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Indigenously built stealth frigate INS Taragiri commissioned into Indian Navy at Visakhapatnam

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Visakhapatnam, April 3
India's defence sector takes a major leap forward as the fourth stealth frigate of the Nilgiri class Taragiri (F41) gets commissioned into the Indian Navy on April 3 (Friday).
The ceremony, attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan and Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, marked the induction of a vessel that represents a generational leap in naval engineering.
Commissioning the warship at the Eastern Naval Command in Visakhapatnam, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh under-



lined that Taragiri is an epitome of India's growing maritime power. "About 95 percent of India's trade is carried out through maritime routes. The navy is a symbol of the country's values and commissioning

of INS Taragiri will further strengthen the navy's power and commitment," the Defence Minister mentioned. Armed with BrahMos SSM, MFSTAR and MRSAM, the ship is integrated with a combat

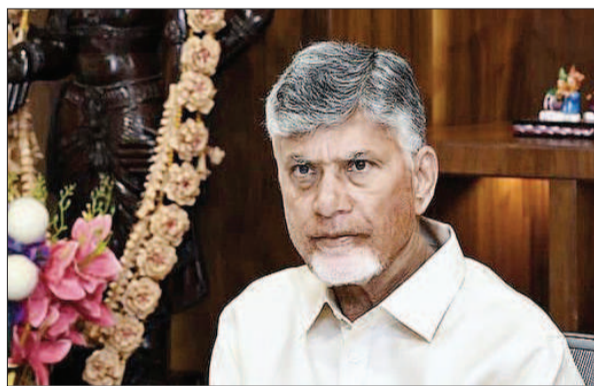


management system, ensuring the crew can respond to threats with split-second precision. With indigenous content exceeding 75 percent, the warship is armed with supersonic BrahMos missiles, the MF-

STAR radar system, MRSAM and Barak anti-aircraft missile systems, among other advanced weapon systems. Built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, the (Contd. on pg.2)

Amaravati will be A.P. capital forever, law and courts will protect it, says CM

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Amaravati, April 3
Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu asserted that Amaravati would remain the capital of Andhra Pradesh (A.P.) forever and hoped that justice would prevail if a government attempts to change it in future. "In our democratic set-up, there are checks and balances. A Legislature makes laws. If the Executive fails to implement those laws, the Judiciary will step in to play its role to safeguard public interests," he stated.
He said a majority of the capital works would be over by the end of 2028



and the Prime Minister would be invited to inaugurate the iconic buildings and trunk infrastructure in 2029. The capital would continue to be developed after that, including the Inner and Outer Ring Roads, the nine thematic

cities and other projects, Mr. Naidu noted. Addressing media persons at his camp office on Friday, Mr. Naidu said the capital could not be changed as per the whims and fancies of the (Contd. on pg.2)

Telangana aims to become textile capital of South Asia: CM Revanth Reddy

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Hyderabad, April 3 :
Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy said on Friday that his government aims to transform the state into the textile capital of South Asia by 2047.
Revanth Reddy assured the investors in the textile sector that the government will provide them with infrastructure, land, power, water, and incentives, along with expedited approvals. Addressing the Asian Textile Conference 2026 here, he said that his goal is to ensure that garments made in Telangana are worn in every country



across the globe. He claimed that Telangana's policies are on par with global standards. "Our greatest strength lies in our exceptional human resources. If you have the vision, we are the ideal partners for

you. Together, let us build a complete textiles ecosystem capable of transforming the world," he said. He noted that Telangana was collaborating across a wide spectrum, from the (Contd. on pg.2)

'Congress handed over Assam to infiltrators, BJP will take it back': Amit Shah in Chaigaon

Chaigaon (Assam), Apr 3
Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday launched a scathing attack on the Congress, accusing the party of "handing over Assam to infiltrators."
Addressing a rally in the poll-bound state's Chaigaon, Shah said, "Assam is blessed by nature, but Congress handed Assam over to infiltrators. These infiltrators are grabbing the land of the poor. They even grabbed Kaziranga forest land."
Shah claimed that in the 10 years of BJP rule in



Assam, 1.5 lakh acres of land was freed from encroachers. He vowed to hand-pick each and every infiltrator and deport them once the (Contd. on pg.2)

Russia offers to increase supply of crude oil, LNG to India amid war in West Asia

New Delhi, April 3:
With the West Asia crisis continuing to drive volatility in the global energy market, Russia has offered to increase supply of crude oil and natural gas to India even as the two countries agreed to further enhance overall bilateral ties.
The energy cooperation figured prominently in meetings Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov held with National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Thursday (April 2, 2026), sources told media.



Mr. Manturov also held talks with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday. A Russian readout of the First Deputy Prime Minister's engagements in

natural gas to the Indian market," it said. The comments came as the West Asia crisis continued to put strain on the global energy market largely due to disruptions in supplies of crude oil and gas through the volatile Strait of Hormuz. Global oil and gas prices have surged after Iran virtually blocked the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow shipping lane between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, that handles roughly 20% of global oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG). West Asia is a major source of India's (Contd. on pg.2)

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Govt targets to procure 23 lakh MT of Rabi paddy from April 4 in AP

By Skyline Reporter
Nidadavole, April 3
Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar on Friday set a procurement target of 23 lakh MT of paddy in Andhra Pradesh during the Rabi season from April 4.
Addressing the media along with Tourism Minister Kandula Durgesh here, Mr. Manohar assured that payment would be made to the farmers in 24 hours of the procurement. "The target to procure 23 lakh MT in Rabi 2025 is the highest ever in Andhra



Pradesh. The previous government, led by Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, had procured barely 14 lakh MT in 2023 and 12.64 lakh MT in 2024," Mr. (Contd. on pg.2)

India's new nuclear powered submarine INS Aridhaman commissioned

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Visakhapatnam, April 3
Defence Minister Rajnath Singh presided over a brief ceremony to formally commission the country's third nuclear submarine, INS Aridhaman (S4), which is the third in the Arihant-class of SSBNs (Submersible Ship Ballistic Nuclear), on Friday (April 3) at Visakhapatnam.
The boat, being part of the strategic weapons programme, falls under the domain of the Strategic Forces and is part of the country's nuclear triad. As per sources in the Navy,



the commissioning was not made public and was carried out quietly, but Mr. Singh dropped enough hints to acknowledge the commissioning of the vessel. While the event was kept

under wraps, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, taking to social media, posted a cryptic message on 'X', describing the submarine as: "It's not words but power, 'Aridhaman'!"

Sources in the Navy said that the commissioning of INS Aridhaman was on the cards, as the submarine had already undergone extensive sea trials, and it coincided with Mr. Singh's visit to Visakhapatnam for the commissioning of the stealth guided-missile frigate INS Taragiri on April 3.
The closely guarded SSBN project, initially launched as the Advanced Technology Vessel (ATV) project, is being executed by the Ship Building Centre (SBC) in (Contd. on pg.2)

Joh dar gaya, samjho mar gaya: AAP takes jibe at Raghav Chadha



New Delhi, April 3:

Gloves between Raghav Chadha and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) came off this morning with AAP throwing "joh dar gaya, samjho mar gaya" counter at the Rajya Sabha MP and accusing him of resorting to soft public relations in the Parliament.

Moments after Chadha released a video saying "AAP could silence but not defeat him," the party fielded its senior leader Saurabh Bhardwaj for the offensive against Chadha. In a video, Bhardwaj accused Chadha of hiding when AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal, as sitting CM, was arrested in the Delhi liquor scam.

Bhardwaj also said this was the time to "look the BJP in the eye and ask questions and not soft pedal on issues."

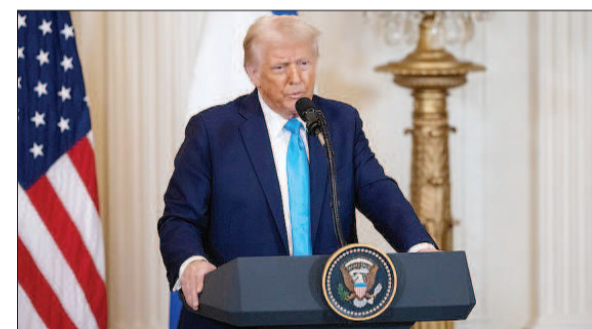
"Your soft issues do not bother the BJP. The BJP has been supporting you on social media since yesterday,"

Saurabh Bhardwaj, AAP's Delhi in-charge said a day after the party removed Chadha as Rajya Sabha deputy leader and asked the RS secretariat not to allot him party time to speak.

Chadha, this morning in a video, asked the AAP why it wanted to silence him about issues of the people he had been raising in the House.

However, Bhardwaj said (Contd. on pg.2)

Trump imposes 50 per cent tariffs on steel, aluminum, and copper



Washington, April 3 : US President Donald Trump signed a sweeping proclamation imposing steep tariffs on imports of steel, aluminium and copper, tightening trade controls in the name of national security.

The order mandates that tariffs apply to the "full customs value" of imported metal products and their derivatives, closing what the administration described as loopholes in earlier measures. The move builds on earlier Section 232 actions, under which the US had already determined that rising imports of key metals "threaten to impair the national security of the United States".

Under the new regime, most primary steel and aluminium products will face a 50 per cent ad valorem duty, while certain derivative products will be subject to a 25 per cent tariff.

Officials said the changes are aimed at ensuring importers pay duties based on actual transaction prices rather than artificially lowered values.

"We are going to charge 50 per cent of the full value of the steel paid by US customers in America," a senior administration official said, explaining the revised methodology. The official added that the (Contd. on pg.2)

YSRCP complains about denial of adequate time in RS to speak on Amaravati Bill



By Skyline Staff Reporter
Amaravati, April 3 : The YSR Congress Party on Friday complained to the Vice President of India and Rajya Sabha Chairman C. P. Radhakrishnan about the denial of adequate time to the party in Rajya Sabha during the debate on the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill 2026. A delegation of the YSRCP MPs led by Parliamentary Party leader Y. V. Subba Reddy met Radhakrishnan in Delhi and submitted a representation to him. The delegation told him that despite having seven

MPs, the YSRCP was given only five minutes, and their microphone was cut. They stated that the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and other smaller parties were allotted more time and sought a fair opportunity to present their voice.

Subba Reddy urged the Rajya Sabha chairman to lay the text of his speech on the table. The party also sought an enquiry into deviation from parliamentary conventions and established procedures. The YSRCP complained that the party was allocated grossly inadequate time to speak during the (Contd. on pg.2)

Sankar Foundation Achieves Excellent Performance in Reaching to People in 2025-26

Visakhapatnam, April 2: The year 2025-26 marked a remarkable achievement for Sankar Foundation, with a record 35,171 eye surgeries performed and 2.2 lakh outpatients screened during the year. With this accomplishment, the Foundation reached a historic milestone of 5,10,246 eye surgeries by the end of March 2026 since its inception in 1997. This landmark reflects not only the skill and perseverance of our medical teams but also the trust and support of our partners and beneficiaries. It reinforces our mission to eliminate avoidable blindness and transform lives through restored vision. Sri M. Ramdas, Chairman, Sri A. Krishna Kumar, Managing Trustee, and the Trustees of Sankar

Foundation commended the doctors, paramedical staff, and the entire workforce for their unwavering commitment and service to society, celebrating this extraordinary achievement. Strong Outreach Activities Sankar Foundation's outreach efforts remain the driving force of our mission. With the continued trust and support of corporates, Public Sector Undertakings, and NGOs through CSR funding, we have strengthened our infrastructure and extended our reach by conducting comprehensive free eye screening camps across numerous villages. During the year, Sankar Foundation organized 601 Outreach Eye camps across the region, screening 43,930 outpatients. This achievement reaf-



firms our unwavering commitment to eliminating avoidable blindness and underscores our dedication to delivering quality eye care to underserved communities, according to a

release by K Bangar Raju, Dy GM (PR, Liaison & Corporate relations). Performance Highlights during 2025-2026: Impressive number of eye surgeries

35,171
Highest number of Out Patients screened 2,02,499
Highest number of Outreach free eye camps 601
Total OP Screened through free eye camps 43,930
Eye surgeries performed under Dr NTR Vaidya Seva 19,484
Surgeries Under Employee Health Scheme 659
A Special Retina Block was exclusively constructed in Block "B" to serve patients under the Dr. NTR Vaidya Seva scheme. This dedicated facility offers comprehensive solutions for retina disorders, ensuring specialized care and advanced treatment for those in need. Corporate Trust and GovtSupport The unwavering trust and confi-

dence placed in Sankar Foundation by corporates, Public Sector Undertakings, and NGOs has been a cornerstone of our journey. Equally vital has been the continued support and guidance of the Government of Andhra Pradesh, District Administration, DMHOs, DPMs, DBCS officials, and District Coordinators of Dr. NTR Vaidya Seva. Our Branches Shine: All branches of Sankar Foundation-Srikakulam, Maddilapalem, Gajuwaka, and Madhurawada-have delivered notable performance during the year. As we look ahead, Sankar Foundation remains unwavering in its mission to eliminate avoidable blindness and deliver quality eye care to all.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Indigenously built stealth frigate INS Taragiri commissioned

warship comprises state-of-the-art technology to detect threats on the surface, subsurface and in the air. Constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in Mumbai, the 6,670-tonne warship incorporates over 75 per cent indigenous content, reflecting India's commitment to self-reliance in defence manufacturing. The project has also benefited more than 200 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), creating thousands of jobs across the country and boosting the local defence industrial ecosystem. The commissioning of INS Taragiri reinforces the Indian Navy's focus on maintaining combat readiness and operational superiority along the eastern seaboard, a region of strategic significance for India's maritime security. It also highlights the successful implementation of the 'Make in India' and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives, positioning the nation as a growing hub of indigenous defence technology and expertise. With the addition of INS Taragiri, the Indian Navy strengthens its ability to undertake high-intensity, multi-dimensional maritime operations, ensuring both the security of national waters and India's position as a significant naval power in the Indo-Pacific region.

