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## India's first quantum reference facilities unveiled in Amaravati

(By Our Staff Reporter) Amaravati, April 14 : India's first quantum reference facilities were unveiled here on Tuesday, opening a new chapter in quantum technology to mark the World Quantum Day.

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu inaugurated the '1S Open Access Quantum Facility' at SRM University, as well as the '1Q Quantum Facility' situated at Medha Towers.

These two quantum testbeds provide the necessary infrastructure to test quantum computing devices and components, officials said.

With the unveiling of these two systems, Andhra Pradesh has become the first state in the country to have a dedicated Quantum Test Reference Facility.

With this, the Amaravati Quantum Valley has acquired the capability to test and certify quantum computer hardware.

Quantum computer testbeds—designed to operate at an ultra-low tempera-

ture of minus 273 degrees Celsius—have been established at both locations. These quantum testbeds are designed to serve the needs of companies manufacturing quantum computing devices, as well as researchers, students, and industry experts.

The Amaravati 1S facility at SRM University will facilitate research, while the Amaravati 1Q facility at Medha Towers will cater to industrial applications.

Representatives from the National Quantum Mission and the Department of Science and Technology (DST), along with delegates from various quantum technology companies, IIT professors, and scientists, attended this event.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said that Andhra Pradesh has created history by realising this milestone on World Quantum Day, coinciding with the centenary of Quantum Science. "We have ushered in a



new era of quantum history in Amaravati on the birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar—the visionary who proclaimed that knowledge is the true symbol of social progress," he said. He expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister

Narendra Modi for encouraging the establishment of the Amaravati Quantum Valley—a key initiative in setting up India's first open-access quantum facilities. The Chief Minister stated that 1S and 1Q quantum hardware testbeds,

launched in Amaravati, will play a pivotal role in testing and certifying quantum devices. "It is a matter of great pride that this Telugu land—which has already played a pivotal role in the IT sector—is now emerging as a hub for quantum

technologies," he said. CM Naidu believed that just as electricity was vital for the industrial age and the Internet is vital for the digital age, quantum technology is crucial for modern innovation. Nations that achieve mastery in (Contd. on pg.2)

## VP Radhakrishnan, PM Modi, Kharge pay floral tributes to Ambedkar at Parliament complex



New Delhi, April 14 : Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Rajya Sabha Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge, along with several other leaders, paid floral tributes to Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar at the Parliament on the occasion of his birth anniversary on Tuesday. Lok Sabha Speaker Om

Birla, Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Arjun Ram Meghwal, Rajya Sabha member Ramdas Athawale, and Congress leader Udit Raj, among others, also arrived at the Parliament to pay homage to the Father of the Constitution. (Contd. on pg.2)

## Modi-Trump Call Highlights Strategic Ties Amid West Asia Tensions



New Delhi, Apr 14: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump held a 40-minute phone conversation, marking their third interaction this year. Notably, this is their second discussion since tensions escalated in West Asia on February 28, underscoring the growing importance of diplomatic coordination between the two nations. Sharing details on the social media platform X, Prime Minister Modi described the call as warm and constructive. He

referred to President Trump as a friend and highlighted the strong personal rapport between the two leaders. During the conversation, both leaders reviewed the significant progress achieved in bilateral cooperation across key sectors, including defense, trade, technology, and global security. The leaders reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening the India-U.S. global strategic partnership. They emphasized the importance of deepening (Contd. on pg.2)

## AP Inter Results 2026 to be released on April 15; Students Can Check via Website and WhatsApp : Minister Lokesh



(By Our Staff Reporter) Amaravati, April 14 : The wait is finally over for intermediate students in Andhra Pradesh, as the results for both first and second-year examinations will be officially announced on April 15. State Education Minister Nara Lokesh will release

the results at 10:31 a.m., a detail he confirmed through his social media post. To ensure a smooth and hassle-free experience for students, the government has introduced multiple convenient methods to access the results. Students can visit (Contd. on pg.2)

## CM Naidu writes to all MPs from Andhra Pradesh to support women's quota bill



(By Our Staff Reporter) Amaravati, April 14 : Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has written a letter to the heads of political parties in the state and Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha members from the state seeking their support in Parliament for the Women's Reservation Bill. He has requested them to extend their support to the 'Nari Shakti Vandan'

Constitution Amendment Bill, which aims to implement 33 per cent reservations starting from the 2029 elections. The national president of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) said that he has appealed to them to strengthen Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resolve to provide one-third reservations for women in Parliament and Assemblies. (Contd. on pg.2)

referred to President Trump as a friend and highlighted the strong personal rapport between the two leaders. During the conversation, both leaders reviewed the significant progress achieved in bilateral cooperation across key sectors, including defense, trade, technology, and global security. The leaders reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening the India-U.S. global strategic partnership. They emphasized the importance of deepening (Contd. on pg.2)

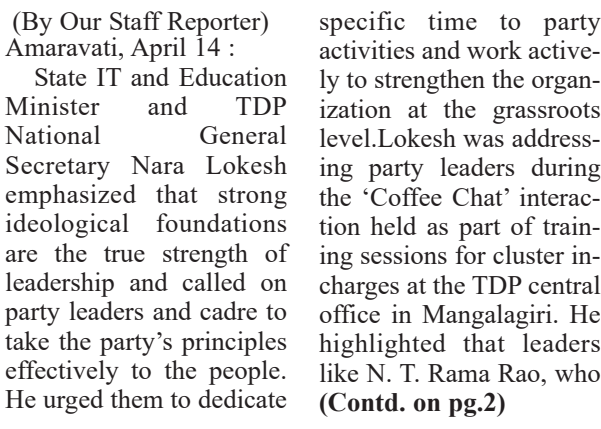
## Delimitation Bill May Expand Lok Sabha Strength to 850 Seats



New Delhi, Apr 14: The Central Government is preparing to introduce the Delimitation Bill along with the Women's Reservation Bill in Parliament on the 16th of this month. The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs has already informed Members of Parliament (MPs) about the move and circulated copies of the proposed bills. According to the Delimitation Bill, the total strength of the Lok Sabha is likely to increase significantly—from the current 543 seats to around 850. This

expansion is expected to include an increase of up to 815 seats across states and about 35 seats in Union Territories, aiming to better reflect population changes and ensure fair representation. Once the bill is passed, the Central Government plans to establish a Delimitation Commission of India. This commission will be tasked with redrawing constituency boundaries and finalizing the seat distribution. The government intends to complete this process swiftly so that the (Contd. on pg.2)

## Strengthen Party Ideology and Grassroots Work, Says Nara Lokesh



(By Our Staff Reporter) Amaravati, April 14 : State IT and Education Minister and TDP National General Secretary Nara Lokesh emphasized that strong ideological foundations are the true strength of leadership and called on party leaders and cadre to take the party's principles effectively to the people. He urged them to dedicate

specific time to party activities and work actively to strengthen the organization at the grassroots level. Lokesh was addressing party leaders during the 'Coffee Chat' interaction held as part of training sessions for cluster in-charges at the TDP central office in Mangalagiri. He highlighted that leaders like N. T. Rama Rao, who (Contd. on pg.2)

Asia situation, the Government of India remained actively engaged in ensuring and seamless functioning across key sectors. (Contd. on pg.2)

## AP Govt Sends Differently-Abled Students on Historic Everest Base Camp Expedition



(By Our Staff Reporter) Amaravati, April 14 : State Minister Kolu Parthasarathy expressed serious concern over what he described as the growing danger of "fanatical politics" in Andhra Pradesh, alleging that it has become a major threat to the state's future. Addressing a press conference at the TDP central

(By Our Staff Reporter) Amaravati, April 14 : State Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh has inspired students to overcome challenges and achieve greatness, stating that nothing is impossible with hard work and perseverance. In a first-of-its-kind initiative in India, the

Andhra Pradesh government, under the Samagra Shiksha program, has launched an expedition to the Everest Base Camp for specially-abled students. Lokesh flagged off the expedition at his residence in Undavalli on Tuesday. A group of 21 (Contd. on pg.2)

## YCP's Politics a Threat to State's Future, Says Kolu Parthasarathy



office in Mangalagiri on Tuesday, he strongly criticized the governance of the YSR Congress Party over the past five years. Parthasarathy alleged that democratic institutions were directly attacked during the previous regime and claimed that the state was pushed into a situation of fear due (Contd. on pg.2)

office in Mangalagiri on Tuesday, he strongly criticized the governance of the YSR Congress Party over the past five years. Parthasarathy alleged that democratic institutions were directly attacked during the previous regime and claimed that the state was pushed into a situation of fear due (Contd. on pg.2)

## Over 14.3 lakh 5-kg FTL cylinders sold since March 23: Govt



New Delhi, Apr 14: The Centre on Tuesday informed that over 14.3 lakh 5-kg free trade LPG (FTL) cylinders have been sold since March 23. Amid the evolving West

Asia situation, the Government of India remained actively engaged in ensuring and seamless functioning across key sectors. (Contd. on pg.2)

## Tamil Nadu polls: BJP promises cash transfers, welfare sops and cultural planks in manifesto



Chennai Apr 14: Competing with the ruling DMK and its NDA ally, the AIADMK, the BJP has released its manifesto for the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, announcing a range of welfare measures—many of which are similar to those offered by the

Dravidian majors. The saffron party has promised Rs.2,000 per month for every woman head of a family and a one-time cash assistance of Rs.10,000 for every household to cushion inflationary pressures, along with three LPG (Contd. on pg.2)

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

## India's first quantum reference facilities unveiled in Amaravati

"It is a matter of great pride that this Telugu land—which has already played a pivotal role in the IT sector—is now emerging as a hub for quantum technologies," he said.

CM Naidu believed that just as electricity was vital for the industrial age and the Internet is vital for the digital age, quantum technology is crucial for modern innovation. Nations that achieve mastery in quantum technology are the ones most likely to shape the future, he said. He noted that the AQR (Amaravati Quantum Reference Facility) will serve as a vital resource for Indian researchers seeking to test quantum hardware. Stating that the quantum computing reference facilities took shape in just 8 months, he said they significantly enhanced the nation's capabilities in the field of quantum technology.

Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, said that the establishment of Quantum Reference Test Facilities marks a pivotal step forward in achieving self-reliance in quantum technology. He said that Amaravati is poised to emerge as a national hub for both AI and quantum technologies.

"Our focus should not be limited solely to quantum algorithms; we must also embrace allied fields such as atomic and cryogenic technologies. In light of the evolving global dynamics, it is imperative that we strengthen our technological capabilities," he said.

He said the reference facilities will play a crucial role in the indigenous manufacturing of quantum hardware. Domestically manufactured equipment will play a pivotal role in achieving self-reliance.

## CM Naidu writes to all MPs from Andhra Pradesh to support women's quota bill

Chandrababu Naidu stated that the introduction of the Women's Reservation Amendment Bill in Parliament on April 16 will be a historic milestone in Indian democracy.

He believes that 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam' will contribute to women's empowerment as well as the nation's progress.

The Chief Minister addressed letters to Jana Sena president K. Pawan Kalyan, BJP state President P.V.N. Madhav, YSR Congress President Y.S. Jagannathan Reddy, state Congress President Y.S. Sharmila Reddy, CPI state Secretary G. Eswaraiah, and CPI(M) state secretary V. Srinivasa Rao.

CM Naidu wrote that with the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam' coming before Parliament, a decades-old dream is finally becoming a reality. This marks a monumental stride towards achieving equality and establishing a legacy that will endure forever in India's democracy.

"The allocation of one-third of the seats in legislative bodies to women - a measure unparalleled in any other nation across the globe - is an occasion that fills every Indian with immense pride. It is truly gratifying to witness our aspirations regarding women's empowerment finally taking concrete shape," reads the letter.

The TDP chief thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi on behalf of the people, especially the women of Andhra Pradesh.

"I have always held a firm conviction that true progress can only be realised when women's participation in government, administration, and legislative bodies is significantly enhanced. The development of society is inextricably linked to ensuring that women are accorded their rightful place. It is my firm belief that women must play a pivotal role in the progress of both the state and the nation. The impact women are demonstrating across sectors, including education, healthcare, research, technology, sports, defence, industry, commerce, and services, is truly extraordinary. Through sheer hard work and unwavering dedication to duty, women today are proving their mettle in every single field," wrote the CM.

"I am writing this letter with a deep sense of responsibility, on behalf of our daughters, to urge that a united voice be raised regarding the issue of women's reservations. It is imperative that all political parties and Members of Parliament unanimously extend their support to this cause. Let us all consider it a privilege - a stroke of good fortune - to have this opportunity to honour the women of our households and the women of our nation. Let no one miss the chance to be a part of this sacred moment. I earnestly urge everyone to extend their wholehearted support toward bringing into effect the legislation that grants women one-third representation in our legislative bodies," he said.

Chandrababu Naidu wrote that as a nation that reveres Mother India, all 1.4 billion Indians must stand ready for these momentous occasions - moments dedicated to paying homage to 'Nari Shakti' (women's power).

"This legislation transcends politics; it is a matter concerning the dignity and honor of our nation. Every political party and every Member of Parliament must leave their indelible mark on this historic decision. I appeal to everyone to collectively extend their support to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the Central Government in the implementation of the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam'," he added.

