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WHO RULES THE COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT? ‘AMMA’ OR THE RULE BOOK?

- Serious allegations raise questions over berth allocation, vessel shifting, agent pressure and decision-making at Visakhapatnam Port
- Is one official exercising disproportionate control over key Commercial Department decisions?
- Is there an alleged unofficial price for securing a vessel berth?
- Are vessels facing the threat of being shifted to anchorage if certain demands are not met?
- Why are agents allegedly required to make personal visits even when an online system exists?
- Who are the “higher-ups” allegedly referred to in conversations about sharing money?
- What is behind the ‘Green Energy’ file?
- Are Vigilance channels functioning effectively?
- And what is the truth behind claims of a past CBI-related action?

PEN POWER INVESTIGATION GROUND REPORT | EPISODE-2
Investigation Network, Pen Power
Visakhapatnam, October 4: Who really controls key decisions in the Commercial Department of Visakhapatnam Port?

Are decisions being taken strictly in accordance with prescribed rules, documented procedures and institutional checks?

Or has an unusually high degree of influence become concentrated in the hands of one official?

These are among the serious questions being raised in sections of the port and shipping community. At the centre of these conversations is a person repeatedly referred to by some sources simply as — “Amma.” Pen Power has not independently established the truth of all the allegations being circulated. However, given the seriousness of the claims and their potential implications for a major public institution, the issues warrant documentary scrutiny and an official response.

IS THE COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT UNDER ONE PERSON’S CONTROL?

Sources familiar with the functioning of the department allege that key commercial decisions may be influenced by a single official to an extent that goes beyond routine administrative responsibility.

Questions are being raised over matters such as:

- Which file moves first?
- Which approval remains pending?
- Which vessel receives priority?
- Which agent is asked to wait?
- And who ultimately influences berth-related decisions?

The issue is not merely about personality or internal office hierarchy. The larger question is whether established decision-making procedures are being followed consistently and whether senior officers are receiving complete and accurate information before approvals are finalised. If every decision is properly recorded and taken through the prescribed chain of authority, the official records should be able to establish that clearly.

‘A RATE’ FOR A BERTH?

One of the most serious allegations being discussed relates to berth allocation.

Some sources allege that an unofficial monetary demand may exist in connection with the allocation or continuation of berth facilities for certain vessels.

Pen Power has not independently verified the existence of any such fixed “rate”.

But the allegation raises critical questions.

- Was any shipping agent ever asked for an unofficial payment?
- Who allegedly communicated such a demand?
- Was any payment connected, directly or indirectly, to berth priority?
- Did any vessel receive preferential treatment after such interactions?

These questions cannot be answered through speculation.

They can, however, be examined through berth-allocation records, vessel-arrival data, agent communications, approval timings, internal notes and the sequence of decisions taken before and after berthing.

“THE SHARE GOES UP” — WHO ARE THE ‘HIGHER-UPS’?

An even more sensitive allegation concerns reported statements suggesting that money collected is not retained by one person alone, but is allegedly distributed to “people above”.

Pen Power has not independently confirmed that such statements were made.

But if any agent, contractor or stakeholder is willing to state on record that such words were used, the allegation deserves a formal and independent inquiry.

Who are the alleged “higher-ups”?

Were senior officials genuinely involved?

Or were their names being used without their knowledge to create pressure or fear?

These are very different possibilities. A fair investigation must therefore avoid assumptions and establish the money trail, if any, through evidence. If no such trail exists, that too must be placed on record.

PAY AND STAY... REFUSE AND MOVE TO ANCHORAGE?

Another allegation relates to vessels being subjected to operational pressure after arriving at berth. Sources claim that agents may sometimes face observations such as:

- “Cargo handling is slow.”
- “Performance is poor.”
- “Operations are not satisfactory.”

Such observations may be entirely legitimate when supported by operational data.

But the concern being raised is whether those assessments are always applied uniformly.

The crucial question is:

- Are performance norms the same for every vessel?
- Or is there any link between unofficial demands and subsequent decisions to retain a vessel at berth or move it to anchorage?

Shifting a vessel from berth to anchorage can result in additional time, operational costs and commercial consequences for shipping companies.

Therefore, vessel performance reports, cargo-handling statistics, berth productivity data, shifting orders and anchorage records should be examined together.

Only the records can establish whether operational decisions were objective or arbitrary.

WHY A PERSONAL MEETING IF THE SYSTEM IS ONLINE?

Shipping agents also raise questions over alleged delays

in securing signatures and approvals.

The concern is straightforward.

If the application is complete...

If documents have been uploaded...

If the process is digital...

Why should an agent allegedly need to personally meet a particular official before the file moves?

There may be legitimate reasons for physical verification or clarification in certain cases.

But if personal meetings have effectively become an unwritten requirement, the Port administration must explain why.

A transparent digital system should reduce discretion, not create an additional informal layer around it.

ARE JUNIOR EMPLOYEES BEING USED FOR PERSONAL WORK?

Another allegation concerns junior employees.

Some sources claim that lower-level staff may have been asked to perform personal errands unrelated to official duties.

Again, this allegation requires verification.

The facts can be checked objectively through: attendance records, duty rosters, vehicle logbooks, gate-entry records, official movement registers, and CCTV footage.

If staff were used only for official work, the records should demonstrate that. If any misuse of manpower or official vehicles occurred, responsibility must be fixed.

THE ‘GREEN ENERGY’ FILE — WHAT DOES IT CONTAIN?

Another subject repeatedly mentioned by sources is a matter described as “Green Energy”.

Pen Power is examining questions relating to the project and the Commercial Department’s role in it.

Which company or entity is connected to the proposal?

What exactly was proposed?

Who initiated the file?

Who recommended it?

Who approved it?

Were any special terms, concessions, priority or commercial benefits extended?

And what was the documented justification?

There is no basis to draw conclusions without examining the complete file.

But if the matter has been handled strictly in accordance with rules, disclosure of the decision trail should remove any ambiguity.

WHY ARE AGENTS RELUCTANT TO SPEAK OPENLY?

Perhaps the most significant issue is the reluctance of some shipping-sector stakeholders to speak openly.

Why?

Do they fear future commercial consequences?

Do they worry that the next vessel may face delays?

Could approvals become more difficult?

Could operational decisions turn unfavourable?

Such fears, whether justified or not, are damaging to institutional credibility. If the Port Authority wants to establish confidence, it should consider a confidential mechanism through which agents and stakeholders can submit complaints without fear of retaliation.

VIGILANCE: ACTIVE WATCHDOG OR INACCESSIBLE CHANNEL?

Visakhapatnam Port has a Vigilance mechanism.

But allegations have been raised regarding accessibility and responsiveness.

Are complaints acknowledged?

Are emails answered?

Are telephone complaints properly recorded?

Are complainants informed

about action taken?

How many complaints relating to Commercial operations have been received?

How many were closed?

How many resulted in inquiry or action?

These numbers can provide a far clearer picture than rumours.

If allegations that phone or email channels are not functioning properly are incorrect, the Port administration should publish the correct complaint mechanisms prominently.

CBI RAID CLAIM: FACT, RUMOUR OR MISREPRESENTATION?

One of the most serious claims circulating in port circles is that the official being referred to as ‘Amma’ had allegedly been connected to a CBI raid or action in the past. Pen Power has not independently verified this claim. Therefore, it should not be treated as an established fact.

The appropriate questions are:

- Did any CBI raid, search or inquiry actually take place?
- If yes, in which year?
- Under what case number or proceeding?
- What was the allegation?
- Was any material seized?
- Was a charge sheet filed?
- Was the matter closed?
- Was departmental action initiated?

Or is the entire claim merely an unverified rumour being repeated within the Port?

The answer should come from official records, not corridor gossip.

THE RECORDS CAN SPEAK

The truth does not have to depend on anonymous claims.

A transparent review of the following records could establish what actually happened:

- Berthing programmes
- Vessel arrival records
- Berth allotment data
- Vessel performance reports
- Cargo-handling statistics
- Anchorage and shifting orders
- Shipping-agent communications
- Internal file movement
- Approval timestamps
- Visitor registers
- CCTV records, where legally available
- Vehicle logbooks
- Vigilance complaint records
- Relevant ‘Green Energy’ files and approvals

A time-sequence comparison of these records may answer several critical questions.

- Were decisions consistent?
- Were some vessels treated differently?
- Were there unexplained delays?
- Were approvals altered after private meetings?
- Did any individual exercise authority outside the documented chain of command?

THE QUESTION THE PORT MUST ANSWER

The issue before the Visakhapatnam Port administration is larger than one officer. It is about institutional credibility.

Are Commercial Department decisions rule-based?

Are berth allocations transparent?

Are vessel-performance standards applied uniformly?

Can shipping agents access services without unofficial pressure?

Are senior officers fully aware of decisions being taken below them?

Is the Vigilance mechanism functioning independently and effectively?

And are allegations of money collection, influence and preferential treatment supported by any evidence?

If the allegations are baseless, the Port Authority has every opportunity to disprove them through records and an official clarification.

If documentary evidence supports any of the allegations, accountability must follow regardless of position or influence. Pen Power remains open to publishing the official response of the Visakhapatnam Port Authority and any concerned officer in full or in appropriate context.

NEXT: EPISODE-3
WHO STANDS BEHIND ‘AMMA’?
Which vessels were shifted from berth to anchorage — and why?
What documents and communications are reportedly in the possession of shipping agents?
Whose signatures appear in the ‘Green Energy’ file?
Is there any evidence behind the allegation of a “share for higher-ups”?

What do Vigilance records actually reveal?
And what do the official files say about the allegations surrounding the Commercial Department?

PENPOWER INVESTIGATION NETWORK
More documents. More questions. More answers.
Coming in Episode-3.

Asian Games Gold: Minister Nara Lokesh Congratulates Jyothi Surekha



From Our Staff Reporter
Amaravati, October 5: Renowned archer Vennam Jyothi Surekha met Andhra Pradesh Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh on Monday. The minister congratulated her on winning a gold medal at the Asian Games 2026. Representing India at the Asian Games 2026 held in Japan, Surekha won the gold medal in the women’s compound team event in archery. Surekha’s father, Surendra Kumar, met Lokesh at his Undavalli residence today. Surekha has so far won six medals at the Asian Games, including four gold medals. Minister Lokesh specially congratulated Jyothi Surekha for her outstanding performance and gold-medal victory at the Asian Games. He praised her for making the country and the state proud by making the Tricolour fly high on the international stage. Lokesh assured her of all possible support and encouraged her to work towards winning a medal at the 2028 Olympics.

Vacant Posts Will Be Filled Soon: Minister Gottipati

From Our Staff Reporter
Visakhapatnam, October 5: Andhra Pradesh Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar said the government has been expediting compassionate appointments over the past three years. He stated that more than 445 compassionate appointments have been made in the power department since the alliance government came to power.

Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar handed over compassionate appointment letters to employees at the EPDCL corporate office in Visakhapatnam on Monday. Visakhapatnam MP Sri Bharat, TDP Andhra Pradesh president Palla Srinivasa Rao, MLA Velagapudi Ramakrishna Babu, EPDCL CMD Prithvi Tej and senior energy department officials attended the programme. Appointment letters were handed over to 43 employees. Later, the minister inspected the EPDCL Command Control Centre.

CM Chandrababu Focusing Specially on Power Department

Minister Gottipati said Energy Assistants working in the Secretariat had been absorbed into the power department.

He said Chief Minister Naidu was paying special attention to the energy sector. He announced that vacant lineman posts at the ground level would be filled soon. He stressed the need to create awareness among people about efficient electricity consumption and said underground cabling works were being taken up. He said steps were being taken to prevent problems in the power sector in the future.

The minister said the government had not increased electricity tariffs

during its three-year tenure and that Chief Minister Chandrababu had instructed that power bills should not be increased. He advised employees to exercise caution while performing their duties and directed officials to take all measures to prevent accidents in the power department.

