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Opposition Attacks PM Modi Over 'WFH, No Foreign Travel' Pitch Amid Iran War



New Delhi: Opposition parties launched a sharp attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi after his appeal asking citizens to adopt austerity measures amid the escalating Middle East crisis, with rivals questioning whether the government was bracing for a deeper economic emergency while shifting the burden onto ordinary people. Congress, Shiv Sena

(UBT), and Trinamool Congress leaders accused the Centre of "policy failure", poor economic planning, and hypocrisy after the Prime Minister urged people to avoid foreign travel, cut fuel usage, postpone gold purchases, and revive work from home arrangements to help India tackle global instability and inflationary pressure arising out of the Middle East conflict. The political backlash intensified even as the Centre moved into high alert mode over the Middle East situation.

Congress Claims Rahul Gandhi's Reel With Vijay "Blocked", Centre Responds

New Delhi: The Congress on Sunday claimed that Instagram has "blocked" Rahul Gandhi's reel and photo post featuring him and actor-politician Vijay due to the rules of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, even as government sources denied the charge. Sources in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) clarified that it had nothing to do with the action, and it was because the platform's internal system mistakenly flagged the post for blocking. Gandhi was in Chennai on Sunday to attend the oath-taking ceremony of Vijay as the Tamil Nadu chief minister and later shared several pictures with the actor-politician on social media.



Prime Minister Modi's cheerful interaction with Pawan Kalyan's children



From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, May, 11 : "Do not neglect your health. Those in public life should take care of their health. You need to serve the people on a much larger scale, and to do that, you must stay healthy," Prime Minister Narendra Modi advised Jana Sena chief and Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. On Sunday, Modi visited Pawan Kalyan's residence in Hyderabad and enquired about his well-being. Pawan, along with his wife Anna, and children Akira Nandan, Aadya, Polina Anjana, and Mark Shankar warmly welcomed the Prime Minister. As Pawan had recently undergone surgery due to a sinus problem, Modi asked about his health and recovery. He also spent some time interacting with the family members. While speaking with Pawan's wife, Anna Konidela (Anna Lezhneva), Modi spoke a few words in Russian. Pawan's younger son, Mark Shankar, presented Modi with handmade welcome and thank-you cards that he had prepared himself. Modi affectionately spoke to Mark Shankar and said, "When you got caught in the fire accident in Singapore, all of us were worried about how you were doing." While speaking with Pawan's elder son, Akira Nandan, Modi asked, "What are you doing these days?" Akira replied that he was learning martial arts and also training in sports shooting. Looking at Pawan, Modi joked, "There is already a martial arts star in the house. Are you also heading in that direction?" On this occasion, Akira recited a poem by the famous Hindi poet Ramdhari Singh Dinkar, which Modi appreciated. Modi also spoke with Pawan's daughters, Aadya and Polina Anjana, and asked about their studies. Overall, the Prime Minister spent around 20 minutes at Pawan Kalyan's home. It is reported that they also discussed political matters related to Telangana and Andhra Pradesh during the meeting.

Become Brand Ambassadors for the State: Minister Lokesh Calls on NRIs

Singapore, May 11: Andhra Pradesh IT and Education Minister Nara Lokesh urged Telugu NRIs in Singapore to become brand ambassadors for the state. Lokesh arrived in Singapore on Monday morning, where Telugu NRIs gave him a grand welcome at the airport. Later, the minister held a meeting with them. Speaking on the occasion, Lokesh explained the developmental activities taking place in Andhra Pradesh under the alliance government. He urged the NRIs to speak



within the organizations they work for about the development happening in the state and the invest-

ment opportunities emerging there. The minister highlighted the investments and companies that have come to Andhra Pradesh after the alliance government assumed office. Telugu NRIs in Singapore expressed happiness over Royal Enfield setting up operations in Andhra Pradesh. As part of his Singapore visit, Lokesh is expected to meet several industrialists and CEOs of global companies with the aim of attracting major investments to the state. It may be recalled that

Lokesh departed for Singapore from Gannavaram Airport on Sunday night. After concluding his Singapore tour, he is expected to reach Delhi by Monday night. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma is set to take oath again on Tuesday, and Lokesh is likely to attend the swearing-in ceremony. Himanta Biswa Sarma reportedly invited Minister Lokesh personally to attend the event. After participating in the ceremony, Lokesh is expected to return to Amaravati.

WFH, NO FOREIGN WEDDINGS : PM Modi Calls For 'Covid-Era Measures' To Fight Mideast Crisis

New Delhi: As the hostilities in the Middle East stretched global supply chains and upended the oil market, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged citizens to help the nation conserve petrol, diesel and foreign exchange reserves by using public transport, avoiding unnecessary foreign travel and refraining from non-essential gold purchases. "Patriotism is not only about the willingness to sacrifice one's life on the border. In these times, it is about living responsibly

and fulfilling our duties to the nation in our daily lives," PM Modi said in Hyderabad. The prime minister called for collective participation to help India face global economic disruptions, supply chain challenges, and rising prices triggered by international conflicts. PM Modi urged the people of India to reduce petrol and diesel consumption by using metros and public transport wherever available, opting for car-pooling and preferring the railways to transport goods.



\$72 Billion: The Forex Logic Behind PM Modi's Appeal To Avoid Buying Gold

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made an appeal that has the entire nation talking. To put it crudely, he said: "don't buy gold for a year; postpone foreign travel; work from home where possible." His message is simple:

Save dollars, protect India's foreign exchange reserves. His appeal comes amid the ongoing Iran war, and the resultant rise in crude oil prices, and pressure on the rupee. But how exactly does skipping gold purchases help India's forex position?