Amaravati will be A.P. capital forever, law and courts will protect it,

government and if what happened between 2019 and 2024 were to repeat, the courts would not keep quiet. Out of the 50 parties in Parliament, only the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) opposed the AP Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2026 and Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's suggestion of the area between Guntur, Vijayawada and Machilipatnam defied logic and exposed his mindset. He recalled that Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy ruled the State from the very place — Amaravati — which he despised a lot, and said that by opposing the AP Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2026 in the form in which it was presented in the Parliament, the YSRCP MPs betrayed the interests of the State. He pointed out that the entire region notified by the AP Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) would become the capital and there was scope to expand it further if required by following due procedures. The Chief Minister said the TDP government had chosen to develop the Vijayawada - Guntur - Tenali - Mangalagiri area as the capital of A.P. by considering its central location as the main criterion and proceeded only after obtaining the consensus of all stakeholders. Disruption by YSRCP The capital project was progressing smoothly till Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy's YSRCP came to power. His three capitals plan came as a major disruption. The YSRCP government had brought in AP Decentralization and Inclusive Development of All Regions and the CRDA Repeal Acts but ultimately its evil designs were thwarted.

As if the prayers of the beleaguered Amaravati farmers and people of A.P. were answered, the High Court ordered in March 2022 that Amaravati should be developed as the capital. NDA win a big boost The TDP - Jana Sena Party - BJP alliance's victory in the 2024 elections breathed life into Amaravati again. The government got Amaravati declared as the capital as it could no longer afford to leave any scope for the kind of mischief which the YSRCP had committed to the detriment of the State, he said, adding that A.P. needs a growth engine like Hyderabad.

Telangana aims to become textile capital of South Asia: CM Revanth Reddy

cotton fields of Telangana to the fashion runways of London, New York, Paris, Milan, Tokyo, and Dubai. The Chief Minister said that Hyderabad is emerging as a hub for film production not just for India, but for the entire world and pointed out that Netflix recently launched its Eyleine Studios here. "Tollywood and Bollywood already utilise Hyderabad as their base—and now, Hollywood has joined their ranks. We will encourage the film industry to source its fashion requirements directly from Telangana," he said. Stating that environmental protection is the government's utmost priority, he said green textile hubs will be developed in the state. "We will provide training to the youth—particularly women—enabling them to blend traditional concepts with modern tools in the fields of design, cutting, and stitching," he said.

He told the participants that India possesses a magnificent history of crafting exquisite textiles. For centuries, art, culture, and tradition have played a pivotal role in shaping and perfecting the textile landscape. "Textiles are woven into Telangana's DNA. During the era of the Nizams, merchants from every corner of the globe would flock to Hyderabad to procure textiles and pearls. Our region is home to a rich diversity of textile traditions - ranging from the renowned Pochampally Ikat and Gadwal sarees to the Warangal Durries and Narayanpet handlooms," he said. The Chief Minister claimed that there are historical imperatives that position Telangana at the forefront of the textile sector. He pointed out that Telangana stands as the leading state in India in terms of cotton production. The superior quality of Telangana cotton has earned global acclaim. "We have established the world-class Kakatiya Mega Textile Park in Warangal—a sprawling complex that encompasses numerous apparel parks. Telangana possesses both the skill and the resolve," he added. Asserting that Telangana is at the forefront of numerous sectors, including deep tech, pharma, life sciences, aerospace, defence manufacturing, and energy, he said that Telangana's vision is to evolve into a one-trillion-dollar economy by 2034, and a three-trillion-dollar economy by 2047.

'Congress handed over Assam to infiltrators, BJP will take it back': Amit Shah in Chaigaon

BJP returns to power for the third straight term. "While we were in the process of removing them, the elections arrived. You make Himanta Da the Chief Minister again, and we will handpick each and every infiltrator and throw them out," he said. 'UCC will ensure no-one is allowed to have four marriages' Shah asserted that the BJP would implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in Assam if re-elected. "We will implement UCC in Assam, and after this, no one will be permitted to have four marriages," he said, in an indirect reference to Muslims. Demands Congress apology for 'insulting' Bhupen Hazarika The Home Minister also accused the Opposition Congress of insulting Assam's cultural icon Bhupen Hazarika and demanded an apology from the party. "When PM Modi gave Bharat Ratna to Shri Bhupen Hazarika, the Congress President made a remark saying that PM Modi gave Bharat Ratna to a singer. This is not an insult to PM Modi, this is an insult to Shri Bhupen Hazarika. For this, he should apologise to the people of Assam," he added. On the welfare front, Shah promised every woman will receive 3,000 rupees per month, while farmers will receive Rs 11,000 assistance annually. He also promised government jobs to two lakh youth in the state.

Govt targets to procure 23 lakh MT of Rabi paddy from April 4 in AP

Manohar said. The produce would be procured through 1,917 paddy procurement centres, he added. On availability of gunnysacks, a prime challenge in paddy procurement, Mr. Manohar said, "At least 5.4 crore gunnysacks are available, and a self-declaration will be sought from the rice miller, enabling a smooth procurement drive." Mr. Manohar said that 17,200 lorries would be deployed for transportation of the procured paddy, and they would be linked to the GPS to track their movement and route. In Kharif-2025, a whopping 51 lakh MT of paddy had been procured and Rs.11,300 crore paid to 7.8 lakh farmers. A sum of Rs.7,300 crore was paid within eight hours after procurement, the Minister said.

Russia offers to increase supply of crude oil, LNG to India amid war in West Asia

energy procurement. An analysis by The Hindu of data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry shows that India imported \$1.98 billion worth of crude oil from Russia in January 2026, the month before India and the U.S. issued a joint statement about an interim trade agreement between the two countries. With this, Russia's share in Indian oil imports fell to 19.3% in January 2026, the lowest since December 2022. For context, Russia's share was 27.5% two months earlier, and 33% in May 2025.

On February 7, when the U.S. and India announced the interim agreement, the statement notably did not have any mention of India's imports of Russian oil. However, the trade agreement is yet to be implemented. Since the onset of the U.S-Israel war with Iran that began on February 28, India has been steadily increasing its purchase of crude oil from Russia. Various issues relating to bilateral ties were deliberated extensively at the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC) on Thursday. It was co-chaired by Mr. Manturov and Mr. Jaishankar. Expanding mutually beneficial trade, investment, and industrial cooperation was one of the key topics on the agenda, the Russian readout said. "Specific steps were discussed to create favorable conditions for increasing bilateral trade turnover in the present context," it said. Mr. Manturov noted that Russia increased supplies of fertilisers to India by 40% by end of 2025 and is ready to continue meeting India's needs, it said. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said both sides held wide-ranging discussions focusing on trade, industry, energy, fertilisers, connectivity and mobility in addition to new opportunities in technology, innovation and critical minerals.

Both countries also reviewed the progress on the implementation of the various outcomes of the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit held in December last year, the MEA said. Russian President Vladimir Putin visited India for the summit. Following the summit talks between Mr. Modi and Mr. Putin, India and Russia unveiled a raft of measures, including a five-year roadmap to build a robust economic partnership and to increase the annual trade to \$100 billion by 2030. Mr. Jaishankar and Mr. Manturov also exchanged views on regional and global developments, including the conflict in West Asia, the MEA said. The Russian readout also mentioned bilateral cooperation in the civil nuclear energy sector. "As emphasised by Denis Manturov, Russia sees significant prospects for deepening engagement with India in this sphere," it said.

India's new nuclear powered submarine INS Aridhman commissioned

Visakhapatnam. The first boat was launched in July 2009 and was quietly commissioned in 2016. The second indigenously built SSBN, INS Arighaat, was commissioned in August 2024. While Arihant and Arighaat are smaller vessels of about 6,000 tonnes, Aridhman (S4) and S4* are bigger boats of about 7,000 tonnes. The S4* (which may be named Arisudan) is currently undergoing sea trials. It may be recalled that Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh Tripathi, in last December, had said that INS Aridhman was in the final stages of trials and would be commissioned soon. Compared to its predecessors, Aridhman and its successor S4* will have more firepower and can carry up to 24 K-15 Sagarika missiles, eight K-4 missiles, or K-5 missiles, which can be nuclear-tipped. Arihant and Arighaat can carry about twelve K-15 Sagarika missiles or four K-4 missiles. The K-4 missiles have a range of about 3,500 km and are developed as nuclear-capable submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs). India is already one of the nations, along with the U.S., Russia, China, and France, to possess a nuclear triad capability, which means it has the ability to launch nuclear-tipped missiles from air, land, and sea. Apart from SSBNs, India is also planning to indigenously build a few SSNs (nuclear-powered attack submarines), of which at least two are expected to be commissioned by 2036-39.

Joh dar gaya, samjho mar gaya: AAP takes jibe at Raghav Chadha

that Chadha was "too afraid to look BJP in the eye or question the PM or the government." "We all are soldiers of Kejriwal. We have learnt just one thing — joh dar gaya, samjho mar gaya. We have to raise people's issues looking the government in the eye. Across social media platforms we see the government muzzling the voices of people who question it, on FB, YouTube. It doesn't matter to the government that someone should do soft PR in Parliament," Bhardwaj said. He told Chadha that parties have limited time in the Parliament and therefore it is more important to raise bigger issues than samosas. "Across India we see how ahead of elections genuine electors are being disenfranchised and the government is winning elections by making fraudulent votes. The same thing happened in Bengal. The entire Opposition wanted to bring a motion to impeach the Chief Election

Commissioner. You refused to sign it. You do not walk out with the Opposition on commonly articulated issues. For long you have not raised a single issue in the Parliament where you have questioned the PM or BJP. How will this politics of fear work?" asked the AAP leader, signalling an irreparable chasm between a one-time Kejriwal confidant Chadha and the party. Bhardwaj added that Chadha did not even raise issues of Punjab which he represents in Rajya Sabha. "You are afraid to raise those issues also. In Gujarat, 160 AAP workers have been booked in fake cases. You were silent on that. So many of our leaders were jailed. Arvind Kejriwal as the CM was arrested by the government. You were not in the country even then. You hid somewhere," said Bhardwaj asking Chadha to introspect. The AAP's samosa jibe was targeted at Chadha's consistent Rajya Sabha campaign for affordable food at airports. The AAP argues that Chadha is building his own image using the Parliament forum while adopting a stand variant to the party's on issues against the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Chadha conversely says he is only raising people's issues which should not brother the AAP. The episode comes days after AAP's senior leader Sanjay Singh dismissed speculation that Chadha, former AAP co in-charge of Punjab, was joining the BJP on 2027 Punjab poll eve.

Trump imposes 50 per cent tariffs on steel, aluminum, and copper

new structure is designed to eliminate pricing distortions by exporters. "They were just artificially making it lower, and we're just getting rid of that because they were basically fooling the system," the official said. The administration also introduced a simplified framework for derivative products. Items with limited metal content will be exempt from additional tariffs, while those with substantial metal composition will face a flat duty. "If it's got substantial amounts of steel, aluminium or copper... it'll have a simple 25 per cent tariff," the official said. Officials argued the overhaul would streamline compliance and reduce administrative complexity for importers, while strengthening enforcement. The proclamation states that domestic capacity utilisation in aluminium and steel has risen since the original tariffs were imposed, reaching about 50.4 per cent for aluminium and 77.2 per cent for steel. The administration said further tightening was needed to push utilisation closer to the targeted 80 per cent and to prevent circumvention through derivative products. In addition to tariff hikes, the order authorises US authorities to expand the list of covered products on a "rolling basis" if imports are found to undermine national security objectives. Officials insisted the measures would not significantly affect consumer prices. "I don't think it's going to have any impact on affordability," the official said, adding that the changes primarily affect trade mechanics rather than retail pricing. The tariffs will take effect from April 6, applying to goods entering the US market from that date.

YSRCP complains about denial of adequate time in RS to speak on

discussion on the Bill. It mentioned that TDP, which has only two members in the House, was allowed speaking time of over 15 minutes. Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS), which has four members, was also allotted only five minutes. "This uneven and disproportionate treatment is particularly disturbing because the Bill under discussion directly concerns the State of Andhra Pradesh, its constitutional future, and the interests of the people represented by all seven Rajya Sabha members of the YSR Congress Party. In such a matter of profound federal and regional significance, denying the principal opposition party of Andhra Pradesh a fair and meaningful opportunity to articulate its views effectively amounts to denying adequate voice to the people of the State themselves," reads the representation. The YSRCP also stated that the repeated times the camera focuses on the visitors' gallery, particularly on TDP MPs and state ministers, appears less a coincidence and more a pre-arranged exercise. The party sought an official enquiry into this. The Rajya Sabha on Thursday passed the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill 2026 to give statutory recognition to Amaravati as the sole and permanent capital of Andhra Pradesh. A day earlier, the Lok Sabha had passed the Bill. YSRCP opposed the Bill in both Houses on the grounds that it failed to address the concerns of farmers who have given their lands for the development of the state capital.

Jagan not able to digest Amaravati gaining legal backing: JSP

Anantapur: Apr 3
Leaders of the Jana Sena Party on Thursday welcomed the reported move to grant legal status to Amaravati as the permanent capital of Andhra Pradesh, while launching sharp criticism against YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. Addressing a press conference, district president and AHUDA Chairman TC Varun alleged that Reddy was unable to "accept the legal recognition of Amaravati" and accused the YSRCP of obstructing the State's development. He claimed that the people of Andhra Pradesh were expressing happiness over Amaravati's progress, while dissent was growing within the YSRCP. The Jana Sena leaders credited the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, and



Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan for ensuring legal backing to Amaravati in Parliament. They also expressed gratitude to all political parties that supported the move. Varun praised Kalyan's administrative initiatives, particularly in strengthening the Panchayati Raj system, stating that officials themselves had acknowledged his commitment and governance. Jana Sena leaders, includ-

ing city president Podili Baburao and other district representatives, reiterated that Amaravati would remain the permanent capital of the State. They announced that celebrations would be held in Anantapur to mark the development and invited party workers, leaders, and the public to participate. Several party functionaries, including corporation directors and women members, were present at the event.

