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Andhra launches 'Jaladhara' 100-day action plan for water security

By Skyline Staff Reporter Anantapur, April 6 : Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Monday launched the 'Jaladhara' programme, a 100-day action plan taken up across the state for water security. With the goals of desilting tanks, repairing canals, recharging groundwater, and conserving water, the government has designed the Jaladhara programme to ensure water for every acre and confidence for every farmer. The Chief Minister launched the programme in Yadiki in Anantapur district, in the drought-prone Rayalaseema region.



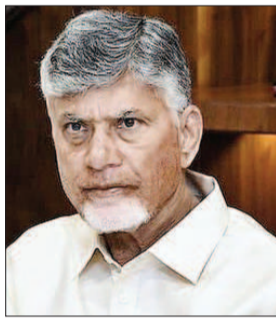
Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister stated that the government initiated a public movement for water conservation. He said in this programme, led by 60,000 members of water

can achieve more effective water management. He called upon the people, government officials, and water user associations to join hands and increase groundwater levels. "We must ensure that groundwater is available at a depth of 6 meters before the monsoon season, and at less than 3 meters after it. If we can achieve this, the state will no longer face any water scarcity." He emphasised the need to fill the reservoirs to their capacity so that the state can have the opportunity to utilise the water whenever necessary. CM Naidu stressed the need to arrest the flow of running water,

store the water that has settled, and strive to fill reservoirs. He claimed that the state made significant strides by implementing various initiatives such as percolation pits, check dams, sprinkler irrigation, and micro-irrigation. He claimed that thanks to water conservation measures, the government successfully raised groundwater levels by an additional 1.92 meters. In 2024, the groundwater levels in Anantapur district were at a depth of 13.36 meters. The water level has now risen by 2.11 meters through effective water management and reached 11.25 meters. (Contd. on pg.2)

State left without identity during YSRCP regime, says Chandrababu Naidu

By Skyline Staff Reporter Anantapur, April 6 : Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Monday criticised the YSR Congress Party and its president Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, alleging that the State was left without an identity during its regime and that it was now opposing Amaravati as the sole capital. Mr. Naidu participated in the launch of 'Jaladhara', a 100-day action plan for water-conservation, at Yadiki in the Tadipatri Assembly constituency. He was greeted by farmers and party activists with banners displaying



the Amaravati logo and slogans of 'Jai Amaravati'. Addressing the gathering, he said people could now proudly say that the State has a capital, Amaravati. He alleged that the previous government had played a 'three-cards' (Contd. on pg.2)

PM Modi on One Nation One Election and UGC: Positive discussions underway

New Delhi, April 6: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday (April 6, 2026) flagged the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) and 'One Nation, One Election' as two unfinished agendas of the BJP, and said serious and positive discussions are taking place on them. Addressing virtually on an event on the BJP's foundation day, Mr. Modi also targeted the Congress and said BJP workers endured many hardships like Emergency and also oppression under the grand old party. He said many BJP workers have even sacrificed their lives as was wit-



nessed in States like West Bengal and Kerala, "where violence has been turned into a political culture". "Our mission is still ongoing. On UCC and 'One Nation, One Election', serious discussions are taking place in the country and we are moving in positive directions on them," he said. 'One Nation, One Election' system proposes to hold polls for assembly and Lok Sabha simultaneously. The UCC seeks to

create same set of laws for everyone regarding marriage, adoption etc. across the country. Mr. Modi said the nation knows that the BJP is sincerely striving to face every challenge and will continue to do so and positive results have been achieved before, and they will be achieved in the future as well. "The end of hundreds of black laws from the British era, the construction of a new Parliament building for democracy, 10% reservation for the poor in the general category, a law to ban triple talaq, Citizenship (Contd. on pg.2)

Safe drinking water for every household in the State by 2030, says AP minister

By Skyline Staff Reporter Vijayawada, April 6 : Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development (MA&UD) P. Narayana on Monday (April 6, 2026) said that the State government is committed to ensuring safe drinking water and sanitation facilities for every household in the State by 2030, with an estimated budget of ₹14,000 crore. The Minister was reviewing civic works related to the Chittoor Municipal Corporation here on Monday. He said that the infrastructure development had been given top



priority by the government and the works have been accelerated across as many as 123 urban local bodies. He observed that LED street lighting had already been implemented State-wide, and plans were underway to procure an additional 10 lakh LED (Contd. on pg.2)

Asif's Kolkata threat under lens; agencies suspect bid to incite terror in West Bengal

New Delhi, April 6 : India's security agencies are closely examining the remarks made by Pakistan's Defence Minister, Khawaja Asif, where he made a reference to Kolkata. Asif warned that if India attempted any 'false flag operation', then Pakistan's response would extend to Kolkata. "If India tries to stage any false flag operation this time then God-willing, we will take it to Kolkata," Asif said. A false flag operation is a covert action designed to look as though it was carried out by another party, often used to justify retaliation or manipulate public



opinion. Experts say that Asif's statements are clearly aimed at taking a defensive posture, while trying to project India as the aggressor. A top-ranking official said that India's position when it comes to Pakistan is very clear. If Islamabad indulges in any misadventure, then India would hit back like it did during Operation Sindoor, the official said. "The doctrine is clear that any cross-border terror

attack by Pakistan would be viewed as an act of war. We have repeatedly told Pakistan that India will talk once they shut down their terror facilities," the official also added. Another official said that Asif's statement relating to Kolkata must also be viewed in the context of the ongoing election process in West Bengal. He is attempting to incite terror groups such as the Harkat-ul-Jihad Islami (HuJI) and Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) to carry out an attack so that the election process could be disrupted.