The answer lies in the math. India's forex reserves are around \$690.69 billion, according to data compiled by Trading Economics. RBI data shows reserves rising close to \$728 billion in February before slipping back to around \$691 billion in April as global uncer-

tainty intensified. At the same time, the IMF has projected that India's current account deficit (CAD) could widen to \$84.5 billion in 2026, roughly 2 per cent of GDP. A widening CAD means one thing: more dollars going out than coming in.

Pawan Focuses on Party Activities; Likely to Meet Key Leaders

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, May, 11 : Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan recently underwent surgery and is currently taking complete rest at his residence in Jubilee Hills, following doctors' advice. After many days, Pawan has once again turned his attention toward party activities. According to reports, he is likely to visit the Jana Sena Party office in Mangalagiri on Monday evening. Depending on the schedule, he may also meet important Jana Sena leaders. On Tuesday, a meeting of newly selected members of various Jana Sena Party committees will be held at CK Conven-

tion in Mangalagiri. During today's discussions, Pawan is expected to review matters related to that meeting. At Tuesday's meeting, Pawan Kalyan and Nadendla Manohar are expected to guide party leaders on strengthening the party and preparations for local body elections. There is also a possibility that Jana Sena state committees and affiliated wings will be officially announced by tonight. In this backdrop, excitement and anticipation have grown among Jana Sena leaders across the state. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who visited Hyderabad on Sunday, went to Deputy CM Pawan

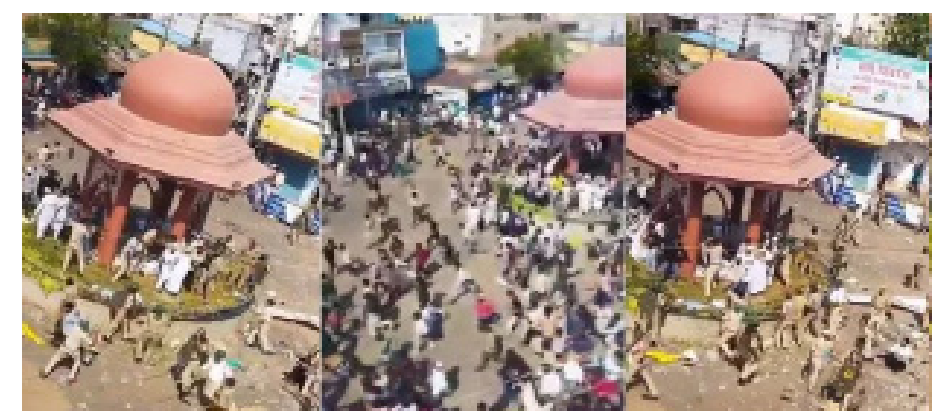


Kalyan's residence and enquired about his health condition. **Modi advised Pawan Kalyan, saying:** "Do not neglect your health. Those in public life should

take care of their health. You need to serve the people on a much larger scale." Modi also shared photographs related to the meeting on his X (formerly Twitter) account.

Officials Serious Over Almaspet Circle Incident in Kadapa

From Our Staff Reporter Kadapa, May 11: District Collector Sridhar and the Superintendent of Police (SP) have taken the clash that occurred near Almaspet Circle in Kadapa city very seriously. Senior officials identified that the individuals involved in the violence were allegedly under the influence of drugs and marijuana. In this backdrop, District Collector Sridhar removed Municipal Corporation In-charge Commissioner Rakesh Chandra from his responsibilities. **Dispute Over Circle Name Change** The controversy began over demands to rename Almaspet Circle as "Tipu Sultan Circle." A section of people has been insisting



on the name change. Near the circle, there is an Anjaneya Swamy temple. Hanuman Jayanti is scheduled to be celebrated on May 12, and as part of the celebrations, a 31-foot Hanuman statue is set to be unveiled near the temple. For the occasion, a large flex banner was in-

stalled at the circle. The banner referred to Almaspet as "Hanuman Circle," which became the main reason for the dispute. On Saturday morning, members of both groups staged competing protests, which later escalated into stone-pelting between the groups. Police inter-

vened and dispersed both sides to bring the situation under control. Senior officials conducted an inquiry into the incident, and several issues reportedly came to light during the investigation. Following this, the municipal in-charge commissioner was relieved of his duties.

EDITORIAL

The nursing profession can only be revived if it is encouraged

India is home to many traditional crafts. Each craft has a special place in the rural culture. One such great craft is that of Medari. Medaris are artisans who make various household items from bamboo, which is known as the wood of the poor. They roam the streets or sell the items they make at weekly markets. They are called Medari or Mahendra in Telugu states. In some other states, they are called Medha, Burudu, and Gadaba. This profession is not just a means of livelihood - it is a traditional art form. The Medaris live in harmony with nature. Bamboo found in the forests is their livelihood. There are many stages from collecting bamboo to turning it into a useful item. In all these stages, the experience, hard work, and skill of the Medaris are evident. The items they make play an important role in rural life. They make items like baskets, baskets, chatas, sibbuls, candrikas, ponukalas, and visanakarras. To make these, first they select the right bamboo from the forest. After breaking it, they split the bamboo lengthwise and make it into thin strips, sticks, rods, and slats suitable for weaving. The profession of Medari has been passed down from generation to generation. Their weaving is a special art skill. Baskets, baskets, and chatas are made by weaving with the dexterity of the legs, hands, and fingers, with patience and care. Each item has a unique shape. The baskets are made large, the baskets are light, and the sibbuls and sieves are made flat. This profession requires not only physical labor but also artistic vision. They make things beautiful by creating shapes, patterns, and attractive designs. Some Medari artisans are also creating new patterns with their talent. All family members participate in this process. While men do work like breaking and splitting bamboo, women are experts in weaving. Children also practice this art by doing small tasks. This art is passed down from parents to children. Children learn this profession from an early age. Therefore, they develop a natural skill in this art. The profession of Medari Mahendras is an important part of our culture. It is a tradition to use the baskets and baskets made by Medaris during weddings, festivals, and auspicious occasions. Bamboo has Ayurvedic properties, so it is placed in a chata at birth. It is a tradition to erect a green canopy with bamboo lattices for weddings.

