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## SIX MAOISTS, INCLUDING TOP COMMANDER HIDMA, KILLED IN ENCOUNTER



Additional DGP Mahesh Chandra Ladda

**Alluri District Correspondent, Pen Power, November 18:** Six Maoists were killed in an exchange of fire between Maoists and police on Tuesday in the Mareduhilli forest area of Alluri district, confirmed Additional DGP Mahesh Chandra Ladda. After the encounter with the Maoists, he held a press conference at Rampachodavaram. He stated that due to intelligence inputs that Maoists were infiltrating Andhra Pradesh through the AOB (Andhra-Odisha Border) region from neighbouring

states as part of Operation Kagar, strict security measures were put in place. Information was received that Maoists from Chhattisgarh were present in the Mareduhilli forest area, prompting an extensive combing operation by Alluri district police. During this operation, between 6 AM and 7 AM on Tuesday, both sides came face-to-face, leading to an exchange of fire. In the encounter, Central Committee member and top Maoist leader Madam Hidma, his wife Rajakka, and four other Maoists were killed, he revealed. He



added that based on intelligence inputs that Maoists are taking shelter in several parts of the state, raids are being conducted. Twenty-seven individuals were taken into custody in Vijayawada and fifteen in Eluru; more detentions may occur in Kakinada and other regions. Some Maoists are believed to have escaped after the encounter, and search operations are underway to trace them. From the scene of the encounter, police recovered two AK-47 rifles, a pistol, a revolver, a single-shot weapon, and some explosive materials, he said.

### Operation Hidma Successful

**Mareduhilli, pen Power, November 18:** The forest region woke up to the sound of heavy gunfire on Tuesday. Acting on precise intelligence that top Maoist leaders were hiding near the Tiger Camp area, Greyhounds forces, with the assistance of local police, launched an extensive search operation. Using advanced technology and drone surveillance, the forces carried out swift, coordinated strikes. Police confirm that in this encounter, senior Maoist leader, Central Committee member Madavi Hidma, along with his wife Hema and four other Maoists, were killed. The gun battle reportedly took place between 6 AM and 7 AM on Tuesday. The quiet and discreet shifting of the bodies to Rampachodavaram Referral Hospital has raised several questions. It is known that after the Karré Gutta encounter, Hidma's group was attempting to establish bases across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh and had chosen this region as part of their expansion strategy. Recently, the Deputy Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh visited Puvarti village in Sukma district and met Hidma's mother, conveying a message urging him to surrender. However, firmly believing in his mission, Hidma continued his armed struggle and ultimately died in Tuesday's encounter. Home Minister Amit Shah had earlier stated that the country would eliminate Naxalism within a specified timeframe, but this operation appears to have accelerated that goal by nearly three months. Weapons recovered from the encounter site have been seized by the police. Security forces continue combing operations in the area, as some Maoists are believed to have escaped during the firing.

**TTD Prioritises Common Devotees for Vaikuntha Ekadashi Darshan**



**Tirupati:** The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has announced plans for enhanced darshan opportunities during the upcoming Vaikuntha Ekadashi, which will see the temple open for ten days starting December 30. TTD Chairman BR Naidu stated that, following directives from Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, the focus will be on accommodating ordinary devotees. Out of a total of 182 hours of darshan, 164 hours will be dedicated specifically to common devotees, a move intended to ensure widespread accessibility to the sacred experience. Naidu made the announcement after a recent TTD Governing Council meeting, emphasising the benefits of this initiative for the general public. Notably, he revealed that the Rs. 300 and Srivani darshan services will be suspended for the first three days of this period. However, from January 2 to January 8, 15,000 Rs. 300 darshan tickets and 1,000 Srivani darshan tickets will be made available to the public as part of a regular schedule.

## C-DOT signs MoU with State Govt

- Participates in Amaravati Quantum Valley (AQV) initiative



**From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, Nov., 18:** Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Andhra Pradesh Government to participate in Amaravati Quantum Valley (AQV) initiative. The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) is the premier telecom R&D centre of the Department of Telecommunications, Government of India, engaged in the design, development of indigenous telecom solutions and deployment of cutting-edge communication technologies to meet the country's strategic and socio-economic needs. C-DOT has now pioneered development of Quantum Security solutions which have already seen widespread installations at multiple places including premier academic institutes

(Government as well as Private), Government R & D labs, actual network carrying live traffic etc. Andhra Pradesh Government has taken a giant step in shaping India's quantum future with the initiative of setting up Amaravati Quantum Valley (AQV). The project is located in Amaravati and involves state-level partnerships, infrastructure, and training programs. The Amaravati Quantum Valley aims to create an integrated quantum ecosystem uniting hardware manufacturing, software development, talent nurturing, and research excellence. Through this partnership between AP Govt and C-DOT, C-DOT proposes to set up a Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Quantum Communication & Security Solutions, along with allied areas like Privacy Enhancement technologies (PETs), in Amaravati Quantum Valley, Andhra Pradesh. C-DOT will focus on Quantum Communication solutions at the proposed Centre at AQV.

C-DOT's expertise in the quantum communication field will help in providing the necessary resources and skill development to emerging players in India. It will support research and testing in the NQM (National Quantum Mission) aligned areas of Quantum Security Solutions, along with the development of PETs to ensure compliance with MeitY's Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) framework. It will also focus on cost-effective sub-component development for quantum communication systems and establish an integrated testbed for quantum security, thereby strengthening the AQV mandate, fostering a quantum-safe ecosystem, and enhancing digital privacy and data protection across the nation. The MoU was exchanged in the presence of Sh. Nara Lokesh, Minister of IT, Government of Andhra Pradesh during the 30th edition of CII Partnership Summit at Vizag.