Full Support to Power Department: Palla Srinivasa Rao

TDP Andhra Pradesh president Palla Srinivasa Rao said Chief Minister Chandrababu was implementing compassionate appointments with the objective of supporting families facing hardship. He appreciated the Energy Minister for personally attending the programme and handing over appointment letters. He said the importance of the power department was clearly felt during Cyclone Hudhud. He assured that they would extend full support and cooperation to the department. He advised the newly appointed employees to discharge their responsibilities sincerely and urged officials to work hard.

Save Electricity: MP Sri Bharat



No Politics at Rayalaseema Development Meeting: Pawan Kalyan

From Our Staff Reporter
Kadapa, October 5: Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan made interesting remarks at a public meeting in Proddatur in Kadapa district. He criticised the YSRCP government, alleging that not a single project was completed during its tenure. He also said the previous government had failed to properly utilise funds provided by the Centre. Pawan Kalyan recalled that the alliance government had succeeded in extending the Jal Jeevan Mission. Addressing party workers, he said he understood their anger and enthusiasm. However, he stressed that this was not the time to talk politics.

The Deputy Chief Minister said politics should be kept out of the Rayalaseema development meeting. He remarked that political confrontation should arise only when there was a war, and said he would take on an opponent only if they crossed their limits. On Monday, Pawan Kalyan, along with Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, launched the Jal Jeevan Mission and Amarajeevi Jaladhara schemes in Proddatur, Kadapa district.



EDITORIAL

India: An Ageing Nation by 2050

India was once described by the world as a young nation. Its vast young population, large working-age population and rapidly expanding economy were all considered demographic advantages. But times are changing. Birth rates are declining, life expectancy is increasing and family sizes are shrinking. As a result, young India is gradually transforming into an ageing India. Are we becoming an ageing nation before becoming an affluent one? This question is no longer merely a matter of concern; it has become a crucial issue that could determine the country's future.

According to the 2011 Census, the number of people aged 60 and above in India stood at 10.38 crore. Government estimates indicate that this number reached around 13.79 crore by 2021. It is projected to rise to 19.38 crore by 2031. The fact that the elderly population is growing faster than the overall population is the clearest indication of this transformation. According to estimates by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), by 2050, people aged 60 and above could account for more than 20 per cent of India's total population. In other words, nearly one in every five Indians could be elderly.

Another estimate suggests that the number of people aged 60 and above could reach around 34.6 crore by 2050. The number of the oldest-old, those aged 80 and above, is also expected to increase rapidly. This means that the challenge ahead will not simply be the growing number of elderly people. The country will also have to address issues such as long-term healthcare, caregiving, financial security, loneliness, disability and mental health. The major factor behind India's demographic transition is the declining fertility rate. UNFPA data indicate that India's total fertility rate was 1.9 children per woman in 2025. This is below the replacement level of 2.1 needed to maintain a stable population across generations. At the same time, the elderly population is increasing because of improved medical facilities, declining infant mortality and rising life expectancy. On the one hand, fewer children are being born; on the other, more people are living longer. Together, these two developments are fundamentally changing India's age structure.

This is not necessarily a development against the interests of the country. People living longer and healthier lives are, in fact, a sign of medical and social progress. India currently has a large working-age population. It is during this phase that the country must make massive investments in education, skill development, employment, healthcare and social security. The young people working today will provide the economic foundation for the ageing India of tomorrow. Thinking about old age only after people have become elderly would be too late. The foundation of an ageing society must be laid during the young and working years themselves. According to UNFPA projections, by 2046, the number of elderly people in India could surpass the number of children aged 0-15.

This will be a major turning point in India's demographic history. The country must start preparing for it now. India, which has the world's largest population, faces another major challenge: not merely managing a large population, but effectively managing a changing demographic structure. India can no longer measure development solely through the growth rate of its gross domestic product. How much security, healthcare, dignity and financial independence a country provides to its elderly citizens must also become a measure of development. Ageing is not a problem of the distant future; it is already a present reality. Becoming an ageing nation before becoming a wealthy one is not necessarily a tragedy. The real danger lies in failing to prepare for ageing while the country is creating wealth. India cannot move forward by relying solely on its old identity as a young nation. Keeping the ageing India of tomorrow in mind, the country must redesign its systems today for healthcare, pensions, long-term care, employment, social security, urban planning and family support mechanisms.

Otherwise, India may face the paradox of becoming an ageing nation before it becomes a prosperous one, despite having the world's largest population. Therefore, the country must wake up now and view demographic change not as a burden but as a signal for advance planning. Along with building a young India, equal importance must be given to building an India where people can age with dignity. That alone will give true meaning to inclusive and comprehensive development.

What Else Is There Except Violence?

When, over the past 600 years, has the Western bloc of states refrained from inflicting violence on the rest of the world? For territory, resources, slaves, markets and dominance. During wars as well as in periods when there were no wars. When have they not forcibly recruited young people from India and other countries into their armies and sacrificed them even for wars of dominance among themselves? How many crores of people have been killed as a result of their violence in the conflicts and wars of the past 600 years? How many have fallen victim to famines, deprivation and violence caused by their exploitation? Is the democracy they preach itself not a deception and a form of violence? Is it not a cover for their continued exploitation? In its true form, the idea of democracy and democratic institutions are extraordinary. They are systems that people genuinely desire for their own welfare. Western philosophers too have defined them extensively and systematically. When the Naxalites declared that "political power grows out of the barrel of a gun," they faced severe criticism. They were branded as advocates of violence and suppressed. And rightly so. When a democratic voting system exists to reflect public opinion, there is no need for such a path. But look at the international scene once. What is the United States, which claims to be the world's greatest and most powerful democracy, doing? And what have Britain, which claims to be the birthplace of modern democracy, and several European states been doing over the past 600 years? What have they done other than arming themselves for their own interests and inflicting violence on others? Their entire history has been violent. Even today, so much is happening before our eyes. Hardly a week passes without US President Donald Trump threatening Iran with weapons. And attacks are another matter altogether. He repeatedly warns that the entire Iranian nation and its culture could be wiped out overnight. He frequently reminds the world that the United States is the most powerful country on earth and possesses the weapons capable of carrying out

such destruction. What else is there except violence?

Iran comes forward through democratic means and sits down for talks seeking a peaceful understanding. Negotiations take place. Mediators even announce that the talks are progressing satisfactorily. Then, suddenly, in the middle of the negotiations, the United States and Israel jointly bomb Tehran. Iran's leader is killed along with members of his family. The world is stunned. Neither country explains the reasons for its action. What else is there except violence? The media speculate about the reasons. They seek information from official sources. War experts and political commentators offer their analyses. They say Israel does not genuinely want negotiations or democratic solutions. They argue that Israel devised a strategy to kill Iran's leader, believing that the system there might surrender in the same way that Venezuela's government was allegedly forced to submit after its president and his wife were abducted in a midnight military operation in which hundreds were reportedly killed. According to these analyses, Israel persuaded Trump and carried out such an attack. What is there in all this except violence? The United States possesses thousands of nuclear weapons. Israel has around a hundred. NATO countries possess several hundred more. Many allied countries of these powers conduct nuclear research for peaceful purposes, and these powers cooperate with them. Recently, they even offered similar assistance to Saudi Arabia. But they insist that Iran must not be given any such opportunity. They oppose not only nuclear weapons but even peaceful nuclear applications.

When Iran had a ruler favourable to them, it was they who supplied nuclear reactors. But when independent-minded rulers came to power, all the principles were turned upside down. The new government repeatedly declared that its programme was not aimed at producing weapons. Although Israel itself has not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Iran has. It allows inspectors from the International Atomic Energy



Agency (IAEA) to regularly inspect its nuclear facilities. Khamenei has reportedly issued fatwas more than once stating that the production of weapons of mass destruction such as nuclear weapons is contrary to Islam and therefore should not be undertaken. Whatever the case, Iran has a government that acts independently rather than according to their dictates. It would not hand over its vast oil and gas reserves to their companies. Therefore, they must find a hundred and one excuses to launch attacks. At every step, what can be seen here other than violence?

Iran had never done anything to the United States. In 1953, the Iranian people took control of their energy resources, which had been under the control of British companies, because they wanted those resources to belong to them. That was an anti-British move, not an anti-American one. Nevertheless, the American CIA joined hands with Britain and brought down that government. They encouraged violence. The people, unwilling to tolerate this, eventually overthrew the Shah who had regained power. The conspiracies of the American-led Western bloc that began then continue to this day. There is hardly any kind of attack or destruction that has not been carried out. Thousands of civilians have lost their lives. The same thing continues even today. They say that if Iran does not accept their conditions, they will continue the destruction for as long as necessary. They openly

declare that they can eliminate leaders of successive generations. What should all this be called if not violence? And what about Palestine, which is becoming a victim of this entire injustice? It is an independent country. Until the Second World War, there was no Israel as such. The Western powers created it anew at that time. For this purpose, Palestine was partitioned. It was declared that Palestine and Israel would exist as two independent states side by side. The United Nations also adopted a resolution to that effect. What has happened in the decades since then? Israel does not want Palestine to continue as a viable state. Nor does the United States. What they want is a Greater Israel that would also occupy Gaza and the West Bank. For that purpose, Gaza is destroyed and mass killings are carried out. The United States supplies Israel with weapons and funds. Europeans transfer weapons and provide financial support through trade.

They veto resolutions in the Security Council aimed at restraining Israel. They impose sanctions on the International Criminal Court, which has declared Netanyahu a suspect, and threaten judges. Where is there no violence in all this? Israel is also occupying the West Bank, driving Palestinians from their homes through attacks while establishing settlements for thousands of Jews. It provides military support for settler violence and funds the settlements. It ignores United Nations condemnations that all this is contrary to international

law. The capital is moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, which is claimed as being in the West Bank. Trump recognises the move. He does not reject the settlements either. Human rights organisations and even impartial Western media organisations point to the violence in the West Bank. Yet nothing stops. Where is violence not taking place?

As stated at the outset, when in the past 600 years has the Western bloc of states refrained from inflicting violence on the rest of the world? For territory, resources, slaves, markets and dominance. During wars as well as in times of peace. When have they not forcibly recruited young people from India and other countries into their armies and sacrificed them even for wars of dominance among themselves? How many crores of people have fallen victim to their violence in the conflicts and wars of the past 600 years? How many have died in famines, deprivation and violence caused by their exploitation? Is the democracy they preach itself not a deception and a form of violence? Is it not a cover for their continued exploitation? In its true form, the idea of democracy and democratic institutions are extraordinary. They are systems that people genuinely desire for their own welfare. Western philosophers too have defined them extensively and systematically. But the imperialists have turned that very idea into a perpetual cycle of violence. They have made violence and war the instruments of their foreign policy.

flydubai Scare Could Rewrite Cockpit Security To Fight Inside Threat

On September 30, the world was rocked by the news of a terror attack in our neighbourhood involving a flydubai aircraft. It was followed by unbelievable scenes of courage, bravery and singular heroism of the pilot and passengers of flydubai FZ1073 who stopped an attempt by the co-pilot to crash the aircraft or as some alleged, perform a September 11-type attack on Israel. It is important to recognise that the available data from Flight Radar in the public domain has shocked the world of aviation - how could a Boeing 737 MAX descend that rapidly without breaking up or suffering major damage? The pressure exerted by the "almost freefall" was many Gs more than the aircraft could withstand. Yet we saw how it landed battered and bruised. The apparent act of the Israeli plumber Yaniv Hayoun of pulling the yoke back and stabilising the aircraft are out of an adventure story, but we know it happened. So rather than question or speculate, let us wait for the reports to emerge. Would such a rescue and recovery be possible under normal circumstances? Not at all, even if it was simulated 100 times, it would fail 99 out of 100 times, but it worked this one time and they are all alive to tell the tale. Sometimes, it takes many miracles to save the day and this was one such day. If

even one of the people in this chain of events had not acted, we would have been mourning the dead.