SKU VC visits Sri Sai campus in Gooty



Anantapur: Apr 3
Gooty: The newly appointed Vice-Chancellor of Sri Krishna Deva Raya University, Prof. Dr. Jyothi Kumar, visited the Sri Sai Campus in Gooty. On this occasion, he inspected Sri Sai Degree College and PRR MBA College. During his visit, the Vice-Chancellor interacted with students and faculty members, providing valuable insights on the skills required to secure jobs in today's competitive world and how to adapt to emerging technologies. He also shared his experiences on how economically disadvantaged students can achieve higher goals through hard work

and determination. Recalling his own student life experiences from nearly 40 years ago, he inspired the students with motivating thoughts. Later, as per the instructions of the Chairman of Sri Balaji Educational Society, Dr. Palle Krishna Kishore, the Vice-Chancellor was honored with a grand felicitation. The programme was attended by Campus CEO Sri Srimamulu, Degree College Principal Dr. Venkateswarlu, PRR MBA College Principal Dr. M. Prasanna Kumar, Campus Placement Officer D. Baba Fakrudin, along with teaching and non-teaching staff.

Minister Keshav conducts 'Prajadarbar'



Anantapur: Apr 3
Andhra Pradesh Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav on Thursday conducted a 'Prajadarbar' at his camp office in Ram Nagar, Anantapur, to directly receive grievances from the public. During the programme, citizens and local leaders submitted petitions highlighting various issues. The Minister assured that all representations would be addressed promptly and necessary action would be taken without delay. Speaking on the occasion, Keshav stated that the State government, under the leadership of Chief Minister N

Chandrababu Naidu, is giving top priority to resolving public grievances. He emphasised that development and welfare are the two key pillars of the government's governance approach. He further noted that the government is committed to delivering welfare schemes to all eligible beneficiaries while simultaneously undertaking development initiatives to steer the State towards progress. The Minister personally received petitions from people arriving from different parts of the district and directed officials to take immediate steps to resolve their concerns.

Celebrations Sweep Sarvepalli with Victory of Amaravati bill passage

Amid passage of the Amaravati bill in parliament, the celebrations begin across the State in Andhra Pradesh. A large rally organised by TDP supporters stretched from Sangam Road Centre to the Police Station in Prodalkuru, with tributes paid to statues of Mahatma Gandhi and Sri Potti Sreeramulu. In Manubolu, a grand motorcycle rally was held, followed by homage to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's statue. Both Manubolu and Muthukur witnessed festive atmospheres, with big cakes cut at ZP High Schools. In Venkatachalam, a candlelight demonstration took place, while sweets were shared in Sarvepalli. Thotapalligudur also hosted a similar candlelight event. At Vikram Simhapuri University, celebrations reached new heights under Vice-Chancellor Professor Allam Srinivasa Rao. Festivities extended to Somireddy's



office in Vedayapalem and his residence in Allipuram, where lamps were lit by TDP leaders. In Sarvepalli, residents celebrated with fireworks, chanting slogans like "Jai Amaravati!" and "Jai Jai Amaravati!" The public believes the Central Government has given an official seal of approval to the "three capitals game," a move seen as fulfilling Telugu aspirations and a victory for the community. Everywhere, the atmosphere was filled with joy, with the entire Sarvepalli constituency immersed in celebrations.

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Three Killed after bus collides motorcycle in Anakapalli

Three young men were killed in a road accident that occurred around midnight in Anakapalli district, police said. The incident took place at approximately 12:00 am at Pothireddypalem junction in Yelamanchili Mandal, when a private travel bus collided with a two-wheeler. Two of the victims died at the scene, while the third succumbed to his injuries while being taken to Anakapalli for treatment. The deceased have been identified as Bangaru Nani (24), Govindu (25), and Bangari Durgaprasad (16). While Nani and Govindu were residents of Purushothapuram village, Durgaprasad hailed from Pothireddypalem village. According to police, two of the victims were employed as painters, while the third was a student. A case has been registered, and an investigation is under way. The families of the deceased have been informed, and the bodies have been shifted to a government hospital for post-mortem examination.

SP inspects Dharmavaram Sub-Division police station



Dharmavaram:
District Superintendent of Police S Satish Kumar conducted surprise midnight inspections across Dharmavaram Sub-Division, covering One Town, Two Town, Mudigubba UPS, and Dharmavaram Rural police stations. During the inspections, the SP reviewed night patrolling arrangements and staff deployment in Dharmavaram, Mudigubba, and Puttaparthi areas. He interacted with on-duty personnel and assessed their performance,

vigilance, and adherence to prescribed night security protocols. The SP verified the deployment of night staff, allocation of duties, effectiveness of patrolling and vehicle checks, and monitoring of suspicious persons using MSCD fingerprint devices. He also reviewed preventive measures in place to curb thefts and anti-social activities. Issuing directions to the police personnel, Satish Kumar instructed them to intensify night patrolling across all localities and maintain strict vigilance on

suspicious movements. He emphasised restricting unnecessary public movement during late-night hours and strengthening surveillance through drones and other modern technologies. He also directed beat constables to remain alert, particularly in sensitive areas. Highlighting the importance of crime prevention and public safety, the SP stated that such surprise inspections would be conducted regularly to ensure effective policing and instil a sense of security among the public.

Ichchapuram-Palasa Rail Link Shifted to Vizag Zone

Visakhapatnam, April 3:
The railway section between Ichchapuram and Palasa has been officially brought under the Visakhapatnam-based South Coast Railway Zone, Union Minister for Civil Aviation Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu announced on 2 April. According to orders issued by the Railway Board, the stretch—previously under the Khurda Road Division of the East Coast Railway—has now been transferred to the jurisdiction of the South Coast Railway Zone headquartered in Visakhapatnam. The Minister described the move as a significant milestone for Srikakulam district, the wider North Andhra region, and the state of Andhra Pradesh. Rammohan Naidu said the



development marked a long-awaited achievement for the people of North Andhra, who have been advocating for a dedicated railway zone since the state's bifurcation. He noted that although the South Coast Railway Zone had already been

established, the exclusion of the Ichchapuram-Palasa section had remained a concern. He added that he had raised the issue on multiple occasions with Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, stressing that bringing the section under

the Visakhapatnam zone would accelerate infrastructure growth. The realignment is expected to facilitate improved passenger amenities, modernisation of railway stations, additional train halts, and enhanced freight transport facilities.

Highlighting recent progress in Srikakulam district, the Minister pointed to developments such as new train halts and upgrades under the Amrit Bharat Station scheme. He said the latest decision has renewed confidence in achieving faster and more comprehensive railway development across the region. Rammohan Naidu expressed gratitude to Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu for their continued support. He affirmed his commitment to further strengthening railway infrastructure in Srikakulam and North Andhra, with the aim of setting a national benchmark.

State Library Director Krishnamohan Visits District Library

Kakinada, April 3: State Public Libraries Department Director A. Krishnamohan visited the United East Godavari District Library on Friday. He was warmly welcomed by the library staff in the presence of District Library Organization Chairman Bhupathi Raju Eswar Raju Varma (Saibaba Raju). During his visit, Krishnamohan thoroughly inspected the library premises. Officials brought to his notice the need for repairs to the library building, to which he responded positively and assured that the matter would be taken up with the concerned minister. He also stated that efforts



would be made soon to ensure all libraries in the United East Godavari district provide a pleasant and reader-friendly environment. Chairman Eswar Raju Varma explained the various issues currently faced by libraries in the district. Responding promptly, Krishnamohan assured

him that all concerns would be taken up with the concerned authorities and necessary steps would be initiated for their early resolution. District Library Organization Secretary P. Nagaraju, M. Sravya, Kishore, Sai, and others were present during the visit.

Two Minors Killed in Highway Crash in Tiruvuru

A tragic road accident claimed the lives of two minors and left three others seriously injured early on Friday morning at Lakshmiapuram in Tiruvuru Rural Mandal. According to police, an unidentified lorry struck five minors who had been travelling on a single motorcycle along National Highway 216H. The incident occurred when the group, returning from catering work in Nuzvid, had stopped near Lakshmiapuram to drop one of their companions at his home. While they were standing by the roadside, the lorry reportedly hit them from behind with considerable force. Two minors—Nakka Eshwar (16) and Modugu Sunny (17)—died instantly at the

scene. The severity of the impact left the bodies badly mutilated, creating a distressing scene in the locality. Three others sustained serious injuries in the accident. They were identified as Daida Venkateswara Rao (16), Dharavathu Ram Charan (17), and Balamarthi Charan Tej (17). All were initially rushed to a nearby hospital, with Charan Tej later shifted to Vijayawada for advanced treatment due to his critical condition. Circle Inspector K. Giribabu reached the scene soon after being alerted and initiated an investigation. Police have registered a case and shifted the bodies of the deceased to Tiruvuru hospital for post-mortem examination.

Illegal sand mining in Tungabhadra raises alarm over Bridge safety and looming drinking water crisis



Kurnool, April 3:
Large-scale illegal sand excavation in the Tungabhadra River has triggered serious concern among residents of Kurnool district, as hundreds of tractors are reportedly being used to extract sand unchecked. The activity is taking place dangerously close to the National Highway 44 bridge, a critical roadway connecting Kashmir to Kanyakumari, raising fears of structural damage and long-term consequences. Eyewitnesses state that the sand mining operations continue openly near the bridge, posing a direct threat to its stability. Experts warn that excessive removal of riverbed sand can weaken the foundation of bridges, increasing the risk of erosion and potential collapse. Given the strategic importance of NH-44 as one of India's longest highways, any damage to the bridge could disrupt national connectivity and lead to severe economic and logistical setbacks. Despite widespread awareness, officials from the police, revenue, and mines and geology departments are alleged to be turning a blind

eye to these illegal activities. Citizens have expressed frustration over the apparent inaction, accusing authorities of negligence and failure to enforce laws designed to protect natural resources and public infrastructure. The environmental impact has reached an alarming stage as the water flow in the Tungabhadra River has reportedly come to a complete standstill in certain stretches due to excessive sand removal. With peak summer yet to arrive, residents fear that the situation could worsen significantly. The stagnation of water not only affects the ecological balance but also raises serious concerns about the availability and quality of drinking water. The Tungabhadra River remains the primary source of drinking water for lakhs in Kurnool district, and the ongoing illegal excavation threatens to trigger a severe water crisis in the coming months. Citizens and environmental activists are now urging authorities to take immediate and stringent action, warning that any further delay could endanger both public safety and essential water resources.

SKYLINE

Saturday 4.4.2026

The Squeeze

India's economic story has long rested on a simple promise: study hard, secure a stable job, and enter the middle class. That compact is now quietly breaking down, not at the margins, but at the very centre of the economy. For decades, policymakers ~ from the University Grants Commission to reform-era planners ~ expanded higher education on the assumption that skills would translate into upward mobility. And for a time, that assumption held. The rise of the IT and services economy, championed by bodies like NASSCOM, created a pipeline from degree to desk job. But the structure that sustained this pathway is weakening from both ends.

At the entry level, the number of graduates far exceeds the availability of quality jobs. At the top, the nature of those jobs is changing. Automation first hollowed out clerical and mid-skill roles; now artificial intelligence is beginning to compress even higher-end white-collar work. What was once considered secure employment ~ IT services, customer support, back-office processing ~ is becoming leaner, faster, and far less labour-intensive. The result is not just unemployment. It is something subtler and more destabilising: employment that no longer delivers economic security. Even those who find work are discovering that income growth has failed to keep pace with the cost of living. Housing, healthcare, education, and everyday consumption are rising at rates that outstrip wage increments. The middle-class household, once defined by modest surplus and incremental asset-building, is increasingly operating on a knife edge. This gap is being filled, not by productivity gains, but by borrowing.

Personal credit is no longer confined to aspirational spending; it is financing essentials. A growing share of household income is committed to servicing debt, leaving little room for savings or investment. The middle class is not accumulating capital; it is preserving liquidity. This shift has consequences that extend beyond individual distress. India's post-liberalisation growth model relies heavily on consumption, which accounts for roughly 60 per cent of GDP. When the middle class, its primary engine, begins to pull back, the effects ripple outward. Slower demand translates into weaker business expansion, which in turn feeds back into job creation. What emerges is a feedback loop: fragile jobs produce fragile incomes; fragile incomes suppress demand; weak demand limits the creation of better jobs. Economists from Joan Robinson onward have warned that employment quality matters as much as employment quantity.

India now confronts that reality at scale. The issue is no longer whether jobs exist, but whether they can sustain the economic role assigned to them. The deeper risk is not immediate collapse, but gradual erosion. An economy can withstand inequality; it struggles to function when its core consumers lose purchasing power and confidence simultaneously. India's challenge, therefore, is no longer confined to job creation. It is about restoring the link between work and stability. Without that, the aspiration that has driven three decades of growth may begin to unravel, quietly, but decisively

Threatened by memories, the world choose to forget

As a struggling filmmaker, I find myself watching the world with a kind of discipline d distance ; absorbing, observing, feeling deeply, and yet withholding any public articulation of what it all might mean about us, about the state of our civilization, and about the state of love that we, as humans, spend our lives chasing. But some time ago, I watched a video of Sonam Wangchuk speaking after his release from detention, and that distance quietly collapsed.

What I saw was not an activist, not a figure of resistance, but a human being carrying the visible weight of care. His face was drawn, marked by fatigue; there was a faint, almost fragile smile, the kind that seems less an expression of ease and more an act of endurance. I could see a thousand quiet wounds etched across his face. And yet, there was dignity, an unbroken composure that did not harden into hate, nor dissolve into despair. He spoke gently, almost tenderly, as though the very thing he was fighting for, his mountains, his home, still required softness to be protected. What stayed with me was not what he said, but how he remained: unbitter, without rage, still capable of care and love. It is difficult to understand how someone can move through such strain and not be altered into something unrecognizable to love. And perhaps that is where the unease begins, not in his suffering, but in ours. In how easily we receive such moments, process them, and move on, as though they belong to the ordinary rhythm of things.