## Operation Kagar to be completed ahead of schedule

**From Our Staff Reporter Vijayawada, Nov., 18:** BJP state president PVN Madhav expressed hope that Operation Kagar, launched by the central government to eradicate Maoists in the country, will reach the target set earlier than planned. Maoist central committee member Hidma and several Maoists were killed in an encounter that took place in the Mareduhilli forest area of Mareduhilli forest area of Alluri Seetharamaraju district on Tuesday morning. In this context, APBJP chief PVN Madhav responded in Vijayawada. He said that the police are moving towards destroying the shelter zones of Maoists and the arrests of Maoists in Vijayawada are proof of



this. He advised the police to focus on all areas where Maoists have their roots. He said that the Maoists are turning peaceful districts into shelter zones is a matter of concern. He advised the police to take strict action against those who provide shelter to Maoists as well as those who are providing support.

## Arrangements reviewed for PM's Puttaparthi visit



**Puttaparthi:** In view of the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and several dignitaries to participate in Sri Sathya Sai Baba Centenary Celebrations on November 19, a high-level review meeting was held at Anantapur Collectorate. The meeting was chaired by Revenue Minister and district in-charge Minister Anagani Satya Prasad, along with BC Welfare Minister S Savitha, State Nodal Officers MT Krishna Babu and G Veera Pandyan, district Collector A Shyam Prasad, and SP S Satish Kumar. Senior officials from various districts, police officers, and departmental heads participated to review security arrangements, protocol planning, and logistical preparations for the Prime Minister's visit. Discussions focused on crowd management, traffic control, law and order, hospitality arrangements, and coordination between state departments and district authorities. Officials were instructed to ensure seamless arrangements for the large gathering expected during the celebrations. Joint Collector M Mourya Bharadwaj, MLA Palle Sindhura Reddy, members of Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, and several senior officials were present in the meeting.

## Aishwarya Rai, Sachin at Sathya Sai Jayanti celebrations in Puttaparthi

**Puttaparthi, November 18:** Famous film actress Aishwarya Rai and Indian cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar visited Puttaparthi in Sri Sathya Sai district. They attended the centenary celebrations of Sathya Sai. Film actress Aishwarya Rai visited Baba Maha Samadhi at Sai Kulwant Hall. Meanwhile, former Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar also reached Puttaparthi to attend the Sathya Sai centenary celebrations. On this occasion, Minister Nara Lokesh had a special meeting with Sachin Tendulkar



at Prasanthi Nilayam. Earlier, Sachin Tendulkar had darshan of Sathya Sai Maha Samadhi at Sai Kulwant Hall.

## EDITORIAL

Red Fort incident is  
a warning to the nation

The horrific blast in the Red Fort area of Delhi on the 10th of this month has shaken our country and all the countries that are suffering from the acts of terrorism. Such incidents happen due to the brutal behavior of some people. The government has registered cases under relevant laws in this incident and handed it over to the National Investigation Agency (NIA). Based on preliminary evidence, it is known that the person responsible for the blast is a doctor named Umar-un-Nabi, who hails from Pulwama district of Kashmir. According to the investigating agencies, another doctor, Muzammil Ganai, visited the Red Fort in January this year. However, before the incident (on October 30), Muzammil was arrested by the Kashmir police on the charge of being a terrorist suspect. The photos of both of them have been captured by the investigating agencies. These two doctors are from Pulwama. They work at Al-Falah University (Haryana). There is evidence that Muzammil and his brother visited Turkey a few years ago. They are believed to have established contacts with the Pakistan-based terrorist organization Jaish-e-Mohammed through a handler. It is wrong to include the entire university as a suspect just because they both work at Al-Falah University. That is the main objective of the terrorists. They want to somehow incite sectarianism between two groups, so that they can leave those groups alone and live their lives. It is the duty of governments, rulers, opposition parties, and the people to prevent that from happening. As long as politics does not enter, religious conflicts will occur intermittently, but – mass killings, house arson, and heated feuds... all of these are happening because some people enter politics for their own gain. When sects are formed in society, conflicts spread beyond control. One of the main reasons why this attack did not turn out to be more monstrous is Dr. GV Sandeep Chakraborty. He is a 2014 batch IPS officer. There are reports that he acted very cleverly with a sense of timing. Only a few posters see it. Police officers like Sandeep Chakraborty can also see the 'plan' behind that poster. Sandeep immediately conducted an inquiry after seeing the Jaish-e-Mohammed posters in Navgam, Kashmir. That revealed 2,900 kg of IEDs, a sleeper cell network, and plans to engulf the whole of India. If Sandeep had dismissed it as 'just a poster', many explosions would have occurred across the country by now. This officer has already received six gallantry awards. We are all proud that Sandeep is a Telugu. Many other issues will come to light only after a full investigation. It is understood that the doctor who died in the blast had links with many people in the country, and fortunately this conspiracy was foiled at a time when they were all trying to carry out 'terror strikes'. That is why the Indian government, the National Investigation Agency, and other organizations have undertaken a thorough investigation into the incident. Only if news organizations and the opposition also act with caution will the truth come out quickly. Otherwise, they will create many obstacles in the form of 'fire in one place, water in another'. It is true that organized crime is often a cause for concern. On this occasion, the official spokesperson of the United States told the media that 'it is noteworthy that the investigative agencies in India are systematically investigating', which is in a way an indirect condemnation of the actions of terrorists. It also seems interesting in the current circumstances that the country's Defense Secretary spoke to Indian Foreign Minister Jaishankar and learned the details.

Since the NDA government came to power, counter-terrorism measures have been particularly effective. In fact, terrorist activities have been terrorizing many countries. It is true that the Center has largely checked terrorist activities by strengthening the central investigative agencies and implementing our laws in a strict manner. Most of the problems have also been solved by the Center warning the states that are likely to experience such incidents in advance and preparing them to take precautionary measures. Many incidents are being stopped at the beginning due to prepared police systems and departments like the NIA. However, if an incident like the Red Fort blast happens anywhere in the country... Along with the protests in the country, opposition leaders and the media also try to blame the Center and the state governments from time to time. Counter-terrorism measures will be fruitful only if everyone notices that it is wrong and provides adequate cooperation to the governments. After this incident, many arrests were made all over the country. No harm was done due to the recovery of weapons and explosives. That is why national defense requires vigilance and everyone's cooperation.

