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Reservation for women in legislative bodies will make democracy even more vibrant, participative: PM Modi

New Delhi, April 9 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday underscored the urgent need for reservation for women in legislative bodies, describing it as a transformative step that would make India's democracy more vibrant and participative. In an Op-Ed and a series of posts on social media platform X, the Prime Minister called for unity among Members of Parliament to ensure the timely passage of the long-pending legislation.

Highlighting the importance of the proposed reform, the Prime Minister stated that any delay in implementing women's reservation would be "deeply unfortunate." He emphasised that the move is not merely a policy decision but a historic necessity



to strengthen democratic institutions and ensure equal representation. Taking to X, PM Modi wrote, "Reservation for women in legislative bodies is the need of the hour! This will make our

democracy even more vibrant and participative. Any delay in bringing this reservation will be deeply unfortunate. Expressed my thoughts on the issue in this Op-ed."

In his detailed Op-Ed, the Prime Minister also extended greetings to citizens across the country on the occasion of multiple festivals being celebrated during this period. He noted that India would soon be immersed in a festive spirit, with diverse regions observing their traditional New Year celebrations. He mentioned that Assam would celebrate Rongali Bihu, Odisha would mark Maha Bishuba Pana Sankranti, West Bengal would welcome Poila Boishakh, and Kerala would observe Vishu with great enthusiasm. Similarly, Tamil Nadu would celebrate Puthandu, while Punjab and several northern states would mark Baisakhi. Conveying his wishes, PM Modi said that these festivals symbolise hope, renewal, and

positivity. "I extend my heartfelt greetings to all those celebrating these festivals across India and around the world. May these auspicious occasions bring happiness, prosperity, and well-being to everyone's lives," he said. The Prime Minister further highlighted significant upcoming occasions of national importance. "Furthermore, on the 11th of April, we will commence the 200th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Phule, and on the 14th, India will pay homage to Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar on Ambedkar Jayanti. In addition to these special occasions, when the spirit of renewal fills our hearts and minds, our nation

(Contd. on pg.2)

Naidu withdraws land allotment to Lulu group: Pawan effect?



By Skyline Staff Reporter Vijayawada, April 9

The decision of the Chandrababu Naidu government to withdraw the allotment of prime land made to Lulu Group International has triggered an interesting debate in the political and media circles.

The state government informed the state high court that it would withdraw the land allotment made for a proposed mall by the Lulu Group International in Vijayawada.

The coalition government had previously approved the allocation of a prime RTC-owned site, valued at around Rs 400 crore,

near the old bus stand for the project. The move drew criticism from various quarters, including within the ruling alliance. Apart from the RTC workers' unions and YSR Congress party, the Communist Party of India launched a massive agitation in protest against allotment of RTC land to the Lulu Group. But, according to sources, what made Naidu change the decision was the pressure from Jana Sena Party president and deputy chief minister Pawan Kalyan who had reportedly raised objections during the cabinet meeting. Meanwhile, a Public (Contd. on pg.2)

Atchannaidu comments on YS jagan involvement in YSR death



By Skyline Staff Reporter Vijayawada, April 9

State Minister Atchannaidu has lashed out at YSRC chief Jagan. Looking at today's situation... he made sensational comments saying that the suspicions expressed in the past that Jagan was behind the death of YS Rajasekhara Reddy are true. He said that Jagan is behaving like a psychopath due to his lust for power, and looking at his character, the comments made by Botsa Satyanarayana seem to be true. Atchannaidu fumed that Jagan is a good example of how a family and society can be destroyed by the behavior of an indi-

vidual. Speaking at a media conference today, Atchannaidu said, "When YSR's helicopter crashed in 2009, the entire state was in turmoil. But what was the need for Jagan to be in other states at that time? Why was there a rush to collect signatures for the post of Chief Minister even before the news of YS's death was confirmed? We did not believe the comments made by current YSRC leader Botsa Satyanarayana that Jagan was behind YS's death. But now, looking at Jagan's character and behavior, it seems that (Contd. on pg.2)

What needs to be done is not padayatra.. a self-examination yatra: Sharmila fires at Jagan



By Skyline Staff Reporter Vijayawada, April 9

AP PCC President YS Sharmila has launched a scathing attack on her brother Jagan. On the occasion of the 23rd anniversary of YS Rajasekhara Reddy's historic padayatra, Sharmila lashed out with blunt questions, comparing Jagan's policies and YSR's aspirations. She accused Jagan of keeping her father's name in the party and working completely against his aspirations. She posted this on social media. "Today is April 9! Exactly

23 years ago, our father, great leader Dr. YS Rajasekhara Reddy, started a great yagna called Padayatra in the then united state. He started this great yagna for the good of the poor, for the good of the poor, for the welfare of all the people. He started this padayatra as a Congress soldier, leader, and PCC president. After that, he brought the Congress government to power and became the Chief Minister and remained in the hearts of the people forever. And as the son of such a (Contd. on pg.2)

Good that he didn't suggest Vatican: Naidu on Jagan's MAVIGUN proposal

By Skyline Staff Reporter Bapatla, April 9 : Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, N. Chandrababu Naidu, on Thursday mocked YSR Congress Party President, Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, over his 'MAVIGUN' proposal and also took a swipe stating "good that he didn't suggest Vatican as the state capital."

For the uninitiated, Vatican City is an independent city-state enclaved within Rome, Italy and is the spiritual and administrative centre of the Roman Catholic Church. Addressing a public meeting in Bapatla district, the Chief Minister lashed out at the former



Chief Minister for mooted 'MAVIGUN' (Machilipatnam, Vijayawada, Guntur) corridor as the state capital.

He made it clear that Amaravati will be developed as the only and permanent capital of Andhra Pradesh.

"Amaravati will not stop even if 1,000 psychos like you try to stop it," said the Chief Minister. He said 49 parties in the Parliament supported the bill to give statutory recognition to Amaravati as the sole and permanent state capital. He said not just NDA partners but other parties also supported it. Chandrababu Naidu said YSRC was the only one party to oppose the Bill. "We use to call a leader a psycho but the entire party has become psycho," he remarked.

The Chief Minister said YSRC was talking about women's dignity and recalled that the same party insulted Amaravati women

and indulged in their character assassination. He said they also abused his wife in the Assembly. "A rowdy batch exhibiting psychotic behaviour, is engaging in perverse arguments. They are attacking a newspaper without any provocation. They have harassed women. This psycho party is in no position to provide an explanation for such behaviour," he said. Alleging that attempts are being made to destroy the state, he called up on people to unitedly defeat such attempts. "The state has already suffered immense losses due to its bifurcation and the actions of previous rulers. (Contd. on pg.2)

Iran's approval, 15 ships a day: Strait of Hormuz openig comes with Caveats



Tehran / New Delhi, April 9:

As the fragile truce holds in the Middle East between the US and Iran. Tehran has made clear it comes with conditions, and that shipping through Hormuz will take a long time to return to the way things were before the war.

15 Ships A Day, IIRGC Approval Required

Under the ceasefire terms, Iran will allow no more than 15 vessels per day to transit the Strait of Hormuz, a senior Iranian source told Russian news agency TASS ahead of talks in Islamabad. Each passage will require Iran's approval and compliance with a specific protocol. "Under the current ceasefire, fewer than 15 ships per day are permitted to transit the Strait of Hormuz. This movement is strictly contingent upon Iran's approval and the enforcement of a specific protocol. This new regulatory framework, operat-

ing under the supervision of the IIRGC, has been officially communicated to regional parties. There will be no return to the pre-war status quo," the source said.

The Strait handles roughly a fifth of the world's seaborne crude oil trade.

Iran has added a financial condition to the ceasefire as well. Tehran is demanding that its blocked overseas assets be unfrozen before the two-week period is up. "The unfreezing of Iran's blocked assets is a critical executive guarantee that must be realised within this two-week timeframe," the source told TASS. Tehran is also insisting that the end of the war be formally recognised through a United Nations Security Council resolution on its own terms, and has warned of consequences if that does not happen. (Contd. on pg.2)

Mediator or Misleader: Desperate Pakistan may have given Iran, US different ceasefire documents to circumvent Lebanon

New Delhi, April 9:

Pakistan, it seems, is selling to both US and Iran what they would and like to buy, not telling the other side what has been bought or what it has sold. In a way, Pakistan is running with the hare, and attempting to hunt with the hound.

US and Iran have "agreed" upon a ceasefire in principle, but it seems it is open to interpretation. The negotiations have not been unequivocal. Apparently, all parties are to blame—the warring nations and, most of all,



the cunning mediator Pakistan, who is desperate to make the ceasefire happen, not out of the goodness of heart, but that is its last chance to get back into the game of global machinations, and, therefore, its last chance at any

modicum of international relevance.

Iran opened the Strait of Hormuz in the wake of the ceasefire announcement by US President Donald Trump, but then closed it since Israel continued to pound several cities in

Lebanon, including Beirut in its hunt for Hezbollah, Iran's proxy that attacked Israel earlier. Iran says Lebanon was part of its 10-points conveyed to the US. US and Israel claim they did not agree on anything Lebanon.

Something, certainly, got lost in translation, and/or deliberately omitted by Pakistan in its go-between the two States.

Pakistan, it seems, is selling to both US and Iran what they would and like to buy, not telling the other side what has been (Contd. on pg.2)

Record turnout in Assam, Kerala, Puducherry: Who should celebrate?

New Delhi, April 9:

Till late afternoon on Thursday, Assam, Kerala and Puducherry continued their robust turnout trend, with political pundits beginning to debate who would benefit from high voting percentages in the two states and one Union Territory — the ruling side or its challengers. By around 5 pm, Assam had reportedly recorded 84.42% turnout, Puducherry 86.92%, and Kerala 75.01%.

A turnout of about 65–70% and above is generally considered high, while voting figures in the 55–60% range are seen as average; turnouts below 50% are described as low. The three regions also recorded a higher-than-average turnout in the last assembly elections in 2021, underlining strong democratic par-



icipation by their people. In both Assam and Puducherry, the turnout was more than 82 per cent, and in Kerala around 75 per cent, reflecting robust voter engagement in the last elections. Despite COVID pan-

demic-related constraints, voters turned out in large numbers, underlining the resilience of the democratic process and the citizens' determination and enthusiasm. Normally, (Contd. on pg.2)

Training Program Held for Census Enumerators and Supervisors

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Cheepurupalli (Garividi),
April 9

A three-day training program for the first batch of Census Enumerators and Supervisors was conducted as part of the upcoming Census exercise.

On the first day, training sessions were held from 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM, during which field trainers provided comprehensive instruction on enumeration procedures and field-level data collection.

According to officials, the Census will be conducted from May 1 to May 30, while the Self-Enumeration process is scheduled from



April 16 to April 30.

The program was supervised by Special Officer Damodar, Tahsildar Ch. Bangar Raju, HDT B. Suresh, and ASO M. Suryanarayana.

Officials stressed the importance of accuracy and responsibility in conducting the Census and urged the enumerators to perform their duties efficiently.

Puducherry records 86.92 pc voter turnout as high-stakes polls conclude ?

Puducherry, April 9 : Polling for the 30-member Puducherry Assembly concluded on Thursday amid tight security, with the Union Territory recording a record-breaking voter turnout that underscored the intensity of the electoral battle. ?

By 5 p.m., voter turnout had reached an impressive 86.92 per cent, already surpassing the previous high of 86 per cent recorded in 2006. ? Officials expressed confidence that the final turnout figure would climb even higher, as voters standing in queues at closing time were permitted to cast their ballots. Voting began at 7 a.m. across all constituencies and proceeded smoothly through the day, with enthusiastic participation reported from Puducherry and its enclaves of Karaikal, Mahe, and Yanam. Long queues were seen outside polling booths, reflecting strong public engagement in what is widely seen as a crucial election for the Union Territory. ?

A total of 9.5 lakh voters were eligible to vote, spread across 23 constituencies in Puducherry, five in Karaikal, and one each in Mahe and Yanam. Women voters, numbering 5.03 lakh, outnumbered male voters, who stood at 4.46 lakh. ? Authorities had set up 1,099 polling stations, of which 209 were identified as vulnerable, necessitating enhanced security measures. ?

The election witnessed a multi-cornered contest, though the principal fight remained between the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA), led by the All India N.R. Congress (AINRC), and the opposition INDIA bloc comprising the Congress, DMK, and VCK.

Adding to the political dynamics was the entry of actor-politician Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), which generated significant interest among voters.

Actor-director Seeman's Naam Tamilar Katchi (NTK) also fielded candidates, aiming to expand its regional footprint.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Auction Catalogue No. CAT-Premium-04	
(1) Lot No./Category: MSS-WAT-SCM-PS-114-261 (Misc-Static-Services-Premium Stores)	DESCRIPTION: SETTING UP AND OPERATION OF PREMIUM BRAND CATERING OUTLET FOR ICE CREAMS & BEVERAGES-STALL NO. 4 & 5 WITH AN AREA 6.8 * 4.2 MTRS. (REFER SKETCH).
(2) Lot No./Category: MSS-WAT-SCM-PS-116-261 (Misc-Static-Services-Premium Stores)	DESCRIPTION: SETTING UP AND OPERATION OF PREMIUM BRAND CATERING OUTLET FOR SWEETS AND BAKERY - STALL NO. 1, 2 AND 3 WITH AN AREA 10.8 * 3.2 MTRS. (REFER SKETCH).
Lot Start Date & Time : 16.04.2026 at 1100hrs. (for both Sl. Nos.).	Lot End Date & Time : 16.04.2026 at 1130 hrs (for Sl. No. 1) and 1140 hrs (for Sl. No. 2).
Complete details available at website: www.ireps.gov.in	
Sr. Divl. Commercial Manager / PR-32/R/26-27	Waltair

CHANGE OF NAME

I, PRASAD RAO alias I PRASADA RAO (Old Name) S/o I Peddelu (late) D.No. 36-98-122, Kapparada, Kancharapalem (PO), Visakhapatnam 530008. I have changed my name as PRASADA RAO INDUGABILLI (New name) Hereafter my name is known as PRASADA RAO INDUGABILLI (New Name) for all purpose.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Reservation for women in legislative bodies will make democracy even

stands at the threshold of another historic occasion. It is an opportunity to deepen the foundations of our democracy and to reaffirm our collective commitment to equality and inclusion," PM Modi said.