As though this quiet erosion of the human spirit, this demand that love must endure struggle to justify itself, is somehow normal. His suffering did not turn into hatred; it remained, stubbornly, a form of love. And in that persistence, something about the rest of us, our ease with forgetting, our fluency in indifference, the quiet coldness of the human heart feels far more unsettling. Why is it that those who love hardest, feel deepest, think most clearly and remember, like elephants, with a quiet and unrelenting fidelity are the ones the world turns against? They are the ones who are made to suffer, to be broken, to be silenced, jailed, even erased.

As though memory itself were a threat, and love, when it refuses to fade, becomes something the world must discipline, its hunger to possess, to command; because a world that can inflict and endure violence often cannot bear the persistence of memory, nor the clarity of those who refuse to forget. Orhan Pamuk is someone who has a deep love affair with his city, Istanbul; his words carry the power of visuals. He has captured memories and emotions of himself and of his city and his people in ways no historian ever could, not just recording the past but inhabiting it. There is something quietly disconcerting about a novelist needing protection. Pamuk was not inciting violence; he was naming it, speaking about histories his country preferred to leave unspoken.

And yet, words were enough to endanger him, to require a body-

guard. It suggests that even language that preserves the past, when it carries the truth of memories, can become a threat in a world that depends on forgetting. It isn't that the world has suddenly turned against memory; what is more unnerving is that, even after extraordinary leaps in science and technology, even as we now build systems of artificial intelligence that can store, process, and simulate vast realms of human knowledge we have barely begun to understand love. We remain uncertain about something far more immediate: how to let another human being live, love, and remember in their own way.

The arc of human evolution appears advanced on the surface, but emotionally and ethically, we circle the same unresolved questions. What happened to Socrates, the silencing of a voice that challenged his time, repeats itself in different forms across generations. It is one of our greatest failures as human beings that a profound artist like Ai Weiwei could be detained for 81 days, not for violence, but for remembering too precisely, for insisting that memory must remain visible. His work does not merely express; it preserves, it records, it refuses disappearance. In giving form to loss, to absence, to lives that might otherwise dissolve into statistics, he turns art into a kind of moral archive. And that is where the discomfort begins.

Because a world that is both comfortable and complicit in wars and human suffering at a



distance begins to resist when memory becomes specific, too close; when it acquires names, faces, and permanence. His art is not loud, it does not argue, it remembers. And in doing so, it denies the world its most convenient escape: forgetting. Perhaps that is why such acts are met not with dialogue, but with containment. Because when memory is held with care, when it is shaped by love and carried into the public realm, it begins to unsettle the very structures that depend on erasure. And so the punishment is not just of the individual, but of what they represent; a refusal to look away and feel nothing. I might sound cynical, but that day may not be far away when the same impulses that drive wars and concentrate power will begin to shape not just the world we inhabit, but the reality we are allowed to remember.

We already live within architectures of algorithms that decide what is seen, what is amplified, what quietly disappears. It is not difficult to imagine a future that resembles the controlled world of Severance or the constructed

consciousness of Westworld. And yet, for all our technological advancement, there remains one limit we have not fully surpassed: we cannot yet erase memory at will. Perhaps that is why, in its absence, the world continues to rely on more visible forms of erasure ~ containment, isolation, slow psychological attrition. What happened to Julian Assange was not just punishment; it was an attempt to exhaust memory itself. To confine a body long enough that the mind begins to dim, that clarity becomes fatigue, that truth becomes too heavy to carry and finally pain engulfs the human. And that may be the most unnerving truth of all: when memory cannot be erased, it is made to suffer until it begins to fade; and then, like Yayoi Kusama, we retreat into an asylum and keep making art just to hold on to ourselves, not because we are broken, but because the world outside is, where those who feel and remember are ostracized, and those who do not are left to rule.

War without mandate places world in peril

The United States now finds itself drawn into yet another conflict in the Middle East, one whose origins are as troubling as its consequences are far-reaching. The decision to wage war against Iran raises profound concerns about legality, prudence, and responsibility. At its core lies an uncomfortable reality: this is a war under taken without an imminent threat, without congressional sanction, and without a clearly defined objective. For a nation that prides itself on constitutional governance, the sidelining of Congress in matters of war is deeply unsettling.

The framers of the Constitution vested in the legislature the authority to declare war precisely to prevent unilateral executive action of this nature. When that safeguard is ignored, the implications extend far beyond procedure. They speak to a deeper erosion of democratic norms. Equally troubling is the absence of compelling evidence that Iran posed an immediate danger to the United States. Nor was there conclusive proof of an operational nuclear capability that might justify preemptive action. In the absence of such justification, the war appears less a necessity than a choice ~ one shaped by external pressures and strategic alignments rather than sober assessment. The lack of clarity surrounding the objectives of this conflict only compounds the problem.

Is the aim to weaken Iran's regime, to secure energy routes, or to reassert regional dominance? Without a clearly articulated goal, military engagement risks becoming an open-ended commitment. History has shown that such ambiguity often leads to mission creep, mounting costs, and diminishing returns. Those costs are already staggering. The war is reportedly draining billions of dollars each day from American coffers. This is occurring at a time when domestic priorities ~ from infrastructure to healthcare ~ remain underfunded. The burden on taxpayers is immense, and the justification increasingly tenuous. Beyond its domestic impact, the war has triggered a cascade of global consequences. Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz has disrupted one of the world's most critical energy corridors. The resulting shortages of oil and gas have reverberated across continents, unsettling economies and deepening existing vulnerabilities. The effects are particularly severe in developing countries. Nations across South and Southeast Asia are grappling with rising energy costs, supply disruptions, and economic instability. Businesses are shutting down, industries are slowing, and unemployment is rising. What began as a regional conflict is rapidly evolving into a global economic crisis. The repercussions are being



felt in the United States as well. Financial markets have reacted sharply to uncertainty, and rising fuel prices are affecting everyday life. Inflationary pressures are intensifying, eroding purchasing power and straining household budgets. The economic ripple effects of this war are proving both immediate and enduring. Even more alarming is the escalation now underway. The decision to deploy ground troops to seize key oil infrastructure represents a dangerous turning point. Military experts have long warned that introducing troops on the ground in such a volatile environment can transform a limited engagement into a prolonged and costly conflict. The shadow of past misadventures looms large. Conflicts that began with confidence and limited aims have often descended into protracted struggles with

heavy human and material costs. The lessons of history are clear, yet they appear to be going unheeded. Compounding these concerns is the lack of clarity in official communication. Instead of transparency, there have been shifting narratives and premature claims of progress. Such inconsistencies erode public trust and undermine the credibility of leadership at a critical moment. Leadership in times of crisis demands more than resolve; it requires judgment and humility. It calls for the willingness to reassess decisions and to acknowledge missteps.

Pride and inflexibility can turn difficult situations into irreversible ones. The current trajectory of the conflict suggests a deepening quagmire. Each escalation narrows the path to resolution and increases the risks involved. The longer the war continues, the greater the toll ~ on lives, on economies,

and on the stability of an already fragile world order. There is, however, an alternative. Diplomacy, often dismissed as a sign of weakness, remains the most viable path forward. It offers the possibility of de-escalation, of negotiated settlement, and of restoring a measure of stability. Engaging in dialogue does not diminish strength; it reflects a mature understanding of the complexities of conflict. The United States has, in the past, demonstrated its capacity for such leadership. It has helped broker peace, build coalitions, and navigate crises through negotiation rather than force. That tradition must now be revived.

Ending this war will not be easy. It will require difficult conversations, concessions, and a willingness to rethink entrenched positions. But the alternative ~ a prolonged and expanding conflict ~ carries far greater risks. The responsibility now rests with the American president. The moment calls for statesmanship of a high order: the courage to step back, to reassess, and to pursue peace with sincerity and resolve. The world is watching, and the stakes could not be higher. History will judge this moment not only by how the war was waged, but by how it was ended. There is still time to choose a different course ~ one guided not by force, but by wisdom.

The mint drink.. for perfect digestion and instant relief

Acharya Balkrishna suggests a simple glass of mint water with lemon and black salt to calm an upset stomach. This natural Ayurvedic drink may help with bloating, gas, indigestion, and even mild IBS symptoms.

If your stomach is giving you trouble after meals, you might want to check your kitchen before running to the pharmacy. Turns out, the humble mint leaf could be your new digestive BFF. Yes, the same fresh green leaves you toss into your chai or garnish your salad with could help soothe your tummy like a pro.

Ayurveda expert Acharya Balkrishna recently shared a super-easy remedy on Facebook that's creating a buzz online. Here's the recipe: take 8-10 fresh mint leaves, crush them, and mix in a glass of water.



Squeeze in half a lemon and sprinkle a pinch of black salt. Drink it slowly.

According to Acharya Balkrishna, this simple drink can improve poor digestion, calm an upset stomach, and even reduce bloating and gas. The combination of mint, lemon, and black salt is thought

to stimulate your digestive system and balance your gut naturally.

Peppermint for IBS? Science gives a nod. If you've ever struggled with irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), which often brings stomach pain, gas, bloating, and irregular bowel habits, mint might help

here too. Research shows that peppermint oil, a concentrated form of the herb, contains menthol, which relaxes the muscles of the digestive tract. This can ease IBS symptoms.

A 2014 review of nine studies including over 700 IBS patients found that peppermint oil capsules significantly improved symptoms compared to a placebo. However, a 2021 study suggested that while peppermint oil might help, more rigorous research is needed to confirm its effects.

Most studies used peppermint oil capsules, not fresh leaves, so the effectiveness of mint water may vary. But it doesn't hurt to try!

Mint for everyday indigestion. Even if IBS isn't your issue, mint could still help with common indigestion, you know,

when food sits too long in your stomach and makes you feel heavy, bloated, or gassy.

Studies suggest peppermint oil can help food move faster through the stomach, reducing discomfort.

Again, most research focuses on peppermint oil rather than raw leaves, but a fresh mint drink is a gentle, natural approach that many people swear by.

How to make the most of your mint

~ Use fresh leaves: Crushing them releases natural oils.

~ Add lemon and black salt: Helps stimulate digestion and balance acidity.

~ Drink it slowly: Let your tummy absorb the benefits.

~ Try consistently: Regular use may help prevent bloating and digestive discomfort over time.

US embassy warns of Iran-linked attacks in Baghdad within 48 hours, tells Americans: 'Leave now'

Washington, Apr 3: A former US military veteran has been accused of carrying out assassinations for the United Arab Emirates and has made millions of dollars in the process, according to a report by the Associated Press.

According to Anssaf Ali Mayo, a Yemeni lawmaker, Abraham Golan was hired as a mercenary to kill him back in 2015. He said it was part of a larger effort by the UAE to eliminate people who opposed them politically.

The court documents state that Golan started a private military contracting firm called Spear Operations group in San Diego along with a former Navy SEAL, Issac Gilmore. Many of their employees were former US special forces operators.

The lawsuit claims that they reached an agreement with the UAE to carry out "targeted assassinations" on behalf of the Emirates and were allegedly getting paid \$1.5 million per month along with bonuses for successful killings in Yemen. However, Mayo has only accused two military veterans and the founder of Spear Operations of war crimes, crimes against humanity and an attempted extrajudicial killing. Golan, Gilmore and another US Army Special Forces member Dale Comstock have admitted to their roles in the assassination campaign and including the attempt to kill Mayo.

"There was a targeted assassination program in Yemen," Golan told



Buzzfeed in 2018. "I was running it. We did it. It was sanctioned by the UAE within the coalition."

Although the UAE has acknowledged supporting counterterrorism efforts in Yemen, it denies ever targeting political figures there.

Although Mayo is not a US resident, a US law called the Alien Tort Statute allows foreigners to sue in American courts when international law has been violated.

Daniel McLaughlin, legal director at the Center for Justice & Accountability, stated that this lawsuit underscores the need to hold former US military members accountable for illegal actions.

"Our government has a duty to regulate how former members of our military use their training and know-how, and a responsibility to hold them accountable when they break the law," he said in a statement.

In 2015, the UAE joined a regional coalition, backed by the United States, to intervene in Yemen's civil war, which had erupted after

Iran-backed Houthi rebels took over the capital, Sanaa, and large parts of northern Yemen.

The contractors have openly discussed the mercenary mission in media interviews, revealing that their target was Mayo, the local leader of an Islamist group called Al-Islah. While the UAE classifies Al-Islah as a terrorist organisation, many experts argue that it is simply a legitimate political party that has openly criticised the UAE's agenda in Yemen.

On December 29, 2015, Mayo claims that a contractor named Spear planted explosives inside his office building in the southern city of Aden. Mayo narrowly escaped, fleeing the building just minutes before it blew up. Fearing for his life, he later left Yemen and took refuge in Saudi Arabia.

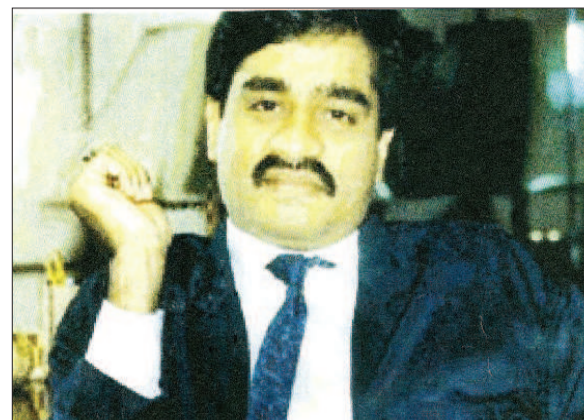
"Spear tried to assassinate me ten years ago. I survived but have been forced to live in exile separated from my family," Mayo said in a statement.