What Are Congress And Rahul Up To  
After Bihar? Hint: 'Jai Jagat Gang'

Instead of introspection, accountability and disciplinary action in the wake of the Bihar verdict, the Congress leadership is busy in a self-serving reward exercise to shortlist party president Mallikarjun Kharge and several top AICC functionaries for coveted Rajya Sabha berths. An informal but powerful group of party leaders known as "Jai Jagat" are set to get a large chunk of Rajya Sabha seats. Leaders known for their left of centre, social justice and inclusion-oriented politics, such as Sachin Rao, Meenakshi Natrajan, Krishna Allavaru and Bhunwar Jitendra Singh, who like to sign off as "Jai Jagat" in all modes of in-house communications, are hoping to be in the upper house with a degree of confidence and sureness. Sachin Rao is a communication expert and a member of the Congress Working Committee, while Natrajan, a former Lok Sabha MP from Mandasaur, Madhya Pradesh, worked with Rahul when he was the All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary way back in 2007. She is currently looking after the party affairs in Telangana. Krishna was the Congress pointman in Bihar, while Jitendra Singh is looking after party affairs in Assam.

**Who Holds The Cards? No Surprises Here**

The biannual Rajya Sabha polls are due early next year, but jockeying has begun in full earnest with Rahul Gandhi and 10, Janpath, holding all the cards and leverage to extend patronage. Within Congress circles, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's claim of the grand old party heading for some kind of split of division is inviting derisive backlash, with some leaders pointing at PM Modi's lack of understanding about the principal opposition party. In a nutshell, the Congress is expected to lose six Rajya Sabha seats in April 2026 but is likely to win nine seats in the upper house. It is all set to net three

seats from Karnataka, two from Telangana, one each from Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh. Leading these returnees in the house is 83-year-old Mallikarjun Kharge, who is also leader of the opposition (LoP) in the Rajya Sabha. Kharge's term as the Congress president ends in October 2027, so the Congress leadership - the Gandhis, that is - are 'duty bound' to renominate him in the Rajya Sabha. Kharge, Digvijaya Singh and Shakti Singh Gohil are the key prominent leaders completing their term in April 2026. All three of them are aspiring to return to the house of elders. While Kharge is a certainty from Karnataka, Digvijaya, a politician among the politicians, is facing a challenge from Rahul Gandhi's protégé: Natrajan, a member of the 'Jai Jagat' gang.

**Jockeying In Himachal And Rajasthan**

From Himachal, veteran Anand Sharma is hoping to be rewarded. But the buzz in Indra Bhawan and at 24, Akbar Road is that Pratibha Singh could be the official party candidate from Himachal. Anand is counting on AICC general secretary Jairam Ramesh to push for his candidature. Anand had recently resigned as the head of AICC's foreign affairs department, much against the wishes of him and Jairam Ramesh. Salman Khurshid is the new head of the AICC's foreign affairs department and an aspirant for a Rajya Sabha berth from Telangana. The informal and in-house contest for the lone Rajasthan berth is most intriguing. As luck would have it, Pawan Khera is being backed by former Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, but he is pitted against Bhunwar Jitendra Singh, considered to be close to Rahul. While both claim to be part of the 'Jai Jagat' group, the tussle for Rajasthan has a history. In September 2023, Rahul Gandhi made a strong case for Sachin Pilot to



become the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, but Ashok Gehlot blocked it in the most brazen and defiant manner. Jitendra Singh, currently looking after party affairs in poll-bound Assam, is seen as a possible successor to KC Venugopal as the next General Secretary in charge of the party organisation. Other prominent faces vying for Rajya Sabha berths are Bhupesh Baghel, K Raju, Supriya Shrinete, Sunil Kanagolu and TS Singh Deo. Most of these leaders have a history of delivering failures in the respective state elections they supervised. But in the Congress, loyalty, left-liberal type political correctness and focus on social justice-inclusion discourse seems to be paramount.

**Will Congress Leadership See Reason? No?**

Some wise people in the Congress are making a feeble attempt to make Rahul Gandhi see reason. They want Rahul

to look at local and regional leaders for Rajya Sabha seats. According to this school of thought, in the past, the Congress ignored the contribution of local leadership and gave importance to leaders from other states while considering Rajya Sabha seats. KC Venugopal, for instance, after losing his Lok Sabha seat from Kerala in 2019, had taken the Rajya Sabha route from Rajasthan. At present, Sonia Gandhi, Mukul Wasnik, Randeep Surjewala and Pramod Tiwari are Rajya Sabha members from Rajasthan. Within Congress circles, Ahmed Patel is credited with bringing KC Venugopal closer to Rahul. Legend has it that when KC Venugopal became Member of Parliament, Patel, then political secretary to United Progressive Alliance (UPA) chairperson and Congress president Sonia Gandhi, got him seated next to Rahul in the Lok Sabha on the premise that a non-de-

scriptive MP from Kerala would have least influence on the Gandhi scion. The reverse happened. By 2019, Patel used to describe Venugopal as 'his mistake'. AICC treasurer Ajay Maken, who had lost the earlier Rajya Sabha election to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-backed independent candidate Kartikaye Sharma from Haryana, eventually won from a "safe" seat in Karnataka. Rajiv Shukla and KTS Tulsi are presently Rajya Sabha MPs from Chhattisgarh, Abhishek Manu Singhvi from Telangana, and Imran Pratapgarhi from Maharashtra.

