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Prashant Kishor Listed As Voter In Both Bihar, West Bengal



Kolkata: Poll strategist-turned-politician Prashant Kishor figures in the electoral rolls of both Bihar and West Bengal, an election official said on Tuesday. Kishor's Jan Suraj Party is contesting the assembly elections in Bihar. According to official records, Kishor is enrolled as a voter in West Bengal at 121, Kalighat Road, the address of the Trinamool Congress headquarters in Kolkata's Bhabanipur assembly constituency, which is Chief Minister and TMC chief Mamata Banerjee's seat, he said.

CYCLONE MONTHA'S LANDFALL BEGINS IN ANDHRA



Kakinada: Severe cyclonic storm Montha in the Bay of Bengal has started making landfall near Andhra Pradesh's Kakinada, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Tuesday night. Montha means a fragrant flower in Thai language. It will continue to move north-northwestwards and cross Andhra Pradesh coast between Machilipatnam and Kalingapatnam around Kakinada during next 3-4 hours as a severe cyclonic storm with a maximum sustained wind speed of 90-100 kmph gusting to 110 kmph,

said the weather body IMD in its latest update. The impact of the cyclone is likely to be severe in Kakinada, Krishna, Eluru, East Godavari, West Godavari, DrBR Ambedkar Konaseema, and Chinturu and Rampachodavaram divisions of Alluri Sitarama Raju district in Andhra Pradesh. The state government has ordered the suspension of all vehicle movement in these seven districts from 8.30 pm on Tuesday to 6 am on Wednesday. The cyclone is likely to affect 403 mandals in 22 districts across the state.

The IMD cautioned that the cyclone may cause damage to standing paddy and vegetable crops in low-lying and inundated areas. Farmers have been advised to drain out excess water from fields wherever possible. People have been urged to stay updated on weather bulletins and follow advisories issued by the administration for safety. To ensure uninterrupted emergency communication, 81 wireless towers and 21 large lamps have been installed. The government has also kept 1,447 earthmovers, 321 drones, and 1,040

chainsaws ready to clear uprooted trees. As part of preparedness measures, 3.6 crore alert messages have been disseminated to residents across the state. Between 8.30 am and 4 pm, Ulavapadu in Nellore district recorded 12.6 cm of rainfall, followed by Kavalu (12.2 cm), Dagadarthi (12 cm), Singarayakonda (10.5 cm), B Kodur (6 cm), and Visakhapatnam and Tuni (2 cm each). During a review meeting, officials informed Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu that Nellore district had recorded the highest rainfall so far.

"If You Cry, I'll Cry": Delhi Judge Tells Daughter During Court Farewell Speech

New Delhi: Justice Tara Vitasta Ganju bid adieu to the Delhi High Court on Monday before taking charge of her new assignment at the Karnataka High Court. "I'm deeply grateful to my family, my mother is here as is my daughter, for their constant support, patience and understanding," she said in her farewell speech. She happened to turn towards her daughter, who was seen in tears. Justice Ganju whispered, "If you cry, I will cry. Don't cry." She then composed herself and continued.



Severe Cyclone Montha Intensifies: Red Alert Issued for Andhra Pradesh



From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, Oct., 28 : Cyclone Montha is steadily gaining strength as it approaches the coast, having recently intensified into a severe cyclonic storm. In light of the developing situation, authorities have issued a red alert for the state of Andhra Pradesh. Currently located over the west-central Bay of Bengal, Cyclone Montha is tracking north-northwest at a speed of 12 km per hour. As of now, it is approximately 160 km south-southeast of Machilipatnam, 240 km south-southeast of Kakinada, and 320 km south-southwest of Visakhapatnam. Additionally, the cyclone is situated 530 km south-southwest of Gopalpur in Odisha. Meteorological Department officials predict that the storm is expected to make landfall between Machilipatnam and Kalingapatnam, near Kakinada, later this evening or tonight. Wind speeds are anticipated to reach between 90-100 kilometres per hour, with a maximum gust of 110 kilometres per hour at the time of coastal impact.

CYCLONE MONTHA IMPACT....



From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, Oct., 28 : Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu convened a teleconference here on Tuesday with NDA alliance MPs, ministers, MLAs, and leaders to address the impending threat of Cyclone Montha, which is reported to be approximately 270 km from Kakinada, moving towards

the state at a speed of 15 km/h. The Chief Minister urged leaders to remain vigilant and to provide immediate assistance to the affected citizens over the next couple of days. Naidu warned that Cyclone Montha is expected to intensify into a severe cyclone tonight and make landfall between Machilipatnam and Kalingapatnam. Heavy

CM calls cadre to carry relief efforts amid cyclone Montha

CM reviews preparedness with ministers relief operations in full swing

rainfall is anticipated in the Krishna, West Godavari, Konaseema, and Eluru districts. To ensure public safety, the NDA representatives have been instructed to alert residents and mobilise their support. The CM emphasised the importance of timely communication, stating that real-time updates regarding the situation would be sent via mobile notifications. He also assured that measures were being put in place to mitigate crop damage from potential flooding and to prioritize saving lives while minim

ising property damage. In a call to action, Naidu encouraged NDA cadres to volunteer in relief efforts and indicated that the government would seek central assistance if necessary. He highlighted the state's resilience in handling previous cyclones, such as Titli and Hudhud, and expressed confidence in the government's ability to respond effectively to this crisis. Medical camps are being established, and efforts are underway to clear roads and remove fallen trees and poles swiftly. NDRF and



