

SKYLINE

ENGLISH DAILY

Simultaneously published from Vijayawada, Tirupati, Visakhapatnam & Hyderabad

Vol. 24 Issue: 102

Saturday 11, April 2026

Vijayawada 8 Pages Rs.1.00

Bhogapuram International airport set for inauguration in July



By Skyline Staff Reporter Vijayawada, April 10 The date for the inauguration of Bhogapuram International Airport has been finalised, marking a historic milestone for North Andhra and a major

development for Andhra Pradesh. The airport, expected to open in the first week of July, is nearing completion, with construction in its final stages. Chief Minister (Contd. on pg.2)

Andhra Pradesh sets target of 10 lakh PNG connections in six months

Amaravati, April 10 (Skyline Correspondent): Andhra Pradesh has set a target of 10 lakh Piped Natural Gas (PNG) connections within the next six months. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Friday emphasised the need to promote the use of PNG as a preferred alternative.

Reviewing the domestic gas supply with officials at the secretariat on Friday, the Chief Minister directed officials and oil companies to address domestic gas supply challenges arising due to global conflicts.

Chandrababu Naidu instructed officials to create awareness among beneficiaries of the Deepam scheme about the advantages of switching to PNG. He noted that beneficiaries who opt for PNG will continue to receive the subsidy provided under



the Deepam scheme, and orders to this effect should be issued immediately.

He also stressed the importance of clearly informing beneficiaries that they can retain their scheme benefits even after migrating to PNG connections.

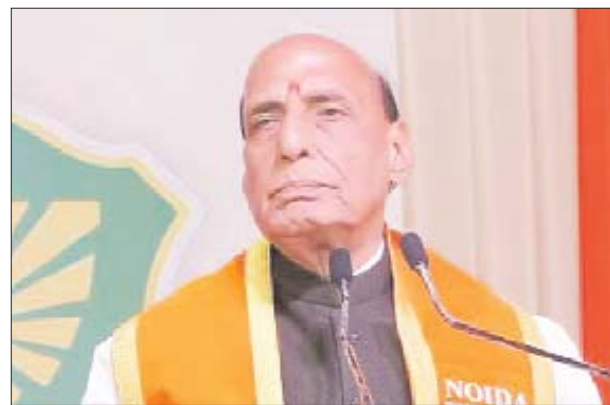
Under the Deepam 2.0 scheme, launched on October 31, 2024, three free LPG cylinders per year are given to every eligible household. Part of the "Super Six" promises, the scheme aims to reduce financial burdens on families, improve (Contd. on pg.2)

Pakistani youth using their energy to fuel terrorism: Rajnath Singh

Noida, April 10 : Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday targeted Pakistan, saying that some of the youth in that country are using their energy to fuel terrorism.

Speaking at the Convocation ceremony of Noida International University in Noida, the Defence Minister said, "When India's youth channel their energy correctly, they create technology that makes the world better. On the other hand, some Pakistani youth are using this same energy to fuel terrorism."

He said youth are indeed an inexhaustible reservoir of energy. "This very energy forms the foundation of creation and devel-



opment, and if it goes astray, it can also become the cause of destruction," he said.

India's rich cultural heritage plays a crucial role in guiding our youth in the right direction, he said. The Defence Minister called upon the youth to achieve their dreams

Justice Yashwant Varma of Allahabad HC resigns

New Delhi, April 10 : Justice Yashwant Varma of the Allahabad High Court has tendered his resignation with immediate effect to President Droupadi Murmu, bringing an abrupt end to his tenure amid ongoing impeachment proceedings.

In his letter, Justice Varma said, "I do not propose to burden your august office with the reasons which have constrained me to submit this missive," adding that "it is with deep anguish" that he was stepping down from the office of a Judge of the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad. "It has been an honour to serve in this office," the letter read.

A copy of the resignation



was also marked to Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant.

Justice Varma has been at the centre of controversy since burnt cash was allegedly discovered on March 14, 2025, in an out-house at the official residence allotted to him during his tenure as a judge of the Delhi High Court. Notices of impeachment,

backed by 145 Lok Sabha members and 63 Rajya Sabha members, were moved in both Houses of Parliament in July 2025. Subsequently, the Lok Sabha Speaker constituted a three-member enquiry committee under the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968, to examine the charges. (Contd. on pg.2)

Made indelible contributing to Bihar's development: PM congratulates Nitish on RS oath



New Delhi, April 10 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday congratulated Bihar Chief Minister and JD(U) supremo Nitish Kumar after he took oath as a member of the Rajya Sabha.

In a post on X, PM Modi said, "His commitment to good governance has been appreciated everywhere. He has made an indelible contribution to the development of Bihar."

He further praised Nitish Kumar for being "one of the most experienced leaders in the country". The Prime Minister expressed happiness at Kumar's return to Parliament. "It will be a

great pleasure to see him in Parliament once again. He has also served for many years as a Member of Parliament and Union Minister," he said.

PM Modi also exhibited confidence that the Bihar Chief Minister's long political experience "will further enhance the dignity of Parliament".

"Heartiest congratulations to him on taking oath as a Rajya Sabha MP, and heaps of best wishes for his upcoming term," the Prime Minister said.

Notably, Nitish Kumar's oath as a member of the Rajya Sabha marked a significant shift in his (Contd. on pg.2)

Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu Assures Irrigation Boost for Srikakulam, Highlights Neradi Barrage Progress

By Skyline Staff Reporter Srikakulam April 10 Union Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu has reiterated the Centre and state government's commitment to transforming Srikakulam into a prosperous, agriculture-driven region by ensuring irrigation water security. He emphasized that effective utilization of Vamsadhara River waters remains a top priority for the alliance government.

Addressing the long-pending Neradi Barrage issue, the minister said efforts have been ongoing since the establishment of the Vamsadhara Water Disputes Tribunal in 2010 to resolve disputes with Odisha. He noted that a



gazette notification has now been issued based on the tribunal's verdict, paving the way for progress. With the BJP government in Odisha, he expressed confidence that

coordination between the Centre and both states would expedite the project. He announced that work on the Neradi Barrage is expected to begin soon. Rammohan

Naidu also shared key development updates for the district. He highlighted the establishment of a new railway zone benefiting the Uddanam region, (Contd. on pg.2)

Kadapa Student Murder Sparks Outrage; Minister Savita Assures Strict Action

By Skyline Staff Reporter Vijayawada, April 10: A shocking incident in Kadapa has triggered widespread outrage across Andhra Pradesh after a young student was brutally murdered, allegedly by a man who claimed to be in love with her. The incident, which took place in Khajipet mandal, has sent shockwaves through the region and raised serious



concerns about women's safety. According to reports, the accused, Auvula Venkatesh from Anjaneyakottalu village, had been harassing the girl and pressuring her to marry him. When she ??? his proposal, he attacked her in a gruesome manner and killed her by slitting her throat. Police acted swiftly and arrested the ????? within hours, help-

AP Government Releases Rs.2,950 Crore, Brings Relief to Retired Employees and Teachers



By Skyline Staff Reporter Vijayawada, April 10 The Andhra Pradesh government has provided significant relief to retired employees and teachers by accelerating the long-pending payment of their dues. Under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, the government has taken decisive steps to clear arrears that have been pending for several years. As part of this initiative, the government released Rs.2,950 crore in a single day, marking a

major push toward settling outstanding payments. These funds are being used to clear gratuity and surrender leave bills, and the amounts are being directly credited into the bank accounts of beneficiaries, ensuring transparency and speed. The decision to expedite payments came after the Chief Minister gave the green signal to prioritize employee dues. Following this, the Finance Department, led by Finance Minister (Contd. on pg.2)

Nara Lokesh Inspires Students at Graduation, urges Youth to focus on Goals over Trends



By Skyline Staff Reporter Bengaluru, April 10 Andhra Pradesh IT and Education Minister Nara Lokesh delivered an inspiring address to students at the 2026 Graduation Day program of Greenwood High International School (Grade 12) held in Sarjapur, Bengaluru. Attending as the chief guest, Lokesh encouraged young minds to embrace challenges, stay focused on their goals, and avoid blindly following trends. In his speech, Lokesh emphasized the importance of values and character in a fast-paced world driven by shortcuts. He noted that true success

lies not only in what one learns but in how one thinks and behaves. "Your actions when no one is watching define your real personality," he said, urging students to uphold integrity and moral strength. He also motivated them to remain persistent in achieving their ambitions and to view obstacles as opportunities for growth. During the event, Lokesh made a significant announcement regarding Andhra Pradesh's development. He revealed that the Sattva Group, which manages the school, is set to partner in the development of the state, (Contd. on pg.2)

Y. S. Sharmila Slams Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy over 'Mavigun' Proposal, Sparks Political Row



By Skyline Staff Reporter Vijayawada, April 10 A political storm erupted in Andhra Pradesh after AP Congress President Y. S. Sharmila launched a sharp attack on her brother and YSRCP chief Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy over his reported proposal to name the state capital "Mavigun." Ridiculing the idea, Sharmila made a controversial counter-suggestion that Pulivendula constituency be renamed "Avi Goddali," triggering a major uproar in state politics. Taking a dig at the terminology, Sharmila questioned the intent

behind such names, asking how long "guns and axes" would dominate political thinking. She alleged that the YSRCP's ideology reflects a mindset inclined towards violence, making indirect references to past incidents. In a pointed remark, she said that if Amaravati were to be named after individuals, then Pulivendula should also reflect similar associations, indirectly alluding to YSRCP leader Y. S. Avinash Reddy. Sharmila also criticized Jagan for what she termed a lack of (Contd. on pg.2)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

AP Government Releases Rs.2,950 Crore, Brings Relief to Retired Employees and Teachers

The government has set an overall target of clearing dues worth Rs.7,059 crore in phases. So far, payments worth 7614 crore have already been made, with priority extended not only to retired employees but also to small contractors who had supplied materials to the government.

the police department. Despite these efforts, some dues are still pending. The government has yet to clear 73,411 crore in gratuity arrears and 71,800 crore related to leave encashment for retired employees.

Nara Lokesh Inspires Students at Graduation, urges Youth to focus on Goals over Trends

particularly in Visakhapatnam. This collaboration is expected to boost infrastructure and investment prospects in the region. Earlier, Lokesh received a grand welcome from the school management upon his arrival.

gallery, and classrooms, appreciating the institution's world-class facilities. He inaugurated the programme by lighting the ceremonial lamp and later presented certificates to the graduating students.

ceremonial salute from the students and participated in a group photograph session.

Praising the institution, Lokesh lauded Greenwood High for nurturing global citizens equipped with knowledge, discipline, and vision for the future.

Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu Assures Irrigation Boost for Srikakulam, Highlights Neradi Barrage Progress

He emphasized that effective utilization of Vamsadhara River waters remains a top priority for the alliance government. Addressing the long-pending Neradi Barrage issue, the minister said efforts have been ongoing since the establishment of the Vamsadhara Water Disputes Tribunal in 2010.

He announced that work on the Neradi Barrage is expected to begin soon. Rammohan Naidu also shared key development updates for the district. He highlighted the establishment of a new railway zone benefiting the Uddanam region.

He also praised Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for his efforts in securing legal status for Amaravati, calling the approval of the capital bill a historic moment.

Kadapa Student Murder Sparks Outrage; Minister Savita Assures Strict Action

The incident, which took place in Khajipet mandal, has sent shockwaves through the region and raised serious concerns about women's safety. According to reports, the accused, Auvula Venkatesh from Anjaneyakottalu village, had been harassing the girl and pressuring her to marry him.

incident, Andhra Pradesh Minister Savita expressed deep shock and grief. She termed the murder "heart-breaking," noting that a young girl with a promising future had lost her life in a cruel and senseless act.

said, adding that such acts would not be tolerated under any circumstances. She emphasized that the coalition government is committed to protecting women and ensuring justice.

Bhogapuram International airport set for inauguration in July

has been finalised, marking a historic milestone for North Andhra and a major development for Andhra Pradesh. The airport, expected to open in the first week of July, is nearing completion.

ensure timely completion. *Immigration Status* - CM Chandrababu has urged the Central Government to expedite the notification for immigration facilities needed for international flights.