Succession battle in D-Company: ISI orchestrates power balance amid Dawood's ill-health

New Delhi, April 3 : Dawood Ibrahim is back in the news following the release of Dhurandhar: The Revenge. Dawood is shown as a bedridden man, and this is contrary to the scores of images that one gets to see in which the 1993 blasts accused is shown as a young man.

For the ISI, Dawood is a massive asset as he controls both the narcotics and fake currency syndicates. While both these businesses are thriving even today, the fact is that the ISI had to step in a couple of years to prevent the syndicate from splitting into two.

An official said that a rift had developed within the syndicate as to who would head it, owing to Dawood's poor health. Dawood Ibrahim, who largely stays indoors, is not in the best of health, due to which he cannot oversee the business. The ISI and the syndicate have managed to keep Dawood's health-related issues under wraps for long as they do not want the members to get demoralised.



With Dawood largely out of action, the battle for succession was between his very close aide Chhota Shakeel and the family members comprising his brother, son, wife and son-in-law. The ISI realised that sorting out the succession battle was important as it could not afford a split in the Dawood syndicate. For the ISI, it is about the funds that it gets from this syndicate, which in turn is used entirely to fund terror activities against India.

When Dawood fled India and sought shelter in Pakistan, he had to strike a deal with the Pakistani agencies. The ISI realised that Dawood was desper-

ate for cover and also wanted his narcotics trade to run hassle-free. Almost all the drugs that Dawood smuggles are routed through Pakistan, and the ISI had threatened to block this route.

The deal that was finally struck was that Dawood would cough up 40 per cent of the income that he generated from trading in narcotics and also by circulating fake Indian currency. That arrangement continues to date, and the ISI uses all these funds to run its terror outfits aimed at striking on Indian soil. A split in the syndicate meant that the ISI would not get these funds.

Moreover, a broken syndi-

cate would never have functioned the way it does today. There are four key players in the Dawood syndicate. They are his brother Anees Ibrahim, trusted aide Shakeel, son-in-law Junaid Miandad and son, Moon Nawaz. Among them, Shakeel is the most important player as he single-handedly oversees operations in India. Losing him meant losing the Indian market. Moreover, all the players in India look up to Shakeel as their boss. The family, however, insisted someone from them should head the syndicate. The ISI managed to get them together and handed out individual roles. It today runs more as a corporate firm, with Shakeel heading the India operations and Anees looking after the overseas business. It was also decided that Junaid, who is known for his business acumen, would handle the finances. Dawood's wife, Mahjabeen, had, however, wanted her son, Moeen, to head the empire. However, he is considered to be too soft and focuses more on religious affairs.

Iran-Israel War: Iran warns UN security council against 'provocative action on Hormuz'

Tehran, April 3: Iran warned the UN Security Council against any "provocative action", ahead of a scheduled vote on a draft resolution on the Strait of Hormuz that ended up being postponed.

"Any provocative action by the aggressors and their supporters, including in the UN Security Council regarding the situation in the Strait of Hormuz, will only complicate the situation," Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said. Mr. Araghchi was speaking ahead of a scheduled Security Council vote on a draft resolution mandating a force to protect shipping through the Strait of Hormuz Friday (April 3, 2026).

It was later announced that the vote was postponed, with no new date scheduled.

The Strait of Hormuz, a shipping lane vital to global energy flows, has been all but shut since the United States and Israel launched strikes against Iran on February 28.



The 15-member body was set to vote on a draft resolution brought by Bahrain on authorising the use of "defensive" force to protect shipping in Hormuz from Iranian attacks, according to the official programme.

The draft resolution was backed by the U.S. and the Gulf countries hardest hit by the virtual blockade, but member states including Russia, China and France had objected to earlier drafts.

'This is not our war': Starmer says UK will not be drawn into Iran conflict as Trump threatens NATO exit

The British Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Wednesday reiterated that the United Kingdom will not be drawn into the ongoing US-Iran conflict, saying "this is not our war" and joining it "is not in our national interest". Addressing concerns over the impact of the conflict, Starmer said that the most effective way to support the cost of living in Britain is "to push for de-escalation in the Middle East, and a reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, which is such a vital route for energy." He further stressed that the UK is exploring each and every diplomatic avenue available to restore "freedom of navigation, guarantee the safety of trapped ships and seafarers, and resume the movement of vital commodities." His remarks came amid US President Donald Trump's threat



to pull his country out of the NATO alliance over Iran war differences. According to The Telegraph, Trump

said he is "seriously considering" pulling out of the 32-member security alliance after they refused to join his war against Iran.

Trump again called the alliance a "paper tiger" and added that the US membership of the defence treaty was "beyond reconsideration". "I was never swayed by NATO.

I always knew they were a paper tiger, and Putin knows that too, by the way," the UK English daily quoted Trump as saying. Trump had called upon NATO allies and other countries dependent on the Strait of Hormuz to join the US efforts to reopen the chokepoint waterway. However, none responded positively and refused to be drawn into an active conflict.

Rights body slams Pakistan fuel price hike amid surging inflation

Islamabad, April 3: Pakistan's Human Rights Council (HRC) on Friday strongly criticised the government's steep increase in petrol and diesel prices, warning that the move would further burden citizens already grappling with rising inflation and economic hardship.

According to the rights body, the decision to take petroleum products to their historical highest levels comes at a time when the public is already grappling with severe inflation and economic pressure, raising fears that the purchasing power of ordinary citizens would be further eroded.

The remarks came after the Pakistan government announced a sharp increase in fuel prices, with petrol rising by 43 per cent and high-speed



diesel (HSD) by 55 per cent, according to local media reports.

The price of petrol has been raised by Pakistani Rupees (PKR) 137.23 per litre from PKR 321.17 to PKR 458.41, while the price of HSD has been increased by PKR 184.49 per litre from PKR 335.86 to PKR 520.35. The

price of kerosene has been raised by PKR 34.08 to PKR 457.80, Pakistan's leading daily Dawn reported.

Expressing concerns, the HRC of Pakistan said that "using regional or global tensions as a basis for an extraordinary price hike does not provide adequate justification, particularly in the context where oil

supplies in the global market have not been completely disrupted, and the country has access to alternative energy sources."

It noted that an increase of this magnitude of petroleum products across Pakistan does not appear to align with the requirements of policy transparency and public interest.

"This measure will not only further intensify inflationary pressures but will also directly affect the daily lives of the common man through additional burdens in the transport, essential goods, and services sectors, which negatively impact basic human rights, especially the right to a dignified standard of living," the rights body stressed.

The HRC of Pakistan called on the government to urgently

US bill targets permanent Moon outpost by 2030

Washington, April 3 : A US Congressman introduced legislation directing NASA to establish the first elements of a permanent lunar outpost by 2030, asserting that the move is critical to sustaining American leadership in space amid rising competition from China.

Congressman Keith Self unveiled the bill a day after the Artemis II mission lifted off, marking the first crewed flight to lunar orbit in over five decades. The proposal seeks to amend existing US space law and sets a deadline of December 31, 2030, for the initial outpost.

"Last night, America reminded the world that we are the greatest space-faring nation on earth," Self said. "But a victory lap is not a strategy. If we are serious about maintaining American leadership in space, we need boots on



the Moon. Permanently. That is what this legislation demands."

The bill directs the NASA Administrator to establish the initial infrastructure at the Moon's south pole. The region is considered strategically important due to the presence of water ice, which can be converted into rocket fuel, and deposits

of helium-3 and rare earth elements. Self described the lunar effort as an economic as well as strategic imperative. "The Moon is not just a destination. It is the foundation for an entirely new American industrial frontier," he said. "Lunar resources will drive the next generation of space manufacturing, mining, and construction."

The legislation comes amid intensifying competition with China National Space Administration, which has publicly outlined plans to establish a lunar research station in the same region before the end of the decade.

"The CCP is not a partner in space. They are a competitor, and they are playing to win," Self said. "International law on lunar resources is unsettled. The nation that physically establishes a presence on the surface will define the rules for everyone else."

Seagram's Royal Stag Packaged Drinking Water Launches Its New 'Live It Large' Campaign Featuring Rohit Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah, Badshah, Sidharth Malhotra, Naga Chaitanya, and Punal Dhare

Visakhapatnam, April 3: Seagram's Royal Stag Packaged Drinking Water announced the launch of its new brand campaign, Live It Large. Marking a significant evolution in the brand's journey, this campaign brings alive the fearless and expressive attitude of today's generation - Generation Large - that strives to re-define the paths to success. Featuring an eclectic mix of icons across genres - Rohit Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah, Badshah, Sidharth Malhotra, Naga Chaitanya, and Punal Dhare, each exemplifying the fearless attitude and confident spirit of the brand's Live It Large philosophy.

Set in the 'Land of Large'-a vibrant celebration of modern India-the campaign film journeys across regions to showcase how every part of India Lives It Large through its own cultural lens: from the Tashan of North India to South's vibrant blend of tech and celebration, the music of the East, and the rustic vibrance of the West. Each moment embodies the bold belief that out here, large is the only way to live. The film captures the essence of modern India through a fresh, vibrant, and culturally nuanced lens, reinforcing Royal Stag's position as a brand that continues to inspire the nation to dream big and Live It Large. Through these diverse regional celebrations, the



campaign film brings to life the brand's ethos - "yahan, bus large chalta-hai!"-encapsulating the unstoppable energy and optimism of India's New Generation - Generation Large, where ambition takes many forms and success is no longer defined by a single path. Royal Stag reinforces its role as a catalyst for inspiration, encouraging millions to embrace who they are, where they come from, and the dreams they choose to chase.

Debasree Dasgupta, Chief Marketing Officer, Pernod Ricard Indiashared "Royal Stag has always celebrated the spirit of dreaming, achieving, and Living It Large. With our new campaign, we are taking this philosophy a step further-capturing the energy, passion, and cultural vibrancy of today's Generation and embodies the ethos of this new generation, Generation Large. By bringing together six icons from different fields and regions, we're showing that Living It Large isn't about conforming to one definition-it's

about owning your journey. This campaign captures how every corner of India celebrates ambition through its own cultural lens. It will give further impetus to the brand's transformational journey as it transcends from being a category leader to a cultural icon continues to inspire India to think large, dream large, and Live It Large."

Actor Sidharth Malhotra expressed his excitement about the partnership, saying: "Royal Stag is all about what I believe in, the courage to try new things and the drive to Live It Large. It's more than a brand, it's an attitude that celebrates passion, ambition, and pushing yourself to the next level. I'm excited to be part of a journey that inspires people to dream bigger and live bolder."

Rapper Badshah shared, "Living large is all about owning who you are, unapologetically. Doesn't matter where you start from-what matters is the confidence and the hustle you carry. Royal Stag

stands for that same belief, and that's why I vibe with it. Together, we're here to celebrate individuality and push people to chase their journey, their way."

Indian pacer Jasprit Bumrah, exclusively managed by RISE Worldwide, said, "To me, living large is about showing up fully every day - with discipline, belief through tough spells, and the joy of giving your all. Royal Stag's Live It Large campaign reflects that mindset - it's not just about big moments, but how you approach each one."

Actor Naga Chaitanya reflected on the collaboration: "Royal Stag is a brand that stays rooted in culture while constantly moving forward, and that's what makes it so relevant today. I truly connect with this philosophy, and I'm excited to be part of a brand that reflects these values and connects so meaningfully with today's youth."

Gamer Punal Dhare added: "Royal Stag embodies the fearless spirit that drives every passionate dreamer. For me, my passion has become my profession. I have broken barriers, challenged stereotypes and redefined success on my own terms. For me, living large is about seizing every opportunity, celebrating every milestone big or small. This is just the beginning of something extraordinary."

Raakaasa movie review

Cast - Sangeeth Sobhan, Nayan Sarika, Getup Srinu, Tanikella Bharani, Brahmaji, Ashish Vidyarthi, Vennela Kishore, Rajsekhar Aningi, Raadhya, Annapurnaamma, Rohan Roy and others

Director - Manasa Sharma
Producer - Niharika Konidela & Umesh Kumar Bansal
Banner - Pink Elephant Pictures & Zee Studios

Music - Anudeep Dev
After delivering a blockbuster with 'Committee Kurrullu' in 2024 as a producer, Niharika Konidela, teamed up with Sangeeth Sobhan and the debutant director, Manasa Sharma, for a comedy fantasy thriller film, Raakaasa. The film instantly raised expectations when it was announced, and its promotional content promised an intriguing theatrical experience. After aggressive promotion over the last few weeks, the team released the film in theatres today. Did Sangeeth Sobhan score yet another hit film after the super-successful 'Mad' and the moderately successful 'Mad Square'? Did Niharika Konidela, continue her success streak as a producer? Did the debutant director, Manasa Sharma, come up with an engaging film? How did Nayan Sarika, do in the female lead role? Did the comedy in the film have the potential to work out well with the audience this summer? Let's figure it out with a detailed analysis.