ADC CMD directs contractors to tighten safety measures at camp sites

By Skyline Staff Reporter Amaravati, April 6 : In the wake of a recent fire incident, Amaravati Development Corporation (ADC) Chairperson and Managing Director D. Lakshmi Parthasarathi has directed officials to strengthen safety measures at camp sites of contractors engaged in construction works in the capital region of Amaravati. The orders were issued after a fire broke out in a trolley lorry at the RVR camp site in Thullur on Sunday (April 05). Ms. Lakshmi Parthasarathi



inspected the accident site on Monday (April 06) along with officials and reviewed the circumstances leading to the incident. During the inspection, she questioned the contractors as to why the trolley lorry, (Contd. on pg.2)

Vijayawada terror network case: Accused were acting on foreign handler's orders

By Skyline Staff Reporter Vijayawada, April 6 : The accused in the Vijayawada terror network case were allegedly working to expand the activities of AQIS and ISIS in India on the direction of foreign handler Al-Hakeem Shukoor, officials said on Monday. Five accused, including a woman, revealed details of their plans during the questioning by Andhra Pradesh Police and the Counter-Intelligence Cell during the last five days. Out of the 12 accused arrested in the case, five were grilled by the officials during the five-day police custody that ended



on Sunday. Mohammad Rahamatullah Sharif, 23, Md. Danish, 27, and Mirza Sohail Baig, 23, all residents of Vijayawada, Sayeeda Begum, 38, from Hyderabad and Abdul Salam from Bellary (Karnataka) have shared details of their alleged plans to carry out terror activities in India. The accused told the officials that they came in contact with Shukoor through social media. The accused, who had formed a group called 'Al-Malik Islamic Youth', confessed that they had Jihadi tendencies from the

beginning, but these got further strengthened after they came in contact with Shukoor. According to sources, the accused revealed that on his direction, they were trying to expand AQIS and ISIS activities in the country. They were also trying to incite youth to carry out suicide attacks. Instagram and Telegram groups under the name 'BENX COM' were created. Those who wanted to carry out terror attacks and even lay down their lives for 'jihad' were allegedly made members of these groups. The accused were said to be in (Contd. on pg.2)

BJP at forefront of serving society, guided by India First principle: PM Modi on party's foundation day



New Delhi, April 6 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday extended warm greetings to Bharatiya Janata Party's workers on the occasion of the party's Foundation Day, emphasising the long-standing commitment to public service and the principle of "India First."

The BJP was established in 1980 after a split from the Janata Party, rooted in its predecessor, the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, founded in 1951 by Shyama Prasad Mukherjee. It has since grown into one of India's major national parties with a focus on cultural nationalism and development. (Contd. on pg.2)

India supports ongoing efforts to stop war: Iran after EAM Jaishankar Araghchi talks



Tehran, April 6 : India has stressed the importance of restoring stability and security in West Asia, and expressed support for ongoing efforts aimed at stopping the war, the Iranian Foreign Ministry has said. External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar held a phone conversation with his Iranian counterpart, Abbas Araghchi, on Sunday and discussed the

recent developments about the situation in West Asia. "Iran's Foreign Minister, referring to what he described as grave crimes committed by US and Israeli forces against the Iranian people -- including attacks on industrial and production infrastructure, as well as peaceful nuclear facilities under safeguards -- also (Contd. on pg.2)

RBI MPC meet begins, status quo on policy rate likely amid West Asia tensions



New Delhi, April 6 : The Reserve Bank of India's three-day Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting began on Monday, with analysts widely expecting the central bank to keep the repo rate unchanged amid heightened uncertainty due to the West Asia conflict. The meeting -- scheduled from April 6 to April 8 -- comes at a time when ris-

ing crude oil prices and global geopolitical tensions have clouded the inflation outlook. While the RBI is likely to maintain the status quo in the upcoming policy, experts said the central bank's commentary on inflation, growth and future rate trajectory will be closely watched. "We do not expect any immediate liquidity or (Contd. on pg.2)

Star Hotels seek further reforms to boost tourism in Andhra Pradesh



By Skyline Staff Reporter Vijayawada, April 6 : After expressing gratitude to the State government for implementing industry reforms based on their suggestions, the Andhra Pradesh Star Hotels' Association (ASHA) has urged the government to consider introducing two more reforms that are aimed at boosting tourism in A.P.

They submitted their suggestions for introducing a beach shack policy and a depot flexibility and self-transport. The beach shack policy has a structured framework with long-term licensing, wider service permissions including full range of liquor, and initial preference for classified hotels to ensure quality and (Contd. on pg.2)

Little Angels School Celebrates Grand Annual Day in Cheepurupalli

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Cheepurupalli, April 6
Little Angels School, Cheepurupalli, celebrated its Annual Day with great enthusiasm and colourful performances by students, making the event a memorable occasion for all. The highlight of the programme was the vibrant cultural performances, where children showcased their talent through energetic and graceful dance performances. Dressed in bright and attractive costumes, the students impressed the audience with their confidence, coordination, and expressive presentation.



Apart from dances, the event featured skits, songs, and thematic presentations that conveyed meaningful social messages and reflected cultural values. The performances received loud applause from parents and guests, who appreciated both the students' efforts and the teachers' dedication in organizing the event. The school management, led by Pushpalatha and Kalpana, expressed pride in the students' achievements and emphasized the importance of such programmes in developing creativity, confidence, and overall personality among children.

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Vizianagaram, April 06:
The way District Collector S. Ramsunder Reddy responded to a candidate's issue during the PGRS program held at the District Collectorate on Monday attracted everyone's attention. Sabbavarapu Pothuraj, a disabled person from Uttarapalli village of Kothavalasa mandal, came to the Collectorate to inform about his problem. The Collector, who noticed him at the portico, went directly to him and accepted the application. When Pothuraj explained

his problem, the Collector spoke to the concerned officials and ordered them to look into the problem and resolve it immediately. They arranged for him a wheelchair and sent him to the PGRS venue.