Connectivity and Infrastructure - The authorities have devised plans to prevent traffic congestion and ensure smooth connectivity for passengers travelling to the airport.

Pakistani youth using their energy to fuel terrorism: Rajnath Singh

He said youth are indeed an inexhaustible reservoir of energy. "This very energy forms the foundation of creation and development, and if it goes astray, it can also become the cause of destruction," he said.

true happiness and success," he said. The Defence Minister also hailed the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for taking the nation's economy forward.

Mantri paid a glowing tribute to Colonel Wangchuk, describing him as a highly decorated officer of the Indian Army, renowned for his gallantry, resolute leadership, and unwavering commitment to duty.

India's rich cultural heritage plays a crucial role in guiding our youth in the right direction, he said. The Defence Minister called upon the youth to achieve their dreams through dedication.

In a separate development, the Defence Minister expressed grief at the passing away of Maha Vir Chakra awardee Colonel Sonam Wangchuk (Retd), a brave heart of the 1999 Kargil war.

"His courageous actions of leading by personal example during Operation Vijay inspired his men under the most demanding conditions at high altitude. His life remains a testament to courage, sacrifice, and national integration, and his legacy will continue to inspire coming generations," said Rajnath Singh.

Y. S. Sharmila Slams Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy over 'Mavigun' Proposal, Sparks Political Row

Y. S. Avinash Reddy. Sharmila also criticized Jagan for what she termed a lack of progress on the Amaravati capital project during his five-year tenure as Chief Minister.

indeed viable. She further asked why the government had pushed for the three-capital formula if a low-cost alternative was available. Dismissing the proposal as impractical, Sharmila said it did not merit a serious response and could only be laughed at.

Satyanarayana, stating that his past expressions of regret were insufficient, particularly in the context of alleged disrespect toward Y. S. Vijayamma. Her remarks have intensified the political discourse in Andhra Pradesh, drawing strong reactions from both supporters and critics.

Review Meeting with Library Staff Conducted by Chairman Bhupathiraju

Kakinada, April 10-; The Chairman of the Unified East Godavari District Library Institution, Bhupathiraju Eswar Raju Varma (Saibaba Raju), conducted a review meeting with library staff on Friday at the District Library in Kakinada.



efforts, stating that significant improvements had been made across the district since he assumed office. They highlighted that the surroundings of the district library have been cleaned and improved, enhancing its overall appearance.

Made indelible contributing to Bihar's development: PM congratulates Nitish on RS oath

shes for his upcoming term," the Prime Minister said. Notably, Nitish Kumar's oath as a member of the Rajya Sabha marked a significant shift in his long political career.

political career. He was elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha on March 16 this year and subsequently resigned from his position as a Member of the Legislative Council (MLC) on March 30.

Jagan advances Padayatra to fuel anti-incumbency

By Skyline Staff Reporter Vijayawada, April 10 YSR Congress party president and former Andhra Pradesh chief minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy appears to have decided to advance his pre-election campaign, despite the fact that the assembly elections in the state are still three years away.



with cadre in every parliamentary constituency. Alongside cadre interactions, the party is also considering region-wise outreach programmes with different social and community groups in an effort to reconnect with voters at the grassroots level.

Andhra Pradesh sets target of 10 lakh PNG connections in six months

Reviewing the domestic gas supply with officials at the secretariat on Friday, the Chief Minister directed officials and oil companies to address domestic gas supply challenges arising due to global conflicts.

issued immediately. He also stressed the importance of clearly informing beneficiaries that they can retain their scheme benefits even after migrating to PNG connections.

beneficiaries. The Chief Minister assessed measures being taken by oil companies to expand PNG connections and overcome supply constraints.

ect, the Chief Minister sought explanations from officials. Upon being informed that certain decisions are pending at the Central level, he directly spoke to Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri and urged him to expedite completion of the project.



Bhogapuram International Airport roads work reviewed

By Skyline Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam, April 10
Sribharat, VMRDA Chairman M.V. Pranav Gopal, and Metropolitan Commissioner N. Tej Bharat have inspected the roads being laid to connect the Bhogapuram International Airport. They inspected the work being done from the

Adavivaram junction. Later, they inspected the routes that connect the national highway. Speaking on the occasion, Pranav Gopal said that work on the connecting roads would be completed by the time the Bhogapuram Airport becomes operational. As directed by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu

Naidu, the main roads would be completed by the first week of June, and the Thimmapuram-Marikavalasa road was already completed. Over 40 percent of the work on the Adavivaram-Sonthyam road was over, and the remaining work would be completed as soon as possible, said the VMRDA chairman,

adding the work on the remaining roads was progressing at a fast pace. Stating that there was no compromise on the quality, he said the work was being monitored regularly. Tej Bharat said the work was going on smoothly with the cooperation of the people, and compensation was also paid for the structures affected during

the laying of the roads. Chief engineer Vinay Kumar, supervising engineers Bhavani Shankar and Madhusudhan Rao, executive engineer Durga Prasad, deputy executive engineers Ravi Shankar, Vishwanath, Reddy Gutthedaru, and others accompanied the MP and the VMRDA Chairman.

Scientists inspect cashew orchards, advise farmers

By Skyline Staff Reporter Cheepurupalli (Garividi), April 10
Due to changing weather conditions, unseasonal rains, hailstorms, and rising temperatures, pest and disease incidence has increased in cashew orchards, affecting flowering and nut quality. A team of scientists, along with horticulture officials, inspected orchards in Cheepurupalli (Alakanarayanapuram, Peddanadipalli), Garividi (Mandiravalasa), and Merakamudidam (Yadika). They observed



issues like flower blight (20%), mealybugs (15%), and leaf-eating pests (10%). The team advised farmers to spray neem oil and recommended pesticides in

proper doses, and suggested adopting pruning, balanced fertilization, and eco-friendly pest control methods to improve yield and protect orchards.

Poshan Pakhwada awareness programme held in Garividi

By Skyline Staff Reporter Cheepurupalli (Garividi), April 10
As part of the 8th Poshan Pakhwada (April 9-23, 2026), an awareness programme was conducted in Gudem and Jammupeta villages under the ICDS Garividi Project. Health officials educated pregnant women and lactating mothers on the importance of nutritious home-cooked food, traditional dietary practices, and the risks of



junk and packaged foods. ICDS staff, including CDPO Arudra and supervisors, along

with local women, participated in the programme.

Chandanotsavam tickets online from April 12

By Skyline Staff Reporter Vizianagaram, April 10
Tickets for the 'nijaroopa darsanam' of Lord Varaha Lakshmi Nrusimha Swamy on the hilltop temple of Simhachalam during 'Chandanotsavam' will be available online from April 12. The process will continue till April 17. Over 1.5 lakh devotees are expected to have a darshan of the Lord on the auspicious day (April 20), and arrangements are apace for the annual event. The APSRTC has decided to operate as many as 70 buses for the convenience of the devotees visiting the temple on the day. Meanwhile, District



Collector Abhishikh Kishore, accompanied by officials, reviewed the ongoing arrangements. Stating that the district administration is taking all measures for hassle-free darshan for devotees, he has sought public cooperation for smooth conduct of the event.

According to him, steps are being taken to ease the rush on queue lines and for the supply of food and drinking water to devotees. A team of ministers will take stock of the arrangements at the collectorate on April 12, according to the collector.

Legal awareness conference on drugs and their adverse effects on youth was held

By Skyline Staff Reporter Vizianagaram, April 10
The chief guest of the program was Shri A Krishna Prasad, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority. Addressing the students in the college, he advised them to stay away from drugs and not to get involved in them and to be aware of them from this age. He said that the youth are destroying their lives by getting addicted to drugs and thereby causing distress to their future as well as their parents, and that their future and the future of the country will also be destroyed through this. He informed that those who consume drugs, sell or transport them will be severely punished. For this, they will not be granted bail even for six months. He especially advised that every youth should have a goal and work hard to achieve the goal. He gave



detailed information about the NALSA (DAWN -- DRUG AWARENESS & WELLNESS NAVIGATION FOR A DRUG FREE INDIA) Scheme, 2025 prepared by the National Legal Services Authority. He advised that legal advice and solutions to problems can be obtained by calling the toll-free number 15100 prepared by the National Legal

Services Authority. Later, the students took a pledge to stay away from drugs. The Vice Chancellor of the University was present at the event. Dr. Prasanna Kumar Mahanthi, Profession and Excise Department Additional Superintendent AS Dora, Neuropsychiatrist Dr. Hemant Madhav, and Nellimarla SI B Ganesh participated.

GITAM's 'Parinama' showcases the soulful Artistry of Gen Z

By Skyline Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam, April 10
In an era where the younger generation is often perceived as being tethered to mobile screens and social media reels, the students of GITAM Deemed to be University proved that the heartbeat of classical art is stronger than ever. The campus transformed into a vibrant hub of creativity during 'Parinama', a day-long event organized by the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences here on Friday. The event was a breathtaking transition from the digital world to the world of fine and performing arts. Young minds, just stepping out of their teenage years, showcased a sophisticated mastery of traditional forms. Students colored canvases with profound inner thoughts,



proving that art remains a powerful medium for self-expression. The audience was mesmerized by soulful vocal performances that displayed rigorous training and melodic precision. Clad in stunning traditional attire, dancers enthralled the gathering with rhythmic footwork and expressive storytelling. GITAM Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof. Y.Gouthama Rao distributed the prizes to the per-

formers and said that the event was the visible impact of the New Education Policy (NEP), which GITAM has embraced to broaden student horizons. At GITAM, an engineering student isn't confined to labs; they can choose a Minor in Fine and Performing Arts, allowing them to explore music, dance, or painting alongside their technical studies, he added. This event is living evidence that if we show the



right path to young people, they can create wonders, said by GITAM Registrar Prof.D.Gunasekharan. He added that by engaging with fine arts, students are distancing themselves from mobile addiction and enriching their lives with a more holistic vision, he remarked an observer at the event. The event was meticulously organized and coordinated by the noted scholar Dr. A. Malayada

and her dedicated team from the Humanities department. Their efforts highlighted how interdisciplinary education creates a "beautiful" balance between academic rigor and artistic passion. She said that 'Parinama' served as a reminder that when given the platform, the "mobile generation" is more than capable of preserving and propelling India's rich cultural heritage into the future.

Awareness program on SC, ST prevention of atrocities act and manual scavenger prevention act

By Skyline Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam, April 10
An awareness program on the SC and ST Atrocities Prevention Act and Manual Scavenger Prevention Act was organized at the District Court on Friday for the members of the District Level Monitoring Committee and Divisional Level Monitoring Committee under the auspices of the Judicial Service Commission. The chief guest of the program, District Legal Services Authority Secretary Sri R. Sanyasinayudu, said that the committee members should work sincerely to prevent atrocities against SCs and STs. He said that before atrocities occur, they should visit various parts of the district and create awareness among the people to create an atmosphere of peace and harmony. He suggested that the people should be informed that strict punishments will be imposed if anyone violates the law and dis-



criminate against SCs and STs or commits atrocities. He clarified that land disputes and assigned land issues fall under the purview of civil courts and the police will not interfere in them. District Revenue Officer Vishweshwara Naidu said that steps will be taken to ensure that

the Revenue Department responds immediately in issuing caste certificates to victims, providing timely financial assistance and rehabilitation. Deputy Director, Social Welfare, Shri K. Rama Rao, who presided over the program, explained various provisions ranging from the

Civil Rights Act to the SC and ST Atrocities Prevention Act, and explained the rights and protections available to SC and ST. He asked the committee members to work in coordination and convey the problems of the victims to the machinery at the earliest. SC and ST Special Court Special Public Prosecutor Mrs. Revathi and former PP Shri S.S.S. Vasu explained the technical aspects faced in the investigation of cases. Speaking, ACB spokesperson Shri Ambedkar said that the cooperation of the committee members is necessary in the investigation of cases. In-charge RDO Seshasailaja District Monitoring Committee members Professor Subbarayudu, Chokkakula Rambabu, Mrs. Kalpana, Mrs. Sujatha, Shri Joseph, Shri Anjaneyulu and others participated in this program and discussed various cases in the district.