## VP Radhakrishnan, PM Modi, Kharge pay floral tributes to Ambedkar at Parliament complex

During this, PM Modi and Congress National Mallikarjun Kharge also shared a candid chat.

Earlier in the day, PM Modi paid tributes to B.R. Ambedkar, describing his contribution to nation-building as deeply inspiring and enduring for generations. In a post on X, the Prime Minister said, "Tributes to Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar on his birth anniversary. His efforts towards nation-building are deeply motivating. His life and work continue to inspire generations to build a just and progressive society."

In a video message shared on the platform, PM Modi said, "Today is a very important day in the nation's history - it is Babasaheb Ambedkar's Jayanti. He was not just an individual, but a symbol of resolve. He did not merely live; he connected it to struggle and fought. He did not fight for personal pride, but for equality for all, including the backward and Dalit communities. Despite facing many challenges and opposition, he never stopped."

In another post, the Prime Minister said, "Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar's personality and contributions will continue to remain a source of inspiration for nation-building." Several Union ministers and leaders also paid tributes on the occasion through posts on social media.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that Ambedkar laid the strong foundation of Indian democracy by providing a Constitution that ensures equal rights and opportunities for all sections of society.

"Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar Ji laid the strong foundation of our democracy by giving us a Constitution that grants equal rights and opportunities to every class. He staunchly opposed Article 370 for the sake of the country's integrity. Babasaheb, who gave the mantra to society to become educated and stay organised, teaches us through his life that when the resolve is for national service and the welfare of the people, every obstacle becomes small," he said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh described Ambedkar as a great social reformer and a key architect of modern India, noting that his life was dedicated to securing equality and justice for the underprivileged.

"Babasaheb dedicated his entire life to fostering equality and harmony in society. His whole life was devoted to securing equal rights for the people of deprived sections.

Babasaheb was also a great thinker and the architect of many of the nation's institutions. Even in adverse circumstances, Babasaheb achieved extraordinary accomplishments and made an indelible contribution to nation-building," he added.

Dr B.R. Ambedkar was born on this day in 1891 in Mhow (now Dr Ambedkar Nagar), Madhya Pradesh. He was an Indian jurist, economist, and social reformer who played a key role in drafting the Indian Constitution. He dedicated his life to fighting caste discrimination and promoting equality and social justice in India.

## Modi-Trump Call Highlights Strategic Ties Amid West Asia Tensions

collaboration to address emerging global challenges and ensure stability in critical regions.

A major focus of the discussion was the evolving situation in West Asia. Both leaders expressed concern over rising tensions, particularly in light of the stalled peace talks between the United States and Iran. They stressed the urgent need for maintaining peace and stability in the region.

Importantly, Modi and Trump underscored the strategic significance of keeping the Strait of Hormuz open, secure, and free for navigation. The waterway is a vital route for global energy supplies, and any disruption could have far-reaching economic consequences worldwide.

The conversation assumes added significance amid increasing geopolitical uncertainty, reflecting the shared commitment of India and the United States to work together in promoting regional stability and safeguarding global interests.

## Over 14.3 lakh 5-kg FTL cylinders sold since March 23: Govt

Sharing an update on the current fuel supply situation, outlining measures being undertaken to ensure uninterrupted availability of petroleum products and LPG amid the ongoing developments affecting the Strait of Hormuz, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said despite the ongoing geopolitical situation, the Government has ensured that 100 per cent supply is being made to Domestic LPG, Domestic PNG and CNG (Transport).

"For commercial LPG, priority has been given to hospitals, educational institutions. Besides this, priority has also been given to pharma, steel, automobile, seed, agriculture, etc. In addition to this, supply of 5 Kg FTL to migrant labourers is also doubled based on average daily supply on 2nd and 3rd March 2026," the Ministry stated.

It further said the Government has already implemented several rationalisation measures on both the supply and demand side, including enhancing refinery production, increasing the booking interval from 21 to 25 days in urban areas and up to 45 days in rural areas and prioritizing sectors for supply.

On Domestic LPG supply status, the Ministry said, "LPG supply continues to be affected by the prevailing geopolitical situation. No dry-outs have been reported at LPG distributorships. Online LPG bookings increased to 98 per cent across the industry basis yesterday."

"The Government of India vide letter dated 06.04.2026 has conveyed that daily quantity of 5 Kg FTL cylinders in each State available for disbursement to migrant labourers is being doubled based on the average daily supply (Number of cylinders) to migrant labourers during 2nd-3rd March 2026 beyond the limit of 20% mentioned in letter dated 21.03.2026. These 5 Kg FTL cylinders will be at disposal of the State Government for supplying only to migrant labourers in their State with assistance of Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs)," it said.

"Since 23rd March 2026, more than 14.3 Lakh - 5 Kg FTL cylinders have been sold. On 13.04.2026, about 1.1 Lakh - 5 Kg FTL Cylinders were sold across the country against a daily average of 77000 in the month of February 2026," the Ministry informed.

A three-member committee of Executive Directors from IOCL, HPCL and BPCL is coordinating with State authorities and industry bodies to plan commercial LPG distribution.

"A total of 1,31,645 MT (Equivalent to more than 69.28 Lakh of 19 Kg LPG Cylinders) of Commercial LPG has been sold since 14th March 2026. On 13.04.2026, 8661

MT of Commercial LPG (Equivalent to more than 4.5 Lakh - 19 Kg cylinders) was sold," the Ministry further said.

## Tamil Nadu polls: BJP promises cash transfers, welfare sops and cultural planks in manifesto

cylinders a year free of cost. Further, the party has pledged Rs 25,000 to eligible women for the purchase of e-scooters.

While the DMK has assured an increase in the existing Rs1,000 assistance provided to 1.31 crore women heads of families to Rs2,000, the AIADMK has also, in its manifesto, announced a hike to Rs.2,000.

Additionally, it has proposed extending the current free bus travel scheme—presently limited to women—to men as well. The AIADMK has also promised a Rs25,000 subsidy for women to buy scooters.

Sharpening its strategy of polarisation, the BJP reiterated its commitment to "restore" the lighting of the deepam atop the Thiruparankundram hillock, above the ancient temple of Lord Murugan—one of the six revered abodes of the deity.

There is an ongoing dispute over the site, with the saffron party and Hindu outfits at odds with the state government, which maintains that the location is merely a survey stone.

According to the government, the deepam during the Tamil month of Karthigai is traditionally lit at the Deepa Mantap, near the Uchi Pillaiy temple, situated above the Murugan temple. The issue remains sub judice.

"We will uphold and protect the sacred traditions of Tamil makkal (people) by ensuring the uninterrupted continuation of Karthigai Deepam, including lighting the Deepathoon atop the holy Thiruparankundram Hill, and take all necessary steps to preserve this practice for generations to come," the manifesto states.

The so-called Deepathoon is located adjacent to a dargah, and the hill is also home to Jain monuments. Continuing its focus on Lord Murugan, a widely revered Tamil deity, the party announced that the Thai Pooam festival—an auspicious occasion celebrated by the Tamil diaspora worldwide—will be elevated into a state-wide celebration, given its status as a government holiday in Tamil Nadu.

Unveiling the manifesto, former BJP national president and Union Health and Family Welfare Minister J.P. Nadda accused the DMK government of entrenching dynastic politics and turning Tamil Nadu—often described as the cradle of one of the world's oldest civilisations—into a hub of crime.

"While Stalin occupies the top post, his son Udhayanidhi is the heir apparent, and his half-sister Kanimozhi is a key partner, with the son-in-law acting as the manager. It is family rule, as this is how the party functions," Nadda alleged, adding that the DMK had betrayed women, youth, farmers, and the marginalised. "The DMK is a 'Dynastic Money Kickbacks' party, with Stalin not only remaining corrupt but also acting as a protector of the corrupt. In the last five years, they have only focused on enriching themselves," he charged.

He further claimed that it is not the state that has failed, but the DMK that has failed the state on all fronts, adding that there is widespread resentment against the Stalin government for its inability to curb violence against women and children, as well as drug abuse.

## AP Inter Results 2026 to be released on April 15; Students Can Check via Website and WhatsApp : Minister Lokesh

the official results portal, resultsbie.ap.gov.in, to check their scores online. The website is expected to handle a large number of users, making it one of the primary platforms for result access. In a significant step toward digital innovation, the government has also launched a new WhatsApp-based service for the first time. Under the initiative called 'Mana Mitra,' students can simply send a message saying "Hi" to the number 952300009. Within seconds, their results will be delivered directly to their WhatsApp, eliminating the need to wait in long queues or deal with server-related issues. Minister Lokesh emphasized that this initiative is aimed at making the result-checking process faster, easier, and more accessible for all students. By leveraging technology, the government hopes to provide a seamless experience during one of the most important moments in a student's academic journey. Extending his best wishes to students, Lokesh encouraged them with a motivational message, saying, "This is your moment... go ahead and shine." The announcement has generated excitement and anticipation among students and parents across the state.

## Delimitation Bill May Expand Lok Sabha Strength to 850 Seats

revised structure can be implemented in time for the 2029 general elections. An important aspect of the proposed changes is the proportional increase in reserved seats for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST). These reservations will be recalculated based on updated population data derived from the upcoming census, ensuring that representation remains aligned with demographic realities. Additionally, reports suggest that the government is considering an average increase of nearly 50 percent in both Lok Sabha and State Assembly seats across all states. If implemented, this would mark one of the most significant electoral reforms in recent decades, potentially reshaping India's political landscape and strengthening democratic representation across the country.

## Strengthen Party Ideology and Grassroots Work, Says Nara Lokesh

brought global recognition to the Telugu community, and N. Chandrababu Naidu, who showcased the capabilities of Telugu people to the world, succeeded due to

their strong ideological commitment. He advised party members to take inspiration from their legacy. Speaking sharply on recent political developments, Lokesh criticized the previous YSR Congress Party government, alleging that it indulged in repression, attacks, and corruption. He accused opposition leaders of spreading misinformation and urged party members to collectively counter what he described as "false propaganda." Lokesh stressed that ideological clarity must accompany welfare and development programs implemented by the government. He underlined that unity, discipline, and trust among workers are essential for long-term political success. He also mentioned that he personally spends time every week at the party office to understand public issues and encouraged party workers to follow a similar approach. Highlighting the importance of alliance politics, Lokesh said the coalition government has enabled progress on key issues such as Amaravati's development and Visakhapatnam Steel Plant protection. He called on leaders to work in coordination with alliance partners like Jana Sena Party and Bharatiya Janata Party, resolving differences through dialogue like a family. He also encouraged workers to record their activities on the 'My TDP' app, assuring that performance is being monitored and deserving members will be recognized.

## AP Govt Sends Differently-Abled Students on Historic Everest Base Camp Expedition

differently-abled students, including 8 girls studying from Class 9 to Intermediate in government institutions, will take part in this 16-day journey from April 15 to 30. The team will trek to the Everest Base Camp, located at an altitude of 5,364 meters above sea level. The students will first reach Kathmandu on April 15 and begin their expedition from there. Interacting with the students, Lokesh praised their determination and resilience. He said it was a matter of pride that students with special needs were undertaking such a challenging expedition. "You possess a level of perseverance that many others may not. Despite facing hardships and criticism, you have risen to this level. It is your inner strength that will lead you to greatness," he told them. He further emphasized that encouraging such individuals would bring meaningful change in society and assured that the government would fully support them. Lokesh also shared personal experiences, highlighting that every family faces challenges but also possesses the strength to overcome them. The minister reiterated the government's commitment to identifying and encouraging such talent every year. He advised students to serve society, help others, and become role models through their achievements. He also highlighted the government's focus on inclusive education, physical development, and improved learning outcomes in public schools. Lokesh wished the team success and expressed confidence that their journey would inspire society at large.

## YCP's Politics a Threat to State's Future, Says Kolu Parthasarathy

to what he termed as anarchic rule. He further accused YCP leaders of taking the law into their own hands and targeting opposition members. Referring to the murder of Thota Chandraiah, the minister described the incident as not just a personal tragedy but "an attack on democracy." He assured that strict action would be taken against those responsible and stated that the Telugu Desam Party would extend full support to the victim's family. The minister also criticized alleged misuse of social media, accusing YCP leaders of posting offensive content targeting women and families of political opponents. He warned that such behavior is harmful to society and contributes to moral degradation. Additionally, he alleged that the police system was misused during the previous government to file false cases and suppress dissent. Highlighting the priorities of the current coalition, Parthasarathy stated that restoring law and order would be the government's foremost goal. He warned that no individual violating the law would be spared and that strict action would be taken against offenders. He concluded by urging the public to reject what he called "destructive politics" and to support efforts aimed at ensuring peace, stability, and development in the state.