On this occasion, the Collector made it clear that the district administration should be committed to accepting the requests received from the public and resolving public problems.



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Andhra launches 'Jaladhara' 100-day action plan for water security

"Only with water can we have development, industries, welfare, and wealth. The united Anantapur district, which everyone once feared would turn into a desert, is today leading in the horticulture sector solely through water management and conservation efforts," he said. Stating that regions like Anantapur went without water for several years, he said it was the TDP government that provided input subsidies to support and rescue the farmers.

"To ensure the efficient utilisation of water in the Anantapur district, we introduced the drip irrigation programme. It was our government, in the past, that provided drip irrigation equipment with a subsidy of up to 90 per cent," he said. He recalled that the report submitted on micro-irrigation in the past became a benchmark. It set a standard that is now being adopted and utilised across the entire country, he said.

"Currently, we rank number one in the nation in the field of micro-irrigation, with an expenditure of Rs 1,031 crore. It is precisely because of drip irrigation that the Rayalaseema region has transformed into a horticultural hub. We hold the top position in the country in the field of horticulture," he said. Statewide, the water requirement stands at 547 TMCs for the Kharif season, 343 TMCs for the Rabi season, 28 TMCs for industrial use, and 158 TMCs for drinking water purposes. In total, the state requires approximately 1,300 TMCs of water. Even after the completion of the Rabi and Kharif crop seasons, our reservoirs currently retain a water storage level of 65 per cent, he added.

State left without identity during YSRCP regime, says Chandrababu Naidu

game with its three-capitals proposal, while the present government was committed to a single capital. He said that of the 50 political parties represented in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, all except the YSRCP had extended support to Amaravati in Parliament. Referring to the MAVIGUN (Machilipatnam-Vijayawada-Guntur) proposal, Mr. Naidu said those who do not even want to take the name of Amaravati were now coming up with alternative proposals. He alleged that those unable to digest the fast-tracking of Amaravati works were raising allegations of corruption in the construction of the capital. Mr. Naidu also accused the YSRCP of hurting the sentiments of people by allegedly using adulterated ghee in the preparation of laddus at the Tirumala temple and said that the taste of Tirupati laddu had improved. He asked people not to support any individual or party that works against the development of the State or attempts to drive away investors by issuing threats.

Safe drinking water for every household in the State by 2030, says AP

lights for further strengthening urban amenities. Referring to the sanitation facilities, the Minister said that the government had set a specified target to clear 153 lakh metric tonnes of legacy waste across the State by May. In Chittoor, over 2.4 lakh tonnes of waste had already been removed from the dumping yard, with the remaining to be cleared soon. "Under the AMRUT scheme, works worth ₹29.7 crore have been initiated in Chittoor. For creating new drainage infrastructure and strengthening the existing network, ₹82 crore is being earmarked, and ₹39.21 crore for the used water management projects," the Minister said.

Chittoor MLA G. Jagan Mohan, district Collector Sumit Kumar, and senior officials of the Municipal Corporation were present.

ADC CMD directs contractors to tighten safety measures at camp sites

which had transported machinery for RVR works, was

not moved out immediately after unloading. Expressing displeasure over the lack of basic safety measures at contractors' camp sites, she observed that such lapses were contributing to unforeseen incidents. She also pointed out that the absence of adequate security personnel at the sites was a major concern and stressed the need for deploying competent guards. Emphasising surveillance, she instructed that all camp sites must be brought under the monitoring of CCTV cameras.

The ADC chief directed Chief Engineers B. Narasimha Murthy and CH. Dhanunjaaya to ensure continuous monitoring of safety protocols, particularly during the summer season. She further instructed officials to mandate the installation of high-capacity water motors at camp sites to effectively prevent and respond to fire hazards. Reiterating the importance of proactive safety management, she called upon contractor agencies to strictly adhere to prescribed norms to avoid any recurrence of such incidents.

PM Modi on One Nation One Election and UGC: Positive discussions underway

Amendment Act, the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya... there are countless such works that are the result of the BJP's honest efforts," he said. The Prime Minister noted that the BJP is the only political party where the workers consider the party as their mother.

"That is why the party's foundation day is not just a political event. It is an emotional occasion for every workers. This day gives us an opportunity to express our gratitude to the party for giving us the chance to serve the nation," he said.

Asif's Kolkata threat under lens; agencies suspect bid to incite terror in West Bengal

An Intelligence Bureau official said that there are plenty of intercepts suggesting that groups such as the JMB and HuJI are attempting terror strikes both in poll-bound West Bengal and Assam.

Asif has assumed that India is planning a false flag operation and suggested that Kolkata would be attacked in retaliation, the official said.

Pakistan is also frustrated with the fact that ties between India and Bangladesh have been reset. Both nations are working closely on strengthening cooperation both on the economic and security front.

Pakistan has been trying to incite the terror groups operating in Bangladesh to carry out strikes in West Bengal and the Northeastern states. Such an attack could potentially strain ties and this is what Islamabad hopes for. Another official said that the cooperation between India and Bangladesh has improved remarkably. Both sides are working closely on stopping illegal infiltrations and also rein in those terror groups that pose a threat to the region, the official added.

A senior official added that Asif's statements make it clear that Pakistan is planning something big in India. A direct reference to Kolkata clearly signals that. "He is just running a fake narrative about an Indian aggression to justify an attack in Kolkata," the official added. Further, Islamabad is also trying to build a global narrative against India. It wants to portray New Delhi as the aggressor, so that it can justify an attack.