Just like aviation changed inexorably after the September 11 attacks with the introduction of reinforced steel doors, fresh cockpit and crew protocols and APIS becoming a compulsory advanced screening tool for aviation, we will see changes now. I recall that in the early days after September 11 attacks, pilots and even crew with Muslim names were being delayed clearances by Homeland Security or extensive security backgrounds were sought.

The Pilot Crisis

There is a shortage of trained pilots globally, and to make matters worse, flying conditions for pilots are abysmal with excessive duty hours and shorter rests, transshipments through airports and highly stressed environments. In India, we have seen a few incidents over the last two years that have either reflected on the weakening safety environment or in the emotional situation. Pilots face perhaps the most stressed civilian jobs in the world, carrying the burden of hundreds of passengers each take-off and landing and then dealing with the elements and sometimes temperamental machines. Not enough care has been taken to ensure the sanctity of their mind space. The

German Wings incident reminds us that there is a mental aspect of pilots that has shown up and is now monitored, but how do you evaluate radicalised minds with suicidal tendencies such as the ones we have seen during 9-11 and now in flydubai? There are psychometric tests to see the psychological mindset of a pilot and their suitability for flying, but are there enough testing assessments to determine the radicalised situation? Maybe not. Radicals are known to undergo indoctrination to conceal their true thoughts.

What Went Wrong?

We need to understand what exactly went wrong on flydubai and single out the faults in the system that were exposed by the Omani co-pilot that almost caused the biggest act of aviation terror since 9-11. Prima facie it appears to be a failure of APIS to track the system breach, apparent Lack of pre-advance intelligence of such a threat, breach of bilateral ASA's post the Abraham Accords, failure of flydubai to screen its pilots properly and failure to assess the radicalisation and emotional health of the pilot. Israel follows the US model of APIS, and the NCPIA hub tracks all incoming passengers and crew. So how did the Israeli NCPIA miss the warning signs of the co-pilot Hamam al-Hammami? This was a major failure at a systemic level

that will be investigated deep and hard. There was apparently no known advance intelligence of such a plot or chatter on the networks, despite Israel and the US being at war with Iran. It would not be out of place to suggest that guards had been lowered post the Abraham Accords and I have a sense that there will be a thorough reevaluation of these protocols. The APIS stipulations are clear, that crew belonging to any nation that refuses to recognise Israel or that treats Israel as an enemy are barred from flying into Israeli airspace, namely Oman, Syria and Iran. Was this relaxed post the Abraham Accords? How did Hammami escape the net despite having both Omani and Syrian connections? The mental state and emotional health of the pilot was one such issue that failed the crucial test in this incident. How did the system fail to recognise a pilot with radicalised tendencies and send them into a cockpit bound for Israel? This despite him having been allegedly removed from Oman Air due to his radical thoughts. That is a question that flydubai and UAE authorities will have to ruminate deeply over.

Guardrails For The Future

Aviation has grown in leaps and bounds, and the control of predictable technical failures has been at the focus of aviation regulators and manufacturers. This incident highlights to

us that there are dangers that lurk inside the cockpit too, and in the minds of few pilots the world over. To add to that there are issues of cyber threats and the future of AI in the cockpit, or a combination of all of them. The regulatory system has to evolve from "compliance with known risks" to continuous detection of emerging risks. How do we establish guardrails for such situations? It's something that is close to impossible that aviation and regulators will struggle to achieve. It's easy to place layers of protection around aviation and aviators, but one cannot create a system in which a radicalised mind of a human being with evil intent cannot breach and cause harm.

Traditional Threats Now Have New Meaning

Airlines, regulators and aviation in general are dealing with traditional sabotage and terror, technical failures, GPS spoofing and cyber threats, human failures and fatigue; added to these now we see the emergence of insider threats, radicalisation and artificial intelligence. Aviation's traditional battlefield is focussed around engine failure, structural failure, flight-control malfunction, software problems, navigation failures, maintenance errors, manufacturing defects and human failure based on fatigue, stress and mental health.

Elaborate Arrangements for ‘Adavi Thalli Bata’

Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan to Visit Polavaram District on October 8
Collector K. Dinesh Kumar Directs Officials to Complete Arrangements on War Footing



Rampachodavaram, Pen Power, October 5 : Polavaram District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar directed officials of all departments to make elaborate arrangements for the visit of Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Konidela Pawan Kalyan to the district on October 8 as part of the ‘Adavi Thalli Bata’ programme. A coordination meeting with officials of various departments was held at the ITDA meeting hall in Rampachodavaram on Monday. The Collector said only three days were left for the visit and instructed officials to immediately take up the assigned works and complete them within the stipulated time. He directed officials to follow the coordination model adopted during the recent Chief Minister’s visit and ensure proper planning, inter-departmental coordination and field-level monitoring. Officials were asked to review the progress of arrangements every day and immediately bring any field-level issues to the notice of senior officers.

Route and Venue Arrangements

The Deputy Chief Minister is expected to reach Polavaram district by helicopter from Rajamahendravaram and proceed by road to the scheduled programme locations. The Collector instructed officials to thoroughly inspect the proposed road route and make arrangements for sanitation, drinking water, electricity, parking and smooth public movement. Arrangements at the proposed locations of Kakavada, Rakota and Lankapakalu were also discussed. The Collector said a field inspection would be conducted along with the SP. Special arrangements should be made for the Rachabanda and foundation-laying programmes proposed at Rakota. Officials were instructed to make comprehensive arrangements for the helipad, public meeting venue, seating, traffic movement, parking, drinking water, sanitation and electricity. As a large number of people are expected to attend the public meeting, a detailed action plan should be prepared for crowd management, traffic regulation and police bandobust.

Focus on Development and PM JANMAN Works

The Collector directed officials to expedite works related to development programmes proposed to be inaugurated during the visit. Departments were asked to keep ready details of completed works, ongoing works and projects ready for inauguration.

He also instructed officials to pay special attention to helipad arrangements and ensure that fire, medical and emergency services were kept ready with necessary equipment.

The progress of works under the PM JANMAN programme, aimed at the comprehensive development of tribal areas, was also reviewed. Officials were asked to prepare details of infrastructure, welfare and development works being implemented in tribal areas.

Special arrangements should also be made for the ‘Adavi Thalli Bata’ programme, including installation of foundation stones, display boards and other facilities at the programme venues.

Security Arrangements to be Strengthened

District SP K. Chakravarthy directed police officials to ensure foolproof security arrangements for the Deputy Chief Minister’s visit. He instructed them to inspect the route, helipad, Rachabanda venue, public meeting area and parking locations in advance and prepare a comprehensive security and traffic management plan.

Joint Collector S. Prashanth Kumar directed all departments to complete their assigned responsibilities on a war footing, considering the limited time available. He stressed continuous coordination among departments and daily monitoring of the progress of arrangements.

Officials from Tribal Welfare, Panchayat Raj, Roads and Buildings, DWMA, DRDA, Health and other departments participated in the meeting.

Encroachments on Drains Removed in Rajamahendravaram Civic Body Cracks Down on Drain Encroachments



RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM, OCTOBER 5, PEN POWER CORRESPONDENT: The Rajamahendravaram Municipal Corporation (RMC) has intensified its special drive against illegal encroachments on drains and public spaces, removing unauthorised ramps, steps and boards erected over drains along the Grand Trunk Road on Monday. Town Planning officials, accompanied by staff and using JCB machinery, cleared several structures that were found to be in violation of municipal regulations. The action was taken as part of the civic body’s ongoing efforts to ease traffic congestion, improve pedestrian movement and ensure the smooth flow of drainage water across the city. RMC Commissioner Rahul Meena said that several property owners had extended ramps and steps onto roads and footpaths, occupying nearly half of the available public space in some locations. Such encroachments were making the roads narrower and causing considerable inconvenience to motorists and pedestrians. He further pointed out that construction of compound walls, slabs and steps over drainage channels was obstructing the free flow of wastewater.



During heavy rains, such obstructions could lead to water stagnation and flooding in surrounding areas, creating serious inconvenience to residents and posing risks to public health. The Commissioner said the civic authorities were removing unauthorised structures over drains to maintain proper drainage flow and protect public health. He stressed that the drive was being undertaken in the larger public interest and would focus on preventing the misuse of roads, footpaths and drainage infrastructure. The municipal authorities appealed to residents, property owners and business establishments to cooperate with the encroachment removal programme. Officials warned that structures found obstructing public roads, footpaths and drains would be removed as per municipal regulations. The RMC said the special drive would continue in other parts of the city wherever unauthorised constructions and encroachments are identified.

Excise Shop Licences to Be Allotted Through Lottery

Four shops in East Godavari district covered under 2026–27 notification

RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM, OCTOBER 5, PEN POWER CORRESPONDENT: District Prohibition and Excise Officer Y. Srilatha has announced that applications have been invited for allotment of licences for four excise shops in East Godavari district for the 2026–27 excise year. The licences for sale of Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) and Foreign Liquor (FL) will be allotted through a lottery in accordance with the Andhra Pradesh Excise (Grant of Licence of Selling by Shop and Conditions of Licence) Rules, 2024. Srilatha stated that District Gazette Notification No. 30/2026, dated September 24, 2026, has been issued for the allotment process. The four shops covered under the notification are located at Biccavolu, Kadiyam, Kovvur and Mandapeta Rural. The shops are EG/36 – Biccavolu, EG/62 – Kadiyam, EG/70 – Kovvur and KSM/110 – Mandapeta Rural. The non-refundable application fee for each shop is ₹3 lakh. The annual RET is ₹71.50 lakh, while the Permit Room RET is ₹7.50 lakh. The licence period will be from October 1, 2026, to September 30, 2027. Interested applicants can submit applications through

online or offline/hybrid modes up to midnight on October 6, 2026.

For online applications, applicants have to pay ₹3 lakh towards the application fee and ₹1,000 as processing fee, totalling ₹3.01 lakh. Applicants opting for the offline/hybrid procedure have to pay the prescribed application and processing fees as specified in the notification. Applications will be accepted at the District Prohibition and Excise Office, East Godavari, and the Prohibition and Excise Stations at North Rajamahendravaram, South Rajamahendravaram, Korukonda, Rangampeta, Kovvur, Devarapalli and Nidadavole. Srilatha said the lottery would be conducted only if the prescribed minimum number of applications was received. A minimum of four applications is required for shops in areas with a population of up to 50,000, six applications for areas with a population between 50,000 and five lakh, and eight applications for areas with a population above five lakh.



Mayor Race in Visakhapatnam TDP - Ommi Sanyasi Rao's Name Emerges

Loyal to Party Since 1995.. Strong Leader from Yadav Community Ready for 2026 GVMC Polls

Visakhapatnam Pen Power, October 5: Another strong name has emerged from the Telugu Desam Party for the Visakhapatnam Mayor post. The name is Ommi Sanyasi Rao. With GVMC elections 2026 approaching, his profile is attracting the attention of the party high command and the public.

Three Decades of Loyal Journey:

Ommi Sanyasi Rao entered TDP through a massive public meeting held at Thotagaruvu in 1996 under Municipal Minister Bandaru Satyanarayana Murthy and has remained loyal to the party since then. He has experience working with city presidents Sundaram Patrudu, Zaheer Ahmed, Rehman, Vasupalli Ganesh Kumar, Palla Srinivas, Chode Pattabhi and others. He is one of the leaders who laid the foundation for TDP in combined Pendurthi when CPM had dominance. Party sources say his hard work was behind the victories of PGVR Naidu (Ganababu) from Pendurthi and Pasarla Prasad from Adivivaram Panchayat. He also worked with former MP MVVS Murthy, Sureddy, Kolli Dhanalakshmi, Palla Simhachalam. He extensively campaigned for TDP mayor candidate Pasupuleti Umabala.

Key Role in East Constituency Victories:

After the delimitation in 2008, in the newly formed Visakh East Constituency, Ommi Sanyasi Rao played a key role in mobilizing Yadav community support behind

the consecutive victories of Velagapudi Ramakrishna Babu in 2009, 2014, 2019 and 2024. He has emerged as a strong leader of the Yadav community at the city and district level and held state, district and city level posts.