## Grand Tributes Paid to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar at TDP Office in Kakinada

Kakinada, April 14: A grand tribute was paid to B. R. Ambedkar, the pioneer of social justice, equality, and constitutional values, on the occasion of his 135th birth anniversary. The event was held at the district office of the Telugu Desam Party in Kakinada on Tuesday. Leaders and party members gathered in large numbers at the office located in the 37th division of the city. They garlanded Ambedkar's portrait and paid floral tributes, remembering his immense contribution to the nation as the chief architect of the Indian Constitution and a champion of the oppressed sections of society. Several prominent leaders participated in the programme. Among them were Kakinada City MLA Vanamadi Kondababu, Godavari Ubhaya districts Graduates' Constituency Perabathula Rajasekharam, former minister Chikkala Ramachandra Rao, MLC Karri Padmasree, Kakinada City TDP President Mallipudi Veeru, and Kakinada Parliament TDP General Secretary Penke Srinivas Baba. Speakers at the event highlighted Dr. Ambedkar's enduring legacy and emphasized the need to uphold his ideals of equality, justice, and social harmony. They called upon party workers and the public to follow his teachings and work towards building an inclusive and progressive society. The Programme concluded with leaders reaffirming their commitment to Ambedkar's vision and values, inspiring attendees to continue striving for social justice and empowerment.

## Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the great man who worked for equality and the abolition of untouchability

Telugu Shakti President B.V. Ram

By Skyline Staff Reporter  
Visakhapatnam, April 14  
Remembering the services of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on the occasion of his 135th birth anniversary, Telugu Shakti President B.V. Ram (BVR) paid tributes to his statue at the LIC Building in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday morning. Speaking on the occasion, BVR said that the architect of the Indian Constitution and social reformer Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was a great leader who fought for the rights of Dalits. He recalled that he was born in a Mahar family and faced caste discrimination in his childhood. He pursued higher education with immense intelligence



and worked for equality as the first Law Minister of independent India, abolishing untouchability. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar wanted us to be honest leaders who would willingly give up their positions for the sake of the nation, not leaders who would take the nation for granted, and Telugu Shakti President B.V.

Ram, citing Ambedkar as a witness, urged politicians to change for the sake of the nation. Dr. Pappur Nikunj, film director V. Vamsi Babu, Professor Pentakota Trinadha Rao, Kanthamneni Krishna Sandeep and others participated in this program.

## Kala Venkata Rao Pays Tribute to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on 135th Jayanti

By Skyline Staff Reporter  
Cheepurupalli, April 14

Former Minister, Polit Bureau Member, and Cheepurupalli MLA Sri Kimidi Kala Venkata Rao paid floral tributes to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on the occasion of his 135th birth anniversary at Ambedkar Junction near the Panchayat Office in the town. Speaking on the occasion, Kala Venkata Rao described Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar as a global intellectual and Bharat Ratna awardee. He stated that it is due to the Constitution drafted by Dr. Ambedkar that India continues to remain a united and sovereign nation. He further emphasized that the NDA alliance government is committed to the welfare and development of weaker and marginalized sections of society. Leaders and party workers of the NDA alliance, along with local supporters, participated in the Jayanti celebrations.



## PM Surya Ghar scheme brings 'solar' lights to SC and ST households

Solar panels allocated to 3,595 beneficiaries in Visakhapatnam district  
District Collector Abhishikhth Kishore

By Skyline Staff Reporter  
Visakhapatnam April 14 :  
District Collector Abhishikhth Kishore, along with East MLA Velagapudi Ramakrishna Babu and AP EPDCL CMD Prithvithej, inaugurated the solar plant installed on the house of scheme beneficiary Akula Sudhakar at Relliveedhi in Chinawalter on Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that the "PM Surya Ghar: SC-ST Solarization" scheme, jointly implemented by the Central and State governments with the aim of welfare of the poor, is continuing successfully in Visakhapatnam district. The cost of setting up a 2 kilowatt (2kwp) solar plant per household is around Rs 1.1 to 1.2 lakh. The central government is providing a subsidy of Rs 60,000, while the state government is taking a loan through NABARD



and bearing the remaining amount, he said, so that the beneficiaries will get it completely free of cost. The 2 kilowatt plant will generate around 240 units of electricity per month. He said that the current free electricity scheme of 200 units for SCs and STs will continue as usual and the electricity generated will be connected to the grid through 'gross metering'. AP EPDCL CMD Prithviraj said that so far 3,595 beneficiaries have

been identified in Visakhapatnam district and plants with a capacity of 7.19 MW have been allotted. A total of Rs 41.35 crore will be spent for this. He said that the life span of these solar plants will be 25 years, which will not only reduce the burden of electricity bills but will also be very beneficial for the environment. EPDCL officials and other public representatives participated in this program.

## Take part in the self-enumeration process: Ketan Garg

By Skyline Staff Reporter  
Visakhapatnam, April 14  
Ketan Garg, Commissioner of GVMC, has appealed to the people to participate in the self-enumeration process, which will be conducted for 15 days from April 16 as part of the 2027 Census.



In a press note issued on Tuesday, Keran Garg said a campaign would be taken up to create awareness among the public about the importance of submitting household data through the official portal. Following the Government of India instructions, people can now register their own details through <https://se.census.gov.in>. All citizens should register in the self-enumeration process. The Commissioner said that a special campaign would be organised to create awareness among the people regarding self-enumeration.

As part of the campaign, awareness programmes would be organised in public places like villages, wards, colonies, national schools, colleges, and government offices. Self-Help Groups, women's groups, youth groups, students, and volunteers will join the awareness drive. He said that the campaign would be in the form of rallies, meetings, street plays, posters and pamphlets, besides wide pub-

licity through media, social media and various digital platforms. He said that every family can contribute to the development of the country by accurately registering their details on the website <https://se.census.gov.in>. Also, he directed that all departmental officials, local bodies, NGOs and educational institutions should work in coordination to make the programme.

## Awareness of laws should be increased

Madhasu Nagesh, National President of the Dalit Seva Sena

By Skyline Staff Reporter  
Visakhapatnam, April 14  
If there is no awareness about the Constitution and laws, people will have to face serious problems in the future without protection for their lives and properties, said Madhasu Nagesh, national president of the Dalit Seva Sena. On the occasion of Ambedkar's 135th birth anniversary, he garlanded the statue of Ambedkar in Daba Gardens and paid tributes. Speaking on the occasion, he informed that his organization has taken

it as its responsibility to create awareness about the laws from 2027. He said that it is a sad thing to receive many complaints about colleges without permission and educational institutions charging lakhs of rupees. He said that they will immediately launch a public movement on these. He said that corporate hospitals are robbing the poor by denying Arogyasri and EHS cards. He expressed his anger that the authorities are acting negligently despite the fact that unlicensed col-



leges are charging high fees. He demanded that the central and state governments and opposition

parties immediately investigate this robbery. Otherwise, he warned that they will approach the

courts and hold large-scale protests across the state. He said that there is a need for the masses to unite across the country. The Dalit Seva Sena National Vice President Madasu Naveen, State President Alpana Ramana, Mahanadu State Spokesperson Madasu Charendra, Mala, prominent lawyer Duvvada Narendra Babu, prominent social worker Pureda Paidi Reddy, and The Dalit Seva Sena activists participated in this program.

## Ambedkar Jayanti marked at Garividi Veterinary College

By Skyline Staff Reporter  
Cheepurupalli (Garividi), April 14

The 135th birth anniversary of B. R. Ambedkar was celebrated at the local Veterinary College under the supervision of Associate Dean Dr. Nekkanti Dhanalakshmi. The programme featured lamp lighting, floral tributes, and speeches highlighting education and social responsibility. Chief guest Dr. Ashok Nanda, Deputy General Manager of Andhra Pradesh State Finance



Corporation, emphasized financial independence and the importance of education, and briefed students on startup opportunities and financial support for professional courses.

Essay and elocution competitions were held, with Umar, Gautam Kumar, and Dharani emerging as winners. Faculty, staff, and students participated in large numbers, making the event a success.

## Grand Ambedkar Jayanti Celebrations Marked by Statue Unveiling at Garividi

By Skyline Staff Reporter  
Cheepurupalli (Garividi), April 14

The 135th birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was celebrated with great enthusiasm in the Cheepurupalli constituency, as leaders unveiled a statue of Babasaheb at the SC Colony near Garividi Bridge Down on Tuesday. The event was graced by Vizianagaram Zilla Parishad Chairperson and District Party President Majji Srinivasa Rao, along with Dr. Botsa Sandeep Babu and Dr. Botsa Anusha. Speaking on the occasion, the leaders paid rich tributes to Dr. Ambedkar and lauded his enduring legacy in shaping the Constitution and advocating for social equality and



justice. They urged the public to uphold his values and work towards an equitable society. The programme witnessed enthusiastic partic-

ipation from local residents, party members, and supporters, reflecting the deep respect for Babasaheb's contributions.

## Headaches are never normal : Care doctors warn

Care Hospitals launches dedicated headache clinic in Visakhapatnam

By Skyline Staff Reporter  
Visakhapatnam, April 14  
Doctors at Care Hospital said that this problem, which is so common in daily life that we say, "This is a headache...", is actually becoming a serious health problem, especially among those of working age, and that headache cases are increasing significantly due to lifestyle changes and increased stress. A special headache clinic has been opened at Care Hospitals in Visakhapatnam's Arilova Health City. During this inaugural event, an awareness program was organized under the auspices of the Departments of Neurosciences and Interventional Radiology. Experts explained the latest developments in headache treatment and the importance of early testing. Speaking on the occasion, Senior Neurologist Dr. M.G.V. Aditya said that the clinic aims to provide early diagnosis and scientific treatment to those suffering from frequent or long-term headaches. Although headaches are considered a common problem, in many cases they remain



unrecognized or untreated. According to medical experts, one in every 7 people worldwide has migraines, and in India, about 150 million people suffer from this problem, but almost half of the cases go undiagnosed or self-medicated, he said. However, most people try to take a tablet when they get a headache and get relief. Even if it seems to subside for a while, it is very common for it to come back more severely, and self-medication in this way risks complicating the problem. He said that in today's fast-paced

and stressful lifestyle, headaches have become a common problem, especially among employees between the ages of 25 and 45 years. According to the International Headache Society, headaches are mainly classified into three types—primary headaches, secondary headaches, and cranial neuralgias/facial pain. It is possible for a person to have more than one type of headache at the same time. Therefore, each patient's condition must be assessed individually. He said that he would have to be treated.

The new Headache Clinic will bring together neurology, neurosurgery and interventional radiology departments to diagnose headache symptoms and causes, conduct special tests, identify triggers and formulate individual treatment plans. Sukesh Reddy G, Chief Operating Officer, Care Hospital, said, "Our goal is to strengthen specialized medical services and bring together expert experience and modern technology on one platform to make neurology services more accessible in Visakhapatnam." This reflects our commitment towards patient-centric services," he said. With the launch of this clinic, Care Hospitals is not only expanding modern medical services but also focusing on increasing awareness among the people, saying that their goal is not just temporary relief, but to achieve long-term health through early diagnosis and scientific treatment. Dr. G Kishore Babu, Dr. Avinash Jada, Dr. N.V.S. Mohan, Dr. Sandeep Talari, Dr. Vijay Kumar Terapalli, Dr. Rajesh Pooarla participated in the program.

## Ai+ Smartphone Nova 2 Goes on Sale on Flipkart Starting April 14

Visakhapatnam, April 14: Ai+ Smartphone has announced the commencement of sales of its latest device, Nova 2, as part of the newly launched Nova Series. Designed for everyday reliability and expressive personal style, the Nova 2 will be available exclusively on Flipkart and select retail outlets starting April 14 at 12 noon. The Ai+ Nova 2 will be available at the following pricing: 4GB+64GB|Rs.8,999 6GB+128GB | Rs.10,999 "The Nova Series is our strongest expression yet of what Ai+ stands for, technology that is accessible, reliable, and built for real everyday use. With Nova 2, we wanted to make sure that users who are upgrading for the first time or switching to Ai+ find everything they need without compromise. We are excited to open sales on April 14 and



bring more users into the Ai+ ecosystem," said Madhav Sheth, CEO, Ai+ Smartphone and Founder, NxtQuantum Shift Technologies.

Performance That Powers Your Day The Nova 2 is equipped with a 6000mAh battery designed to keep up with a full day of streaming, browsing, gaming, and mul-

titasking. It runs on Android 16 with NxtQuantum OS, delivering a smooth and optimised experience straight out of the box. Featuring a 6.745-inch HD+ display with a 120Hz adaptive refresh rate and HBM support, the Nova 2 delivers fluid visuals and seamless scrolling whether users are consuming content or navigating everyday tasks. A Camera and Design Built for Everyday Life The smartphone comes with a 50MP rear camera designed to capture sharp, natural images across lighting conditions, along with an 8MP front camera for clear selfies and video calls. The Nova 2 further features a refined build with IP64 resistance and a side-mounted fingerprint sensor, available in five distinct colours - Purple, Green, Pink, Blue, and Black - each designed to reflect a different personality.

## SKYLINE

Wednesday 15.4.2026

## Split Caculus

West Bengal's electoral politics has long turned on a simple but powerful arithmetic: consolidation versus fragmentation. As the state approaches another high-stakes contest, that arithmetic is once again under stress ~ not from ideological realignment, but from the emergence and abrupt unravelling of alternative political vehicles claiming to represent Muslim voters.

The brief alignment between MP Asaduddin Owaisi's AIMIM and Humayun Kabir's fledgling AJUP was significant less for its immediate electoral strength than for what it symbolised: a search for political autonomy within a community that has, for over a decade, largely rallied behind chief minister Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress. That search has now collided with the realities of Bengal's polarised political landscape, where even the perception of divided minority votes carries consequences far beyond the fortunes of smaller parties. Mr Kabir's rise in parts of Murshidabad and adjoining districts points to a quiet but real churn. Localised discontent ~ over policy reversals, symbolic gestures, and representation ~ has created openings for new actors.

