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Women's participation will be biggest guarantee for our bright future: PM Modi at Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam event

New Delhi, April 13 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said that growing public discussion around women's representation reflects the strength of Indian democracy, asserting that the Nari Shakti Vandan initiative will give "new wings" to the aspirations of women across the country. He also stated that women's participation in decision-making will be the "biggest guarantee for our bright future."

Addressing the Nari Shakti Vandan Sammelan at Vigyan Bhawan, the Prime Minister said, "I am seeing that in the last few days, women have been vocal about this issue. An exten-



sive debate is ongoing in the country. It is the strength of the democracy that new wings are about to be given to all your dreams. There is a positive atmosphere across the nation.

From the Independence struggle to the decisions of the Constituent Assembly, India's Nari Shakti has made an unlimited contribution." He highlighted the contributions of women leaders in the post-Independence era, stating that those who assumed leadership roles brought distinction to their positions.

"Even after Independence, the women who got the opportunity to lead did wonderful work for the nation. From the post of the President to the Prime Minister, no matter where the women served, they made a different legacy for themselves. Even today, important posts like the

President and the Finance Minister are also being held by women. These women have taken forward the dignity and legacy of the nation," he added. The Prime Minister noted that more than 14 lakh women are currently working in local governance institutions across India, underlining their growing role in grassroots democracy. "In many studies, it has been observed that when women's participation in decision-making processes increases, it brings greater sensitivity to the system. This is a very important strength. As a result, in areas such as water, education, health, (Contd. on pg.2)

'Immortal freedom fighters': Prez Murmu pays homage to the martyrs of Jallianwala Bagh



New Delhi, April 13 : President Droupadi Murmu on Monday paid humble tribute to all the immortal freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives at Jallianwala Bagh and said that the nation will forever remain grateful to them. President Murmu took to social media 'X' and said, "I pay my humble tribute to all the immortal freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives at Jallianwala Bagh. This event infused the people of the nation with a renewed consciousness and unwavering resolve for freedom. The nation will forever remain grate-

ful to them. I am confident that their spirit of patriotism will continue to inspire everyone to move forward on the path of national service with dedication and devotion." Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also took to social media 'X' and said, "Remembering and paying my heartfelt tributes to all those innocent Indians who were sacrificed their lives in the Jallianwala Bagh massacre on this day in 1919. Their sacrifice remains a defining moment in India's freedom struggle, awakening the nation's collective conscience. (Contd. on pg.2)

No Supreme Court relief for Bengal voters deleted in SIR process

New Delhi, April 13: In response, Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said, "That is entirely out of the question. If we were to permit this, then the voting rights of the individuals involved would have to be suspended"

The Supreme Court has declined to grant interim voting rights to those whose names were deleted during the voter roll clean-up process special intensive revision (SIR) and whose appeals are still pending before the appellate tribunals.

During the proceedings, Trinamool Congress leader Kalyan Banerjee said that at least 1.6 million appeals have been filed, and they should be allowed to vote in the two-phase assembly election due later this month.

In response, Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said, "That is entirely out of the question. If we were to



permit this, then the voting rights of the individuals involved would have to be suspended."

Justice Joymalya Bagchi said there are 3.4 million appeals in the SIR exercise, and added that a report submitted by the Calcutta High Court Chief Justice clearly stated

this data. The Election Commission of India (ECI) has already frozen the Bengal voter list and no new name can be included before the election, unless the Supreme Court gives a specific direction on this count, which did not happen (Contd. on pg.2)

Setting up industries in AP will be easier. Chandrababu Naidu's key orders on repealing British-era laws

By Skyline Staff Reporter Amaravati, April 13

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu is taking key decisions to boost industrial progress and attract investments in the state. A high-level review was held to further speed up the process of setting up industries and simplify regulations. He instructed the officials to remove old laws from the British era and create a conducive environment for businessmen. He made it clear that reforms should be implemented quickly, even if it is necessary to issue ordinances.

A team led by Union Steel Secretary Sandeep Poundrick met the Chief Minister in Amaravati on Monday to discuss the deregulation phase-2 program being implemented by the Central Government. State Chief



Secretary Sai Prasad and several other high-ranking officials participated in the meeting.

CM reviews with the central team.. Phase-2 to be completed by May

The delegation led by Union Steel Secretary Sandeep Poundrick discussed extensively with Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu on the implementation of deregulation phase-2 in the state. The main focus of the meeting was on increasing the speed of setting up industries, simplifying permissions and removing unnecessary regulations. Sandeep Poundrick explained the proposals prepared by the Center to the CM. On this occasion, the officials of the respective departments informed the policies and future plans already being implemented by the state government through a PowerPoint presentation. The officials explained that 23 priority items have been completed in 7 departments as part of deregulation phase-1, and 28 items have been (Contd. on pg.2)

Jagan luring Vemireddy back into YSRCP?



By Skyline Staff Reporter Vijayawada, April 13 As the political atmosphere in Andhra Pradesh is gradually heating up, even though elections are still three years away, political parties have begun chalking out their strategies to outwit their rivals. YSR Congress Party pres-

ident Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy continues to assert that growing public dissatisfaction will bring his party back to power. He has reportedly initiated efforts to bring back key leaders who had defected to rival parties ahead of the 2024 elections. (Contd. on pg.2)

Nara Lokesh meets President Murmu, thanks her for approving Amaravati Bill

New Delhi, April 13 : Andhra Pradesh Minister for Human Resources Development Nara Lokesh, along with NDA MPs from the state called on President Droupadi Murmu here on Monday to thank for approving the Bill passed by the Parliament to give statutory recognition to Amaravati as the sole and permanent capital of the state. Minister Lokesh said on social media platform X that it was a privilege to meet President Murmu and convey the heartfelt gratitude of crores of people of Andhra Pradesh for



approving the Bill that notifies Amaravati as the state capital. Nara Lokesh, the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) General Secretary, noted that President Murmu graciously acknowledged the extraordinary resilience and sacrifice of our farm-

ers, and the steadfast leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu in bringing long-awaited clarity on the state capital. "I also had the honour of presenting her (President Droupadi Murmu) a coffee table book that (Contd. on pg.2)

Population-based delimitation unjust to South, smaller states; put nation above party interest: Reventh

By Skyline Staff Reporter Hyderabad, April 13 : Telangana Chief Minister, A. Revanth Reddy, on Monday said that population-based delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies is unjust to southern and smaller states in the country. He warned that this move would weaken the country in the long run. In a social media post addressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Chief Minister said that national interest must be above any party interest. "It is clear to every citizen that women's reservation (which everybody sup-



ports), and Delimitation of Lok Sabha seats (on which there are many concerns), are different. For example, if women quota is implemented immediately for state-wise Assembly seats, entire country will welcome it," posted the Congress

leader. "Using women's reservation as a red herring, attempts to push a population-based national Delimitation of Lok Sabha may serve the BJP in a very short run, but if it is unjust to Southern and (Contd. on pg.2)

Renaming BRS as TRS: Yet another big blunder?

By Skyline Staff Reporter Hyderabad, April 13: The issue of renaming the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) back to its original name Telangana Rashtira Samithi (TRS) has resurfaced in Telangana politics once again, generating a big debate.

The development comes in the wake of reports that Telangana Jagruthi president and former BRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha has applied to the Election Commission of India for the registration of TRS, to corner the BRS leadership, though she has no intention to use the



same. However, on Sunday, BRS working president K T Rama Rao indicated that the BRS might go back to its original name TRS, as there has been a growing demand from grassroots

leaders and cadre to restore the original name. During an interaction with the media in Mancherla, he acknowledged that a proposal exists to revert to TRS, citing the strong (Contd. on pg.2)

Healthy Andhra Pradesh is the Goal of the Coalition Government

Poshan Pakhwada Programme under the Leadership of TDP State President Palla Srinivasa Rao in Gajuwaka

By Skyline Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam, April 13: The coalition government, recognising that maternal and child welfare forms the bedrock of a healthy society, is moving forward with firm resolve to eradicate malnutrition, said Palla Srinivasa Rao. He inaugurated the Poshan Pakhwada programme in Gajuwaka under the ICDS Pendurthi project limits and released awareness posters on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Srinivasa Rao underscored that tackling malnutrition among pregnant women, lactating mothers and young children transcends the scope of a conventional health

initiative, describing it instead as a critical social obligation that will shape the State's future. He observed that the measures being undertaken by the coalition government, under the far-sighted leadership of N. Chandrababu Naidu, are setting a benchmark

for the rest of the country. Through Poshan Pakhwada, he noted, sustained efforts are being made at every anganwadi centre to spread awareness among mothers and caregivers, while promoting healthier lifestyles. Emphasising the significance of

the first 1,000 days—from conception until a child turns two—he described this window as decisive in determining long-term health outcomes. Focused attention on maternal nutrition and early childcare during this phase, he said, can lay the foundation for a robust and healthy generation. Strengthening the anganwadi system remains central to this effort, ensuring that the importance of nutrition reaches every household.

With the broader objective of a "Poshit Bharat", he said initiatives are being undertaken to discourage the consumption of junk food while encouraging (Contd. on pg.2)



Actress Sreeleela Unveils New Kalyan Jewellers Showroom in Vizianagaram

Vizianagaram, 13th April, 2026: Kalyan Jewellers, one of India's most trusted jewellery brands, today executed a major retail expansion with the grand launch of its new showroom at Mahatma Gandhi Road, Vizianagaram. The launch was amplified by the simultaneous unveiling of a new showroom for Candere, Kalyan's popular lifestyle jewellery brand. The dual inauguration was officiated by superstar Sreeleela in a ceremony attended by esteemed guests and patrons. This strategic move co-locates the classic, bridal-focused collections of Kalyan Jewellers with the trendy, contemporary designs of Candere, establishing a holistic

jewellery destination. The state-of-the-art showrooms offer a luxurious ambience and an unparalleled selection designed to cater to every consumer segment, from those seeking timeless heirlooms to Gen Z and professionals looking for modern, lightweight pieces for daily wear. The Candere showroom will cater to today's Gen Z, working women, and style-savvy men with its trendy and lightweight collections, with prices starting at an accessible ₹10,000. Evolving from a digital-first brand to an omnichannel retailer, Candere seamlessly blends the convenience of online shopping with the essential touch-and-

feel experience of a physical store. Addressing the crowd, Sreeleela said, "It is an honour to be associated with a brand like Kalyan Jewellers, which is built on the foundation of trust and transparency. This new destination in Vizianagaram is remarkable. It brings together the grandeur of Kalyan's traditional collections and the fresh, accessible designs of Candere. I am confident the people of Indore will warmly embrace this unique and complete jewellery shopping experience." Commenting on the new showroom launch, Mr. Ramesh Kalyanaram, Executive Director,



Kalyan Jewellers, said, "With the launch of our all-new showrooms in Vizianagaram, we aim to create a holistic ecosystem and cater to the distinct needs of our customers, enhancing their shopping experience. We aspire to continue reinventing ourselves, providing customers with world-class ambience, while staying true to the company's ethos of trust and transparency." With a luxurious ambience and an extensive collection of designs from various signature jewellery lines offered by Kalyan Jewellers, the new showroom is poised to offer an unparalleled shopping experience to patrons in the region.

Celebrating the launch, Kalyan Jewellers has announced a range of exclusive in-store offers, including Upto 50% off on Value Addition. The brand's Special Gold Board Rate, the lowest in the market and uniform across all showrooms, will also be applicable for a limited period. All jewellery retailed at Kalyan Jewellers is BIS-hallmarked and undergoes multiple purity tests. In addition, patrons will receive the Kalyan Jewellers 4-Level Assurance Certificate, guaranteeing gold purity, free lifetime maintenance, detailed product information, transparent exchange

and buy-back policies, reaffirming the brand's commitment to trust and transparency. The showroom will also stock Kalyan's popular house brands, including Muhurat (Wedding Jewellery Line), Mudhra (Handcrafted Antique Jewellery), Nimah (Temple Jewellery), Glo (Dancing Diamonds), Ziah (Solitaire-like Diamond Jewellery), Anokhi (Uncut Diamonds), Apoorva (Diamonds for Special Occasions), Antara (Wedding Diamonds), Hera (Daily Wear Diamonds), Rang (Precious Stones Jewellery) and the recently launched Lila (Coloured Stones and Diamond Jewellery).