SDRF personnel have been deployed in response to the threat of flash floods, and fishermen have been re-

turned from the sea as a precautionary measure. The Chief Minister reiterated the need for ministers, MLAs,

and party cadres to remain present and supportive to those in need during this challenging time. With approximately 39 constituencies expected to be affected by the forthcoming rains, Naidu assured that updates would be issued hourly throughout the

cyclone's progression, reinforcing the need for co-ordinated efforts to assist the communities at risk.

Come out only if necessary : Minister Kollu Ravindra's advice to the people

From Our Staff Reporter Vijayawada, Oct., 28 : Minister Kollu Ravindra and RTC Chairman Konakalla Narayana visited the cyclone-affected areas in Machilipatnam. Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that the impact of Cyclone Montha is going to be severe. It is likely to cross the coast tonight and heavy rain is falling with winds of 100 kmph. All people should be alert and no one should come out of their homes. He revealed that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu is reviewing the situation from time to time and issuing appropriate orders. The minister said that all the officials and public representatives are visiting the field and giving appropriate instructions



to the people. He said that the people of the coastal areas have been shifted to the rehabilitation centers.. and all kinds of arrangements have been made there without any difficulty. He said that along with rice, they are also providing financial assistance of Rs 3000 to the people, which no one has

done in the past. Minister Nara Lokesh said that the CMO is inspecting the cyclone-affected areas across the state and giving instructions to the respective districts from there. He explained that the government is taking all kinds of precautions to ensure that there is no loss of life. He also asked the people to come out only if it is necessary. The impact of these heavy rains for two days will be severe. It is advised not to be careless and take lives. People are requested not to stay under old houses and trees. They should go to safe areas. Minister Kollu Ravindra said that even if the control room is informed, the authorities will move them to rehabilitation centers.

Great danger signal 10 at Kakinada Port as cyclone Montha nears Andhra Pradesh coast

From Our Staff Reporter Kakinada, Oct., 28 : Great danger signal number 10 was hoisted at Kakinada Port on Tuesday as the severe cyclone 'Montha' in the Bay of Bengal was hurtling towards the Andhra Pradesh coast. With the cyclone nearing the coast, the Cyclone Warning Centre, Visakhapatnam, directed authorities to replace danger signal seven with 10 at Kakinada Port. The great danger signal is the highest issued to port in times of severe cyclones. Great danger signal number nine was hoisted at Visakhapatnam, Gangavaram, Kalingapatnam and Bheemunipatnam ports. Great danger signal eight was hoisted at Machilipatnam, Nizampatnam,

Krishnapatnam and Vadarevu ports. According to Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA), cyclonic storm Montha over the west-central Bay of Bengal has intensified into a severe cyclone and moved north-northwest wards with a speed of 12 kmph during the past six hours. It lies centred about 160 km from Machilipatnam, 240 km from Kakinada and 320 km from Visakhapatnam. The system is being continuously monitored from the Disaster Management Authority's control room. The severe cyclone is likely to cross the coast between Kakinada and Machilipatnam tonight. At the time of crossing the coast, strong cyclonic



winds with speeds of 90-110 km per hour. Due to its impact, extremely heavy rainfall is expected from Srikulam to Nellore, with very heavy rainfall in some areas. APSDMA has advised people to stay safe indoors. The IMD has issued a red alert for coastal Andhra Pradesh. It said in a bulletin that scattered heavy to very heavy with extremely heavy

rainfall likely to occur at one or two places over Srikulam, Parvathipuram, Manyam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, Alluri Sitharama Raju, Anaparthi, Kakinada-Yanam, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema, East Godavari, West Godavari, Eluru, NTR, Krishna, Guntur, Palnadu, Bapatla and Prakasam districts of coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam.

EDITORIAL

Will Putin bow to US sanctions?

To defeat the enemy, mere brute force is not enough. The result will be positive only if common sense and tactics are used according to the circumstances. Is it any wonder that it took ten months for the head of state, Trump, who is a hot-headed and thoughtless leader, to realize this? He boasted during his election campaign that stopping Russia's war in Ukraine would be a piece of cake for him. He promised that if he came to power, he would stop the war within twenty-four hours. But it took him so long to realize the fact that Russian President Putin has read four leaves more than him in politics. Putin is trying to negotiate with Trump in the middle of the Ukraine war. Trump's ego was hurt when his face-to-face meeting with Putin in Alaska last August failed to yield any results. He recently imposed sanctions on Russian oil companies to get Putin to back down, who is insisting that he must seize some territory in Ukraine to stop the war.