His attempt to tap into emotive religious imagery, including the proposal to build a mosque modelled on the Babri Masjid, was not accidental. It reflected an understanding that identity, when combined with grievance, can mobilise quickly. Yet, the speed of his ascent has been matched by the speed of his political isolation. The controversy surrounding a purported sting video ~ dismissed by Mr Kabir as AI-generated ~ has done more than trigger a tactical split with AIMIM. It has exposed how fragile such emergent coalitions are in an environment where narrative warfare is as decisive as ground mobilisation. Whether authentic or fabricated, the video achieved its political purpose: it cast doubt, disrupted coordination, and forced a retreat.

For the Trinamool Congress, this episode is less a vindication than a warning. The assumption of a permanently consolidated minority vote is increasingly untenable. Even if fragmentation ultimately benefits the ruling party in a first-past-the-post system, the underlying restlessness it reveals cannot be ignored. Voters may still choose strategic consolidation closer to polling day, but the hesitation is real. For the Bharatiya Janata Party, the dynamics are more straightforward.

A divided opposition, particularly along communal lines, lowers the threshold of victory in closely contested seats. The party does not need to win over large sections of minority voters; it needs only to ensure that they do not vote cohesively against it. What this moment underscores is a deeper transformation in Bengal's politics. Electoral outcomes are no longer shaped solely by party organisation or ideological appeal, but by the management of perception ~ through alliances, counter-narratives, and increasingly, contested digital content. In such a landscape, the line between political strategy and information manipulation is becoming harder to discern. The risk, ultimately, is that democratic choice itself becomes secondary to the orchestration of doubt

Everyday language in India continues to reflect deeply embedded social hierarchies. What often appears as courtesy or cultural practice may, in fact, encode patterns of power, deference and social ordering. These linguistic norms are not confined to the private sphere; they are visible within public institutions, particularly in administrative settings, where they shape both behaviour and perception. In government offices, the use of the word "Sir" has evolved into a convention that extends beyond simple politeness. It structures communication, frames interaction, and, at times, signals hierarchy. Its presence is routine; its absence is often noted and occasionally interpreted. What is expressed as respect may also function as a marker of unequal positioning, subtly reinforcing authority gradients within institutions. Language is not merely descriptive; it plays a constitutive role in shaping behaviour. The repeated use of hierarchical forms of address may discourage open expression and reinforce asymmetries in authority. Over time, such practices can normalise deference and limit the scope for candid engagement. This is particularly relevant in administrative systems where effective decision-making often depends on the free flow of information, feedback, and dissent. The origins of this pattern can be traced to India's feudal past and its subsequent reinforcement during the colo-

nial period. Administrative language historically served to maintain distance between authority and subject.

While the institutional framework has since undergone significant transformation, elements of this communicative culture have persisted. In contrast, several societies that inherited similar administrative traditions have gradually moved towards more egalitarian modes of interaction, reflecting broader social change. The implications extend beyond internal administrative culture. These conventions also shape how authority is perceived and exercised in interactions with citizens.

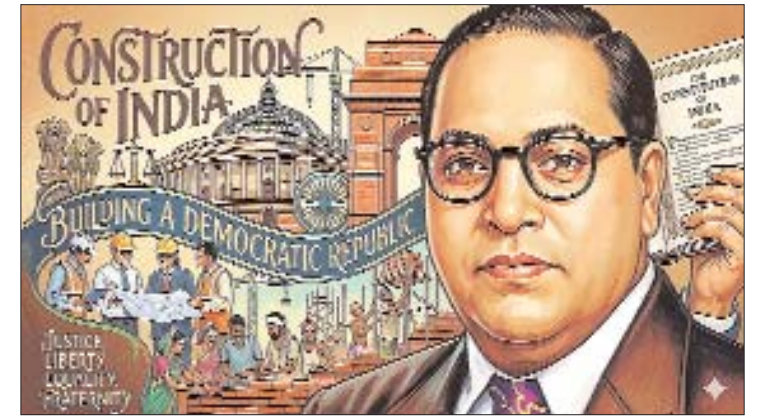
In many cases, routine interactions between citizens and public officials reflect implicit hierarchies, in which the relationship does not always align with the constitutional principle that public servants are accountable to the people. Language, in this sense, becomes a medium through which power is both expressed and internalised. This tension invites reflection, particularly on occasions such as Ambedkar Jayanti. B. R. Ambedkar consistently argued that political democracy must be accompanied by social democracy. The ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity, in his view, required expression not only in constitutional provisions but also in everyday social practices.

A related idea, drawn from his engagement with John Dewey, was that of "social endosmosis"

— the free and natural flow of ideas and experiences across social groups. Such interaction is essential for the functioning of a democratic society. Where communication is structured by rigid hierarchies, this exchange may be constrained, limiting both participation and mutual understanding. The role of language in this context is particularly significant. In many Indian languages, pronouns themselves signal gradations of status and respect. While such distinctions are historically rooted and culturally embedded, they may also reinforce social distance.

Ambedkar's critique of caste as creating "water-tight compartments" offers a useful parallel. Hierarchical patterns in language, even in modern institutional settings, can contribute to similar forms of separation, albeit in more subtle ways. It is therefore pertinent to ask whether the deeper ethos of equality has been fully internalised. While constitutional safeguards and political representation have advanced significantly, social practices often evolve more gradually.

Everyday interactions may continue to reflect inherited hierarchies, even as formal structures emphasise equality and inclusion. This does not suggest that respect should be abandoned. Rather, it points to the need to reconsider how respect is expressed. It may be possible to foster forms of communication that are courteous without being overly deferential, and that



enable openness without undermining institutional roles. A balance between civility and equality is essential for sustaining democratic engagement. Such shifts are unlikely to occur automatically.

They require conscious effort at both institutional and individual levels. Leadership plays a critical role in setting norms. In recent years, the emphasis on citizen-centric governance and administrative responsiveness under Narendra Modi has sought to reduce perceived distance between the state and citizens. Initiatives aimed at improving service delivery and direct engagement have, in effect, fostered more accessible and less hierarchical modes of interaction within governance. When those in positions of authority encourage open dialogue and reduce unnecessary hierarchies in communication, it can signal a broader commitment to participative governance.

Over time, such changes may contribute to more responsive and accountable administrative cultures. Ultimately, the character of a democracy is reflected not only in its formal institutions but also in its social practices. Language, as an everyday medium of interaction, offers an important site for such reflection. Moving towards more equal forms of communication, even incrementally, may help advance the broader ideal of an inclusive and democratic society. As Ambedkar reminded us, democracy is not merely a form of government but a mode of associated living. The persistence of hierarchical language suggests that this transformation remains incomplete. Recognising and gradually reforming such practices may be one of the more practical steps towards realising the egalitarian vision that continues to guide India's constitutional democracy.

## A victory or a stalemate?

A day after he tweeted the "whole civilization will die tonight" and hours before his deadline, President Donald Trump announced a ceasefire. The ceasefire was supposedly negotiated by Pakistan with the strong backing of China. Whether it was Pakistan's effort or it was named to prevent credit being given to China is immaterial, a ceasefire is what the world wanted. Markets rebounded and oil prices dropped. The first round of talks in Islamabad ended without any agreement.

The global economy had slid downhill with rising oil, fertilizer, helium, aluminium and gas prices and their shortfalls. Trump's ratings were sinking and the US was alone, abandoned by its allies. An agreement remains essential for Trump to regain his ratings. Immediately after the ceasefire announcement, there were disagreements. Israel was unhappy it was not consulted. Mossad was already tasking its sources to locate the whereabouts of the current Iranian leadership, which it hoped to target next. China had to assure security to the Iranian delegation in Islamabad. Iran and Pakistan had mentioned that the ceasefire included Lebanon, which Israel disagreed with.

The US backed Israel. Netanyahu's increased attacks on Lebanon led to Iran initially reneging on its promise. Trump's sudden interest in reopening of the Strait of Hormuz to lower global oil prices and boost his internal ratings provided Iran with the leverage it

needed. It initially refused to open the strait or participate in discussions until the ceasefire included Lebanon. Israel offered Lebanon talks but resumed attacks on Hezbollah positions. For once, Iran did not blame Israel but the Lebanese PM who it claimed was obstructing the ceasefire by refusing to link it to talks with the US, thereby sidelining Iran and Hezbollah. The announcement of the ceasefire led to all sides declaring victory. Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei mentioned, "Today, and up to this point, it can boldly be said that you, the heroic nation of Iran, have been the definitive victor in this arena." Trump tweeted that the US had "already met and exceeded all military objectives." Pete Hegseth stated at a press conference, "Epic Fury decimated Iran's military and rendered it combat-ineffective for years to come." Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff General Dan Caine mentioned that between 12-13,000 targets were struck, 90 per cent of Iran's navy and missile producing factories destroyed alongside 80 per cent of its air defences.

There was no mention of whether political objectives were achieved. What is unknown is whether the US military questioned Trump's plans to engage civilian targets, including those where civilians had formed human chains, aware these could be considered war crimes. The ceasefire stabilized markets and oil prices, providing some relief to Trump. The US did achieve military

success but fell short of their political war aims. Trump and Netanyahu had launched the war seeking regime change. The regime did change, but only within, and possibly became even more hardline. Iran had never controlled Hormuz. It was an international waterway. No longer.

The US burned billions in the war, including losing about 20 aircraft and an equal number of costly UAVs, faced severe damage to its assets in the region, while nuclear fissile material remains in Iran. How long will it take for the US to recreate their expended arsenal remains a question. The war cost Israel over 11 billion Dollars. IRGC's stockpiles of missiles and drones may have depleted but remain formidable. It possesses the ability to attack the Middle East and damage/destroy assets. The war worsened the already weakening relationship within NATO. European nations never considered this to be their war. They had opposed Israel's actions in Gaza, declared Netanyahu as a war criminal, and hence were unwilling to back the US-Israeli combine. European nations blocked US aircraft from exploiting their airspace and air bases to attack Iran. Trump threatened to withdraw from NATO, with little effect. The Ukraine war took a backseat and Russia gained by increased sale of its oil and gas. Iran's oil, which was moving by China's shadow ships, became available. Trump had treated his European allies with disdain, threatened to take over Greenland and he was paid back



by zero cooperation when he most needed them. The Middle East would also possibly reconsider its alliance with the US. It is possible that a new security architecture may emerge, without the US. Within the US, Trump's ratings continued to drop.

He was aware that this war would impact mid-term elections scheduled for later this year. Losing control of the Congress would make the remainder of his presidency difficult and open him up to impeachment. The Epstein files, which had been brushed under the carpet during the conflict, re-emerged to haunt him. In other words, the days ahead are unpleasant. Iran on the other hand stood its ground. Its 10-point agenda may not be agreed upon but its demands would be more than what it had demanded in February. It is aware that it holds the world to ransom by controlling the Hormuz Strait, which cannot be taken over militarily without major losses. Its charging for use of the strait to enable rebuilding its infrastructure cannot be easily denied.

If Trump seeks to regain his internal ratings and hope for victory in mid-term polls, he can-

not risk re-engaging Iran in an armed conflict. His only option is economic squeezing of Iran, which he has commenced. Iran has displayed that a nation can hold its own against mighty powers. It needs to be willing to absorb losses and exploit its strengths, which are missiles, drones, global waterways and oil. It has forced both arch-enemy Israel and the US to bend. If it accepts the US's demand of no nuclear weapons and opening facilities to IAEA inspections, it should be compensated well.

It cannot accept limits on missiles as it does not trust Israel's intent. While the US counts victory based on its military objectives, Iran looks at it from its ability to force the US to the bargaining table and its power to control the global economy through Hormuz. It has demonstrated that air power can cause damage but never enforce a surrender. It has also proved that its strategy of wearing down the opposition is sound and plausible as long as the nation stands behind the leadership. It was a battle between air power on one side and missiles and drones on the other. Neither can declare victory. Ultimately, it was a stalemate.

## Ganne ka ras: Why doctors and Ayurveda experts are raving about sugarcane juice this summer

Ganne Ka Ras: Why doctors and Ayurveda experts are raving about sugarcane juice this summer

Acharya Balkrishna says sugarcane juice is not just a sweet drink, it cools your body and gives instant energy. It can also help with burning urine, nosebleeds, and keep your body healthy.

Imagine the sun blazing overhead, sweat dripping down your forehead. And suddenly you spot roadside juice stall. Tall glass of sugarcane juice is served to you. You take a sip, and boom, the refreshing, sweet taste hits your tongue. Yes, sugarcane juice isn't just treat for your taste buds; it's packed with benefits that your body will thank you for, especially during the hot, sweltering days.

But there's more to sugarcane juice than meets the eye. It isn't just a summer refresher. It's nature's little healer, as Acharya Balkrishna



recently highlighted on Facebook. Educational Resources Let's spill the tea, or in this case, the juice, on why this drink deserves a permanent spot in your daily routine.

1. Instant energy kick that doesn't quit Ever felt drained after a long walk under the sun or after a grueling workout? Sugarcane juice is your instant saviour.