The Pakistani establishment has been under tremendous pressure from its terror groups to help carry out an attack in India. Operation Sindoor decimated a lot of terror infrastructure in Pakistan. The rebuilding of these terror groups has been harder than what they may have imagined. A big strike in India is something that the ISI is looking for so that it could act as a morale booster for these terror groups, officials say.

Pakistan is facing a severe crisis within as it continues to battle against the Afghan Taliban, Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA). To battle these forces, it has been seeking help of outfits such as the Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKAP) and Lashkar-e-Tayyiba.

However, this is not enough for the youth in Pakistan to join the terror ranks. A major recruitment strategy has always been an attack on India. This is why such desperate statements are being made, an official added.

Vijayawada terror network case: Accused were acting on foreign

handler's orders

regular touch with these members.

Some Pakistanis were also said to be members of these groups. Shukoor had allegedly told the accused that arms and explosives required for subversive activities in India would be supplied by these members.

On Shukoor's orders, they were luring youth into terror activities to send them to Pakistan and Afghanistan for training.

The accused told the investigators that they never met Shukoor personally but came to know him through social media.

At his direction, they developed links with Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) and ISIS. On his orders, they were working for 'Ghazwa-e-Hind' and expanding their network.

The accused told officials that they were working with the goal of turning India into an Islamic nation. As part of this, they want to replace the Indian flag with the ISIS flag.

The accused, on the direction of the foreign handler, had also planned a dedicated women's wing to be headed by Sayeeda Begum.

They had plans to train recruits in sniper rifles, guns, black powder bombs, and IEDs to spread terror in India. The investigators questioned the accused about what attracted them to Jihadi activities, how they got introduced to foreign handlers, their plans for terror attacks in India and who was behind the 'BENX COM' groups. The police busted the network with the arrest of Rahamatullah Sharif, Danish, and Sohail Baig.

Counter-intelligence cell arrested the accused after keeping a tab on their activities on social media platforms.

Sayeeda Begum was arrested from Hyderabad last month, and the other accused from various other states. The accused were allegedly attempting to influence and radicalise youth through Instagram, Telegram and other social media to indulge in terrorist activities.

A case was registered against the accused under various sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), BNS and the Information Technology Act at Vijayawada Two Town Police Station.

The FIR named 12 accused, hailing from various states, including Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Bihar, Delhi, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Maharashtra, and West Bengal. The questioning of the remaining seven accused in the case by the police is expected to reveal more information about the alleged terror plans.

BJP at forefront of serving society, guided by India First principle: PM

Posting on X, PM Modi said, "Warm greetings to all BJP Karyakartas across the nation on the party's Shapana Diwas. Our Party has always been at the forefront of serving society, guided by the principle of India First. Our Karyakartas are known for their selfless service, unwavering dedication and a deep passion towards good governance. They have worked tirelessly at the grassroots, ensuring maximum people are connected to our ideology and work."

He also remembered the workers whose "dedication, sacrifice and perseverance", he said, have shaped the party's growth over decades.

The Prime Minister added, "The BJP stands as a party that places the well-being of people at the centre of its vision. This is reflected in our work at the Centre and in various states. BJP remains committed to building a Viksit Bharat. May our collective resolve continue to drive this vision forward and take India to new heights of progress and prosperity."

Earlier in the day, Union Home Minister Amit Shah also conveyed his greetings. "Heartfelt greetings to all BJP workers on the foundation day dedicated to the resolve of Nation First above all. The establishment of the Bharatiya Janata Party, formed by the nationalist thought and ideological inspiration of Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Ji and Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Ji, was not merely a political event, but a pledge for national reconstruction... Beginning with the core ethos of welfare for the last person in line, the BJP under the leadership of Modi Ji has realised the mantra of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas'," the Union Minister wrote in a post on X.

Other senior leaders, including Union Ministers J.P. Nadda, Kiren Rijiju, Nitin Gadkari, as well as Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, conveyed wishes on the party's foundation day.

India supports ongoing efforts to stop war: Iran after EAM Jaishankar

highlighted continued rhetoric by US officials openly threatening strikes on Iran's energy infrastructure," read a statement by Iran's Foreign Ministry after the phone

conversation between the two leaders.

During the conversation, Araghchi emphasised the responsibility of the international community and the United Nations to "confront violations of international law and prevent the normalisation of war crimes".

The Iranian Foreign Minister stressed the "firm determination" of the country's people and armed forces to defend the national interests and security, "warning about the broader consequences of US and Israeli military actions for regional and global stability".

"India's Foreign Minister, noting the importance of restoring stability and security in the region, expressed support for ongoing regional and international efforts aimed at stopping the war," the Ministry statement read.

Earlier on Sunday, EAM Jaishankar said he received a call from Araghchi, during which the two leaders discussed the prevailing situation in the region.

EAM Jaishankar, in a post on X, said, "Received a call from Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi of Iran. Discussed the present situation."

He, however, did not elaborate on the specifics of the conversation.

The interaction comes amid rising tensions in West Asia, particularly around the Strait of Hormuz, a critical global oil transit route. The region has seen heightened military activity and sharp rhetoric from multiple sides, fuelling concerns of a wider conflict.

RBI MPC meet begins, status quo on policy rate likely amid West Asia tensions

currency management measures, as the RBI has been acting as and when required," said Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist at Bank of Baroda.

Analysts noted that the focus will be on the RBI's revised GDP growth and inflation projections, especially as Brent crude hovered around \$100 per barrel in March due to the ongoing energy shock.

Some experts cautioned that while the rate cut cycle appears to have ended, the possibility of a rate hike later in the fiscal year cannot be ruled out if inflation breaches the upper tolerance band of 6 per cent.