Amid this backdrop of celebration and reflection, PM Modi pointed out that the country stands at the threshold of a historic moment. He announced that Parliament would convene on April 16 to deliberate on and pass an important bill aimed at advancing women's reservation in legislative bodies. He stressed that describing this as merely a legislative exercise would be an understatement, as it reflects the aspirations of millions of women across the nation.

"This is an affirmation of a principle deeply rooted in our civilisational ethos -- that society progresses when women progress," he wrote.

Emphasising the vital role of women in nation-building, the Prime Minister noted that women constitute nearly half of India's population and have made invaluable contributions across sectors.

"Women constitute nearly half of India's population. Their contributions to our nation are vast and invaluable. Today, India is witnessing remarkable achievements by women across every field. From science and technology to entrepreneurship, from sports to the armed forces and from music to the arts, women are at the forefront of India's progress. Over the years, sustained efforts have been made to create an enabling environment for women's empowerment. Greater access to education, improved healthcare, enhanced financial inclusion and better access to basic amenities have strengthened the foundations of women's participation in economic and social life," PM Modi said in the Op-Ed.

He further stated that sustained efforts in recent years have helped create an enabling environment for women's empowerment. Increased access to education, improved healthcare facilities, enhanced financial inclusion, and better availability of basic amenities have strengthened women's participation in both economic and social spheres.

However, PM Modi acknowledged that women's representation in politics and legislative institutions has not kept pace with their contributions in other fields.

"Yet, their representation in the world of politics and legislative bodies has not always been commensurate with their role in society. This is particularly unfortunate because when women participate in administration and decision-making, they bring with them experiences and insights that enrich public discourse and improve the quality of governance," PM Modi said.

PM Modi further said that over the decades, there have been repeated efforts to provide women with their rightful place in democratic institutions by the previous governments.

"It is imperative that the 2029 Lok Sabha elections and the Assembly elections to the various states in the coming times are conducted with women's reservation in place. Over the decades, there have been repeated efforts to provide women with their rightful place in democratic institutions by the previous governments. Committees were made, bill drafts were introduced, but they never saw the light of day. But the broad consensus has remained that women's representation in legislative bodies has to increase. In September 2023, Parliament passed the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam with the same spirit of consensus. I consider it to be among the most special occasions of my life," PM Modi said.

Reflecting on past efforts, the Prime Minister pointed out that several attempts had been made over the decades by previous governments to ensure adequate representation for women in legislative bodies. Although committees were formed and draft bills introduced, they failed to materialise into law. Despite these setbacks, he noted, there has been a broad consensus across political lines on the need to increase women's participation.

He cited the passage of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam in September 2023 as a significant milestone achieved through collective political will. Calling it one of the most special moments of his life, PM Modi said the legislation embodies the shared commitment of the nation toward women's empowerment.

The Prime Minister also linked the initiative to the spirit of the Indian Constitution. He emphasised that the framers of the Constitution envisioned a society based on equality, where every citizen has an equal opportunity to participate in shaping the nation's future. Strengthening women's representation, he said, is a crucial step toward realising that vision.

"This opportunity resonates deeply with our constitutional values. It reflects our resolve to build a society where equality is not just an ideal but a lived reality," he added.

Underscoring the urgency of the matter, PM Modi said that the moment cannot be deferred any longer. He warned that delaying women's representation would only prolong existing imbalances in the democratic system.

"For decades, the need for greater participation of

women in legislative institutions has been acknowledged and discussed. Postponing action now would mean continuing an imbalance that we already recognise and have the means to correct," he wrote.

He added that at a time when India is progressing with confidence and purpose, it is essential for its institutions to reflect the aspirations of all citizens, especially women who constitute half the population. Timely action, he said, would not only fulfil long-standing commitments but also sustain the momentum of national progress.

Calling it a "historic opportunity," the Prime Minister said that the proposed reform would make India's democracy more representative, responsive, and future-ready.

He further stressed that the issue transcends political boundaries and requires collective action.

"This moment calls for collective action. It is not about any one government, party or individual. It is about the nation as a whole recognising the importance of this step and coming together to realise it. It is what we owe to our Nari Shakti. That is why the passage of a bill for women's reservation should reflect the broadest possible consensus and be guided by the larger national interest. Such opportunities call upon us to act not for ourselves, but for future generations. They remind us that the true strength of a democracy lies in its ability to evolve and to become more inclusive over time," PM Modi said.

PM Modi emphasised that such decisions should be guided by the larger national interest and reflect the broadest possible consensus. He described the moment as one that calls for responsibility, vision, and a commitment to future generations.

"As we approach this historic Parliament sitting, I appeal to all Members of Parliament, across party lines, to come together in support of this important step for the women of India. Let us seize this opportunity with a sense of responsibility and purpose. Let us act in a manner that reflects the highest traditions of our democracy," PM Modi said.

The Prime Minister further expressed confidence in India's ability to rise above differences in matters of national importance. He called upon lawmakers to act in unity and uphold the highest traditions of democracy.

"India has always shown that when it comes to matters of national importance, it can rise above differences and act with unity. This is one such moment. Let us move forward together and strengthen Constitutional values and empower our Nari Shakti for national progress," PM Modi said.

Good that he didn't suggest Vatican: Naidu on Jagan's MAVIGUN proposal

We have just begun the process of rebuilding it," he said. Stating terrorists lurking in forests launch attacks and then flee, he remarked that this individual is no different as he operates from a distance, spreads malicious propaganda, and runs away.

"We are prepared to respond to constructive criticism but they are spreading falsehoods by claiming that Rs. 2 lakh crore are being spent on Amaravati. The fact is that Amaravati is self-financed project," he said.

He said the YSRCP keep mentioning Vijayawada, Guntur, and Machilipatnam, apparently unaware that this entire area constitutes the CRDA (Capital Region Development Authority) region.

"Out of an aversion to even uttering the name Amaravati, they are attempting to create chaos and cause distress to the public. It would take me mere moments to have individuals of this nature arrested but the law will be allowed to take its own course," he said.

"If individuals intent on creating destruction are allowed to roam free, can the people, particularly the women of this state ever truly feel safe," he asked. Chandrababu Naidu stated that is in the best interest of the people to simply forget about such parties and individuals.

Iran's approval, 15 ships a day: Strait of Hormuz openig comes with Caveats

"If the termination of the war is not codified into a UN Security Council resolution based on our stipulated terms, we are fully prepared to resume combat against the US and the Zionist regime - just as we have over the past 40 days, and with even greater intensity," the source said.

No US Troop Increases
Iran has also demanded that Washington not increase its military presence in the region during the two-week ceasefire. "Regarding uranium enrichment - we remain committed strictly to the text of the exchanged agreement and are actively holding to it," the source said.

How The Ceasefire Was Reached
Hours before his self-imposed 'civilisation-ending' deadline, President Trump announced the two-week ceasefire on 7 April, describing Iran's ten-point proposals as a "working basis" for negotiations and citing

Tehran's readiness to open the Strait of Hormuz. Both sides are due to hold talks in Islamabad on 10 April.

Lebanon: The Gap In The Agreement
The fragile truce is already under pressure over Lebanon. Iran has insisted that any deal must include Lebanon, but the US and Israel maintain that Lebanon was never part of the ceasefire agreement. Israel has continued striking Lebanon since the truce was announced.

Tehran has warned it will close the Strait of Hormuz if Israel does not halt its attacks on Lebanon. Iran also fired missiles at Israel and other Gulf nations, citing Israeli attacks.

Mediator or Misdemeanor: Desperate Pakistan may have given Iran, US

bought or what it has sold. In a way, Pakistan is running with the hare, and attempting to hunt with the hound. Quite ironically, while Shehbaz Sharif expressed concerns over ceasefire "violations" from the conflict zone, since these instances "undermine the spirit of peace process", it has not come forward to explain as to how the two sides read the text of the ceasefire agreement wrong over the issue of Lebanon. Did Shehbaz Sharif share different versions of the agreement with the two sides?

Earlier, it was Sharif who had gloated on X that all parties had come to a ceasefire arrangement, Lebanon included. "With the greatest humility, I am pleased to announce that the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States of America, along with their allies, have agreed to an immediate ceasefire everywhere including Lebanon and elsewhere, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY."

Perhaps, Iran too was dismayed and confused after Israel continued to punish Lebanon despite a two-week ceasefire announcement. Foreign Minister Seyed Araghchi quoted Shehbaz Sharif's X post to express his anger at the US-Israel complex. "The Iran-U.S. Ceasefire terms are clear and explicit: the U.S. must choose—ceasefire or continued war via Israel. It cannot have both. The world sees the massacres in Lebanon. The ball is in the U.S. court, and the world is watching whether it will act on its commitments," Araghchi wrote on X, quoting Sharif's post and highlighting the "including Lebanon" in yellow.

Record turnout in Assam, Kerala, Puducherry: Who should celebrate?

high voter turnout is believed to be a sign of anti-incumbency against the ruling party — in other words, a positive sign for opposition parties. Some political pundits believe that anger against the ruling party encourages people to come out and vote in larger numbers. However, there is also a counterview — that high voter turnout may also reflect support for the party in power, and hence an expression of approval — something that was demonstrated by Assam and Kerala, both of which repeated their respective ruling parties in 2021.

The fact is that there is no conclusive evidence either way, especially in a multi-party Westminster-style democracy like India, where many factors come into play — poll promises and freebies, personalities, ideologies, candidates' individual appeal and, of course, issues like development — all adding multiple dimensions to the issue of voting percentage. In other words, a high turnout signals engagement and intensity, not direction. It tells you people care, but not necessarily who they are voting for.

Some analysts also believe that the definition of anti-incumbency is also debatable. For example, several parties tend to change candidates to counter anti-incumbency, so are votes in favour of a party with a sitting MLA but a new candidate votes for or against anti-incumbency? And what if the MLA is from the Opposition side — will the definition still hold?

In the Indian political scenario, of late there is an additional driving factor — Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Observers say it is hard to establish a clear relationship between turnout and anti-incumbency at the national level, where multiple factors are at play. Some relationship may exist between the two at the state level, but mostly speculative.

The belief that increased voter turnout hurts incumbents has been a central part of the argument by a majority of analysts. But an increase in turnout, relative to the previous election, also has no statistically meaningful relationship with an incumbent government's electoral performance.

"The bottom line is that higher turnouts are not necessarily associated with anti-incumbency. But again, things can change depending on the situation. When

elections are stretched over a long period, people lose interest, so typically turnout is higher when elections are held in one or two phases. When elections are spread over a long time, it is expected that those with greater economic and power resources can gain," they add.

Naidu withdraws land allotment to Lulu group: Pawan effect?

Interest Litigation (PIL) was also filed in the High Court challenging the allotment. During the latest hearing of the PIL filed by former minister Vadde Shobhanadreeswara Rao, the government assured the court that the land would be taken back and that a formal order would be issued soon.

Following the assurance, the high court disposed of the case. The government is expected to issue fresh orders cancelling the earlier Government Order (GO) that allocated the land to Lulu Group.

The development marks another setback for Lulu Group, which had earlier faced hurdles in Visakhapatnam during the previous YSRCP regime.

Atchannaidu comments on YS jagan involvement in YSR death

they are true." Atchannaidu recalled that Roshay himself had said that Jagan, who thought that he would not have become the CM if his father were alive, had caused him mental distress, which is why YSR sent him away from the state to Bangalore.

"If you look at Jagan, it is clear that psychos do not even look at their father, mother, sister, or uncle if they are obsessed with position. He formed a party with the sympathy that came with his father's death and tried to become CM in 2014. In 2019, he had his own uncle brutally murdered for power and won with that sympathy. Even a small child in the state will tell you who killed Viveka. Now his own mother and sister are revealing their true nature. Jagan has a history of sending his own mother out of the house when she asked him to keep his promise to his father," Atchannaidu severely criticized. Jagan should not stand for his unstable personality, describing him as a political psycho. "They attacked the Congress for the CM post, they fell on Sonia's feet for bail. They agreed to Amaravati and after coming to power, they created a rift between the regions by saying that there are three capitals. Now, when people are angry and upset, they have started a new drama called 'Mavigan'. The YSRCP leaders are laughing at this proposal to create divisions between the districts," he said. He challenged them to explain what the previous TDP government did to Uttar Andhra by tying a gaddly to their feet. "Now Mavigan is saying what he did to Uttarandhra in the five years he was in power? He is trying to deceive the people by saying empty words. Jagan, who has spoken in a way that denigrates his mother Bhuvaneshwari, the women of Amaravati, and even the character of Kannachelli Sharmila, has no right to talk about women. The people of the state have fully understood Jagan's crazy antics. He will never come to power again. Jagan, like a pest in society, has killed many people for his position," said Atchannaidu.

What needs to be done is not padayatra.. a self-examination yatra:

father, what are you doing today with his name in the name of the party? Where is he who worked for the poor, Dalits, minorities, women, farmers, STs, and wrote many schemes for them during his rule, where are you today, who bowed down to the fascist forces and became slaves to their capitalist tendencies? He breathed secularism in his breath and treated all sections equally. YSR supported and worked for the unity of the people, and what are you doing today as his son? Kneeling down to the fanatic BJP due to cases and fear of political future. To what extent is this dharma? There are anti-Dalit and anti-minority tendencies in every action of the BJP. Be it the Waqf Act, Dalit Christian reservations, FCRA Act, bulldozer politics. You, who remained silent in the streets for all these and declared unconditional support in Delhi, are you paying tribute to him today? If he were alive, would you have rejoiced in these things? Isn't this completely against his ideals and beliefs?

And during your five-year rule, the attacks on Dalits, women, and even the irregularities committed against minorities that made the community ashamed, are not all these things that are hurting Rajasekhara Reddy's soul? "It is ridiculous that you are paying homage to Rajasekhara Reddy today by taking him on a foot march, despite being polar opposite to his rule and ideas. As announced earlier, what you should do is not a foot march, but a self-examination march," Sharmila said.