**Learning Challenges**

By giving Rajya Sabha seats to outsiders who are non-performers in their own states and have failed miserably in either bringing the party to power or even getting enough seats in the Upper House, the Congress has time and again undermined the contribution of local leaders who drive the success of the party in their respective states.

No, RJD Didn't Face A 'Conspiracy'.  
Here's The Math Behind Its Rout

The recent Bihar assembly elections delivered a stunning victory for the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), which secured over three-fourths majority by winning 202 of the 243 assembly seats. In stark contrast, the Mahagathbandhan (MGB) was reduced to a mere 35 seats, while smaller parties and independents won the remaining seats, with the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) securing five seats, the Bahujan Samaj Party one, and others winning six seats. Notably, Prashant Kishor's much-hyped Jan Suraj failed to open its account.

**The Controversy: More Votes, Fewer Seats?**

In the aftermath of this electoral landslide, social media erupted with debates and allegations. Many supporters of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) pointed to what they perceived as a puzzling anomaly: the RJD received more absolute votes and a higher overall vote share than both the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Janata Dal (United), yet won significantly fewer seats. Some went as far as to accuse the Election Commission (EC) of facilitating electoral manipulation and cheating. These are serious allegations that deserve scrutiny. However, when we examine the data carefully, a different picture emerges - one that demonstrates not electoral fraud but the fundamental mathematics of how electoral systems work.

**A Misleading Comparison**

At first glance, the vote tal-

lies seem to support the conspiracy theories. The RJD garnered an impressive 1.15 crore votes, translating to a 23% overall vote share, winning 25 seats. By comparison, the BJP received 1 crore votes with a 20.08% vote share and 89 seats, while the Janata Dal (United) (JD-U) secured 96.67 lakh votes with a 19.25% vote share, winning 85 seats. The answer to the RJD mystery lies in understanding a critical factor that these raw numbers obscure: the number of seats contested by each party.

**The Real Story**

The RJD contested elections in 143 constituencies across Bihar, significantly more than its principal rivals. Both the BJP and the JD(U) contested 101 seats each. So, the RJD contested 1.4 times the seats contested by its rivals. In other words, the BJP-JDU combine contested 30% fewer seats than the RJD. This difference is crucial because when you field candidates in more constituencies, you naturally accumulate more absolute votes, regardless of your actual electoral strength or popularity in individual constituencies. What truly matters in assessing a party's electoral performance is not the total vote count, but rather the votes received per seat and the contested vote share - that is, the average vote share achieved in the constituencies where the party actually fielded candidates.

**Votes Per Seat: The Perfor-****mance Metric That Matters**

When we calculate the average votes received per seat, the narrative changes dramatically. The RJD received an average of just 80,742 votes per constituency contested. In comparison, the BJP secured an average of 99,813 votes per seat, while the JD(U) garnered 95,714 votes per constituency. Even the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP), a smaller constituent of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), outperformed the RJD with an average of 89,191 votes per seat. This metric reveals the true electoral strength of each party. The BJP and the JD(U) were not only more efficient in converting their electoral efforts into votes, but they also demonstrated stronger support in the constituencies where they chose to compete.

**Contested Vote Share**

It's important to understand the 'Contested Vote Share' here. It refers to the absolute number of votes received by a party in seats contested, divided by total votes polled in those seats.

**Here, the performance gap becomes even more apparent:**

The RJD achieved a contested vote share of 39.6%

The BJP recorded a contested vote share of 48.3%

The JD(U) secured a contested vote share of 46.3%

Even the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) managed a contested vote share of 43.1%

These figures demonstrate that in constituencies where they competed, the BJP and the



JD(U) were far more popular than the RJD, consistently securing nearly half of all votes cast.

**Where The RJD Failed**

A deeper analysis of the RJD's performance against different opponents reveals why the party won so few seats despite contesting so many. Of the 143 seats it vied for, the party won only 25. In these victories, it recorded a strong 46.2% vote share compared to 39.6% for the runner-up, with an average winning margin of 6.6 percentage points. However, the losses tell a more sobering story. In direct contests with the JD(U) across 61 constituencies, the RJD lost 51 seats while winning only nine, with one seat going to others. In these losing battles against the JD(U), the RJD managed only a 37.9% vote share compared to the JD(U)'s 47.7%, resulting in an average loss margin of 9.8 percentage points. Against the BJP in 51 direct contests, the RJD's perfor-

mance was similarly disappointing. The BJP won 43 seats, while the RJD secured just five, with three going to others. The RJD's vote share in these contests was 40%, significantly trailing BJP's 49.3%, with an average loss margin of 9.3 percentage points. Even against smaller NDA constituents like the LJP, the Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM), and the Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RLM) in 31 constituencies, the RJD struggled. These parties won 20 seats compared to the RJD's 11, with the latter recording only a 37.8% vote share against the opposition's 46.6%.

**No Conspiracy, Just Math**

The data conclusively demonstrates that there is no mystery or conspiracy behind the RJD's poor performance relative to its overall vote count. The RJD's broader geographic spread resulted in more total votes but insufficient vote concentration in most constituencies to secure victories.

## Rajamahendravaram Municipal Corporation Wins Jal Sanchay Award

**Rajamahendravaram, Pen Power, November 18:** Rajamahendravaram city secured 4th place at the national level in the Jal Sanchay-Jan Bhagidari category of the 6th National Water Awards-2024 announced by the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti. At the awards ceremony held on Tuesday at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, Union Jal Shakti Minister Chandrakant Raghunath Patil presented the award to Municipal Commissioner Rahul Meena. The Commissioner expressed pride over the national recognition for the city's water conservation works. He stated that the Municipal Corporation completed 13,298 water conservation activities, enabling this achievement. The award carries a cash prize of Rs.2 crore. He added that this honour marks a major milestone in the Corporation's history and will guide future initiatives. The Commissioner appreciated the efforts of the engineering and planning wings and staff. He noted that public participation, rainwater harvesting, and groundwater recharge were the three key



focus areas behind the success. EE M.V.K. Madhavi and AE V. Venkatesh participated in the event.