Fight for Public Issues & Experience as Corporator:

He led several movements for development of Thotagaruvu High School, construction of Surya Teja Nagar JNNURM housing complex in slums, rehabilitation of BRTS evacuees, and development of Srikant Nagar and Thotagaruvu villages. After GVMC expanded from 50 to 72 wards, he contested from Ward No. 2 in 2007 elections on TDP ticket and won as Corporator with a huge majority.

With a stable family background with wife and two sons, financial strength, strong Yadav community support and three decades of party loyalty, cadres feel that fielding Ommi Sanyasi Rao as Mayor candidate will further strengthen the party in the city. According to reliable information, he is ready to contest as Mayor for 2026 GVMC elections if the party high command directs.



Encroach Footpaths, Face Action!

RMC Intensifies Special Drive Against Encroachments – Pedestrian Safety Gets Priority: Commissioner Rahul Meena



RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM, OCTOBER 5, PEN POWER CORRESPONDENT : The Rajamahendravaram Municipal Corporation (RMC) has intensified its special drive against encroachments on footpaths, drains and public spaces across the city. The civic body is removing unauthorised shops, stalls, pushcarts, display boards and other structures that obstruct pedestrian movement.

RMC Commissioner Rahul Meena said encroachment of footpaths by unauthorised constructions and commercial activities was causing serious inconvenience to pedestrians and motorists. With pedestrians being forced to walk on roads due to blocked footpaths, the problem was also contributing to traffic congestion and increasing the risk of accidents. As part of the special enforcement drive, Town Planning officials on Saturday removed shops, boards and other unauthorised structures erected on footpaths and drains along Tilak Road. Municipal JCBs were used to clear temporary stalls, pushcarts and other obstructions that were blocking pedestrian pathways. Commissioner Rahul Meena said ensuring safe and convenient



footpaths for pedestrians was one of the priorities of the Municipal Corporation. He pointed out that clear guidelines were in place regarding pedestrian safety and stressed the need to keep designated footpaths accessible to the public. The Commissioner warned that footpaths, drains and other public spaces could not be occupied for private or commercial purposes in violation of municipal regulations. He appealed to traders, shop owners and property owners to voluntarily remove unauthorised structures and cooperate with the civic authorities. As part of the same enforcement activity, Town Planning staff also removed an unauthorised construction on the ground floor of a building in Lalithanagar on Saturday. Officials said the special drive would continue in other parts of Rajamahendravaram to restore footpaths, improve traffic movement and ensure safer walking spaces for citizens. The Municipal Corporation urged residents and business establishments to comply with regulations and cooperate with the ongoing encroachment removal programme.

Sheikh Khader Bee Honoured as Best Teacher of East Godavari APPUSMA Felicitates Her at Teachers’ Day Celebrations

RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM, OCTOBER 5 (PEN POWER CORRESPONDENT : Recognising the valuable services of teachers and felicitating them would encourage educators to discharge their responsibilities with greater dedication, said APPUSMA East Godavari district president P. Kalyan Reddy, secretary P. Ramakrishna Raju and treasurer P. Suresh. The Andhra Pradesh Private Unaided Schools Managements Association (APPUSMA), East Godavari district unit, organised a grand Gurupuja Mahotsavam—2026 as part of the International Teachers’ Day celebrations. Under the “Acharya Devo Bhava” programme, Sheikh Khader Bee of Navodaya English Medium UP School, Rajupalem, was selected as the Best Teacher at the district level. She was felicitated on Sunday at the Gurupuja Mahotsavam—2026 held at the Chamber of Commerce Kalyana Mandapam in Rajamahendravaram. The APPUSMA district committee presented her with an appreciation certificate and honoured her for her dedicated services in the field of education. The organisers said Sheikh Khader Bee has been rendering valuable service by not only

teaching academic subjects but also creating aware-



ness among students about discipline, moral values and social responsibility. Speaking on the occasion, Kalyan Reddy, Ramakrishna Raju and Suresh said teachers play a crucial role in shaping the future of students. Recognising and honouring teachers who render dedicated services would inspire others in the teaching community as well, they said. Members of the APPUSMA district committee and fellow teachers congratulated Sheikh Khader Bee on receiving the honour and wished her continued success in serving the education sector.

Public Grievances Addressed in Polavaram District



Rampachodavaram, Pen Power, October 5: Polavaram District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar said priority was being given to resolving public grievances, particularly those from remote tribal villages. A Public Grievance Redressal Forum and Revenue Clinic

was held at the ITDA meeting hall in Rampachodavaram on Monday in the presence of Joint Collector S. Prashanth Kumar. Officials received 185 grievance petitions and 30 Revenue Clinic applications and directed the concerned departments to take prompt action. Petitions included requests for R&R packages for Polavaram project-affected families, CC roads, drinking water facilities and declaring all 12 mandals of the district as drought-affected areas. Free medical services were also provided to people attending the grievance programme. Around 150 people underwent free eye examinations, while free dental check-ups were also conducted. Officials from various departments, including Tribal Welfare, DRDA, Agriculture, Education, Health, Panchayat Raj and Revenue, participated in the programme.

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Rs 30 Lakh Funds Announced for Development of The Rajahmundry Press Club



RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM, OCTOBER 5, PEN POWER CORRESPONDENT: The Rajahmundry Press Club is set to receive a major boost in infrastructure development with City MLA Adireddy Srinivas (Vasu) announcing financial support for the long-pending development works of the club. The MLA has assured ₹27 lakh through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds and four air-conditioners through the Bhavani Charitable Trust, according to the newly elected Press Club committee. Following the assumption of charge by the new committee, several representations were submitted to the MLA seeking support for improving the facilities at the Press Club. The committee members also met Adireddy Srinivas on several occasions and explained the long-pending requirements and infrastructure needs. After examining the proposals and their feasibility, the MLA responded positively and announced the financial assistance on Monday evening. The announcement has been welcomed by the Press Club members, who described it as an important development in the history of the organisation. The MLA has also given the green signal for commencing the development works by the end of this month. The proposed financial assistance is expected to help address several long-standing infrastructure requirements and provide better facilities for journal-

ists and Press Club members.

The announcement of ₹27 lakh through CSR funds, along with four air-conditioners through the Bhavani Charitable Trust, has brought cheer among the newly elected committee members. They expressed their appreciation to MLA Adireddy Srinivas for responding positively to their requests and extending support for the development of the Press Club. The Press Club office-bearers said the development works would significantly improve the working environment and facilities available to journalists. They also expressed hope that the proposed works would be completed at the earliest. Press Club President Motha Bala Vijaya Saradhi, Secretary Gopi, Treasurer Sripathi Purushotham Kumar, Vice-President Pecchetti Gangadhar, Joint Secretaries Kripanandam and Zee News Prasad, and executive committee members Akula Eswara Rao, Palaparthi Srinivas, Kotte Madhu, R.V.V. Satyanarayana and Gopalakrishna conveyed their special thanks to MLA Adireddy Srinivas for his support. The new committee members said the MLA's initiative would help resolve several issues that had remained pending for years and pave the way for improved facilities at The Rajahmundry Press Club.

Housefull Response for 'Tellakagitham' in Rajamahendravaram

Hero Harsha Roshan, Actress Nakshatra and Director Ramesh Gandrareddy Interact with Audiences



RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM, OCTOBER 5, PEN POWER CORRESPONDENT: The Telugu film Tellakagitham received an encouraging response from moviegoers in Rajamahendravaram, with audiences turning up in large numbers. The film's hero Harsha Roshan, heroine Nakshatra, and director Ramesh Gandrareddy visited Saikrishna Theatre in Rajamahendravaram on Monday and interacted with the audience.

Speaking on the occasion, Harsha Roshan said Rajamahendravaram was one of his favourite places and recalled that he had earlier visited the city for shooting short films. He expressed happiness over the housefull response to his film and said the appreciation from audiences had given the entire team immense satisfaction. He thanked the viewers for calling and congratulating the team after watching the film. Actress Nakshatra said several beautiful locations across the Godavari region had been extensively captured in Tellakagitham. The team had also attempted to showcase locations that audiences had not seen earlier, she said. The natural beauty of the Godavari region added a special attraction to the film, she added, appealing to families to watch the movie in theatres. Director Ramesh Gandrareddy said different locations across the Godavari region were selected according to the requirements of the story. The natural beauty of both East and West Godavari districts had been extensively featured in the film, he said. The appreciation from audiences was particularly satisfying after nearly a decade of efforts that went into making the movie. The film team said the first half of Tellakagitham



was packed with entertainment, while the second half was driven by emotions. The movie combines entertainment with a meaningful message, they said, appealing to those who had not yet watched it to visit theatres with their families. Producer Krishna Kommalapati thanked the people of Rajamahendravaram for their warm response and said the appreciation from audiences in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana had given the team renewed confidence. Harsha Roshan, Nakshatra, Ramesh Gandrareddy and Krishna Kommalapati interacted with moviegoers at Saikrishna Theatre. Fans showed enthusiasm in taking photographs with the film personalities.

2nd National-Level Kung Fu and Karate Championship Held in Rajamahendravaram Self-defence training builds confidence, discipline among sportspersons : T.K. Visweswara Reddy



RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM, OCTOBER 5, PEN POWER CORRESPONDENT: The 2nd National-Level Kung Fu and Karate Championship-2026 was held with enthusiasm at Sri Krishna Sai Kalyana Mandapam, opposite the Paper Mill Main Gate, in Rajamahendravaram on Sunday. The championship was organised by SM Kung Fu International School of Self Defence, Rajamahendravaram Educational Institutions Chairman Dr. T.K. Visweswara Reddy, who attended the event as the chief guest, formally inaugurated the championship by cutting the ribbon and lighting the ceremonial lamp. He later interacted with the participants, appreciated their skills and witnessed the competitions. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Visweswara Reddy said Kung Fu was not merely a self-defence art but also a comprehensive sporting discipline that helped students develop discipline, concentration, confidence, physical fitness and mental strength. He said imparting self-defence training to children from a young age would help them face challenges with courage and confidence. He appreciated the participation of around 700 sportspersons from different parts of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Odisha and said that hosting a national-level sporting event in Rajamahendravaram was a matter of pride for the city. He advised participants to consider discipline, sportsmanship, dedication and the spirit of



participation more important than merely winning or losing. Dr. Visweswara Reddy also emphasised the importance of self-defence training for girls. He said learning disciplines such as Kung Fu and Karate could help girls protect themselves and respond confidently to difficult situations. The championship featured Kung Fu and Karate demonstrations, sparring championship, Kata and Forms competitions and other events. The performances of children and young athletes received an enthusiastic response from the audience. Prizes were presented to the winners by Dr. T.K. Visweswara Reddy. He congratulated the organisers for successfully conducting the national-level championship and expressed his willingness to extend support to organisations conducting sporting events in Rajamahendravaram. He also wished for more national and international-level competitions to be organised in the city to encourage talented sportspersons. The programme was attended by M. Nagaraju, Founder of SM Kung Fu International School of Self Defence and Chief Organiser of the tournament; S.K. Daryavali, Chief of MSKA; P. Rajababu and Thai Prakash, Chief Referees; M.M.S.R. Karshith, Government Organiser; and Masters Venkat, Daryavali Vikram, Kannangoud, Sattibabu, Pitla Raju and Arun. Coaches, organisers, athletes from different States, parents and sports enthusiasts also participated in the event.