Atchannaidu for demand-based, sustainable farming



Rajamahendravaram: Apr 9

Agriculture minister K Atchannaidu called upon farmers to shift towards demand-based crop cultivation and adopt sustainable farming practices to improve incomes and protect soil health. Speaking at a Kisan Mela at the agricultural research station in Maruteru of Penumantra mandal in Achanta constituency of West Godavari district on Wednesday, the minister said organic farming offers higher returns with lower input costs while ensuring healthier food for consumers. The event focused on the theme 'Changing Climate Conditions-Sustainable Paddy Cultivation.'

He also visited stalls set up by Acharya N G Ranga Agricultural University and private companies, showcasing modern farm machinery and technologies. Addressing the gathering, he expressed concern over the excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, which he said is degrading soil quality and increasing cultivation costs. He stated that the government is providing training, subsidies and marketing support to encourage farmers to shift towards organic farming. Steps are also being taken to establish dedicated markets to ensure better prices for organic produce. He noted that paddy varieties developed at the Maruteru research centre are achieving high yields in several states across the country and appreciated the efforts of agricultural scientists. With changing food habits among people,

he advised farmers to align crop choices with market demand. He directed officials and scientists to create awareness at the village level about suitable crops for different regions. Rajya Sabha MP Paka Venkata Satyanarayana stressed the importance of soil testing awareness among farmers and said interlinking of rivers in the state would help address irrigation challenges. District collector Chadalavada Nagarani said a target of 7.25 lakh metric tonnes has been set for rabi procurement in the district. Achanta MLA Pitani Satyanarayana, Tanuku MLA Arimilli Radhakrishna, Acharya N G Ranga Agricultural University vice-chancellor Dr R Sharada Jayalakshmi Devi, Horticulture University vice-chancellor Dhanunjaya Rao were among those present.

Lokesh cracks whip on inactive TDP MLAs



Vijayawada: Apr 9

Education and IT minister and TDP national general secretary Nara Lokesh on Wednesday expressed strong displeasure over the lack of organisational activity in recent weeks by some legislators.

During a review meeting with party leaders at the party office, Lokesh pulled up several leaders for failing to conduct cadre meetings and grievance redressal programmes for four consecutive weeks. He expressed concern over the inaction of Mydukur MLA Putta Sudhakar Yadav, Kadapa MLA R Madhavi Reddy and Proddatur MLA Varadarajulu Reddy, and directed party office staff to seek explanations from them. He also voiced anger at Pulivendula in-charge B Tech Ravi, Kamalapuram MLA Chaitanya Reddy and Dharmavaram in-charge Paritala Sriram for not holding the mandated programmes. Lokesh warned that negligence would not be tolerated and instructed leaders to strictly implement party directives. Reiterating that the TDP recognises and rewards hard work, Lokesh said the party's growth was driven by the performance of its leaders. He emphasised that consistent execution of party programmes would ensure its long-term strength. He also interacted with the top 10 performers of the 'My TDP' app and honoured them for effectively promoting party ideology.

Later, Lokesh conducted the 'Prajudarbar' public grievance programme at the TDP central office in Mangalagiri, marking its 87th day. He received petitions from people across the state, including party workers and leaders, and assured them of action after carefully hearing their concerns.

Among the issues raised were requests from loco pilots to prevent the relocation of the gala depot in Vijayawada during the proposed South Coast Railway formation, appeals from private bus owners for replacement support after Covid-related losses, and a land dispute complaint from a Kurnool district resident seeking justice over alleged encroachment of ancestral property. Lokesh assured all petitioners that their grievances would be examined and addressed.

Eat Street outlets allotted transparently: Civic chief

Tirupati, Apr 9

Municipal Corporation Commissioner N Mourya instructed Eat Street shop owners to strictly follow government rules while running their businesses. A lucky draw for allotting 14 shops on Eat Street, built opposite the municipal office with Central government funds, was held transparently at Kacchapi Auditorium here on Wednesday. Commissioner Mourya conducted the event. Out of these, 13 shops were allotted through lottery to applicants, while shop number 10 went directly to I Stone Company. Speaking on the occasion, the Commissioner said shop owners must adhere to Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) guidelines. She further stated that they should provide quality food to the public, avoid using expired or stored items, and not charge excess prices. Food preparation



must be done only by healthy staff, and shop surroundings should remain clean with proper use of wet and dry waste bins. Plastic covers and single-use plastics are banned, and violators will face action. She emphasised maintaining quality and hygiene in food items. Deputy Commissioner Amaraiah, Revenue Officers Sethu Madhav and Ravi, Health Officer Dr Yuva Anvesh, Food Safety Officers Venkateswara Rao and Jagadeesh were present.

Kallur revenue office scandal: Autocratic response of Tahsildar sparks outrage amid serious land fraud allegations



Kurnool: Apr 9

Serious allegations of corruption have surfaced against officials at the Kallur Mandal Revenue Office in Kurnool district, with claims of active involvement in illegal land dealings. Accusations indicate that certain officials, in collusion with their relatives, have facilitated land grabbing and unauthorized transactions. When questioned, officials reportedly responded with negligence and a dismissive attitude, raising serious concerns over accountability and transparency in the administration. The controversy centers around a 1.50-acre land parcel in Survey No. 70/2B of Kallur village. According to allegations, Meesala Maddilety, who earlier worked as a Village Revenue Officer in the Kallur Tahsildar office and is currently discharging responsibilities at the Srisailem Special Project office in the District Collectorate, allegedly fabricated a fake land title and managed to get it recorded

in official land records. It is further alleged that he obtained a pattadar passbook in his mother's name, M Venkata Lakshamma by misusing his official position and prior experience in the revenue department. The issue came to light when multiple claimants asserted ownership over the same land. During an attempt to undertake work on the disputed land using heavy machinery, the rightful owners intervened. At that point, the accused official reportedly admitted wrongdoing and withdrew from the site. Allegations also point to the involvement of a relative of a mandal-level official in facilitating the fraudulent transactions.

The matter had earlier been reported by The Hans India in its online edition on March 28, but no action was initiated by the concerned authorities. When approached again for a response, Kallur Tahsildar Anjaneyulu reportedly displayed an autocratic and dismissive attitude, indi-

cating that the issue would be addressed only at his discretion and convenience rather than with urgency. His response, perceived as indifferent and authoritative, has drawn criticism from affected parties who expected prompt administrative action. He also stated that manual pattadar passbooks are no longer valid, as the government has shifted entirely to a digital system for issuing passbooks. News subscription service Victims have expressed strong dissatisfaction, alleging that repeated petitions submitted by farmers have gone unanswered while influential individuals continue to benefit. They have demanded a thorough inquiry by district authorities and strict legal action against those responsible. The incident has raised broader concerns over administrative oversight, with citizens warning that such negligence undermines public trust and threatens the property rights of ordinary citizens.

Jaladhara-Jalaharathi programme to be crucial in coming years: Collector

Tirupati: Apr 9

The district administration has begun steps to strengthen water resource management with the planned implementation of Jaladhara-Jalaharathi initiative. District Collector Dr S Venkateswar directed the officials to implement the programme in a comprehensive and systematic manner across the district during a review meeting held at the Collectorate on Wednesday. The Collector said the Jaladhara-Jalaharathi programme would be crucial for the next four to five years. He advised departments to adopt the model successfully implemented in Annamayya district and focus on interlinking tanks, canals and streams to conserve rainwater effectively. Scientific basin-level plans should be prepared in coordination with the irrigation department, he said. Proper implementation would help improve groundwater levels, expand the extent of cultivation and increase farmers' incomes. The programme is also expected to support livestock development and dairy production, reduce electricity consumption and lower government expenditure. It would further help reduce rural migration by creating local employment opportunities, the Collector added.

Venkateswar instructed officials to prepare a special 100-day action plan for the programme. Priority works should



be identified and implemented in phases. Committees should be formed at village, mandal and district levels to ensure effective execution and monitoring. He asked officials to coordinate closely with recently elected Water Users Association representatives and make use of their understanding of local conditions to improve results. Officials should assess the present condition of tanks, evaluate water storage levels and identify required works before categorising tanks and preparing action plans. Field-level meetings should be conducted near water bodies instead of mandal offices, and officials should interact directly with farmers to identify local issues and resolve them quickly. He said the initiative would help conserve water resources while promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development in the district.

Tirupati RDO B Rammohan, Irrigation DE D Radha Kkrishna Murthy, District Panchayat Officer Suseela Devi, DWMA PD Srinivasa Rao, DRDA PD T Sobhan Babu, Agriculture Officer Prasad Rao and other officials attended the meeting.

Focus on uninterrupted power supply, farmer welfare: Energy minister



Vijayawada: Apr 9

Energy minister G. K. Reddy said the government's primary goal is to provide quality and uninterrupted power supply while enhancing services to the public.

The minister inaugurated the new corporate office of Andhra Pradesh Power Distribution Corporation Limited (APCPDCL) at Gunadala, Vijayawada, in the presence of MP Kesineni Sivanath, MLA Gadde Rammohan Rao, energy special chief secretary K Vijayanand and CMD P Pulla Reddy. Speaking on the occasion, the minister expressed happiness over the inauguration of the modern office, built at an estimated cost of Rs 35-40 crore with a total area of 65,000 square feet. He credited the collective efforts of the department staff for earning a good reputation for the power sector.

He said that construction of new substations is progressing rapidly across the state. Following the directions of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, the government is focused on providing uninterrupted quality power supply without increasing electricity tariffs. He emphasised that there should be no power disruptions or low-voltage issues, and officials are working diligently to achieve this. The minister further stated that the department aims to improve public perception from the current 80 per cent to over 95 per cent. Under the PM Kusum scheme, tenders have been completed to provide free daytime electricity to farmers, and works will commence

soon. Highlighting achievements, he noted that the state has recorded unprecedented levels of power generation using modern techniques. By purchasing power during low-demand daytime and generating electricity during peak evening hours, the state is ensuring no shortages. Renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and pumped storage projects (PSPs) are being expanded, and tenders have already been invited at 10 locations for battery storage systems. He also praised electricity staff for their tireless service during disasters. Recalling past floods and cyclones, especially in Visakhapatnam, he said around 1,500-2,000 personnel restored nearly 20,000 electric poles within 24 hours, ensuring quick restoration of power supply.

Vijayanand said that advanced, human-independent software is being used to ensure transparency in power purchase and sales. He added that the state successfully managed a record peak load of 14,009 mw this year and supplied 275 million units of power without interruption during the summer. The efficiency of APGenco plants has been increased to 85-90 per cent. He further noted that the APCPDCL building has been developed with a 'Net Zero' concept, incorporating solar energy and green technologies to reduce power consumption and achieve carbon neutrality. CMD Pulla Reddy urged discom officials to continue delivering better services to consumers.

Officials told to provide amenities in rehabilitation colonies

Markapuram: Apr 9

District Collector M Vijaya Suneetha has directed officials to take immediate steps to provide basic amenities in the rehabilitation colonies under the Pula Subbaiah Velugonda Project. On Wednesday, she inspected the Sunkesula rehabilitation colony near the Collectorate, along with the Idupuru and Devaraju Gattu rehabilitation colonies.

During the visit, she gathered information from Velugonda Project officials regarding the total number of rehabilitation centres allotted under the project and their current status. A review meeting was subsequently held at the Collectorate.



The Collector instructed officials to expedite jungle clearance within the colonies and to identify and complete the remaining CC roads at the earliest. She also directed that compensation amounts be disbursed promptly to beneficiaries as and when

funds are received from the government, without any negligence. Velugonda Project Special Collector Sridhar Reddy, Markapuram and Cumbum SDCs Satyanarayana and Venkata Sivaramireddy, and other staff participated in the programme.

Indian Naval Ship Trikanth arrives at Mombasa in Kenya



Visakhapatnam: Apr 9

As part of its ongoing deployment in the South West Indian Ocean Region, INS Trikanth, a frontline guided missile frigate of the Indian Navy, arrived at Mombasa, Kenya. Aimed at strengthening maritime cooperation and enhancing bilateral ties between India and Kenya, the port call coincides with the visit of Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan to Kenya. Professional, cultural and social engagements will be carried out during the stay and essential stores will be handed over to the Kenya Defence

Forces. INS Trikanth arrived at Mombasa, Kenya, on April 7. Also, the ship's Commanding Officer will call on senior government functionaries. On departure from Mombasa, INS Trikanth will engage in a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with units of the Kenya Navy. The exercise will facilitate the exchange of best practices and enhance bilateral maritime interoperability. The port call by INS Trikanth aligns with India's vision of MAHASAGAR - Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions.

SKYLINE

Friday 10.4.2026

Deferred Votes

In the run-up to the West Bengal Assembly elections, an extraordinary situation has emerged: millions of citizens may find themselves excluded from the electoral rolls, not by a final legal determination, but by the timing of an unfinished administrative process. The scale alone - running into tens of lakhs - marks this as a moment that demands closer scrutiny, not just of decisions taken, but of how institutions are interacting under pressure. At the centre of the issue is a large-scale verification exercise of voter lists. Judicial officers have processed a vast number of cases, resulting in a significant proportion of names being struck off, but as many being included.

Those affected are not without remedy; they are entitled to appeal before designated tribunals. Yet the critical complication is that many of these tribunals are either newly constituted or not fully functional. The right to appeal, therefore, exists in principle but remains constrained in practice. The matter has reached the Supreme Court, which has chosen not to impose a rigid deadline on the appellate process. The Court's reasoning is understandable: hurried adjudication on such a scale risks inconsistency and procedural error. Instead, it has emphasised the need for uniformity and institutional order, even as it acknowledged the urgency of the electoral timeline. In a separate but related development, concerns over interference in the adjudication process at Malda have prompted the Court to transfer an investigation to the National Investigation Agency, signalling unease about the environment in which these decisions are being made.

In practical terms, this means administrative timelines are now shaping democratic outcomes. When procedure begins to determine participation, the balance tilts subtly but decisively away from the voter, raising concerns that extend beyond one election to the health of electoral governance itself. What emerges is a deeper institutional misalignment. Elections operate on fixed schedules, but adjudication - especially when scaled up dramatically - does not. When these timelines collide, the consequences are borne not by institutions, but by citizens.