Bamboo is needed from the time of birth to the sevenkatta pade savaari that is carried at the time of death. Therefore, we can understand the way bamboo and the Medaras are associated with society. In modern times, this profession is facing many challenges. In the past, only items made by Medaras were used in every household and in agriculture. Their role in the rural economy was very crucial. But over time, due to the development of industries and the increase in modern technology, items made of plastic, iron, and machines came into the market. Since these were cheaper and lasted longer, people started using them more. This reduced the demand for the Medara profession. Another major problem is the decreasing availability of bamboo. Due to the reduction of forests and restrictions on forest laws, the Medaras are not able to collect bamboo easily. These conditions have made their livelihood more difficult. In such a situation, as the income from this profession is low, many are turning to other jobs. Some are doing manual labor, others are selling flowers, and some are doing small businesses. This traditional profession is gradually decreasing as even the youth are not interested in this profession. Innovation and government initiatives can also increase the production and use of bamboo. For example, India's first bamboo metro station BMRCL is building an innovative metro station at Bamboo Bazaar in Bengaluru. This is India's first bamboo-themed metro station. It is being designed to be eco-friendly, similar to the Bangalore Airport (T2). A special type of bamboo called 'Bambusa tulda', brought from Tripura, is being used for its decoration. As part of this project, a 5-kilometer road in the vicinity of the station will also be beautified with bamboo. Such an innovative idea can not only provide employment to bamboo artists but also reduce environmental pollution. There is already a railway station in Jharkhand called Barabambo, but it is just a regular railway station. A special metro station is being built in Bengaluru with a bamboo design. There is a possibility of such things spreading across India. It is the responsibility of society to use products made of bamboo. Government support and encouragement are also very much needed for this. Bamboo products can be promoted by organizing handicraft exhibitions. Providing online marketing facilities will provide a good market for their products. By organizing training programs, artisans can be taught new designs and modern techniques. If loans and subsidies are provided through banks, they will be financially strong. By using bamboo, we can take steps towards sustainable development while protecting the environment.

Indian Farmers Producing Livestock, Fisheries Look For More Incentives

A hedge against food price inflation that may be caused by domestic crop failures and global supply disruptions, the National Food and Strategic Reserves Administration has been created to manage the strategic food inventory. Cornering of global food supplies at the Chinese scale, however, impacts grain prices particularly to the disadvantage of poor countries. What about India, which has many more mouths to feed than China? India too maintains buffer stocks of rice and wheat as a shield against weather related crop setback triggering open market price inflation. But unlike China, entire Indian reserves of grains result from procurement of local crops by the federal agency FCI.

India's minimum buffer stock norms for rice and wheat are 13.5m tonnes and 27.6m tonnes, respectively. Generally, however, the stocks of rice and wheat on government account are in multiples of the minimum. For example, India held record rice stocks of 48.2m tonnes on September 1, 2025 when wheat stocks were also a high 33.3m tonnes. Explaining how it works in India, agriculture analyst Om Prakash Dhanuka says: "Essentially of sufficiently large food reserves for a country with the world's largest population and where supply shortages in a bad crop year ignite inflationary pressure on food items will not be denied. Reserve grains kept in the silos and storehouses are all locally produced and there is no opacity in the operation of procurement and releases."

India is by far the world's largest exporter of long-grain aromatic basmati rice and non-basmati rice. The country's rice exports were approximately 21.5 tonnes, including 6.06m tonnes of basmati variety in 2024-25 following New Delhi's easing of trade restrictions in March 2024. Even while India is a rice

surplus country with large volumes generally available for exports, it is required to import regularly some quantities of speciality rice from Thailand, Italy and Vietnam to satisfy specific demand. Such imports cost annually around \$8m. While West Asian countries are principal destinations of Indian basmati rice, which has nearly 70% share of the global market, it has now a growing presence in North America and Europe. Besides India, Pakistan is the only other exporter of basmati rice. But exports from both countries are under growing stress because of the war between Iran and the US-Israeli chocking cargo deliveries and delaying payments by importers.

Aware of the mass discontent that arises from cereal price rises, New Delhi had to put a ban on wheat exports in May 2022, which was withdrawn after nearly four years in early 2026. The government came under pressure to suspend exports as the wheat crop during that period suffered a setback because of extreme dry weather. Quite an anti-climax for a country that ranks as the world's second largest producer of the cereal after China. After having recovered from the shock of short crops, New Delhi as of February 2026 sanctioned export of 2.5m tonnes of wheat and 500,000 tonnes of wheat products.