How Vizag Astronomy Club is bringing stargazing back to Visakhapatnam

By Skyline Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam, April 10
On a humid evening along Beach Road in Visakhapatnam, a small crowd gathers around a telescope, waiting for a glimpse of the moon. Conversations quieten as each viewer takes a turn. Some step back in astonishment, others linger, returning for another look. These are the familiar rhythms of the Vizag Astronomy Club's ongoing moon watch sessions, a public initiative that has gradually shaped a modest yet steady culture of sky-watching in the city. Founded by BSS Srinivas, the club began without formal infrastructure or institutional backing. Srinivas recalls that its earliest sessions were held for neighbours, friends and family, with a single telescope and a simple intention to share what he describes as "the joy of astronomy". "Over time, these informal gatherings widened into structured public programmes. Our Moon Watch sessions held at the Beach Road are drawing first-time viewers as well as regular participants," says Srinivas. There is a certain historical continuity to these efforts. In 1840, Gode Venkata Jaggarow established an observatory on his private estate in what is now Dabagardens, marking one of the earliest engagements with astronomy in the region. While many residents may be unaware of this history, the Vizag Astronomy Club's work is rekindling interest in the field. The moon watch sessions, locally referred to as Chandra Darshanam, are designed as open-access gather-



ings. They are typically held from the fourth day after the new moon until the full moon phase, when lunar features become increasingly visible to the naked eye and through telescopes. At the Beach Road, sessions currently run between 6.30pm and 10pm, with the programme scheduled to continue until April 3. Visitors can join without prior registration, an approach that has contributed to its growing footfall. For many first-timers, the encounter is unexpectedly affecting. Srinivas says they often react the way early astronomers did! "They realise the moon is not smooth, but full of craters, ridges and plains," he says. During one recent session, a child,

after looking through the eyepiece, remarked that he finally understood why ancient cultures built stories around the moon. Beyond the visual experience, the sessions include guided explanations. Volunteers speak about the formation of lunar craters, evidence of past volcanic activity and the role of the moon in stabilising Earth's environment. The sessions also explain how early civilisations named lunar features and developed calendars based on its phases. Private sessions In recent years, the club has introduced terrace-based private viewing sessions across the city. These smaller

gatherings, usually lasting two to three hours, are organised for families and small groups. "Many participants prefer the familiarity of their own spaces, where conversation flows more easily and the experience feels less formal," says Srinivas, who has conducted over 60 such sessions, often centred on events such as planetary alignments or prominent lunar phases. The club's equipment varies according to requirement, including Dobsonian, equatorial, Galilean and Newtonian telescopes, allowing both basic and more detailed observation. For those seeking deeper engagement, monthly star parties and astronomy camps offer overnight sessions where participants can interact with experienced observers and pursue extended study of the night sky. The membership base reflects this widening interest. Alongside 100 long-time members, the club now has around 300 active participants. Srinivas attributes this growth to a gradual shift in public curiosity. Srinivas says many people, used to screens, expect telescope views to look like digital images. "They come with that idea," he says. However, once they encounter celestial objects directly, the experience acquires a different significance. At the Beach Road, in front of Ambica Sea Green Hotel sessions are held from 6.30pm to 10pm and will continue until April 3. The next Moon Watch programme will begin from April 21. For details, contact 6304963367.

SKYLINE

Saturday 11.4.2026

Crisis Politics

When a global conflict intrudes into domestic politics, governments face a delicate balancing act: managing real economic risks while shaping public perception of responsibility. The unfolding tensions in West Asia place Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Bharatiya Janata Party in precisely that position as key state elections approach. Unlike the distant optics of the Russia-Ukraine war, the present crisis carries more immediate consequences for Indian households.

India's heavy reliance on imported crude ~ largely from West Asia ~ means that any disruption risks translating quickly into higher fuel prices, supply anxieties, and inflationary pressure. These are not abstract geopolitical concerns; they are kitchen-table issues. The political response has been notably calibrated. Rather than projecting decisive global intervention, the emphasis has shifted toward coordination, preparedness, and shared responsibility between the Centre and the states.

This is not merely administrative prudence. It is also political risk management ~ an effort to diffuse accountability ahead of potential economic strain. A further complication lies in the federal nature of India's energy distribution and pricing mechanisms. While global crude shocks originate outside national control, their retail impact is mediated through taxes, subsidies, and logistical coordination between Centre and states. This layered responsibility can blur political accountability, but it also ensures that no single actor can entirely evade voter scrutiny. However, elections in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Assam, and Puducherry remain, at their core, contests shaped by local leadership.

Figures such as chief ministers Mamata Banerjee, M. K. Stalin, Pinarayi Vijayan, and Himanta Biswa Sarma are not peripheral actors; they are central to voter choice. Governance records, welfare delivery, and regional political identities continue to outweigh distant geopolitical narratives. Yet, to treat the West Asia crisis as electorally irrelevant would be a mistake. Its significance lies not in rhetoric but in transmission. If the conflict remains contained, its political impact will be marginal. But if it feeds into sustained price rises or visible shortages, it could alter the electoral conversation rapidly. Economic discomfort has a way of collapsing the distance between foreign policy and domestic accountability.

This creates a paradox for the ruling party. It seeks to highlight leadership and global engagement, but must simultaneously avoid owning the negative spillovers of a volatile international environment. The Opposition, for its part, sees an opening ~ but recent history offers caution. Previous crises, from demonetisation to the pandemic, did not translate into decisive electoral setbacks for the incumbent at the national level. The deeper pattern is this: Indian voters often distinguish between structural hardship and political culpability ~ unless the connection is made undeniable. The West Asia crisis will test that threshold once again. In the end, these elections are unlikely to be decided by events in distant capitals. But they may still be influenced by them ~ quietly, materially, and unevenly. The real question is not whether geopolitics matters, but when it begins to hurt enough to matter politically.

Lessons for India from Industrial revolution

The structural transformation Economic progress is often celebrated as a story of innovation, technological breakthroughs, and institutional advancement. It reshapes everyday life by replacing old practices with new systems, rendering obsolete products and methods that once seemed indispensable. Though innovation has been present throughout human history, sustainable economic growth is a relatively recent phenomenon. The emergence of this modern growth trajectory is commonly associated with Britain's Industrial Revolution. Economic historian and Nobel Laureate of 2025, Joel Mokyr argues that the take-off of sustained economic growth took place in Britain with the Industrial Revolution, commonly set between 1760 and 1830.

After Britain, economic take-offs into sustained growth have occurred in several Western countries. According to Mokyr, earlier civilizations experienced cycles of progress and stagnation. But scientific knowledge is rarely then translated into continuous economic production. The Industrial Revolution in Britain marked a turning point: scientific innovation became institutionalised. Technological advances fed into production, and economic growth became permanent rather than temporary. This 'new normal' of growth fundamentally changed living standards over the long term. Mokyr advocates that the Industrial Revolution in Britain had an intellectual origin. The Enlightenment, a pan-European movement, started in 1685 and ended in 1815, according to Mokyr, and paved the way for linking scientific inventions to technological innovations. Enlightenment thinkers insisted that scientific ideas should be reproducible, verifiable, and practically useful. Scientists started to find methods and experiments that should be reproducible and should have economic value addition. Enlightenment facilitated an increase in knowledge and its accessibility to those who could make best use of it. It

spread to a large circle and the circle was becoming larger.

The collective knowledge in society in Europe was much greater than in any other area on the globe at that time. The total amount of knowledge - scientific or otherwise - that society controlled was vast. This vast array of knowledge had successfully been transformed into economic production and that is the primary reason for rapid economic growth of the Western economies. The intellectual elucidations were supported by institutional efforts. Intellect turned out to be the capital that could foster economic growth. Mokyr writes: "The short answer as to why the West is so much richer today than it was two centuries ago is that collectively, these societies 'know' more." Without Enlightenment, in the opinion of Mokyr, the Industrial Revolution could not have happened.

One of the prerequisites for sustained growth, according to Mokyr, is the joint evolution of science and technology which was hitherto not present. It is of central importance how science interacts with technology, and how change in technology impacts economic production. Secondly it is crucial to have skilled and knowledgeable personnel to implement new technologies in economic production. Mokyr stressed that sustained growth first occurred in Britain because it was home to many skilled artisans and engineers. They were able to understand designs and transform ideas into commercial products, and this was vital in achieving sustained growth.

Mokyr's insight that modern long-term growth rests on creation, accumulation and diffusion of knowledge remains one of the most persuasive elements of his argument. The democratization of knowledge serves as an important impetus for economic development when Mokyr observes that "the central fact of modern economic growth is the ultimate irreversibility of the accumulation of useful knowledge paired with

ever-falling access cost." Mokyr argues that "as long as knowledge was confined to a small number of specialists with high access costs of everyone else there was a serious risk that it would be lost."

The decline in access cost implies knowledge is spread over many more minds and storage devices, so that any reversal in technological progress after the Industrial Revolution is ruled out. A revolution always implies a profound change. Western civilisation had been receptive to new ideas and concepts. Britain's Industrial Revolution was the result of a cultural shift that encouraged innovation and systematic use of scientific knowledge. "Seeds of innovation sprouted and flourished". Mokyr's arguments move away from the established framework of describing the Industrial Revolution by materialistic explanations like resource endowments.

However, industrialisation had contrasting consequences: technological advancement and prosperity in Britain coincided with deindustrialisation and structural economic changes in India. England struck down the ancient industries of India over a whole century. England when it obtained supremacy in India had the opportunity to enrich India also while bringing prosperity to herself. The fruits of the Industrial Revolution could have reached India too. India was well endowed with a potential of wealth, raw materials, skilled artisans, and markets.

Britain possessed the opportunity to promote shared development across its empire, but colonial priorities often favoured extraction and unilateral advantage instead. Therefore, the purpose of intellect, whether good or otherwise, depends entirely upon the objective it nourishes. The study of Britain's Industrial Revolution, through contrasting lenses, offers crucial lessons for contemporary development policy. Mokyr's postulates are clearly relevant for present-day India. For India today, the path towards 'developed nation' status requires fos-



tering what might be called an 'Indian Enlightenment' - characterized by massive investment in education, research, and human capital.

While India is projected to become the world's third-largest economy by 2030, it continues to grapple with the intricacies of its "developing nation" status, characterized by low per capita income coupled with low living standards. India's economic progress remains heavily reliant on the service sector, which despite its significant contributions, often operates in an unorganised manner that lacks the high-productivity value-addition with high reward typical of a developed economy. Further the vast workforce in the unorganised sector is either uneducated or lowly educated. They are oblivious of the idea that 'there is a world of thought and knowledge unattained by them'.

The 'Indian lettered classes' should take the burden of educating the 'Indian working folk' properly. Restoration of material prosperity is an imperative need in India. For this the energy and cooperation of the whole nation is necessary. The people of India must have the right to acquire education and knowledge. Only by the spread of knowledge could the country as a whole achieve its desired objectives of a prosperous nation. Education, more particularly higher education, must move beyond the confinement of a small, elite circle and reach the masses to become truly practical and

widespread. High access costs create 'information silos' that concentrate power and stifle competition.

Therefore, research, scientific societies, journals, open lectures, and consistent deliberations facilitate the interaction between those who control propositional knowledge and those who implement techniques.

India must have the aspiration to transform into a knowledge society. After all, as Dr APJ Abdul Kalam asserted many years ago: "Knowledge is the primary source of wealth creation and societal well-being in the twenty-first century." Intellectual pursuits must be underpinned by robust, equitable institutional frameworks to ensure that the benefits of innovation are broadly shared. India's own development trajectory highlights this challenge.