A voter whose claim is ultimately upheld after polling concludes has, in effect, been denied participation in a process that cannot be replayed. This is not a question of intent so much as of sequencing. Electoral rolls are meant to be settled well before the democratic exercise begins. When verification, adjudication, and appeal spill over into the election period itself, the integrity of the process becomes contingent on administrative capacity rather than constitutional assurance. The implications extend beyond a single state or election cycle. If such overlaps become normalised, they risk creating a precedent where the right to vote is formally intact but operationally uncertain.

That distinction - between a right recognised and a right realised - goes to the heart of democratic credibility. The present episode, therefore, is less about numbers and more about principle. It raises a fundamental question: can a democracy afford to treat participation as provisional, subject to processes that conclude only after the moment of choice has passed? Sadly, the Election Commission of India has made a hash of things.

Lessons from a maritime exercise

The Indian Navy's hosting of the IONS Maritime Exercise (IMEX) TTX 2026 in Kochi marks more than a routine multilateral engagement. It signals the growing centrality of simulation-based strategic diplomacy in shaping maritime governance in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). As security challenges become more diffuse, transnational, and unpredictable, the modalities through which states cooperate are also evolving. Tabletop exercises (TTXs), once seen as preparatory tools, are now emerging as sites of diplomacy in their own right.

Unlike traditional naval exercises that depend on costly deployments and kinetic demonstrations of power, TTXs operate in a simulated environment. This allows for wider participation, lower logistical burdens, and more frequent engagement among diverse actors. In regions like the IOR, which are characterized by asymmetries in naval capabilities and political sensitivities, this shift is particularly significant. Simulation creates a level playing field where smaller and larger states can engage as stakeholders in a shared security architecture. More importantly, TTXs enable something that conventional exercises often cannot.

They allow for consensus-building without escalation. By removing the pressures of real-time operational risk, participating navies can deliberate on complex contingencies such as piracy, humanitarian crises, cyber threats, and maritime terrorism in a controlled environment. This fosters collective problem-solving rather than competitive signaling. In a fragmented Indian Ocean, where strategic mistrust coexists with deep interdependence, such mechanisms are crucial. The participation of countries across South Asia, Southeast Asia, Africa, and beyond in IMEX TTX 2026 underscores a shared recognition that maritime security today is inherently cooperative.

No single state, regardless of capability, can unilaterally secure sea lanes, manage disasters, or counter non-traditional threats. Within this context, simulation-based engagements also serve as instruments of trust-building. Repeated interactions, even in virtual scenarios, contribute to the gradual alignment of expectations, communication protocols, and strategic cultures. Over time, this reduces uncertainty, which is one of the most destabilizing factors in maritime security. At a deeper level, these exercises reflect a form of quiet balancing in

the region. Without overtly invoking geopolitical rivalries, they create platforms where states can coordinate responses, share best practices, and strengthen interoperability.

In doing so, they shape the strategic environment without the rigidity or visibility of formal alliances. This is where the role of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) becomes particularly noteworthy. Rather than functioning as a traditional security bloc, IONS operates as a soft institutional counterweight that privileges dialogue, inclusivity, and functional cooperation. IMEX TTX 2026 reinforces this character by positioning IONS not as an alliance structure but as a norm-building and coordination platform for the region.

The technical dimensions of the exercise further deepen its strategic significance. Information sharing, a core component of the TTX, feeds directly into enhancing Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA), which is the ability to monitor, interpret, and respond to activities across the maritime domain. In an era where threats are as likely to emerge from data gaps as from physical incursions, robust MDA is indispensable. Similarly, the focus on decision-making processes points to a



broader objective. It aims at interoperability and doctrine alignment. When navies simulate responses together, they are not merely exchanging ideas.

They are, in effect, synchronizing operational logics. This has long-term implications for coordinated responses during real-world contingencies, including search and rescue missions and disaster relief operations. Taken together, IMEX TTX 2026 illustrates a subtle but important shift in how maritime power is exercised and negotiated. The emphasis is moving away from visible demonstrations of force toward architectures of cooperation, including protocols, networks, and shared frameworks that underpin collective security. As India pre-

pares to assume the chairmanship of IONS for the 2026 to 2028 cycle, such initiatives acquire added significance.

They reflect India's growing role as a maritime convener and point to a broader strategic vision where leadership is exercised through facilitation, coordination, and institutional shaping rather than dominance. In this emerging paradigm, the future of the Indian Ocean will not be determined solely by fleets and firepower, but by the quality of interactions, the depth of trust, and the resilience of cooperative mechanisms. Simulation-based diplomacy, as exemplified by IMEX TTX 2026, is fast becoming a cornerstone of that future.

Deal or 'setup'? Why both US and Iran think this ceasefire is a trap

The two-week US-Iran ceasefire represents less a resolution of the ongoing crisis and more a carefully calibrated pause in a rapidly escalating conflict. What began in February 2026 with American and Israeli strikes on Iran has now entered a tenuous phase of de-escalation, driven as much by strategic necessity as by diplomatic opportunity. At its core, the arrangement hinges on a transactional exchange: the suspension of direct US (and Israeli) attacks in return for Iran's immediate reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, a vital artery for global energy flows that Tehran had effectively choked, sending oil markets into turmoil.

The contours of the agreement underscore its provisional nature. A two-week window has been carved out not as an end in itself, but as a diplomatic holding pattern to explore the feasibility of a more durable settlement. Iran's commitment to ensuring safe and uninterrupted passage through Hormuz - reportedly in coordination with its armed forces and with potential revenue-sharing mechanisms involving Oman - sits alongside a US decision to pause offensive operations while retaining the right to defend its interests. This is, in essence, crisis management rather than conflict resolution.

But the substantive gaps between the two sides remain formidable. Iran's 10-point proposal, embracing demands ranging from sanctions relief

and compensation to recognition of its nuclear rights and a US military drawdown - stands in sharp contrast to Washington's insistence on stringent nuclear constraints, the surrender of highly enriched uranium, curbs on proxy networks, and tacit acceptance of Israel's legitimacy. These are not marginal differences; they go to the heart of the regional order each side seeks to shape. Israel's position further complicates matters as it supports the pause on Iran while explicitly excluding its ongoing operations against Hezbollah from the ambit of the ceasefire.

Both Washington and Tehran have, rather predictively, sought to frame the outcome as a victory, even as early reports of minor violations hint at the fragility of the arrangement. This is a ceasefire built on mutual suspicion, not mutual trust.

For Donald Trump, this episode is emblematic of a broader strategic instinct that has come to define his approach to international crises, an instinct rooted in calibrated brinkmanship, where escalation is not an end in itself but a means to compel adversaries into negotiation. By imposing a stark and highly public deadline, backed by the threat of overwhelming military force, Trump sought to seize control of the escalation ladder. In doing so, he has, at least for the moment, managed to arrest a potentially catastrophic spiral without having to execute the most extreme mili-



tary options at his disposal. This ability to step back from the brink, after having gone conspicuously close to it, forms the crux of his "peace through strength" narrative.

The reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, a critical chokepoint in global energy supply chains, and Iran's return to the negotiating table provide tangible outcomes that Trump can point to as evidence of success. In strategic terms, these developments allow him to argue that coercive diplomacy, when backed by credible force and political will, can deliver results where conventional diplomacy may falter. The swift and positive response of global markets has further reinforced this perception, lending economic validation to his approach. Yet, this apparent success must be weighed against its deeper and more enduring costs. Domestically, Trump's rhetoric, often unusually stark, even

by his own standards, has drawn criticism from across the political spectrum. Concerns about the proportionality of threats and the risks of inadvertent escalation have exposed fault lines not only between Republicans and Democrats but also within his own party. This episode has unfolded against the backdrop of a broader American weariness with prolonged military engagements, raising questions about the sustainability of such high-stakes tactics.

Internationally, the implications are even more complex. The language of ultimatum and brinkmanship, while effective in the short term, risks undermining the credibility of the United States as a predictable and stabilising actor. Allies may find reassurance in Washington's willingness to act decisively, but they may also grow wary of the volatility that such an approach introduces into crisis man-

agement. Adversaries, meanwhile, may become more inclined to test these limits, calculating that escalation can be negotiated down under pressure.

In this sense, Trump's strategy delivers immediate gains but at the risk of longer-term strategic erosion, highlighting the enduring tension between tactical success and systemic stability in an evolving geopolitical environment.

More fundamentally, the ceasefire does little to resolve the structural drivers of the conflict. The nuclear question, the role of regional proxies, and the sanctions regime remain deeply contested. Iran, for its part, has signalled that it views the outcome as evidence of US overreach rather than concession. In such a context, the two-week pause is best understood as a strategic intermission - one that creates space for diplomacy but does not guarantee its success.

Trump is projecting it as his personal victory, but it is also a reminder of the limits of coercion in addressing deeply embedded geopolitical rivalries. Whether this moment evolves into a more enduring settlement or dissolves into yet another cycle of confrontation will depend on what transpires in Islamabad. For now, the ceasefire is not an endgame - it is merely the next move in a much longer strategic contest.

Towards Energy Security

Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted ethanol blending as a key strategy to reduce India's dependence on imported crude oil. Recent disruptions in global oil and gas supply chains, particularly arising from geopolitical tension in West Asia, have underscored the urgent need for India to strengthen domestic energy production and accelerate the development of alternative energy sources to reduce dependence on imports.

India's rapidly growing economy has led to a sharp increase in demand for crude oil and natural gas. Oil and gas remain the largest component of the country's import basket, currently valued at approximately 176 billion dollars. Crude oil imports increased from 189 million tonnes in 2014-15 to 243 million tonnes in 2024-25, and dependence on crude oil rose from 84 per cent in 2014-15 to around 90 per cent last year. The high import dependence, coupled with limited energy resilience, creates significant vulnerabilities - impacting not only economy stability but also national security and defence preparedness. Several path-breaking initiatives have been undertaken by the government to increase domestic production of crude oil and gas, but with limited success. It is imperative that India now accelerates the development of alternative domestic energy sources as a national priority. India's pathway to energy security lies in a diversified energy mix including solar, coal gasification, nuclear, hydrogen, and biofuels. No single energy source can in isolation deliver self-reliance for India. Solar energy generation has increased significantly. India has set a target of achieving 500 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030; however, this ambition may be further enhanced

towards 1,000 GW in the medium to long term.

Security Products & Services Parallel efforts are needed to develop energy storage systems and strengthen grid capacity. India has also announced the Green Hydrogen Mission, with several incentives to achieve a target of 5 MMT of green hydrogen by 2030. Green hydrogen, while promising, remains cost intensive and will require time, infrastructure development, and technological advancements to achieve commercial scale. India should focus on developing its ecosystem and infrastructure for green hydrogen rather than replicating Western models without adopting them to India's unique economics and infrastructure realities.

The nature of the hydrogen molecule presents challenges in production, storage, and transportation, requiring sustained R&D to make green hydrogen a sustainable, cost-effective, and safe fuel. The government has also announced important policy decisions to fast-track nuclear energy through small modular reactors. The global energy transition is entering a decisive phase. Road transport, through blending mandates, enables countries worldwide to reduce fossil fuel dependence while supporting agricultural economies. Ethanol must be reimagined - not merely as a fuel additive but as a strategic energy vector and industrial feedstock.

Ethanol's future lies beyond its conventional role. With established global production, flexible feedstock origins, and compatibility with both biochemical and thermochemical conversion pathways, ethanol offers scalability and versatility. Bio-ethanol from corn has a proven track record of success in countries such as Brazil,

Mexico and the US. Ethanol blending in petrol has increased from 5 per cent in 2014 to 20 per cent in 2025 - an almost fourfold increase in just 11 years in India. Ethanol production has surged from 380 million litres to 6.61 billion litres during this period. Higher blending has not reduced reliance on imported crude due to faster gasoline consumption.

Ethanol-blended fuel burns cleaner than gasoline and improves the fuel's octane rating. Ethanol also has a higher oxygen content than MTBE, requiring only half the volume to achieve the same oxygenation level in gasoline. India stands as one of the most compelling success stories in ethanol blending today. This momentum presents a transformative opportunity that India must strategically capitalize on. By progressively scaling ethanol blending to E30 and eventually E100, India can take a decisive step toward energy security, food security, and decarbonization.

1G facilities produce bioethanol by fermenting sugars from sugarcane, sugar beet, or cereal seeds. Hybrid 1.5G technologies enable the partial conversion of cellulosic sugar found in corn kernel fibre, bridging the gap between maize-based ethanol and cellulosic ethanol. India's current success with ethanol blending provides a launchpad for a Maize Revolution. Emerging technologies can transform ethanol into sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) via Alcohol-to-Jet pathways, enabling airlines to reduce lifecycle emissions without altering existing aircraft infrastructure.

Ethanol is also gaining prominence as a precursor to marine fuels, particularly through conversion into e-methanol and hydrocarbon fuels suitable for long-haul shipping. Aviation is one of



the fastest-growing sources of emissions globally, with limited alternatives to liquid fuels due to energy density requirements and infrastructure constraints. Ethanol-to-jet (ATJ) technology offers a scalable, near-term solution. The key advantages of ethanol-derived SAF are:

- * Technology Readiness: ATJ pathways are already certified and moving toward commercial deployment.
- * Feedstock Scalability: Ethanol production is globally established, unlike many SAF feedstocks constrained by supply.
- * Infrastructure Compatibility: SAF is a drop-in fuel, requiring no modifications to aircraft or fuelling systems.
- * Lifecycle Emissions Reduction: Offers significant reductions compared to fossil jet fuel, especially when derived from low-carbon feedstocks.