This development must have shaken Putin. The sanctions imposed by the US and the European Union on Russia's largest oil companies, Rosneft and Lukoil, have had a major impact on Russia, as well as India and China. The sanctions applied to both companies and many companies affiliated with them, causing oil exports from Russia to freeze. The latest sanctions seem to have banned 557 oil shadow companies. The decision taken by the US and European countries has sent crude oil prices soaring. The charges for supertankers transporting oil have increased by 16 percent in a single day, an example of this. This is the first such increase in charges in the last two years. Although Putin is bragging that he will not bow to US sanctions, he is not unaware that if oil purchases stop, it will be impossible to repair an economy already devastated by the war.

The latest sanctions will reduce Russia's ability to fund its military operations. It is undeniable that its oil-dependent economy will be weakened. However, he seems to be in a wait-and-see attitude to see how strictly the sanctions will be implemented. Trump, who once praised Putin as a tough guy and a smart guy, seems to have learned Putin's true colors now. When Putin recently canceled a meeting between the two leaders in Budapest, Trump said that was the reason why he was asking what was the point of the talks that did not yield results. As for India, Russia has been buying oil cheaply since the start of the Ukraine war. India imports a third of its crude oil requirements from Russia. India has imported an average of 1.7 million barrels of oil per day so far this year, of which 1.2 million barrels come from the two recently banned companies. Reliance and Nayara Energy are the largest importers of these imports, while Indian public sector undertakings are importing to a lesser extent. According to the International Energy Agency, India imports about seven million barrels of oil from Russia every month. This is equivalent to seven percent of the world's crude and refined oil consumption. In the wake of US sanctions, India is forced to reduce its oil imports from Russia, and it seems that it will once again turn to West Asia. If that happens, the US may reduce the tariffs on India, which have been increased to 50 percent, to 15 percent.

95% Of Gen-AI Projects Are Failing - And Markets Can Smell The Fear

The rapid and competitive surge in investment and media attention around Artificial Intelligence (AI) has led to a resurgence of earlier technological manias, sparking fears that the AI bubble could soon burst. Global institutions like the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Bank of England and financial leaders such as Jamie Dimon and Ray Dalio have issued cautionary warnings about the same.

They have all brought forth concerns about the inflated AI valuations and the bubble created by AI. But what exactly is fuelling this surge? How does it compare to the infamous Dot-com crash? And what implications could such a burst have on the United States and the global economy?

The AI Mania

The AI sector has witnessed unprecedented capital inflows, with just American private AI investment touching \$109.1 billion in 2025. This, along with investment in dozens of other countries and by other entities, has poured into AI development, data centres, chip manufacturing, and other related infrastructure. The S&P 500's growth in recent months can also, to a certain extent, be linked to AI-related growth.

The above graph indicates that AI has maintained a steady share of about 2% to 3% of the index until 2020. Between 2021 and 2024, its weight in the S&P 500 generally ranged from 3% to 4%. Significant changes in the index began in early 2023, driven by a surge in AI Hardware.

This growth was largely fuelled by the growth of the Santa Clara-headquartered chip manufacturer NVIDIA, whose share rose from 1.13% at the end of 2022 to 6.6% by June 30, 2024, reflecting investor optimism that AI will revolutionise productivity and economic growth.

Yet, as cautioned by IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva, current AI-related valuations are approaching levels resembling those seen just before the dot-com crash of

2000. "Today's valuations are heading toward levels we saw during the bullishness about the internet 25 years ago," she said.

Many firms still struggle to display meaningful returns and profits from their AI investment. A new Massachusetts Institute of Technology study revealed that approximately 95% of generative AI business efforts are failing, with only 5% achieving meaningful revenue growth.

Even with more than \$44 billion poured into AI startups in the first half of 2025, tangible productivity improvements remain limited as AI continues to face challenges with real-world applications. OpenAI's CEO, Sam Altman, has openly acknowledged this, warning, "In fact, there are many parts of AI that I think are kind of bubbly right now."

AI vs Dot-com

The dot-com bubble of the late 1990s elicited similar excitement around the transformative potential of the internet with companies having minimal revenue commanding sky high valuations based on 'future expectations'. When investor confidence in the same expectations waned in the early 2000s, these firms collapsed, wiping out trillions in market value. The bubble did, however, in its messy aftermath, leave behind vital technological infrastructure, which went on to become the backbone of today's internet, led by survivors such as Google and Amazon. A key difference, however, between the AI bubble and the dot-com craze lies in the source of capital. Many big tech giants are investing heavily into AI from their own profits, unlike the dot-com era startups, which relied on external capital. Bridgewater Associates founder Ray Dalio has also cautioned investors that the current rally in favour of AI stocks is showing signs of "froth". He drew parallels to the speculative fervour of the late-1990s dot-com boom.

He went on to state that while AI's technological trajectory



remains transformative and inevitable, investor expectations have far outpaced the sector's real-world monetisation capacity. "The progress in AI is real, but so is the speculation around it," he noted, leading us to understand the widening disconnect between genuine innovation and inflated market valuations.

What's At Stake?

The United States remains the epicentre of AI innovation and investment, thus making its economy highly sensitive to any and all shifts in AI market dynamics. AI investments accounted for nearly 92% of America's GDP growth in the first half of 2025. In the same time, AI-related capital expenditures contributed a whopping 1.1% to GDP growth, outpacing the US consumer as an engine of expansion.