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Women's participation will be biggest guarantee for our bright future: PM Modi at Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinyam event

and nutrition, more dedicated, sensitive, and effective work has been done. I believe the Jal Jeevan Mission is the biggest example of this success, in which women's participation at the panchayat level has played a very important role," he said. Emphasising the importance of women's participation in the journey towards achieving the resolution of Viksit Bharat, PM Modi said, "The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinyam is going to become a major opportunity in the lives of all such women. Now, their journey from the panchayat level to Parliament will become even easier." Highlighting various government initiatives aimed at women's welfare, the Prime Minister said efforts have been made to support women at different stages of life. He mentioned that the Centre has taken several initiatives in this direction -- the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' campaign, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, Mission Indradhanush, Sainik Schools and opening paths to National Defence Academy, Ujjwala Yojana, PM Awas Yojana, etc. Calling for broader political support, the Prime Minister urged lawmakers to act in consensus for the benefit of women. "I request my fellow Members of Parliament to take the right decisions in the interest of women and to do so with consensus. Friends, I have one more request for you. Please take the discussions of the Nari Shakti Vandan programme to every village in the country. Through personal interactions, social media, and other means of communication, we must ensure that this major decision of the country reaches every woman in the nation," he said. "We will all come together and take this pledge that women will have their rights and will fully participate in the decision-making process. This is the biggest guarantee of our bright future," he added.

'Immortal freedom fighters': Prez Murmu pays homage to the martyrs of Jallianwala Bagh

Their courage continues to inspire generations to stand for justice, dignity and self-respect." April 13, 2026, signifies the 107th anniversary of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre, a dark and pivotal moment in the history of India's fight for sovereignty. More than a century ago, on this date in 1919, the merciless actions of British colonial authorities left a permanent scar on the Indian independence movement. This tragedy served as a massive wake-up call for the public, highlighting the true brutality of foreign rule and shifting the momentum of the freedom struggle forever. The incident took place during the Baisakhi festival. Thousands of defenceless men, women, and children had gathered at Amritsar's Jallianwala Bagh to observe the Sikh New Year. They were unaware that the British administration had declared Martial Law, which outlawed public meetings and enforced strict curfews. This lack of communication led to a historical catastrophe. On April 13, 1919, as thousands remained gathered in the garden for the festivities, Colonel Reginald Dyer, the Acting Brigadier, arrived with his forces. Without providing any warning or a chance for the crowd to leave, he ordered his troops to open fire. Dyer's forces, equipped with two armoured cars armed with machine guns, as well as Gurkha and Baluchi soldiers using Scinde rifles, relentlessly fired at the crowd for 10 to 15 minutes. In total, more than 1,650 rounds of ammunition were unleashed on the helpless people. While the official reports later claimed 379 deaths and around 1,200 injuries, the true death toll is believed to be over 1,000, with many more wounded. The massacre occurred in Jallianwala Bagh, a walled garden that was enclosed on three sides by buildings. The only entrance was tightly packed with people, making escape impossible. This horrific event, also known as the Amritsar Massacre, was a shocking act of violence, marking a key moment in India's struggle for independence.

No Supreme Court relief

for Bengal voters deleted in SIR process

today. Nineteen appellate tribunals have been set up in the state bordering Bangladesh to decide the fate of 27 lakh cases that have been deleted in the judicial adjudication cases. The Supreme Court's order came after a group of 13 people sought its intervention in the deletion of their names from the Bengal voter list. The court called the petition "premature" and told them to go to the appellate tribunals instead. "Since the petitioners (Quaraisha Yeasmin and others) have already approached the appellate tribunals... in our considered view, the apprehensions expressed in the petition are premature. If the plea is allowed, then necessary consequences will follow," the bench said in its order, adding that it has not expressed any views on the merits of the plea. The petition alleged that the Election Commission was summarily deleting names without following due process, and that appeals against these deletions were not being heard in a timely manner. Senior lawyer DS Naidu, appearing for the EC, said there are approximately 30-34 lakh appeals pending. The petitioners, however, said the EC didn't give orders before the relevant judicial authorities and the "freezing date" for the electoral rolls should be extended. "If I am not allowed to argue, then what is the use? Will these appeals be decided within a timeframe or just kept extending?" their lawyer said. Justice Bagchi referred to the sanctity of the electoral process and said, "The right to vote in a country you were born in is not just constitutional, but sentimental. It is about being part of a democracy and helping elect a government." He, however, said that the tribunals manned by former judges cannot be overburdened by fixing the timelines for adjudications. "It is not the end justifying the means, but the means justifying the end," Justice Bagchi said. "We need to protect due process rights. The voter should not be sandwiched between two constitutional authorities."

Setting up industries in AP will be easier.. Chandrababu Naidu's key orders on repealing British-era laws

set as targets in phase-2. Out of the total 47 recommendations, 18 have been implemented so far, and they expressed confidence that the entire target will be reached by May 31. **Repeal of British laws.. Key orders on simplification of permits** Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has issued clear orders to the officials to completely eliminate the delay and complexity in the process of granting permits to industries. He suggested that they work with the goal of repealing the old laws of the British era. He ordered that the current number of more than 800 regulations be reduced to less than 100 and the number of licenses to be limited to single digits. However, he made it clear that there should be no compromise on key issues like public safety and environmental protection. He suggested that third-party inspections should be given priority to reduce unnecessary harassment and that the double licensing system be completely abolished. He said that the system should be designed so that business registrations have lifetime validity. He directed that the National Building Code should be replaced with simpler regulations favorable to the state in the matter of fire safety, and that the time taken to set up industries should be reduced by at least 40 percent after the implementation of Phase-2. **Merger of permits in a single department.. Ordinances if necessary** Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has ordered the officials to bring the necessary ordinances for the speedy implementation of De-Regulation Phase-2. He suggested that the current 82 types of permissions for industries and businesses should be reduced to 57 in a phased manner. He said that the 30 processes related to building plans and occupancy certificates should be reduced to 18. He ordered that several permissions under the same department should be merged, and that instead of permissions for some, only information should be given to the government. As a continuation of decisions like removing the need for land use change and repealing the NALA Act, he set a goal to implement a demand-based zoning system in the future. He suggested that steps should be taken to

ensure that all permissions are available through a single nodal agency. **Business with an affidavit.** In order to provide more assurance to big investors for digitalization, the Chief Minister suggested that the opportunity to start a business based on an affidavit should be provided. He said that a favorable environment should be created with reforms like reducing inspections for a specific period. He ordered to ensure that no complaints are received, especially from the MSME sector. He explained that the entire process from application to permission should be digitalized, which would increase transparency. He ordered to make services easier for the people and traders through systems like Mee Seva, Single Desk Portal, WhatsApp Governance 'Mana Mitra'. He said that priority should be given to simplification of permissions in sectors like tourism, education and health. **AP's performance is amazing.. AI is a priority in Phase-3** Central Steel Secretary Sandeep Poundrik praised the initiative and performance of the Andhra Pradesh government in the matter of de-regulation. He said that AP is working better than the points proposed by the Center and he is confident that it will complete Phase-2 within the specified time frame. Responding to this, CM Chandrababu said that they are working with the slogan of 'Nation First' and have shifted from Ease of Doing Business to 'Speed ??of Doing Business' policy. He suggested to the central team to simplify forest laws as well. Chandrababu suggested that priority be given to the use of technology, especially artificial intelligence (AI) tools, in deregulation phase-3. He explained to them that systems like data lake, real-time data, and CFMS are already being used in the state.

Jagan luring Vemireddy back into YSRCP?

According to sources, the YSRCP leadership is trying to lure cash-rich Telugu Desam Party MP Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy back into the party. Vemireddy was earlier associated with the YSRCP and was considered close to Jagan. He exited the party over seat allocation disputes in Nellore during the 2024 elections and later defected to the TDP. He went on to defeat YSRCP candidate V Vijayasai Reddy. Sources indicate that YSRCP Rajya Sabha member Alla Ayodhya Ramireddy recently met Vemireddy and conveyed Jagan's interest in bringing him back into the party. He reportedly suggested that Vemireddy meet Jagan once. However, Vemireddy is said to have declined the offer for now, stating that he is being treated with respect in the TDP and sees no immediate reason to switch parties. With two years having passed since the last elections and three more remaining before 2029, political observers question whether leaders would be inclined to shift affiliations at this stage. While it remains unclear whether the outreach was directly initiated by Jagan, the development has reignited discussions about potential political realignments in Andhra Pradesh.

Nara Lokesh meets President Murmu, thanks her for approving Amaravati Bill

captures Amaravati's journey and the inspiring story of our farmers' struggle," Minister Lokesh, who is also the son of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, said. "A delegation from Andhra Pradesh, comprising Union Minister of State for Steel and Heavy Industries Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma, Andhra Pradesh Minister of Education and IT Nara Lokesh, and Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha members of the state, called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan," a social media post from the official X account of the Rashtrapati Bhavan said. President Murmu on April 6 gave her assent to the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2026, which was passed by the Parliament. The same day the Union government issued a gazette notification, giving Amaravati the statutory status as the sole and permanent capital of Andhra Pradesh. The Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Act, 2026, amended the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014. The Parliament on April 2 gave its final approval to the Amendment Bill, officially designating Amaravati. The Rajya Sabha passed the Bill through a voice vote, a

day after the Lok Sabha cleared it. After the Parliament passed the Bill, Minister Lokesh along with NDA MPs had met Prime Minister Narendra Modi to thank him.

Population-based delimitation unjust to South, smaller states; put nation above party interest: Revanth

smaller states, it will weaken our country in the long run. National interest must be above any party interest," he said. Revanth Reddy stated that in the larger and long-term view, models other than simple pro-rata for Lok Sabha delimitation be considered. "Here, I share one such potential models for your consideration. Kindly ensure we build a national consensus, starting with an all party view instead of pushing this significant policy in an unfair way," reads the post. The Chief Minister posted a Telugu newspaper report about the proposal for delimitation based on Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). Under this proposal, states with good economic performance will see a significant jump in the number of their Lok Sabha seats. States like Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Kerala will benefit, if the GSDP-linked delimitation model is adopted. Under this model, the Lok Saba seats in Telangana may go up from 17 to 30. Block A (south west) and block B (remaining states) will get an equal additional seats of 136 each.

Renaming BRS as TRS: Yet another big blunder?

emotional connect associated with the name. "Yes, it was a mistake to change the name of TRS into BRS before the last assembly elections. We had lost the Telangana identity with that decision. Now, there is a demand for returning to our original name. The final decision will be taken by party president K Chandrashekar Rao soon," KTR said. Originally founded as the Telangana Rashtra Samithi during the statehood movement, the party was rebranded as BRS to expand its national footprint. However, political analysts believe the move may have backfired. The party suffered setbacks in both assembly and Parliamentary elections, failing to secure even a single Lok Sabha seat. Observers attribute part of this decline to the emotional disconnect created after dropping the word "Telangana" from the party's name. Now, political circles are actively debating whether the party will revert to TRS or adopt a new name incorporating "Telangana" ahead of the next elections. Analysts say returning to the original name of TRS will be yet another blunder by the BRS leadership. "It will be a further loss of face for the party and give the impression that the party is trying to cash in on the Telangana sentiment just for the sake of votes. Secondly, it will also send a message to the party cadre that the BRS leadership is afraid of the growth of Kavitha's Telangana Jagruthi as an independent party, grabbing the Telangan advantage," an analyst added.

Healthy Andhra Pradesh is the Goal of the Coalition Government

traditional, home-cooked diets. Efforts are also being made to sensitise the public about the adverse impact of packaged foods. Mr. Srinivasa Rao further highlighted that the years between three and six are critical for cognitive development, making parental involvement indispensable. Engaging children through conversation, play and storytelling, he suggested, can significantly contribute to their holistic development. He also stressed the need to involve men more actively in fostering health awareness at the family level. The posters released on the occasion carried key messages such as "The First 1,000 Days are Crucial", "Home-cooked Food is the Path to Health, Not Junk Food", and "Time Spent with Children Shapes Their Future". He concluded by asserting that Poshan Pakhwada would play a pivotal role in the realisation of a healthy Andhra Pradesh.

Tenth Class Examinations Conclude Smoothly Under Tight Supervision

MEO S.M.N. Khuddus Ensures Smooth, Incident-Free Class 10 Exams in Guntur



(By Our Staff Reporter)
Guntur, Apr 13:

The Class 10 public examinations conducted in Guntur city concluded successfully in a calm and orderly atmosphere without any untoward incidents. The efficient performance of Mandal Education Officer S.M.N. Khuddus has drawn widespread appreciation from

the education community. From the very beginning of the examinations, Khuddus remained vigilant and personally inspected several examination centers across the city. By closely monitoring the situation at each center, strict measures were implemented to prevent malpractice and ensure a

fair examination process. Special precautions were taken to avoid any disturbances or irregularities. Following the directions of the District Education Officer, Khuddus provided clear guidance to teachers and staff, enabling them to carry out their duties effectively. Particular attention was given to maintaining a peaceful environment at the examination centers for students.