From monoethylene glycol (MEG) and bio-based PET to polyethylene variants such as HDPE and LDPE, ethanol-derived materials can replace fossil-based feedstocks in some of the world's most widely used products. This positions ethanol at the intersection of energy, materials, and sustainability - bridging sectors that have historically evolved in isolation. This expands ethanol's role beyond energy into a circular bioeconomy platform, reducing dependence on fossil-based petrochemicals. The following strate-

gic recommendations are offered:

1. The government should develop and implement a comprehensive policy framework with financial incentives, similar to the Green Hydrogen Mission, to promote the corn-to-ethanol sector on a war footing.
2. Allow the duty-free import of GM corn for ethanol production. Corn for ethanol should be recognised as a strategic energy food stock, requiring policy support similar to conventional energy resources. This will not impact local farmers, who predominantly produce sweet corn which could be exported with better price realization. Import of GM Corn should be allowed for a limited period till farmers are able to produce enough to meet ethanol requirements for captive consumption and export.
3. Rather than importing ethanol, allow duty-free imports of yellow dent corn for domestic production.
4. Provide targeted incentives for the development and adoption of high yield hybrid and advanced seed technologies to enhance maize productivity. Develop a phased road map towards higher ethanol blends, supported by flex fuel vehicle adoption and infrastructure readiness to incentivize demand of ethanol and attract investment in ethanol production. Develop infrastructure to handle both petrol and ethanol at fuelling stations.

India hails US-Iran truce, urges citizens to exit Iran at earliest

India on Wednesday welcomed the ceasefire between the US and Iran, expressing hope for a broader de-escalation in West Asia, while simultaneously urging its citizens to "expeditiously exit Iran" amid continuing uncertainties on the ground. In a fresh advisory, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) asked Indian nationals still in Iran to leave the country at the earliest in coordination with the Embassy of India in Tehran and strictly follow designated evacuation routes. "In continuation of the advisory of April 7, and in light of recent developments, Indian nationals still in Iran are strongly advised to expeditiously exit Iran, in coordination with the Embassy and using the routes suggested," the advisory said. It also issued an emergency contact numbers and consular support details. Officials indicated that around 7,500 Indian nationals remained in Iran, even as evacuation efforts gather pace. As of Tuesday, the Embassy has facilitated the exit of 1,864 Indians through land borders with Armenia and Azerbaijan, including 935 students and 472 fishermen. New Delhi's twin-track response -- welcoming the ceasefire while accelerating evacuation -- reflects



India has underscored the broader economic fallout of the conflict, noting that the hostilities had caused "immense suffering" and significantly impacted global supply chains. "We expect that unimpeded freedom of navigation and global flow of commerce would prevail through the Strait of Hormuz," the MEA said, reflecting concerns shared by major energy-dependent economies. The two-week ceasefire is being viewed as a critical window for negotiations, following intense diplomatic efforts involving multiple stakeholders. However, officials and analysts remain cautious, warning that the situation on the ground remains fluid, with risks of violations or miscalculations. India's calibrated response highlights both its strategic stakes in the region and its immediate priority of ensuring the safety of its citizens. With thousands still in Iran and evacuation operations ongoing, authorities are closely monitoring developments even as diplomatic efforts continue. As the region navigates a fragile pause in hostilities, New Delhi's message remains clear -- cautious optimism on peace, but no let-up in ensuring the safe return of its nationals from a volatile conflict zone.

lingering concerns about the fragility of the truce despite diplomatic progress. In an official statement, the MEA reiterated India's long-standing position that "de-escalation, dialogue and diplomacy" are essential to resolving the conflict. "We welcome the ceasefire reached and hope that it will lead to a lasting peace in West Asia. As we have continuously advocated earlier, de-escalation, dialogue and diplomacy are essential to bring an early end to the ongoing conflict," the statement said. The ceasefire, announced after weeks of escalating hostilities between Washington and Tehran, has offered a temporary pause in a conflict that disrupted global energy supplies and trade routes, and raised fears of a wider regional war. A key element of the agreement is the conditional reopening of the Strait of Hormuz.

The two-week ceasefire is being viewed as a critical window for negotiations, following intense diplomatic efforts involving multiple stakeholders. However, officials and analysts remain cautious, warning that the situation on the ground remains fluid, with risks of violations or miscalculations. India's calibrated response highlights both its strategic stakes in the region and its immediate priority of ensuring the safety of its citizens. With thousands still in Iran and evacuation operations ongoing, authorities are closely monitoring developments even as diplomatic efforts continue. As the region navigates a fragile pause in hostilities, New Delhi's message remains clear -- cautious optimism on peace, but no let-up in ensuring the safe return of its nationals from a volatile conflict zone.

India-US discuss defence technology and co-production, again

India and US have on Wednesday discussed how to take forward defence industrial and defence technology linkages which is part of the continued effort for India to co-produce and co-develop high-end technology. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri had an interaction with the US Under Secretary of War for Acquisition & Sustainment Mike Duffey at the Pentagon in Washington DC. Today, the Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal posted on social media platform X about the meeting saying, "This was to advance India-US major defence partnership, focusing on co-production, sustainment and shared priorities in the Indo-Pacific." The Indian Embassy in the US also put out a post on Thursday saying "the two discussed ways to further deepen the defence industrial, technology and supply chain linkages between India and the US, in line with the ambi-

tious goals laid out in the framework of the bilateral Major Defence Partnership signed last year." This meeting comes in the backdrop of an ongoing visit to the US by Indian Air Force Chief, Air Chief Marshal AP Singh. On Wednesday, the IAF Chief visited the Peterson Space Force Base in the US. The IAF said, "The two had a productive exchange of perspectives on complex operational modalities, reflecting the strength of the growing partnership." The meeting of Misri with the US Department of War official is the second such contact at the official level in less than three weeks. On March 25, the two countries had conducted the Defence Policy Group meeting to discuss the "way forward" in the terms of India getting to co-produce and co-develop high-end technology. Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh and US Under Secretary of War Elbridge Colby had met in



New Delhi with both sides looking to accelerate the momentum. Colby, during his visit, had said the US is looking ahead to a critical new decade for the defence partnership with India adding that the US was looking to expand its sales of military equipment to India. It also added that the potential for co-production and co-development of equipment with India is a great possibility. These meetings have come at a time when India and US are closing in on having a deal for jointly making the F414 fighter jet engines in India. The engines are to

power the Tejas Mark 2 jets and the first version of the advanced medium combat aircraft (AMCA). The US has expressed a commitment to work with India to hasten and augment cooperation in areas -- including, but not limited -- to long-range precision fires, resilient logistics, maritime domain awareness, anti-submarine warfare and advanced technologies. The Framework for the US-India major Defence partnership that was signed between Secretary of War Pete Hegseth and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in October last year.

Iran hardens position, says no negotiations on nuclear enrichment programme

Tehran [Iran], April 9 (ANI): Iran on Thursday firmly ruled out any negotiations over its nuclear enrichment programme, reiterating that its right to enrichment is non-negotiable, even as it links the issue to ongoing efforts to bring a complete end to hostilities in West Asia with the US and Israel, as reported by Iran's state news agency ISNA. According to ISNA, Mohammad Eslami, Vice President for Nuclear Affairs and head of the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran, said that external pressure, referring to the US and Israel, to limit Iran's enrichment activities would not succeed, asserting the Islamic Republic's "right to enrichment is non-negotiable." He further stated that no authority could prevent Iran from pursuing its nuclear programme. "The enemies' demands regarding limiting enrichment will not come to pass... The right to enrichment is non-negotiable... No law or individual can stand in



our way," Eslami said, as quoted by ISNA. Dismissing calls from Western countries to curb Tehran's nuclear activities, Eslami said such demands were unrealistic. "The enemies' claims and demands to restrict Iran's enrichment programme are mere pipe dreams that will die with them," he said, as quoted by ISNA. This comes amid a fragile two-week ceasefire aimed at halting hostilities in West Asia between Iran and US-Israel coalition forces, with high-stakes talks scheduled to take place in Islamabad between the concerned

parties to negotiate a comprehensive and lasting end to the conflict. As part of the proposed deal, US President Donald Trump pushed for Tehran to completely give up its nuclear programme, including uranium enrichment, a demand that Iran firmly rejected, reiterating its long-standing position. Earlier on Wednesday, Trump stated that the Islamic Republic has agreed to halt the uranium enrichment programme as part of the deal, while also stating that discussions are underway regarding tariff and sanctions relief on Iran.

In a post on Truth Social, Trump stated that the United States will "work closely" with Iran following what he described as a "very productive Regime Change" in the country. Trump further indicated that several aspects of a broader agreement have already been finalised, suggesting ongoing negotiations between Washington and Tehran. "The United States will work closely with Iran, which we have determined has gone through what will be a very productive Regime Change! There will be no enrichment of Uranium, and the United States will, working with Iran, dig up and remove all of the deeply buried (B-2 Bombers) Nuclear 'Dust.' It is now, and has been, under very exacting Satellite Surveillance (Space Force!). Nothing has been touched from the date of attack. We are, and will be, talking Tariff and Sanctions relief with Iran. Many of the 15 points have already been agreed to," the post read.

US to keep military presence near Iran till final ceasefire deal: Trump

US President Donald Trump on Thursday said American military forces would remain deployed in and around Iran until a final agreement on the ceasefire is fully implemented, signalling Washington's intent to maintain pressure amid fragile truce conditions in West Asia. "All U.S. Ships, Aircraft, and Military Personnel, with additional Ammunition, Weaponry, and anything else that is appropriate and necessary for the lethal prosecution and destruction of an already substantially degraded Enemy, will remain in place in, and around, Iran, until such time as the REAL AGREEMENT reached is fully complied with," Trump wrote on Truth Social. He warned that any violation of the understanding could trigger a sharp military response. "If for any reason it is not [complied with],



which is highly unlikely, then the 'shooting starts' -- bigger, and better, and stronger than anyone has ever seen before," he said. Reiterating key US objectives, Trump stressed that Iran must not acquire nuclear weapons and that the Strait of Hormuz would remain "open and safe", underscoring the strategic

importance of the vital global oil transit route. The remarks come amid a tenuous ceasefire between the United States and Iran, with tensions persisting despite a temporary halt in hostilities and conflicting claims over the scope of the truce across the region. Trump said US forces were "loading up and resting" even as they remained prepared for further action if required, projecting confidence in both the military's readiness and the broader geopolitical outcome. His assertion signals a hardline stance from Washington as diplomatic efforts continue to secure a durable agreement, with the coming days seen as critical in determining whether the ceasefire holds or slips back into escalation.

Netanyahu vows to continue strikes on Hezbollah "wherever necessary" to restore security in northern Israel

Tel Aviv [Israel], April 9 (ANI): Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has affirmed that Israel will persist in its military operations against Hezbollah, following a series of intense and lethal strikes across Lebanon. In a statement shared via his personal account on X, the Prime Minister emphasised the continued scale of the offensive, noting that the military is "continuing to strike Hezbollah with force, precision, and determination." The remarks come as Israel intensifies its campaign to degrade the group's capabilities, with Netanyahu underscoring the motivation behind the ongoing air strikes. "Our message is clear: anyone who acts against Israeli civilians - we will strike them," he asserted, linking the military action directly to the protection of the public. Maintaining a firm stance on the scope of the operation, the Prime Minister made it clear that geographical boundaries would not limit the air campaign. He stated that the military "will continue to hit Hezbollah wherever necessary," suggesting that the operations will remain expansive. Netanyahu further clarified that the ultimate objective of the strikes is to ensure the safe return of displaced citizens to the border regions. He added that the offensive will persist "until we fully restore security to the residents of the north" of

Israel. However, Israel's continued operation in Lebanon has threatened the temporary ceasefire, with Iran accusing the US-Israel side of violating the agreement. In response to these developments, Tehran has threatened to leave the negotiation talks set to take place in Islamabad this weekend.



Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, who will lead Tehran's delegation for the talks in Pakistan, has accused the Israeli side of violating three key clauses of the "10-point proposal" on which the temporary ceasefire was initially agreed to kickstart further negotiations. The three clauses that Ghalibaf accused the US and Israel of breaching include the violation of the ceasefire in Lebanon, the violation of Iranian airspace, and the denial of Iran's right to enrich uranium. "The deep historical distrust we hold toward the United States stems from its repeated violations of all forms of commitments, a pattern that has regrettably been repeated once again," Ghalibaf said in a statement. Listing the specific violations, Ghalibaf cited non-compliance with the first clause regarding the ceasefire in Lebanon -- a commitment he noted Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had explicitly declared as "an immediate ceasefire everywhere, including Lebanon and

other regions, effective immediately." Ghalibaf further pointed to the "entry of an intruding drone into Iran airspace," which was destroyed in the city of Lar in Fars Province, as a clear violation of the clause prohibiting airspace breaches. He also highlighted the "denial of Iran's right to enrichment," which was included in the sixth clause of the framework. The Parliament Speaker added that "bilateral ceasefire or negotiations are unreasonable" as the clauses have been violated before the negotiations could even begin. On the other hand, Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu has insisted that the ceasefire in Lebanon was not included in the temporary agreement. "I insisted that the temporary ceasefire with Iran not include Hezbollah. And we continue to strike them forcefully," Netanyahu stated. He further claimed that Israel dealt Hezbollah its greatest blow since the

pager incidents, attacking "100 targets in 10 minutes, in places that Hezbollah was certain were immune." Netanyahu expressed a firm determination to achieve Israel's objectives through negotiation or by "resuming the fighting." A primary objective for Tel Aviv remains prohibiting Iran from enriching uranium, which Israel believes will be used for nuclear weaponry. "I want to make this clear: We still have goals to complete, and we will achieve them either by agreement or by resuming the fighting. We are prepared to return to combat at any moment required. Our finger is on the trigger," he warned. The Prime Minister maintained that the ceasefire is not the end of the campaign but a "milestone on the path to achieving all goals." Despite the friction, diplomatic engagement between the US and Iran is still scheduled for Islamabad this weekend.