This has led experts to warn that a contraction in AI spending could give the US economy, already burdened by rising debt and tariffs, the tip it needs to go into recession.

The bursting of the AI bubble could trigger a domino effect, which would lead to a rapid downshift in AI stock valuations, which, in turn, would erode household wealth

and take a huge toll on investor confidence in the market while pulling down overall market indices. It would also lead to companies slashing AI budgets and broader capital expenditures, which would, in turn, slow innovation and dampen productivity growth.

A sudden slowdown in AI-related sectors would also most likely trigger layoffs and downward pressure on wages, particularly in technology-driven regions where employment and income growth have become heavily dependent on the AI boom.

Globally, an AI bubble burst could lead to a weakening of the global financial sentiment and slow down international trade. Countries heavily reliant on technology exports and AI-driven service industries would face reduced external demand, while emerging markets could possibly experience capital outflows as investors shift funds toward safer assets, leading to an amplification of the exchange and liquidity pressure. The IMF and other major financial institutions have come out cautioning that current equity valuations are precariously stretched. The world economy at this very moment

faces a "triple risk" scenario emanating from the United States, involving tariffs, the AI bubble, and mounting debt burdens, all of which threaten medium-term growth prospects.

Geopolitical Dynamics

Geopolitical competition, especially between the United States and China, have heavily influenced AI investment strategies and bubble risks. China's government-led approach via state-sponsored enterprises contrasts with the US's mix of private sector innovation and selective federal public funding.

This dynamic increasingly mirrors the Cold War-era's ideological competition between states across the Pacific - only this time, the battlefield is technological, fought with chips rather than military might with Dvina's and Titan's.

Ramifications for India's Economy

India stands at a critical juncture in the AI revolution. While the United States and other developed economies lead AI investment and development, India's burgeoning tech sector positions India as a major future beneficiary of AI-accelerated growth.

The Battle For The Ballot Cannot Hide Bihar's Bitter Economic Truth

As Bihar heads to the polls on November 6 and 11, the contest is being pitched as a battle for identity, justice, and governance. But no matter which side wins—the NDA led by the BJP-JD(U) combine, the opposition Mahagathbandhan under the RJD-Congress, or the insurgent Jan Suraj of Prashant Kishor—the victor will confront the same cruel truth: Bihar's growth story is a political illusion that hides deep economic despair.

The state's highways gleam, its GDP gallops, and its leaders boast of double-digit growth. Yet beneath the concrete and statistics lies a starker Bihar—one that exports its youth, imports its subsidies, and still ranks near the bottom in human development.

The campaign is loud, but the silence on Bihar's structural crisis is deafening.

The Election Arithmetic: Jobs, Caste, and a Crisis of Credibility

The 2025 Assembly polls are shaping up as a referendum on two decades of Nitish Kumar's rule, with his credibility as "Sushasan Babu" now fraying. Anti-incumbency, fatigue, and frustration with joblessness are giving the opposition oxygen it hasn't had in years.

At the heart of this election lies one overwhelming issue: unemployment. Bihar's youth joblessness rate hovers around 13–15%, one of the highest in India. Each year, more than two million Biharis migrate out of the state for work—to Delhi's construction sites, Punjab's farms, or the Gulf's labour markets.

Tejashwi Yadav has turned

this into a rallying cry, promising 10 lakh government jobs, while the NDA counters with promises of industrial incentives and five lakh private-sector jobs under Nitish's "Sushasan" model. The conversation has shifted from caste to careers—what social media now calls a "youth revolt."

Still, neither side has explained how those jobs will be created in a state where industry contributes barely 21.5% of GSDP, manufacturing is stagnant, and agricultural employment remains disguised under subsistence.

Bihar's economy, expected to reach ₹10.97 lakh crore (US\$130 billion) by 2025–26, has indeed grown rapidly—a compound annual rate of 11.4% over the past decade. Yet its per capita income of ₹59,637 remains one-third of India's average, a gap that mocks the "double-engine" slogan of the BJP-JD(U) alliance.

Caste: The Old Code in a New Contest

Caste arithmetic still frames the contest, but this time, it's layered with class anxieties. The RJD's Yadav-Muslim base faces off against JD(U)'s EBC-OBC coalition and the BJP's upper-caste bastions, while Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraj seeks to lure disillusioned youth with a "caste-neutral" plank.

The Congress has revived its demand for a caste census and Pasmanda (backward Muslim) inclusion, sharpening identity politics under the guise of equity. The NDA counters with its stability narrative, portraying itself as the only guarantor

of "development without division."

But beneath these alignments lies a hard reality: caste still decides who gets to govern, not how Bihar is governed. The EBC and OBC blocs, long courted as swing voters, remain economically stagnant—and deeply cynical about elite politics on both sides.

Infrastructure and the Illusion of Progress

The NDA's campaign has revolved around infrastructure—new highways, power capacity, and bridges as proof of progress. The government boasts of 1.17 lakh km of rural roads, 57 railway projects worth ₹15,987 crore, a ₹3,402 crore metro in Patna, and 7,895 MW of installed electricity capacity.