"In such a sensitive commodity, India cannot but be highly flexible in its export," says Dhanuka. But the government is unlikely to fiddle with wheat exports now as the country will by end-April harvest a bigger wheat crop than last year's 117.94m tonnes. The question is will the crop be 120.21m tonnes as the government has forecast or somewhat lower as feared by many trade officials because of unseasonal rains and the late



February heat? What, however, is certain, the crop, now being harvested, will suffer in quality in some north Indian pockets. The principal markets for Indian wheat are countries in south and southeast Asia and West Asia.

In the meantime, besides good domestic crops and therefore, their low prices, and the tariff tensions with the US, thanks to President Trump's poor understanding of benefits accruing from low free trade pivoted on low tariff, saw China's grain imports falling 10.8% to 140.56m tonnes in 2025. Soybean, the source of edible oils and animal feed, imports, however, hit a record 112m tonnes, alone constituting 80% of Chinese grain imports. Driven by stable planting and some improvement in productivity, China marginally raised soybean production to approximately 21m tonnes. But production of this order falling way short of demand points to China's inevitable heavy dependence on imports for years to come.

Like it has done with iron ore, China is engaged in diversifying soybean import sources. In conscious efforts to rapidly cut

its dependence on the US supplies of soybean, Chinese focus has shifted to South America with Brazil now accounting for over 70% imports. Beijing has friendly ties with Brasilia and this has helped China to remain Brazil's largest trade partner since 2009, much to Washington's discomfort. American farmers are distraught that their peers in Brazil have been able to whisk away an overwhelmingly big share of the Chinese soybean market. But the fact remains that the price spread between the US and Brazilian soybean is highly in favour of the latter. The inevitable has, therefore, happened.

As for other grains, Chinese imports of wheat in 2025 fell 7.16m tonnes to 3.85m tonnes in which the share of Canada was 2.71m tonnes and of Australia nearly 1.02m tonnes. Myanmar, Thailand and India remain the principal suppliers of paddy and milled rice to China which raised imports of the commodity by 91% to 3.10m tonnes. The opposite happened with corn where record production caused a nearly 81% winding down of imports to nearly 2.65m tonnes

in which the share of top supplier Brazil was 1.61m tonnes. Sorghum imports at 4.544m tonnes were down 47.51% with Australia and Argentina supplying 2.21m tonnes 1.53m tonnes, respectively.

From a belief that food security of developing and least developed countries requires of them to transfer agricultural expertise to destinations where it is acutely needed, both China and India are found active in the pursuit. The focus for both is Africa where the need is for technologies which will allow countries in that continent to grow food at least cost in an environment of low water availability and unfavourable weather. The farm inputs that China and India are providing to African nations include: drip irrigation, appropriate technology transfer and joint research and training programme with physical presence of experts from China and India. China in particular is sharing knowledge relating to making waste land into arable land with some African nations. "African nations growing food to their potential will bring about structural changes in global food trade," says Dhanuka.

Suvendu Adhikari And the Promise of Bengal's 'Second Renaissance'

Suvendu Adhikari takes oath as West Bengal's first BJP Chief Minister on Rabindra Jayanti, May 9, and the symbolism of the date is impossible to ignore. After a long and intense election campaign built around Hindutva, border security, Bengali identity and development politics, the choice of Rabindranath Tagore's birth anniversary for the swearing-in ceremony appears to be a carefully crafted political message.

But the question many are now asking is whether this marks a genuine ideological shift towards Bengal's syncretic cultural ethos, whether it is a repackaging of a political agenda, or if the state is witnessing its second renaissance moment?

Transformation

The Bengal Renaissance was not merely a cultural movement but a period of profound social, intellectual and religious transformation in 19th- and early 20th-century Bengal. From Raja Ram Mohan Roy's campaign against Sati and his advocacy for reform within Hindu philosophy to Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar's push for widow remarriage, girls' education and the simplification of the Bengali language and grammar, the period represented a significant synthesis of social reform, intellectual confidence and cultural change.

Bengal also became one of the earliest regions in colonial India to absorb Western education and engage deeply with European liberal and scientific thought, while simultaneously reinterpreting its own philosophical traditions.

The Tagore family became closely associated with that intellectual churn. Dwarkanath Tagore, grandfather of Rabindranath Tagore, was among the prominent Bengali

reformist elites of the period and a major supporter of the Brahmo Samaj founded by Raja Ram Mohan Roy.

At a time when orthodox sections strongly resisted reform, several Bengal thinkers attempted to reconcile ancient Indian philosophical traditions with rationalism, liberal thought and spiritual universalism rather than treating them as opposites. That engagement between tradition and modernity later became one of the defining features of Bengal's intellectual identity.

The later phase of the Bengal Renaissance expanded beyond social reform into spirituality, science and an emerging national consciousness. Ramakrishna Paramahansa's emphasis on religious harmony, Swami Vivekananda's attempt to combine Vedantic thought with modern education and national regeneration, and Sri Aurobindo's synthesis of spirituality and political philosophy shaped a wider cultural awakening.

At the same time, scientists such as Jagadish Chandra Bose and Prafulla Chandra Ray contributed significantly to modern Indian science and industry, with Ray founding Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals in 1901. It is this layered legacy of reform, spirituality, intellectualism and modernity that the BJP now appears to be invoking while framing its own vision of Bengal's "second renaissance".

Historic Shifts

Prime Minister Modi seeks to bring this renaissance in Bengal through a blend of cultural revivalism, Sanatani civilisational identity and economic modernisation. West Bengal had already witnessed one historic political transformation in 2011, when power shifted from the Left Front to



the Trinamool Congress. The state changed from "red to green".