The efforts of Khuddus played a crucial role in helping students appear for their exams without stress. Parents, teachers, and members of the education sector have appreciated the arrangements, describing the conduct of examinations as exemplary. Education circles opined that the way examinations were managed in Guntur this time can serve as a model for other regions.

Awareness Program on Foundational Learning Assessment Conducted in Guntur

(By Our Staff Reporter)
Guntur, Apr 13:

A one-day awareness program on the use of tablets was organized at Mahaveer Junior College in Guntur for selected teachers and DIET students from various districts. Speaking as the chief guest, District Education Officer Dr. Shaik Saleem Basha stated that under the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), 16 schools in Palnadu district and 17 schools in Guntur district have been selected for the Foundational Learning Assessment (FLA). He explained that DIET students selected for this initiative must assess the competencies of Class 3 students studying in Telugu, English, and Mathematics using the provided tablets. He emphasized that no negligence should be shown in carrying out this responsibility. District Educational Development and Monitoring Committee



Secretary A. Tirumalesh said that the Central Government has undertaken this program as a prestigious initiative. Therefore, DIET students must conduct the Foundational Learning Assessment for at least 12 Class 3 students from Telugu, English, and Urdu medium schools using tablets. The training program was attended by Kakumanu Mandal Education Officer K. Vijayabhaskar, Palnadu Additional Mandal Education Officer Poomachandra Rao, DIET senior lecturers Haragopal and Poleramma, and resource persons Bhuvanachandra and Saleem, among others.

Traffic Woes Trouble Public in Machilipatnam

Machilipatnam Correspondent: Apr 13

Traffic congestion at Kota Thulluru Center on the main road in Machilipatnam has become chaotic, causing severe inconvenience to both pedestrians and motorists. The area, which remains busy throughout the day, is facing heavy traffic jams due to multiple roadside establishments. A wine shop on one side, milk booths on another, along with tiffin stalls, a chicken pakodi cart, and sugarcane juice vendors are occupying space along the main road, leading to frequent traffic blockages. Due to the high traffic volume, a single constable is unable to effectively manage the situation. Additionally, vehicles coming from the Avanigadda bypass road, along with the movement of cattle such as cows and buffaloes, are further worsening the congestion at the junction. The intense summer heat is adding to the hardship, making it diffi-



cult for commuters and pedestrians to cope with both the traffic and weather conditions. Residents have urged authorities to respond promptly by improving traffic regulation and taking strict action against those causing obstructions on the road.

Appoint Booth Level Agents in Full Strength: District Collector D.K. Balaji



Machilipatnam Correspondent 13th April: District Collector and District Election Officer D.K. Balaji has instructed all political parties in the district to appoint booth-level agents for every polling station across all constituencies before the next review meeting. On Monday morning, the Collector held a district-level meeting with representatives of various political parties at his chamber in the city to review election-related matters. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that out of 1,769 polling stations in the district, the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) has appointed 1,710 booth-level agents, though some appointments are still pending in Machilipatnam, Gudivada,

and Gannavaram constituencies. He further stated that the Election Commission of India will soon provide training to booth-level agents, enabling them to work along with booth-level officers in door-to-door verification for preparing an accurate voters' list. He also made it clear that complaints from political parties will not be entertained unless they appoint booth-level agents. Regarding voter list applications, the Collector said that a total of 86,313 applications (Forms 6, 7, and 8) were received, out of which 84,354 have been resolved, while 1,959 applications are still under process. He added that 69% of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) mapping of the 2002 voter list with the 2025 voter list has been completed in the district. District Revenue Officer Chandrasekhara Rao, along with representatives from TDP, INC, BJP, CPI(M), BSP, and YSRCP, including Das, Matin Khan, P.V. Gajendra Rao, Kodali Sharma, Rajesh, Balaji, Upendranath, Silar Dada, and Basha, as well as election staff from the Collectorate, attended the meeting.

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False Allegations Against Committee Are Unacceptable – Politicizing a Sacred Pilgrimage Is Shameful

(By Our Staff Reporter)
Amaravati, Apr 13:

The Andhra Pradesh Haj Committee has strongly condemned the false allegations being made by certain political forces against the Haj Committee and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. The Committee stated that dragging the sacred Haj pilgrimage into political controversies for vested interests is highly unfortunate. Speaking on the occasion, State Haj Committee Chairman Adi Hasan Basha said that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has been consistently working for the welfare of Muslim

minorities. He noted that the Chief Minister holds deep respect and concern for the Muslim community and is ensuring that Haj pilgrims face no inconvenience by issuing clear and timely directions. He further stated that, for the first time, the government is facilitating arrangements for a record number of pilgrims from Andhra Pradesh to undertake the sacred pilgrimage to Mecca. This achievement, he said, is a result of the Chief Minister's commitment and determination. With the support of the Minority Welfare Department, the functioning of the Haj Committee

is being closely monitored, and necessary steps are being taken regarding fund allocation and the safety of pilgrims. He criticized opposition parties for making baseless allegations through the media, stating that such actions are merely attempts to defame and create unnecessary controversy. He clarified that all appointments and activities of the Haj Committee are being carried out strictly as per rules and regulations. Adi Hasan Basha also warned that the Muslim community is closely observing attempts to politicize the Haj pilgrimage. He cautioned that anyone acting



with malicious intent in such a sacred matter will face strong response from the people. He reaffirmed that the Andhra Pradesh Haj Committee remains committed to the welfare of pilgrims and will continue to work towards the development of minorities in line with the vision of the Chief Minister.

UTI Large Cap Fund Rs. 10 lakhs invested at the inception of fund has grown to Rs. 23.03 crores as of March 31, 2026

Vijayawada, 13th April: UTI Large Cap Fund is India's first equity-oriented fund (launched in October 1986) and has a track record of wealth creation of over 38 years. UTI Large Cap Fund is an open-ended equity scheme which predominantly aims to invest in large cap companies having competitive advantage in their respective fields. It follows an investment style of Blend for stock picking. This means that it's an approach that combines both growth and value stocks to create a balanced, all-weather equity portfolio. The Fund aims to invest in companies that are fundamentally strong with controlled borrowings, consistent revenue growth, focus on profitability, higher return on capital than cost of capital and consistent operating cash-flows generation. Such companies may generate

free cash flows for future expansion and avoid dilution of existing shares. Owing to this Blend approach of, UTI Large Cap Fund may invest in companies with competitive franchise were, 1. The market is underestimating the companies' ability to sustain growth over the long term or the benefits of pricing power. 2. The growth trajectory is improving through industry wide phenomena like favourable demand cycle, consolidation, clearances of regulatory hurdles or through company specific factors like cost competitiveness and prudent capacity expansion. 3. The business is capital intensive but the companies invest prudently and execute efficiently. 4. The companies having opportunities to reinvest cash flows at high Return on Capital Employed (RoCE). 5. The rel-



ative valuation within the sector is attractive. This provides the investors an opportunity to create a long-term wealth by owning a portfolio of quality companies. UTI Large Cap Fund has a portfolio of leading companies such as HDFC Bank Ltd., ICICI Bank Ltd., Reliance Industries Ltd., Infosys Ltd., Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd., Larsen & Toubro Ltd., Bharti Airtel Ltd., Bajaj Finance Ltd.,

Axis Bank Ltd., and Eternal Ltd., and the top 10 stocks account for about 49% of the portfolio. The Scheme is currently overweight on Consumer Services, Consumer Durables, Information Technology, Construction and Capital Goods, and underweight on Power, FMCG, Financial Services, Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels, and Healthcare as of March 31, 2026. The Fund

has a corpus of over Rs. 11,200 crores as on March 31, 2026. The Fund aims at obtaining capital appreciation / or income distribution over long-term, follows a disciplined approach to invest as stated above and has maintained a stream of annual dividends every year since its inception. UTI Large Cap Fund has distributed a total dividend of about Rs. 4,500 crore.

Krishna District Police Crack Theft Case at Former Minister's House ; One Arrested; 15 kg of Silver Seized

(By Our Staff Reporter)
Machilipatnam 13th April:

Krishna District Superintendent of Police (SP) Vidyasagar Naidu presented before the media the accused arrested in connection with a theft that took place at the residence of former state minister Katari Eshwar Kumar. The police arrested an inter-state criminal, Dodloji Babu alias Ravi Babu, who is reportedly involved in 11 cases. From his possession, approximately 15 kilograms of silver articles worth around 15 lakh

recovered. Addressing the media, the SP shared details of the case. He stated that the accused was working as a lorry cleaner and had fallen into bad habits. In an attempt to earn money easily, he resorted to committing thefts. Based on a complaint received regarding the theft that occurred on March 14 at the residence of former minister Katari Eshwar Kumar, located in Anjaneya Peta under Gudivada Two Town police station limits, a case was registered. Despite the lack of initial evidence,



Gudivada Two Town police acted swiftly and intelligently to apprehend

the accused. The SP appreciated the police for solving the case by effectively

using technology along with human intelligence at the crime scene.

“Mee Kosam” Petitions must be resolved on priority: District Collector D.K. Balaji



Machilipatnam Correspondent 13th April: District Collector D.K. Balaji has directed officials to resolve petitions received under the “Mee Kosam” grievance redressal program on priority and within the stipulated time. On Monday, the Collector, along with senior officials, conducted the program at the Collectorate and received petitions from people across the district. A total of 132 applications were submitted. The Collector patiently heard the grievances and instructed officials to take immediate action. Among the petitions, a resident requested relocation of a TIDCO housing flat from the fourth floor to a lower level due to difficulty in access. Another complaint highlighted alleged threats and encroachment attempts over government land. Representatives of the Krishna District Farmers' Association raised concerns over pending cyclone compensation, silted drains causing flooding of fields, and demanded urgent desilting works and repair of sluices to protect

thousands of acres. Reviewing the performance of officials, the Collector expressed dissatisfaction over improper online updates of petition disposal and warned of showcause notices if negligence continues. He emphasized accountability and timely resolution of grievances. The Collector also instructed officials to maintain cleanliness in government schools, hostels, and institutions by ensuring compost and soak pits. Drinking water sources must be disinfected every 15 days with proper monitoring to prevent contamination. He further directed officials to be prepared for the visit of the State SC Commission on the 17th of this month with complete reports. Applications under the Right to Information Act must be handled online, and all departments should complete their login processes. Officials showing outstanding performance in resolving petitions were appreciated and awarded during the program.

SKYLINE

Tuesday 14.4.2026

Urban Fragility

The crisis unfolding across India's cities is not, at its core, about cooking gas. It is about the quiet architecture of exclusion that underpins urban growth. A disruption in liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) supplies ~ linked to tensions around the Strait of Hormuz ~ has done much more than inconveniencing households. It has exposed how precariously India's migrant workforce is integrated into city life. For millions of low-income workers, access to cooking fuel is not guaranteed by formal systems but mediated through informal arrangements ~ small refill operators, shared cylinders, and neighbourhood brokers.

These networks function efficiently in normal times but collapse quickly under stress. When they do, the consequences are immediate and personal: kitchens go cold, food security falters, and the cost of daily survival rises sharply. What follows is not merely hardship but withdrawal. Workers begin to leave. This pattern should be familiar. During the Covid-19 lockdown in 2020, India witnessed a mass reverse migration that stunned policymakers and exposed the invisibility of urban labour. What is striking now is that a far less dramatic trigger ~ a supply bottleneck rather than a national shutdown ~ is producing a similar behavioural response. That suggests the underlying vulnerability has not been addressed. At the heart of the problem lies the conditional nature of welfare access.

Schemes designed to subsidise LPG or ensure food security remain tied to fixed addresses and local documentation. Migrant workers, who are by definition mobile and often informally housed, fall through these cracks. Economists have long argued for portability in welfare entitlements, yet implementation remains uneven. The result is a system where those who build and service cities cannot reliably access basic urban amenities. The economic implications are significant. India's micro, small and medium enterprises depend heavily on migrant labour for sectors ranging from construction to textiles. As workers leave, production slows, costs rise, and recovery timelines extend. This is not just a labour issue; it is a demand shock in the making, as departing workers also withdraw their consumption from urban markets. Equally concerning is the environmental regression. Faced with fuel shortages, households revert to firewood, kerosene, or coal ~ undermining years of progress under initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana. What was framed as a transition to clean energy risks becoming reversible under supply stress. The official position that supplies are adequate may well be accurate at a macro level. But availability is not the same as accessibility. A system can be well-stocked and yet functionally exclusionary. This moment, therefore, is less a supply crisis than a governance test.