Ultimately, the history of industrialisation teaches that economic progress is neither automatic nor morally neutral. The central question for modern societies is therefore not whether to pursue innovation, but how to guide it. When intellect serves narrow interests, progress may enrich a few while impoverishing others. When guided by inclusive institutions and ethical objectives, it can elevate entire societies. True economic development lies not merely in accelerating growth, but in ensuring that the fruits of knowledge and innovation are shared widely, sustainably, and justly.

The real reason China stayed 'quiet' about its US-Iran ceasefire role

Pakistan's media is ecstatic. After all, it was the country's apparent mediation that paused a disastrous war, and it is probably going to host the first delegation as early as next week. This is Pakistan's moment in the sun, or so it seems. But a tweet posted by the Prime Minister exposed embarrassingly enough that there might have literally been a US handle working the mediation machine. Standing quietly in the shadows is China. Its Foreign Minister has been busy, having made some 26 calls recently. It is also to host the US President soon. Meanwhile, Trump acknowledged Beijing's intervention in a single line. That counts for something. From this mess, some will emerge as winners. Others will scramble to clean up the dust. The Key Motivation To Mediate

At first sight, Pakistan's diplomatic cup seems to be overflowing. Iran's Foreign Minister, Abbas Araghchi, has expressed gratitude and appreciation on X for the 'brotherly country' of Pakistan, though not just praising Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif but also Field Marshal Asim Munir. That should cloud the former's already knitted brow a bit. But Munir has apparently been working the lines the whole night, talking to the US and Iranian negotiators, all of which adds considerably to his stature. That's a big plus for his longevity in a country where former political heads or even army chiefs have had a sticky end. Consider that former Chief of Army Staff Javed Bajwa died un-mourned and mysteriously recently.

The biggest win for Munir, and for his country, however, cannot be publicised. And that is, keeping Pakistan out of the Iran-Saudi war, and thereby sliding out of implementing last year's 'Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement'. That was a black-and-white

commitment that required Islamabad to aid the Saudis if they were attacked. When the first drone attack hit, the Saudis summoned the Field Marshal, with Defence Minister Prince Khalid pointing out that the two had discussed the attacks "and the measures needed to halt them within the framework of our Joint Strategic Defence Agreement". Any support to the Saudis would have had Iran venting its wrath on Pakistan, with a couple of missiles landing in its capital. An already enraged Shia population, which was told by an arrogant Munir to "go to Iran" if it so wished, would have risen up against the army.

A catastrophe was averted with the mediation exercise. Danger again came perilously close when Iran recently hit the Jubail Petrochemical complex days ago, which led to Sharif yet again thanking Riyadh for its "restraint". It's not over, though. Even after the declaration of the ceasefire, a vital pipeline that bypasses the Hormuz has been hit. That could upset the apple cart.

Fronting For The US Into all this desperation came the US. The New York Times story confirms that a tweet, posted ostensibly by the Pakistan PM, was in fact drafted in the White House. Trump couldn't be seen as asking for a ceasefire, so he got Pakistan to 'front' the exercise, while pulling the levers behind. Recall that the tweet was mistakenly posted as 'Draft: Pakistan PM's message on X' calling for an extension to the deadline to the US, and cooperation from "Iranian brothers". It was a dead giveaway.

Then came another kerfuffle. Sharif again posted that Iran and the US, "along with their allies", would also implement the ceasefire in Lebanon. That was denied almost immediately by Vice President JD Vance, who said the ceasefire was Iran-



focused. Yet another post earlier by Sharif, appealing for an end to attacks by all parties, was marked to everyone but Israel. Clearly, the perils of a mediation exercise are immense when the mediator doesn't recognise one of the central parties to the war. Pakistan's passport explicitly states that travel to Israel is barred. It seems then that a Prime Minister cannot acknowledge its existence in a post on X.

There's more to this. Islamabad apparently sent one version in Farsi to Iran and another version to the US. The main negotiator, Pakistan, grandly announced that all parties had agreed to a ceasefire in Lebanon as well. Soon enough, the US Vice-President, JD Vance, denied it, and Iran's Md Begher Ghalibaf directly accused Washington of violating the agreement when Israel launched a fierce attack on Lebanon, killing 200 and wounding a thousand-plus people. Rather an expensive mistake, for Lebanese lives, and a near-collapse of the ceasefire.

The Chinese Heft Meanwhile, China is moving quietly to get Iran to the negotiating table and end a war that has damaged its regional standing and potentially could harm its economy. Not only is China the largest import market for Iranian oil, but it has also promised Tehran a \$400 billion investment package, besides including the country in its multilateral groupings,

including the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the BRICS. All six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) members are part of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Typically cautious, China did not quite invest the aforementioned sum but ensured that all energy trade was conducted in yuan, eroding the basis of the dollar, which is hinged on petroleum sales.

Then there is the masterclass that Beijing conducted in 2023 by restoring Saudi-Iran ties, ending seven years of hostility between the two. All that patient diplomacy went for a toss when the US struck Iran in June, and then even more with Operation Epic Fury.

China did not step up to protect its ally publicly. Whether it provided it with additional armaments via the 10,000 km freight corridor that goes entirely through land is unclear, but for years, reports have noted quiet support for its missile programme, and in the last month, specific charges of satellite intelligence for precise targeting.

But here's the key: while China had no intention of supporting Iran publicly, it would have balked at Tehran's widening of the war to include its other friends in the region. So, while Chinese assistance eroded the facade of US 'invincibility' - and that too against a weak power - Beijing would have calculated that going further down that road would be diplomatically disastrous. Given

Trump's infamous ego and the need to declare 'victory', Beijing opted for a very quiet entry into the mediation, with Pakistan 'fronting' the whole exercise. If it failed, China's image would not be dented. So ironically, Beijing was as involved in setting the stage for an end to the war as was the White House.

This X-Based Mediation For India, all this underlines the perils of 'X-based' mediation, particularly in a highly complicated war where Shias, Sunnis, Jews and hardcore Christians are vying for advantage. Besides, heading a ceasefire inevitably means that the official mediator will also have to weigh in to police it eventually. Iran will demand a security guarantee, and the only way to do that is to send in troops, either under the banner of the Ummah or the unreliable United Nations. China will not step in, and neither will Russia. Both are, anyway, unacceptable to the US. At some point, Pakistan will have to put that together. So, while Sharif has been hailing the 'arrival' of Pakistan on the world stage, with thunderous applause from cabinet colleagues, the reality is quite different.

Nonetheless, given Pakistan's long capability to spin a narrative, it will still probably take a bow as the one country desiring "peace". It's ironic for the Indians. Equally ironically, many are also hoping it can swing the end to a highly damaging war. The truth then is that no matter how devious and self-serving Pakistan's exercise, much of the world is cheering it on. But here is the final reality: when the dust settles, the real winner will be China. Delhi needs to watch the upcoming summit with Trump, where a humiliated superpower will sit and talk to a quiet power that acts quietly to protect its interests. However, much water is yet to flow under the bridge. Watch this space.

Pakistan readies for crucial US-Iran dialogue; Bibi relents, calls for talks with Lebanon

Pakistan is poised to host high-stakes peace talks between the US and Iran in Islamabad this weekend, positioning itself at the centre of a delicate diplomatic push to stabilise West Asia even as the fragile ceasefire between the two adversaries showed signs of early stress. This came as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he was seeking direct talks with Beirut, a day after the worst bombardment of the war killed more than 250 people in Lebanon.



Top Iranian leaders, including Parliament Speaker Mohammad-Bagher Ghalibaf and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, will likely lead Tehran's delegation, while the US side will be led by Vice-President JD Vance, Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff and senior adviser Jared Kushner. The delegations from the rival sides are expected to arrive in Islamabad tonight for the talks. The Pakistan capital has been placed under a security lockdown. Sources said negotiations could begin shortly after both sides assembled, with talks likely to stretch over nearly two weeks as mediators push for a comprehensive agreement. The diplomatic initiative comes against the backdrop of a tenuous two-week ceasefire brokered between Washington and Tehran after 39 days of intense hostilities that had pushed the region to the brink of a wider war. Netanyahu, whose government rebuffed an offer for direct talks with Lebanon last month, on Thursday said in a statement that he had given instructions to start peace talks with Lebanon as soon as possi-

ble, which would also include disarming Iran-aligned militant group Hezbollah. Before the formal negotiations could begin in Islamabad, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Saeed Khatibzadeh said Tehran was on the verge of responding militarily to an overnight ceasefire violation, but held back following urgent intervention by Pakistan. Khatibzadeh confirmed that Iran would proceed with the Islamabad talks, underscoring Pakistan's growing role as a mediator amid rising tensions and competing narratives on the ground. Diplomatic activity in Islamabad has intensified rapidly. A US delegation led by Ambassador Natalie Baker met Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi to review logistical and security arrangements for the high-level engagement. Naqvi assured "foolproof security" for all visiting dignitaries, stating that a comprehensive plan had been put in place to safeguard delegations "in every respect". He confirmed that Vance, Witkoff and Kushner would be among the key American participants, describing them as Pakistan's "special guests". The US side, in turn, acknowledged

Islamabad's diplomatic outreach, with Baker appreciating Pakistan's "sincere" efforts in facilitating dialogue during a volatile phase in the region. Islamabad has been effectively placed under a security lockdown. The authorities have enforced sweeping traffic restrictions, sealed sensitive zones and deployed additional security personnel across the capital. The Red Zone— Islamabad's high-security administrative district—has been sealed, with restricted access points and enhanced surveillance. A designated hotel within the zone has been cleared and secured exclusively for the visiting delegations. Pakistan's diplomatic engagement has been central to the current escalation framework. Its effort culminated in the announcement of the two-week truce, described by US President Donald Trump as a "double-sided ceasefire", contingent upon Iran ensuring the safe reopening of the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz, a key artery for global oil flows. Before Netanyahu's go-ahead to talks, Iran President Masoud Pezeshkian warned that Israeli actions risked rendering negotiations "meaningless", signalling Tehran's readiness to escalate if violations persisted. Simultaneously, Trump adopted a hardline posture, asserting that US military assets would remain deployed in and around Iran until a "real agreement" was fully implemented. He warned that any breach could trigger a significantly escalated response, stating that "the shooting starts" if commitments were not honoured.

Netanyahu authorises direct talks with Lebanon 'as soon as possible' in boost to ceasefire efforts

In a potential boost to Middle East ceasefire efforts, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Thursday that he authorised direct negotiations with Lebanon "as soon as possible" aimed at disarming Iranian-backed Hezbollah militants and establishing relations between the neighbours. The two countries have technically been at war since Israel was established in 1948, and Netanyahu later stressed that there was no ceasefire between them. In a video statement, he said Israel will keep striking Hezbollah until security is restored in northern Israel. There was no immediate response from Lebanese authorities. But



Israel-Lebanon negotiations were expected to begin next week at the State Department in Washington, according to a US official and a person familiar with the plans who both spoke on condition of anonymity. The prospect of talks appeared to bolster the tentative ceasefire in the

Iran war that has staggered under the weight of Israel's bombardment of Beirut, Tehran's continued chokehold on the Strait of Hormuz and uncertainty over whether planned peace talks can find common ground. US President Donald Trump said on Thursday that he was "very optimistic" about

the prospects of reaching a peace deal, saying Iranian leaders are more amenable in private conversations than in their public statements. Netanyahu's announcement came amid disagreement over whether the ceasefire deal included a pause in fighting between Israel and Hezbollah, and a day after Israel pounded Beirut with airstrikes that resulted in the deadliest day in Lebanon since the war began on February 28. Israel has fought multiple wars and launched several major invasions over the years, most recently sending in large numbers of troops last month in response to Hezbollah fire on Israel's northern border communities.