Now, Bengal has witnessed another historic shift. For the first time, the BJP is forming a government in the state, with Suvendu Adhikari as chief minister. One of his first symbolic decisions has been to shift the administrative headquarters back to the Writers' Building from Nabanna. The colonial-era structure remains deeply tied to Bengal's political memory under British rule.

Revival Of Past Glory

There was a time when Bengal represented intellectual, industrial and cultural leadership for the country. Gopal Krishna Gokhale's famous observation, "What Bengal thinks today, India thinks tomorrow", symbolises that confidence and influence.

The BJP leadership now argues that Bengal's lost stature can be rebuilt. The party describes this political shift not merely as a change of government but as an attempt to resurrect Bengal's historical confidence and economic strength.

The Weight Of Bengal's History

Bengal's history has always been layered and complicated. It is a land shaped by repeated economic distress, famines, communal tensions, migration, ideological battles and political violence. At the same time, it remains one of the most culturally heterogeneous and socially plural regions in India. The current BJP leadership believes Bengal now wants to move beyond prolonged conflict and rediscover stability, prosperity and confidence.

Adhikari himself has repeatedly said that his top priority is to build "a new Bengal". According to him, the roadmap is not impossible. Culture and corporate revival now appear to be intersecting within the BJP's idea of development for Bengal. The same Singur movement that once propelled Mamata Banerjee to power by resisting corporate industrialisation is now being reframed by the BJP as a symbol of Bengal's economic stagnation. Since the Tata Nano project left Singur for Gujarat, Bengal has struggled to attract large-scale industrial investment. One of the biggest barriers, according to the new gov-

ernment, remains land acquisition. The BJP government is now expected to review and possibly relax certain policies to encourage industrialisation.

The BJP has maintained that Bengal requires not only economic recovery but also a cultural and psychological reset, while preventing the continuation of a "bad CPM culture".

BJP's Bengal Approach

This election saw the BJP increasingly adapting its political language to Bengal's cultural ethos, blending symbolism around fish, Durga and Kali with promises of economic revival, women-centric messaging and its sharper focus on border security and infiltration. The party's rise reflects an attempt to localise Hindutva within Bengal's distinct cultural identity.

Whether this vision becomes reality or remains political rhetoric will depend on what happens in the years to come. But, for now, the BJP leadership is presenting the beginning of the Suvendu Adhikari era not merely as a change in government but as the opening chapter of what they call Bengal's "second renaissance".

District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmi Reviews Arrangements for Intermediate Advanced Supplementary Exams



Vijayawada, May 11: District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmi has directed officials to make strong arrangements for the Intermediate Public Advanced Supplementary Examinations beginning on May 21, ensuring that students face no difficulties and all necessary facilities are provided. Chairing the District Examination Committee (DEC) meeting at the Collector's Sri Pingali Venkayya Conference Hall on Monday, the Collector stated that theory exams will be conducted from May 21 to June 4 across 57 centres in the district. The examinations will be held in two sessions — 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon and 2:30 PM to 5:30 PM. A total of 38,135 students have registered, including 23,316 first-year and 14,819 second-year candi-

dates. He also informed that practical examinations will be conducted in Vijayawada from June 7 to 11 in two sessions and instructed officials to ensure smooth conduct. The Collector emphasized installing CCTV cameras at all exam centres, enforcing a strict no-mobile-phone policy, and making proper arrangements for control rooms and strong rooms. For theory exams, two flying squads and three sitting squads will be deployed. Adequate invigilators, security arrangements, drinking water, medical camps, sanitation, uninterrupted power supply, and transportation facilities for students must be ensured. Officials from various departments attended the meeting.

Vizag Should Be Ranked Number One in All Sectors: Collector Abhishek Kishore



Visakhapatnam, May 11: District Collector Abhishek Kishore directed officials to work in coordination to make Visakhapatnam district number one in all sectors in the state. He emphasized improving public perception, grievance redressal, and key performance indicators (KPIs) through a focused action plan. Reviewing the decisions of the 7th Collectors' Conference held on May 7 and 8, the Collector noted that while the district leads in GDDP and per capita income and ranks second in public perception, better performance is required in KPI achievement. He stressed timely resolution of public grievances under

PGRS, especially re-opened cases, and expressed dissatisfaction over the last three months' performance.

He instructed officials to improve service delivery across agriculture, health, housing, welfare, and irrigation sectors, ensure better facilities in welfare hostels, address summer drinking water issues, expedite water projects, and strengthen implementation of central schemes. He also called for effective use of e-office, WhatsApp governance tools, and RTGS systems, and directed plans for tourism development, economic townships, and new projects to position the district as a model for the state.

Kakinada District Should Play Key Role in State Development: Collector

Kakinada, May 11: District Collector M.N. Harendhira Prasad urged officials to strengthen the district's performance to increase Gross District Product (GDP) and per capita income, making Kakinada a key contributor to state development. At a review meeting held at the Collectorate, he discussed targets set by the Chief Minister in a recent meeting with district collectors and directed officials to work in a planned manner to achieve them. He instructed revenue-generating departments to review progress weekly and improve collections.

The Collector emphasized 100% resolution of non-financial grievances received through PGRS to enhance public satisfaction. With irrigation water release scheduled from May 15, officials were asked to ensure the availability of fertilizers, seeds, and agricultural loans in advance. He directed that at least 50% of the pending 25,000 incomplete houses for the poor be completed by December. Departments were asked to achieve KPI targets at village and mandal levels. Special focus was urged on reducing maternal and infant mortality rates through coordination between the Health and ICDS departments. He also called for increasing the district's GDP growth from 10.75% to 12.5% across agriculture, industry, and services.