Private Teachers' Services Commended APPUSMA Holds District-Level Felicitation Programme for Teachers



RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM, OCTOBER 5, PEN POWER CORRESPONDENT: The services rendered by private school teachers in shaping the future of students are highly commendable, said P. Kalyan Reddy, APPUSMA East Godavari District President, and P. Ramakrishna Raju, District Secretary. They stressed that teachers play a crucial role in providing quality education and deserve recognition for their dedicated services. A district-level felicitation programme for private school teachers was organised under the aegis of the Andhra Pradesh Private Unaided Schools Management Association (APPUSMA). Speaking on the occasion, Kalyan Reddy and Ramakrishna Raju said that teachers in private schools were working continuously from morning till evening, overcoming several challenges to provide quality education and guide students towards a better future. They said private educational institutions had been rendering services in the education sector for nearly 35 years and had been competing with government schools in providing quality education. The consistent performance of private schools in Class X results was largely due to the hard work, commitment and dedication of teachers, they added. Rajamahendravaram MLA Adireddy Srinivas, APPUSMA State General Secretary Srinivas, Joint General Secretary Sharma, Vishweshwar Reddy and Deputy Educational Officer Tulasidas at-



tended the programme and appreciated the services of teachers. APPUSMA District Honorary President N. Bhaskar Ramaiah, Treasurer P. Suresh, State Additional Chief Adviser N. Tirumala Rao, State Disciplinary Committee Zone-II Member Ch. Venkateswara Rao, State Convenor P. Shivaji, District Adviser P.V.S. Prasad, State Vice-President A.N.V. Ramesh, State Joint Secretary A. Sudheer Kumar, State Adviser B. Satyanarayana, and State EC members V. Nelson Antony and B. Ravi Babu were present. From Rajamahendravaram Urban, T. Nagarathnam, S. Muralidhar and B. Harinath participated, while A. Ramesh, A. Ravindra and G. Ramakrishna represented Rajamahendravaram Rural. Kannababu, Nageswara Rao and Veerababu attended from Rajanagaram, while P.V.S. Prasad, S. Nagendra Kumar and G.V. Ramana represented Anaparthi. From Kovvur, V.V. Aneesh, Venkatarathnam and N. Timothy S. Babu participated. R. Phanikeer, G. Seetharamireddy and K. Srinivas attended from Gopalapuram, while P. Kesavamurthy, N. Varaprasad and K. Srinivas represented Nidadavole. Several private school teachers and management representatives attended the programme. The organisers thanked all teachers, school managements and APPUSMA members for making the felicitation programme successful. Tighten the long participant list Use a sharper news headline Restructure names into a concise block

SIR Is Not Deletion of Votes, But a Revision Process



RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM, OCTOBER 5, PEN POWER CORRESPONDENT: BJP MLC Somu Veerraju strongly condemned the allegations made by opposition parties that votes were being deleted in the name of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR). He clarified that SIR was not a process of deleting votes, but only a revision of the electoral rolls. He made these remarks at a press conference held at the BJP district office in Rajamahendravaram on Monday. Responding to allegations that changes had been made to Form-6, Veerraju said that not even a single word had been altered in the form. He stated that only a few changes had been introduced for the convenience of voters. He said the decision was taken jointly by the Election Commissioner and the directors, and had also received the approval of the Supreme Court. He said discussions and differences of opinion might arise among members of the Election Commission, but there were no disputes. He criticised the opposition for being unable to accept the

Commission's united functioning. He pointed out that the preparation of electoral rolls was not an exercise conducted behind closed doors and mocked the Congress for failing to appoint even booth-level agents.

Somu Veerraju alleged that the Congress had turned the term 'vote chori' into a political toolkit. Rejecting the criticism that alliance leaders were afraid of Gen Z movements, he said the real Gen Z leaders were Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. He further alleged that Gen Z movements were receiving funds from foreign sources. Recalling that he had been criticised as 'Sarayee Veerraju' for demanding a reduction in liquor prices, he alleged that YSRCP leaders had amassed thousands of crores in the spurious liquor case. He made it clear that the country's development was more important to them than votes. He said the people were sidelining Rahul Gandhi. BJP district president Pikki Nagendra, state secretary Bommala Dattu, Adabala Ramakrishna, Relangi Sridevi and others attended the meeting.

Medical Innovations Must Reach the Common Man – MLA Adireddy Srinivas



RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM, October 5 (PEN POWER Correspondent): Rajamahendravaram City MLA Adireddy Srinivas said that advancements and innovations in the medical field should ultimately benefit the common people by ensuring better and affordable healthcare. He was speaking after attending the ISECON 2026 medical conference held at Manjeera Convention in Rajamahendravaram. He said the medical profession was not merely a job but a noble responsibility aimed at saving human lives. Doctors hold a special place in society as they provide not only treatment but also confidence and emotional support to patients and their families. The MLA said rapid

developments in medical technology, research and treatment methods were transforming the healthcare sector. Doctors should continuously update their knowledge about global medical research and adopt new technologies and treatment practices wherever they could improve patient care. He said medical conferences such as ISECON provide valuable opportunities for doctors to exchange research findings, professional experiences and innovative treatment methods. The combination of the experience of senior doctors and the fresh ideas of young medical professionals would help strengthen the healthcare sector, he observed. Adireddy Srinivas stressed that advanced technology alone was not sufficient and that doctors should continue to treat patients with compassion, empathy and a reassuring approach. The confidence given by a doctor to a worried patient could itself play an important role in the healing process, he said. He stated that the government was taking several measures to strengthen healthcare infrastructure and improve access to modern medical facilities and specialist services. He called upon the medical fraternity to ensure that quality healthcare reached poor and middle-class families as well. The MLA congratulated the organizers and participating doctors and expressed hope that ISECON 2026 would pave the way for further innovations and improved medical services. Several prominent doctors from different parts of the region participated in the conference.

Chalo Vijayawada on November 5

Contract and outsourcing employees being subjected to exploitation
3.5 lakh employees to launch a major agitation if demands are ignored

RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM, OCTOBER 5, PEN POWER CORRESPONDENT: The Andhra Pradesh Contract and Outsourcing Employees and Teachers JAC has announced a major agitation involving 3.5 lakh contract and outsourcing employees across the State if the government fails to address their long-pending demands. The JAC leaders called for “Chalo Vijayawada” on November 5, warning that they would intensify their struggle against the government. As part of the regional conferences being organised across Andhra Pradesh, the JAC conducted its first “Maha Garjana” conference at Ramanam Sriramulu Kalyana Mandapam in



Rajamahendravaram on Sunday. The meeting was presided over by JAC State Chairman B. Kantha Rao. Addressing the gathering, JAC honorary president A.V. Nageswara Rao said contract and outsourcing employees had been waiting for nearly two decades for their problems to be resolved. He alleged that both the previous and present governments had failed to protect the rights of contract and outsourcing employees, including their MTS-related benefits. He criticised the government for paying salaries of only Rs.7,000 to Rs.8,000 to some employees while treating them as government workers and simultaneously denying them welfare benefits. He alleged that the government was ignoring the living conditions of nearly 3.5 lakh contract and outsourcing employees in the State. Nageswara Rao also said around four lakh scheme workers had not received any substantial benefit from the government. He further pointed out that wage revisions for lakhs of workers employed in scheduled industries were pending. The government, which should act as an ideal employer, was instead exploiting contract and outsourcing employees, he alleged. He demanded implementation of court judgments relating to “equal pay for equal work” and regularisation of eligible employees. He also pointed out that several States, including Odisha, Gujarat, Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, had taken steps towards regularising contract and outsourcing employees. JAC State Chairman B. Kantha Rao said it was unfortunate that the issues of contract and outsourcing employees were

not even discussed properly during the recent meeting between the Chief Minister and employee unions. He said employees working in key positions across various gov-

ernment departments were being neglected. He recalled that the government had promised MTS benefits, welfare schemes and regularisation after coming to power, but had failed to fulfil the assurances. “The days of merely submitting representations to the government are over,” he said, adding that employees would not tolerate their “slave-like” working conditions any longer. He warned that the JAC would not hesitate to launch an indefinite strike if the government failed to respond. APKAS State president P. Venkata Subbaiah said the government was removing existing rights even as employees were demanding additional benefits. He said previous struggles had resulted in some wage increases and facilities, but a sustained fight was now necessary for regularisation. He also called for a movement against privatisation of government services. Contract and Outsourcing Federation State president D. Dayamani said major employee unions were not paying adequate attention to the problems of contract and outsourcing workers. She called upon employees to remain united and fight for their rights.

State leaders of various departmental unions, including Ravi Prakash, Kalyani, Gangadhar, Gandhi, Shashikala, Rajasekhar, Suresh, J. Venkateswara Rao and Sudheer, also addressed the conference. The JAC leaders reiterated that if the government failed to respond to their demands, the proposed November 5 “Chalo Vijayawada” programme would mark the beginning of a larger statewide movement involving 3.5 lakh employees.

India-US trade negotiations reached 'plateau', further give-and-take difficult: FM Nirmala Sitharaman

New Delhi : Negotiations on the India-US trade agreement have reached a “plateau” where further concessions from either side could be difficult, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said, indicating that the remaining discussions may hinge on finding limited room for compromise. “The agreement negotiations are still ongoing, although we'd like to believe that both the sides have reached a plateau beyond which giving or taking might be very, very difficult. But maybe if there are rooms to operate from, both sides would do it,” Sitharaman said at the Munich Leaders Meeting.

She said the agreement was still being “hard and very rigorously negotiated”, while highlighting the trade imbalance as a key feature of India-US economic relations. “But what is the predominant feature of the trade relations between India and the US? The trade balance is very



much in our favor,” Sitharaman said. She added that the US would naturally want to reduce the imbalance, with Washington seeking to address what it sees as losses accumulated over the years. Sitharaman said the nature of global trade negotiations was also changing, with countries increasingly seeking to address trade imbalances through measures beyond conventional negotiations. “Negotiation used to be the only platform through which countries could high-

light the discrepancies, highlight the lop-sidedness and say, would we want to correct this?” she said. “Tariff was an instrument of negotiation, and tariff had a certain framework within which you will apply it. Today framework is there, tariffs are going,” she said, while stressing that countries still need to negotiate and find “some give and take”. On the India-EU trade agreement, Sitharaman described it as a major example of India's approach to negotiating

trade pacts while protecting domestic interests. She said India had opened 92.5 per cent of its tariff lines and around 97 per cent of tariff value, while the EU had opened 99 per cent in value terms and possibly 97 per cent of tariff lines.

She said the agreement could support employment in labour-intensive sectors such as footwear, textiles, toys and processed products, many of which are linked to micro and small enterprises. “Those are all in the micro and small medium industry segment, which are labor-intensive,” Sitharaman said, adding that greater access to the European market could generate “more exports, more jobs”. Sitharaman also said bilateral trade agreements were gaining importance as multilateral institutions have weakened, although “multilateralism is not going to go away and multilateralism shouldn't go away”.

"My India visit stepping stone towards strengthening long-standing partnership": Swiss President Parmelin

New Delhi : Swiss Confederation President Guy Parmelin stated on Monday that his visit to India serves as a “stepping stone” towards fortifying the “close and long-standing partnership” binding the two countries. President Parmelin received an official ceremonial reception at the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan. Upon reaching the presidential estate, the visiting dignitary was greeted cordially by President Droupadi Murmu alongside Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Addressing members of the press following the ceremonial welcome, President Parmelin remarked, “The visit is an excellent opportunity to emphasise the importance that both Switzerland and India attach to this relationship.”

He further noted that diplomatic ties connecting India and Switzerland are anchored upon “shared democratic values as well as on trust and mutual respect”. “My visit is a stepping stone towards further growth, deepening and strengthening of our close, broad and long-standing partnership. I am pleased and honoured that we have the chance to exchange views on matters of bilateral and global importance,” the Swiss head of state stated. “I am especially glad that my stay in India will enable us to commemorate the first anniversary of the entry into force of the India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement, TEPA,” he added. The India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) constitutes an expansive free trade pact established between India and the four European Free Trade Association (EFTA) member nations, comprising Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. Having been



formally signed on March 10, 2024, the accord officially took effect on October 1, 2025. “It is the right moment to celebrate how far we have come together, but even more importantly, to shape our joint future,” President Parmelin observed. The Swiss leader touched down in India on Monday to undertake a three-day State visit, honouring an invitation extended by Prime Minister Modi. The high-level diplomatic itinerary centres on enhancing bilateral collaboration across commerce, investment, scientific advancement, technological innovation and workforce mobility. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) noted that President Parmelin is travelling alongside a prominent delegation consisting of senior officials and corporate executives, marking his maiden State visit to India and his second journey to the nation this year. The Swiss President journeyed to India in February 2026 to take part in the AI Impact Summit conducted in New Delhi. Later in the day, Prime

Minister Modi and President Parmelin are scheduled to hold bilateral discussions to assess advancements in cooperation spanning diverse sectors, encompassing trade, investment, science, technology, innovation, mobility, cultural exchange and interpersonal engagement.