According to HSBC Global Investment Research, the policy will be largely about communication to address concerns arising from the oil price surge. Despite the current shock, the investment bank's economists said they do not expect rate hikes in the near term, as the RBI is likely to focus on the one-year ahead inflation trajectory, which may remain relatively benign.

Meanwhile, a report by SBI Research said the central bank may need to explore tools such as "Operation Twist" to manage yields and maintain stability in financial markets, while also addressing external sector pressures.

"India is not insulated from the current crisis, with the rupee weakening and crude oil prices staying elevated, leading to imported inflation pressures," said Soumya Kanti Ghosh, Group Chief Economic Adviser at State Bank of India.

He added that liquidity conditions may need to be carefully managed to support the rupee amid ongoing volatility.

The central bank has been active on the liquidity front in recent months, conducting Open Market Operations (OMO) purchases of government securities and Variable Rate Repo (VRR) auctions to inject rupees into the banking system.

The RBI cut rates by a cumulative 25 basis points to 5.25 per cent in December 2025, a stimulus that most economists now believe has run its course.

Star Hotels seek further reforms to boost tourism in Adhra Pradesh

global-standard beach tourism, they said.

Meanwhile, a delegation, comprising association president R.V. Swamy, general secretary S. Murthy Chittoory, and others met Revenue (Excise) department Principal Secretary Mukesh Kumar Meena on Monday (April 06) to thank the government for implementing reforms recommended by the association earlier.

The reforms include microbrewery permissions for classified hotels, a step that is expected to enhance the State's tourism; availability of premium liquor and new brands through bottle indent, which will enable hotels to meet the expectations of high-value domestic and international guests; and removal of pricing disparity between retail shops and hotel bars, which ensures fairness and improves competitiveness of hotels in meetings, conferences, exhibitions, weddings, and corporate segments.

These decisions will strengthen investor confidence and position Andhra Pradesh as a preferred destination for tourism and hospitality, they said.

Govt will find permanent solutions for fishermen's issues: Kollu



State Minister for Mines and Excise, Kollu Ravindra on Sunday stated that the coalition government is working with sincere commitment to find permanent solutions to the problems faced by coastal fishermen in the state. The Minister conducted a review meeting at Collectorate with officials and public representatives over fishermen problems in Nellore. Later addressing media persons, Kollu Ravindra said that the Chief Minister has taken the matter regarding the illegal venturing in AP waters by other states fishermen seriously and has issued appropriate directions to resolve the problem at once. He noted that three patrol boats are already operating continuously in the sea, and an additional boat has been

made available at Tirupati. He detailed that these high-speed marine boats are capable of traveling at speeds ranging from 40 to 50 kilometers per hour. The Minister further stated that a coordinated patrol team comprising Marine Police, Revenue, Fisheries, Forest, and Fire Services departments is actively monitoring coastal areas. He said that proposals have already been submitted to the Finance Department for the repair of boats previously provided by the Central Government. The minister announced that arrangements are being made to inaugurate the Juvvaladinne Fishing Harbour in the coming days. Discussions will be held with local residents regarding the maintenance of infrastructure. Emphasizing

the need for industrial development, he said that decisions will be made keeping in mind the requirements for the next 30 years. Reassuring the fishing community, the Minister urged them not to worry and affirmed that the coalition government stands firmly for their welfare. He also mentioned that the government is examining proposals submitted to the Chief Minister by MLA Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy regarding desilting works at Pulicat Lake. MLAs Chandra Mohan Reddy (Sarvepalli), D Venkata Krishna Reddy (Kavali), B Ravichandra (MLC), District Collector Himanshu Shukla, Coastal Security Guard IG Goinath, ASP Soujanya, Fisheries Joint Director Shanthi, and other officials were present.

Advanced medical equipment gifted to Age Care Foundation



Visakhapatnam: Apr 6
In an initiative displaying compassion and community service, Bheemuniapatnam MLA Ganta Srinivasa Rao presented advanced medical equipment worth Rs 1.13 crore to Sneha Sandhya Age Care Foundation in Bheemuniapatnam on Sunday, sourced with the support of Rotary Club Greater Visakha. Addressing the gathering, the MLA lauded the foundation for its unwavering commitment to serving the elderly, describing its medical care initiatives as both commendable and humane. He emphasised that providing treatment through cutting-edge technology without any profit motive offers immense comfort and dignity to the elderly patients. Further, Srinivasa Rao urged the foundation to adopt a government school in the Bheemili constituency, a proposal that received immediate and enthusiastic approval from both the foundation's management and Rotary Club Greater Visakha representatives. Showcasing

their dedication to holistic elder care, the foundation's team highlighted a wide range of services being delivered. Rotary Club Greater Visakha president Chinta Netaji informed that the initiative was made possible through the efforts of the club's former district governor C.H. Kishore Kumar, who mobilised contributions from various Rotary Clubs across multiple countries along with the support from the Rotary Foundation. The equipment includes state-of-the-art physiotherapy systems, a fully equipped diagnostic laboratory, nurse-calling systems and essential infrastructure for laundry, kitchen and dining services, transforming the facility into a comprehensive care centre. The event witnessed the presence of foundation chairman G. Sambasiva Rao, past district governor Sharath Chowdary, managing trustee N S Raju, G K Murthy, secretary of Visakhapatnam Public Library Society DS Varma and club members GS Raju and K M K Ramesh.