Pakistan eases entry norms with visa-on-arrival for key Islamabad talks

Pakistan has announced visa-on-arrival facilities for all individuals travelling in connection with the Islamabad talks, including delegates and journalists from participating countries, as it prepares to host high-stakes negotiations between the United States and Iran. A high-powered lineup of negotiators from Washington and Tehran will most likely reach Islamabad on Friday, underlining the scale and urgency of the diplomatic engagement being facilitated by Pakistan. In a post on X, Pakistan Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said the country "welcomes all delegates, including journalists", attending the talks. He added that airlines have been instructed to allow boarding of such passengers even if they do not possess a prior visa. According to an official communication issued by Pakistan's Ministry of Interior and Narcotics Control, immigration authorities will issue visas on arrival upon entry. Airlines have also been requested to facilitate such travel, while dedicated desks have been set up at relevant airports to assist arrivals. The talks, expected to begin this

weekend, will bring together senior leadership from both sides. The US delegation is set to be led by Vice President JD Vance, accompanied by key envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, reflecting the priority the Donald Trump administration has placed on the negotiations. Iran, meanwhile, is expected to be represented by Parliament Speaker Mohammad-Bagher Ghalibaf and Foreign Minister Saeed Araghchi, signalling Tehran's willingness to engage at both political and diplomatic levels. Pakistan, which has positioned itself as mediator and host, is expected to play a central role in facilitating dialogue and sustaining communication between the two sides. The negotiations will take place in Islamabad's high-security Red Zone, where extensive arrangements have



been made, including the designation of a secured hotel as the primary venue. The composition of the delegations suggests the talks could extend beyond stabilising the current ceasefire to addressing broader issues such as sanctions, nuclear policy and regional security, even as deep mistrust and recent tensions continue to cast a shadow over the process. Authorities concerned have been directed to extend necessary support to ensure smooth processing of participants arriving for the event.

Vikram Misri visits Pentagon, discusses defence co-production, tech ties

India and the US on Wednesday discussed ways to take forward defence industrial and technology linkages as part of ongoing efforts to co-produce and co-develop high-end technologies. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri held an interaction with US Under Secretary of Defence for Acquisition and Sustainment Mike Duffey at the Pentagon in Washington DC. The discussions took place even as IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal AP Singh is on an official visit to the US. Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs, in a post on X, said the meeting aimed at "advancing the India-US major defence partnership, focusing on co-production, sustainment and shared priorities in the Indo-Pacific". The Indian Embassy in the US also said the two sides discussed ways to further deepen defence industrial, technology and supply chain link-

ages in line with the ambitious goals laid out in the framework for the bilateral major defence partnership signed last year. On Wednesday, the IAF Chief visited the Peterson Space Force Base. The IAF said the interaction involved "a productive exchange of perspectives on complex operational modalities, reflecting the strength of the growing partnership". The meeting between Misri and the US Department of War official is the second such high-level engagement in less than three weeks. On March 25, the two countries held a Defence Policy Group meeting to discuss the way forward for co-production and co-development of advanced technologies. Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh and US Under Secretary of Defence Elbridge Colby had also met in New Delhi, with both sides looking to accelerate momentum in defence cooperation. Colby had said



the US was looking ahead to a critical new decade in its defence partnership with India, adding that while military equipment sales would expand, the potential for co-production and co-development with India was great possibility. These engagements come as India and the US move closer to finalising a deal for joint production of F414 fighter jet engines in India. The engines are expected to power the Tejas Mark 2 jets and the initial version of the

advanced medium combat aircraft (AMCA). The US has also expressed commitment to deepen cooperation in areas such as long-range precision fires, resilient logistics, maritime domain awareness, anti-submarine warfare and advanced technologies. The Framework for the US-India Major Defence Partnership was signed between US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in October last year.

Pakistan vs Israel tensions: Khawaja Asif brands Israel 'cancerous', Netanyahu slams comment

In a strong denunciation of "outrageous" remarks made by Pakistan Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, Israel has raised doubts about his country's role as a "neutral arbiter". "Pakistan Defence Minister's call for Israel's annihilation is outrageous," the Israeli Prime Minister's Office said in a post on X. "This is not a statement that can be tolerated from any government, especially not from one that claims to be a neutral arbiter for peace," the PMO said on Thursday evening. Pakistan has been credited with mediating a tempo-



rary two-week ceasefire between the US and Iran and is preparing to host peace talks over the weekend. However, Asif, in a social media post, called Israel

"evil" and a "curse for humanity". Asif also claimed that as "peace talks are under way in Islamabad, genocide is being committed in Lebanon". "Innocent citi-

zens are being killed by Israel, first Gaza, then Iran and now Lebanon, blood-letting continues unabated," Asif said. "I hope and pray that the people who created this cancerous state on Palestinian land to get rid of European Jews [sic] burn in hell," he added. Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar also condemned Asif's comments, saying, "These blatant anti-semitic blood libels from a government claiming to mediate peace." "Israel will defend itself against terrorists who vow its destruction," Sa'ar said.

India-Kenya ties deepen: INS Trikand visit bolsters defence and maritime security

Nairobi [Kenya], April 10 (ANI): Indian Naval Ship (INS) Trikand, a frontline guided-missile frigate of the Indian Navy, is on a port call at Mombasa Port, Kenya from April 7-10, as part of its operational deployment in the Western Indian Ocean Region. The visit of the naval ship underlines India's commitment to strengthening maritime partnerships with African nations and is aligned with India's MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions) vision. Sharing the details, the Indian High Commission in Nairobi noted the visit is accompanied by that of Vice Admiral K. Swaminathan, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command. Reflecting the growing depth of defence cooperation, the visit also saw the signing of an Implementing Arrangement under a Quick Impact Project (QIP) for provision of a 1.5 Tesla MRI machine to the Kenya Defence Forces, as well as the handover of 100 INSAS rifles and 50,000 rounds of ammunition. As per the statement, during the port call, the ship's crew is engaging in a range of professional exchanges and interactions with the Kenya Navy, aimed at enhancing interoperability and sharing best practices. The visit



will conclude with a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) between INS Trikand and a Kenya Navy ship, reflecting growing operational cooperation and mutual trust between the two navies. Vice Admiral Swaminathan and Adarsh Swaika, High Commissioner of India to Kenya, called on General Charles Kahariri, Chief of the Defence Forces of Kenya, in Nairobi. The discussions focused on further strengthening bilateral defence cooperation, including capacity building, training exchanges, and enhancing institutional linkages. They also met Dr. Patrick Mariru, Principal Secretary for Defence. Both sides reviewed the expanding India-Kenya defence partnership, noting the regular exchange of high-level visits and institutional dialogues that continue to deepen bilateral cooperation.

The statement further noted that Vice Admiral Swaminathan also held discussions with Major General Paul Otieno, Commander of the Kenya Navy, in Mombasa, focusing on strengthening maritime cooperation, training exchanges, and avenues for enhanced collaboration in the Western Indian Ocean Region. A Deck Reception was co-hosted onboard INS Trikand in Mombasa by Vice Admiral Swaminathan and the High Commissioner, bringing together senior Kenyan officials, including Major General Paul Otieno as Chief Guest, Deputy Governors of Kilifi and Taita Taveta, representatives of the Kenya Navy, members of the diplomatic corps, and prominent members of the Indian diaspora. The event celebrated the deep-rooted maritime and cultural linkages between India and Kenya and reaffirmed the shared commitment to regional peace, stability, and security. The visit of INS Trikand highlights the growing depth of India-Kenya relations, particularly in the maritime domain, and reflects a shared vision for a secure, stable, and prosperous Western Indian Ocean Region.

Russia, Brazil launch global rollout of 'The Art of Sport' documentary series

Moscow [Russia], April 10 (ANI): An international conference titled "The Art of Sport. International cooperation between Russia and the BRICS+ countries in the field of sport" was held at the All-Russian State Library for Foreign Literature, bringing together diplomats, policymakers, media professionals and civil society representatives from across BRICS and partner nations. The event marked the presentation of the documentary series The Art of Sport by the TV BRICS International Media Network, with its international rollout beginning in Brazil. Delegates from countries including India, China, Brazil, Egypt and others discussed frameworks to deepen cooperation in sports through cultural and media exchanges, as reported by TV BRICS. In a video message, Maria Zakharova emphasised that the project reflects a shared commitment to promoting core sporting values and strengthening cultural ties. She noted that sport, intertwined with cultural

expression, can serve as a powerful bridge between nations. Brazil's Ambassador to Russia, Sergio Rodrigues dos Santos, welcomed the decision to premiere the series on Brazilian television, emphasising sport's role in fostering unity and supporting a multi-polar global framework. Adding to the discourse, Aleksander Zhukov highlighted a proposal to establish an inter-parliamentary BRICS working group on sport, aimed at harmonising policies, sharing best practices and enhancing collaboration across grassroots and elite levels. The media's role in shaping global sporting narratives was also underscored by experts, who noted its



ability to transcend linguistic and cultural barriers. The four-part documentary series explores disciplines such as wrestling, triathlon, equestrian sport and curling, linking each with artistic expression. First premiered in Russia in 2025, the series is now being adapted for international audiences, reinforcing BRICS' cultural diplomacy through sport. (ANI)

Dacoit movie review

Cast - Adivi Sesh, Mrunal Thakur, Anurag Kashyap, Prakash Raj, Sunil, Atul Kulkarni, Zayn Marie Khan and others

Director - Shaneil Deo
Producer - Supriya Yarlagadda, Suniel Narang
Banner - Annapurna Studios

Music - Bheems Ceciroleo
Adivi Sesh is back on the big screen after his usual 3-year gap with Dacoit, along with Mrunal Thakur, promising a different love story.

As always, the promotional material created good buzz. Let's see if he maintains his success streak.

Setup: Hari (Sesh) and Saraswathi (Mrunal) were once lovers but got separated due to caste issues. Hari believes Saraswathi betrayed him by sending him to prison for a crime he didn't commit and now wants revenge. Years later, Saraswathi is living with a child and an ill husband, facing financial problems. Both of them reunite for a heist to solve their problems. Will they succeed? Will Hari take revenge for the betrayal? This forms the rest of the story.

Technicalities: Cinematography by Danush Bhaskar is good. Visuals look adequate and natural most of the time. Editing by Kodati Pavan Kalyan is slick and stylish. Though the pace is flat and lacks highs, the editing pattern feels



new and shows effort. Music by Bheems Ceciroleo is very average. The song "Roobaroo" works well on screen. The special number "Chichu Buddi" featuring Jonita doesn't have much impact and is forgettable. Background score by Gyaani is the show stealer. It feels fresh and fits the film well. Production values are okay, but the budget that is being talked about is not visible on screen. The story by Shaniel Deo and Adivi Sesh feels outdated and routine, though the screenplay has some merit with a few modern touches. Shaniel Deo's debut as director is a miss with an unengaging narration.

Performances: Sesh looks good in his role as a small-town boy and a roughened prisoner. His performance in emotional scenes is commendable. However, his Rayalaseema dialect feels off throughout. Mrunal Thakur gets a strong role again and does it really well. She carries the role with the required

emotion and maturity. There is a dialect issue here as well, with Chinmayi dubbing for her. Other roles by Anurag Kashyap, Zayn Marie Khan, Prakash Raj, and Atul Kulkarni are okay but don't stand out much. Anurag has some better moments towards the climax.

Positives:

Adivi Sesh & Mrunal Thakur
Background score
Climax

Stylish treatment in parts

Negatives:

Outdated story
Flat narration
No emotional connect

Repetitive action scenes
Songs

Analysis:

The film starts on a decent note with a well-established love story and core conflict. Technically, it looks strong with all departments doing their part well. But as it progresses, the treatment turns slow and the narration feels flat, with very few engaging moments. The promotional material promised intense action episodes, but that intensity is largely missing in the film. The action sequences that do appear feel staged and not very natural, which reduces their impact. There is a slight pickup towards the interval, but it doesn't fully

elevate the momentum. The second half begins on a good note with a twist and manages to create some interest. A few more twists follow, and while they are decent on paper, some of them miss the required impact due to the way they are executed. The film again slows down with repetitive heist episodes, and the narration continues to feel stretched. The emotional core is present, but it doesn't land effectively because of the slow treatment and lack of depth in key moments. The overall idea and setup feel routine and old, even though they are presented in a somewhat modern way with a neat background score and editing. The lack of gripping moments and intensity hurts the film throughout.