## Be Alert Against "Digital Arrest" Cyber Frauds : Prakasam District SP V. Harshavardhan Raju

**Crime Reporter, Ongole — Pen Power, November 18:** Prakasam District Superintendent of Police V. Harshavardhan Raju urged the public to stay vigilant against rising "digital arrest" cyber frauds. He warned that fraudsters are posing as officials from agencies such as the police, CBI, Customs, Vigilance, and Enforcement to intimidate victims and demand money transfers or sensitive information like bank details, card numbers, or OTPs. The SP said cyber criminals first collect personal data—phone numbers, Aadhaar details, bank information—through various online methods. They then make voice or video calls, pretending to be police or central investigation officers, and falsely accuse victims or their family members of crimes. Using

fake backgrounds resembling police stations or courts, they threaten to freeze bank accounts and display forged RBI approval letters to convince victims to transfer money to "department accounts."



He advised the public not to respond to suspicious calls or share personal information. No one can be arrested without involving local police, he emphasized. Those who receive doubtful video calls or threats should immediately inform the police, call the cybercrime helpline 1930, or file a complaint at the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal: [www.cybercrime.gov.in](http://www.cybercrime.gov.in).

## Commendable Progress in Education and Research at Government College

**- Collector Keerthi Chekuri Reviews Academic Development**

**Rajamahendravaram, Pen Power, November 18:** Ahead of the visit of State HR & IT Minister Nara Lokesh, East Godavari District Collector Keerthi Chekuri visited the Government College (Autonomous) on Tuesday. She reviewed the college's academic progress, research ecosystem, and facilities being created to support students' innovative ideas, appreciating the institution's efforts. The Collector inspected the Arts College entrance, the Incubation and Innovation Entrepreneurship Block, and examined students' projects, startup ideas, and innovative models. At the Araku Coffee Hub, she observed the processing and brewing methods managed by students and made a digital payment through a scanner. She also visited the C.V. Raman International Research Centre, Nanotechnology Lab, and Advanced Materials Research Lab, expressing satisfaction over ongoing research activities. The extensive collections of books on Marcus Darwin, and Newton in the campus library impressed her, and she appreciated the preservation of old rare books. Collector Keerthi commended the college for encouraging students in academics, research, and innovation. Prin-



icipal Dr. Ramachandra Rao, NRC Coordinator Dr. Sanjeev, NCC Coordinator Dr. Yusuf Basha, IQAC Coordinator Dr. Annapurna, Academic Coordinator Dr. Rajeshwari, Red Cross Coordinator Raviteja, PRO Dr. Jalla Suresh, HoDs, and coordinators from all departments accompanied her.

## Grandhi Satyanarayana Elected Unanimously as State Secretary of AP Private Engineering Colleges Management Association

**Bhimavaram, Pen Power, November 18:** Grandhi Satyanarayana, Chairman of Vasavi Engineering Colleges, Tadepalligudem, has been unanimously elected as the State General Secretary of the Andhra Pradesh Private Engineering Colleges Management Association. The election took place during the Association's meeting held in Vijayawada. According to Association sources, managements of engineering colleges across the state extended unanimous support to Satyanarayana, recognizing his service-oriented nature and his standing as a respected Arya Vaishya community leader. Engineering college managements in the erstwhile Godavari districts conveyed their congratulations on his election.



## Prakasam Shines at National Level – District Wins Second Best Water Conservation Award

**Staff Reporter, Ongole - Pen Power | November 18:** Prakasam district has earned national recognition for its effective watershed management efforts. The Union Ministry of Jal Shakti awarded the Second Best National Water Conservation Award to the district. District Collector P. Rajababu received the award from Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil at a ceremony held at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, on Tuesday. Under the 2022-23 Watershed Development Programme, the district implemented several water conservation measures across the western region. With support from DWMA and other departments, initiatives like ridge-to-valley treatment, contour trenches, percolation tanks, dug-out ponds, Amrit Sarovars, and desilting works helped harvest 8.21 lakh cubic meters of water, with an expenditure of Rs.97 lakh on 51 works.

and Rs.1.5 lakh cash prize. Additionally, Murugammi Gram Panchayat of Pedacherlopalli mandal, Kandukur constituency, was selected for the 6th National Jal Panchayat Award. DWMA



PD Joseph Kumar, Joint Collector R. Gopalakrishna, and officials from various departments were congratulated for their contribution.

## Field Monitoring to Speed Up Surveys : Collector A. Tamim Ansaria

**Pen Power, Guntur, November 18:** District Collector A. Tamim Ansaria directed municipal commissioners and MPDOs to intensify field-level monitoring to achieve and surpass targets in various government scheme surveys.

Speaking during a video conference with special officers, revenue officials, municipal commissioners, and mandal-level officers, the Collector stressed quick completion of job cards and e-KYC under the MGNREGS. She instructed officials to ensure grounding of works such as panchayat buildings, CC roads, fodder crop cultivation, and horticulture activities within a week. The Collector asked officials to identify tanks suitable for development on the lines of Vengalayapalem Cheruvu and send proposals. She also ordered MPDOs to hold meetings with Secretariat staff to speed up the PMAY-Gramin demand survey and directed municipal commissioners to submit proposals for basic amenities in urban housing layouts by Monday. Officials were told to create full awareness on WhatsApp Governance—Mana Mitra App, and MPDOs and Tahsildars were asked to collect data on beneficiaries using the app. Pending applications related to auto drivers' services and "Thaliki Vandanam" must be cleared immediately, she said,



warning of action against Secretariat staff showing negligence in surveys. Regarding revenue matters, the Collector instructed sub-collectors and RDOs to thoroughly verify mutations in the re-survey, and recheck speaking

orders issued on boundary disputes and extent variations. Joint Collector Ashutosh Srivastava emphasized early completion of farmers' e-KYC under APFIR and directed strict adherence to procedures while resolving revenue applications, particularly those related to land surveys. He also instructed officials to complete suo motu caste verification and ensure smooth procurement of cotton and paddy. District Revenue Officer N.S.K. Khajavali, ZP CEO V. Jyothibasu, CPO Seshashree, DPO Sai Kumar, DRDA PD Shankar, Housing PD Prasad, and other department officials participated.