Telangana CM lays foundation for Rs 225 crore Basara temple renovation work

Hyderabad, April 6 : Telangana's famous Gana Saraswati temple is to get a big facelift as Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Monday laid the foundation for the temple's expansion and development works to be undertaken at a cost of Rs 225 crore. Accompanied by Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and some other ministers, the Chief Minister performed Bhoomi Puja at the temple in Basara town of Nirmal district. Before performing Bhoomi Puja, the Chief Minister, along with his family members, performed prayers at the tem-

ple. They participated in various rituals amid the singing of Vedic hymns by priests. Situated on the banks of the sacred river Godavari, which is also revered as the "Dakshina Ganga" (Southern Ganges), the temple boasts a glorious history spanning thousands of years. According to the legend, following the Kurukshetra War, Veda Vyasa came to reside on the banks of Godavari at Basara and during his stay, he sculpted and consecrated the idols of Goddesses - Gana Saraswati, Mahalakshmi, and Mahakali. From then,

Basara gained popularity as a holy site with the enshrine of "Trimataas". Devotees come to the temple to perform Aksharabhyasam (the traditional initiation ceremony into formal education) for their children. In view of the increasing number of visitors and lack of adequate facilities in the temple, the Chief Minister resolved to take up comprehensive development of the Basara temple and instructed the officials to formulate a master plan to execute the developmental works in strict adherence to the temple's established traditions and rituals.

All set for Cm naidu visit to Yadiki



Anantapur: Apr 6

Extensive arrangements are being put in place for the visit of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu to Yadiki mandal in Anantapur district on April 6, officials said. District Collector O Anand directed officials to ensure that all preparations are completed without lapses.

The Chief Minister is scheduled to launch a 100-day water conservation programme titled "Water Security - Irrigation Associations Protection" at a public meeting venue in the Yadiki market yard. State Rehabilitation and Resettlement Director P Prashanti, along with the Collector and Joint Collector C Vishnucharan, inspected key locations including the helipad at Vemulapadu, the public meeting venue at the market yard, and the Pendekallu Balancing Reservoir. Officials were instructed to complete helipad readiness, parking arrangements, barricading, seating, and stage setup on a priority basis. The Collector emphasised the need for coordinated efforts to ensure smooth execution of the programme without inconvenience. At the reservoir site, arrangements related to natural farming initiatives, boundary trench works under MGNREGA, and drip irrigation projects were also reviewed. Authorities were directed to expedite all works and maintain strict timelines. Senior officials from various departments participated in the inspection.

New water treatment plant inaugurated



Anantapur: Apr 6

State Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav on Saturday inaugurated a newly constructed water treatment plant at Mudalapuram in Kuderu mandal of Uravakonda constituency. The facility has been developed under the supervision of the State Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department. Constructed at a cost of 15.35 crore under the Central Government-supported AMRUT scheme, the modern plant has a daily water purification capacity of 16 million litres. The initiative aims to ensure uninterrupted supply of safe drinking water, particularly in view of the approaching summer season. The state government has reiterated its commitment to preventing drinking water shortages in Anantapur district by strengthening infrastructure and ensuring consistent water availability. The new facility is expected to significantly benefit residents of Kuderu mandal by providing access to quality potable water. Officials stated that the project is part of broader efforts to address long-standing drinking water issues in the Uravakonda constituency. The minister's ongoing initiatives in this regard are reportedly yielding positive results. The inauguration ceremony was attended by Anantapur Member of Parliament Ambica Lakshminarayana, Anantapur Urban MLA Daggupati Prasad, government officials, local leaders, party workers, and residents.

Anantapur man ends life ahead of planned wedding in Hyd



Anantapur/Hyderabad: Apr 6

A 29-year-old man from Andhra Pradesh allegedly died by suicide in a hotel room in Hyderabad on Friday, hours before his planned wedding, police said. City & Local Guides The deceased, identified as Lokesh, a native of Cherlopalli village in Anantapur district, was working at a pharmaceutical company in the Gandimaisamma area. He was reportedly in a relationship with a woman employed at the same company, and the couple had decided to get married on Saturday at a temple or Arya Samaj. According to police, Lokesh had booked a room at a budget hotel under the jurisdiction of KPHB Police Station on Friday. He informed his partner that he was dressed in wedding attire and asked her to bring food. However, when the woman arrived, he did not respond despite repeated calls.

Security arrangements reviewed ahead of Guv's visit



Sathyasa Sai District: Apr 6

Elaborate security arrangements were reviewed at the Sri Sathyasa Sai Airport on Sunday ahead of the visit of Andhra Pradesh Governor S Abdul Nazeer, who is scheduled to attend the 15th convocation ceremony at Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University (JNTU), Anantapur, on Monday. District Superintendent of Police S Satish Kumar personally inspected the security measures at the airport along with senior police officials. The Governor is expected to arrive from Vijayawada at 10:10 a.m. and proceed to Anantapur by road. The SP reviewed arrangements including airport security, convoy movement, traffic regulation, and deployment of personnel along the route. Detailed instructions were issued to ensure smooth coordination, prevent disruptions, and maintain strict vigilance during the Governor's movement. A convoy rehearsal was also conducted to assess route preparedness, including traffic diversions, security checkpoints, escort vehicle movement, and emergency response systems. Officials were directed to ensure seamless execution of duties with adherence to timelines. **Guv Abdul Nazeer to attend JNTU 15th convocation celebrations** Anantapur: University Vice-Chancellor H Sudarshan Rao on Sunday announced that the 15th Annual Convocation ceremony of JNTU, Anantapur, will be held on Monday amidst a festive atmosphere.

Speaking at a press conference held at the JNTU Aryabhata Auditorium, he shared several details regarding the event.