Additionally, both leaders will confer regarding regional and global affairs, which includes collaboration across multilateral platforms. During the course of the itinerary, President Parmelin will likewise meet with President Droupadi Murmu, who is slated to host a ceremonial banquet in his honour. Furthermore, External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar will pay a call on the Swiss President. The diplomatic engagement acquires distinct prominence given that President Parmelin is set to attend the second India-EFTA Prosperity Summit on October 7. The occasion will signal the inaugural anniversary of the operationalisation of the India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agree-

ment (TEPA). Emphasising Switzerland's critical standing as an economic collaborator, the MEA noted that among EFTA member states, Switzerland functions as India's primary trade and investment partner. Moreover, the ministry underscored the enduring connections linking both nations alongside the necessity of maintaining consistent high-level dialogues to propel the bilateral relationship forward. “India and Switzerland share longstanding friendly relations. This visit will further strengthen bilateral relations, building upon the regular high-level exchanges and deepen cooperation in new areas of mutual interest,” the MEA stated. The diplomatic undertaking transpires against a background of continuous high-level interactions between New Delhi and Bern. Historical records show that the most recent State visit executed by an Indian President to Switzerland occurred in 2019, whereas Prime Minister Modi undertook official journeys to Switzerland in 2016 and 2018.

Delhi breathes 'Moderate' air as AQI hits 187, highest in nearly three months

New Delhi : The air quality in the national capital deteriorated to the higher end of the 'Moderate' category, recording an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 187, marking the highest level seen in nearly three months (83 days), according to the Central Pollution Control Board's (CPCB) 24-hour bulletin. Data from the pollution control board showed that particulate matter 10 (PM10) remained the prominent pollutant across the city, based on readings compiled from 43 out of 46 active ambient air quality monitoring stations in the capital. An AQI between 101 and 200 is categorised as 'Moderate', which the CPCB notes can cause “breathing discomfort to people with lungs, asthma, and heart diseases.” According to CPCB, an AQI between zero and 50 is considered ‘Good’, 51 to 100 ‘Satisfactory’, 101 to 200 ‘Moderate’, 201 to 300 ‘Poor’, 301 to 400 ‘Very Poor’, and 401 to 500 ‘Severe’. Air quality in neighbouring areas of the National Capital Region (NCR) fared even worse, with several cities slipping into the ‘Poor’ zone (AQI 201–300). Noida recorded an AQI of 281, Ghaziabad stood at 248, and Faridabad logged 224, with PM10 and PM2.5 identified as the primary pollutants. Gurugram and Greater Noida recorded ‘Moderate’ air quality with AQIs of 166 and 171, respectively.

On the weather front, dry and warm conditions pre-

vailed over Delhi. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD)'s past 24-hour overview, Delhi recorded a maximum temperature of 36.4 degrees Celsius on Sunday, 2.2 notches above normal for this time of the season. The minimum temperature settled at 23.8 degrees Celsius, 1.5 degrees above the seasonal average. The relative humidity was recorded at 51 per cent, with nil rainfall reported over the past 24 hours. According to the weather department's seven-day forecast, Delhi is likely to see mainly clear skies on Monday before isolated thunderstorms with rain bring possible temporary respite on Tuesday, after which partly cloudy conditions are expected to



prevail through the week. The recent uptick in pollution levels comes on the heels of Delhi logging its lowest monthly average AQI for September in the last five years, according to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on September 30.

According to the ministry, the monthly average AQI of Delhi for September 2026 stood at 102, lower than the corresponding period in the previous five years. The average AQI was recorded at 105 in September 2025, 105 in 2024, 108 in 2023 and 104 in 2022.

Pakistan-made cosmetics worth Rs 7 lakh seized in Hyderabad, wider network suspected

Hyderabad: Of late, several Pakistan-made cosmetics have increasingly been finding their way into the city's retail market, with products including skin-whitening creams and soaps allegedly being sold at shops despite lacking the mandatory approvals for import and sale in India.

Though the trade has reportedly been going on for some time, the issue was recently highlighted after the Task Force, Rajendranagar Zone, along with Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) officials, seized

Pakistan-made cosmetics worth around Rs 7 lakh from shops in Habeeb Nagar and Nampally. The seized products included beauty creams and soaps manufactured in Pakistan and marketed primarily for skin-whitening purposes. According to Task Force officials, the products were among those identified as unauthorised cosmetics in a recent CDSCO public notice and had not been granted the required registration certificate for import into India. It was also found that the products were not confined to a single outlet.

“Our teams found similar cosmetics allegedly being sold by other local sellers in other markets. The role of other vendors is also being examined,” said a senior Task Force official.

A key lead in the investigation is a Mumbai-based supplier who allegedly sourced the Pakistan-made cosmetics from outside India and supplied them to dealers in Hyderabad. With the possibility of a larger network, the city police are now trying to establish how these products entered the country and how widely they were distributed across the city.

Union Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari Inaugurates Chintan Shivir 2026, Sets Agenda for Future-Ready Highway Infrastructure



Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari today inaugurated “Chintan Shivir 2026—A National Conclave on Highway Infrastructure” at Tent City 2, Statue of Unity, Ekta Nagar, Narmada District, Gujarat, setting the direction for two days of focused deliberations on strengthening India’s highway infrastructure. The Chintan Shivir, being held under the motto “Gatishakti se Pragati”, brings together

Transport and PWD Ministers from States, senior officials of State PWDs, implementing agencies and other stakeholders to deliberate on key issues concerning highway development, project implementation and infrastructure delivery. Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways Shri Harsh Malhotra also addressed the inaugural session. Addressing the inaugural session, Shri Gadkari said the Chintan

Shivir provides an important platform for the Centre and States to think together, share field-level experiences and work together towards practical solutions for emerging challenges in highway development. He emphasised that successful practices adopted by different States should be shared, evaluated and replicated wherever appropriate to improve project implementation and infrastructure outcomes across the

country. The Minister stressed that highway development must remain focused on quality, safety, speed and world-class standards. He called for greater emphasis on advance planning and preparedness at the Detailed Project Report (DPR) stage, including proper surveys, alignment planning, land acquisition, utility shifting and timely statutory clearances. Better preparedness at the initial stage, he said, can help minimise delays, avoid cost escalation and improve the efficiency of highway projects.

Shri Gadkari highlighted that road safety must be integrated into highway planning and project design from the beginning. Identification of accident-prone locations and incorporation of appropriate safety interventions during the planning and construction stages can contribute towards safer highways and reduction in road accidents.

Underscoring the importance of highway infrastructure for national economic growth, the Minister said modern highways should provide seamless connectivity between cities, towns, ports, markets and industrial centres. Improved connectivity supports trade, investment, employment and overall economic activity. He called for coordinated efforts by the Centre, States and implementing agencies to ensure timely delivery of infrastructure in line with the country’s growing development and mobility requirements.

The two-day Chintan Shivir will feature key thematic sessions covering PM GatiShakti and integrated infrastructure plan-

ning; Land Acquisition and Bhoomi Rashi; Model Concession Agreements and Ratings; Designing Safe Highways and Green Highways; Road Safety and Toll Reform; and Quality Assurance and Project Monitoring. The sessions are aimed at addressing implementation challenges, sharing best practices and identifying practical and replicable solutions for more efficient highway development.

The Minister also called for wider adoption of new technologies, innovative construction practices and cost-effective materials to improve quality and reduce construction and maintenance costs. He encouraged States and implementing agencies to share innovations and field-level solutions and stressed the importance of research, technology and continuous improvement in highway construction and maintenance. Sustainability and environmental responsibility form an important component of the Chintan Shivir’s agenda. Shri Gadkari emphasised the need to promote environment-friendly construction practices and greater use of innovative and recycled materials, while ensuring appropriate measures for environmental and wildlife protection. In this context, a document on Environment & Wildlife Mitigation Measures was launched during the inaugural session.

A BRICS Compendium on Perspectives in Sustainable Transport was also launched during the session, bringing together perspectives on sustainable approaches in the transport sector and adding an international dimension to the



deliberations on future-ready infrastructure.

Shri Gadkari also highlighted technology-driven reforms aimed at improving the efficiency and convenience of highway travel, including FASTag Annual Pass and Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF). These initiatives reflect the Ministry’s continued focus on modernising tolling systems, improving traffic movement and enhancing

the overall highway user experience. The inaugural session set the broader direction for the deliberations ahead, with the Chintan Shivir providing a platform for Centre-State dialogue, exchange of experiences and best practices, and identification of innovative and replicable solutions. The discussions over the two days will seek to strengthen project planning and monitoring, improve high-

way quality and safety, promote sustainable infrastructure and accelerate the delivery of future-ready highway infrastructure. Shri Gadkari called upon all stakeholders to work collectively towards safer, high-quality and future-ready highway infrastructure, contributing to faster economic growth and stronger connectivity in line with the vision of Viksit Bharat.

Dibrugarh Sends First International Cargo from Bogibeel to Bangladesh Since Independence



A barge carrying 540 metric tons of methanol left Bogibeel Terminal in Dibrugarh for Dhaka, Bangladesh, here today, Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW), flagged off the vessel DLB Patkai, pushed by the tug Kushal Konwar from Bogibeel. Assam Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma joined the ceremony virtually. It is the first cargo shipped from the upper Assam to a foreign port since India’s independence in 1947, nearly 70 years after the town’s river ghat closed. The methanol, produced by state-owned Assam Petro-Chemicals Ltd. (APCL) at Namrup, is bound for Pangaon Port in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The vessel will travel about 768 kilometres down National Waterway-2 on the Brahmaputra River in India to the Indo-Bangladesh border, then continue along the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route (IBPR). The vessel will cover a total distance of 1,300 kms from Bogibeel, Dibrugarh to Narayanjanj, Dhaka. The voyage is being observed as a test of whether

the Brahmaputra can serve as a commercially viable freight corridor linking the Northeast to overseas markets. Regular methanol shipments to Bangladesh are planned. The shipment became possible after customs and immigration complexes were set up at Bogibeel and Dhubri recently. “Our grandparents grew up hearing the steamer whistle at Dibrugarh Ghat. For 70 years, that whistle fell silent and the ships stopped coming,” Sonowal said. “Today, a ship leaves Dibrugarh for the world once again. The river never failed us. What it lacked for decades was the will to revive it.” Sarma called it a proud day for Assam. “Assam’s own product, made in Namrup, is now traveling to an international market on Assam’s own river, The Northeast is no longer a frontier. It is India’s gateway to the East,” he said. Sonowal said the shipment was a beginning. “This is the first voyage, not the last,” he said. “To the youth of Assam I say: Dream with this river. The world is no longer far away.