But infrastructure does not automatically equal prosperity. Bihar's Gross Fixed Capital Formation, a proxy for productive investment, remains at a meagre 4.7% of GSDP, among India's lowest.

Factories haven't followed the highways. The state still accounts for less than 1% of national manufacturing output. Rural Bihar, where 70% of the workforce depends on agriculture, faces recurring floods, rising input costs, and falling real incomes. The government's talk of "development" rings hollow in East Champaran, Madhubani, or Sitamarhi, where irrigation remains erratic and flood management projects are perpetually "under implementation."

For most voters, Bihar's development has been something to look at, not to live in.

Corruption and the Battle for Moral High Ground



Corruption, once the NDA's weapon against Lalu Prasad Yadav's "Jungle Raj," has come back to haunt it. Opposition parties cite land scams, unfulfilled job promises, and rising costs of living as proof that Nitish Kumar's clean-governance halo has faded.

The JD(U) itself is fraying—11 leaders were expelled this year for "anti-party activity," exposing internal unrest. The BJP's central leadership, meanwhile, has turned the Bihar polls into a prestige battle, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Amit Shah, and Nadda leading aggressive campaigns.

But even as the rhetoric escalates, voters sense little difference between the corruption of yesterday and the complacency of today.

The Bihar Economic Survey 2024–25 bluntly notes: "Committed expenditures—salaries, pensions, and interest payments—severely constrain developmental spending." In plain terms, Bihar spends more on paying its past than building its future.

Debt, Dependence, and Delhi's Grip

Bihar's fiscal spine is fragile. Nearly three-fourths of its rev-

enue comes from Delhi—through Finance Commission transfers and grants. Its own tax revenue of ₹59,520 crore (FY25) cannot even cover administrative costs.

The state's debt-to-GSDP ratio, at nearly 40%, is among India's highest. Interest payments have skyrocketed from ₹3 crore in 1999 to ₹23,838 crore in 2021, crowding out welfare and education.

The NCAER's 2025 report warns that Bihar's debt "is sustainable only under optimistic growth and transfer assumptions." That's bureaucratic code for "one shock away from crisis."

This dependency gives Delhi a veto over Patna's priorities. The NDA's campaign slogan of "double-engine growth" thus cuts both ways—a boast when convenient, a burden when not.

Voters, Women, and the Politics of Perception

The Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter rolls has ignited fresh controversy, with the RJD alleging that over 20 lakh names—largely minorities—were deleted. The NDA insists it was a cleanup.

TDP Chief Palla Srinivas Rao Inspects Cyclone-Affected Areas

Visakhapatnam, Pen Power, oct 28: Under the guidance of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, all departments are working in coordination, while IT Minister Nara Lokesh is actively monitoring ground-level operations, said TDP State President and Gajuwaka MLA Palla Srinivas Rao during his visit to cyclone-affected areas in Visakhapatnam on Monday. He inspected landslides at Yarada, waterlogging in low-lying areas, and overflowed drainage systems, directing officials to take immediate relief measures. Palla emphasized that the next 24 hours are critical as

Cyclone Montha is expected to intensify, urging people to stay indoors and remain alert. He said the government has already shifted coastal and hilly residents to safe shelters, adding that TDP and alliance workers are actively participating in relief operations. "This discipline and dedication must continue for the next 48 hours," he said. Palla praised CM Chandrababu Naidu's real-time monitoring of departmental coordination and lauded Nara Lokesh for continuously overseeing operations from the RTGS Control Room for the past two days. Condemning



YSRCP's false propaganda, Palla accused them of spreading old photos and videos from previous cyclones like Hudhud and Titli on social media to create

panic among people. "If you can't help, at least don't spread fear," he said, urging everyone to act responsibly and stand united in this crisis.

Collector Keerthi Chekuri Inspects Rehabilitation Centre



Rajamahendravaram, Pen Power, October 28: Collector Keerthi Chekuri inspected the rehabilitation centre set up at Namavaram D-Block in Rajamahe

ndravaram Rural mandal on Tuesday. She reviewed facilities such as drinking water, food, electricity, medical aid, and sanitation, directing officials to ensure no

inconvenience to the evacuees affected by the cyclone and heavy rains. The Collector interacted with families staying at the centre and instructed au-

thorities to take special care of women, children, and the elderly. She emphasized the need for round-the-clock medical staff and strict maintenance of cleanliness. Special Deputy Collector K. Bhaskar Reddy, Mandal Special Officer K. N. Jyothi, MPDO, health staff, and secretariat employees accompanied her. Keerthi Chekuri said the government is taking all measures to ensure public safety and that additional rehabilitation centres will be set up if needed. She urged all officials to remain vigilant in their respective areas.

Jeep Trapped in Flooded Stream in Nallamala Forest Area



Ongole, Pen Power, October 28: As heavy rains caused by Cyclone Montha continue to wreak havoc,

tribal residents in the Nallamala forest region of Yerragondapalem are enduring severe hardships.