What is it about?
Era Babu Aka Veeru(Sangeeth Sobhan) returns to his village from the USA to marry his childhood girlfriend. But, immediately after arriving, he gets to know that she is getting married to someone else. After trying his best to break the marriage with no luck, Era Babu, gets drunk and ends up dozing off all night at a deserted and haunted fort in the village. Why is a big fort in the village, deserted? Is there anyone living in the fort? What challenges did Era Babu, face after dozing off all night near the fort? How did Era Babu, chase the mystery around the fort and the people/person, living in the fort?
Performances:
Sangeeth Sobhan did a very good job with his performance and comedy timing throughout the film. Especially, during the initial portions of the second half, his effortless timing and the expressions in close-up shots, were a treat to watch. However, he may



have to start doing films in multiple genres to avoid getting typecast in only comedy films. Nayan Sarika did an ok job as the lead actress. Raadhya did a cameo and she did an ok job with her performance. There's nothing much for both actresses to do in the roles that were not author-backed. Getup Srinu, got a full-length role and he managed to generate a few laughs with his usual timing and mimicking skills. Vennela Kishore generated a few laughs in the second half. The writing for Getup Srinu & Vennela Kishore characters was over the top but both the actors with their comedy timing, made the audience entertained at a few places. Brahmaji was not utilised well. There was a lot of scope to generate good comedy on the character he played but the potential was left untapped due to the lacklustre writing. Tanikella Bharani, Ashish Vidyarthi and Annapurnaamma, made their presence felt in crucial roles.
Technicalities:
Anudeep Dev's work as music director is one of the major let-downs. The film has four songs and all of them were below-par. Also, the background score for the film is too loud in many places. Editing by Anwar Ali, was alright. He ensured the film had a crisp runtime. Production design and art department deserve a special mention for a neatly designed fort set along with stunning set props during the 'adventure' episode in the second half. Raju Edurolu's cinematography in the second half of the film is commendable. Production values by Pink Elephant Pictures were good. Let's discuss about the

writer and the director, Manasa Sharma's work in detail in the analysis space.
Positives:
1.? ?A Few Comedy Portions
2.? ?Sangeeth Sobhan's Performance
Negatives:
1.? ?Lack of Novelty
2.? ?Climax
3.? ?Loud Background Score
4.? ?Not So Engaging First Half
Analysis:
When a young producer who previously produced critically acclaimed commercial success films like 'Committee Kurrullu', a young debutant director and a promising young hero in the lead role, team up for a fantasy comedy entertainer, the very least the audience expects from the film is a touch of freshness in writing and execution, isn't it? But, what we get to see in 'Raakaasa', is a beaten to death story line which resembles many films in the past, including the recently released, Shambala, and the execution which again resembles many films in the past, including Megastar Chiranjeevi's 'Anji(2004)'. The film has some comedy portions which brought a few laugh-out-loud moments, especially, a couple of comedy episodes in the second half, worked out well. But, apart from those few laugh-out-loud moments, it offers nothing which we have not seen in the past. The first twenty to twenty-five minutes in the second half of the film have a few genuinely engaging moments. Yes, it resembles, Anji(2004), but the adventure part along with Sangeeth Sobhan's effortless performance and comedy timing, during the initial por-

tions of the second half was thoroughly entertaining. The production design team deserves a special mention, for coming up with a fort set and set props that look real, within a limited budget. The entire second half was shot in the fort set but the director and her team ensured the audience, would not feel monotonous.

The biggest letdown in the film is the climax. After showing the antagonist as a cruel and blood thirsty monster, the writer and the director, Manasa Sharma, for some reason decided to end the film by giving a humane and positive backstory to the antagonist character. Why can't an antagonist be an out-and-out monster? Is it necessary for everyone to have a positive side? It is surprising to see a young filmmaker resort to such beaten to death backstory in the name of bringing the required emotional angle to the film. Another drawback of the film is its story which lacked freshness. 'A young man fighting against a blind faith which the villagers believe in for thousands of years', is the core point of the film. Didn't we see many films with a similar plot in the past? In fact, just last December, we saw a film titled 'Shambala', which has a similar storyline. The only difference is that, Shambala, was dealt in a serious tone and the makers of 'Raakaasa', dealt it with comedy.

It is high time for the young filmmakers to start staying away from the cliched plots and come up with story lines which are novel and unique. Also, the first half of the film offers very few entertaining moments. We can see the writer and the director's desperate attempt to make us laugh but a majority of the gags did not work. A cliché gag on 'Brahmins and Biryani' in a film in 2026? No, it's not funny anymore. Overall, Raakaasa, has a few genuinely laugh-out-loud moments, especially in the second half but the lack of freshness in writing and execution, a dull first half along with loud background score, worked against the film. You may give it a try watching it in the theatre if you don't mind catching up on a film with a few comedy portions here and there but it gives you a Déjà vu feeling throughout.



Why Nani Is the Only Consistent Hero in Tollywood

In recent years, the way people watch movies has changed a lot. Earlier, audiences used to go to theatres just to see their favorite stars, no matter how the movie was. But now, things are different. Today's audience mostly cares about good content. They decide to watch a film only if the story and reviews are positive. Otherwise, they prefer watching movies on OTT platforms. Because of this change, even big star movies are not getting strong openings.



Many popular actors are struggling to bring audiences to theatres. Films of actors like Varun Tej, Ram, and Nithiin did not perform well at the box office recently. Their movies failed to create strong buzz before release. However, one actor who is standing strong in this situation is Nani. He has been very consistent with his films after the Covid period. Most of his movies opened well in theatres and received decent talk from the audience. His films are also getting good response on OTT

platforms. Streaming platforms like Netflix and Amazon Prime Video are showing great interest in buying his films for high prices. This clearly shows his strong market value. Another important point is that Nani does not depend on big directors or heavy promotions. His name alone is enough to bring people to theatres. This makes him different from many other young actors in Tollywood. Right now, many actors are facing ups and downs, and their market is not stable. But Nani has built a strong connection with the audience. Because of this, he is considered the top crowd-pulling actor among the current generation of Telugu heroes.

Ranbir's Ramayana Reminding Rajamouli's Baahubali?

While the teaser of "Ramayana", especially that of Ranbir Kapoor's Rama character, is doing well with more than 10 million views on YouTube alone, people started comparing the visuals of the film with the likes of Adipurush, Varanasi, and other movies. In that process, some have identified that most of the visuals and the scenes shown in this Nitish Tiwari directed Ramayana are actually resembling the "Baahubali" movie. Here's an interesting observation. Most of the Ramayana teaser shots remind us of the film Baahubali. In that SS Rajamouli film, actually, Prabhas leaves the palace, and here Rama leaves the palace with Sita and stuff, with lots of people outside and crying. Similarly, we have the same mountains, ice-capped cliffs, waterfalls,



and also the Pushpaka Vimanam, all seen in Baahubali, though in a different context. There's a fight on snow-capped mountains in Baahubali, and the same is there in the Ramayana teaser too. While Ravana goes on the Pushpaka Vimana here, there, Prabhas-Anushka were seen on that in a song. How does this visual clash happen? This is because Rajamouli got heavily inspired by the

texts of Ramayana to write and make scenes of Baahubali. And, now that the original Ramayana is coming, the young generation might see this differently, feeling that Ramayana makers got inspired by Baahubali. However, the truth is that Ramayana and the Mahabharata always inspired filmmakers to write lots of their stories, and that's why parallels come out.

Vijay Devarakonda Enters on Horse, slashes the Goons

Known for his abundant talent, hero Vijay Devarakonda is looking forward to entertaining Telugu audiences with some amazing films, while his previous outings like Kingdome haven't lived up to expectations. This time, he's coming up with "Ranabali" under the direction of his Taxiwalla maker Rahul Sankrityan. The good thing is that the film is coming right after the hero's wedding with starlet Rashmika Mandanna, and that created lots of hype around this movie.



Other day, a clip shot from the shooting spot of the movie got leaked, and we have to say that it's just doubling up the expectations. Riding a horse and sporting that terrific moustache look, Vijay aka Ranabali enters the scene into a pre-independent era house, where some goons are hiding, and they run away the minute he comes. Also, the Rayalaseema dialogue uttered by the actor are getting applause from all circles. Earlier, Vijay tried Godavari slang in Family Star, and

now this is another such attempt, while he's known for his trademark Telangana slang earlier. All said and done, it looks like Vijay Devarakonda and Rashmika are heading to give the audience a proper vintage drama that's set in British-era Rayalaseema, thus not only bringing lots of untold real drama to the screen, but also delivering that fresh and content-driven cinema. However, fans are a little bit worried about these leaked videos from the sets and are requesting the producers to be more careful, because these titbits might kill the kick out of it.

BIKER movie review

Cast - Sharwanand, Dr. Rajasekhar, Malavika Nair, Atul Kulkarni, Brahmaji, Shashank and others

Director - Abhilash Reddy
Producer - Vamsi Krishna Reddy, Pramod Uppalapati
Banner - UV Creations
Music - Ghibran

A section of the audience consistently gravitates toward sports dramas. Capitalising on that interest, Biker positions itself as India's first motocross film and generated notable buzz through its promotions. Starring Sharwanand and directed by Abhilash Reddy, the film arrives with clear intent. The question is whether it lives up to the promise.

What it is about:
Set in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, the story revolves around former motocross racer Sunil Narayan (Rajasekhar), who dreams of putting India on the global motocross map. He raises his son Vikas Narayan (Sharwanand) to become a top racer and fulfill that dream. Vikas grows into a skilled rider, fully driven by his father's vision. But after a dangerous accident, and under pressure from his love interest (Malavika Nair), he walks away from racing. What follows is the emotional and professional conflict, will he return to the sport, and will his father accept him again?
Performances:
Sharwanand fits perfectly into the role of Vikas. He brings sincerity to the character, especially in portraying the discipline and mindset of a racer. His



physical transformation and body language add authenticity. He also handles the emotional portions well, particularly in father-son moments. Rajasekhar, as Sunil Narayan (aka Bullet Sunil), delivers a composed and mature performance. Known for his intense roles, he takes a restrained approach here, which works. His character firmly believes that nothing comes before sport, and he carries that conviction effectively. The emotional scenes between him and Sharwanand in the latter half stand out. Malavika Nair, Brahmaji, Tulasi, Atul Kulkarni and others do their parts well, though their roles are limited in scope.
Technicalities:
For a film like this, technical strength is crucial and Biker gets a lot right here. The cinematography by J. Yuvraj is a major highlight. The racing sequences are shot with

great energy and clarity, pulling the audience right into the track. Editing by Anil Pasala is decent. The non-linear narrative keeps things engaging in parts, though a few segments feel unnecessarily complex and could have been simplified. Music by Ghibran works more in the background than in songs. The background score elevates several sequences, but the songs don't leave much impact. Production values by UV Creations are solid and clearly visible on screen, giving the film a polished look.
Positives
Racing Sequences
Cinematography
Background Score
Performances
Negatives
Weak Conflicts
Flat Drama
Songs
Analysis:
How often do we see a sincerely made sports drama film in Telugu which is

very true to its genre? A very few and far in between, right? Biker is one of those very few films. The director, Abhilash Reddy, took the backdrop of motocross (i.e. racing off-road motorbikes through dirt) and blended it well with emotional drama between a father and son. He also ensured in getting first-rate output from all the technical departments. The unique concept, technical values along with strong performances from Sharwanand and Rajasekhar, made the film fairly engaging, although at times the predictable narration dominates the freshness the motocross backdrop offers. Sharwanand seems to have put a lot of effort into the motocross racing episodes. The director deserves a special mention for doing enough research on the backdrop and Sharwanand deserves equal accolades for getting the right body language of a racer. The technical finesse along with the lead actor's efforts ensured the racing episodes left a breathtaking impact on the audience. Especially, the racing episodes during the initial parts of the film were first-rate and very engaging. We can see the amount of extra effort put in by the action choreographers while filming the racing episodes and all those efforts worked in favour of the film. The film runs on the equation between the father and the son and both Sharwanand and Rajasekhar along with Atul Kulkarni, made sure to keep the audience hooked with their per-

formances and covered the flaws and predictability in writing. If you have seen the two earlier works (Web Series - Loser and Movie - Maa Nanna Superhero) of the director, Abhilash Reddy, you will know that his strong forte is emotional drama. In Biker too, we can see the strong emotional drama but in most parts, it appeared very predictable and convenient. A bit more care in getting the emotional depth right with fresh ideas would have made the film even better. The film of this genre works out very well with the audience when it contains enough edge-of-the-seat highs. The director and the team came up with neatly executed racing episodes but a bit more care in giving the edge-of-the-seat thrills and emotional highs would have taken the film to the next level. Also, better care in writing should have been taken with Malavika Nair's track. The writing and execution of her character appeared very cliched and it did not help the film in any way apart from adding to the runtime. Overall, Biker may not be path-breaking but it definitely is a well-made film with the right intentions. You can safely give the film a try in watching it in theatres for the motocross backdrop, well-shot racing episodes and good performances from Sharwanand, Rajasekhar and Atul Kulkarni. However, a bit more effort in writing to avoid the predictability factor, would have made it a very memorable film.

Irfan Pathan helped me make my debut for J&K: Aquib Nabi

Mumbai: Aquib Nabi, the Jammu and Kashmir speedster, recounted his humble beginnings, drawing inspiration from Parvez Rasool and Dale Steyn, and credited former Indian cricketer Irfan Pathan for his debut for the state. Delhi Capitals pacer Aquib Nabi opened up on his childhood and what drove him to become a fast bowler.