It is downstream. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Dibrugarh, the Tea Capital of India, is reclaiming the glory it once had as a great river port. We are building it with world-class infrastructure while honouring its heritage. The steamer whistle that fell silent in 1956 is heard again,” Sonowal exclaimed. Dibrugarh was once among the busiest river ports in eastern India. Government steamers reached the town from Calcutta, now Kolkata, by 1856. In 1882, the Dibru-Sadiya Rail-



way began operating from the Dibrugarh steamer ghat. By 1913, steamers sailed up the Brahmaputra to the town daily, carrying tea, timber and passengers. The 1947 partition cut that route, forcing Assam’s goods to pass through East Pakistan to reach Calcutta. A 1950 earthquake disturbed the riverbed at Dibrugarh. Regular bookings from Dibrugarh Ghat stopped in 1954, and the ghat closed on October 15, 1956, as tea shipments shifted to rail. The 1965 war between India and Pakistan suspended cross-border river trade. India and Bangladesh signed a river trade protocol in 1972. In

1988, the 891-kilometer stretch of river Brahmaputra from Sadiya to Dhubri was declared National Waterway-2. Regular cargo service on the waterway did not begin until December 2017, when cement moved from Pandu to Dhubri. “For decades, that glory was allowed to fade. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we set out to give Dibrugarh back its rightful place. The Bogibeel terminal, the customs and immigration complex and fixed-schedule cargo services under ‘Jalvahak’ are giving this historic town modern amenities and world-class infrastructure. We are build-

ing for the future while reinstating the heritage that made Dibrugarh great. Today, as cargo leaves Dibrugarh for a foreign port once again, the town’s proud past and its promising future meet on the same river,” Sonowal added. Activity on the route has grown since then. Tata Steel barges reached Pandu through Bangladesh in February 2022, and the river cruise ship MV Ganga Vilas sailed from Varanasi to Dibrugarh through Bangladesh in 2023. The Bogibeel passenger and cargo terminal, whose foundation stone was laid in July 2023, opened in February 2024. The ‘Jalvahak’ cargo

incentive program launched in December 2024. According to the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW), cargo on India’s national waterways rose from 18 million metric tons in fiscal 2013-14 to 218 million metric tons in 2025-26. More than 68 billion rupees (about \$770 million) is being invested in waterways across the Northeast, including development of National Waterway-2, a ship repair facility at Pandu and last-mile connectivity to Pandu Port. “Every ton we move on the river means less fuel burnt and fewer trucks

on the highway,” Sonowal said. He added that India is working with Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar on regional waterway links. The voyage involved the Inland Waterways Authority of India, Assam Petro-Chemicals, Cochin Bunkers Pvt. Ltd. and partners in Bangladesh. Assam state ministers Charan Boro, Bimal Borah and Sushanta Borgohain attended, along with Terash Gowalla, a member of the Raja Sabha, the upper house of India’s Parliament. Also present were state legislators from the region, including Prasanta Phukan, MLA, Dibrugarh LAC and Chakradhar Gogoi, MLA, Khowang LAC. IWAI’s Chief Engineer, AK Bansal and Assam Petro-Chemicals APCL’s Chairman, Bikul Ch. Deka was also present along with officials of APCL, IWAI and Govt of Assam attended the historic event.

Department of Sports to participate in Special Campaign 6.0 to enhance cleanliness and resolve pending matters

The Department of Sports, Government of India continues to set a benchmark in fostering responsible governance and streamlining administrative processes. Following the notable achievements of Special Campaign 5.0 last year, the Department has embarked upon the groundwork for the preparatory phase of Special Campaign 6.0, with

a focused commitment to ensuring the responsible governance, streamlining administrative processes and scientific e-waste management with the objective of “Effective Collection, Segregation and Disposal” of e-waste. The Department, in collaboration with organizations under it - including the Sports Authority of India (SAI),

Lakshmi Bai National Institute of Physical Education (LNPIE), National Sports University (NSU), National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA), and the National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL) diligently fulfilled the various targets set under the Special Campaign 5.0 last year, with senior officers actively overseeing the progress at

each step. On the ground, cleanliness drives were carried out across 50 identified sites spanning field offices and headquarters of the organizations under this Department. This concerted effort had resulted in the reclamation of 3,90,000 square feet of space, with many newly available areas repurposed into valuable utility spaces. In addition,

scrap disposal during the campaign had generated Rs. 4,07,55,976 in revenue, underscoring a commitment to sustainability and resourcefulness in the pursuit of cleanliness. The Department and Organizations under it amplified the campaign’s reach and visibility by leveraging various social media platforms. The Department is

undertaking the Preparatory Phase (15th September - 30th September 2026) of the Special Campaign 6.0. The Department of Sports stands well-prepared to execute Special Campaign 6.0 with utmost effectiveness, aiming to establish higher standards in workplace cleanliness and to achieve the objectives outlined by DARPG

Russia's New Weapon Against Ukraine: AI-Generated Songs



Russia has found a new way to boost its propaganda war against Ukraine: making songs with artificial intelligence, as technological advancements impact wartime publicity while reshaping warfare as a whole. According to a report by The New York Times, hundreds of such songs have taken over some of the most popular music streaming platforms in the world, including Spotify, and US-based apps like YouTube Music and Apple Music. From maudlin ballads to

grinding thrash metal, the songs sometimes use ethnic slurs to dehumanise Ukrainians and glorify Russian soldiers. The songs generally call the war started by Russian President Vladimir Putin a "necessary defence", while portraying the frontlines as no better than hell. Many of the songs take on the sentiment of Soviet war songs and recast them into modern genres. As per a research paper published by a non-profit organisation Terrecon, and quoted by

the NYT, the AI-generated propaganda songs have been streamed millions of times on popular platforms like Spotify, Apple, YouTube and Deezer - companies that usually restrict AI and hate content in case of music. It was not clear how popular the songs were. But one song, created on AI platform Suno and uploaded to YouTube has received over two million views in two years. The song, accompanied with a video montage, is about artillery weapons.

Russian Government's Role

In total, as many as 981 songs were found to be "pro-Russian war propaganda" according to Terrecon, with a majority of them being released after 2024 when AI song generators like Sudo and Udio took over the market. It is not clear how far the Russian government has gone in boosting the songs' reach on the internet, but Moscow has previously played a significant role in promoting wartime cultural content. According to Russian news reports cited by the NYT, a director of the Internet Development Institute said the organisation had promoted more than 350 artistic projects about the war. The organisation works closely with the Kremlin to promote patriotic values.

Should Platforms Be Blamed?

According to the report, the consistent publishing of the songs can be partly attributed to streaming platforms that have struggled to keep up with the surge

of AI-generated content.

Some services, like Deezer and YouTube Music require labelling to identify AI content. In a response to NYT's questions, Spotify said it had enabled a policy to label AI-generated songs and not recommend them to users. While the major platforms have policies against hate content, they do not explicitly ban propaganda, nor do the sites always recognise slurs or expressions in a foreign language. Terrecon's researchers tested Suno, Udio and Google Flow Music in the United States, and Mureka, based in Singapore. They wrote prompts in Russian and English to promote violence and Russian propaganda. While the generators initially refused to create songs, researchers were able to create songs similar to the ones they had originally wanted. They also uploaded them to YouTube Music and SoundCloud. "The moderation systems mainly responded to specific banned words rather than the overall meaning of the prompts," Terrecon's report says.

How Christa Pike's Failed Execution In US Played Out, Minute By Painful Minute



Christa Pike was scheduled to be executed. But after two injections, she kept breathing. She made snoring sounds, she talked, she said her arm was hurting. Pike, sentenced to die for torturing and killing 19-year-old Colleen Slemmer in 1995, said as her scheduled lethal injection began that she was at peace. Strapped to a gurney around 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Pike, who was allowed to give a final statement, said she was leaving the world with love. "I'm ready to be free," she said. "This is a happy day," Pike, now 50, was 18 when she committed the murder and would have been the first woman executed in Tennessee in more than 200 years. But instead she survived two doses of the pentobarbital meant to kill her. She left the prison in an ambulance instead of a hearse. The Associated Press was

among those who witnessed her failed execution. She was already strapped to the gurney, with IV inserted in her arm, when prison officials raised the curtain to the execution room at 7:27 p.m. Her spiritual adviser was standing beside the gurney near her head. He spoke to her. They sang a song. The lyrics were not audible, but included repeating the phrase - "I love you." The spiritual adviser stroked her forehead. Minutes ticked by. She raised her head and looked around; she smiled. Then she said her arm was hurting and asked a prison official in the room if it was supposed to feel that way. Ten minutes in, at 7:37 p.m., she sighed, the IV in her arm fed from a control room adjacent to the death chamber, separated by a ledge. At 7:41 p.m., a rock or paper weight about the size of a

golf ball was placed on the ledge. Prison officials have not confirmed what it means, but its placement appeared to coincide with a direction in the protocol that says after the drugs are administered, a five-minute countdown begins until the curtain is closed. At 7:46 p.m., officials closed the curtain, blocking the witnesses' view of the death chamber. Pike's spiritual adviser left the chamber and sat briefly with her attorney in the media witness room. The curtain rose again three minutes later. The Tennessee lethal injection protocol calls for a second round of pentobarbital if the inmate is not deceased after the first round. Her spiritual adviser returned to the chamber and stood beside Pike with his hands folded. Pike appeared to begin to lose consciousness at some point and started making a

sound like snoring. She continued to do so for the next hour, a sign that she was alive long after she was expected to be dead. Her head raised slightly off the gurney and turned to the side at about 7:56 p.m. She kept breathing. Officials closed the curtain again at 8:06 p.m. For the next 40 minutes, Pike could be heard from behind the curtain. She sounded like she was snoring, a rhythmic, regular breathing pattern. Inside the prison, Pike's attorney, Randy Spivey, later told the media that at about 8:22 p.m. he demanded access to a telephone to contact other lawyers on the team. He said he demanded the execution be halted and that life-saving medical care be given to Pike. He said he received confirmation at about 8:50 p.m. that an ambulance was on the way. At 8:53 p.m., an announcement came: "Will witnesses please exit the area." The media was escorted out, and a prison spokesperson said she had no information to provide about what had happened. Fire trucks and ambulances arrived in front of the prison at around 9:14 p.m. Pike's attorneys later issued a statement that she had been taken to a hospital and was being treated, though they did not know the specifics of her condition. On Thursday afternoon, they said she was in critical condition receiving

medical care. The Tennessee Department of Correction issued a statement saying the department followed protocol. "The lethal injection chemical in the protocol has consistently been effective, and the protocol does not allow for additional procedures beyond what was carried out this evening," the agency wrote. "Christa Pike has been transported to an off-site medical facility." The agency has not said what went wrong. It was the second time this year that Tennessee has been unable to complete an execution, though in the other case, officials couldn't find a suitable vein for an IV line so the drugs weren't administered. Gov. Bill Lee ordered a review and postponed another execution scheduled for later this year, calling what happened in the death chamber "deeply disturbing." Slemmer's mother, May Martinez, had traveled to Nashville to see the sentence carried out. "I didn't get justice for my daughter," Martinez told the AP by telephone. "I watched the whole thing. She was awake," Martinez said. "She was moving her head, moving her feet. She was trying to sit up. Didn't work the first time they gave her a shot. It didn't work the second time so she's in the hospital and alive." "This isn't justice for Colleen."

Israeli Security Lapse That's Key In flydubai Attack And A UAE Contention

Tel Aviv: Dozens of Omani pilots have flown to Tel Aviv in recent years on flydubai flights, despite a ban on pilots from unfriendly states in a major security lapse, Israel's Channel 12 has reported. The figure reportedly emerged as part of the investigations that were opened after an apparent attack on a flydubai flight from Dubai, in which an Omani co-pilot attacked the captain with alleged intentions of harming the plane and its passengers. The report claimed that Israeli security agency Shin Bet was negligent in enforcing a ban on pilots from states that lack relations with the Jewish state.

The Negligence

Israel's Transportation Ministry has said in a statement to Channel 12 that the Shin Bet never issued a specific warning regarding threats from flydubai, beyond asking for increased baggage checks. "The Shin Bet has all the means to know, within five minutes, who all of the pilots on the Dubai airline are, and they simply chose to turn a blind eye. In Israel, they expected the airline to be reliable enough, so they didn't conduct reviews in recent years," the network quoted an anonymous airline industry official as saying. The report further pointed out that for months the Shin Bet security service, which is responsible for protecting Israeli airlines, had been in a dispute with some Israeli carriers over their Dubai operation amid tension in the Middle East. The network said that adopting the heightened security attitude for non-Israeli airlines as well could have helped prevent the eventual attack.