## Government Schools Competing with Private Institutions: Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar

**- 110 Free Bicycles Distributed to PSNCC High School Students in Muppavaram - Over 5,100 Students Benefited in Addanki Constituency**

**Bapatla, Pen Power, November 18:** Electricity Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar stated that the government is strengthening public schools to match private institutions. On Tuesday, he distributed 110 free bicycles to students of PSNCC Zilla Parishad High School, Muppavaram, with support from Italian NGOs ISP and ASSIST. The Minister noted that reforms introduced by Education Minister Lokesh are transforming the education system in Andhra Pradesh. Despite financial constraints, the government has filled over 16,300 teacher posts through DSC, he said. To improve attendance, reduce dropouts, and ensure students don't have to walk long distances, bicycles are being provided under CSR support. So far, more than 5,100 students, including those from Addanki Junior College, have received free bicycles across the constituency.



He urged students to make good use of these opportunities and progress in their studies. He also advised students to be cautious while riding bicycles on national highways and instructed teachers to train them on road safety. Parents were also asked to guide their children on safe travel. NGO representatives, local leaders, activists, parents, and students participated in the program.

## Focus on Drinking Water Quality in All Villages: District Collector

**Visakhapatnam South, Pen Power, November 18:** District Collector M.N. Harendra Prasad emphasized that there should be no negligence in maintaining the quality of drinking water supplied to villages, schools, and Anganwadi centres. Chairing the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Committee meeting on Tuesday evening, the Collector directed officials to ensure regular cleaning of water tanks, mandatory chlorination, and strict monitoring to prevent contamination of all drinking water sources. He instructed officials to work towards eliminating open defecation, create awareness on drinking boiled water and maintaining hand hygiene, and identify villages requiring borewell repairs, pipeline extensions, and individual household toilets. Necessary proposals should be submitted to the Zilla Parishad. The Collector also stressed the need to improve groundwater levels by constructing community soak pits, strengthening tank bunds, and identifying silted tanks for desilting through Rythu Seva Kendras. He directed the RWS Engineer Ramaswamy to expedite works in 79 villages to ensure 100% household tap connections, marking them as 'Har Ghar Jal' villages. Officials from Panchayat Raj, DWMA, DRDA, Agriculture, Health, Irrigation, and RWS departments participated in the meeting.



## Development of Tribal Areas through NITI Aayog : Central Deputy Secretary Jasbir Singh

**Our Correspondent - D.V.R.G.V. Ratnam  
A.S.R. District In-charge**

**Gangavaram, Pen Power, November 18:** The Central Government is taking special measures for the development of tribal areas through the NITI Aayog Abhiyan, said Jasbir Singh, Deputy Secretary of the Government of India. On Tuesday, as part of his tour of the Alluri district, he extensively visited various areas in the mandal. A review meeting was held at the local Mandal Parishad office with officials from Gangavaram, Y. Ramavaram, and Mareduhilli mandals on the activities being carried out under the NITI Aayog Abhiyan. Discussions were held on the steps to be taken for the development of tribal regions. He also interacted with the mandal-level officials' team regarding the 40 parameters identified by NITI Aayog. MPDOs Laxman Rao, Bapanna Dora, ABFs, and other mandal-level officials participated in the programme



## Public Darbar Aimed at Resolving People's Grievances: Minister Vasamshetti Subhash

**Kakinada, Pen Power, November 18:** State Labour Minister Vasamshetti Subhash said that the Public Darbar is being organized to ensure quick resolution of public grievances. The Darbar was held on Tuesday at the Ramachandrapuram camp office under the supervision of coalition party senior leader Vasamshetti Satyam and TDP town president Undavilli Shiva. People from various villages submitted their petitions and issues to the Minister. Speaking on the occasion, Subhash stated that every petition received at the Darbar would be examined carefully and immediate action would be taken. He added that instructions have already been issued to mandal party presidents to remain accessible to the public in his absence and work towards solving their problems. He emphasized that party leaders should coordinate with the public and play a key role in implementing the promises made by the government. Senior coalition leaders



Vasamshetti Satyam, AMC Vice Chairman Dadala Nagarjuna, Kavala Nanaji, Kanchumarthi Baburao, party workers, and applicants from several villages participated in the event.