The Collector stressed promotion of animal husbandry, value addition in agriculture, adoption of technology, renewable energy expansion through rooftop solar systems, effective tourism development, full utilization of central funds, use of e-office systems, awareness on WhatsApp governance services, and a monthly special grievance cell for persons with disabilities.

Joint Collector Apurva Bharat, DRO Tippenaik, and other district officials attended the meeting.

Techtrix 2026 Startup Expo Inspires Young Entrepreneurs in Vijayawada

Vijayawada, May 11: District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmi said the Techtrix 2026 Startup Expo, organized on the occasion of National Technology Day at the Ratan Tata Innovation Hub in Enikepadu, is a golden opportunity for young entrepreneurs. Inaugurated jointly by the district administration and RTIH officials, the expo showcased innovative ideas, technological solutions, and socially relevant products developed by youth across sectors such as agriculture, healthcare, education, environment, digital services, and women empowerment. The Collector stated that with proper guidance, market access, and technical support, local innovations can reach international standards. He emphasized strengthening the startup ecosystem in the district and highlighted that Vijayawada, a gateway to the new capital Amaravati, has strong industrial



and economic potential. Around 120 startups participated in the event. Cash prizes of ₹30,000, ₹20,000, and ₹15,000 were announced for the best startups. Officials including DRDAPDANV Nancharao and District Youth Welfare Officer Dr. Kolleti Ramesh attended the program.

Collector Highlights Recognition for Improved Healthcare Services



Rampachodavaram, May 11: Polavaram District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar said that providing quality healthcare services in government hospitals will bring recognition from both the Central and State Governments as well as

the public. Speaking at a review meeting held at the local ITDA conference hall, the Collector noted that a Central Government team inspected Primary Health Centres and Sub-Centres across the state. He informed that the Pedagadda Primary Health Centre and the Ayushman Arogya Mandir in Chatti village of Chinturu Division were selected for their excellent services. He congratulated the medical staff and officials for their achievement and appreciated their efforts in delivering better healthcare to the public.

No Negligence in Drinking Water Supply: Collector P. Rajababu

Ongole, May 11: District Collector P. Rajababu stated that there should be no negligence in the supply and quality of drinking water to the public. He conducted a special review meeting at the Prakasam Bhavan with officials on the piped drinking water supply system in the district. The Collector reviewed motor maintenance, water tank cleaning, chlorination, pipeline valves, and sanitation measures. He directed officials to fix a common date across the district for tank cleaning and chlorination activities. He emphasized that citizens should consume only government-supplied water and that public confidence in water safety must be strengthened.



He instructed officials to create awareness about the benefits of the government's Jal Suraksha program and the mineral value of supplied water. He also ordered that pipeline valves be raised to the required level and modern equipment be procured to continuously monitor water supply and chlorination. The Collector warned that strict action would be taken against any negligence by contracting agencies. He directed that drinking water issues raised during the 'Palle Nidra' program be resolved immediately using emergency funds. He further stressed ensuring uninterrupted and safe drinking water supply during the summer and proper planning for waste management, including single-use plastic control.

Officials from RWS, ZP, and Public Health departments attended the meeting.

201 Grievances Received at PGRS and Revenue Clinic: Collector Keerthi Chekuri



Rajamahendravaram, May 11: A total of 201 grievances were received during the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) and Revenue Clinic programs held at the District Collectorate on Monday, said District Collector Keerthi Chekuri. The Collector received the PGRS peti-

tions, while Joint Collector Y. Megha Swaroop handled the Revenue Clinic grievances. Officials were instructed to resolve each application within the stipulated timeframe as per Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and SLA guidelines.

Out of the 201 petitions, the Revenue Department received the highest number (85). Other departments received complaints as follows: Panchayat Raj & Rural Development (15), Roads & Buildings (38), and five each for Women & Child Welfare, Consumer Affairs/Food & Civil Supplies, Municipal Administration & Urban Development, and Industries & Commerce. Grievances were also received related to School Education, Swarna Gram-Swarna Ward, Shakti, BC Welfare, Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development, Fisheries, Health & Family Welfare, Water Resources, Higher Education, and Social Welfare departments.

District officials including the DRO, RDO, and other departmental officers participated in the program.

Collectors Call for Stress-Free Work Environment; Condolences Expressed Over CDPO Sujatha's Death



Rampachodavaram, May 11: Polavaram District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar urged officials and staff working in various departments to discharge their duties without work pressure. He made the appeal during a meeting held on Monday at the local ITDA conference hall. Expressing deep sorrow over the death of Rajavommangi ICDS CDPO Sujatha, the Collector described it as an irreparable loss to the district. He stated that steps would be taken to ensure that government employees are not subjected to undue stress and encouraged staff to bring any issues directly to the administration's attention.

He further informed that an inquiry would be conducted into the circumstances surrounding Sujatha's death. The government will extend all possible support to her family as per official norms, he added. The Collector noted that

Sujatha had played an active role in ensuring the implementation of government nutritional programs inanganwadi centres under the Rajavommangi ICDS project, particularly for children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers.

On the occasion, officials and staff observed a moment of silence under the leadership of the District Collector as a mark of respect.