Women living longer than before but not living better: UN report

Women are more likely to have their pain dismissed, their symptoms misread and their conditions diagnosed too late. This is the result of a medical system that was not designed with women in mind, says the latest United Nations report. "For 25 years, the world has made significant progress in advancing women's right to health, particularly in sexual and reproductive care. Women are living longer than ever before -- but they are not living better," it said. Across the world, UN data shows, women are still less likely to be taken seri-

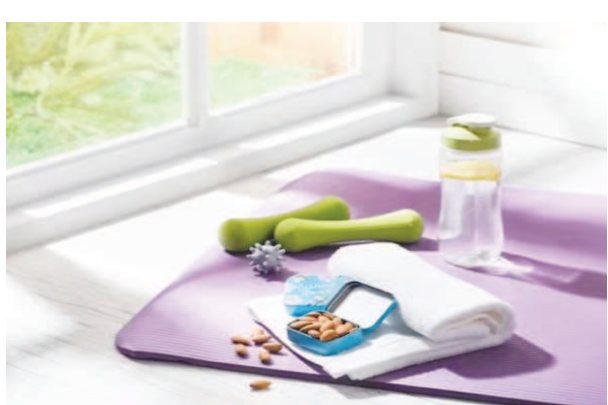
ously, accurately diagnosed or appropriately treated. From misdiagnosis to entrenched medical bias, gaps in healthcare systems continue to affect women's health, safety and quality of life. Although healthcare is a fundamental human right, it is still not guaranteed for all -- and inequality persists in one of the most critical areas of everyday life. According to the global body, from the tools used in examinations to the data that shapes diagnosis and treatment, these gaps are embedded in healthcare systems, with real conse-

quences. It, however, said there had been measurable progress in women's health parameters. "Between 2000 and 2023, maternal mortality declined by 40 per cent, from 328 to 197 deaths per 100,000 live births. Adolescent fertility rates fell from 66.3 to 38.3 births per 1,000 girls aged 15-19 between 2000 and 2024. Skilled birth attendance rose from 60.9 to 86.6 per cent, and the proportion of women using modern family planning methods increased from 73.7 to 77.1 per cent," the report noted.

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Eat Smart this Summer with this Protein-Packed Diet

Visakhapatnam: Apr 9
Summer has arrived early, and with beach trips on the horizon, now is the perfect time to kickstart your fitness routine. While gym sessions are essential, diet plays an equally vital role in sculpting and maintaining a healthy body weight. Ritika Samaddar, Regional Head of Dietetics at Max Healthcare - New Delhi, recommends this straightforward, protein-rich plan featuring California Almonds, Greek Yoghurt, and Salmon. Morning Kickstart: California Almonds and Boiled Eggs Begin your day with a few California Almonds. Rich in protein, healthy fats, vitamin E, and magnesium, they help sustain energy levels without sudden spikes. They are an excellent addition to any fitness-focused diet. Pair them with two boiled eggs for



complete protein. This combo is portable, filling, and perfect for busy mornings. Lunch: Grilled Chicken Breast Salad Opt for grilled chicken breast tossed with mixed greens, cherry tomatoes, and cucumber. This meal delivers lean protein, fibre, and hydration from veggies, keeping you light yet satisfied through the afternoon. Evening Snack: Greek Yoghurt with Chia Seeds Recharge in the late afternoon with

Greek yoghurt topped with a teaspoon of chia seeds. This snack delivers probiotics for gut health, sustained energy, and a refreshing, cooling effect. Dinner: Baked Salmon with Quinoa End your day with a baked salmon fillet served alongside cooked quinoa and steamed broccoli. This nutrient-rich plate offers omega-3 fatty acids for skin health, anti-inflammatory benefits, and complete proteins to support overnight muscle repair. This simple routine emphasises supporting muscle building, controlling hunger, and aiding weight management. Avoid heavy carbs in the afternoons as they are difficult to digest. Aim for portion control, good hydration and light exercise. These easy, practical tips can help you stay fit and energised during the summer heat.

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Mammootty vs Mohanlal: who is hero in Patriot?



Mollywood legend Mammootty has shared exciting details about his upcoming film Patriot. The film is directed by Mahesh Narayanan. It brings together Mammootty and Mohanlal once again. This reunion has created strong excitement among fans across South India. During a recent interaction, Mammootty spoke about the core idea of the film. He was asked about who is the main hero in Patriot. Anchor asked, "In KHxRK promo, Rajinikanth sir and Kamal Haasan sir will be asking the director who is hero, likewise you and Mohanlal sir asked who is the Hero in Patriot." He said "No We both know that plot is the Hero. There is no such Ego between you and Mohanlal will act in my films and I used to act in his films". Mammootty also explained that Patriot is not a usual star based film. He said the story is the main focus of the movie and believes that the audience will connect

more with the content than with the actors. He said "The film actually is driven by its content. It has a story and it has a plot. This is not a film made on formula, it will be a formula making film". The shooting of the film took around 130 days. It was filmed in different places in India and also in some foreign locations. The story has an international backdrop and deals with serious topics. Mammootty shared that the team hopes such events never happen in real life. Talking about working again with Mohanlal, Mammootty said everything felt natural. They share a close friendship in real life and their families also have a good relationship. This comfort helped them during the shoot and made the process smooth. The film also stars Fahadh Faasil, Kunchacko, Boban, Nayanthara, Darshana, Rajendran and Revathi. The film is expected to release across India on May 1 2026.

Adivi Sesh's Dacoit Nears Half Million Mark in Advance Bookings



Adivi Sesh is ready to impress audiences once again with his new film Dacoit. The movie is an action and romantic drama directed by Shaneil Deo and produced by Supriya Yarlagadda under SS Creations. The film is creating strong buzz even before its release. Adivi Sesh is known for giving back to back successful films. Because of this strong track record, fans have high expectations for Dacoit. The teaser and trailer have already grabbed attention and the visuals look stylish and the story appears intense. These promotions helped the film gain interest across different regions. The movie is set

to release tomorrow. Special premiere shows are planned in the USA Hyderabad and Mumbai and the response from overseas markets is already very impressive. In the United States alone the premiere advance bookings have crossed 226 thousand dollars. The film is expected to reach more than 325 thousand dollars from premiere shows. This is higher than the actor's previous best numbers set by Major. In North America, the total advance bookings for premiere and first day have reached around 315 thousand dollars. The weekend advance sales are close to 415 thousand dollars. This

shows that the film is moving towards a strong opening. The situation in India is also very positive. In just one day nearly 30 thousand tickets were booked on BookMyShow in the Telugu states. This clearly shows the growing fan base of Adivi Sesh. Audiences are eager to watch the film on the big screen. Trade experts believe that Dacoit will give one of the biggest openings in Adivi Sesh's career. The strong advance bookings and positive buzz are clear signs of success. If the movie gets good reviews after release then it may turn into another big hit for the actor.

Malayalam film Clocks Rs.100 Cr, Telugu Version Incoming

Another small budgeted Malayalam film, woven around youths, especially those of +2 students and the life next, is doing unthinkable at the box office. The film is "Vaazha II: Biopic of a Billion Bros", which turned into a surprise box office winner. Released on April 2, the film is already past the ₹100 crore mark. And this is not a star-driven film. It revolves around +2 students, their friendships, confusion about the future, and that transition phase after school. Simple setup. But clearly, it has connected big time with youth. Reports are coming that some Telugu producers are now trying to bring this movie into Telugu, as the original version is going unstoppable at the Box Office. Previously, the delay in the release of such superhit films like Alappuzha Gymkhana ended up in losses for the Telugu version, so literally, they are hurrying. This trend is not new. Recently, Premalu did very well in Telugu too. Without big stars, without heavy promotions, it still



connected because of its relatability. So naturally, distributors are convinced that Vaazha II will repeat the same success in Telugu. Of course, youth-centric content is clearly working, but only when the content is engaging. In recent times, films like Couple Friendly got appreciated but haven't made good money, while Tamil dubbed movies like Youth and With Love, whose originals are superhits, have failed to click in Telugu. Only if the comedy and the portrayals feel real and not forced, these films work; not every Malayalam hit translates the same way at the Telugu box office.

Ram Charan out of State, item song on Hold



It is almost confirmed now that Peddi is not arriving on April 30th as planned, if we look at the factors around it. The makers are already working on a new release date. At the same time, one pending piece is holding things back, which is nothing but the special song. A set has been completed, and everything is ready, but the actress for the song is still not locked. That's where the delay is happening. Meanwhile, the film's leading man, RRR star Ram Charan, is said to have taken it easy. He stepped out of the city and flew to Jamnagar for Anant Ambani's birthday celebrations. Before leaving, he asked the team to finalise the actress so that the shoot could happen quickly once he was back. Because here is the thing. The song shoot is just a two-day job. There were early rumours about Mrunal Thakur coming on board. But it looks like that didn't go through. Reports say her remuneration demand was on the higher side, and the team decided to drop the idea. Then another name started doing rounds, which is of Telugu beauty Manasa Varanasi. But even that is not confirmed yet. So the situation is still unclear as to who will do the hyped Item Song in this movie. On the other side, director Buchi Babu Sana is in Chennai working with AR Rahman on the background score. At the same time, producer Venkata Satish Kilaru is in talks with Netflix regarding the revised release plans. Everything should fall into place in the next few days, most probably.

A Dhurandhar Lesson For Rajamouli



Legendary filmmaker SS Rajamouli is easily the biggest commercial filmmaker we have today. The scale he operates on is different. The kind of world he creates demands huge budgets. And naturally, huge recoveries if his producers have to sustain for a long time. Right now, he is working with Superstar Mahesh Babu on Varanasi, a film being made with a budget that is touching Rs.1000 crore. That itself tells you the game. But here is where things get interesting. Aditya Dhar's masterpiece, Ranveer Singh starrer Dhurandhar 2, despite all the hype, strong content, and sequel advantage, is struggling to reach the Rs.2000 crore mark. It is doing big numbers, no doubt, but that Rs.1700 crore recovery from Part 2 and Rs.1000+ crores recovery from Part 1 isn't a big number as the expected peak hasn't happened. If a film like that couldn't comfortably cross Rs.2000 crore, how easy is it for Varanasi?

Also, if a film like Dhurandhar, made with Rs.250 crores for two parts, makes a total revenue of Rs.3000 crores, how much should Varanasi make? We have seen this before. Even massive films need the right markets. RRR worked globally because it broke into the West, especially the US market. That recall still helps Rajamouli. But relying only on traditional markets might not be enough this time. Films like Dargam made huge money from China. Some Indian films like Baahubali and RRR clicked well in Japan too. That market alone pushed it to a different level. So Rajamouli should focus more on those markets, if the Dhurandhar lesson is anything to teach him. Even trade experts say that China and Japan might have deeper penetration than the West, as Indian content is pretty much liked there, if dubbed well. That's where the real game is.

Supriya's Production Logo: Not Just Design, It's family

A new production house logo usually comes and goes. But some are here to stay. Looks like this lady producer's logo is also going to stay the same way. Supriya Yarlagadda, known as Akkineni Nagarjuna's niece, recently unveiled the logo of SS Creations. At first glance, it looks simple. A grandfather helping his granddaughter walk. Then slowly, his hand spreads across the frame. The screen fills. The title appears in a kumkum shade. Supriya herself revealed that this logo took almost two years to complete. At the same time, her upcoming film Dacoit took on the production sets. Each element in this logo animation has meaning. The kanduva represents Akkineni Nageswara Rao's panche. The kumkum tone

comes from her grandmother. The little girl in the visual represents her daughter. Even the background score is not random. It is picked from Gayam, a film produced by her father. If you look at it that way, this is not just branding, but it is a memory. In Telugu cinema, we have seen production houses carry on the legacy. The likes of Ramanaidu Studios, Geetha Arts, Vyjayanthi Movies, Annapurna Studios, all of them stand for something beyond films, and their logos also speak volumes. We have to see if SS Creations also builds that kind of identity? While the emotional detailing connects instantly, it's the films that define the banner, so everything depends on Dacoit's performance.



Can Chiru's Vishwambhara Beat Ramayana?

Right now, all eyes are on two big VFX-heavy films. On one side, Ramayana, made by Bollywood, with a budget of almost ₹4000 crores, is getting right, left and centre by the audience for its VFX, though they are very good. On the other side, Vishwambhara, starring Megastar Chiranjeevi, is getting delayed from a year or so regarding producing the VFX only. Ranbir Kapoor's Ramayana, directed by Nitesh Tiwari, is mounted on a massive scale with a huge budget, international technicians and backed by a top VFX studio like DNEG. Definitely, this is one of the most ambitious Indian films ever in terms of visuals, but the teaser also faced criticism. Some felt the VFX looked AI-generated, and some said it felt like a video game. That's where the comparison begins.

Vishwambhara, directed by Vassishtha, is also a fantasy film relying heavily on visuals. The film is said to have a strong mythological touch mixed with commercial elements. For Chiranjeevi, this is a crucial film after a mixed phase, and the expectation is that it delivers both



visually and emotionally. However, after the teaser misfired, the producers took more than 2 years to crack the next, but nothing is coming out. Now, here is the real discussion. Adipurush had scale, but failed due to poor visual quality and lack of believability. On the other hand, films like Baahubali worked not just because of VFX, but because the world felt real. So naturally, the question is simple. Can Vishwambhara get that balance right? For Vishwambhara, beating Ramayana in pure VFX quality might be tough. But beating it in aesthetics, emotional connect, and believability? That is very much possible. At the end of the day, it's not about who spends more. It's about who convinces more.

Allu Arvind Pushing Many Others Into Production

Mega producer Allu Arvind hasn't produced a solid direct film after his maiden banner Geetha Arts delivered a stupendous movie like "Ala Vaikuntapurramlo". However, they have funded and acquired a lot of films for the banner. But then, Arvind encouraged the likes of Bunny Vasu, SKN, and Dheeraj Mogilineni by funding their movies. It looks like he wants to fund many others in the same way and make them producers now.

Reports are coming that Allu Arvind wants to create as many producers as possible, by lending them money, and taking a short interest rate, while distributing the produced film through his channels. Currently, he's said to be transforming those who have associated with Aha OTT as producers, as they are coming up with a



movie that will have two key people from Aha as producers.

On the other hand, he has given an investment for Ajith Thakur and BVS Ravi to produce their debut movie with Allari Nares, which happens to be a remake. Earlier, Allu Arvind similarly funded Bunny Vas and Dheeraj Mogilineni too, and continues to do so, but somehow the GA2 banner was diluted now.

Many are wondering why Arvind wants to fund a lot of producers into the industry. But this could be seen as a content-creating mechanism. Rather than making many films on his banner by hiring a big team like Dharma Productions, maybe Arvind is empowering other players, such that his Geetha Artist distribution and exhibition circuits get a lot of feed.