It raises a fundamental question: can India's cities sustain growth while treating a large share of their workforce as administratively temporary? Until access to essential services becomes portable, affordable, and independent of rigid documentation, each external shock ~ whether geopolitical or economic ~ will continue to trigger internal instability. The exodus of workers is not an overreaction. It is a rational response to a system that still does not fully recognise them as part of the city they sustain.

Islamic NATO or Europe: Is Gulf rethinking its options after Trump's 'betrayal'?

Almost two hours before US President Donald Trump's deadline to 'end the whole of civilisation' through massive bombings on the night of April 7, his post on Truth Social announced a two-week-long ceasefire brokered by Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir. Speculations were divided: many doubted Iran would act on Trump's threats, while a significant number believed a strike against Iran's energy infrastructure was imminent. The security landscape in the Gulf has been permanently altered by the ceasefire, which now hangs in limbo as talks between US and Iran held in Islamabad collapsed.

The escalation from the US, Iranian retaliation, and Europe's limits have reshaped Gulf security in ways Washington did not anticipate. Every major war in West Asia has reshaped the region's power politics, with global implications. After the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, the Jewish state emerged victorious with more territory under its control than it had before it. Similarly, the 1956 Suez crisis ended the global influence of Britain and France, the two major colonial empires. The 1967 Six-Day War reestablished Israel's military dominance and laid the groundwork for the present-day Gaza crisis. In 1973, the Yom Kippur War caused a major oil crisis after Saudi-led oil-producing countries refused to sell to the US over its support for Israel. The aftermath of the war saw the emergence of the petro-dollar system and the start of the US-Saudi military partnership in exchange for the trade of oil in dollars. The Gulf wars of 1991 and 2003 weakened and later led to the removal of Saddam Hussein from power, making Iran the sole rival to Saudi Arabia in the region.

Similarly, the 2026 Iran-US war has turned the region increasingly vulnerable, has left its energy infrastructure more exposed, made Iran weaker, and forced the Gulf to rethink its security partnership with the US.

Gulf Disillusioned?
The US and Israel have had strong ties for over eight decades. The Arab world witnessed a thaw in its relations with the Americans, especially with the emergence of the petro-dollar

trading system, which further increased the demand for the US dollar in exchange for security guarantees.

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, which include Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, the UAE, and Oman, have invested heavily in their relationship with the US, assuming their interests would be well-considered over Israel's. However, Donald Trump, who is known for being unpredictable, has prioritised Israel's goals over the GCC's. Though Iran has remained a threat to these countries, as neighbours, the GCC and Iran maintained trade relations despite differences.

The primary driver behind the Iranian attacks on its neighbours was the presence of the US military in West Asia, especially in the Gulf. Even in its 10-point peace plan, Iran demanded a US military withdrawal from the Middle East.

The Gulf countries acted cautiously. The crown prince of Saudi Arabia, Mohammed Bin Salman, reportedly pushed Trump to continue the war, seeing it as an opportunity to reshape the power dynamic in the region. The goals of the GCC were hedged against the assumption that a regime change would take place soon. However, Iran's attacks on oil refineries and natural gas infrastructure continued. According to an assessment from the Stimson Centre, in a month, the GCC received 83% of Iranian drones and missiles compared to just 17% launched at Israel. The message was clear - Iran attacked both military and civilian assets to destabilise the region's energy infrastructure and ensure that the ripple effects of the war go beyond the region. Only a ceasefire has been established, but hostilities remain.

Is Europe A Safer Bet?

In this context, Europe can emerge as a better partner for the Gulf than the US. One of the key reasons behind this observation is Europe's stance of not intervening directly in the war. UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer vehemently rejected America's request to send British troops to fight the war against Iran; however, the UK allowed the US to use its bases to launch attacks. In response, Iran fired ballistic missiles at Diego Garcia,

located 4,000 km away.

Even so, Europe is unlikely to emerge as a genuine alternative to the US in the near future, largely due to its own continued reliance on American air defence systems for both wide-area and localised protection. This dependence was highlighted, for instance, during the conflict when the redeployment of two Patriot missile system batteries from Germany to Turkey created air defence gaps across Europe.

Secondly, American weapons sales have seen a dramatic increase, soaring from 27% to over 50% following the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine. This is because US-made systems, such as the Patriot, THAAD, NASAMS, and Stinger air defence platforms, remain globally dominant. While the newly elected German Chancellor Friedrich Merz called for Europe to pursue strategic 'independence' from the US in 2025, the continent collectively remains reliant on American defence capabilities. But, despite its military dependency on the US, Europe remains a middle power and a strong economic partner, which can anchor the Gulf countries, and Asian countries such as India, South Korea, and Japan, which in future can help create a military partnership that does not have the US as the foundational pillar.

US-Europe Fracture

Trump's rhetoric and actions in West Asia have been more destabilising for Europe than for Russia recently. In 2022, Europe faced an energy crisis due to its reliance on Russian gas. The effects of the energy crisis still exist, though the continent has agreed to phase out its dependence on Russian gas and actively depends on the US, Norway, Algeria and Australia for fossil fuel supplies.

Now, the Iran war has had a disastrous effect on European economies, with at least 18 countries announcing relief packages for their citizens. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which Trump withdrew from, is also a case in point. It was considered a European and American diplomatic victory under the Obama regime to stop the Iranian nuclear programme and integrate Iran into the global economy.

Another key takeaway from the war is



Trump's increased skepticism of NATO as an unreliable partner. He has called out members of the alliance for not increasing the defence budget to 5% of the GDP, and laments the US taking the burden of spending more. He has threatened to take Greenland by military force and ranted about NATO allies not supporting the US to reopen the Strait of Hormuz. Last week, he said, "NATO wasn't there when we needed them, and they won't be there if we need them again. Remember Greenland, that big, poorly run, piece of ice!" The US President also betrayed his desperation when he wrote an expletive-laden post on Truth Social on Easter. However, not once has Trump hinted at implementing Article 5 of the NATO charter, which states that any attack on a member will be deemed as an attack on the entire alliance. Article 5 has been implemented only once after the 9/11 attacks in 2001.

Donald Trump's threats to take over Greenland by force, attacking Iran without consulting its European partners, and criticising NATO for not joining in its war efforts have caused fractures in their relationship.

A Catalyst For Islamic NATO?

A former US security official, who has extensively studied Iran, recently said in London that forming an "Islamic NATO" would be incredibly challenging due to the diverging strategic interests of countries. In the 1950s, the CENTO or Central Treaty Organization was considered an extension of NATO in Asia. It was dissolved in 1979 after the Islamic Revolution in Iran. Pakistan, Turkey, Iran and the UK were members of the military alliance. In 2026, Israel is a military superpower in the region,

along with Saudi Arabia and Turkey, possessing a strong military.

The Gulf countries have had differences with Iran, but they continue to cooperate with Tehran because of the vulnerabilities of their energy infrastructure to any attack from Iran or vice versa. The worst-case scenario, which the US wargamed for years - of Iran's violent strikes on its neighbours - just became real for the Gulf. Despite that, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and other countries refused to get actively involved, instead letting the US finish the job. Who would, then, be the adversary if an Islamic NATO were to be established? Pakistan sees Iran as an important neighbour. At the same time, a military alliance without Pakistan, which offers a nuclear umbrella, would be impotent.

Even so, the world has now witnessed Pakistan taking a stronger diplomatic role, and any future engagement concerning Iran would involve Islamabad. A wounded Iran, which is emboldened by its experience of attacking its neighbours and hijacking the global energy supply chain, makes a strong case for Islamic countries in Central Asia to partner militarily.

The war is still on. Iran has reasserted the significance of geography in global politics through its control of the Strait of Hormuz. The conflict allowed Israel to bomb Hezbollah targets in Lebanon south of the Litani River, attacking bridges and railroads, to create a military buffer zone to defend northern Israel. Now, Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu has agreed to speak to Lebanon for a ceasefire. The next two weeks will decide the fate of this war.

Where a woman works depends on who she is

The increase in women's participation in labour force is generally celebrated as an umbrella statement. According to the PLFS report, the labour force participation rate for urban women has increased from 22 to 22.2 per cent, and their worker population ratio has increased from 20.5 to 20.7 per cent. However, these statistics often do not get into the depth of how these numbers change across caste. Studies have previously shown how caste acts as an important pre-market, social identity which impacts labour market outcomes of the workers.

Since identities of caste have historically arisen through the division of labour, these outcomes can get more complicated when they intersect with the identities of gender. Often, we relegate the impacts of caste to a relic of the past. However, a nuanced analysis can reveal interesting insights into gender and caste, and whether meritocracy has indeed successfully replaced caste-based division of labour. Theoretically, labour markets are not unified spaces where workers compete on equal terms. Instead, they are divided into segments that differ in wages, job security, and mobility. Entry into these segments is shaped not only by skills and education but also by social identity. In India, caste remains a key determinant along which such inequalities are organised. Research shows that caste and gender-

based disparities persist in urban labour markets, influencing who accesses better jobs and who remains confined to precarious work. Data from the PLFS 2023-24 shows the continued relevance of these patterns. Urban women are concentrated in a limited set of industries, with services and manufacturing accounting for the majority of employment. Nearly two-fifths of urban working women are employed in services, while about a quarter are in manufacturing.

Trade and allied activities, along with transport and communication, account for smaller but still significant shares. However, this concentration does not imply equal access within these sectors. A caste-disaggregated view reveals clear differences in how women are distributed across industries. SC women are more likely to be concentrated in sectors such as construction, which is typically associated with lower pay and higher precarity, whereas upper caste women are more prominently represented in services. These disparities extend to occupational distribution.

A large share of the urban working women is concentrated in lower-end roles. Elementary occupations, typically constituting low-skill, routine jobs such as cleaning, sweeping, and other basic service tasks, account for 23.26 per cent of employment. Service and sales roles account for



another 18.5 per cent while 17.36 per cent of women are engaged in crafts and related trades. In contrast, about 18.25 per cent of women are employed as professionals, representing one of the more skilled segments of the labour market. Caste differences within these occupations are stark. Upper caste women, in particular, make up about half of the managers and professionals. In contrast, SC women constitute only 8.32 per cent of managers and 9.71 per cent of professionals, highlighting their limited presence in these occupations and their disproportionate concentration in lower-paying roles. For instance, SC women constitute 30.5 per cent of those in elementary occupations, a category that already represents the largest share of women's work. Education is often expected to

equalise opportunities across social groups. While higher levels of education do improve access to better jobs for all women, they do not fully eliminate caste-based disparities.

Among graduate women, 56.25 per cent of upper caste women are employed in professional occupations, compared to 41.87 per cent of SC women. These differences are even more pronounced in access to managerial roles. Among postgraduates, 10.82 per cent of upper caste women are employed as managers, compared to just 4.58 per cent of SC women. At lower levels of education, SC women remain significantly more concentrated in elementary occupations than their upper caste counterparts. This suggests that while education enhances labour market outcomes, it does not

fully offset the influence of caste. Disparities also extend to the quality of employment.

Regular salaried jobs are those which are generally considered the best types of jobs. These typically come with some amount of security and regularity of income. While nearly half of urban women are engaged in regular salaried jobs, access to such employment varies significantly across caste groups. Upper caste workers have the highest share in regular employment (53.96 per cent) and are almost absent from casual labour (2.64 per cent), indicating strong concentration in secure forms of work.

In contrast, SC workers are significantly more likely to be engaged in casual employment (14.73 per cent), reflecting greater exposure to insecure and low-paying jobs. While urban India may appear more modern, its labour markets continue to reproduce old hierarchies in new forms. Caste continues to shape not only where women work, but the kind of work they access and the security it provides. Education improves outcomes, but it does not level the playing field. As a result, women from marginalised caste groups remain concentrated in lower-paying and precarious jobs, even within the same urban economy. In this sense, the promise of urban meritocracy remains unfulfilled.

The red revolution on your plate: Why tomatoes are being called nature's ultimate healing secret

A simple kitchen favourite is now grabbing attention for its powerful health benefits. Tomatoes, rich in lycopene and nutrients, may support heart, eyes, lungs, skin, and overall immunity.