"I started playing cricket with tennis balls when I was in 5th or 6th grade. There was no specific place in Baramulla for practice. So, we used to play on the road or on a small school ground. I used to watch Dale Steyn a lot when I was young. The way he swung the ball at such high pace inspired me to become a fast bowler and hopefully, play for India one day. I used to get scolded a lot by my father for constantly playing cricket because I didn't have his support. He wanted me to become a doctor," Nabi told 'JioStar'. On the inspiration he got from Parvez Rasool and Irfan Pathan, Nabi said, "Parvez Rasool made his debut for India by performing well for RCB in the IPL. I was very motivated to play for India after seeing him do that. Parvez bhai is one of us, hailing from a local village in Jammu and Kashmir. I made my mark for the first time during my Under-19 days when I was chosen for trials of the Jammu and Kashmir cricket team. I didn't have

spiked shoes at that time, so I borrowed shoes from a senior. "He had his trials in the first half, and I had mine in the second half. I made my junior debut for Jammu and Kashmir by wearing spikes that I had borrowed from a friend. When Irfan bhai joined as the mentor of Jammu and Kashmir, I was in the Under-23 team, and my performances there got his attention. He helped me make my debut for the Jammu and Kashmir senior team. He used to guide me a lot by giving me tips, and was very helpful. He is a legend of Team India, and I had a great experience with Irfan bhai," he said. Nabi was picked by the Delhi Capitals for Rs 8.2 crore in the mini auction held in Dubai last year. On the emotional moment of getting picked in the IPL auction after his Duleep Trophy heroics, Nabi said, "This year, I made a rare record in the Duleep Trophy while representing the North Zone team. I

picked up four wickets in four consecutive balls. After that, my name was all over the media. Once that happened, I got confidence that I might get picked in the IPL auction. "On auction day, I was at home with my family, watching the auction. When my name came up, for a few seconds, no one picked up the paddle. So I thought it's okay, I will work hard and make sure I don't go unsold. But after a few seconds, the teams picked up the paddle. Everyone at home got emotional. It was years of hard work coming to fruition. The price tag pressure isn't there. I just wanted to play in the IPL and now want to make a name for myself and play for India," he added. Former India cricketer Irfan Pathan recalled the first time he saw Nabi and what impressed him, "I saw Aquib Nabi for the first time in 2018. When I was the mentor of the Jammu and Kashmir cricket team, we wanted to have

a strong group of eight to ten fast bowlers. We wanted to make a big group, and Aquib was one of the key fast bowlers. When I saw him for the first time, the most important thing was that he used to bowl long spells, especially in Under-23 and junior cricket. He was very impressive. Secondly, his ability to move the ball late was very impressive."

Speaking on why Nabi's bowling is effective despite not bowling at a speed of 140 kmph, he said, "The bowling action remaining within the body plane or structure is something I stress on a lot. Aquib Nabi has that bowling action as well. His hand does not go out of his shoulder. When that happens, your line automatically improves. Nabi's line is amazing. Secondly, his seam position. "The zero-seam position, especially with the new ball, generates a lot of movement. Since his wrist position is amazing, he bowls with a straight seam. Many international bowlers have a straight seam, including the likes of Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami. Aquib Nabi may not have a speed of 140 kmph, but the way he bowls, it quickens off the surface after pitching. Bowling close to the stumps, he can swing it away consistently and also surprise batters with the one that comes in, and that is a major strength of Aquib Nabi," he said.

IPL 2026: Delhi LG meets MI and DC players ahead of Saturday's double-header

New Delhi: Ahead of Saturday's double-header clash between Delhi Capitals and Mumbai Indians in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026, Delhi Lieutenant Governor (LG) Taranjit Singh Sandhu visited the Arun Jaitley Stadium and interacted with players from both sides, extending his best wishes for a spirited contest while highlighting the unifying power of sport and its role in fostering national pride.



"Visited the Arun Jaitley Stadium today and interacted with players ahead of tomorrow's much-anticipated IPL encounter between @DelhiCapitals and @mipaltan. Met @akshar2026, Captain of Delhi Capitals, along with the team, to extend my best wishes for a sportsmanlike and spirited performance as they play their second match of the season at their home ground. "Also interacted with @ImRo45 and @surya_14kumar from the Mumbai Indians squad. It is always encouraging to see such world-class talent and experience representing the very best of Indian cricket. Beyond the competition, sports remain a powerful medium to foster unity and a shared sense of national pride. May the match be a celebration of true sportsmanship and a thrilling experience for all fans in

the National Capital," LG Delhi posted on X, formerly Twitter. Both teams come after winning their opening encounters. On Saturday afternoon, it will be more than just another league game in IPL 2026. The first game of the tournament's opening double-header is a high-stakes contest between a side seeking winning consistency at home and a five-time champion side that has historically thrived in New Delhi.

Since 2022, MI have won five of seven encounters between the two sides, including both meetings last

season. Even at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, MI have prevailed in three of the last four games against DC. With the Met Department issuing a yellow alert for Saturday, Axar Patel's men - provided the rain stays away -- will need to script something different to begin their home leg on a high. DC managed just one home win here in five attempts last season, and the urgency to change that begins now. DC's fortunes with the bat will hinge significantly on KL Rahul, who bagged a golden duck against Lucknow Super Giants.

Klaassen guides SRH to 65-run win as KKR slump continues

Heinrich Klaassen's experience-driven half-century guided Sunrisers Hyderabad back to winning ways as they thrashed Kolkata Knight Riders by 65 runs in their IPL clash here on Thursday. Geographic Reference



Blessing Muzarabani grabbed 4/41 but it was Klaassen's composed 52 off 35 balls that held Sunrisers Hyderabad's innings together as they posted a competitive 226/8 after KKR opted to bowl. Chasing the daunting target, KKR never found momentum as they were bundled out for 161 and slumped to their second successive defeat, having lost their opening match to Mumbai Indians at the Wankhede. Boasting a batting-heavy lineup in Finn Allen, IPL's costliest overseas buy Cameron Green (Rs 25.20-crore), Rinku Singh and Sunil Narine, the target at the free-flowing Eden looked par. It needed a partnership in the middle but there were clear signs of a lack of chemistry in the KKR line-up as they lasted just 16 overs. That their mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy leaked 25 runs in one over and returned with 0/31 from two overs also hurt them. Narine (0/39) also returned wicketless from

his four overs. For SRH, left-arm pacer Jaydev Unadkat took 3/21 from three overs that included the wicket of Rahane, while Ehsan Malinga (2/14 in two overs) and Nitish Kumar Reddy (2/17 in two overs) were also effective. KKR's veteran skipper Ajinkya Rahane's painful eight off 10 balls once again raised questions over the team's bold leadership call, while partnerships failed to materialise. Youngster Angkrish Raghuvanshi showed promise with a breezy 52 (29 balls; 6x4, 2x6) but there was no support from the other end. Fresh from his 100 not out in the T20 World Cup semifinal against South Africa a month ago on the same wicket, Kiwi opener Finn Allen showed early sparks in a seven-ball 28 (4x4, 2x6). But once he fell to Harsh Dubey giving a return catch, the innings

unravelling quickly. KKR's star recruit Green endured another failure, run out for two, following a chaotic mix-up with Raghuvanshi who played the shot. But Malinga stopped the ball with his foot and Green was off the crease. Raghuvanshi started walking but review showed Green hasn't crossed so the Aussie had to depart. The confusion did not end there. Raghuvanshi, who top-scored for KKR, was involved in yet another mix-up and was run out, summing up KKR's plight. Half the side was back in the pavilion soon after Anukul Roy's dismissal, leaving the chase in tatters. Vice-captain Rinku Singh offered brief resistance with a 35 off 25 balls, but his dismissal to Reddy ended any lingering hopes. Walking in after a dramatic middle-over

slide from being 110/1 in eight overs to 118/4 in 9.2 overs, Klaassen rebuilt the innings with calm assurance, ensuring the run rate never dipped out of control.

Even as boundaries dried up, the seasoned South African smartly rotated strike and ran hard between the wickets, keeping SRH around the 11-run mark alongside Nitish Kumar Reddy (39; 24 balls) in a match-deciding 82 runs alliance off 53 balls. The duo put on 50 run together in just 36 balls, with Klaassen striking four fours and a six in his composed 52 off 35 deliveries as they maintained the tempo set by their opening duo of Travis Head (46; 21 balls) and Abhishek sharma (48; 21 balls). The SRH opening duo raced to an 82-run opening stand in just 34 deliveries, propelling the side to nearly 15 runs per over as KKR's inexperience with the ball started to haunt them. Brief Scores: Sunrisers Hyderabad: 226 for 8 in 20 overs (Heinrich Klaassen 52; Blessing Muzarabani 4/41) beat Kolkata Knight Riders: 161 all out in 16 overs (Angkrish Raghuvanshi 52; Jaydev Unadkat 3/21, Nitish Kumar Reddy 2/17, Eshan Malinga 2/14) by 65 runs.

IPL 2026: De Kock is the backup overseas keeper, was easier to start with Rickelton, says Jayawardene

New Delhi: Mumbai Indians head coach Mahela Jayawardene said it was an easy decision for them to start with South Africa wicket-keeper-batter Ryan Rickelton as their opener alongside Rohit Sharma in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026, mainly because Quinton de Kock's role in the side is that of a back-up overseas wicketkeeper. There were a few raised eyebrows when Rickelton was picked to open alongside Rohit over the more experienced de Kock, but he justified his selection by hitting a stroke-filled 83 in the Mumbai Indians' six-wicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), including hitting eight sixes.



With MI set to play their first afternoon game of IPL 2026 against Delhi Capitals on Saturday, Rickelton will be keen to make use of Arun Jaitley Stadium's short square boundaries and give the five-time champions another blistering start in the competition. "Well, when we bought Ryan at the big auction, we knew the potential. We knew what he was capable of. We have him in our SA team as well. So, the last two years, what he has done domestically and internationally has been phenomenal. When he and Ro had a great combination last year, it was very successful for us. "What we did with bringing Quinny back was we saw an opportunity. It was a skeleton thing for us because the local Indian wicketkeeper-batters went for a crazy price in the small auction. So we needed a backup -- we only had Minzy (Robin Minz). We pivoted and said that we'll have an overseas backup, and Quinny fitted in brilliantly," said Jayawardene, while replying to a question from IANS, in the pre-match press conference on Friday. In the IPL, Rickelton has featured in 15 innings, scoring 469 runs at an average of 33.5 and a blistering strike rate of 156, including hitting four half-centuries. In 2026, Rickelton has been in prolific touch - amassing 632 runs in 19 innings at an average of 42.1 and an even higher strike rate of 163, including three fifties and a century. Jayawardene further stressed that the franchise valued stability

in its playing eleven, which meant slotting in Rickelton was a no-brainer. "He knows us, and he's been scoring runs. So we've had good options depth-wise. That's something that we looked at. But I don't see that we've ever considered changing that combination. The whole group is important, and the players do buy into that. I think Quinny is not upset by anything that he's not playing. He's part of a structure, and we felt that Ryan was batting really well, and we didn't want to change something when it's not broken. "So Ryan has a great way of complementing Rohit out there in the middle, and it was an easier decision for us to start with Ryan and have that continuity and back our players to the hilt," he elaborated. On the upcoming clash against DC, who are also coming off after beating Lucknow Super Giants by six wickets, Jayawardene felt the Axar Patel-led side will be formidable challengers at their home turf. "It should be a good match. I think they are a very good team. I think in the IPL, every team at home is a challenge, and that's how we will look at it. First game for them here as well, so that's probably a slight advantage for us. We will still try to play to our strength, that's what we have been doing. "Obviously, tactically we will have to think a few things differently for the conditions. We will prepare in the best way we can,

not think too much about the opponent, but at the same time have the respect and play our best cricket," he added. Jayawardene also backed young Afghanistan mystery spinner AM Ghazanfar to come good after he conceded 51 runs against KKR, calling him a long-term prospect. "I think he is one for the future. We feel that with his height, what we have seen, and what he can do, he will improve. He needs more game time. "Obviously, leading up to the IPL, he didn't have much game time. He was supposed to play against Sri Lanka, but that got cancelled in the UAE. So, I mean, I am not worried. I think he bowled well. "He had 4-5 bad deliveries in that entire match. So we do analyse things differently. His execution, ball speed, and everything were quite good. But we played on a really good wicket. On the same wicket, Narine went for 35-40 runs in 2-3 overs, and then Varun went for 48 as well. "These are two good spinners who have played 10 plus years. So, in those contexts, I'm pretty happy. To have that X-Factor bowler within our group, among guys like Mitch, Jacksy, and Mayank, just gives us a different option in different conditions. "Maybe later in the tournament, we will have all those options available on slower wickets. So, that's something that we looked at. But definitely, we feel that he is a great asset to have, and that's the reason why we have him at this point," he concluded.

IPL 2026: Confidence comes from preparation, attacking mindset key for spinners in T20s, says Kuldeep

New Delhi: Delhi Capitals (DC) left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav said sticking to strengths and maintaining an attacking mindset are the crucial pointers for spinners to succeed in high-scoring situations, while stressing that his confidence to perform comes from meticulous preparation and routine. Since joining DC in 2022 season, Kuldeep has emerged as one of the most effective spinners in the IPL - with his first year in the side yielding 21 wickets - his best in a single edition of the competition.



"Whenever a batter puts you under pressure, there's a tendency to move away from your strengths and look for safer options to get out of the situation. But I believe you should always focus on your strengths. "I usually assess the batter - how he plays, what his strengths are, and what the match situation demands. I try to read what the batter is expecting from me and stay one step ahead by predicting his next move and bowling accordingly. "At the end of the day, your strength is your identity. If you are an attacking spinner, you should not move away from that. If you are contributing to the team by taking wickets, there is nothing better than that. The team also expects you to pick wickets.

Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't, but your mindset should always remain attacking," Kuldeep said in the pre-match press conference on Friday. Kuldeep has consistently led the DC's spin bowling attack alongside Axar Patel, and finished as their top wicket-taker in IPL 2025 with 15 scalps, after claiming 16 wickets in 2024. His international form mirrored this success, as he finished the 2025 Men's T20 Asia Cup as the leading wicket-taker with 17 wickets in seven innings - though it translated into just one game for Kuldeep - against Pakistan in Colombo - in India's victorious T20 World Cup campaign. "If you don't get matches, especially in tournaments like the World Cup, your preparation becomes very important. You have to stay consistent with your training so that whenever you get an oppor-

tunity, you are ready. I didn't have any shortcomings in my preparation. "I always prepared myself as if I had to play the next match. That helps you maintain rhythm, which is very important. When you are in touch with the game through practice sessions and follow a proper routine, it becomes easier to perform even after a gap. "Being with the team, traveling, attending practice sessions, and keeping yourself mentally ready as if you are playing the next match is key. Even if you don't play, your mindset should always be ready," he added. Kuldeep further said his confidence and wicket-taking abilities were linked to how good his preparation is ahead of a game. "I believe confidence comes from preparation. How well you prepare yourself and maintain your routine is very important. If your training is good and your routine is set, confidence follows naturally. "When it comes to taking wickets, it's about reacting to how the batter is playing you. At the same time, batters also pre-plan - where they can score runs or which shots they want to play. When you play against someone regularly, you understand their strengths and pat-

Dettol Launches new Campaign celebrating a mother's instinct to protect

Visakhapatnam, 03 April 2026: Dettol, India's leading germ protection brand, launches a heartfelt new campaign for its iconic Dettol Antiseptic Liquid, with an emotion-led narrative that strengthens the brand's connection with families while highlighting its unmatched protection. Built on the universal truth of a mother's instinctive care, the campaign brings to life the thought: "Nothing protects like Mom & Dettol." For generations, Dettol has been more than just a product, it has been a reassuring presence in moments of vulnerability. The new film captures this emotional essence through a tender moment set in the lively chaos of a shaadi ka ghar. Amid the celebrations, a young boy hurts himself and hides his injury from others, putting on a brave face. But the moment he reaches his mother, she instinctively senses something is wrong. As she tends to his wound with Dettol Antiseptic Liquid, his guard

drops, revealing his pain, only to be followed by a touching role reversal, where he comforts her instead.