Packed with natural glucose, it's basically energy in a glass. Unlike artificial energy drinks, sugarcane juice's simple sugars are absorbed almost immediately.

Your body gets quick boost to fight fatigue and keep you active. Athletes and students alike swear by it during exam season or long practice sessions. And best part? You're getting that

energy natural way without processed sugars or artificial additives.

2. Summer superdrink: Cooling and healing Hot days are not just uncomfortable. They can aggravate certain health conditions. Acharya Balkrishna points out that sugarcane juice helps people who experience burning urination or nosebleeds during these times.

Why? Sugarcane juice has natural cooling effect on body helping regulate internal heat and soothe inflammation.

Beyond that, the drink's alkaline nature helps balance your body's pH, easing digestive discomfort and neutralising excess acids.

Add a squeeze of lime or a dash of ginger, and you're helping your digestive system, boosting liver function and supporting your body's natural detox processes.

3. Nutrient-packed liquid gold

Sugarcane juice may taste sweet, but it's far from empty calories. A 240 ml serving has roughly 250 calories, mostly from carbohydrates, giving you instant energy, but it's also rich in essential nutrients:

Iron: Helps fight anemia  
Calcium: Supports bones and teeth  
Magnesium & Potassium: Regulate blood pressure and muscle function  
Vitamins B1, B2, B9, and C: Boost immunity and metabolism  
Manganese: Helps with bone health and metabolic functions

The juice also contains small amounts of zinc, copper, and selenium, which further support immunity and overall health.

4. Skin, hair, immunity: More than just a drink Here's where sugarcane juice gets a little glamorous. Beyond internal health, it's a friend to your skin, hair, and immunity.

## US-Iran likely to return to Islamabad for next round of negotiations this week: Report

With the two-week ceasefire nearing its expiry, the United States and Iran could return to Islamabad this week to the second round of negotiations to end the war, reported Reuters. According to the news agency, a fresh proposal has been shared with both Iran and the US to resend their delegations even as no date has been finalised for the meeting with delegations from Tehran and Washington keeping Friday through Sunday open. The two countries had met in Islamabad on Saturday last week to discuss an agreement to end the conflict but the talks collapsed after they failed to reach consensus on Iran's nuclear ambitions. After the failed Islamabad talks, Trump had apparently suggested that the US and Iranian delegations reached consensus on most of the issues but Tehran's nuclear ambitions were

the key sticking point. According to a New York Times report, the US was pushing for a 20-year ban on Iran's nuclear enrichment. However, Tehran was ready to suspend its nuclear enrichment activities only for five years. The Iranians had reportedly made a very similar proposal in February this year during direct negotiations with the US, a move that prompted the US and Israel to attack Iran. Free passage through the Strait of Hormuz and Iranian proxies like Hezbollah and Hamas is the other critical issues that may hamper the negotiations. The report, however, claimed that the fact that the two sides are now arguing over the time period for suspending nuclear activity suggests that "there may well be room for a deal." Earlier on Monday, Trump claimed that Iran has reached out and wants to "make a deal very



badly". "We've been called by the other side and they want to make a deal very badly," the US President said, adding, "We've been called this morning by the right people on Iran." He, however, clarified the US position on Iran's nuclear ambitions remains unchanged. "Iran will never have a nuclear weapon. If they don't agree, there's no deal," he added. So far, White House officials have not confirmed another round of meetings but added "in-person negotiations" were being discussed.

## Why US-Iran talks hit a wall despite Vance's 'progress' claims

High-level talks between the United States and Iran have stalled without a breakthrough, with US Vice President JD Vance indicating that while discussions showed movement, key differences over Tehran's nuclear programme remain unresolved. The negotiations, held recently in Pakistan, marked a rare moment of direct engagement at the senior-most level between the two sides. However, Washington's insistence on strict conditions, including the removal of enriched uranium and binding guarantees against nuclear weapons development, continues to hold up any agreement. Speaking to Fox News, Vance said the talks produced mixed outcomes. "I wouldn't just say that things went wrong. I also think things went right. We made a lot of progress," he said, describing the meeting as "the first time that you'd ever seen the Iranian government, the US government meet at such a high level". Core disagreement remains over nuclear red lines. At the heart of the deadlock is the US position that Iran must never acquire nuclear weapons. Vance made it clear that all American demands stem from this central principle. "I 100% agree with US President Donald Trump on the fact that Iran can't have a nuclear weapon... If they're willing to engage in economic terrorism on the entire world, what would it mean — what leverage would they have — if



they had a nuclear bomb in Tehran?" he said. He outlined two non-negotiable conditions: the removal of Iran's enriched uranium stockpiles and a "conclusive commitment to not develop a nuclear weapon", backed by strict verification. "It's one thing for the Iranians to say that they themselves are never gonna have a nuclear weapon... but you have to, of course, verify these things," he said. While noting that Iranian negotiators had shown some flexibility, Vance added they "didn't move far enough", leading both sides to step back and consult their respective leaderships. "Economic terrorism" charge and Strait of Hormuz concern Vance also sharpened his criticism of Tehran, accusing it of using global shipping routes as leverage. "Iran was willing to engage in economic terrorism around the world," he said, warning that such actions raise concerns about the country's poten-

tial nuclear ambitions. A key issue flagged by the US is the situation in the Strait of Hormuz, a vital artery for global oil supply. Vance said Washington expects the route to be fully operational. "We need to see the straits... fully open," he said, adding that although there has been "some significant uptick in traffic", "we haven't seen that full reopening". He cautioned that failure to restore normal shipping could alter the course of negotiations. On enforcement, Vance said US naval monitoring extends beyond Iranian vessels. "Any vessel that we know is going to Iranian ports or has come from Iranian ports... we're gonna know," he said, pointing to American intelligence reach. "If the Iranians are gonna try to engage in economic terrorism, we're gonna abide by a simple principle that no Iranian ships are getting out either," he added. Future talks hinge on Tehran's next move

Despite the impasse, Washington has not shut the door on a deal. Vance said there remains a pathway forward if Iran accepts US conditions. "The ball really is in their court," he said, making it clear that the next step depends on Tehran's willingness to commit. He also indicated that Iranian negotiators may not have had the authority to finalise an agreement during the recent round noting they would need approval from higher authorities back home. The US delegation exited after nearly 21 hours of discussions. "We must have their conclusive commitment not to develop a nuclear weapon. And I think that if the Iranians are willing to meet us there, then this can be a very, very good deal for both countries. If they're not willing to meet us there, that's up to them," Vance said. Reiterating Washington's position of strength, he added: "We have a lot of cards. We have the leverage."

## Iran war to push 2.5 million people in India into poverty: UN

The ongoing Iran war could threaten to push 2.5 million people in India into poverty, according to estimates and projections by the United Nations. India is projected to experience some loss in its human development progress, the report said. In a report titled 'Military Escalation In The Middle East: Human Development Impacts Across Asia And The Pacific', the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) noted that the conflict is "widening human development pressures across Asia and the Pacific through higher fuel, freight, and input costs. The shock is diminishing household purchasing power, raising food insecurity, straining public budgets, and weakening livelihoods." UNDP estimates that globally, 8.8 million people are at risk of falling into poverty, while the West Asia mil-



itary escalation could cost the Asia-Pacific up to \$299 billion. In India, poverty is expected to rise from around 400,000 to 2.5 million, the report said. India's poverty rate is estimated to rise to 24.2 per cent post-crisis from 23.9 per cent, pushing 2,464,698 people into poverty. An estimated 354,033,698 people are projected to live in poverty in the country post-crisis, as compared to 351,569,000 pre-crisis. Globally, the number of people pushed into poverty in the world as a result of the conflict rises from approximately 1.9 million to nearly 8.8 million. South Asia accounted for the largest share, ranging from about 1.7 million to over 8 million, reflecting both the subregion's population size and its higher exposure to income and price shocks, the UNDP report highlighted. The report said China is estimated to experience a more moderate increase in the number of people at risk of falling into poverty, from around 115,000 to over 620,000, reflecting small proportional changes applied to a very large population base.

## Iran's fresh threat to US: 'If war continues, IRGC will use military power that enemy has no idea about'

Iran has issued a sharp warning to the United States, signalling a possible escalation in the ongoing conflict and hinting at undisclosed military capabilities that could be deployed if hostilities continue. The statement comes amid rising tensions in the region following failed diplomatic efforts and fresh military moves in key strategic waters. Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said it has not yet deployed its full military strength. IRGC spokesperson Hossein Mohebbi warned that if the war continues, Iran will reveal capabilities that its adversaries are not prepared for. "We have not yet used our capabilities, and if the war continues, we will unveil capabilities that the enemy has no idea about," Mohebbi said. He indicated that the country has so far held back significant elements of its military power, suggesting a potential shift in strategy if the conflict intensifies further. Military preparedness highlighted Iran's Defence Ministry



said the country is fully equipped to sustain prolonged operations. Spokesperson Reza Taleinik stated that Iran has sufficient missiles, drones, weapons, and ammunition to continue both offensive and defensive actions. He added that Iran's military capabilities are steadily increasing, reinforcing its readiness for any future confrontation. Strait of Hormuz row deepens Iran also criticised the United States over its reported move to impose a blockade in the Strait of Hormuz. Foreign

Ministry spokesperson Esmacel Baghaei called the move harmful to the global economy, disrupting international trade. The Strait of Hormuz is a critical global oil route, and any disruption there could have far-reaching economic consequences. Talks fail, tensions rise The latest escalation follows unsuccessful talks between Iran and the United States held in Islamabad over the weekend. The discussions aimed at reducing tensions but ended without any agreement. The talks came shortly after a ceasefire was

announced last week between Iran, the United States, and Israel, following over a month of conflict. Trump's blockade threat Soon after the failed negotiations, the US military announced a blockade of Iranian ports and coastal areas. It said only ships travelling between non-Iranian ports would be allowed to pass through the Strait of Hormuz. US President Donald Trump also issued a strong warning, saying American forces would act against any Iranian vessel approaching the blockade zone. "Iran's Navy is lying at the bottom of the sea, completely obliterated — 158 ships. What we have not hit are their small number of, what they call, 'fast attack ships,' because we did not consider them much of a threat," Trump said. "Warning: If any of these ships come anywhere close to our BLOCKADE, they will be immediately ELIMINATED, using the same system of kill that we use against the drug dealers on boats at Sea," Trump added.

## WATCH | Trump receives McDonald's delivery himself at Oval Office, gives \$100 tip to spotlight 'no tax on tips' policy



AMcDonald's delivery at the Oval Office turned into a headline-grabbing political pitch as US President Donald Trump personally received the order and used the moment to promote the "no tax on tips" policy ahead of Tax Day. The now-viral video shows Trump taking two bags of a McDonald's order from the delivery person wearing a "DoorDash Grandma" shirt. What appeared to be a casual delivery quickly became a staged moment to spotlight tax relief for

tipped workers. "The reason for this is the fact that I heard you picked up an extra \$11,000 ... because the tax bill was so big, the refund was the biggest you've ever had," Trump said as he received the order, in a video shared by the White House. He added, "We should call it the 'great big beautiful tax cut bill,' because it's tremendous amounts of money." The delivery person, later identified as Sharon Simmons from Arkansas, was welcomed into the Oval Office as Trump spoke about the benefits of his proposed policy. When asked if the White House was known for tipping well, Simmons replied,

"Yes, very," as Trump pulled out cash from his pocket and handed it to her. The moment was designed to draw attention to a provision under the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act," which allows tip earners to deduct up to \$25,000 in income from 2025 through 2028. Backing the push, DoorDash said the policy has already made a difference. "With No Tax on Tips, Dashers across the U.S. saved hundreds of millions of dollars last year. DoorDash is proud to advocate on behalf of Dashers like Sharon and push for policies like No Tax on Tips because they deliver real impact to so many hardworking people and their families," said Max Rettig, DoorDash's global head of public policy, in a statement.

## 'Picture abhi baaki hai...': Bollywood enters West Asia War as Iran lampoons Trump with Shah Rukh Khan quip

The Consulate General of Iran in Mumbai on Tuesday took a swipe at US President Donald Trump, invoking a popular line from Shah Rukh Khan to suggest that the real confrontation is yet to unfold. In a post that comes amid renewed tensions and ongoing diplomatic signals between Washington and Tehran, the consulate pushed back against Trump's past assertion that Iran's naval strength had been neutralised, hinting instead at readiness on the ground. Consulate hints at naval readiness, counters 'finished navy' claim The consulate referred specifically to Iran's fast missile boats, suggesting they remain operational and prepared. In a post on X, it said, "Hormuz- 'Red bees of the Persian Gulf' yeah, the fast missile boats are warming up. Funny how Trump kept claiming Iran's navy was 'finished'... now they're about to find



out how a swarm can pin you down real quick. Abhi toh sirf trailer hai, picture abhi baaki hai." Trump says Iran 'wants a deal very badly' The remarks from the consulate came hours after Trump indicated that Iran had reached out for negotiations. Speaking earlier in the day, he credited his team, including US Vice President JD Vance, son-in-law Jared Kushner and Special Envoy Steve Witkoff, for ongoing engagement with Tehran. "Well, he's done a good job, and Steve and Jared, they've all done a

very good job. And I can tell you that we've been called by the other side; they'd like to make a deal very badly. Very badly," Trump said. "Iran will not have a nuclear weapon," Trump reiterates. Trump also stressed that any agreement would hinge on Iran giving up nuclear ambitions. "It was over nuclear, very similar, yeah. Very good, I guess you're listening. It's over the fact that they will never have a nuclear weapon. Iran, you mark it down, Iran will not have a nuclear weapon. And we agreed to a lot of things, but they didn't agree to that. And I think they will agree to it, I'm almost sure of it. In fact, I am sure of it. If they don't agree, there's no deal; there'll never be a deal. Iran will not have a nuclear weapon and we're going to get the hostages back. We'll get it back either way; we'll get it back from them or we'll take it," he added.