It started like a simple kitchen habit: slicing a tomato for salad, but suddenly this humble red fruit is back in the spotlight, and people are talking about it like it's a tiny health superstar hiding in plain sight. The buzz began after Acharya Balkrishna shared a post on Facebook calling tomato a true blessing for health. And just like that, the internet is once again looking at this everyday ingredient with fresh curiosity. But is the hype real? Science says: there is more power in this red fruit



than most people imagine. The red secret inside every tomato. Tomatoes are packed with a powerful antioxidant called lycopene, the same compound that gives them their bright red colour. This natural pigment does more than just make

your plate look colourful. It helps protect the body's cells from damage caused by harmful free radicals. Lycopene works like a shield against stress on cells and may help reduce the risk of several serious diseases. Research suggests it can

lower chances of cancers such as lung, stomach, and prostate cancer. Some studies also link it to reduced risk of cancers in the pancreas, colon, throat, mouth, breast, cervix. But lycopene is not alone. Tomatoes also carry potassium, folate, vitamin C, and a mix of vitamins B and E along with flavonoids. These nutrients together help strengthen immunity and support overall body function.

Heart Health: The hidden support system

Tomatoes are quietly working for the heart in many ways. Lycopene may help reduce LDL or "bad" cholesterol and may also support healthy blood pressure levels. Both are key factors in preventing heart disease.

Along with that, vitamins B and E and other antioxidants found in tomatoes help improve cardiovascular health and reduce stress on blood vessels.

Studies also suggest that regular tomato consumption may reduce the risk of stroke. This happens because tomatoes may help lower inflammation, support immunity, reduce cholesterol, and even prevent unwanted blood clotting.

Eyes, lungs, and body defense boost

Tomatoes are not just heart-friendly. They may also support your eyes. They contain lutein and zeaxanthin, two powerful compounds that help protect eyes from harmful blue light coming from smartphones, laptops, and screens.

USD 1 billion, 'most beautiful Turkish woman as wife' or it's all over: Ugandan Army Chief's unusually bizarre ultimatum to Turkey

Diplomacy took a strange turn last week after Ugandan Army Chief Muhoozi Kainerugaba publicly rolled out his bizarre demands to resolve differences with Turkey — USD 1 billion as “security dividend”, the most beautiful Turkish woman as a wife or else he will sever diplomatic relations with Ankara. The demands may sound unusual to a sane mind but this is what Muhoozi Kainerugaba, son of Ugandan “dictator” Yoweri Museveni, has actually asked Turkey to begin talks on resolving the differences. The Ugandan Army chief has accused Turkey of profiting from infrastructure deals in Somalia while his troops have been protecting the African nation for nearly two decades from the al-Shabaab group. Citing this, Kainerugaba said Uganda should receive USD 1 billion as compensation. “On top of



the \$1 billion from Turkey, I want the most beautiful woman in that country for a wife,” he wrote in a series of posts on X. In another post, he added, “If they do not address our problems, we will terminate all diplomatic relations with Turkey within the next 30 days.” After the controversy, the posts have now been deleted and the general reposted a clarification

from Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations, Adonia Ayebare. “Tweets by @mkainerugaba on Türkiye are a reflection of dissatisfaction with the way Uganda’s serious concerns have been handled. Uganda values its partnerships with our Turkish Friends but not at the expense of our sovereignty. Uganda looks forward to good faith talks aimed

at resolving our concerns which I am sure @mkainerugaba supports. There should be no cause for alarm,” the Ugandan diplomat said. Kainerugaba later said he loves the 86 million “brothers and sisters” in Turkey. “I love the 86 million brothers and sisters in Turkey. Twitter insults mean nothing to me. We send all Turkish people love from Uganda,” he added.

Trump's threat of naval blockade of Iran sparks global energy alarm; key Iranian ports under direct target

The United States has declared to choke Iran's maritime lifelines, with the US Central Command announcing a sweeping naval blockade that halts all shipping traffic to and from Iranian ports from Monday morning. The move, ordered under US President Donald Trump, threatens to rip millions of barrels of oil out of global supply chains and push an already fragile energy market toward crisis. The blockade applies to vessels of all nations entering or exiting Iranian territory, tightening pressure on Tehran while allowing passage only to ships bound for non-Iranian ports. The blockade extends across Iran's entire coastline—from the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman—effectively sealing off critical export hubs. Target ports include: Bandar Abbas — Iran's largest and busiest container port; Bandar Imam Khomeini — A crucial bulk cargo and container hub; Bandar-e-Mahshahr — A major oil export terminal; Chabahar — Strategic port

on the Gulf of Oman Kharg Island — Iran's primary oil export terminal; Bandar-e-Bushehr — Important regional trade hub; Bandar Lengeh — Smaller commercial harbour with regional significance; Assaluyeh — Crucial for gas and petrochemical exports; Strait of Hormuz: Global energy lifeline at risk. At the heart of the crisis lies the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most critical shipping corridors. Nearly a quarter of global seaborne oil and vast quantities of liquefied natural gas pass through this narrow stretch. Any disruption here does not stay regional; it sends shockwaves across continents. Around 20-25% of global oil trade flows through the strait. Asia absorbs 86% of this supply. China alone accounts for 31% of shipments. India follows with 14%. Oil supply shock looms large. Analysts warn the blockade could trigger the most severe disruption since the oil crisis of the 1970s.



Up to 2 million barrels per day of Iranian oil could be cut off immediately. A broader escalation could impact 9-11 million barrels per day globally. Iranian exports, already near 1.8 million barrels per day, risk collapsing. Even before the blockade, Iran had ramped up shipments, leaving over 180 million barrels floating at sea, a buffer that may only briefly cushion the shock. Global fallout: Prices, trade, and tensions. The crisis is already spilling into global shipping lanes.

Around 3,200 vessels are reportedly stranded west of the strait. Insurance costs and freight rates are expected to surge. Supply chains for fuel, fertilisers, and industrial goods face severe disruption. Blocking Iranian exports removes a key supplier from the market, but the greater danger lies in escalation. A wider shutdown of traffic through the Strait of Hormuz could send oil prices soaring worldwide, deepen inflation, and strain economies already under pressure.

China calls for unobstructed navigation through Strait of Hormuz amid Trump's blockade warning



While the United States has enforced a maritime blockade on Iran, China has stressed the need for free and safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz. Responding to the developments, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said safeguarding stability and ensuring uninterrupted navigation in the Strait of Hormuz is in the shared interest of the global community. He also reacted to Washington's warning of

tariffs if Beijing is found supplying arms to Iran, saying trade wars benefit no one and reiterating China's long-standing position against such measures. “China's position is very clear: tariff wars have no winners,” he said, as cited by Global Times. The tensions come ahead of a likely visit by Trump to Beijing in mid-May for talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping. The visit, originally expected earlier in

April, was postponed after Trump said he needed to remain in Washington to monitor the ongoing conflict involving Iran. Earlier this month, China again underlined its role in promoting stability in the Middle East. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said Beijing remains committed to encouraging dialogue and the peaceful resolution of tensions. Her remarks followed

claims by Trump that China had helped bring Iran to the negotiating table during recent diplomatic efforts. At the same time, diplomatic activity between Beijing and Moscow is set to continue, with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov scheduled to visit China for talks with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi. Discussions are expected to cover bilateral ties as well as key regional and global issues.

From Netanyahu's side to Mossad's helm: Roman Gofman to lead Israel's intelligence agency

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has named his military secretary, Major General Roman Gofman, as the next head of Mossad, backing a close aide with battlefield experience to lead the country's top intelligence agency. The appointment, cleared by an advisory panel on senior positions, comes at a time of heightened regional tensions, with Israel's security establishment navigating ongoing conflict and evolving threats. Netanyahu calls Gofman “bold and creative”. Confirming the decision in a post on X, Netanyahu said he had approved Gofman's appointment after it was vetted by a committee led by former Supreme Court President Asher Grunis. “Major General Gofman has served as my military secretary for the past two years. He is an outstanding officer—bold and creative—who has demonstrated throughout the war a perspective outside the box and impressive



resourcefulness. I wish Major General Gofman great success in his next role as Mossad chief, and I am confident that he will do much for Israel's security,” Netanyahu stated. When Gofman takes charge and who he replaces According to a statement from the Prime Minister's Office, Gofman will take over as Director of the Israeli Institute for Intelligence and Special Operations on July 2, 2026, for a five-year term. As reported by The Times of Israel, he will succeed outgoing Mossad chief David Barnea, whose tenure is set to conclude in June.

Close aide with operational and strategic roles Gofman is considered a trusted associate of Netanyahu and has served as his military secretary for nearly two years. In that role, he travelled on behalf of the prime minister on various assignments and helped oversee the execution of directives within the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), the Times of Israel reported. Born in Belarus, Gofman moved to Israel with his family in 1990 at the age of 14. He later built his career in the IDF Armoured Corps, eventually rising to the rank of division commander

before stepping away from frontline roles. Injury during October 7 attack, policy views spark debate. During the October 7, 2023, Hamas-led attack, Gofman was commanding the Tzeelim training base. He reportedly rushed to the Gaza border and was seriously injured in a firefight with militants near Sderot. Before taking up his current role in 2024, he had authored a policy paper suggesting that Israel retain military control over Gaza after defeating Hamas, a proposal that triggered debate within policy circles.

'No cards...very desperate Iran': Trump orders oil blockade, says 'I don't care' if talks collapse

US President Donald Trump on Sunday (local time) doubled down on Washington's hardline approach towards Iran, calling the country “very desperate” and confirming that a US-led blockade aimed at cutting off its oil exports will take effect at 10 am on Monday. The announcement follows a 21-hour round of talks in Islamabad that ended without agreement, leaving both sides entrenched even as a ceasefire in the region continues to hold for now. Speaking to reporters, Trump made it clear that the United States would proceed regardless of diplomatic uncertainty. “The blockade will go into effect tomorrow at 10 am,” he said, adding that “there are many boats heading toward our country to fill up with oil.” US blockade targets Iran's oil exports, Strait routes. The blockade is aimed at restricting Iran's ability to sell oil, a key source of revenue that Washington believes funds its nuclear ambitions. Trump said other countries were cooperating with the move. “Other nations are working so that Iran cannot sell oil,” he said, without naming them.



He also pointed to attempts to bypass traditional shipping lanes, including the Strait of Hormuz. “They are not going through the Hormuz Strait. And ultimately, that will be corrected,” he said. In a Truth Social post, Trump confirmed that the US Navy would begin intercepting vessels. “Effective immediately, the United States Navy, the Finest in the World, will begin the process of BLOCKADING any and all Ships trying to enter, or leave, the Strait of Hormuz.” “I don't care”: Trump shrugs off return to talks. Trump dismissed the possibility of renewed negotiations with Tehran after the Islamabad talks ended in a stalemate.

“I don't care if they come back or not. If they don't come back I'm fine,” he said. He also accused Iran of not honouring commitments linked to a ceasefire arrangement, especially regarding access through the Strait of Hormuz. “Their promise was that they were going to open the Strait of Hormuz. They didn't do it. They lied,” he said. Reiterating Washington's position, Trump added, “Iran will not have a nuclear weapon.” “They have no cards”: Trump claims Iran's military weakened. In a separate interview, Trump claimed Iran's military capability had been significantly degraded and said Tehran had “no cards”

left in negotiations. “They have no cards... Their Navy is gone. Their Air Force is gone. Totally gone. They have nothing,” he said. He asserted that Iran's missile stockpiles and manufacturing capacity had been “largely depleted” after US military operations. “We've destroyed most of those weapons,” he said. Referring to Iran's past rhetoric, Trump added, “For years, I've had to listen to them say, death to America... death to Israel.” Projecting confidence in the US position, he said, “I told my people I want everything. I don't want 90 per cent. I don't want 95 per cent. I told them I want everything.” NATO criticism surfaces amid escalation. Trump also used the interaction to criticise NATO, expressing dissatisfaction with the alliance. “I'm very disappointed in NATO, they weren't there for us. We pay trillions of dollars for NATO and they weren't there for us,” he said. He declined to respond to questions on Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban and ended the exchange shortly after.