On Tuesday, a jeep carrying passengers from Palutla tribal hamlet to Yerragondapalem got stuck

in a swollen stream along the route. With the water current intensifying, women and children inside the vehicle panicked. Upon receiving information through mobile phones, local villagers rushed to the spot and managed to rescue the stranded passengers safely from the gushing waters. The locals expressed anguish that despite several appeals over the years, no proper road has been laid to Palutla tribal hamlet. "Governments have changed, leaders have changed, but our problems remain the same," they lamented.

Officials urged to implement all precautionary measures

Nandyal: District Collector G. Rajakumari has urged the people of Nandyal district to remain alert in view of the impending Montha cyclone, which is likely to cause heavy rains across the region for the next three days. Chairing a review meeting with district officials at the PGRS Hall in the Collectorate on Monday, the Collector directed all departments to stay on high alert and implement precautionary measures to prevent loss of life and property. The meeting was attended by Joint Collector K. Karthik, DRO Ramu Naik, special deputy collectors, and other officials.



and distress sales due to excessive moisture. Around 30 per cent of the maize crop has already been harvested, and prolonged wet conditions may lead to price drops, she cautioned. Traders were instructed to adhere strictly to the government-fixed procurement prices. Agricultural and horticulture officers were told to create awareness among farmers about the importance of delaying harvest operations. Emphasising the need for public health and sanitation, the Collector

expressed concern over poor waste management, especially in Atmakur town, and instructed municipal officials to immediately address the issue. She directed authorities to ensure the supply of safe drinking water by mandating chlorination in all summer storage tanks and RO plants, cleaning filter membranes, and sealing any units that fail to maintain quality standards. Officials were also instructed to identify people living in vulnerable mud houses and relocate them to

safer areas. The Collector asked the revenue and municipal teams to identify weak bunds along canals and tanks, keep sandbags and essential materials ready, and take swift action in case of flooding. The Collector further announced that special Aadhaar update camps are being held across the district. Citizens who have not yet updated their biometric and address details were urged to do so to complete e-KYC verification, enabling them to receive government benefits.

Staff Rebuked for Not Setting Up Bio-Fencing



Our Correspondent D.V.R.G.V. Ratnam A.S.R. District In-charge Rampachodavaram, Pen Power, October 28: During field inspections following Cyclone Montha, DWAMA Assistant Project Director (APD) Tuthika Srinivasa Vishwanath expressed anger at officials in Mareduilli vil-

lage of Rampachodavaram mandal for failing to establish bio-fencing around farmer Kailela Chinnareddy's horticulture plot. The APD said the government is spending crores to distribute free horticulture plants to tribal farmers, and it's the joint responsibility of farmers and NREGS staff to protect

them. Without bio-fencing, he warned, cattle could destroy the crops, defeating the government's goal of improving tribal livelihoods. Under the 2025-26 financial plan, 2,27,181 plants were sanctioned to 1,729 farmers across Mareduilli, Devipatnam, Y. Ramavaram, and Rampachodavaram mand

als, covering 2,023 acres. Vishwanath instructed staff to ensure 100% plant survival and to stay alert in the wake of the cyclone, emphasizing the welfare of rural laborers. Junior Engineer B. Srinivas and Technical Assistants P. Ramireddy and others accompanied the inspection.

Minister Kandula Durgesh Reviews Cyclone Montha Preparedness

Rajamahendravaram, Pen Power, October 28: With Cyclone Montha approaching, Minister Kandula Durgesh held an emergency review meeting with district officials at the Collectorate, urging everyone to stay alert and remain on duty for the next three days. He directed officials to identify vulnerable areas such as damaged roads, fallen trees, and flood-prone zones in advance, and to coordinate with SDRF, NDRE, and local youth for relief operations. Special Officer K. Kannababu instructed teams to monitor water flow in canals and be ready to supply food and medicines via drones if



needed. Collector Keerthi Chekuri said all departments are acting as per SOPs, with special focus on the safety of women, children, elderly, and the disabled in relief centers. SPD.

Narasimha Kishore said police patrols have been strengthened and control rooms are operating round-the-clock. RDO Rani Sushmitha informed that 1,000 sandbags were ar-

ranged near Kotha Cheruvu for flood protection. Senior district officials and representatives from all departments, including NDRE, participated in the meeting.

Measures to Prevent Loss of Life and Property Let's Stand as a Source of Assurance to the People Minister Subhash's Directions to District Collector Mahesh Kumar

Amalapuram/Kakinada, Pen Power, October 28: State Labour Minister Vasamshetty Subhash instructed Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema District Collector Mahesh Kumar Ravirala to ensure full preparedness to face Cyclone Montha and to work collectively so that people do not panic. As part of the cyclone relief operations, Minister Subhash, who is also the in-charge minister for Krishna district, reviewed the situation with officials on Tuesday morning and later toured several mandals across Konaseema district. During the visit, he issued several key directives to the Collector. He said that since the depression is expected to intensify into a

severe cyclone by tonight, all possible measures must be taken to prevent any loss of life or property. He emphasized that the relief camps must provide quality food, clean drinking water, milk, and medicines to those in need—especially senior citizens, children, and pregnant women. The minister ordered that all officials remain vigilant until the cyclone completely passes. Collector Mahesh Kumar briefed the minister on the steps being taken by the district administration. He said that all departments were working in coordination to carry out relief and rescue operations effectively. He informed that around 7,000 people from Katrenikona, I. Polavaram,



Sakhinetipalli, Malkipuram, Uppalagupam, and Kothapeta mandals had been evacuated to safer locations. Additionally, marine police and around 150 women police personnel stationed at various village

secretariats were deployed for patrolling coastal areas. The Collector also stated that the control room is continuously monitoring the cyclone situation and issuing timely alerts to the public to ensure safety.