## 'Israel is at war with Hezbollah, not Lebanon': US sets tone as Rubio joins talks today

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio will take part in talks between Israel and Lebanon in Washington on Tuesday (local time), as diplomatic efforts gather pace to stabilise the volatile northern frontier. The discussions, to be held at the US State Department, come at a time when hostilities remain unresolved on the ground. The focus, according to American officials, is to push forward dialogue that could ensure long-term security along Israel's northern border while backing Lebanon's push to reclaim full sovereignty. The US delegation will include Ambassador to Lebanon Michel Issa and State Department counsellor Michael Needham, CNN reported. Israel and Lebanon will be represented by their ambassadors, Yechiel Leiter and Nada Hamadeh. A US State Department official said the engagement is part of an ongoing diplomatic process. "This conversation will scope the ongoing

dialogue about how to ensure the long-term security of Israel's northern border and to support the Government of Lebanon's determination to reclaim full sovereignty over its territory and political life," the official said. The official stressed that Washington views the conflict as one between Israel and Hezbollah, not Lebanon as a state, signalling room for continued dialogue between the neighbouring countries. "Israel is at war with Hezbollah, not Lebanon, so there is no reason the two neighbours should not be talking," the official added. Netanyahu signals conditional peace even as operations continue The renewed talks follow recent remarks by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who said Israel is open to a "real" and lasting peace agreement with Lebanon, even as military operations continue against what he described as Iran-backed forces.

Reports by Al Jazeera indicate Israel has agreed to begin formal negotiations with Lebanon after weeks of cross-border clashes and a ground incursion into parts of Lebanese territory. In a video address, Netanyahu reiterated that any peace deal must guarantee long-term security and involve the dismantling of Hezbollah's military capabilities. Iran flags ceasefire concerns, maintains contact with Beirut Meanwhile, Iran has remained engaged with Lebanon amid the fragile situation. According to Iran's Fars news agency, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmacel Baghaei said Tehran has been in constant touch with Beirut to ensure ceasefire commitments are honoured.

In a post on X, Netanyahu said, "Under my leadership, Israel will continue to fight against Iran's terrorist regime and its proxies, in contrast to Erdogan, who aids them and even slaughters his Kurdish citizens." Reports by Al Jazeera indicate Israel has agreed to begin formal negotiations with Lebanon after weeks of cross-border clashes and a ground incursion into parts of Lebanese territory. In a video address, Netanyahu reiterated that any peace deal must guarantee long-term security and involve the dismantling of Hezbollah's military capabilities. Iran flags ceasefire concerns, maintains contact with Beirut Meanwhile, Iran has remained engaged with Lebanon amid the fragile situation. According to Iran's Fars news agency, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmacel Baghaei said Tehran has been in constant touch with Beirut to ensure ceasefire commitments are honoured.

## Bad Boy Karthik is a strong emotional story - Naga Shourya



Naga Shourya is looking to make a blockbuster comeback with this emotional actioner titled Bad Boy Karthik. The movie has good expectations post the trailer release. Directed by Ramesh and featuring the music by Harris Jayaraj, the project is produced by Srinivasa Rao Chintalapudi, Vijaya Kumar Chintalapudi, and Dr. Ashok Kumar Chintalapudi under the Sri Vaishnavi Films banner. The team organized a successful pre-release event today to interact with the media and share their journey. During her speech, actress Sridevi

Vijayakumar expressed immense confidence in the final output. She stated that her on-screen pairing with Naga Shourya feels very new and highly praised his performance. Extending her heartfelt thanks to the makers for their unwavering support, she also commended Rasool for his excellent visual work and noted that every actor in the huge cast has a very meaningful role to play. Taking the stage, Naga Shourya thanked the technical team, specifically pointing out how well cinematographer Rasool showcased him on screen. He welcomed debutante

Vidhi to the Telugu industry and spoke highly of Sridevi Vijayakumar. He explained that the director carefully assembled the heavy star cast because the intense narrative genuinely demanded such talented performers to bring the vision to life. As the promotional activities reach their peak, the team is highly confident about the movie's success. Bad Boy Karthik is officially slated for a worldwide theatrical release on April 17th. Following its run in cinemas, the film will be available for streaming, as ZEE5 has secured the exclusive digital rights.

## Anil Ravipudi's Next Film: Interesting Updates Inside



Sankranthi in Tollywood isn't just a festival anymore; it's a big battleground where movies flex their muscles and make the most of their time. And one director who has quietly made it his stronghold is none other than hit-machine Anil Ravipudi. Now, his upcoming film with Venkatesh and Kalyan Ram is already showing early signs of that terrific planning. While the announcement has already come out, here's what's going on with the movie.

Apparently, Anil has teamed up with Venkatesh and Kalyan Ram for his next. A buzz on the status of the film says that the dialogue version of the first half is reportedly locked. Currently, the second half is being written. The plan is to begin shooting around June-July and arrive straight for the Sankranthi festival again. This isn't new territory for Anil. He has built a solid reputation with festive

releases. Sankranthi Vastunnam was a proper Pongal winner, turning into a blockbuster with strong family appeal both due to content and Venkatesh factor. He followed it up with Mana Shankara Varaprasad Garu, which again was released for Sankranthi and emerged as one of the biggest commercial successes for Megastar Chiranjeevi and Anil as well.

That's the reason Anil is targeting his next festival the same way again.

Adding more to the Venkatesh-Kalyan Ram project, the buzz is that non-theatrical rights are already sold at a record price, even before the shoot begins. That tells you the kind of trust the trade has in Anil's format. What is to be seen is if Anil Ravipudi continues his Sankranthi streak with another winner? For that, we need to wait for another cool 8 months for the arrival of 2027.

## Adivi Sesh's Dacoit passes Monday Test with flying colors



Adivi Sesh has hit it out of the park with Dacoit, officially registering the biggest opening of his cinematic journey. Sharing the screen with the brilliant Mrunal Thakur, the romantic thriller delivered a phenomenal weekend performance that completely exceeded trade expectations. Proving its broad appeal, the movie is maintaining a rock-solid grip on Monday instead of slowing down after the

weekend rush. Movie Recorded a staggering 53.37K tickets sold in the past 24 hours, on BMS, showcasing a tremendous weekday trend. On the global front, the film is making waves by breaching the highly coveted US\$ 1 million milestone in North America, while remaining consistently strong in other overseas and domestic Indian circuits. Advance bookings for Tuesday

indicate a very healthy run, driven heavily by family audiences who are flocking to cinemas to experience the drama. The people behind the project are already in a highly secure position. Producers Suniel Narang and Supriya Yarlagadda are reaping early profits due to excellent weekend theatrical revenues along with solid non-theatrical business finalized before the release.

## Nani Losing Credibility With Film Reviews?



Natural hero, Nani is one of the most trusted and credible heroes in Telugu cinema, and the fact that his films consistently perform well at the ticket counters is an example of the same. Nani has built the trust of the audience over years by consistently, making quality films that deserve a theatrical experience. He even turned a producer recently and made Court, which turned out to be another big hit at the ticket counter. It is evident that Nani is super successful when it comes to picking the right subject as a Hero and also as a producer. But the real challenge is coming for many terms of film reviews. In the recent past, Nani had reviewed multiple films and called them excellent works. He had been repeatedly sharing his views of new films on social media and calling them quality content. While a few of these might be obligated in nature, the general opinion is that

Nani appears to be genuinely enjoying these films. But when it comes to the actual public verdict, these films are turning out to be failures. This has happened multiple times in the recent past as many of the films that Nani had claimed to be excellent were outrightly rejected by the audience. It is a fact that Nani as a human after all, and there might be chance for error when it comes to watching films and reviewing them on social media. At the end of the day, Nani is not the one who is making these films, but he is just promoting them. So for whatever reason, there is always scope forever here. But considering the kind of trust that the audience have with Nani and his judgement of films, he is expected to be very genuine with his reaction to films. He needs to be a bit more redundant and straightforward with the kind of films that he promotes.

## Allu Arjun's Next Movies Are Next Level



After the huge success of Pushpa: The Rise, Allu Arjun became much more than just a Telugu star. He turned into a true pan-India sensation. His performance as Pushpa Raj connected with audiences across the country even in places where Telugu films were not very popular earlier. Before Pushpa, Allu Arjun already had a strong fan base in the South. But Pushpa changed everything. The film's Hindi version became a big hit and his famous dialogues and mannerisms were loved by people everywhere.

After this success, Allu Arjun started planning his career very carefully. He is now choosing big projects that can appeal to audiences across India. One such film is being directed by Atlee. This movie is currently being shot and is expected to be a large-

scale project with high production values. The actor is also working with Lokesh Kanagaraj for another film in the future. This project is expected to begin after the current commitments are completed. Allu Arjun is clearly aiming to maintain his pan-India image with this film.

These films are not small projects. They involve heavy visual effects, long shooting schedules and detailed post production work. Because of this release timelines are planned well in advance. The makers want to deliver high-quality cinema that can meet audience expectations. There are also discussions about another script by Basil Joseph. However it is not yet confirmed. The team is still working on making it suitable for Allu Arjun's image.

## Can Ramayan Capture South Market?

One of the biggest production ventures in Indian cinema is currently happening in the form of Ramayan, which has Ranbir Kapoor and Sai Pallavi in the lead roles. The film is already creating a lot of discussion at the domestic circles. Coming to the topic now, the discussion has already started about the prospect of Ramayan, capturing the South Indian market and the possibility of the same. The crucial point that must be noted, here is that Ramayan might be one of the costliest projects in Indian cinema, but it still happens to be a Hindi film in terms of marketing and projection. Not many South Indian audience are excited about this project in the first place. The presence of Kannada superstar, Yash might bring some market in Karnataka, but beyond that this film is still an alien product. Had the makers gone for a



bigger South Indian Hero for a crucial role things could have been completely different. Preferably they could have gone for a Telugu star, as this could have opened a new markets for this film. But whatever might be the reason, and whatever done is done, this film will now need excellent marketing in South India. The unit will have to continuously tour South Indian cities and build an anticipation on this film. The point of difference here could be the fact that Prabhu Sriram sentiment is still very strong in South India and with proper marketing and advertisement this film can capture the same.



## Editors Speak Out on Jana Nayagan Leak, Deny All Claims

The recent leak of the film Jana Nayagan has created a big controversy in the film industry. Many people started blaming the film's editor and crew after an HD version of the movie appeared online before its official release. However, industry leaders have now come forward to clarify the situation and deny these accusations. The president of the South Indian Film Editors Association, Gopi spoke and strongly rejected the claims that any editor was involved in the leak. He clearly said that editors would never do such an act, as it would damage their profession and trust. He also shared a tweet and said that an internal investigation was already conducted and no editor was found responsible. He also mentioned that several suspects have already been arrested and the main person behind the leak will soon be caught. Many fingers were pointed at editor Pradeep after the leaked footage looked like an edit copy. But Gopi requested everyone not to blame him without proper



proof. He said the investigation is still going on, and it is wrong to accuse someone without clear evidence. At the same time, Film Employees Federation of South India president RK Selvamani also spoke about the issue. He criticized director Ameer, who had earlier blamed the editors and crew. Selvamani asked him to take back his statements saying such accusations can harm innocent people. He also explained that film piracy is not a new problem and has been affecting the industry for many years. With increasing digital technology, such risks are becoming more common. Another important clarifi-

cation came from the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). Some people suspected that the leak might have come from their side. But the board denied this completely. They explained that the film content is protected with passwords and security systems. Only the producer or filmmaker has access to it through a special key. Without this key no one can view or share the film. The film, starring Vijay, was expected to release earlier but got delayed due to certification issues. Even before a new release date was announced, the film was leaked online by shocking fans and the film team.

## Hrithik In Rajamouli's Varanasi? Buzz Or Bluff?

Out of nowhere, social media has picked up a wild rumour that Bollywood superstar Hrithik Roshan is playing the role of Lord Shiva in Varanasi. The imagination is running full throttle, with people sharing a lot of AI-generated images of the actor in his Lord Shiva avatar. However, many are wondering if Rajamouli would take such a risk, because Hrithik's arrival would kill the film Varanasi's chances in Bollywood. On paper, it sounds exciting. Hrithik has the star power, the physique, and that screen presence to pull off a role like Shiva. In fact, the moment this buzz started, AI-generated looks of the actor in Lord Shiva avatar began flooding timelines on Twitter. But here's where things get tricky. This film is primarily driven by Superstar Mahesh Babu. Bringing in a star like Hrithik, even



for a cameo, might make fans think he's doing a longer role, like how it happened with Jr NTR in WAR 2. That kind of move will switch the spotlight, and that affects the film's prospects big time.