Hanu Raghavapudi Fauzi Progresses with Dual Units

Fauzi is becoming one of the most awaited films in Prabhas' career. The movie team is working very hard to complete the film as early as possible. Their main goal is to release the movie soon after the official announcement. To speed up the process, the makers have planned smartly. They have created a second unit to handle parallel shooting. This helps in saving time and keeps the production moving without delay. While one team focuses on important scenes another team is working on action sequences at the same time. It is also reported that Director Hanu Raghavapudi is personally handling the key scenes with the main actors. These scenes are very important for the story and emotions. At the same time the action episodes are being shot separately by another unit. Fauzi is said to be a strong emotional drama. The story will focus more on feelings and characters rather than only action. Hanu has written a deep and meaningful script that puts Prabhas in



a powerful role. Fans can expect a different side of him in this film.

The movie stars Imanvi as the female lead. The cast also includes well known actors like Anupam Kher, Mithun Chakraborty and Jayaprada. Rahul Ravindran and Chaitra J Achar are also playing important roles. The film is produced by Mythri Movie Makers on a very large scale. The budget is said to be around 700 crore which makes it one of the biggest projects in Indian cinema. Music is composed by Vishal Chandrasekhar which adds more value to the film.

Brazil's Laura Cardoso scripts history, picks 9-wicket haul in a T20I

Gaborone, April 9 : Brazil's Laura Cardoso produced a historic bowling performance to rewrite the record books in T20I cricket, registering the best figures ever in the format during the BCA Kalahari Women's T20I Tournament 2026. The Brazilian skipper returned extraordinary figures of 9/4 in just three overs against Lesotho, becoming the first player across men's and women's T20Is to claim nine wickets in a single innings.



Her remarkable burst began early, with a hat-trick in her second over, setting the tone for Brazil's dominance. She followed it up with four more wickets in her next over to race to seven scalps, before adding two more in her third over to complete an unprecedented nine-wicket haul. Lesotho's innings folded

for just 13 in 6.2 overs, with Marianne Artur claiming the only wicket not taken by Cardoso, sealing a crushing 189-run victory for Brazil. Earlier, Brazil had posted an imposing total of 202, built on solid contributions from Roberta Avery, who made 48 off 35 balls, and Monnike Machado, who remained unbeaten on 69 off 41 deliveries.

Brazil have been in dominant form throughout the tournament. In a previous fixture, they outclassed Zambia Women by 174 runs in a comprehensive all-round display. Cardoso led from the front with a quickfire half-century, while Laura Agatha struck 62 as the pair stitched together a crucial 105-run partnership to guide the side to 200/5. Zambia's response in that match faltered early and never recovered, as they were bowled out for just 26 in 15.1 overs. Maria Ribeiro starred with a five-wicket haul, while Cardoso contributed with three wickets to dismantle the batting lineup.

With commanding performances in both batting and bowling departments, Brazil have emerged as a formidable force in the tournament.

High tension permeated the cool air at the Arun Jaitley Stadium here on Wednesday as Delhi Capitals and Gujarat Titans engaged in a high-scoring cliffhanger in the Indian Premier League. Twists and turns unfolded at breakneck speed, with Shubman Gill's Titans prevailing by one run in the end. In response to GT's 210 for four, DC finished on 209 for eight. With two runs required off the final ball, David Miller swung hard at a short ball by Prasadidh Krishna. But the southpaw failed to make contact, and as he and Kuldeep Yadav scampered for a single, the latter was found short at the striker's end after wicketkeeper Jos Buttler hit the stumps. Off the penultimate ball, Miller had pulled Prasadidh towards fine-leg and had an easy run on offer, but he chose to stay at his end and face the final delivery. The South African may rue that decision in hindsight.

For GT, leg-spinner Rashid Khan was sensational with figures of 4-0-

17-3. Gill, Buttler and Washington Sundar also played their roles with fine half-centuries earlier in the evening. That DC came this close was down to K.L. Rahul's 92 and Miller's late heroics. The host appeared to have run out of steam with 36 runs to get off the last two overs and four wickets in hand. But Miller, having retired hurt at the start of the 14th over due to a hand injury before coming back in the 17th, hadn't resigned to that idea. He walloped Mohammed Siraj for two sixes and a four in the penultimate over, whittling down the requirement to 13 off six balls. In a game where runs were aplenty,



Rashid lent a decisive hand with crucial strikes.

The ace leggie had Nitish Rana caught at long-off, thanks to an excellent grab by B. Sai Sudharsan in the 10th over, and then cleaned up the in-form Sameer Rizvi with a masterful wrong 'un. A little later, Axar Patel became Rashid's third victim on the night. It eventually condemned DC to defeat by the narrowest of margins.

Andhra Open 2026: Khalin Joshi extends lead to three shots on Day 3

Visakhapatnam: Khalin Joshi carded a one-under 70 to extend his lead to three shots at seven-under 206 after round three of the INR 1 crore Andhra Open 2026 at the East Point Golf Club in Visakhapatnam on Thursday. The Bengaluru-based 33-year-old Khalin (68-68-70), a six-time winner, who opened the week at the PGTI event with rounds of 68 and 68, now carries a comfortable advantage into the final round. The Dubai-based Yash Majmudar (71-69-69) and Delhi's Rashid Khan (70-72-67) were tied second at four-under 209. Majmudar returned a 69, while Rashid produced the day's best round of 67 to move into contention. Joshi's round was defined by a strong recovery after a shaky start that included three three-putts early

on. He bounced back with a tap-in birdie on the seventh after his approach shot left him inches from the hole, and then delivered a crucial eagle on the par-5 12th, where he sank a 15-footer. "I didn't get off to a good start, but I stayed patient and trusted my ball-striking. I'm driving it well and hitting my irons solid, so I just need to keep the putter going. I'm proud of the way I handled myself on the course despite the poor start and fought back on the back nine. Going into the final round, I've been in such situations before, so I know that I just need to be in my zone and play good golf shots, and that should take care of everything else," Joshi said. The par-5 seventh has been adjusted to a 477-yard par-4, bringing the course par down to 71.

Majmudar, a San Diego University graduate, continued to impress with his unconventional one-handed chipping technique and looked set to close within two shots before a bogey on the final hole dropped him back into a tie for second.

Rashid, a two-time Asian Tour winner, surged into contention with a strong penultimate round of 67, which included an eagle, five birdies, and three bogeys. Kolkata's Viraj Madappa (69-71-71), the youngest Indian winner on the Asian Tour and a winner on the DP World PGTI last season, was tied fourth at two-under 211 alongside Greater Noida's Arjun Sharma (71-70-70), who has been one of the consistent performers on the DP World PGTI.

KKR brace for Shami challenge in LSG clash

Out of tune and bereft of ideas, Kolkata Knight Riders may ring in sweeping changes in search of their first win of the season when they face a Mohammed Shami-inspired Lucknow Super Giants in the IPL, here on Thursday. Shami is fresh from his outstanding 2/9 against Sunrisers Hyderabad, where he dismissed Abhishek Sharma and Travis Head in successive overs -- the same duo who had battered KKR the other day. The 'local' man Shami, a fine exponent of straight seam bowling and movement, will relish the conditions at Eden Gardens and could emerge as a key threat for a KKR who are yet to win after three matches. A glimpse

of what to expect was seen on Monday when PBKS' Australian speedster Xavier Bartlett showed how effective straight seam bowling can be on a grassy Eden pitch, blowing away KKR's top order by dismissing overseas duo Finn Allen and Cameron Green in the space of three balls. From 16/2 in two overs, KKR were fortunate to escape with a point after their match against Punjab Kings was washed out. Geographic Reference Because of a trough stretching from Gangetic West Bengal to the Gulf of Mannar, rain has been a constant over the past three days and is forecast around late Wednesday and early Thursday.



However, being a late 7.30pm start the match is unlikely to be affected much, which should lift the mood. Coming back to the contest, while Shami will be a major threat in the power play, tackling the rest of LSG's attack including Prince Yadav

and mystery spinner Digvish Rathi could also be decisive. LSG's strength lies in their power play bowling, something evident when they reduced both Delhi Capitals and Sunrisers Hyderabad to identical scores of 26/4 early on.

IPL 2026: BCCI reveals phase 2 of Fan Parks in 30 cities across 18 states & 1 UT

Mumbai, April 9 : The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced Phase 2 of the IPL Fan Parks 2026, aimed at delivering the exciting IPL experience to 30 cities across 18 states and 1 Union Territory, thereby broadening the league's nationwide reach. The Fan Parks will take place across six weekends, from April 18-19 to May 23-24, providing fans in various regions with an opportunity to experience the IPL in a vibrant, community-oriented environment.

Several cities such as Puthuppally (Kerala), Mangalagiri (Andhra Pradesh), Chamba and Mandi (Himachal Pradesh), Golaghat and Silchar (Assam), and Imphal (Manipur) will host the IPL Fan Parks for the first time, expanding the initiative to new regions and audiences.

IPL 2026: When Rashid's back-to-basics masterclass turned tide in GT's favour

New Delhi, April 9 : The numbers from Wednesday night's edge of the seat thriller in IPL 2026 at the Arun Jaitley Stadium tell the story of a batting carnage. Delhi Capitals and Gujarat Titans combined to make 419 runs, including 39 fours and 21 sixes being hit. DC's spinners were at the receiving end of some blazing big-hitting from Shubman Gill, Jos Buttler and Washington Sundar to concede 97 runs in eight overs at an economy rate of 12.12. But one man refused to follow the same script -- Gujarat Titans leg-spinner Rashid Khan, who threw a spanner in DC's batting plans by picking 3-17 in four overs at an economy rate of 4.25 and shifted the game in his team's favour to eventually prevail by one run.

The signs of Rashid having a huge say in the game came in the fifth over of the power-play, when he beat KL Rahul on the outside edge with a leg-break spinning away sharply. But it was when DC crossed 100 in 9.4 overs that Rashid finally decided to have his say. Nitish Rana miscued a googly from Rashid to a diving B Sai Sudharsan running in from long-off, just after he managed to survive an lbw review. The most telling effect, though, came when Sameer Rizvi -- DC's saviour both of their successful chases -- was bamboozled by a googly spinning in to castle him through the gate for a golden duck. The Rizvi-Rashid match-up was one of the intriguing sub-plots in the clash and the leg-spinner prevailed in it in an emphatic fashion. Rashid would sign off from the night by foxing Axar Patel with yet another googly which gripped and spun away, as the batter sliced to extra cover. Each of Rashid's three scalps fell for single-digit scores and on the googly. The hallmark of Rashid's bowling has



always been the ability to attack the stumps relentlessly, and not giving batters much room to break free. With the quicker pace he bowls, it becomes difficult to send the ball over boundary ropes, which Rana, Rizvi and Axar realised. IPL 2026 has been witness to Rashid being back to his best self after getting only ten and nine wickets in last two seasons, apart from the economy rate having an alarming spike. Rashid being taken apart frequently by batters in the last two years had a lot to do with him pushing through the pain to play the 2023 ODI World Cup and later underwent a back surgery that would rule him out until early 2024.

"I was told to get a back surgery after IPL 2023, but after that season, the doctor told me, 'You need a surgery, you can't just keep playing with that.' But then, we had the 2023 ODI World Cup and I told him 'I wanna play this World Cup.' I think I pushed myself a lot in that World Cup and after that, it was really bad -- even I was not able to walk after the tournament. But that's where I had the surgery and after the surgery, I was very, very careful with my back," Rashid later said in the post-match press conference. Though the surgery repaired the structural damage, Rashid's pace dropped, lengths became wayward and the zip -- so essential for his ability to hurry batters and

deny them room -- went missing. "That affected my bowling action, the release and everything. So, I was trying to be careful, but with that, I missed a little bit of my rhythm. I was trying to bowl slow for 2-3-4 months, where I was not in that shape, like, before the surgery. "After having a bad season (in 2025) I thought, 'okay, what's wrong now? Where I'm, what's the thing I'm missing? I felt like it was the whole rhythm, from starting to the finishing. What it was not allowing me was that there was a bit of pain in the back still. I was scared of, like, what's gonna happen if I push it again?" Giving himself time off after IPL 2025 to solely work on his fitness came as a big blessing for Rashid. "So, I worked on my core and tried my best to make it as strong as possible and then go on with full energy. When I had a couple of three good months off, I had a good hundred competition in the UK. "So since that, things got started again. But more importantly, I try my best to just work on my fitness. That's something which I can improve and that allows my body to bowl with full rhythm." The data from Wednesday's game throws light on how Rashid was at his best self -- of the 24 balls Rashid bowled, 11 landed on a good length -- yielding him two wickets at an economy of just 2.18. Even when he dropped short, it was more pitched on the back-of-

the-length area. Where once Rashid may have loaded up with variations, he stuck to his basics and dished out a masterclass in it. "Sometimes you think far ahead of the things which are not going to happen soon. If you're batting, you think about your bowling and that's something which is like you're putting an extra pressure on yourself already. For me, it's like there will be a time when you get a good wicket or a bad wicket to bowl on, and a flat wicket. "But the more important thing is, when you're conceding runs on those wickets, you have to see your line and length. That's something which is more important than anything else you think about it. I feel, in the last two games, I think I bowled well, but where I conceded runs, it was just, like, the length I have missed. I shouldn't really think about, like, okay, what's the result, but the result is like if I hit the right area, the right thing is going to happen. "If I bowl badly, anybody can hit me. So I feel as a bowler, you should think about, like, okay, what's the toughest ball I can bowl on this wicket to make it harder for the batter? If you're making the job easier for the batter where he wants, then I don't think so on these wickets and boundaries, there's any good enough total to defend. So I feel it's more important that you have the control over where you want to bowl," he elaborated. The scorecard will draw the fans' eyes to the fifties made by batters from both teams. But those who watched the game closely know whose four overs really set up GT's first win of IPL 2026. On a night built for a batting spectacle, the difference between winning and losing was, in the end, the distance between every-one else and Rashid sticking to his basics.