Cyclone Montha to bring heavy rains to Anantapur

Anantapur: District Collector O Anand directed officials to take all necessary precautionary and relief measures to ensure that people in Anantapur district do not face any hardship due to the impact of Cyclone Montha, which is expected to bring heavy rains to the region. Reviewing the preparedness with district officials at the Revenue Bhavan on Monday, the Collector said that although the cyclone may not cause severe damage in the district, moderate to heavy rainfall is likely. He said control rooms have been set up

at the district headquarters (Phone: 8500292992), as well as at Revenue Division and mandal offices, to coordinate relief and response operations round-the-clock. The Collector urged citizens to stay alert and contact the Command Control Room for assistance if required. He also advised people to avoid open areas, trees, electric poles, and fields during thunderstorms and lightning, and to remain indoors in safe buildings. He instructed officials of departments such as Panchayat Raj, APSPDCL, Agriculture, and Revenue



to stay prepared for emergency deployment to assist other cyclone-affected districts if needed. Joint Collector Shiv Narayan Sharma, Assistant Collector Sachin Rahar, District

Revenue Officer A. Malola, Special Deputy Collectors Mallikarjuna, Rammohan, and Anand, and other departmental heads participated in the review meeting.

Superstar To Retire After Multi-starrer With Kamal Haasan?

Superstar Rajinikanth, who completed five decades of charismatic and non-pareil journey on the big screen, is still continuing to entertain moviegoers by doing crowd-pleasing films without taking much breaks despite his age factor and health issues. After his recent outing Coolie, Rajinikanth immediately started shooting for the much anticipated sequel Jailer 2. He has already signed another film under the direction of Sundar C.

Meanwhile, an interesting buzz started making rounds in the Tamil media since today morning. Reportedly, Rajinikanth's much awaited reunion with Kamal Haasan, which has been the talk of South Indian film industry for quite some time now, is likely to be the farewell movie for the Superstar. Kollywood is abuzz with the rumour that Rajinikanth will say goodbye to his illustrious acting career after completing the highly anticipated multi-starrer with



Kamal Haasan. Sources revealed that the Rajinikanth – Kamal Haasan film will be helmed by Nelson Dilip Kumar and is likely to go on floors in 2027 as the director might take a year to complete the script work and other pre production activities. After completing Jailer 2, Rajini will kick start his next film with Sundar C and wrap it up by end of next year before moving to Kamal Haasan's film. While there is nothing concrete either from Superstar's team or any credible source of Kollywood on his retirement speculations, the news sent millions of fans into a tizzy.

Dacoit Lands In Tough Box Office Competition

After a lot of delays, Adivi Sesh finally made an announcement on the release of his next film Dacoit. The film is billed to be an interesting thriller with a lot of action elements. The team confirmed that the movie will hit the screens on the 19th of March. However, the March schedule is very tight that the result of Dacoit will depend on other releases. With Dacoit hitting the screens on the 19th of March, there are other releases like Peddi, and Paradise for March 27th. There are speculations that one of the two films will get postponed but it is too early to make an assumption. Additionally, we also have Yash's Toxic in the pipeline on the same date March 19. Compared to Dacoit, the other three films are big in terms of scale, budget, casting and release. So, a safe theatrical run for the film, for a week is almost confirmed. However, it will further depend



on how these big releases will work. If the new releases click big time, then, it will impact the run of Dacoit. However, a solid week's run can also assure a blockbuster for Dacoit. Mrunal Thakur and Anurag Kashyap are also a part of the movie. Supriya Yarlagadda is the film's producer while Shaniel Deo is the director.

Rashmika Mandanna: "I Already Feel Like a Mother"

Actor Rashmika Mandanna, who is currently promoting her upcoming film The Girlfriend, opened up about her thoughts on motherhood, work-life balance, and personal well-being during an exclusive interview with Gulte Pro alongside director Rahul Ravindran. Known for her busy schedule and multiple film commitments, Rashmika admitted that overworking has often affected her health. "I overwork, and I'm telling you, don't do that. It's not sustainable," she said. "Do what's right for you, whether it's 8 hours, 9, or 10, but know your limits. If I could choose, I'd say don't make us work beyond that. Not just actors, but technicians and the entire crew deserve that balance."

The actress explained that focusing on family, rest, and fitness has become more of a priority. "I need to focus on family time, get enough sleep, and make time to work out so that

later I won't regret not staying healthy," she said. Director Rahul Ravindran joined in on the discussion, reflecting on his motivation to stay healthy. "I'm generally a secure person, but I have this one insecurity. When I see my kids, I want to be alive till they're grown enough to see the world on their own. I'm now re-evaluating my choices with that in mind," he said.