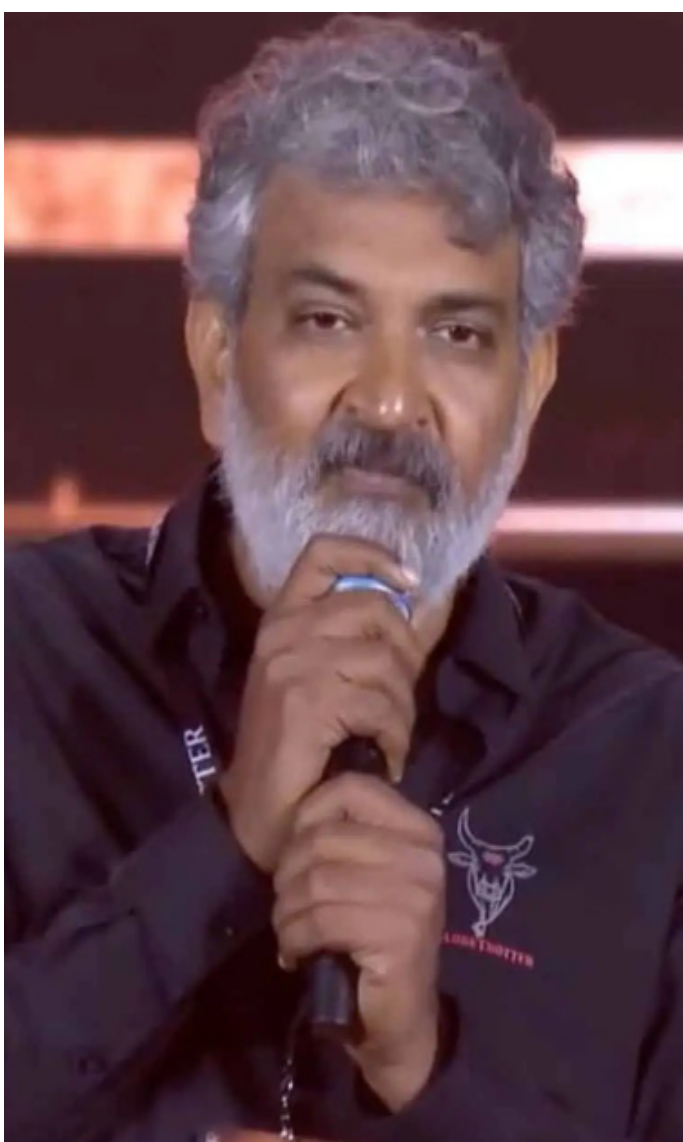
# TEAM VARANASI STARTED PROMOTIONS ALMOST A YEAR IN ADVANCE



After the huge title launch of Varanasi at Ramoji Film City, people were still buzzing, and then the team suddenly dropped another surprise. Mahesh Babu, Prithviraj Sukumaran and Priyanka Chopra sat down for interviews even though the film still has a lot of shooting left. Rajamouli films usually stay quiet till the end, but this one seems to be moving differently, almost like they want the hype to start breathing early. Their look on interview day grabbed attention before the interviews themselves. All three landed up in black, kind of like an unplanned uniform. Priyanka went for a black top and a netted floral skirt, light, slightly playful, and she pulled it off easily. Prithviraj showed up in an all-black outfit, nothing loud, just very him. And Mahesh, he didn't fully stick to the black rule. Black shirt, blue pants. Simple mix, but it somehow balanced the frame. Priyanka posted the photos with a small, honest note about working with two big stars and promoting the film to international media almost a year early. She sounded excited seeing their reactions and ended it casually with "Jai Shri Ram" and #Varanasi, leaving fans guessing what else the team has lined up.

## Vanara Sena Complains Against SS Rajamouli

Sensational filmmaker SS Rajamouli has landed in a controversy when he made some athiest remarks on Hanuman during the Globetrotter launch event. His comments about not believing in Hanuman triggered a major controversy. Now, Rashtriya Vanara Sena filed a complaint against the director in Saroornagar Police Station. As per the reports, the Vanara Sena members are objecting to the comments that he made on the stage. They alleged that Rajamouli made derogatory remarks about Lord Hanuman and that he must be arrested. The organisation alleged that the remarks had deeply hurt the sentiments of Hindus and expressed concern over the growing trend of disrespect towards Hindu deities in the film industry. The Saroornagar Police are yet to take any action on the complaint. More details on the same are awaited.



## Cheteshwar Pujara 'Disagrees' With Gautam Gambhir On Eden Gardens Pitch Debate : Unprepared

**Kolkata:** Former India cricketer Cheteshwar Pujara countered Team India's head coach Gautam Gambhir's remark that the Eden Gardens pitch had no demons and the Indian batters were not prepared to play on a spinning deck. South Africa clinched a 30-run win after the hosts failed to chase down the 124-run target in the fourth innings. Simon Harmer was the stand-out bowler for the visitors, picking up eight wickets across the two innings. The Proteas outplayed the Asian Giants and registered their first Test win in India since 2010. Indian batters succumbed to the South African spinners. After losing the first Test in Kolkata, Gautam Gambhir opened up that the pitch wasn't all that tricky. He added that the Eden Gardens curator helped provide the track that Team India wanted. "This is exactly the pitch we were looking for. This is exactly the pitch. And I feel that the curator was very, very helpful. And this is exactly what



we wanted. And this is exactly what we got. When you don't play well, this is what happens," said Gambhir. "The point is that you should be able to know how to play turn. And this is what we asked for, and this is what we got. I thought the curator was very supportive," said Gambhir on the pitch at Eden Gardens. After the first Test was concluded in just three days, many cricket pundits have criticised the Eden Gardens pitch, where most batters struggled against the spin-

ners. Speaking on JioStar, Pujara stated that Gambhir might want such conditions for the Indian side, but it was very tough to bat on. "I disagree with Gauti bhai that the pitch didn't contribute to India's batting struggles. He felt the team wanted such conditions, but this surface was clearly tough to bat on, no one except Temba Bavuma managed to cross fifty. Indian batsmen looked underprepared for playing on such turning tracks," JioStar expert Pujara said.

Pujara added that on turning tracks, a batter needs to have different shot selections. "On turning tracks, you need different shot selection, more sweeps, and positive intent to keep the scoreboard moving. Since India prefers spin-friendly pitches, our batters must prepare according to the demands of these spin-conditions instead of expecting usual batting-friendly surfaces," the former India batter added. Pujara continued that some wickets fell due to the batting mistakes. The former Indian cricketer hailed South Africa captain Temba Bavuma for showing how to score runs on a pitch which was not easy to bat on. "Some dismissals were due to batting mistakes, but that still doesn't mean the pitch was easy. Temba Bavuma showed that you can score on this surface, but only by playing differently, using sweeps and showing positive intent instead of relying on traditional defense.