That said, Rajamouli is not someone who overlooks star dynamics. He knows exactly how fanbases and audience expectations work. After managing the delicate balance between two big stars in RRR, he would think twice before putting another massive presence alongside his lead unless it's absolutely necessary. Already, there are enough stars like Priyanka Chopra and Prithviraj Sukumaran in the movie, so what's the need for a Hrithik gamble now? At this point, it's purely social media speculation riding on this rumour it looks like. So, the buzz is just a bluff.

## 250 Cr for spirit Rights: will it Happen?

Prabhas and Sandeep Reddy Vanga are currently occupied with their upcoming project Spirit, which happens to be one of the most anticipated projects in the making in Indian cinema. This film is creating a lot of public discussion already, and it is certain to create history whenever it releases. In the meanwhile, the discussion has started about the OTT rights of this Prabhas film, which are leading to several new debates. Fundamentally speaking, the latest development are suggesting that leading OTT platform is ready to offer Rs.250 crore for the OTT rights of this film. This is going to be one of the biggest financial agreements between an OTT platform and an Indian film till date. However, considering the ongoing slowdown in the



OTT market, several leading platforms had been looking to reduce the financial offerings for films these days. So this would naturally bring us to the question on whether the OTT platform would sustain this agreement and pay Rs.250 crore for Spirit. If this move really does happen, then it would be one of the biggest financial agreements. This is going to be particularly interesting, considering

the fact that Sandeep Reddy generally makes his films on strict budget, so this massive OTT deal could bring a lot of profits to the producer. But nothing is confirmed for now, and we have to patiently wait and see how the action would unfold in the near future. Meanwhile, the film has started the production activities is already and it is preparing for potential release sometime next year.

# IPL 2026: Chakaravathy comes in as KKR ask unchanged CSK to bat first



Chennai, April 14 : Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) won the toss and elected to bowl against Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in the 22nd match of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai on Tuesday. This matchup is a crucial test for

both teams, who are both struggling at the bottom of the standings and desperately need points. CSK approach this home game with renewed confidence after breaking a three-match losing streak with a convincing 23-run victory over Delhi Capitals. The standout performance came

from Sanju Samson, who produced a stunning unbeaten 115, well supported by a brisk 59 from youngster Ayush Mhatre, signalling a return to form for the five-time champions. With the ball, Jamie Overton's impressive 4-18 underlined CSK's ability to make the most of home conditions, something they will

look to capitalise on once again in front of their supporters.

In contrast, KKR are still searching for their first win of the season, having endured three defeats and a washout. Led by Ajinkya Rahane, the side has yet to find the right combination despite promising contributions from overseas players such as Cameron Green and Finn Allen.

Concerns about consistency, especially during critical moments, remain. Chennai's home advantage is evident in their commanding head-to-head record. However, this season's slightly faster surface at Chepauk, combined with KKR's spin prowess through Sunil Narine and Varun Chakaravathy, offers the visitors hope they might change the outcome. Winning the toss, KKR captain Ajinkya Rahane said, "I think the last game was really good for us. Unfortunately, the result didn't go our way. But I thought the kind of cricket we played, guys are getting that confidence from the last game. It's all about starting fresh. It's important when things are not going your way, it's important to have that belief, stay positive, and have those small, small moments in the T20 format, which is really important. So, now looking forward to this game, we'll start really well

with the ball and then look to chase down the target.

"The kind of knock Mukul played at night was fantastic. I mean, it's going to happen in this format. As I said, it's all about belief. You know, guys are working really hard. For us, what matters is putting in those hard efforts, focusing on the control levels as players, and, you know, having that belief in each and every individual. As I said, the combination looked really good for us in the last game. So, yeah, thinking about this game, and just wanted to be in the moment. I mean, it is challenging after the mega auction to find the right balance, and obviously, the flow players are going through injuries, players are unavailable," he said.

Meanwhile, CSK skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad said, "he wicket hasn't changed much throughout the course of the game. So not much of a difference. Definitely putting a big total on the scoreboard in the first innings will be challenging, but as I said, you know, it looks like a really good surface. Yes, as I said, even in the post-match as well, I felt the bowling was really good defending 210, you know, against a strong DC side. Gave us a lot of confidence, and you know, even the fielding unit was charged up. We

saved a few runs, and that is how I think collectively we did really well.

"Really exciting today as well. We got a job to do, and everyone is feeling confident. Yes, I think we are slowly getting it right. You know, Brevis coming back and Jamie giving those crucial overs in between as well. So I think we are slowly, slowly getting the right combination, and it is just about delivering each and every game and staying consistent. We are going with the same team."

**Playing XI's:**  
Chennai Super Kings: Sanju Samson (wk), Ruturaj Gaikwad (c), Ayush Mhatre, Sarfaraz Khan, Shivam Dube, Dewald Brevis, Jamie Overton, Noor Ahmad, Anshul Kamboj, Gurjapneet Singh, Khaleel Ahmed  
Impact substitutes: Matthew Short, Akeal Hosein, Kartik Sharma, Prashant Veer, Matt Henry  
Kolkata Knight Riders: Ajinkya Rahane (c), Angkrish Raghuvanshi (wk), Cameron Green, Rinku Singh, Rovman Powell, Ramandeep Singh, Sunil Narine, Anukul Roy, Varun Chakaravathy, Kartik Tyagi, Vaibhav Arora  
Impact substitutes: Finn Allen, Manish Pandey, Tejasvi Singh, Navdeep Saini, Tim Seifert

## PCB imposes two-year ban on Muzarabani for ditching PSL for IPL

Lahore, April 14 : The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has taken strict action on Zimbabwe pacer

Blessing Muzarabani, imposing a two-year ban, after he ditched Pakistan Super League (PSL) at the last stage to play Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 for Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR).

The 29-year-old had initially gone unsold at both the IPL and PSL auctions before being signed as a replacement player by Islamabad United, but he ditched the team and opted to play in the IPL, where he was announced as a replacement for Mustafizur Rahman, who had been released by KKR on BCCI instructions amid external developments. KKR confirmed the signing, and Muzarabani joined their squad, arriving ahead of the IPL season that started shortly after the PSL.

"Following a thorough disciplinary review, the PCB has announced that Zimbabwean cricketer



Blessing Muzarabani is declared ineligible to participate in the next two (2) editions of the HBL PSL, effective immediately," the PCB said in a statement. "The attempt to move away from such commitments without valid cause is a violation of contractual obligations and the principles of good faith that govern global professional sports," it added. PCB, which had earlier imposed a one-year ban on Corbin Bosch last

year, believes that the sanction was necessary to safeguard the professional environment of the PSL. "The sanction serves as a necessary measure to safeguard the professional environment of the PSL. The PSL remains dedicated to ensuring that the league remains a platform where contractual certainty is respected and where the actions of all players and agents reflect the prestige of the tournament."

Meanwhile, Muzarabani has already played two matches for KKR in IPL 2026. He went wicketless in the first match, but came back strongly against Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) and took four wickets. Other than Muzarabani, Spencer Johnson and Dasun Shanaka are two other players who withdrew from their PSL deals to be part of the IPL this season, but their punishment has not been announced at this stage.

## If Dhoni is fit, CSK should bring him in as impact player vs KKR: McClenaghan

New Delhi, April 14 : As calf injury forced MS Dhoni out of the first two weeks of IPL 2026, former New Zealand cricketer

Mitchell McClenaghan opined that if the wicketkeeper-batter is fit then Chennai Super Kings should bring him in the match against Kolkata Knight Riders on Tuesday as an impact substitute, where he may not have to do a lot of running.

On Monday, Dhoni had a short hit in the nets towards the fag end of CSK's training session under lights at Chepauk, but limited himself to facing throwdowns from the support staff, including batting coach Mike Hussey. While he has been training with his teammates, Dhoni is yet to hit full tilt. "If MS Dhoni is fit, then CSK should bring him in as the impact player. If the team management feels they need a short



burst of runs from him, especially when they are chasing, then bringing him in as the impact sub will allow them to make the best use of his batting abilities. Playing as an impact player will mean he may not have to do a lot of running," McClenaghan told JioStar. Dhoni has missed the first four games for CSK and might miss the fifth one

on Tuesday, too. He hasn't been travelling with the team for away matches, nor for their home matches at Chepauk. He is likely to miss his fifth straight game this Tuesday. "He can just come in, smack the ball into the stands and do his job of finishing in style. His aggressive stroke-making ability will come in handy for Chennai when they are chasing big scores. I

think that is a good way to get Dhoni back into the groove. His presence will really give a lot of strength to the lower middle order of CSK," he added. After losing three games on the trot, CSK posted their first win on Sunday against Delhi Capitals. Sanju Samson (115\*) and Jamie Overton (4-18) were the architects of the win.

## IPL 2026: 'My only plan for Praful and Sakib was to just enjoy the game,' says SRH bowling coach Varun Aaron

Hyderabad, April 14 : Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) pace bowling coach Varun Aaron heaped praise on debutants Praful Hinge and Sakib Hussain, who bowled a brilliant spell and took four wickets each as the team registered a dominant 57-run win against Rajasthan Royals (RR).

Varun, who played a major role in scouting both the young pacers for SRH, revealed that his only message before the match was to enjoy the debut game and not think about the result, which worked in the team's favour.

"My only plan for them was to just enjoy the game because you debut only once in any format of cricket. Considering where they've come from, what they've done today is massive, and you've just got to enjoy it. My only plea before the game was that if I didn't see them enjoying it, I'd be really angry, and they truly did enjoy it. We all did," Varun told reporters after the match.



Varun also lauded the conviction of Praful to get the wicket of Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. Revealing the pre-match conversation, the former Indian fast bowler said, "The conversation was that he wanted to go around the wicket, and I was like, 'No, you just stay over the wicket. I'm sure you'll get him out.'" "I mean, it's teamwork, you know. At the end of the day, all credit goes to Praful. He had the con-

viction to get Vaibhav out. He said, 'I've gotten Vaibhav out before, I'm going to get him out today. But the plan was his, the conviction was his, and I'm really happy for him,'" Varun added. Praful had a dream debut as he picked three wickets in his very first over, becoming the first bowler in IPL history to take three wickets in the opening over of an innings. He registered the figures of 4-34 in his

four overs over quota. Hussain, who came in as an Impact Sub for Travis Head, picked 4-24, including the wicket of opener Yashasvi Jaiswal, before dismantling RR's lower order. With the help of contributions from both the bowlers, SRH bowled out RR for just 159 in 19 overs while chasing a mammoth total of 218 runs, and registered their second win of the season.

## IPL 2026: Pat Cummins likely to rejoin SRH squad ahead of CSK clash



New Delhi, April 14 : Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) have received a big boost amid the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 campaign as their designated captain Pat Cummins is likely to rejoin the squad on April 17, a day ahead of their next match against five time champions Chennai Super Kings (CSK) at their home ground Rajiv Gandhi Stadium in Hyderabad on Saturday.

"Hopefully, he will clear the test and get the NOC from Cricket Australia," a source related to the development told the publication. The Australian pacer has not played a single match since the Ashes series at home against England. He also missed the recently concluded ICC T20 World Cup 2026, where Australia exited for the first time from the group stage.

Cummins arrived in India ahead of

According to a report by Cricbuzz, Cummins will undergo a fitness test on Wednesday back home, and if he clears it - about which there is an element of optimism in the franchise - there is a chance he could start playing for them. Cummins is expected to be back in Hyderabad on April 17.

"The Australian pacer has not played a single match since the Ashes series at home against England. He also missed the recently concluded ICC T20 World Cup 2026, where Australia exited for the first time from the group stage. Cummins arrived in India ahead of

the season, but didn't take part in the match. The 32-year-old flew back to Australia right after SRH's thrilling win over Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) on Thursday, April 2, at Eden Gardens in Kolkata for the scan on his back.

In Cummins' absence, Ishan Kishan is leading the side. Under his captaincy, the team has won two out of five matches in the ongoing season. They are currently placed in fourth position in the points table with four points and a 0.576 net run rate. SRH defeated the table toppers, Rajasthan Royals (RR), on Monday with the help of a brilliant bowling display by the debutants Praful Hinge and Sakib Hussain, who took four wickets each as RR got bowled out for just 159 runs in 19 overs while chasing a mammoth target of 217 runs and lost the match by 57 runs.