The climax, though predictable, lands well emotionally. However, the impact is not as strong as it should have been, mainly because the slow narration leading up to it doesn't build enough momentum. If the action episodes were more raw and natural, and the love story emotions were handled with more depth, the film could have worked much better. The real problem with Dacoit is that the story, setup, and overall treatment feel mid and routine, which is not what we expect from a Sesh film after the reputation he has built as a new-age filmmaker.

Overall, Dacoit is an average but watchable film if you go in with the right expectations.

Rao Bahadur: Satya Dev and Deepa captivate in retro style



The upcoming film Rao Bahadur is creating quite a stir as an incredibly interesting project featuring Satya Dev in a never-seen-before character. The promotional campaign has been solid, starting with a powerful title glimpse. Now, the makers are set to release the beautiful first single, O Sundari, on the 15th of April.

Writer and director Venkatesh Maha is the driving creative force behind this much-awaited film. He possesses a strong penchant for deliv-

ering something unique and original to the audience.

His ability to craft fresh narratives guarantees that this movie will stand out from the crowd.

Adding immense prestige to the project is presenter Mahesh Babu via GMB Entertainment. His decision to support such a content-rich film is worthy of high praise. The production values are equally impressive, with producers Chinta Gopalakrishna Reddy, Anurag Reddy, and Sharath Chandra ensuring

a rich and high-quality theatrical experience. The aesthetics of the new poster are brilliantly designed, utilizing a sheer fabric in the foreground for a dreamy framing effect. Deepa Thomas appears extremely graceful and poised. Satya Dev, meanwhile, looks exceptionally striking in his vintage avatar. Sporting classic spectacles, a patterned shirt, and a distinct hairstyle, his stylish appearance is sure to raise curiosity levels even further.

Thimmarajupalli TV Trailer: Kiran Abbavaram's Rural Drama Brings Nostalgia Alive



Young actor Kiran Abbavaram is now trying something new in his career. He is stepping into film production with a village-based movie titled Thimmarajupalli TV. This film is directed by newcomer V. Muniraju and stars Sai Tej and Veda Jalandharr in lead roles. The movie is planned for a grand theatrical release on April 17, 2026. The recently released trailer gives a clear idea about the story. The film is set in an old-time rural background when televisions were rare. In those days, not every house had a TV. Usually, one television in a village would bring everyone together to watch programs and movies. In the story, the village of Thimmarajupalli does not have a television. This becomes a matter of pride among the villagers. Different groups compete with each

other to bring the first TV to the village. What starts as a small competition slowly turns into serious fights and conflicts. The situation becomes intense as people go to extreme levels just to prove their dominance. The trailer begins in a light and simple way but later shows strong emotions, arguments, and even violent moments. The TV becomes the main reason behind all the chaos in the village. It shows how a small thing can create big problems among people. The performances of the new actors look fresh and impressive. The film also has several supporting actors like Pradeep Kotte, Swathi Karimireddy, Amma Ramesh, Satyanarayana, and Lathish, who play important roles in the story. The music is composed by Vamsikanth Rekhan, which adds to the film's mood.

Sahu Garapati continues his success streak with Vaazha 2



Sahu Garapati has secured another colossal victory as he celebrates the massive success of his new Malayalam release, Vaazha 2. Opening to a tremendous audience response, the film has swiftly joined the elite Rs.100 crore club, achieving this staggering worldwide gross in a mere seven days. Backed by his banner Shine Screens, this latest milestone highlights the producer's remarkable consistency and his rapidly expanding influence in Indian cinema.

The producer is successfully branching out well beyond his established roots in the Telugu film industry. He has been delivering consecutive hits that connect deeply with regional audiences. The

Rs.100 crore success of Vaazha 2 follows his other recent Malayalam triumph, Vyasanasametham Bandhumithradhikal. His winning formula is clearly working across borders, as he continues to score big in Telugu with recent hits like Kishkindhapuri and Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu. Maintaining such a strong track record across multiple languages is a rare achievement in the film business. Sahu Garapati has proven that universal storytelling and smart production choices transcend language barriers. As Vaazha 2 continues its extraordinary run at the global box office, he firmly establishes himself as a powerhouse producer with a clear vision for cross-regional dominance.

Kantara Franchise in Trouble?



The movie Kantara became a huge success across India. After the first part became a blockbuster, the prequel also received a great response. Because of this, the demand for the Kantara franchise increased a lot. However, recent reports suggest that there may not be another film in the Kantara series anytime soon. This news has surprised many fans. The main reason being discussed is the working style of actor and director Rishab Shetty.

After the massive success of Kantara Chapter 1, it is said that Rishab Shetty has increased his remuneration significantly. Reports say he is now charging around ₹60 crore per film. Along with this, there are also talks that he wants his wife to be involved as a co-producer in his upcoming projects. On the other hand, the production house

Hombale Films is known to be very strict about its policies. The company does not usually allow outside involvement when it comes to production rights and financial decisions. The producers, including the Vijay Kiragandur family, prefer to maintain full control over their projects. Because of these differences, it is being said that the Kantara franchise has been paused for now. Sources claim that if Rishab Shetty approaches the production house again in the future, they may reconsider continuing the project. In recent times, Rishab Shetty has also been in the news for various controversies. With the rumors about the sequel not happening, discussions have become even stronger on social media. At present, Rishab Shetty is busy working on his new project Jai Hanuman.



Who Did Sandeep Reddy Target With Dhurandhar 2?

Director Sandeep Reddy Vanga is returning to the big screen with Spirit, which has Prabhas in the lead role and is currently in production. In the meanwhile, Sandeep Reddy and Prabhas took the time to watch Dhurandhar 2 last night and Sandeep later had an explosive tweet on the same. Filmmaker Sandeep Reddy Vanga stirred a fresh debate on social media after



posting a sharp reaction to the reception around Dhurandhar 2 The Revenge. Without naming anyone directly, Vanga took aim at what he called a section of writers and actors who, in his view, "built careers on propaganda" and are now quick to mock a film like this while claiming to be liberal. Tagging director Aditya Dhar and actor Ranveer Singh, Vanga used strong metaphors, suggesting that mere symbolic gestures are not enough to ward off the negativity surrounding the film. His post praised Dhurandhar 2 The Revenge as an outstanding effort while questioning the selective outrage and criticism it has attracted. Industry observers believe Vanga's com-

ments are not random. Over the years, several mainstream Hindi films with clear political or ideological undertones were celebrated by the same circles that are now questioning Dhurandhar's narrative tone. Vanga appears to be pointing at this perceived double standard where certain narratives are applauded as artistic freedom, while others are dismissed as propaganda. His remarks are being interpreted as a broader criticism of a section of the film fraternity that, according to him, stayed silent when propaganda suited them but has now found a voice to criticize a film that challenges their comfort zone. The tweet has triggered intense discussion across film circles and social media alike.

Thalapathy Vijay's Jana Nayagan Leaked Online before Release?

The upcoming film Jana Nayagan, starring Vijay, is facing several unexpected problems even before its release. The movie has already been delayed, and now a new issue has created more trouble for the makers.

Recently, some scenes and a song from the film were leaked online. These clips are now spreading quickly on social media platforms. This has come as a big shock to the film team. They are trying hard to remove the leaked content and stop it from reaching more people.

The team is also planning to take legal action and may approach the police to find out who is responsible for the leak.

The delay in the film's release is mainly due to multiple reasons. One major factor is the upcoming elections in Tamil Nadu. Because of this, the



makers decided to postpone the release. At the same time, there were also issues related to the censor process. Although the film has been reviewed, the final certificate is still pending.

There were also rumors that the OTT deal for Jana Nayagan was cancelled due to the delay. However, recent clarification has put an end to these talks. The makers have said that no OTT deal has been finalized yet. Since the release

date is not confirmed, the digital release plans are also not decided. They mentioned that everything will be planned closer to the theatrical release. Jana Nayagan is directed by H. Vinoth and features a strong cast including Pooja Hegde, Mamitha Baiju, and Bobby Deol. The film has created huge expectations among fans, especially because it is expected to be Vijay's final film before he fully enters politics.

Get Ready For Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Romanchikam

Ace director of movies like Kabir Singh and Animal, Sandeep Reddy Vanga, is not just focusing on Spirit with Superstar Prabhas. He is quietly expanding his space as 'only' producer, too. While all the films he carved out so far are also his own production ventures, this time he's just producing a film rather than directing it. Under his Bhadrakali Films banner, Sandeep is backing a new film titled Romanchikam. The shoot is already in progress, and it stars 'Memu Famous' fame Sumanth Prabhas in the lead, while directed by a newcomer, Venu. From what we hear, it is set in rural Telangana and revolves around a youthful romantic drama.

In Telugu cinema, some directors have successfully transitioned into production. Sukumar is a strong example. With Sukumar Writings, he backed films that worked both commercially and content-wise. At the same time, not everyone managed to sustain that balance. Many directors, like Sampath Nandi and



Trinadha Rao Nakkina, tried their hand at production but struggled to pick the right projects or maintain consistency. Can Sandeep Reddy Vanga crack this space now? Sandeep has a very strong understanding of storytelling and audience pulse. Films like Arjun Reddy showed how he connects with youth. Backing a rooted, romantic drama like Romanchikam fits into that sensibility. But if the director understands things like budgeting, casting, release strategy, and market positioning, surely he is going to make it big.

IPL 2026: Mukul is a real athlete; he runs between the wickets like Kohli, opines Langer

New Delhi: Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) head coach Justin Langer has hailed young batting sensation Mukul Choudhary, calling him a 'great athlete' with a 'sharp brain,' comparing his game sense and elite running between the wickets to that of the legendary Virat Kohli. Choudhary's match-winning unbeaten 54 off 27 balls,



laced with seven sixes and two fours, against KKR has propelled him into the spotlight. "What I love the most is that he is a real athlete, and the way he runs between the wickets is elite.

It is like how Virat runs between the wickets, but the other thing about him is his game sense.

"We have had some practice games, and the way he talks about the game is like he has been playing 300 matches. So, he has

got some power, he is a great athlete, and he has got a sharp brain. He has a very curious mind and wants to get better. He went away and worked on the short ball. We have been doing drills with him every day, and then it came out in practice and in the game," said Langer on JioHotstar. He also revealed how their team analyst Shrinivas Chandrashekar was crucial in getting Choudhary on board. "We saw him at

a training camp a few months ago. There is so much talent in this country. A real big shout-out goes to Shrinivas, our data analyst, who said, 'Coach, we have got to get this kid.'

Asked about his thought process when LSG were needing 54 runs required off the final 24 balls, Langer said, "I was probably thinking about what I was going to say to our players. I thought we bowled brilliantly on this

wicket; we were outstanding. "I actually jotted that down, and regardless of whether we win or lose, our bowling was excellent, and our fielding was elite as well. So, I was really pleased with that, but we also talked about taking responsibility, and we saw a 22-year-old kid taking responsibility; what an effort it was."

Langer believes that pulling off such a heist early in the tournament acts as a 'magic tonic' for team morale. "If you win the close ones, you get that little bit of belief, don't you? It doesn't matter whether you do it with the ball or with the bat, these tight wins are like a magic tonic. So, hopefully, it is a bit of a confidence booster that we like at the start of the season, and we have got a lot of upside left in our game as well."

IPL 2026: 'Wherever we go, we can adapt our game,' says RCB coach ahead of RR clash

Guwahati: Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) head coach Andy Flower has shown confidence in his team in adapting to new conditions as the side prepares for their first away match of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 against Rajasthan Royals at Barsapara Stadium on Friday.

Reflecting on the team's approach, Flower noted that RCB takes pride in adjusting their game according to conditions, regardless of the venue. "We'd like to think that wherever we go, we can adapt our game and make it appropriate for the conditions. That adaptability, whether we're in Guwahati or anywhere else, is something that we are proud of and we'll be looking to repeat," he said in a video released by RCB on X.