## Sri Lanka Add Vijayakanth Viyaskanth To T20I Squad For Tri-Series

Sri Lanka have added Vijayakanth Viyaskanth to their T20I squad ahead of the tri-series against Pakistan and Zimbabwe, which is set to begin on Tuesday. Viyaskanth is currently in Doha and is a part of Lanka 'A' team in the ongoing ACC Men's Asia Cup Rising Stars 2025. However, he will fly to Pakistan from Qatar to join the senior national team for the tri-series. "Sri Lanka Cricket selectors have included leg-spinner Vijayakanth Viyaskanth in the National Men's Squad for the T20I Tri-Series in Pakistan. He will travel to Pakistan directly from Qatar, where he was part of the Sri Lanka 'A' Team competing in the 'Asia Cup Rising Stars' Tournament. Viyaskanth has been drafted into the squad as Wanindu Hasaranga is yet to fully recover from the hamstring tightness he suffered during the ODI series," Sri Lanka Cricket said in an official statement.

The T20I Tri-Nation Tournament, featuring Pakistan (hosts), Sri Lanka, and Zimbabwe, will serve as an important preparatory platform ahead of the ICC T20 World Cup 2026. Each team will participate in four matches, with the top two sides qualifying for the final on November 29. All seven T20I matches, including the summit clash, will now be held at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium. Earlier, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced a revised schedule for the tri-nation series. The opening game of the series, originally set for November 17, will now be played between Pakistan and Zimbabwe on November 18. The slight schedule change occurred after the two matches in the ongoing ODI series against Sri Lanka were postponed by a day each, following requests from several team members to return to Sri Lanka after the suicide bombing in



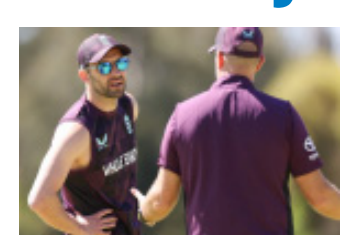
Islamabad. Initially, Afghanistan was the third team in the tri-series alongside hosts Pakistan and Sri Lanka. However, they withdrew after three local

cricketers were killed in airstrikes carried out by Pakistan in Paktika province, with Zimbabwe replacing them in the tri-series.

## Ashes: England's Mark Wood Back Bowling In Practice; Cameron Green Ready For Return

**Sydney:** Mark Wood is back bowling at pace against his England teammates in practice. Cameron Green is primed and ready to return to bowling for Australia in test cricket. The Ashes series starts Friday, and every twist and turn this week has implications for selection in the first test of the 2025-26 edition of the traditional rivalry. Wood withdrew from a trial match against a second-string England team last week because of a hamstring strain in his first game since knee surgery in March, but was cleared after medical scans. The 35-year-old paceman had a 30-minute bowling session in the nets on Tuesday in England's first practice at Perth Stadium, venue for the

first test. "He was quick enough, I can tell you that from facing him," England wicketkeeper-batter Jamie Smith told reporters. "He's bowling very good pace, and it's obviously great preparation for what we've got in store here." England could go into the test with two express bowlers if Jofra Archer and Wood are both selected in a city where quality pace attacks have had success in the past. "I feel our bowling group have a good chance of getting 20 wickets in the game," Josh Tongue, one of England's fast bowling options, said after practice in Perth. Australia's long-time Australian frontline pace trio will be depleted without veterans Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood,



both ruled out of the first test with injuries. Having allrounder Green back in the test bowling attack for the first time since March 2024 could help to settle the combination for the hosts. Green, who didn't play a test for more than a year after undergoing back surgery in the middle of last year, returned to international cricket in June but only as a batter. He bowled 16 overs across two innings in a domestic first-class match for Western

Australia against Queensland in Perth last week and said he's under no restrictions for the test. "It's been a really slow build-up," Green said. "Probably would prefer a few more competitive overs. But at the same time, it's a double-edged sword, you (get to) come into a series so fresh. "When you get into test cricket, there's no need for restrictions. I'd be happy to put my hand up whenever." Where Green bats in the order depends on which way Australian selectors go on who will partner Usman Khawaja at the top of the order. The Nov. 21-25 Perth match will be followed by a day-night test at the Gabba in Brisbane starting Dec. 4, then the series moves to Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney.

## Golf Over Ashes Practice? Ben Stokes And Co Face Brutal Attack From Australian Media

**Melbourne:** The England cricket team faced a stinging attack from the Australian media over its preparation for the upcoming Ashes Test series. The West Australian ran a full-page spread with the headline: "A Green Monster But Cocky Tourists Skip Practice To Play Golf Instead", suggesting that England cricketers were playing golf instead of practicing. The coverage featured pictures of some players on the golf course just days ahead of the first Test starting Friday. Ben Stokes was among those who played golf at the Araluen Estate in Perth before England's warm-up match against the England Lions. This topic has become central to the conversation surrounding England's readiness for the series. While England played just one warm-up match ahead of the

high-profile series, almost all Australian players took part in Sheffield Shield matches. Even England great Ian Botham expressed concern over the visitors' preparations, saying they might struggle to get accustomed to the bounce. Earlier, former England spinner Monty Panesar backed his countrymen to reclaim the Ashes Down Under for the first time in 15 years, saying that Ben Stokes and Co. will win the series if they clinch the first Test in Perth. Panesar, who took part in England's away Ashes campaigns in 2006-07 and 2013-14, believes the current squad is better equipped to perform much better than those earlier touring sides that were whitewashed 5-0 in Australia. Although Australia haven't lost a home Test to England since



2011, Panesar believes the visitors have an edge this time given the hosts' mounting injury con-

cerns. "You look at Australia and there's no Pat Cummins and no Josh Hazlewood.