The Probe

Meanwhile, authorities in Israel, the UAE and Saudi Arabia were continuing to probe the flydubai incident. Saudi Arabia confirmed that both the captain and copilot, who were treated for injuries in the kingdom, have been handed over to Abu Dhabi after receiving medical clearance. They have also forwarded their initial findings to the Israeli au-

thorities about the co-pilot carrying out the attack for alleged nationalistic reasons. The Times of Israel reported that the assessment is based on what the accused told Saudi authorities during interrogation. According to the Times of Israel report, Israel's spy agency Mossad, along with Shin Bet, are working to investigate whether the copilot acted alone or on behalf of a terror group.

UAE's Contention
However, Channel 12 also reported that the UAE is apparently furious with Tel Aviv for rushing to conclude it was a nationalistic attack even before the investigation was concluded. Abu Dhabi is reportedly insisting that it will handle the further investigation itself. While the UAE hasn't ruled out a nationalistic motive behind the attack, it is waiting to draw a definitive conclusion at this stage, the network said. Even as the ambiguity still exists on the motive behind the flydubai incident, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been quick to frame the attack as the almost inevitable outcome of the "propaganda" he says continues to vilify Israel. Netanyahu has publicly claimed that the attacker "underwent Islamist radical indoctrination." For a politician who has long portrayed himself as the only leader capable of truly defending Israel from the threats he claims the country faces, the attempted hijacking arguably bolsters Netanyahu's narrative ahead of a pivotal parliamentary election later this month that will determine whether he remains Israel's leader.

Any Power Behind flydubai Plot Will Pay "Very Heavy Price", Warns Netanyahu



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned Friday that Israel would impose a "very heavy price" on any power behind the flydubai incident, without offering evidence that any country was responsible. "As time passes, the picture is becoming clearer: The attacker underwent Islamist radicalisation. He came to crash the plane with all passengers on board," Netanyahu said in a statement. "We are investigating whether he was sent, and whoever sent him will pay a very heavy price," Netanyahu said of the copilot assailant. Netanyahu

did not identify any country as a potential culprit but for years has been quick to point the finger at Iran, which Israel and the United States attacked in February. US President Donald Trump, who in April reached a ceasefire with Iran that is now in tatters, said Thursday in response to a question that he was "hearing" that Iran was involved and that the country will "be hit very hard" if so. Israel and the United States have linked Iran's Shia clerical state to numerous attacks around the world since the Islamic republic was founded in 1979. But it has little-known con-

nection to hijackings, hallmarks of Al-Qaeda during the September 11, 2001 attacks and of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in the 1960s and 1970s. Netanyahu has previously said the pilot was from Oman and earlier left open the possibility that he was experiencing mental problems. Israeli officials and witnesses say the co-pilot of the Tel Aviv-bound flight on Wednesday stabbed the Indian pilot, who let passengers come into the cockpit to overpower the attacker. The plane made an emergency landing in Saudi Arabia with no deaths.

3rd Aircraft Carrier, 10,000 Troops Head To Middle East After Trump's Warning

The United States is sending a third aircraft carrier to the Middle East along with another 9,000 to 10,000 more troops after US President Donald Trump warned Iran of possible new strikes after the midterm elections on November 3. The USS Theodore Roosevelt and its strike group carrying the service members would arrive in the Middle East by the end of November. Currently two other aircraft carriers are stationed in the region -- the USS George HW Bush and the USS George Washington. Although the USS George Washington is

usually deployed in the Pacific Ocean, it has reached the Middle East to relieve the USS Abraham Lincoln after its long deployment. The deployment would bring the US naval presence to an unusually high number of more than 20,000 sailors and Marines as well as hundreds of aircraft.

Trump Rejects Iran's Peace Proposal

Trump rejected Iran's peace proposal that was announced by the Islamic Republic last week at the UN General Assembly in New York. Iran said the proposal was transmitted to

the US through Qatari mediators. "They want to make a deal to open the Hormuz Strait immediately because they're losing so badly," Trump told reporters at the White House.

Trump Suggests Iran Linked To flydubai Incident

While speaking to reporters on Wednesday, Trump also suggested that Iran is linked to the co-pilot who stabbed the captain and tried to crash an Israel-bound flight. When asked if there was a connection between the pilot who attacked the captain and Iran, Trump said, "I would say



the answer, based on what I'm hearing, is yes, 'but we're working on it right now.' On whether the US would retaliate against Iran if it was responsible for the attack, Trump replied, "Oh, they'll be

hit very hard, don't worry." The reporter then asked if the man might have been placed on the plane by the IRGC, or radicalised in some other way before deciding to bring the aircraft down.

G7 Nations To Release 100 Million Barrels Of Oil Amid Fuel Price Surge

G7 countries agreed Friday to release 100 million barrels of diesel and crude oil from their reserves over four months, leaders said, agreeing to "refrain from export restrictions on energy" and urging others to do the same. The announcement came after G7 leaders held talks to coordinate action on fuel prices, after the United States upped pressure on Europe to release its strategic reserves by threatening a diesel export ban. The seven countries

agreed to "a coordinated release through the IEA of 100 million barrels to begin immediately over four months, including a frontloaded substantial diesel release within the first 20 days," they said in a joint statement released by French President Emmanuel Macron's office. The leaders also said that there would be no ban on diesel exports between them. "We reaffirm our commitment to refrain from export restrictions on energy and energy products between G7

countries and call on all producers to refrain from imposing bans that could exacerbate market tensions," the leaders said. "Our citizens' concerns about energy prices remain a top priority," they added. "We will monitor developments closely and stand ready to adjust measures as needed." Macron had convened a video call of G7 leaders -- a group comprising also Britain, Japan, Canada, Germany and Italy -- to discuss joint action after he spoke with Donald Trump.

AK 47 Officially Postponed, Naga Vamsi Reveals Reason!

As we already reported, the makers of Adarsha Kutumbam officially confirmed the film's postponement. The film was initially planned for release on October 2nd but was postponed to the 9th. Now, the film will not be released on the 9th of this month, and the team is yet to confirm the new release date. What's more, the makers have not yet completed the post production for some portions of the movie. Once again, the Tollywood makers are exposing their inefficiency in planning a film and bringing it to theatres in time. The same thing happened with last big release, The Paradise, and the makers rushed through post-production. Now, for AK, the team has to release two more songs. Even before that, the team hoped to arrive in theatres by the 9th.

Understanding the reality and keeping in mind the criticism that the team may face af-



ter the release for poor post-production and last-minute hurried work, the team wants to step back. Producer Naga Vamsi admitted that they have been working on the film for the past year and wanted to avoid a situation where the final copy reaches audiences on the re-

lease date itself which causes lot of issues including ticket bookings and shows cancellation. It would be ironic, but this has happened several times with several films in the past. Keeping it simple, Naga Vamsi said the incomplete work is the reason for the postponement.

Having said that, Naga Vamsi also ruled out the rumors that AK has been postponed to give an edge to Jailer 2, which is also being released by them. At the same time, he confidently stated that Venkatesh's fans can enjoy the film, raising their collars, whenever it gets released.

Jailer 2 Trailer: Muthuvel Returns Darker Than Ever

Superstar Rajinikanth reunited with director Nelson for the sequel to Jailer. Titled Jailer 2, the film will see Muthuvel Pandian return to take on a major crime network. The team launched the trailer today, taking the buzz to the next level altogether. The trailer has plenty of entertaining elements, and this time the focus seems to be more on action and drama, unlike the first part, which had a family element.

Based on the trailer, Rajinikanth goes into exile and starts working as a driver, where he is also humiliated while hiding his real identity. However, he is on a mission to eliminate one after another from the crime syndicate that is behind a big conspiracy. In the process, he aims to bring all the baddies under one roof to eliminate them for once and for all. The trailer suggests the story unfolds in a thrilling way. The trailer clearly sheds light on the world it operates in. The sequel promises bigger stakes, more chaos, and the return of several familiar faces from the first part. However, the cast also adds Suraj Venjaramoodu, Anna Rajan,



Jatin Sharma, Mithun Chakraborty, Vidya Balan, and SJ Suryah. Mohanlal, Hrithik Roshan, Shiva Rajkumar, and Vijay Sethupathi will be seen in special cameos. While fans expected the Jailer 2 trailer to

deliver the same high as the first part, the sequel's trailer has triggered mixed reactions. Many feel there are not enough high moments in the trailer, but Nelson seems to be taking the story into a darker space this time. The real bang

could be reserved for the big screen. Ramya Krishnan, Yogi Babu, Mirnaa and Rithvik will return to the film's sequel. Anirudh Ravichander is the music director of the film. The film is hitting the screens on October 15, 2026.

Reality: Kiran Abbavaram Joins Christmas Race

Kiran Abbavaram is taking on multiple responsibilities for his ambitious new project, handling the story, screenplay and direction while also playing the lead role. Produced by Sudhakar Chaganti under the Joy Films banner, the film has already created curiosity with its unconventional first-look announcement and energetic BTS video. Today, the makers unveiled the film's title glimpse.

Anandam's life revolves around his hotel and family. He takes his responsibilities seriously and finds happiness in making others happy through his work. His statement about feeling high after clearing his family debts reflects the aspirations and struggles of a typical responsible family man. This relatable thought also gives deeper meaning to the title Reality, as the film appears to draw its



emotions from situations audiences can easily connect with.

Kiran Abbavaram brings a natural quality to the protagonist. He effectively portrays a young man who constantly thinks about his family's well-being, while his performance carries the warmth and emotional depth required for the character. Devika Bhat is paired opposite him as the female lead. Viswas Daniel's cinematography adds visual appeal to the glimpse, while Bheems Cecileleo's pleasant score complements the mood. The devotional track used in the glimpse adds a refreshing and enjoyable touch to the proceedings. With its grounded characters, family emotions and everyday setting, Reality appears to be shaping up as a wholesome entertainer with a strong relatable core. The title glimpse succeeds in delivering a different kind of high through its simple yet meaningful narrative. The film is set to arrive in theatres on December 25 for Christmas.

Imanvi Ismail Steals Hearts in Cool Denim Look



Imanvi Ismail, who will soon be seen in Prabhas' upcoming film Fauji, is already one of the most talked about newcomers in Telugu cinema. Directed by Hanu Raghavapudi, the pre-independence period action drama is still in production, and she plays the female lead. A trained dancer and choreographer, she first won hearts online with her viral dance videos, which helped her land this big break. Her latest look is effortlessly cool. She pairs a fitted white tank top with light wash baggy jeans and a faded denim jacket worn off the shoulder. Delicate gold jewellery, including a fine necklace, bracelet and rings, adds a subtle shine, while dewy skin and soft hair keep the styling fresh. Fauji is her first release, and fans are eager to watch her with Prabhas.

Balayya Is Back, Dada Is In No Compromise Mode!



Nandamuri Balakrishna has recovered from the injuries he suffered during the shoot and is now getting ready to return to work. After nearly two months of rest, the actor has restarted Dada and has given 15 days of dates for a fresh Mysore schedule.

If everything goes as planned, another 20 days of shooting will remain after the Mysore schedule. This means the team needs around 35 days of Balayya's cooperation to complete his portions. A song featuring Balakrishna, composed by Thaman, is also part of the pending shoot. The makers are reportedly planning every-

thing carefully to retain the December 24 release date. Scenes and episodes that do not require Balayya have already been completed and are currently undergoing post production thanks to Gopichand Malineni's planning. Some portions are also expected to be shot at Kakinada Port.

Balakrishna is said to be playing a gangster in this mafia drama, which reportedly has some never seen before elements. Despite the delay and his injury, NBK is pushing ahead with the film as the team feels a Christmas release could be more beneficial than waiting for other window.

The OTT calendar is also

said to be one of the reasons behind the urgency. If any unexpected delays force a postponement, Dada could end up arriving for Sankranti 2027, where Balayya may face competition from Chiranjeevi and Venkatesh.

The teaser has already received a decent response and the team believes the upcoming trailer will take the expectations much higher. With the Veera Simha Reddy combination returning, expectations among fans are strong. Manoj Manchu playing the villain is another interesting factor, especially after his earlier combination with Balayya.