RCB had a stellar record in away games last season, where they created history by winning all seven away games. They eventually went on to lift the title for the first time in the history of IPL. The RCB coach also hinted at an exciting contest

ahead, expecting aggressive batting from both sides. "The guys were on fire and really enjoying it. I expect some exciting batting to be on show from both sides," he added. Despite the absence of key pacer Josh Hazlewood, Flower lauded the team's powerplay bowling unit for stepping up, highlighting the performance of Jacob Duffy, who is playing his first season in IPL.

"Duffy's been brilliant. He's picked up five wickets in his two games, including crucial top-order scalps. He's taken to the IPL and RCB like a duck to water," Flower said. Duffy, who is looking in great touch, said that he is really enjoying the tournament, and it's great to win both games.

"Defending our home turf at



Chinnaswamy, which is awesome. I think we're playing really cool cricket, you know. Obviously, getting a big score with the bat, 250, and then also chasing down 200 in pretty quick fashion was awesome," he said. RCB is expected to face a tough challenge against Rajasthan Royals, who have surged to the top of the standings after winning all three of their matches so far, with victories over Chennai Super Kings, Gujarat Titans, and Mumbai Indians.

IPL 2026: Some of Choudhary's shots reminded me of watching Dhoni, feels du Plessis

New Delhi: Former South Africa captain Faf du Plessis has showered rich praise on Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) young batting sensation Mukul Choudhary, adding that his finishing prowess and flick shots to give the side a three-wicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) were akin to the batting style of the legendary MS Dhoni.



At Eden Gardens, Choudhary smashed an unbeaten 54 off 27 balls, laced with seven sixes and two fours, and helped LSG get a win on the last ball. "It's incredible to see the awareness to take the game through. The power from the young man, unbelievable batting. "What a game of cricket, with lots of ebbs and flows, and stealing it

towards the end. Some of the shots reminded me of watching MS Dhoni back in the day, especially those flick shots, so much power," said du Plessis on JioHotstar. While LSG found a new hero in the inexperienced but talented Choudhary, Du Plessis pointed out that three-time champions KKR are currently strugg-

ling to find the 'rub of the green' in their favour. "You get little moments in the season where it can almost be defined, and you look back and think, 'If that had just gone our way, the season would have looked a lot different.' This is one of those moments for LSG, finishing the game and getting

across the line when they shouldn't have, with a player who is inexperienced but has the pedigree to take the game through. On the other side, KKR will feel that the rub of the green is not going their way. KKR, who are yet to win a game in IPL 2026, find themselves in a precarious position. "They are a team that has now had three losses and one rained-off game, those 50-50 moments are just not falling in their favour. I think back to the first ball of the last over, when an easy single was on offer for Avesh. Those are the kinds of things you have to make sure you are switched on for as a team if you want to get across the line," concluded du Plessis.

You ended my son's career: Chris Broad's anguish.. UV's reaction!

Yuvraj Singh's six-scoring in a single over in the 2007 T20 World Cup is a miracle in the history of cricket. But Yuvraj recently shared some interesting things that happened off the field after that incident on the show 'The Over Lap'. Yuvraj explained how that rain of sixes affected Stuart Broad's career and how his father Chris Broad reacted. Stuart Broad's father, Chris Broad, who was the referee for that match, came to Yuvraj after the match and said, "You almost ended my son's career." As a father, he expressed the pain his son was going through. Yuvraj responded by saying, "Sir, I

have hit five sixes in my bowling in the past, I know that pain." Then, as per Chris Broad's request, Yuv signed a jersey and wrote, "I hope you become the best bowler in the world in the future." However, Yuv recently learned that Stuart Broad had thrown the jersey in a dustbin in anger. Yuv responded very maturely, saying, "It is natural to get angry when such an insult



happens, it is not wrong." Yuv praised the fact that Broad did not get discouraged by that setback and went on to take over 600 Test wickets and become a legendary bowler.

Kaif slams Pant for lack of responsibility despite LSG's thriller win

Former India cricketer Mohammed Kaif has criticised Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) captain Rishabh Pant even after their dramatic three-wicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), saying the wicketkeeper-batter must show greater game awareness and consistency as a leader. Pant managed only 10 runs in the low-scoring thriller at Kolkata on Thursday, continuing a patchy run of form that has seen him alternate between one good innings and multiple failures this season. Kaif said that as captain and an experienced IPL campaigner since 2016, Pant should have taken responsibility and stayed longer at the crease.

"He is an experienced player, having been in the IPL since 2016. The situation when he came out to bat was not particularly difficult. LSG had already scored 41 in the first five overs. One batter needed to take responsibility and bat through the chase. That role was meant for Pant. "As captain, if you don't take responsibility, you cannot help your team win games. Yes, he did well against SRH, but he needs to find consistency. Playing one good knock and then failing in the next few games is not enough. He has to read the match situation better and learn when to shift gears," he said. Kaif further stressed that Pant must focus on building innings rather than playing risky shots early in the chase.

"A captain's job is to stay till the end in a chase, and that is something Pant must work on." Meanwhile, former India captain Sunil Gavaskar said LSG's victory was significant

as the team managed to win despite underwhelming performances from their senior batters, including Mitchell Marsh, Aiden Markram, Pant and Nicholas Pooran. Gavaskar expressed concern over Pooran's form, saying the West Indies batter "looked lost". "What's a concern for LSG is the poor form of Nicholas Pooran. He looked out of touch against KKR and LSG moved him to the middle order because they wanted more firepower there. "But, he looked lost. He was just swinging his bat at each ball in the hope of getting some contact with the bat but that is not the Pooran we know. LSG will have to find a way to make Pooran regain his confidence back," said Gavaskar. However, he praised the emergence of young batter Mukul Choudhary, who played a match-winning knock under pressure.

"They (LSG) were in a tough spot, but sealed a miraculous win with the help of their youngsters. Mitchell Marsh didn't score much runs, Aiden Markram made only 22, Pant and Pooran also failed to get going. "Despite their main batters struggling, LSG still rescued themselves and secured the win. Last year, they relied completely on their main



players. This season, they are winning without relying on them.

"Despite being at 104 for 5 after 13 overs, with all their main batters back in the dugout, they still managed to win. It gives LSG confidence. They know their fearless youngsters will come good at some point, and that belief alone can take them a long way.

"Unbelievable innings by this fearless prodigy, Mukul Choudhary. What I love about the IPL is that every day we get to see something different. Here, it is Mukul Choudhary, who stepped up and helped his side cross the finish line. This guy is a young kid who bats at number five for Rajasthan in domestic T20 cricket.

"He just comes into the IPL, plays an unbelievable innings and makes everyone talk about him. The confidence he showed and the way he executed his shots was simply amazing to watch," added Gavaskar.

ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol: Divya's fourth, Gajanan's fifth, highlights of India's day in Granada

New Delhi: Divya T.S.'s creditable fourth place finish in the women's 25m pistol and Gajanan Khandagale's fighting fifth on her India and World Cup debut in the men's 10m air rifle, were the highlights of India's day at the ongoing International Shooting Federation (ISSF) World Cup Rifle/Pistol event at the Las Gabias Shooting range in Granada, Spain, on Thursday. Divya shot 28 in her third individual World Cup final to finish just outside the medals, while Gajanan bowed out with an effort of 187.5 in the men's air rifle final. Rhythm Sangwan also made the women's 25m pistol to finish seventh. China's Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist Xiao Jiaruixuan won gold in the event after two rounds of shoot-offs were needed to separate her from her teenage compatriot and debutant Kong Jieru. Both had tied with 39 hits



after the regulation 10-series of five rapid-fire shots. Paris Olympics bronze medalist Camille Jedrzejewski edged out Divya for bronze and finished with 34 hits after the penultimate series. Earlier, Rhythm was the stronger of the two Indians in the qualifying stage, shooting 586 for a fifth-place finish. Divya shot 585 to take the seventh qualifying spot ahead of Poland's Agata Nowak. World Cup Finals winner Simranpreet Kaur Brar finished 30th with a

575. Gajanan Khandagale also had a brilliant debut after he stormed into the final in second place with an effort of 634.3 in qualification, which was just 0.2 behind Paris silver medalist Victor Lindgren of Sweden. Olympic and world champion Sheng Lihao of China, who eventually won gold, shot 633.6 to qualify in fourth. Arshdeep Singh was 21st with 629.5 while Dhanush Srikanth was 23rd with 629.2.

Gagan was one of six shooters to start the final in the 10-ring and shot valiantly in a high-class field to bow out after the 18th shot, just 0.1 behind Chinese youngster Ma Sihuan, who took fourth place.

Aleksa Rakonjac of Serbia took silver and a first World Cup medal, as did Lindgren with his bronze, despite being a former world champion and an Olympic medalist. All three Indians navigated the women's 50m rifle 3 positions (3P) elimination relays safely as well, with Olympian and world championship medalist Anjum Moudgil best with a 592. Ayushi Podder shot 587 in the second relay, and Surabhi Bharadwaj Rapole shot 582 as 58 of the 75 made it to the main qualification round.

Friday has the women's 3P final as the showpiece of the day, with the Indians making another attempt to add medals to their tally.

Unstoppable Momentum Powers BMW Group India's Best?Ever Q1. Record Deliveries of 4,567 units with Exceptional +17% Growth.

Visakhapatnam: Apr 10

BMW Group India has posted its highest?ever Q1 car sales, registering consistently high double?digit growth in an otherwise moderate segment performance. The company sold 4,567 cars in first quarter of calendar year 2026, achieving high growth of +17% year?on?year (YoY). The year started off on a very positive note with every month recording its best?ever sales. Mr. Hardeep Singh Brar, President and CEO, BMW Group India said, "BMW Group India has entered 2026 in an extremely strong position. We have achieved our highest?ever Q1 sales, registering solid double?digit growth, despite macroeconomic and geopolitical headwinds. Our lead in India's luxury electric mobility also continues thanks to the immense trust our valued customers have put in our electric offerings in terms of performance, EV ecosystem and technology. We are geared to a pulsating 2026 that will be marked by our most ambitious product offensive, with 4 already launched and 23 more to go. Sustaining this momentum into long?term success, our unwavering focus on customer experience, aftersales and brand connect will be taken to the next level. With each new car, we aim to deliver JOY to our customers who



enable this success story for BMW Group India." Electric Vehicles (EV) Making electric mainstream in the luxury segment, BMW Group India is the most preferred luxury EV brand. The electric lead continued in Q1 with 1,185 BMW and MINI EVs sold, achieving +83% growth YoY. Every fourth car BMW Group India sells today is an EV. The company commands the largest market share of over 70% in luxury electric segment in India. The EV penetration to total sales stood at 26% in Q1. BMW Group India continues to strengthen its leadership in luxury electric mobility with a comprehensive and highly curated luxury EV ecosystem. The brand offers an unmatched blend of cutting?edge electric products with long range and high performance, extensive charging convenience, assured buy?back value and an attractive

cost of ownership. BMW Group India has expanded its customer?centric initiatives with offerings such as Destination Charging, Smart E?Routing, Charging Concierge and the High?Power Charging Corridor. Through partnerships with leading service providers, BMW and MINI customers now enjoy access to over 6,000 charging points nationwide, comprising of a high number of DC chargers. The company also boasts the widest EV portfolio in the luxury segment, spanning six electric cars and two electric scooters: BMW i7, BMW iX, BMW i5, BMW iX1 Long Wheelbase, MINI Countryman E, MINI Countryman SE ALL4, BMW CE 04 and BMW CE 02. BMW Long Wheelbase models redefine comfort, luxury and performance, while retaining the core of the BMW DNA, that is Sheer Driving Pleasure. In Q1, Long Wheelbase models accounted for over 50% of sales with growth of +23% YoY and sales of 2,256 units. Sports Activity Vehicles (SAV) BMW Group India SAVs recorded an even faster pace of growth at +38% YoY at 2,966 units. Highly favoured among the luxury SAV enthusiasts, their share in sales today stands at 65%.