The meeting was attended by District Revenue Officer P. Ambedkar, District Nodal Officer Srinivas Viswanath, CDPOs Kranti Kumari and Pratyaksha, Deputy Directors Rukmangadaya and Sharif, DEO Y. Malleshwar Rao, DM&HO P. Sarita, District Fisheries Officer Dilshad, DRDA PD Dr. Ratnakara Rao, CPO Venkatrav, and other departmental officials and staff.

Interstate Thief Arrested in Tirupati; 8 Mobile Phones Worth Rs 6 Lakh Recovered



Thirupathi, May 11: Tirupati police arrested an interstate thief from Nepal who was posing as a labourer and committing thefts in the city. Police recovered eight ex-

pensive mobile phones worth around ₹6 lakh from his possession. The accused was identified as Mahesh Bahadur Jatar alias Santosh Thapa, also known as Daba Mahesh Kumar, a native of Nepal. According to police, he allegedly entered a Reliance Mart near Ramanujan Circle by scaling the wall and stole costly electronic items during January–April. He also reportedly committed thefts near the Tirupati bus stand, railway station, and lodges.

The stolen mobile phones include brands such as Samsung, Oppo, Vivo, and OnePlus. Police stated that the accused had earlier been involved in theft cases in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka and had served jail time.

He has been arrested, produced before the court, and sent to judicial remand.

Warning to Lodge Owners: Police have issued a warning to lodge owners and staff in Tirupati to verify identity documents before allotting rooms. Strict action will be taken against those violating the rules.

Collector Calls for Public Cooperation in 2027 Census Drive

Rampachodavaram, May 11 (Pen Power): Polavaram District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar has urged citizens to cooperate with enumerators during the 2027 Census. Launching an awareness campaign vehicle at the local ITDA office, he said the first phase of the house-to-house enumeration will be conducted from May 1 to May 30. The Collector stated that the census will be carried out in a digital format for the first time and requested families to provide accurate details to visiting officials. He assured that all information collected will remain strictly confidential and will help in planning welfare schemes. He also emphasized that participation in the census is a civic responsibility under the Census Act, 1948.



Collector Directs Special Development Plans for Markapuram District



Markapuram, May 11 (Pen Power): District Collector M. Vijaya Sunitha has directed officials to prepare special plans for the development of the

newly formed Markapuram district. She held a review meeting with district officials at the Collectorate on Monday and instructed them to prepare de-

partment-wise action plans to ensure overall progress.

The Collector emphasized effective handling of public issues and stressed focus on

drinking water, sanitation, and improving enrolment in government schools. She also directed timely repairs in government schools and urged officials to beautify welfare schools and hostels before the start of the academic year. She called for transforming the district into a horticulture hub by promoting agriculture and horticulture crops, ensuring remunerative prices for farmers, and making fertilizers and seeds available ahead of the season. She also announced that PGRS programs will be conducted in all constituencies on four Fridays in a month. Joint Collector P. Srinivasulu and other senior officials participated in the meeting.

AP Maker Lab-On-Wheels Introduced at Aditya University



Gandepalli, May 11: The AP Maker Lab-On-Wheels, implemented by the Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation, was intro-

duced at Aditya University to create awareness among students about emerging technologies.

The modern mobile lab,

launched under the leadership of Nara Lokesh, is equipped with advanced facilities including a 3D printer, Industry 4.0 experiment kits, laptops, and internet connectivity. The initiative aims to promote technical education among students from rural and remote areas in line with the Digital India and ESG Vision-2030 goals.

Trainer Banu Prakash demonstrated experiments related to robotics, electronics, microcontrollers, and artificial intelligence. Around 200 students

from ECE, Mechanical, Computer Science, AI & Machine Learning, and Data Science departments visited the lab and benefited from hands-on training. Information about free courses offered through Infosys Springboard was also shared.

University representatives stated that such initiatives play a key role in enhancing students' technical knowledge and appreciated the successful organization of the programme. Senior university officials and faculty members attended the event.

Road and Traffic Development Works to Be Taken Up for 2027 Godavari Pushkarams – Collector Keerthi Chekuri



Rajahmendravaram, May 11: District Collector Keerthi Chekuri reviewed the preparations for the 2027 Godavari Pushkarams at a meeting held at the Bommuru Collectorate with officials from municipal,

traffic, police, and other departments. The Collector directed all departments to work in coordination with advance planning. Discussions were held on road widening works, including the East Railway Sta-

tion Road and the stretch from Morampudi Junction to Saraswati Ghat, to ensure smooth movement of devotees. He also instructed arrangements for rituals at the ghats and development of temporary

facilities.

Plans include setting up a temporary Pushkar Nagar near Spec Factory Ghat in Kovvur with identified land of 15 acres, shuttle services to ghats, traffic management, crowd control, parking arrangements, drinking water, sanitation, mobile toilets, medical services, information centres, and temporary rest areas. He emphasized 24/7 monitoring, shift-wise staff deployment, and control room operations, directing all departments to submit detailed action plans at the next meeting.

PGRS Grievances Must Be Resolved on Time: Collector



Kakinada, May 11: District Collector M.N. Harendhira Prasad directed officials to resolve grievances received un-

der the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) within the stipulated time and with quality. He stressed spe-

cial attention to re-opened complaints. The district-level PGRS and Revenue Clinic programs were held on Monday at the Vivekananda Hall in the Collectorate, where officials received petitions from the public. Issues raised included ration cards, name corrections, pensions, employment opportunities, drainage clearance, sanitation, and encroachments.