The film concludes with the message: "Apnon ki suraksha ka mazboot sahaba." It reaffirms Dettol's timeless place in Indian homes, standing beside mothers in moments where love is instinctive, and protection is assured.

The film is brought to life with the concept and film written by Praseon Joshi, original track by Vishal Khurana K, sung by Javed Ali, lyrics by Praseon Joshi, direction by Amit Sharma, weaving together emotion, culture, and authenticity. Commenting on the launch, Gaurav Jain, EVP Regional Director, Reckitt - South Asia, said, "At Reckitt, we believe our responsibility goes far beyond delivering products—we are here to build a world where people feel safe, protected and empowered to care for one another. Dettol stands at the heart of this mission. Its



legacy spans generations, becoming a silent but steadfast companion in homes across India. It is a brand that shows up not only in moments of need, but in moments of emotion, times when a mother's instinct takes over, when a child's tears are hidden behind bravery, when protection is both physical and deeply personal. This campaign encapsulates that delicate, human truth: a mother senses hurt even before it is spoken, and Dettol strengthens her ability to respond with care and confidence. Together, a mother's instinct and Dettol's protection create a bond that

generations have trusted and will continue to trust for years to come." Praseon Joshi, Chairman, Omnicom India, said, "I really enjoyed writing this simple, storytelling-led piece of brand communication. Dettol has always stood for care and protection. Because when a child is hurt, no matter how big or small, the first instinct is to reach for their mother, their ultimate safe space. And in that moment, the mother turns to Dettol, something she trusts to protect what matters most. This is the bond we wanted to bring alive. A bond of quiet care, instinctive love,

and unwavering trust, something we never really outgrow. This would not have been possible without a committed team, at Reckitt, and at Chrome, Amit Sharma's sensitive direction, along with the performances and the music brought alive by Vishal Khurana K and Javed Ali."

As the heart of the Dettol portfolio, Dettol Antiseptic Liquid continues to offer unmatched protection for cuts and wounds, reinforcing its role in safeguarding families across generations. Whether it's a scraped knee, a sudden fall, or a quiet, hidden tear, Dettol has stood by mothers as the strong partner that helps them protect the ones they love most. Through this campaign, Dettol reaffirms its enduring place in Indian households, standing shoulder to shoulder with mothers in life's most vulnerable moments, where care is instinctive and protection is unmatched.

Milk adulteration: FSSAI license mandatory for 2,036 dairy units, suppliers involved in trade in East Godavari

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Rajamahendravaram,
April 3

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has now made it mandatory for 2,036 milk vendors, suppliers, and dairy units involved in the milk trade in the East Godavari district, to obtain licence from the FSSAI. The move came into force with immediate effect in the wake of the death of 16 consumers after consuming milk, adulterated with 'Ethylene Glycol', that was supplied by one vendor on February 14 and 15 in Rajamahendravaram City. Eight of the deceased are elderly women. Two elderly people have survived, and two infants who consumed the adulterated milk are still battling for life with acute renal failure. On February 14 and 15, the milk vendor, Addala Ganeswar Rao, of Narsapuram village in Kurukonda Mandal in East Godavari district, had allegedly supplied adulterated milk to 110 customers in



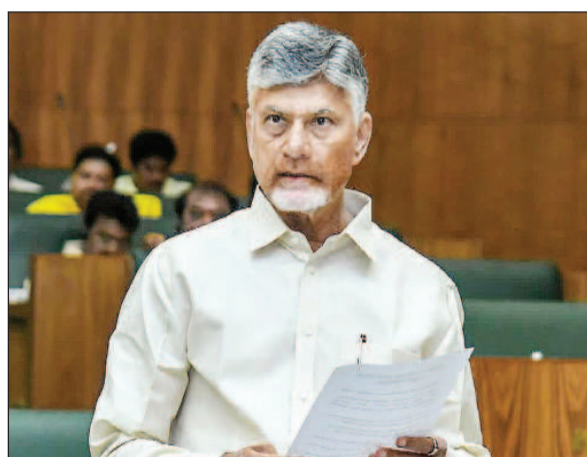
Rajamahendravaram city. **Two-member committee** In a meeting on the action plan to prevent adulteration of milk, East Godavari District Collector Kirithi Chekuri has constituted a two-member committee to enable licensing of the 2,036 stakeholders directly involved in the dairy section and milk supply in the district. The committee comprises district Animal Husbandry Officer Dr. T. Srinivasa Rao and district Food Safety Officer Dr. K. Supriya. In a joint survey conducted by the Animal Husbandry Department, as many as 661 milk vendors who are running small dairy units, 650 suppliers who supply milk at the doorstep of the con-

sumer, and 725 milk vendors are engaged in the dairy sector without obtaining any license to carry out their operations in the East Godavari district. Rs.5 lakh fine "The two-member committee is tasked with ensuring that all the 2,036 stakeholders involved in the dairy sector register and obtain a licence from the FSSAI for their trade with immediate effect. Those involved in the milk supply chain will be fined 75 lakh if they fail to obtain the FSSAI license," said Ms. Kirithi. The Animal Husbandry officials have assured to assist the dairy farmers and supplies for the registration and licensing tasks.

Relief to govt. staff, Naidu gives nod to clear Rs.7,358 crore pending dues

By Skyline Staff
Reporter

Vijayawada, April 2 Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has given the green signal for the release of pending bills amounting to Rs.7,358 crore to government and retired employees, providing significant financial relief across the State. During a review meeting with Finance Department officials on Thursday, the Chief Minister assessed the status of pending payments inherited from the previous government. He sought details on the implementation of earlier directives regarding the clearance of employee dues and emphasized the need to expedite payments based on fund availability. Officials informed the Chief Minister that steps have been initiated to release entire Rs.7,358 crore, with a portion already disbursed. As part of the process, Rs.1,848 crore towards provident fund dues has been directly credited into employees' accounts. Additionally, payments to the tune of Rs.76 crore under Group Life Insurance have been completed for 4,793 beneficiaries. The government is also in the process of clearing Rs.3,411 crore in



gratuity dues and Rs.1,800 crore towards leave encashment for retired employees. Further, Rs.223 crore related to additional surrendered leave in the Police Department is being processed, with officials assuring that these payments will be completed within the next two days. Officials noted that this marks one of the largest single-phase disbursements to employees following the "Talliki Vandanam" initiative, underlining the government's commitment to addressing long-pending financial obligations. The Chief Minister directed that all pending bills, including those related to employees and other sectors, be cleared in a phased manner depending on fund availability. Discussions during the

meeting also touched upon issues faced by employees in the previous regime, where delays and diversion of funds had caused financial distress. In the same meeting, Mr. Naidu reviewed payments due to contractors and suppliers. Officials reported that Rs.614 crore has already been released to small contractors and material suppliers across departments. Mr. Naidu instructed that priority be given to small contractors in the bill clearance process, recognising their financial vulnerability. Reiterating the government's commitment to financial discipline and welfare, Mr. Naidu emphasised that timely payments would not only support employees and contractors but also boost overall economic activity in the State.

Rowing experts meet SAAP MD, propose to set up four centres in State

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Vijayawada, April 2

Sculling and Rowing Association of Andhra Pradesh president, Tarun Kakani, and Rowing Federation of India president, Balaji Maradapa, met Sports Authority of A.P. (SAAP) Managing Director (MD) S. Bharani on Thursday to discuss the roadmap for developing rowing in the State.

During the meeting, Mr. Kakani and Mr. Maradapa put forward a proposal to establish major rowing centres at Suryalanka, Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam and Jangareddygudem. The discussion focused on leveraging the State's water resources to build a strong rowing ecosystem and nurture competitive talent, according to a press release. Mr. Maradapa promised full support from the federation towards the development of rowing in the State, including the provision of boats, technical expertise, and coaching support.

Upcoming events

Speaking about upcoming events, Mr. Kakani said that the district-level selections for the SAAP sports meet will commence from April 3, followed by State-level competitions later in April, aiming to identify and promote talented athletes across the State.



Three-capital reminder: Rushikonda Hill constructions remain unsolved



By Skyline Staff Reporter
Visakhapatnam, April 2 As the Lok Sabha passed the Bill making Amaravati as the permanent capital of Andhra Pradesh, a massive structure next to the scenic Rushikonda Beach continues to spark debate, standing as the only reminder of the former

government's three-capital proposal in the State.

It all traces back to August 2021, when the existing Haritha Tourism Resort of the Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (APTDC) atop Rushikonda hill was demolished as part of

what was initially described as a tourism facelift project. However, concerns escalated when construction activity rapidly expanded across the hill. Leaders of the NDA alleged that more than 60 acres of land was cleared for construction.

realme 16 5G Launched in India with Slim Air Design, 7000mAh Battery - Best Smartphone Under Rs.30,000

Visakhapatnam April 3, 2026 - realme, the most popular smartphone brand among Indian youth, today announced the official launch of the realme 16 5G, a device crafted for a new generation of young users who express themselves through creativity, portrait photography, and everyday visual storytelling. With its AI-driven dual 50MP portrait cameras, breakthrough selfie innovations, and an ultra-light 7000mAh battery, the realme 16 5G redefines what a mid-range smartphone can offer. AI Portrait Master: Segment-Leading Dual 50MP Cameras for True-to-Life Portraits With its advanced Dual 50MP Portrait Camera System featuring a 50MP front camera and a Sony IMX852 50MP rear camera, the realme 16 5G delivers an elevated AI Portrait Master experience tailored for a new generation of selfie-driven young users. The rear camera combines a large 1/2.93-inch sensor, an F1.8 aperture and autofocus capability to provide sharp detail and reliable image performance even in complex lighting conditions. The 50MP front camera complements this with natural skin tones and

finely rendered facial features, making it well-suited for both individual selfies and group portraits and making this the best smartphone under ₹30,000. Another standout feature is the industry's first rear selfie mirror, which allows users to frame shots in real time when using the main camera, enhanced by an Aura Ring Flash for even lighting. With "Say Hi" gesture recognition and voice countdown, rear-camera selfies become more intuitive, interactive, and social. Paired with the same LumaColor IMAGE engine used on the realme 16 Pro, the phone delivers natural skin textures, accurate tones, balanced highlights, and true-to-life colors. For expressive photography, Vibe Master Mode introduces multiple atmospheric tone presets with customizable parameters, allowing users to create portraits with distinct moods and visual styles. Post-capture, AI Edit Genie enables one-tap AI editing through features such as AI Inspiration, AI StyleMe, and AI LightMe, simplifying professional-level photo enhancement. For video creation, AI Instant Clip automatically



selects highlight moments from photos and videos to generate stylized short clips optimized for social sharing. Commenting on the launch, Francis Wong, Chief Marketing Officer, realme India said, "The smartphone industry is undergoing a clear price reset, with the users expecting far greater value at every price band. With the launch of the realme 16 5G we are responding to this shift by bringing meaningful innovations like an industry-first selfie mirror, a massive 7000mAh battery and a slim, everyday design. This is about delivering not just innovation, but a reliable, long-term experience that truly aligns with how India buys and uses smartphones today". Kailash Lakhyani, Founder Chairman, AIMRA India

first-hand 'touch and feel' consumer experience Air Design: Flagship-Grade Camera Bar and Compact Engineering The realme 16 5G adopts the new Air Design philosophy, optimizing visual balance, internal structure, and in-hand comfort to achieve true lightweight usability without sacrificing performance. The device features a Flagship-Grade Camera Bar with a horizontal rear camera layout, creating a symmetrical aesthetic while improving weight distribution. It ensures stability when placed flat on a surface and delivers a more balanced grip during horizontal use such as gaming or video recording. The back panel showcases the Gleaming Wings Design, enabled by an industry-first gradient texture process. Multi-colored particles form a blue-gold sparkling gradient that shifts dynamically with light, creating a feather-like visual flow from different angles. To enhance the tactile experience, the surface is finished with a fine sand texture and a curved anti-fingerprint coating, offering a soft touch while reducing smudges and wear during daily use.

Large Gatherings Mark Good Friday Prayers

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Cheepurupalli, April 2

Good Friday was observed with deep reverence and traditional devotion across the Cheepurupalli region, including Garividi, Garbham and nearby villages. Churches witnessed large gatherings as thousands of Christians came together to commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and reflect on His sacrifice for the redemption of humankind from sin. Special prayer services, solemn processions, and scripture readings were conducted throughout the day. Devotees participated in the remembrance of the "Seven Last Words" of



Jesus on the Cross," meditating on their spiritual significance. The atmosphere in churches remained prayerful and reflective, with believers offering silent prayers, fasting, and engaging in worship. Many faithful expressed

gratitude and renewed their commitment to spiritual values inspired by Christ's sacrifice. The observance concluded peacefully, reinforcing faith and unity among the Christian community in the region.