Intense Heat Grips Telugu States as Temperatures Soar

Vijayawada: Apr 10
The beginning of April has brought scorching heat across the Telugu states, with the sun blazing fiercely from as early as 7:00 AM and continuing until 5:00 PM. Many residents are hesitant to leave their homes amid daytime temperatures exceeding 41°C in numerous districts. Nearly 20 districts in Telangana have recorded maximum temperatures, prompting the Hyderabad Meteorological Centre to issue an 'Orange Alert' for these areas. The Centre forecasts a further rise of 2 to 3 degrees over the next three days and noted that temperatures are higher across all districts compared to last year. Telangana regional news
On Wednesday, the highest temperature of 41.6°C was recorded in Thirumalayapalem, Khammam district, followed by 41.5°C in Dummugudem, Bhadradi Kothagudem, and



Neredugomma, Nalgonda. Other notable readings included 41.4°C in Mellacheruvu, Suryapet district, 41.2°C in Palakurthi, Jangaon, and Sangem, Warangal district, with Hyderabad experiencing 38°C. Temperature records continued into Thursday, with officials advising the public to exercise caution during outdoor activities. In stark contrast, Andhra Pradesh is experiencing a different weather pattern. While the afternoons remain hot, evening rains are providing relief in some regions. On Wednesday, heavy rainfall was reported across parts of East Godavari district. However, in the Rayalaseema region, residents are battling the combined effects of extreme heat and high humidity. The Meteorological Centre recorded maximum temperatures on Wednesday as follows: 42.2°C in Palnadu, 42.1°C in Chittoor, 41.9°C in Nandyal, 41.8°C in Kadapa, 41.7°C in Anantapur, 41.6°C in Kurnool, and 41.5°C in Prakasam district.

Fly 91 launches new Hyderabad-Vijayawada Flight Service

Vijayawada: Apr 10
Travelers between Hyderabad and Vijayawada can now benefit from a new air route launched by regional airline Fly 91. The airline has begun operations to connect the two Telugu states, aiming to reduce travel time and make air travel more accessible to the general public. City & Local Guides Union Minister for Civil Aviation, Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu, virtually flagged off the service from Srikakulam today (Friday), officially inaugurating the route. The initiative seeks to offer swift, affordable travel options. In his address, Minister Naidu highlighted the government's commitment to improving regional connectivity, especially for Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities across India. He expressed optimism that this new service would help turn the Prime Minister's vision of enabling the common man to fly into a reality. He also noted that the flight would be particular-



ly beneficial given the high traffic between Vijayawada and Hyderabad. For passengers, the journey that typically takes around 5 to 6 hours by road can now be completed in approximately 50 minutes to one hour by air. With Hyderabad's prominent IT sector and Vijayawada's growing business hubs, the service is expected to be a significant boon for entrepreneurs and professionals. Fly 91 is also committed to keeping ticket prices affordable and competitive with other airlines on this route.

Amilineni opens school building, urges parental focus on education

Kalyandurg: Apr 10
MLA Amilineni Surendra Babu on Thursday inaugurated the new building of Brainy Star Private School here on Tuesday and emphasised the importance of parental involvement in students' education. After formally opening the facility, the MLA inspected classrooms, a play area, and science laboratories. Addressing a gathering, he said parents must take greater responsibility in guiding children to become responsible citizens. He noted that both education and values are essential for achieving success in life. Recalling his own schooling at Nirmala Convent, he said the English foundation he acquired there continues to benefit him. He also highlighted the



government's commitment to providing quality education and nutritious mid-day meals, along with educational kits for students. The MLA appreciated the school management for its growth from a small institution with 25 students to a well-developed campus accommodating around 250 students. He also pointed to the success of a

AKPL achieves historic milestone of 59.22 MMT in FY 2025-26

Nellore: Apr 11
Adani Krishnapatnam Port Limited (AKPL), a flagship asset of Adani Ports and SEZ Limited (APSEZ), achieved the historic milestone of 59.22 MMT in the FY 2025-26, registering eight per cent growth in throughput over the previous year. In addition to this, it recorded the highest monthly volume of 5.85 MMT in June 2025, a new milestone since the inception of Krishnapatnam Port, said Adani Krishnapatnam Port Limited Chief Executive Officer Jagdish Patel. The CEO said that the port handled as many as 1071 vessels and record cargo of 59.22 MT with customer focus approach, operational excellence, infrastructure strength, technology adoption, and seamless coordination.



Adani Krishnapatnam port had also diversified its cargo by adding new ones such as Laterite, Soda ash, Rock Phosphate and Yellow peas. The landmark achieved with the higher berth occupancy, seamless vessel operations supported by strong safety and emergency response mechanism. The port optimized its capability to handle five deep draft Cape size vessels simultaneously which is highest in India, thus maximizing parcel size and efficiency.

Anantapur told to lead Viksit Bharat push



Anantapur: Apr 10
Anantapur district should emerge as a frontrunner in achieving the goals of Viksit Bharat and Swarna Andhra Pradesh, said Lanka Dinakar, chairman of the 20-Point Programme Committee, during a review meeting held at the Collectorate on Thursday. The meeting, attended by MP Ambika Lakshminarayana, District Collector O Anand, and senior officials, reviewed the implementation of key Central schemes, including Jal Jeevan Mission, AMRUT 1.0 and 2.0, PM Surya Ghar, PM Kusum, and other welfare programmes related to health, education, and rural development. Addressing the media, Dinakar stressed the need for progress in education and health-care sectors to align with national and state development goals. He highlighted the importance of human resource development and called for effective planning under rural employment and livelihood initiatives to enhance asset creation and employment opportunities. Officials informed that proposals worth Rs 277 crore have been submitted for agricultural and horticultural development for 2026-27, with potential assistance exceeding Rs 1,500 crore over six years. The review also covered health programmes under the National Health Mission, maternal and child welfare schemes, and drinking water supply initiatives. MP Lakshminarayana urged strict implementation of Central schemes and timely achievement of targets. Collector O. Anand assured that all measures are being taken to ensure effective execution of development programmes across the district.

NSUI celebrates foundation day with grandeur



Anantapur: Apr 10
The National Students' Union of India (NSUI) celebrated its foundation day with grandeur here, led by district president Obulesu. State coordinator Naresh Yanamala attended as chief guest and hoisted the flag. Addressing the gathering, Naresh highlighted NSUI's legacy since its inception under Indira Gandhi, emphasising its tireless struggles for educational reforms nationwide. He praised the organisation for empowering youth and defending student rights, while urging members to uphold democratic values. Naresh criticised the BJP-led central government for allegedly undermining the education system, calling on NSUI to resist these policies. Several local leaders, including Ajay, Naveen, and C V Vinod Kumar, participated in the event.

Tap water project launched in Kothaburuzu village



Dhone (Nandyal district): Apr 10
A major step towards improving rural infrastructure was taken on Thursday as District Collector G Raja Kumari launched household tap connection works in Kothaburuzu village of Dhone mandal in Nandyal district. The project, costing Rs 30 lakh, is being taken up under the District Mineral Fund. Dhone MLA Kotla Jaya Surya Prakash Reddy was also present at the event. The aim is to provide safe drinking water to every home, as promised earlier by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu during his visit to the village. The Collector said that access to clean drinking water will improve health and living standards of villagers. She also announced that 30 households will get individual toilets under the Swachh Bharat Mission, with a total cost of Rs.4.5 lakh. She stressed that better sanitation will lead to a cleaner and healthier environment. She added that all approved development works will be completed on time, and pending proposals will be cleared within a week. Speaking about agriculture, the Collector encouraged farmers to shift towards horticulture, which can bring higher income compared to traditional crops. She said crops grown on 7 lakh acres generate about Rs.4,000 crore, while horticulture on 49,000 hectares earns nearly Rs 7,000 crore. The administration is also working on a 100-day plan to improve water security by restoring tanks and clearing feeder channels. The MLA said the government is committed to rural development and will fulfil all promises, including welfare schemes, housing, roads, and better irrigation methods like drip and sprinkler systems.

Govt committed to address fishermen problems: Collector

Nellore: Apr 10
District Collector Himanshu Shukla stated that the government's primary objective is to provide a permanent solution to the issue of illegal fishing by fishermen from Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. He took part in a big convention cum interaction programme with representatives and village heads of fishermen who attended from 162 villages of Nellore, Tirupati, Prakasam, and Bapatla, organized at Town Hall in Nellore city here on Thursday.



Collector detailed as part of measure to prevent illegal venturing and infiltration of other states fishermen in to Andhra Pradesh the government has launched established Robust System with active participation from local fishermen. He announced that 4 High Speed Boats (HSB) one each to Tirupati, Nellore, Prakasam, and Bapatla districts and another two also would be allocated (Total 3 for Nellore District) as proposals were sent to the government to sanction them at once. He narrated that these boats designed with 650Horse Power (HP) capacity would be used for only patrolling purpose but not for venturing. Collector urged the village heads to nominate the name of 10 beneficiaries for each HSB by April 12.

While responding to the plea of fishermen over government to bear their maintenance cost related to procuring 650HP Steel Boats and repair of existing Marine Police Boats, consider the fishermen who are working on Patrolling as government employees, Collector assured them that he would pursue the matter to the government found amicable solution. SP Dr Ajitha Vejendla suggested forming a special committee comprising officials and fishermen to decide on standard procedures for handling illegal fishing cases, including interception, detention, and patrolling norms. Additional SP Soujanya, DFO Mahaboob Basha, DRO Vijay Kumar, Fisheries Director Santhi, Nellore RDOs Anusha and others, were present.

AP Cabinet to Meet Today, Likely to Approve Major Projects and Reforms



Vijayawada, Apr 10
The Andhra Pradesh State Cabinet is scheduled to convene at the Secretariat today at 10:30 AM, with Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu presiding over the session. The meeting is set to focus on key issues related to the state's development, investments, and administrative reforms. In light of the recent parliamentary approval of the Amaravati Capital Region Act, the Cabinet is expected to express its gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the

Central Government. The session will also review proposals from the 16th meeting of the State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB), with reports indicating approval for projects worth Rs.39,436 crore across 31 initiatives. These projects aim to bolster economic growth and create employment opportunities. Furthermore, the Cabinet is likely to authorise the establishment of three major institutions in Amaravati under the 'Quantum Valley' initiative. The meeting will also

consider an ordinance to establish a Fee Regulatory Committee (FRC) for the education sector. Land allocations for various institutions involved in the capital city's ongoing development are expected to be approved as well. Discussions are also scheduled regarding the finalisation of a zonal division for the state, based on its 28 districts. This move aims to streamline future recruitment processes and implement a multi-zonal administrative framework across Andhra Pradesh.

VSU releases affiliation notification

Nellore: Apr 10
Vikrama Simhapuri University (VSU) has released a notification inviting applications from affiliated colleges for renewal of Temporary and Permanent Affiliation for the academic year 2026-27. The notification has been issued as per the orders of the Vice-Chancellor. All affiliated colleges offering Degree, Postgraduate, Education, Physical Education, Law, MBA, and MCA programs must submit their applications only through online mode. Applications should be submitted via the official portal managed by Andhra Pradesh Centre for Financial Systems and Services (APCFSS) <https://affiliation.apcfss.in> A prescribed user service charge will be collected from each college for processing



the application. After completing the online submission, colleges must submit hard copies of the application along with supporting documents on or before April 18, 2026.

Tragic Snake Bite Kills Girl in Konapapapeta

Nellore: Apr 10
A tragic incident has claimed the life of 13-year-old Chappa Deepika in Konapapapeta, on the outskirts of Ponnada in U. Kothapalli Mandal. The girl was bitten by a snake, believed to be a cobra, during her sleep early this morning. The incident occurred around 2:30 AM when Deepika was sleeping on a cot inside her home. She thought she had been bitten by a rat and informed her mother, Malleswari. Her mother advised waiting until morning for a hospital injection, and Deepika went back to sleep. At around 4:00 AM, the girl began to complain of discomfort. Her family called relatives to help take her to hospital, but by then she was foaming at the mouth. Recognising the severity of the situation, her family immediately called for an ambulance. While searching for her Aadhaar card to provide details, they discovered a cobra beside the cot. Realising she had



the situation, her family immediately called for an ambulance. While searching for her Aadhaar card to provide details, they discovered a cobra beside the cot. Realising she had