluable. "He is a source of inspiration for other umpires around the world, and one others reach out to for guidance. On behalf of the ICC, I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Rod on this incredible achievement and thank him for his exceptional dedication to the game," said ICC Chairman Jay Shah. Before turning to umpiring, Tucker was a seam-bowling all-rounder for New South Wales and Tasmania, scoring 5,076 runs as a left-handed

## 'KL RAHUL HAS ENTERED THE PEAK PHASE OF HIS TEST CAREER': AAKASH CHOPRA

New Delhi, June 4 : Former India cricketer Aakash Chopra believes vice-captain KL Rahul has entered the defining phase of his Test career and must embrace a leadership role in India's batting unit as one of the experienced cricketer. Ahead of India's one-off Test against Afghanistan at the PCA New International Cricket Stadium in New Chandigarh from June 6, Chopra said Rahul's experience and consistency will be vital to the team's success during the ongoing transition period. "KL Rahul's Test career has now entered its peak phase. He is not getting any younger, and he has been around for long enough. We have seen him succeed in Test cricket, especially in overseas conditions. He has been one of India's better openers in the longest format," Chopra told Jio Hotstar. Rahul was recently appointed vice-captain under Test skipper Shubman Gill, a move Chopra



believes reflects the team's faith in his ability to shoulder greater responsibility. "Now he has been promoted to become Shubman Gill's deputy, that is a big responsibility, especially in transition. With Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli retiring, India need someone like KL Rahul to fully own that spot at the top of the order," he added. Chopra noted that while Rahul has al-

ready established himself as a prolific run-scorer in the format, the challenge now lies in maintaining that standard over an extended period. "He has already scored plenty of runs, but the key is to maintain that form and consistency for a long time. The opening slot in Test cricket is not as crowded as it is in white-ball cricket. There are contenders, but not too many.

## GILL'S RED-BALL SUCCESS WILL PLAY A BIG ROLE IN REDEFINING INDIA'S TEST TEAM: ASHWIN

New Delhi, June 4 : Former India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has backed Test captain Shubman Gill to become the cornerstone of India's red-ball future, saying the opener's success in the longest format could play a defining role in shaping the team's next era. Ahead of India's one-off Test against Afghanistan at the PCA New International Cricket Stadium in New Chandigarh beginning June 6, Ashwin praised Gill's leadership and batting performances during India's recent tour of England, where the youngster impressed in his first assignment as Test captain. "Shubman Gill had a fantastic series in Eng-

land. As soon as he was made captain, he went there and delivered, both with the bat and with his leadership. He scored runs in tough conditions and handled the pressure of captaincy with maturity. That showed his class and his ability to bat long," Ashwin told Jio Hotstar. The veteran spinner credited Gill's recent technical adjustments for his success in seaming conditions, highlighting improvements in his defensive game against the moving ball. "He has worked hard on his technique, especially keeping his bat close to the pads, which helped him reduce the gap between bat and pad, making him more



solid against the moving ball," Ashwin explained. While Gill is yet to produce a major innings at home since taking over the Test captaincy, Ashwin believes the 26-year-old is poised for a strong showing in familiar conditions. "Yes, he hasn't fired with the bat yet on home soil as captain,

but with this change in his batting technique, I expect him to go all guns blazing at home too. His success in Test cricket will play a big role in redefining India's Test team. He is the kind of player who can lead the batting line-up for years to come," he added. The former off-spinner