He specifically stated that the convocation ceremony would be conducted with great grandeur and prestige at the NTR Auditorium, adding that the university administration has already completed all necessary arrangements to ensure the event's success. He informed that the Governor, S Abdul Nazeer, will participate in the event as the Chief Guest. Furthermore, he noted that the renowned educationist Dr Tessa Thomas—former Director General (Aeronautical Systems) at DRDO and a representative of NICHE University, Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu—will attend as the Guest of Honor and Convocation Speaker, addressing the students during the ceremony. He also mentioned that 45 gold medals would be presented to the university toppers who demonstrated outstanding academic excellence across various disciplines, with the awards being conferred at the hands of the Chancellor. Subsequently, PhD degrees will be conferred upon students, and degree certificates will be awarded to eligible scholars. Present at this press conference were the University Registrar Krishnaiah, Professor Devanna, Director of Affiliations Naga Prasad, and DAP Professor SV Satyanarayana, PRO Professor Om Prakash, and others participated.

Innovators across India meet at hackathon

Visakhapatnam: Apr 6

Bringing together startups, innovators, clinicians and industry leaders to rapidly develop technology-driven solutions for pressing healthcare challenges, the Andhra Pradesh MedTech Zone (AMTZ) launched the MedTech Hackathon 2026: Hack Health: Innovate to Heal. Organised till April 7, the hackathon witnessed over 300 participants, including more than 150 startups and teams, from all over the country, reflecting the accelerating momentum of India's medtech innovation ecosystem. Speaking on the occasion, AMTZ MD and Founder CEO Jitendra Sharma said, "The hackathon serves as a collaborative platform where innovators can learn, create, and make their ideas a reality in healthcare. Whether your concept is an app, a diagnostic device, or a complex medical instrument, the key is to build a working prototype, define a clear path to success, and gain hands-on experience." He further added that at AMTZ, incubation, co-incubation, or strategic partnership provides the infrastructure, tools, and guidance to transform R&D and prototypes into impactful healthcare solutions. Over four days, participating teams, including startups and students, will



showcase their ideas to a panel of evaluators. They will engage in intensive prototyping, hands-on problem-solving and collaborative innovation challenges to transform concepts into scalable solutions with real-world healthcare impact. "AMTZ provides a comprehensive ecosystem for startups and innovators across medical devices, biologics, diagnostics, and more. Through BioValley, one of our incubator arms, we support teams in developing prototypes, conducting pre-clinical testing, and scaling products for real-world healthcare impact. Hackathons like this accelerate innovation, helping ideas transform into solutions that can truly improve patient care," said Suseela Branham K, CEO of BioValley Incubation Council. MediValley Incubation Council CEO Dilip Kumar Chakuri said, "MediValley is designed to empower medical electronics startups with end-to-end support, from prototyping and pre-compliance testing to design, production setup, and calibration. By leveraging our labs and expert guidance, innovators participating in the MedTech Hackathon can rapidly translate their ideas into validated, scalable solutions, driving India's position as a global hub for medical technology development." During the hackathon, the startups will be working closely within AMTZ's advanced technical centres, translating ideas into scalable solutions with healthcare impact. The event will also provide opportunities for mentorship, networking and access to potential investors and industry partners.

New members elected for VDFA

Visakhapatnam: Apr 6

Elections were held for the Visakhapatnam District Football Alliance (VDFA) and Welfare Association on Sunday in the presence of Election Officer PHLR Kumar at Sangivalasa, Bheemuniapatnam. Kotagiri Sridhar was elected as president, Mylapalli Achuthamba as vice president, Mamidi Sathish as joint secretary, M Sanyasi Rao as treasurer, MVR Sudheer, Md Salim, M Naren, ALM Kumar and SLS Jyothi were elected as executive members. In the general body meeting held after the elections, 22 club representatives unanimously elected A Chohita as secretary and A Chinababu, R V



Trinadha Rao and S. Ganesh were also elected. The members said that this is the first association to elect 33 percent women and 25 percent sportspersons as per the National Sports Code and assured that they will continuously work for the development of football.

SKYLINE

Tuesday 7.4.2026

Alliance Strain

When US President Donald Trump again raises the possibility of withdrawing the United States from NATO, the immediate reaction is to treat it as negotiating theatre. That would be a mistake. The deeper issue is not whether America will leave, but whether the alliance can function when its central pillar questions the very logic of collective defence. NATO was built in 1949 on a simple but demanding premise: security is indivisible.

Article 5, the alliance's core clause, is not an automatic trigger but a political commitment requiring consensus. That nuance matters. It means NATO is not a tool any one member can deploy at will, even if that member is the United States. Mr Trump's insistence that allies should automatically align with American military actions reveals a transactional view of alliances that sits uneasily with NATO's consultative design. This tension has been sharpened by recent conflicts beyond Europe. Several European governments have hesitated to be drawn into military campaigns they neither shaped nor fully endorse. Their caution is not free-riding; it is a reminder that NATO's mandate was historically bounded to the North Atlantic area.

Expanding its purpose without consensus risks turning a defensive pact into an instrument of discretionary wars, precisely what many members want to avoid. Yet the structural imbalance within NATO complicates any pushback. The United States accounts for the majority of the alliance's defence spending and provides capabilities ~ strategic lift, intelligence, advanced weapons systems ~ that others cannot easily replicate. This asymmetry creates dependence, and dependence breeds vulnerability to political shifts in Washington. Even if European states increase defence budgets, substituting American military depth is a long-term project, not an immediate fix. There is also a constitutional dimension inside the United States.

Congress has moved to limit a president's ability to exit NATO unilaterally, signaling that the alliance still commands bipartisan institutional support. But legal guardrails cannot fully offset political uncertainty. Alliances run on credibility as much as on treaties, and repeated threats erode both. What emerges, then, is a paradox. Mr Trump's rhetoric may not dismantle NATO, but it is already reshaping it. European members are accelerating efforts toward strategic autonomy, investing more in defence and exploring independent capabilities. At the same time, they remain tied to an alliance whose effectiveness still hinges on American commitment. The result is a hybrid order: formally intact, but psychologically unsettled.