'Hungary has chosen Europe,' says EU Commission President as poll results show victory for Magyar



President of the European Union, Ursula von der Leyen on Monday said that Hungary chose Europe, after Hungary's long-serving Prime Minister Viktor Orban conceded defeat in the parliamentary elections. Von der Leyen said that the European Union has now become stronger. In a post on X, she said, “Hungary has chosen Europe. Europe has always chosen Hungary. A country reclaims its European path. The Union grows stronger. Hungary has chosen Europe. Europe has always chosen Hungary. A country returns to its European path. The



Union grows stronger.” Earlier in the day, Hungary's partial official results indicated a decisive victory for Peter Magyar and his Tisza party, marking a significant political shift in the country after 16 years of continuous rule by Fidesz. With 97.35 per cent of precincts counted, official results reported by Al Jazeera showed that Magyar's centre-right Tisza party secured 138 seats in the 199-member parliament, winning 53.6 per cent of the vote. In contrast, Orban's nationalist Fidesz party managed to secure 55 seats with 37.8 per cent of the vote, reflecting a sharp

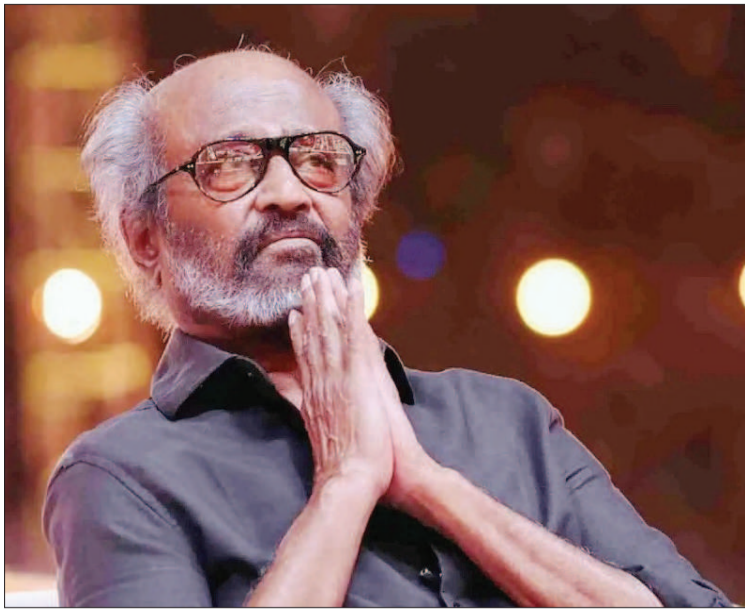
decline in support compared to previous elections. Following the announcement of the early results, Orban accepted the outcome, effectively conceding defeat as it became clear that his party would not be able to form a majority government. The results are being widely seen as one of the most significant electoral reversals in Hungary's recent political history. In his victory speech delivered before thousands of supporters gathered in central Budapest, Magyar said his government would seek to reposition Hungary more firmly within the European mainstream and strengthen ties with Western allies. He emphasised that Hungary's future direction would be closely aligned with European institutions and values. “Hungary will once again be a strong ally representing Hungarian interests, because our country's place is in Europe,” Magyar said, Euro News reported. Outlining his immediate foreign policy priorities, Magyar said his first official visits would include Warsaw and Vienna, followed by a trip to Brussels. There, he said, he would work to secure the release of billions of euros in suspended European Union funds.

A Truly Unexpected Crisis for Rajinikanth Films

Uncertainty continues to surround Thalaivar 173, as the much-awaited next project of Rajinikanth finds itself stuck in a cycle of directorial changes. What initially looked like a straightforward collaboration has now turned into one of the most talked-about developments in Kollywood.

The film was first entrusted to Sundar C, but he reportedly stepped away following creative differences and script revisions. Soon after, Cibi Chakravarthy was officially announced as the director, raising expectations among fans.

However, the latest reports indicate that he too has exited the project, adding to the growing uncertainty. Now, Ashwath Marimuthu has emerged as the



frontrunner to take over the film. While there is no official confirmation yet, the constant reshuffling has sparked confusion and concern among fans.

Interestingly, the film is said to be backed by Kamal Haasan's production banner, making the stakes even higher. Adding to the superstar's challenges is the ongoing chatter around Jailer 2, which is already facing criticism for its rumored cameo.

For a superstar like Rajinikanth, these unexpected hurdles have certainly become a talking point across the industry. With one project dealing with creative clutter and the other struggling to lock a director, the situation appears far from ideal for Rajinikanth.



Good news Mega Fans - Chiru Bobby look test today

After the pooja ceremony was postponed due to the unfortunate piracy issue surrounding Jana Nayagan, the Chiranjeevi-Bobby project faced uncertainty. However, reports of a look test happening today bring renewed hope. This development signals positive momentum, hinting that the much-awaited film may finally move ahead without further delays. Today, director Bobby and KVN Productions producer met Pawan Kalyan to personally invite him for the launch event of Chiru - Bobby's upcoming film. The event is scheduled for April 11. However, there is still no clarity on whether Pawan will attend, as he is currently busy with his administrative...



Megastar Chiranjeevi has got super busy after coming back to movies. He has signed back-to-back films and is also acting as the industry head looking into the various issues of the industry. Chiru, who is waiting for the release of Acharya, is going to have a blast for his birthday... Megastar Chiranjeevi's Next

with Bobby will officially launch on April 11. Reports reveal Priyamani will play the lead opposite Chiru, while Anaswara Rajan is set for a key role. The film has been long-awaited, and this launch news has sent waves of excitement among fans eager for updates on the...

Godari Gattupaina finds a slot in summer



Sumanth Prabhakar's upcoming film Godari Gattupaina has locked its release date. Co-starring Nidhi Pradeep, the movie is set to hit theatres on May 8th, right in the middle of the summer season.

It's a strategically chosen date, as schools and colleges will begin their summer break by then, giving the film the advantage of a long holiday window. The release-date poster features Nidhi in a white bridal gown, her expression tense and uncertain, as though caught between two difficult choices.

To her left stands Sumanth in casual attire, looking slightly away with a conflicted expression. To her right, Jagapathi Babu appears in a serious, almost stern mood as he looks toward her.

Directed by debutant Subash Chandra and produced by Red Puppet Productions, Godari Gattupaina is billed as a rustic, emotional, and rooted love story.

The film has already created a positive impression with its songs and glimpse, and the team is gearing up to unveil more promotional content in the coming days.

Nagabandham's Sura Sura to celebrate Indian wedding culture!

The buzz surrounding Abhishek Nama directorial Pan-India epic Nagabandham: The Secret Treasure has reached a fever pitch with glimpse and first single. Young leading man Virat Karma's massive transformation to play Lord Shiva and his performance have been talk of the town. Today, the makers have announced the release of the film's second single, Sura Sura, on April 19th.

Director Abhishek Nama is crafting this high-budget venture by seamlessly blending mythology, history, and action. While the film promises intense sequences, Sura Sura is designed as a grand wedding celebration song.

The musical duo Junaid Kumar and Abhe have composed this lively anthem, combining traditional folk rhythms with cinematic orchestration. To elevate the visual experience, the legendary Ganesh Acharya has choreographed the song. The song features an incredible lineup of vocalists, including Anurag Kulkarni, Kaala Bhairava, Mangli, and Nalgonda Gaddar, bringing a unique blend of contemporary and folk textures. With lyrics penned by Kasarla Shyam, the track perfectly aligns with the theme of togetherness. Produced by NIK Studios and Abhishek Pictures, the film features a stellar cast including Nabha Natesh, Ishwarya Menon, Jagapathi Babu making this release a significant milestone for the project.



Gopichand's Bharata Varsha Glimpse: Monumental

T Gopichand teams up with director Sankalp Reddy for a grand historical action drama, produced by Srinivasaa Chitturi under Srinivasaa Silver Screen and presented by Pavan Kumar. The makers unveiled the film's title with a powerful, action-packed glimpse that showcases its massive epic scale.

Set in 642 AD, the glimpse opens in the land of Shula. Enormous battle sequences, intense sword and axe combat, and fiery visuals make the promo strikingly cinematic.

The title Bharata Varsha appears with force-echoing pride, power, and the spirit of ancient Bharata. Sankalp Reddy brings an overlooked chapter of Indian history to life with scale, authenticity, and depth.



Gopichand undergoes a complete transformation, portraying a fearless warrior with commanding intensity. His appearance, body language, and screen presence stand out. Production designer Chinna creates detailed and immersive sets, while cinematographer Soundar Rajan captures the period with grandeur. Anudeep Dev's background score amplifies the drama and

emotion. With outstanding technical finesse and production value, Srinivasaa Silver Screen is mounting an ambitious theatrical experience. The teaser clearly signals something monumental. With shooting nearing completion, Bharata Varsha is gearing up for its theatrical release.

Tollywood heroines struggle continues in Kollywood too

Oftentimes, the heroines from other languages test their luck in Telugu, and sometimes, those who are successful in Telugu also test their luck in other languages. Sometimes, it is because of the opportunities, and sometimes, it is because of the lack of opportunities and back-to-back failures.

Sreeleela and Krithi Shetty, who rose to fame in Telugu cinema, are struggling to find success in Telugu and have ventured into Tamil cinema. Unfortunately, their struggle is never-ending in Tamil as well.

Sreeleela, who thought that Sivakarthikeyan's Parashakti would bring her huge success, failed to make it big. The film flopped, denting her opportunities. The last few movies that Sreeleela did in Telugu ended as flops, and



she is no longer a primary option for many actors and filmmakers. Kriti Shetty is also facing a similar fate now.

Krithi Shetty faced a flop in the form of Annagaru Vostaru in January and now, she has another failure in the form of Love Insurance Kompany. Pradeep Ranganathan's starrer could not help the actor win big at the box office.

She also tasted success in Telugu long back and is unable to revive her glory.

Having said that, the two actors are still in the game. The buzz says that Krithi will next be seen in Venkatesh's film, directed by Anil Ravipudi. On the other hand, Sreeleela will be seen in Dhanush's next film. The two films could be their other ticket to victory.

NTR's beast mode for Dragon leaves fans stunned

One upcoming pan-India film which has been regularly making headlines due to frequent rumours about its shooting formalities is NTR's much anticipated action saga with director Prashanth Neel. Tentatively titled Dragon, the big-budget entertainer has been in the making for nearly a year, but not even a single poster or glimpse has been unveiled so far. Despite not giving any update, the team is maintaining that the shooting is progressing at a brisk pace. With NTR's birthday arriving in just over a month, fans have been waiting with a bated breath for the first glimpse from this film. As there is no hint about this big news from the makers so far, reports are making rounds that there won't be any glimpse on May 20 as expected.



'Built, Not bought'. This amazing picture has now become a trending topic on social media platforms and fans started going gaga over his transformation journey. NTR has instantly drawn the attention with his unexpected treat and left the fans elated. Moreover, this has given hope that there is something big loading very soon from Dragon as it has been quite a while since the project went on floors and did not make any noise unlike all other upcoming

pan-India biggies which are already making a lot of noise with frequent updates. If the makers come up with a glimpse for NTR's birthday, it is likely to create a massive buzz on the film as there are huge expectations on this combination from the day it was announced. The genre and storyline have been kept under wraps so far to build the anticipation. So, the first content might drop some hints on what is Neel cooking this time after KGF and Salaar.

A Telugu Producer had dragged a Tamil Director to Tamil Producers Council. The director is none other than Cibi Chakravarthy who was supposed to direct #Thalaivar173. There are reports that he is now dropped. Coming to the topic, the producer of the planned Telugu film with Nani is Chitturi Srinivasa. Cibi narrated a storyline to Nani and the actor sent it to Chitturi. The director said he would finish the film in 65 Crore without remunerations which was fine for the Producer. Chitturi gave him a team of writers and opened an office in Chennai. The director developed the story and gave another narration to Nani which the actor again liked. But this time, he went to the producer and said it would cost 150 Crore. He also refused to give any breakup for the Producer to see how the budget increased. "If the budget shoots from 65 Crore to 150 Crore even before the

Mass Ka Das Vishwak Sen Begins His Next Big Journey



A new film starring Vishwak Sen has officially started its journey. This movie is being produced by Yuvasudha Arts as their third project. The banner is already known for backing successful films and this new venture has created good excitement among fans.

The film began with a traditional pooja ceremony. Many well wishers and team members attended the event. It marked a positive start for the project. Director Koratala Siva gave the first clap at the ceremony. Producer Shyam Prasad Reddy handed over the script. The camera was also

switched on as part of the ritual. These moments are considered very special in Indian cinema as they bring good luck to the film.

This movie is directed by Rajath. It is said to be a modern romantic comedy. The story is expected to be fresh and entertaining. Vishwak Sen who is popularly called Mass Ka Das will be seen in a new style in this film. Fans are already eager to see him in this genre.

The technical team also looks strong. Aravind Vishwanathan will handle the cinematography. He is known for giving rich visuals. The music will be

composed by Thejas Krishna. Good music always plays a big role in romantic films and the team is confident about the songs.

The production house Yuvasudha Arts gained attention with their previous big project Devara. Now with this new film, they are aiming to continue their success. Even before shooting begins the movie has created strong buzz. This shows the trust audience has in the team. The shooting of the film will begin soon. More details about the cast and release date will be announced later.