The Collector instructed departments to thoroughly examine each application, ensure proper resolution, update progress online regu-

larly, and clearly explain reasons to applicants if a problem cannot be resolved. He also noted that the state government is auditing PGRS applications at the mandal and state levels.

As part of the Revenue Clinic, grievances related to land re-survey, online land records, joint LPMS, 22A lands, and survey numbers were also received. The District Revenue Officer reviewed the applications with revenue officials and directed them to dispose of all pending cases promptly.

47 Complaints Received at District Police Grievance Meeting



Rajahmendravaram, May 11 (Pen Power): A total of 47 complaints were received during the Public Grievance Redressal System programme held at the East Godavari District Police Office on Monday. The programme was conducted by District Superintendent of Police D. Narasimha Kishore as part of the state government's initiative to ad-

dress public issues. People from across the district submitted grievances related to civil disputes, family matters, cheating cases, quarrels, and other issues. The SP interacted directly with complainants, spoke over the phone with concerned station officers, and directed them to resolve the matters within the legal framework and ensure justice.

National Technology Day Celebrated at APCAST Regional Science Centre, Vijayawada

Vijayawada, May 11: The National Technology Day 2026 celebrations were held at the APCAST Regional Science Centre in Vijayawada under the Department of Environment, Forests, Science and Technology, Government of Andhra Pradesh. AP State Council of Science and Technology (APCAST) Member Secretary Dr. K. Sarat Kumar, along with scientists, faculty members, students, and other dignitaries, participated in the event.

On the occasion, various competitions, poster exhibitions, science awareness programs, and interactive sessions were organized for students, witnessing enthusiastic participation from different educational institutions.

District Collector Dr. G.



Lakshmi visited the exhibits, interacted with students, and appreciated their innovative ideas and scientific spirit. He encouraged students to actively contribute to science and technology for societal development and national progress.

Prizes were distributed to the winners of the competitions by the chief guest.

The event concluded with appreciation to all participants, organizers, teachers, and students for making the programme a success.

Strict Action Against Illegal Transport of PDS Rice: Joint Collector

Nellore, May 11: Joint Collector Mogili Venkateswarlu stated that strict action will be taken against those illegally transporting PDS rice meant for the poor, adding that such irregularities will not be tolerated.

Following his instructions, Civil Supplies officials conducted vehicle checks at the Sitaram Toll Plaza in Venkatchalam and seized a lorry (AP 39 T 3519) carrying around 33 metric tonnes of PDS rice illegally. Preliminary inquiry revealed that the rice was being transported from Guntur district.

The seized vehicle and rice stock have been secured un-



der the supervision of officials, and further legal action is underway. The Joint Collector warned that continuous monitoring will be maintained to

curb illegal transport of PDS commodities, and strict action will be taken against offenders. Civil Supplies officials participated in the inspection.

Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu Conducts Surprise Inspection at Tekkali District Hospital



Srikakulam, May 11: Andhra Pradesh Agriculture, Cooperation and Marketing Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu conducted a surprise inspection at Tekkali District Hospital on Monday at 8:45 AM. During the visit, the Minister thoroughly reviewed registers, wards, and medical services, and inspected the pedi-

atric ward, maternity section, and diagnostic centre. He interacted with patients, inquiring about the availability of doctors and proper supply of medicines. He also directed officials to maintain cleanliness and ensure an eco-friendly hospital environment. The Minister expressed serious concern over the absence of around 44

staff members and warned of strict action if negligence continues. Referring to the recent water issue, he ordered the District Collector to conduct an inquiry and submit a comprehensive report within 24 hours.

He criticized opposition parties, alleging that they were creating unnecessary controversy over the water issue to defame the government, and cautioned that strict action would be taken against those involved. Reiterating the importance of providing quality healthcare to the poor, the Minister also distributed medical equipment worth approximately ₹20 lakh under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds. Hospital officials and staff participated in the programme.

Collector P. Rajababu Directs Officials to Prioritize Public Grievance Redressal



Ongole, May 11: District Collector P. Rajababu has instructed all department officials to work with the primary objective of resolving public grievances promptly and effectively. He participated in the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) programme held on Monday at the

Collectorate meeting hall in Ongole, along with Joint Collector Kalpana Kumari, District Revenue Officer Chinna Obulesu, SDsC Srihar Reddy, Madhuri, Vijayajyothi, and DPO Venkateswara Rao. The officials received petitions from the public during the session.

The Collector directed con-

cerned departments to examine each application carefully and ensure speedy resolution. He emphasized that the Chief Minister is giving special focus to grievance redressal and reiterated this during the recent Collectors' Conference. He stated that every petition must be addressed satisfactorily, and if a complaint cannot be resolved for any reason, a clear and understandable explanation should be provided to the applicant. He stressed that there should be no negligence in handling public issues and that grievances should not be reopened due to improper resolution. A total of 254 petitions were received during the programme. District officials from various departments participated in the event.

49 Complaints Received at PGRS; SP Orders Quick Resolution

Kakinada, May 11: District Superintendent of Police G. Bindu Madhav received 49 complaints during the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) program held at the District Police Office on Monday. Of the total, 11 were related to land disputes, 19 to family disputes, and 19 to other issues. The SP instructed

concerned police station officials to thoroughly examine each complaint, verify facts, and take appropriate legal action. He directed that inquiries be completed within seven days and detailed reports submitted to the district police office. The SP personally interacted with complainants and stated that provid-



ing speedy justice is the primary duty of the police.