Responding to him, Rashmika shared a heartfelt thought about her future children. "I'm not even a mother yet, but I already feel I'm going to have kids. I love that it's going to happen," she said. "I feel something deeply for these little humans who aren't even born yet. I want to protect them. If I have to go to war for them, I should be fit enough to do it. That's how strongly I feel about it." Her comments come amid an ongoing conversation in Indian cinema about working hours, following reports that Deepika Padukone stepped away from Spirit



to prioritize an 8-hour workday after becoming a mother. The debate has since widened, with several actors sharing their views on maintaining a balance between professional and personal life. On the work front, The Girlfriend marks Rashmika's first female-led film and is scheduled for release on November 7. She also has Mysaa and the upcoming sequels of Pushpa and Animal in the pipeline. In her personal life, Rashmika is reportedly engaged and set to marry actor Vijay Deverakonda in February.

Surya Kumar Yadav is a great leader, says coach Gautam Gambhir

Hyderabad: "Surya (Kumar Yadav) is a great human being, and good humans make good leaders. While he speaks highly of me, my role is simply to advise him fairly based on my reading of the game," says Indian cricket team's head coach Gautam Gambhir.

"Ultimately, this is his team. His free-spirited character perfectly matches T20 cricket's essence, which is about freedom and expression. Your off-field personality reflects on the field and in the dressing room, and Surya has maintained this atmosphere brilliantly over the past 1.5 years," Gambhir said in a chat on JioStar.

"From our first conversation, we agreed: we will not fear losing. I don't aim to be the most successful coach; I want us to be the most fearless team. In big games like the Asia Cup final, I told the players it's okay to drop a catch, play a bad shot, or bowl a poor delivery. Human beings make mistakes," he added. "Only the opinions of those in the dressing room matter. Surya and I consistently agree: we will never fear mistakes. The bigger the game, the more fearless and aggressive we must be. A conservative approach only gives the opposition an advantage. With the talent we have, if we play fearlessly, we will be fine," Gambhir



said. •On Suryakumar Yadav's form with the bat, Gambhir said: "Honestly, Surya's batting form doesn't concern me because we have committed to an ultra-aggressive template in our dressing room. When you embrace this philosophy, failures are inevitable."

"It would be easy for Surya to score 40 runs off 30 balls and avoid criticism, but we have collectively decided that it's acceptable to fail while pursuing

this approach. Currently, Abhishek Sharma is in good form and has maintained it throughout the Asia Cup. When Surya finds his rhythm, he will shoulder the responsibility accordingly," he said. "In T20 cricket, our focus isn't on individual runs but on the brand of cricket we want to play. With our aggressive style, batters may fail more often, but impact ultimately matters more than mere runs," Gambhir said.

"Got Phone Call Saying Be Lenient, It's India": Ex ICC Referee's Big Claim Involving Sourav Ganguly



Former ICC match referee Chris Broad has levelled serious allegations against the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), asserting that political influence was used to protect the Indian team from penalties during his tenure. Broad, who is also the father of retired England pacer Stuart Broad, detailed these claims in an interview. Broad claimed that he received a direct phone call instructing him to be "lenient" and find ways to spare the Indian team, being led by Sourav Ganguly, from a slow over-rate fine in one particular match. Without delving into specifics, Broad noted that India were three or four overs down at the end of the game, an offence which constituted an automatic fine. Because of the pressure from the BCCI, Broad said he had to comply,

manipulating the elapsed time to bring the over-rate below the fine threshold. •In his interview, Broad further claimed that the sport has become significantly more political now than in his early days as an official. With the BCCI being the main financial driving force, Broad alleged that top positions in the ICC have become much more politically charged. "India got all the money and have now taken over the ICC so in many ways. I'm pleased I'm not around because it's a much more political position now than it ever has been," Broad told the Telegraph. Narrating the slow over-rate episode, Broad revealed how the phone call effectively forced him to be lenient with Team India. The incident involved an Indian team match where Sourav Ganguly was the captain. On

another occasion involving Ganguly, however, Broad said that he stood by the laws and penalised the team. "India were three, four overs down at the end of a game so it constituted a fine. I got a phone call saying, 'be lenient, find some time because it's India'. And it's like, right, OK. So we had to find some time, brought it down below the threshold. The very next game, exactly the same thing happened. He [Sourav Ganguly] didn't listen to any of the hurry-ups and so I phoned and said, 'what do you want me to do now?' and I was told 'just do him'. So there were politics involved, right from the start. A lot of the guys now are either politically more savvy or just keeping the head below the parapet. I don't know," Broad claimed.

India U20 women draw 1-1 with Kazakhstan in second friendly

Shymkent, Kazakhstan: The India U20 women's team drew 1-1 against Kazakhstan U19 in the second and final friendly at the BIK Sports Complex in Shymkent, Kazakhstan. Both goals came in the second half. Adeliya Bekkozhiba handed the lead to the hosts in the 47th minute before Pooja, scoring her second goal in as many games, equalised in the 55th. As part of their preparations for the AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup 2026, the Young Tigresses played two friendly matches against Kazakhstan U19 in Shymkent. India won the first friendly 3-2.