Telugu Producer Moves Council Against Tamil Director Over Rs.5 Cr



Muhurtham. One can not imagine how much it will become by the time of the

release," the producer lamented. He informed the hero and

they mutually decided to call off the project. Its been two and a half years now and Chitturi approached the Tamil Producers' Council asking the director to payback 5 Crore which they invested on the project for Advances, Office Expenses, Salaries, and Interests. The director is only in favor of returning the advance he took. Meanwhile, it is rumored that Nani is still interested in doing the film and asked another Producer to stay in touch with Cibi.

ICC announces record prize pool for WT20 WC, winners to get USD 2.34 mn



Dubai, April 13 : The International Cricket Council (ICC) has unveiled a record prize fund of USD 8,764,615 for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026, reflecting a 10 per cent boost compared to the 2024 edition.

This amount surpasses the USD 7,958,077 shared among the 10 participating nations in the United Arab Emirates two years ago, as the tournament is set to expand to 12 teams for the first time. The 2026 edition will feature hosts England

joined by Australia, Bangladesh, India, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Scotland, South Africa, Sri Lanka and the West Indies. The winners will once again receive USD 2,340,000, while the runners-

up will get USD 1,170,000. Losing semi-finalists will earn USD 675,000, and each group match victory will be rewarded with USD 31,154. All 12 teams participating are guaranteed a minimum prize of USD 247,500, the ICC said in a release.

The news arrives just 60 days before the tournament begins on June 12, when England will face Sri Lanka at Edgbaston, Birmingham. The 33-match event will take place across seven venues over 24 days, with teams competing for the top prize.

ICC CEO, Sanjog Gupta, said, "The growth of women's cricket continues to accelerate, and the expansion of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup to 12 teams, combined with a record prize pool, underlines our commitment to building a stronger, more competitive global game."

"The continued rise of women's cricket through increased investment and opportunity reflects the growing influence and impact of female athletes on the global stage. With that same momentum building across every aspect of women's cricket, this event is shaping up to not only set a host of new attendance and viewing records in the sports and media ecosystems but also leave a lasting impact on the

wider socio-cultural landscape across the world."

All roads now officially lead to England and Wales this summer, thanks to the ICC Trophy Tour, which kicks off Monday and will travel across Europe in the weeks before the competition.

The Trophy Tour begins in London, where it will be displayed in the square at Lord's Cricket Ground, the venue for the final and known as the Home of Cricket. It will be showcased with a spectacular projection—making it the first time anything has ever been projected onto the ground's renowned pavilion.

The trophy will travel to the Netherlands, Ireland and Scotland, the tournament's qualified European member nations, before embarking on an extensive tour of the tournament's host cities through May, building excitement ahead of the tournament's first ball on 12 June.

The tour will feature visits to major locations with multiple fan engagement opportunities across the host cities, including Millennium Square (Leeds), St Peter's Square (Manchester), Bullring (Birmingham), Cabot Circus (Bristol), Guildhall Square (Southampton), and Trafalgar

Square (London).

Tournament Director Beth Barrett-Wild said, "The ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 is set to be a landmark moment for the game - on course to become the most attended women's cricket event in history, with record-breaking ticket demand and the largest-ever prize pot for a global women's T20 competition. That level of investment, alongside prize money that matches the men's game, is a powerful reflection of the status, quality and global appeal of women's cricket today."

"That same ambition is shaping how we build towards the tournament, with the trophy tour playing a key role in taking the game to new audiences, building excitement across England and Wales, and showcasing women's cricket on the biggest stages as we count down to an unforgettable summer."

The ICC Women's T20 World Cup trophy will visit the host cities on the following dates:

Scotland: May 7 to 10
Netherlands: May 11 to 14
Ireland: May 15 to 18
Leeds: May 19 to 24
Manchester: May 25 to 27
Birmingham: May 28 to 29
Bristol: May 31 to June 1
Southampton: June 3 to 4
London: June 5 to 8

Kohli, Rohit are striking at 152, feels like they're driving a Ferrari: Aakash Chopra

New Delhi, April 13 : Former India opener Aakash Chopra has highlighted the shift in batting approach of modern-day greats Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma in the IPL, noting a rise in their strike rates over the last two seasons, and stating that seeing them bat at a powerful strike rate 'feels like they're driving a Ferrari.'



Kohli and Rohit, traditionally seen as key players in T20 cricket, have adjusted their playing styles to meet the format's evolving pressures, adopting a more aggressive approach since 2024. At the ongoing IPL 2026, both players have been performing exceptionally well for their teams.

since 2024; they are striking at 152. It almost feels like they are driving a Ferrari now," Chopra told JioStar. Meanwhile, former India captain Anil Kumble offered a technical breakdown of why emerging spinner Digvesh Rathi has been difficult for batters to read, particularly due to the subtle variations in his wrist and finger positions. "There isn't much difference between a leg-spin

pick the length correctly, there's a high chance of getting out," he noted. The legendary leg-spinner also shared advice for young bowlers aiming to develop spin skills, emphasising the importance of practice and building finger strength from an early stage. "You can definitely start practising spinning the ball with a rubber ball or a tennis ball, because you'll need to squeeze the ball a bit to bowl the carrom ball. So, if you start from there, first focus on getting the turn, and later work on control by simply bowling as much as you can. After that, when you move to a cricket ball, you might be able to execute this skill properly, because the key is learning how to hold the ball tightly and making your fingers strong enough to spin it and then just try and perfect it," he said.

IPL 2026: 'Wanted to keep the batsman guessing,' says Krunal on his strategy in RCB's win over MI

Mumbai, April 13 : Following Royal Challengers Bengaluru's (RCB) 18-run victory over Mumbai Indians (MI) at the Wankhede Stadium, all-rounder Krunal Pandya shed light on the tactical execution that helped swing the game decisively in his side's favour.



In a match dominated by explosive batting performances earlier, it was RCB's control through the middle overs that proved crucial. Krunal, operating in tandem with young leg-spinner Suyash Sharma, played a key role in slowing Mumbai's chase just when it threatened to gain momentum. "I just wanted to be one step ahead and keep the batsman guessing and that worked for us. And yes, Suyash bowled really well. Taking those two wickets in (his) first over changed the momentum. And I always believe bowling is about partnerships. And we were able to do that for the team, which was quite satisfying," Krunal said of the overs 7, 8, 9 and 10, which the duo bowled. Mumbai had started strongly in pursuit of a daunting 241, but Suyash's double strike, removing key batters, shifted the balance.

Krunal emphasised that the young spinner's growth has been a product of consistent behind-the-scenes work. "He (Suyash) has been getting better. I'll give a lot of credit to Malolan (Rangarajan), who is our spin-bowling coach. He has been constantly working with Suyash in the off-season as well as during the season. He is always having conversations with him. And credit goes to Suyash that he has been able to adapt to things and he has been able to be consistent as a bowler, which always helps in a game where batters are taking you every ball," he said. The match started as a high-scoring affair, with RCB accumulating 240/4 thanks to quick half-centuries from Phil Salt and Rajat Patidar, while Virat Kohli provided stability with a reliable fifty. However, Krunal highlighted that modern T20

strategies, particularly the Impact Player rule, have considerably increased the challenges faced by bowlers. "I have never shied away from trying different and new things. Because if you see, with the impact player rule, previously without an impact player, you had No. 6 allrounder or No. 7 allrounder. Batsmanship was quite different. But now, having eight pure batters and the skill set, you see young boys like Mukul and Vaibhav, so many of them are just coming and hitting from ball one consistently. So again, as a bowler, I always want to be one step ahead with the skill set as well as with the mental battle as well," the spinner stated. Krunal also spoke about his evolving methods, including the occasional use of bouncers, a rarity for finger spinners, as he looks to stay unpredictable in a format domi-

'He took Indian cricket to a different level': Yuvraj reflects on Gary's Kirsten impact on India's rise

New Delhi, April 13 : Former India all-rounder Yuvraj Singh has highlighted the transformative impact of former head coach Gary Kirsten on Indian cricket, recalling how his man-management and belief in players played a defining role in the team's success between 2008 and 2011. Speaking to former England captain Michael Vaughan on India's white-ball growth during Kirsten's tenure from 2008-2011, Yuvraj reflected on the South African's arrival at a crucial phase, when India were building towards a period of sustained dominance across formats. "I think Gary Kirsten was a big influence in that moment. Gary was a good man. We needed a good guy. That's all we wanted. Someone who said, 'Guys, let's be one on the park. Let's be together.' And Gary was very hard-



working." Yuvraj said in a video shared by 'Stick to Cricket' podcast on Monday. "And I think the day he came, he said that in the next four years, till the 2011 World Cup, we are going to be the number one T20 side. We are going to be the number one Test side. And we are going to be the number one ODI side. And a couple of guys looked at each other. 'What are you saying?' And that's what we did in the next four years. While Australia was dominating as well. So, I think his intention was good. He is a good man. And he

took Indian cricket to a different level," he added. Kirsten's tenure coincided with one of India's most successful phases, culminating in the 2011 ICC Cricket World Cup triumph and consistent top rankings across formats. Yuvraj, one of the key architects of that era, also emphasised the role of the coach in instilling confidence, noting how belief from the leadership group helped players unlock their potential. "It's also about the confidence level of the coach, right? If I come to you and say, 'You're my match winner, I want you to go and win

the game for me. I don't care how many failures you've had, just go and win the game.' Then, suddenly, your mindset switches that the team and the coach believes in me, that they want me to go and win the game, they have the confidence in me. And Garry always told me, 'You're a game changer.' He said, 'If you bat 20-25 overs you're going to change the game. Go do that.' Even in whatever Test cricket I played, he told me the same. 'Go and play your game. If you do that, you're going to win for India.' That gave me a lot of confidence to go out and bat," the all-rounder added. Under Kirsten's guidance, players like Yuvraj flourished in clearly defined roles, with the coach's emphasis on unity, clarity, and belief becoming central to India's rise as a dominant force in world cricket.

IPL 2026: 'It's always winning and learning, never losing,' says Hardik after MI's third straight defeat



New Delhi, April 13 : After a frustrating loss at the Wankhede Stadium, Hardik Pandya chose reflection over reaction, delivering a calm but purposeful message to his Mumbai Indians squad in the dressing room following their 18-run defeat to the Royal Challengers Bengaluru. Drawing from

head coach Mahela Jayawardene's philosophy, Pandya urged his players to confront the setback collectively rather than retreat into isolation. "Taking from what MJ (Mahela Jayawardene) said, I think here there are two options we can do. One is, go back in our rooms, go back in our

cocoon spaces and try to figure it out. I know it's tough, losing is always tough, but let's learn, let's not disappear. It's always winning and learning, never losing," he said in a video shared by the franchise on X. So, let's do that, that's what something which tonight, after the game, once we go back to the hotel, let's have meal together; we'll figure something out. We'll talk about cricket, we'll talk about something else, but we'll figure it out," Pandya added. The address came after Mumbai slumped to their third consecutive defeat, falling short despite a spirited late surge. The match itself had been defined by

RCB's dominant batting display, powered by aggressive half-centuries that set a daunting target. RCB posted a massive 240/4, powered by explosive half-centuries from Phil Salt (78 off 36) and Rajat Patidar (53 off 20), while Virat Kohli added a steady 50. In reply, MI started well but suffered a major setback when Rohit Sharma retired hurt. Despite fighting knocks from Hardik Pandya (40), Ryan Rickelton (37), and a late blitz by Sherfane Rutherford (71*), they finished at 222/5, falling short. MI will next play the Punjab Kings at the same venue, their home ground, on Thursday.

Sachin Tendulkar breaks down while paying his last respects to Asha Bhosle

Mumbai, April 13 : Cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar was overcome with emotion as he paid his last respects to legendary singer Asha Bhosle, who was laid to rest with full state honours on Monday. Tendulkar and his wife, Anjali, who share a close, deeply personal bond with the iconic vocalist, arrived early to stand with the grieving family. Known to regard Bhosle as a maternal figure, the former India captain appeared visibly shaken during the final rites, as the nation mourned the loss of one of its most celebrated cultural figures. In recognition of her extraordinary contribution to Indian music, Bhosle's mortal remains were draped in the national tricolour, while the Mumbai Police ceremonial band paid tribute with a final salute, marking the end of a remarkable career that spanned over eight decades. In a nod to her personal taste, the legendary singer was dressed in a striking blue saree, a colour she was fond of and often chose for public appearances, adding a poignant, per-



sonal touch to the solemn ceremony. The relationship between Tendulkar and Bhosle extended beyond public admiration, rooted in mutual respect and familial warmth. Over the years, Bhosle had often spoken about Tendulkar's humility and values, embracing him as one of her own rather than as a sporting superstar.