## Praful, Sakib have shown the Indian bowling future is in safe hands: McClenaghan

New Delhi, April 14 : After Sunrisers Hyderabad snapped Rajasthan Royals' four-match winning run in IPL 2026 with a comprehensive 57-run victory, former New Zealand cricketer Mitchell McClenaghan heaped praise on the debut heroics of 'Fearless Prodigies' Sakib Hussain and Praful Hinge, saying they have shown that the future of Indian bowling is in safe hands. Praful Hinge and Sakib Hussain announced themselves on the grand stage by picking eight wickets collectively as SRH ended IPL 2026 table topper RR's winning juggernaut with a thumping 53-run win at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium on Monday. "This fearless prodigy Sakib Hussain looks very talented. At the

start of the chase, he got the big wicket of Yashasvi Jaiswal with the new ball. That wicket put the brakes on Rajasthan's top order and their chances of chasing 217. Later, he showed his ability to bowl the slower ball, and his ability to nail them took everyone by surprise. His slower delivery gave Mustafizur Rahman vibes, and he feels like a right-handed version of Mustafizur. Praful had a dream debut as he picked three wickets in his very first

over, becoming the first bowler in IPL history to take three wickets in the opening over of an innings. He registered the figures of 4-34 in his four overs over quota. Hussain, who came in as an Impact Sub for Travis Head, picked 4-24, including the wicket of opener Yashasvi Jaiswal before dismantling RR's lower order. "You also have to credit another fearless prodigy, Praful Hinge. He changed his line and length really well. The first ball to Vaibhav Suryavanshi, he bowled a sharp bumper that caught him off guard and led to his dismissal. Against Dhruv Jurel, he bowled a fourth-stump line, and the inside edge hit the stumps - a peach of a delivery.

## Heatwave Warnings Issued Across AP and Telangana

Andhra Pradesh: Apr 14

As temperatures soar across the state, the Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority has issued urgent warnings, advising people to avoid outdoor activities between 12:00 PM and 4:00 PM. Record-high temperatures and intensifying heatwaves have led authorities to urge vigilance, with the scorching sun already affecting daily life from as early as 8:00 AM. Health articles The Meteorological Department predicts that on 14 April, several districts in Rayalaseema and Coastal Andhra will experience severe heatwave conditions. In particular, 33 mandals across Eluru, Polavaram, Vizianagaram, Srikakulam, Parvathipuram Manyam, and Alluri Sitarama Raju districts are expected to face extreme heat, with moderate conditions in another 44 mandals. Specific mandals in Polavaram, Srikakulam,



Vizianagaram, and Parvathipuram Manyam districts are forecast to endure the worst of the heat. On Monday, Kadapa recorded a maximum temperature of 44.4°C, with Sanjamala in Nandyal district reaching 44°C. Durgi in Palnadu district and Nuliveedu in Annamayya district registered 42.8°C and 42°C respectively. The Meteorological Department advised residents to wear hats or carry umbrellas when outdoors and to stay well-hydrated, emphasising the increased risk of heatstroke. Meanwhile, in Telangana,

the Hyderabad Meteorological Department warned that the heatwave is likely to continue throughout the week, with temperatures expected to rise by 2 to 3 degrees. On Monday, four fatalities due to heatstroke were reported in the state. Nizamabad recorded a maximum temperature of 43.2°C, while Hyderabad's temperature exceeded 40°C. City streets are largely deserted during the afternoons, as residents avoid the intense heat, which is expected to persist for several more days.

## TDP leader demands rectification of land record discrepancies



Puttaparthi: Apr 14

Dharmavaram TDP in-charge Paritala Sriram urged the district administration to rectify alleged irregularities in land records arising from the resurvey conducted during the previous government and ensure justice to affected farmers. Sriram participated in the public grievance redressal programme held at the district collectorate on Monday, where he met Joint Collector Maurya Bharadwaj and submitted representations on several issues. He alleged that land records were manipulated over the past five years, resulting in discrepancies where some individuals without ownership were recorded as landholders, while genuine farmers were deprived of their rights. He highlighted concerns from Kunukuntla village in Tadimarri mandal, stating that the recent resurvey

failed to accurately capture land extent, boundaries, and ownership details, leading to confusion and hardship among farmers. He requested a fresh survey to address these issues. Sriram also raised the plight of farmers in the Jilledu Banda project area of Mudigubba mandal, where land was marked for canal construction nearly two decades ago but no work has been undertaken. He alleged that land extents were reduced in revenue records without compensation and called for restoration of affected lands and fair compensation to all farmers, including those holding assigned lands. He further sought compensation for farmers in Thumparthi, where land was reportedly acquired for housing. The Joint Collector assured that the issues would be examined and appropriate action taken.

## Steps to revive Prakasam district dairy will be initiated: Dinakar



Amaravati: Apr 14

Chairman of the Twenty-Point Programme Implementation Committee, Lanka Dinakar, has assured that necessary steps will be taken to revive the Prakasam District Dairy and restore it to its former glory. Speaking at a media conference held in his chamber at the AP Secretariat on Monday, Lanka Dinakar stated that dairy farmers from Prakasam district had submitted a representation requesting the reopening of the dairy. He said the issue would be brought to the attention of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, and appropriate

measures would be taken in the interest of the farming community. Dinakar criticised the previous government, alleging that decisions were taken to hand over the Prakasam District Dairy to private entities. However, as farmers were not in favour of such moves, the private organisations were unable to operate the dairy effectively, he said. He further said that dairy farmers and milk producers are now urging the government to restart the dairy. He assured that he would present their concerns to the Chief Minister and ensure justice is done to the dairy farmers. Expressing concern, he said that if the

dairy is not revived soon, its valuable assets may be lost. Farmers are worried about the possible misuse or deterioration of these assets, he added. Dinakar mentioned that a delegation of dairy farmers, led by Prakasam District BJP Kisan Morcha president Kavuri Vasu, met him and submitted their appeal. He pointed out that under the Prakasam Dairy, milk production, procurement activities, and even the milk powder factory are currently lying unused. He concluded by stating that a field-level assessment would be conducted and concrete steps would be taken to ensure the reopening of the dairy at the earliest.

## Solar rooftop units to benefit all, says minister Gottipati



Tirupati: Apr 12

Darsi: Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar inaugurated solar rooftop units installed by 44 SC families under the PM Surya Ghar scheme in Mallampeta Colony, Donakonda Mandal, on Monday. He urged citizens across the state to adopt solar rooftop units to combat rising electricity consumption and mounting power bills. Addressing the gathering, the Minister highlighted that renewable energy is the most viable alternative to reduce electricity costs.

He said that each solar plant can generate up to 300 units of electricity, enabling households to produce power on their own rooftops. A sum of Rs 50.39 crore has been allocated for implementing PM Surya Ghar in the Darsi constituency alone. The government is providing free solar units to six lakh SC and ST families statewide, while BC consumers receive a subsidy of Rs 98,000 and OC consumers Rs 78,000. Under RDSS, works worth Rs 8000 crore are being executed across the state, with Rs 147 crore sanctioned for Darsi constituency. The PM Kusum scheme will supply nine hours of daytime solar power to farmers. The Minister also inaugurated a computer lab, established at a cost of Rs 11 lakh, with donor support, at Mallampeta Zilla Parishad High School, and urged more philanthropists to participate in the P4 initiative. TDP Ongole parliament district president and Kanigiri MLA Dr Mukku Ugranarasimha Reddy, Darsi TDP in-charge Dr Gottipati Lakshmi, and other leaders were present in the programme.

## Anantapur to observe Fire Service Week



Anantapur: Apr 14

Joint Collector C. Vishnucharan has announced that Fire Service Week will be observed across the district from April 14 to 20 to promote awareness on fire safety and prevention measures. The Joint Collector unveiled posters and brochures related to the observance at the Revenue Building in the Anantapur Collectorate on Monday. The programme is being conducted under the aegis of the Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Response and Fire Services Department with the theme, "Safe Schools, Safe Hospitals, and a Fire-Aware Society Working Together to Prevent Fires." Speaking on the occasion, Vishnucharan emphasised the need to educate the public on fire preven-

tion practices during the week-long campaign. He stated that awareness programmes should cover safety precautions in households and kitchens, as well as in schools, hostels, shopping complexes, warehouses, temporary structures, rural areas, and industrial units. He also stressed the importance of informing citizens about their role during fire emergencies and the precautions to be taken at petrol stations and gas storage facilities. Officials were directed to ensure widespread dissemination of safety guidelines to minimize fire-related risks. District Revenue Officer A. Malola, District Fire Officer Srinivasa Reddy, Special Deputy Collectors, and officials from various departments participated in the programme.

## Durga temple board reviews 37 agenda items



Vijayawada: Apr 15

The governing body of the Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam atop Indrakeeladri met here on Monday, during which 37 key agenda items were discussed, with a primary focus on enhancing facilities for devotees. The meeting was chaired by Trust Board Chairman Borra Radhakrishna (Gandhi) at the Jammidoddi meeting hall in Vijayawada. Radha Krishna, speaking to the media after the meeting, said several decisions were taken to enhance the overall pilgrim experience. He announced that television screens would be installed within the temple premises and along queue lines to enable devotees to watch the rituals and puja programmes of Goddess Kanaka Durga. He noted that donors have come forward to provide the TVs. The Chairman further stated that the board is planning to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with a hospital to ensure better healthcare support for temple staff. He also raised concerns over the misuse of toilets in Kanaka Durganagar by anti-social elements and said stringent measures would be implemented to prevent such incidents. Addressing land-related matters, Radha Krishna said the temple owns around 234 acres of land, of which some parcels are either not under lease or have been encroached upon. He further noted that nearly 20 acres are currently under dispute. Temple Executive Officer VK Seena Nayak said special arrangements would be made at Indrakeeladri to ease congestion in queue lines. He added that initiatives such as clearing contractors' bills, leasing temple lands, and commencing laddu prasadam and annadanam services by June are being taken up in line with the temple's master plan.

## AP CM Chandrababu pay tribute to BR Ambedkar on 135th Birth Anniversary



Nellore: Apr 12

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has emphasised that upholding democratic values is the greatest tribute to Dr B.R. Ambedkar, on the occasion of his 135th birth anniversary. In a social media post, Naidu honoured the architect of the Indian Constitution, social reformer, and Bharat Ratna, recognising Ambedkar's lifelong fight against caste discrimination and untouchability. He praised Ambedkar's pursuit of higher education despite adversity and credited him with shaping India's democratic framework.

"Dr. Ambedkar's efforts ensured equal opportunities and constitutional protection for all citizens. Our collective goal must be to realise his ideals. The best tribute we can pay is to uphold democratic values and act responsibly," Naidu stated. Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan also paid homage, highlighting

Ambedkar's role as a visionary leader and the first Law Minister of independent India. "His relentless fight for social justice, equality, and empowerment continues to inspire us," he posted. K.T. Rama Rao, President of Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), also paid tribute. He described Ambedkar as a noble soul who dedicated his life to uplifting marginalised communities and designing the Indian Constitution. Rama Rao noted Ambedkar's significance in securing Telangana's aspiration for statehood through Article 3 and said that the BRS government's nine-and-a-half-year tenure has been inspired by him. Political analysis To honour Ambedkar's legacy, the Telangana government has erected a 125-foot statue of him in Hyderabad and named the state Secretariat after him. "We pay our sincere tributes to this towering figure," Rao added.

## Nelluri Ravindra Bharathi School celebrates second annual day

Vijayawada, Apr 14

Emphasising the transformative power of education, Dr Sravanti Devabhaktuni said that students can scale greater heights in life only through dedicated learning. She was the chief guest at the second annual day celebrations of Nelluri Ravindra Bharathi School, held at a hotel in Ramavarappadu of Vijayawada Rural mandal on Monday. Addressing students and parents, she urged youngsters to make the best use of the opportunities provided by their families and pursue education with discipline. She noted that in today's digital era, competition is intense, and success



comes to those who remain persistent despite failures. Quoting Swami Vivekananda, she stressed the importance of goal-setting and continuous effort. School Chairman Ch Subrahmanyam highlighted the role of technology in modern education,

making learning more engaging and effective. Principal Rajulapati Naga Raja Rajeswari said the institution focuses on all-round development. Prizes were distributed to meritorious students, and cultural programmes added vibrancy to the celebrations.

## Mass protest organised on housing issues in Vijayawada



Vijayawada: Apr 14

CITU, AIDWA and various civic welfare organisations staged a mass protest at the NTR district Collectorate here on Monday, demanding allocation of house sites, construction of houses, registration of existing dwellings and implementation of welfare schemes. A large turnout of people led to tense scenes at the Collectorate.

A significant number of participants, including women with infants, joined the agitation, raising slogans against the government over the alleged neglect of housing issues. The premises were packed as protesters submitted thousands of petitions seeking redressal of their grievances.

The protesters alleged that successive governments had failed to fulfill promises made during elections. They claimed that assurances to provide two cents of land for housing in urban areas have not been honoured, with any allotments made even after two years. Addressing the gathering, leaders, including CPM State Secretariat member Ch Babu Rao, state committee member Donepudi Kasinath and AIDWA state president K Sridevi warned that the agitation would continue until the government fulfils its commitments.

The leaders criticised earlier policies, alleging that money was collected from beneficiaries for housing during the previous regime without delivering houses. They also said that many poor families living on hillocks and along the Krishna riverbanks lack ownership documents, making them ineligible for bank loans and welfare benefits.

Highlighting issues related to TIDCO housing, the protesters said beneficiaries who paid amounts years ago are still awaiting allotment while bearing the burden of rent and loan interest. They demanded that houses be provided free of cost and pending loans be waived. The agitators further alleged that government lands were being allotted to corporate entities, while the urban poor were denied house sites. They urged the authorities to utilise vacant government lands within the city for housing the needy. District Revenue Officer M Lakshmi Narasimha visited the protest site, received representations and assured that the issues would be examined and appropriate action taken. A delegation also submitted a memorandum to District Collector Dr G Lakshimisha. Several leaders and members of CITU, AIDWA and other organisations participated in the protest.