TANISHQ MARKS A NEW CHAPTER IN NATURAL GEMSTONE CATEGORY BY ROPING IN RUKMINI VASANTH AS THE FACE OF ITS NEW CAMPAIGN FOR SOUTH

As we approach the auspicious festival of Akshaya Tritiya, Tanishq, India's leading jewellery brand from the House of Tata, unveils its latest launch in the natural gemstones category featuring Rukmini Vasanth. In South India, gemstones have always been more than adornment, they are tradition, identity, and everyday elegance. From temple jewellery influences to vibrant celebrations, colored gemstones are deeply woven into the region's aesthetic language. The South has embraced the richness of rubies, emeralds, and other vivid stones as a staple, and Rukmini Vasanth embodies the modern South Indian jewellery as Tanishq's new face in the south. Effortlessly elegant and refreshingly modern, she embodies the spirit of Hues, the latest collection where individuality meets timeless grace. Hues collection reimagines the way gold is experienced this Akshaya Tritiya, moving beyond traditional, investment-led purchases to jewellery that is expressive and meant to be worn. The new Hues collection takes centre stage with a focused design language that celebrates contemporary colour stories in gold, crafted for those seeking distinctive yet affordable fine jew-



ellery, starting at an accessible price of Rs.35,000. Bringing together sculptural forms, radiant gemstones, and precision cuts that reveal the depth in every hue. Each piece places colour at its core, crafted for the woman who embraces jewellery as a reflection of her mood, style, and spirit. With a renewed focus on natural-colored gemstones, the collection deepens Tanishq's presence in a category the region already values, pairing contemporary design with timeless preference. The use of smooth, cabochon-cut stones introduces a sculpted, luminous quality, while layered colour compositions and techniques such as bunching and slicing add depth, texture, and a sense of movement, resulting in jewellery that feels dynamic and distinctly modern. Bringing together a curated selection of natural coloured gemstones such as emeralds, amethysts, citrines, tourmalines, and tanzanites, among others,

each stone is sourced with expertise and selected through rigorous quality benchmarks for its exceptional colour, clarity, and intrinsic character. This lends the collection a sense of rarity and authenticity, while ensuring both beauty and durability for everyday wear. The range spans statement neck pieces & bangles for special occasions, alongside lighter earrings, rings, and pendant sets designed for everyday elegance, offering a versatile wardrobe that balances the enduring value of gold with the vibrance of contemporary design. At the heart of this narrative is Rukmini Vasanth, introduced as the face of the campaign and a symbol of the contemporary South Indian woman. Marking the beginning of a long-term collaboration with Tanishq, her association signals a shared vision that extends beyond a single season. Effortlessly elegant and refreshingly modern, she embodies the spirit of Hues, where individuality meets timeless grace. Brought to life through a series of striking images, the campaign captures Rukmini in moments that celebrate both strength and softness. Styled to highlight the vibrancy and sculptural beauty of each piece, the visuals create a seamless interplay of colour, form, and emotion.

The story behind the name Visakhapatnam has many versions

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Visakhapatnam, April 9
Hidden within the folds of its verdant hills and picturesque valleys there is a bustling city, an industrial centre, with heritage buildings, ancient temples, Buddhists monuments, natural wonders, golden beaches, art, history, culture... Vizag is all this and more. The perfect tourist destination, come explore this exceptional city and her rich surroundings, the 'jewel on the East Coast'. Once a small fishing village, the city today is a busy port with the distinctive advantage of a natural harbour. Its geographical advantage has made this city the headquarters of

the Eastern Naval Command of the Indian Navy. In addition, a number of major industries, ship building yard, a huge dry dock, a mega oil refinery, software giants, a massive steel and power plant make Vizag one of the modern faces of India. At the same time, Vizag has nestled within her, a rich legacy of ancient and historical sites of religious, cultural and natural significance. And all this progress and preservation of heritage has taken place in the midst of the awe-inspiring Eastern Ghats with the hills on one side and the azure waters of Bay of Bengal on the other. One popular belief is that the town was named after

Buddhist princess Visakha (5th to 6th Century BC), and is referred to in the Buddhist gathas. Another similar theory attributes the name to a Buddhist monk, Vaisakhi. The Chinese traveller, Hiuen Tsang visited Andhra during 639-40 AD. In his travelogue he mentioned the name of 'Visakha kingdom', where Hinayana Buddhism was prevalent. Another school of thought attributes the name derived from the God of valour, Visakeshwara. This is supported by the strong belief that there lies submerged a shore temple built by Kuluttonga Chola of the Lord just off the shoreline. Then again, the name is credited to a



Muslim saint, Ishaq Madina, revered by all, the Hindus and Muslims, especially those who lived

topography; 'isaka' is the Telugu word for sand. The vast sand expanses could have contributed to the name. Historically, Visakhapatnam was considered to be a part of Dandaka Aranya. Later, part of the Kalinga Empire, it was conquered by Asoka in about 260 BC. In about the 11th century AD, the Simhachalam Temple was constructed. The 15th century saw the reign of Krishnadeva Raya. The next significant happening was the establishment of the Dutch colony in 1735. Later, in 1765, Visakhapatnam became a part of the Northern Circars, initially under French control, only to be expelled by the

British later. The city has evolved and flourished under the British. Prior to that, Visakhapatnam has witnessed the reigns of various kingdoms - Asoka, Pallavas, Cholas and Gangas. Under the British, development was manifold. Like the establishment of the Andhra medical College (1902), railway connection to Madras and Calcutta (1904), the Andhra University (1926), Port (1933), Eastern Naval Command (1947), and clubs like the Golf Club and Waltair Club. Post independence, in 1949, Scindia Shipyard (HSL) was commissioned, HPCL (Caltex) came up (1957) and in 1981, Visakhapatnam Steel

Plant opened its gates. Now there is a blossoming film industry, chemical industries and the IT parks adding to Vizag's progress. The unique topography, ancient history, cultural heritage and adaptability to modern trends have given Vizag an edge over many other destinations. In tune with preferential tourism, Vizag has temple tourism, beach tourism, heritage tourism, Buddhist tourism, eco-tourism, medical tourism, educational tourism, cuisine tourism, adventure sport tourism, river tourism, culture based tourism... this shore city has all this and more. Come; explore the enigma that is Vizag.

Housing Census in Andhra Pradesh from May 1; self-enumeration to start on April 16



By Skyline Staff Reporter
Vijayawada, April 9
Andhra Pradesh will undertake the houselisting and housing census from May 1 to May 30, with a self-enumeration window scheduled from April 16 to April 30, as part of India's nationwide census exercise beginning April 1. Interacting with The Hindu, J. Nivas, Director of Census Operations and Citizen Registration for the State, said the exercise marks a significant shift, as the Census will be conducted digitally for the first time. The introduction of self-enumeration is a key feature aimed at enabling citizens to fill

in their own household details, thereby reducing the burden on field enumerators. Citizens can access the self-enumeration facility through the official portal, where they can log in using their mobile number, identify their location on the map, fill in household details and submit the information. A Self-Enumeration ID will be generated, which must be shared with the enumerator for validation. Enumerators will continue door-to-door visits using the HLO mobile application, designed to function even in offline areas. Any discrepancies in self-enumerated data will be verified and corrected during field visits.

Houselisting blocks will be mapped using a web-based geo-referencing system to ensure comprehensive coverage. The State has deployed about 1.08 lakh enumerators, including a 10% reserve workforce. Extensive training programmes have been conducted, with district-level sessions already completed and further training for field trainers scheduled between April 9 and 22. Highlighting data security, Mr. Nivas said strict safeguards are in place to ensure privacy, with no unauthorised access to individual data permitted. The population census is scheduled for February next year.

78 mandals in Andhra Pradesh exceed 40°C

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Vijayawada, March 30
At least 78 mandals in Andhra Pradesh recorded temperatures above 40°C, with the day's highest maximum of 42.4°C reported in Gudur, Nellore district, on Sunday (March 29, 2026). The Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) had issued alerts for the districts of Alluri Sitharama Raju, Polavaram, Parvathipuram Manyam, Vizianagaram, and NTR, as heatwave conditions were likely in 87 out of 671 mandals. Of these, four mandals experienced severe heatwave conditions. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) declares a heatwave

when the maximum temperature is both above 40°C and 4.5° above normal. A severe heat wave is declared when the temperature is above 40°C and 6.5° above normal. Above-40°C temperatures were recorded in

Markapuram, Chittoor, Nellore, Tirupati and Kadapa. Meanwhile, temperatures may come down in the State next week, as the IMD forecasts light showers, thunderstorms, and lightning in Coastal Andhra Pradesh and

Royalaseema until April 5. According to the IMD, there are two upper air cyclonic circulations, one over Royalaseema and neighbourhood and another over South Interior Karnataka and neighbourhood at 5.8 km

above mean sea level. There is a trough/wind discontinuity from the above cyclonic circulation over north Odisha to south Tamil Nadu across south Chhattisgarh, Telangana, and Interior Karnataka at 0.9 km above mean sea level, the IMD said. APSDMA Managing Director Prakhar Jain advised people to avoid standing under trees, in fields and in open areas during thunderstorms and lightning. Even as there are thunderstorm alerts, a few districts, including Vizianagaram, Parvathipuram Manyam and Polavaram, may experience intense heatwave conditions on Monday, according to the APSDMA.



Pawan Kalyan urges students to focus on energy science at AU centenary fest

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Visakhapatnam, April 9
Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan on Wednesday called upon the youth to rise above community barriers and embrace a unified national ideology to drive the country's progress. An air of festivity pervaded the Andhra University Engineering College grounds as the valedictory of the three-day cultural fest, held on Wednesday evening (April 8), drew crowds in large numbers who thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Adding to the festive mood, the



dance performances by university students left the audience spellbound. The excitement further increased with the presence of actor-turned-Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan as the

chief guest, making the evening even more lively. Building on this enthusiasm, Pawan Kalyan, participating in the event, wished the students of Andhra University to achieve success in all fields and emerge as leaders. "Andhra University produced several distinguished leaders, and you should also bring laurels to the institution like them," he said, addressing the students. "Your aim should be social service. The knowledge acquired by you should serve society," said the Deputy Chief Minister, exhorting the students to dream big and strive to make it a reality.

Maize and sorghum purchasing centers should be established

Details of undistributed pensions should be provided every month.

ZP Chairperson Majji Srinivasa Rao in the Zilla Parishad general meeting

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Vizianagaram, April 09:
Zilla Parishad Chairman Majji Srinivasa Rao said that the government should purchase maize at the minimum support price to prevent losses to the farmers of the district. Although the government has announced a support price of Rs 2400 per quintal, farmers are losing money by selling it at low prices through intermediaries in the open market, and he urged the government to take a decision on the purchase as the season has begun. On Thursday, the Zilla Parishad general meeting was held under the chairmanship of the chairman at the Zilla Parishad meeting hall. In this meeting, a review was held on the departments of agriculture, employment guarantee, rural water supply, DRDA, ICDS, electricity department, housing construction and other departments. In-charge of maize procurement, Collector Sedu Madhavan said that maize is being grown in 45,000 hectares in the district, and about 3.15 lakh metric tons



of crop will be produced. A letter has been written to the government for the establishment of procurement centers, which is under the government's consideration. Legislative Council members Penumatsa Suresh Babu and Indukuri Raghuraj said that maize is the second most cultivated crop in the district after rice, and the government should immediately set up maize procurement centers to support the farmers. As part of the review of the Employment Guarantee Scheme, the Chairman said that the public representatives should be made aware of the new law, G Ram Ji. He said that everyone should be aware of the changes brought in the new law. PDs of the two districts, Sarada Devi

and Ramachandra Rao, explained the issues in the new law. He said that the new law will come into effect from May 1, but there is still a need for clarity on the issues included in the scheme. Responding, the Chairman suggested that all those who want to work should be provided with work and that basic facilities and medical facilities should be provided to the employed workers. DRDA advised PD to submit mandal-wise lists detailing the reasons for NTR Bharosa pensions distributed by DRDA and how much they are being returned every month. When member Gara Tavvudu questioned whether pensions were specifically sanctioned in

Gajapathinagaram constituency, PD said that no new pension had been sanctioned except in Spouse Kota. The chairman suggested that the summer plan should be well-planned through rural water supply, and that since the rule of special officers has come in place of sarpanches, people do not know who to talk to regarding the drinking water problem, and that the details and phone numbers of the special officers should be displayed in every village so that everyone knows. As part of the ICDS review, Kapu Corporation Chairperson Palavalasa Yashasvi said that in some places Anganwadi centers are being run on rent in the houses of Anganwadi workers, and that these should be converted into government buildings and this matter should be examined. In-charge Collector Sethu Madhavan said that the PD should identify the centers located in rented houses. Keeping in mind the summer, if there is a disruption in the power supply, immediate

corrective measures should be taken, water supply should not be disrupted, and a control room should be set up in each division. Araku MP Gumma Tanuja Rani said that for the needs of the people, for the development of the tribals, 40 works with a budget of Rs 2 crore have been sent from her MP lads, but the works have not been grounded yet, and she has no answer when the people of her constituency ask questions, and she asked the District Collector to respond and start them. Manyam Collector N. Prabhakar Reddy said that administrative approval has been given to those works and the works will be completed without fail. The Chairman said that a meeting should be organized with the officials of all the departments and that the MP as the Chairman of Disha will review and the Collector should take this matter seriously. Donkada Ramakrishna, Library Director, Zilla Parishad CEO Satyanarayana, officials of both districts, ZPTCs, and MPPs participated in this meeting.

'Kalaripayattu' makes it to the top 20

Rare recognition for Neelima Bogadi on the world stage

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Visakhapatnam, April 9
Our country has received a rare honor in the 'World IP Day - 2026' global video competition organized by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), a United Nations agency. In particular, the video 'Kalaripayattu' created by Dr. Neelima Bogadi, faculty of Damodaram Sanjeevaiah National Law University (DSNLU), has made it to the top-20 worldwide. It is noteworthy that this is the only video from India that has been shortlisted out of 182 entries received from 43 countries. The video is titled 'Game Changers..IP Powering Sports Innovation'. This video explains how our country's ancient martial art 'Kalaripayattu' can be protected through intellectual property rights. Similarly, the winner of this competition will be announced through the votes cast by the public through 'HTTPS://WIPD'2026' video Competition. WPO. INT/Entry /Vote/ELSEPMLOVO'. In addition,



Neelima urged all Indians to vote and support it to bring international recognition to Indian heritage and our ancient sports. They should check the link above to vote. Neelima appealed that she hopes that you will provide your support to make Indian culture win on the world stage.