Bhosle's final public appearance came earlier this year at the wedding of Tendulkar's son, Arjun Tendulkar, on March 5, where she was seen warmly interacting with guests and posing for photographs, an appearance that, in hindsight, marked her last before her brief hospitalisation and passing. Following her demise, Tendulkar took to social media to express his grief in a heartfelt tribute: "A deeply sad day for India, and for music lovers across the world. For us, Asha Tai was family. Today, words feel too small for the loss we feel. One moment, the heart falls silent, and the next, it drifts through the countless melodies she gifted all of us. It feels as though time itself has paused."

Srikakulam Road - Tirupati Humsafar Express lagged off

By Skyline Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam, April 13 In a historic milestone aimed at enhancing passenger convenience and strengthening rail connectivity in the region, the Humsafar Express connecting Srikakulam Road to the world-renowned Hindu pilgrimage destination, Tirupati, was flagged off for the first time at Srikakulam Road Railway Station.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by Shri K. Ram Mohan Naidu, Hon'ble Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Government of India, in the august presence of Shri K. Ravi Kumar, Hon'ble MLA of Amudalavalasa; Shri G Shankar Hon'ble MLA



Srikakulam: Divisional Railway Manager Shri Lalit Bohra; District Collector Srikakulam Shri Swapnil Dinakar and other distinguished dignitaries. The introduction of Train No. 17440 Srikakulam Road - Tirupati Weekly Humsafar

Express is expected to significantly benefit passengers from the region by providing improved connectivity to Tirupati, Vijayawada, and other intermediate destinations. This service has been introduced in response to the long-standing demand of the

public and aligns with the vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister and Hon'ble Minister of Railways to strengthen regional connectivity and promote the vision of a Viksit Bharat. This new train service will greatly enhance access to



pilgrimage, education, improving passenger healthcare, employment, amenities, enhancing connectivity, and responding proactively to public needs through such passenger-friendly initiatives. SRIKAKULAM ROAD - TIRUPATI - SRIKAKU-

LAM ROAD WEEKLY HUMSAFAR EXPRESS (TRAIN Nos. 17440/17439) The Train No. 17440 Srikakulam Road - Tirupati Weekly Humsafar Express train will leave from Srikakulam Road on Mondays at 15:00 hrs with effect from 13.04.2026 and will reach Duvvada on the same day at 17:58 hrs and departure at 18:00 hrs and will reach Tirupati at 08:10 hrs on Tuesday. In the return direction, Train No. 17439 Tirupati - Srikakulam Road Weekly Humsafar Express train will leave from Tirupati on Sunday at 16:55 hrs with effect from 19.04.2026. The train will

reach Duvvada on the next day (Monday) at 09:33 hrs and departure at 09:35 hrs and will reach Srikakulam Road at 12:30 hrs. Composition: The pair of trains will consist of total 22 coaches, comprising: 3rd AC - 15, Pantry Car - 01, Sleeper Class coaches - 04, Generator Class cum Luggage Van - 02 coaches. Stoppages: Chipurupalli, Vizianagaram, Kottavalasa, Pendurthi, Duvvada, Anakapalli, Elamanchili, Samalkot, Rajahmundry, Eluru, Vijayawada, Tenali, Bapatla, Chirala, Ongole, Nellore, Gudur and Renigunta from Srikakulam Road - Tirupati stations both directions.

Tribal villagers protest delay in issuing death certificates



By Skyline Staff Reporter Paderu (ASR District), April 13: In a unique and emotional protest, tribal residents of Buriga and Chinna Konela hilltop villages in Ananthagiri mandal on Sunday knelt with folded hands, appealing to officials to issue pending late death certificates. The villagers said that as many as 18 applications for death certificates were submitted at the Rompilli Secretariat nearly a year ago, and the required challans were also paid. However, "even after one year, the certificates have not been issued," they alleged, expressing distress over the delay.

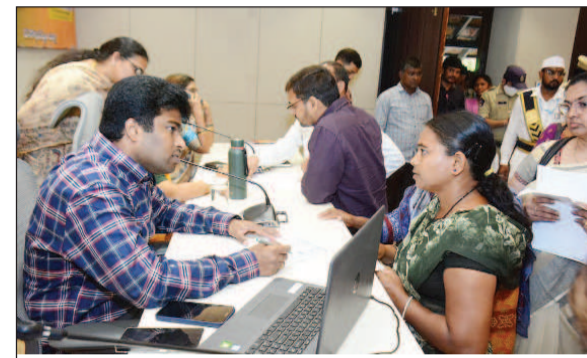
They urged the district collector to intervene and resolve the issue at the earliest. "If our problem is not addressed, we will undertake a padayatra from Buriga village to the Ananthagiri Mandal Revenue Office," they warned. Around 70 families live in the remote hill-top villages under Rompilli panchayat. Villagers said they have to travel nearly 12 km to reach the secretariat at Rompilli, while the mandal headquarters Ananthagiri, is about 70 km away. The district headquarters at Paderu is nearly 150 km from their villages, making access to

services difficult. Former ward member Somulu Appalaraju and tribal farmers' leader Vanaparthi Simhachalam said that earlier there was little awareness about the need for birth and death certificates. "After the village secretariat system was introduced, we came to know through volunteers that death and legal heir certificates are necessary," they said. Villagers, including Badnani Kothamma and Somulu Errayya alleged that despite following due procedure, revenue officials have failed to respond to their applications.

PGRS requests should be addressed with quality solutions

District Collector M. Abhishikth Kishore instructions to the officials

By Skyline Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam, April 13 : District Collector M. Abhishikth Kishore has ordered that quality solutions be provided to the complaints received from the public through the PGRS platform and satisfactory action be taken. In the PGRS review held at the Collectorate meeting hall on Monday morning, he gave clear directions to the officials. He said that each petition should be



read thoroughly and suggested that the concerned officials should

speak directly to the complainant. Later, the complaints from the public were received. The problems raised by the people were listened to carefully. Appropriate orders were issued to the concerned officials on the actions. Meanwhile, a total of 334 complaints were registered in the PGRS program held on Monday. Out of them, 59 were from the Revenue Department, 83 from the GVMC, 23

from the Police Department, and 169 from other departments. In the PGRS, the District Collector, Joint Collector Gobbilla Vidyadhari, DRO M. Visveswara Naidu, and ADC Satyaveni received complaints from the people, while RDOs and Tahsildars took complaints from the people at the Revenue Clinic. Officers of all departments were present.

The first installment of the Chandanam Aragaditha festival begins with grandeur

The first installment of the three-manufactured sandalwood offering on the night of the Chandan Festival Participating in festivals is a good deed from a previous birth - Gantla

By Skyline Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam, April 13 : The Simhachalam Sri Varaha Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple, which is a famous pilgrimage site in the world, will host the Simhadri Nadudu Chandanotsavam on the 20th of this month with great pomp. This festival, which is traditionally held on the Vaishaka Shuddha Tadiya every year, will be held with great pomp this year as well. The arrangements for the festival are

being completed at a rapid pace under the guidance of the temple EO J. Venkata Rao. On the night of the Chandan festival, devotees will offer three handfuls of sandalwood to Lord Simhadrinadhadu in a grand manner, after having darshan. On Monday, on the occasion of the Ekadashi festival of the Vaisakh month, the first phase of the sandalwood aragaditha program was started after special pujas in the early morning. Temple chief



priests Godavarthy Srinivasacharyulu, Kari Seetharamacharyu, Sthanacharyulu TP Rajagopal, temple EO J Venkatrao AEO

Thirumaleswara Rao, former members of the Simhachalam Devasthanam Board of Trustees, special invitees National Journalists Association Secretary Gantla Srinu Babu and others participated in the sandalwood aragaditha program. First, the priestly groups started the sandalwood aragaditha. Gantla Srinu Babu said that participating in the most glorious Simhadrinath festival is considered a blessing from a previous birth.

Waqf Board provides financial assistance to Iran women

By Skyline Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam, April 13 : The Waqf Board has provided financial assistance of Rs 1,50,000 to Iran women stranded in Visakhapatnam due to the war in Pachhimasia. The Waqf Board office in the District Collectorate came to know that two Iran women were facing hardships and provided them with their help. The members of the Muslim Welfare Society said that they had provided financial assistance to two women, Zeinab Mohammadi and Salman Mohammadi, who had come to study pharmacy, who were facing financial



difficulties due to the war. The Iranian women were emotional and expressed happiness as the members of the society provided heartfelt help. They said that their family members were in touch until ten days ago, but since then they have not been able to contact them. They

expressed their concerns that they are facing financial difficulties. Mecca Masjid President S.K. Abdul Munir, Secretary Syed Amir Jan, Haji Ikram Ali, Chirag Ali, Shakeel, Ahmed Ali, Iniyatullah Baig and others participated in the program.

A grand gathering of Padmashali Doctors

Doctors' Day celebrations should be held on a grand scale A large number of doctors from Uttarandhra districts will attend.

By Skyline Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam, April 13 : A grand gathering of Padmasali doctors was held at a hotel in the city under the auspices of the Padmasali Employees Welfare Association. The meeting, chaired by renowned Emergency Medicine Professor Dr. Siddhanati Naveen, was attended by doctors from Visakhapatnam, Uttarandhra and East Godavari districts. In particular, the strengthening of the doctors' association and issues related to the Doctors' Day celebrations to be held in Guntur on July 5th were discussed.



All Padmasali doctors should remain united and achieve further strength. On this occasion, many senior and junior doctors who have rendered special

services in their respective fields also provided advice and suggestions. It was decided to hold a meeting of doctors' intimate gathering every three

months and to appoint district committees and state committees. In this meeting, the association's state general secretary Raparathi Venkat Rao, Vizianagaram

doctors Dr. Tirumala Prasad, Dr. Uday Bhaskar, Dr. Ande Venkateswara Rao, Dr. Kollu Jaikishan participated as chief guests, while Visakhapatnam president Mittipati Mohan Murali, Padimi Venkata Satyanand, Bosetti Venka teswara Rao, Akula Visveswara Rao, Dr. Sivaramkrishna, Leela, District Padmasali Emplo yee Association representative Neelam Jogiraju and many other members of the association participated. Doctors from Kakinada and Rajah mundry districts to Srikakulam district attended in large numbers.

Strengthening cooperatives key to farmers' growth: Nagarjuna

By Skyline Staff Reporter Cheepurupalli (Gurla), April 13 Highlighting the crucial role of cooperative societies in supporting the farming community, Vizianagaram DCCB Chairman Kimidi Nagarjuna called for more efficient and accountable functioning of these institutions. As part of his field visit, he inspected the Kella PACS in Gurla mandal and reviewed its overall performance. He closely examined the implementation of crop loans, fertilizer and seed distribution, and assessed the recovery of loans. During the inspection, he also reviewed godown facilities, stock availability, and record maintenance, stressing the need for systematic management and transparency in all operations. Addressing officials and staff, Nagarjuna made it clear that farmers should receive uninterrupted and fair services, without any political influence. He directed that all transactions must be recorded transparently and that eligible



farmers should receive loans without delay. He also warned that any negligence or irregularities would invite strict action, and emphasized maintaining the quality of stored agricultural inputs. Local leaders, including Mandal

Party President Chanamala Maheswara Rao, PACS President Vimala Rani, former Sarpanch Karrotu Govinda, along with officials, staff, and farmers, participated in the visit.

Poshan Pakhwada Awareness Drive Conducted in Geddapuvvalasa

By Skyline Staff Reporter Cheepurupalli (Garividi), April 13 An awareness programme was organized at Geddapuvvalasa village under the ICDS Garividi Project as part of the 8th Poshan Pakhwada, being observed from April 9 to April 23, 2026. The initiative aims to strengthen awareness on nutrition and brain development during the first six years of a child's life, which is considered crucial for overall growth. This year's campaign highlights the importance of holistic development and community participation, with a special focus on increasing men's involvement in nutrition practices. During the session, health officials educated pregnant women and lactating mothers on essential nutrition practices. They emphasized the importance of consuming home-cooked and traditional foods, maintaining proper dietary habits, and



avoiding junk and packaged foods, which can lead to various health issues. Officials also explained how balanced nutrition supports both physical health and cognitive development in children.

The programme was attended by CDPO Arudra, Supervisors Jyothi and Varalakshmi, School Headmaster Ravi Kumar, along with several mothers, pregnant women, and community members.