The real consequence of these tensions is not a dramatic rupture but a gradual recalibration. NATO is likely to endure, yet in a diminished, more cautious form ~ less certain of automatic solidarity, more attuned to national calculations. In that sense, the alliance is not collapsing; it is evolving under pressure. And that evolution carries a quiet but profound implication: the greatest threat to NATO today does not come from adversaries abroad, but from diverging expectations within.

How Iran has pierced the one 'shield' that protecte America for 30 years

If the early weeks of the 2026 Iran conflict were intended to showcase the return of decisive American airpower, the events of last week have served as a sobering corrective. Wars against capable state adversaries rarely conform to technological optimism, and this episode underscores the limits of even overwhelming military superiority.

The downing of an American F-15E Strike Eagle over western Iran marks a significant inflexion point in the conflict not because of the scale of the loss, which remains limited, but because of its symbolism. For the first time in this war, a manned American combat aircraft has been brought down by enemy fire in hostile airspace. The potential loss of a crew member and the launch of a high-risk combat search-and-rescue operation by the US, though ultimately successful, reinforces the enduring reality that even a single aircraft loss can generate cascading operational, political, and psychological consequences.

A Pattern, Not An Anomaly
This incident did not occur in isolation. On the same day, an A-10 Thunderbolt II ground-attack aircraft was also lost to Iranian fire over Kuwait near the Persian Gulf, with the pilot ejecting.

These developments point to a pattern rather than an anomaly. The vulnerability of non-stealth, low-altitude platforms operating in contested environments is once again being laid bare. The damage sustained by accompanying rescue helicopters - according to Iran's Revolutionary Guards, at least five people were killed, and several "flying objects" were destroyed, including a transport plane, during the res-

cue operation for the downed fighter jet crew member - further illustrates the layered risks of modern warfare, where efforts to recover personnel can expose additional assets to enemy fire.

It is true that these setbacks do not fundamentally alter the strategic balance. The United States retains overwhelming advantages in terms of airpower, precision strike capability, and operational reach. American aircraft continue to conduct sustained sorties across Iranian territory, targeting infrastructure, missile systems, and military installations. Official statements from Washington have emphasised this asymmetry, highlighting the degradation of Iran's air defences and the broader military pressure being exerted.

US' Manned vs Unmanned Systems
Such assertions, however, deserve closer scrutiny. Degradation is not destruction. Iran's integrated air defence system, though weakened, has demonstrated resilience. The ability to shoot down advanced aircraft, even sporadically, suggests that sufficient capability remains to impose costs. This is not trivial. In high-intensity conflicts, the ability to inflict even limited attrition can shape operational choices, slow campaign tempo, and impose political constraints.

The broader pattern of US losses reinforces this point. Earlier in the campaign, a significant number of MQ-9 Reaper drones were shot down over key Iranian locations such as Isfahan and Bushehr. These unmanned systems, often viewed as relatively expendable, have proven vulnerable against layered air defences. While individually less politically sensitive than manned

aircraft, their cumulative loss, both in financial and operational terms, is far from negligible.

More importantly, the distinction between manned and unmanned losses begins to blur in strategic impact. Drones enable persistence and reduce risk to personnel, but they are not immune to denial. Their attrition limits surveillance coverage, targeting precision, and operational flexibility. At the same time, the loss of even a single manned aircraft introduces a qualitatively different dimension - raising questions of escalation, domestic perception, and the risks associated with pilot capture or casualty.

America's Air Superiority Isn't Absolute
What emerges from these developments is a more complex and less reassuring picture of contemporary airpower. Air superiority, long viewed as the cornerstone of US military doctrine, no longer guarantees invulnerability. It provides access, freedom of manoeuvre, and the ability to shape the battlespace, but within constraints imposed by increasingly capable adversaries. This has implications that extend well beyond the immediate conflict. For much of the post-Cold War era, US air campaigns - in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Libya - were conducted against relatively weak or degraded air defences. This created an expectation, both within military planning and public discourse, of low-risk intervention. Airpower was seen as a tool capable of delivering rapid, decisive outcomes with minimal cost.

The Iran conflict challenges that assumption. Alongside lessons from the Russia-Ukraine war, it reinforces the reality that state-on-state



conflicts involving capable adversaries are inherently contested. Integrated air defence systems, even when partially degraded, can deny airspace, impose attrition, and complicate operational planning. The battlefield is no longer permissive; it is dynamic, adaptive, and unforgiving.

Where Does The US Go From Here?
In response, doctrinal and technological shifts are likely to accelerate. Greater emphasis will be placed on stealth platforms, stand-off weapons, electronic warfare, and the suppression and destruction of enemy air defences (SEAD/DEAD). The role of autonomous systems and "loyal wingman" concepts will also gain prominence as militaries seek to distribute risk and enhance survivability. At the same time, the importance of human capital - pilot training, mission planning, and resilience under pressure - remains undiminished.

Equally, the events of April 3 highlight the importance of multi-domain integration. Airpower alone, however advanced, cannot

deliver decisive outcomes in isolation. It must be complemented by cyber operations, intelligence capabilities, ground manoeuvre, and diplomatic engagement. The notion of quick, clean wars driven primarily by aerial dominance appears increasingly untenable.

Ultimately, the April 3 losses are a moment of strategic introspection. They don't fundamentally undermine US military superiority but puncture its narrative of effortless dominance. The United States continues to hold the advantage, but it is an advantage that must be exercised with caution, adaptability, and a clear recognition of its limits.

In that sense, the real significance of these events lies not in what was lost, but in what they reveal. Contemporary warfare, even for the most advanced militaries, is neither frictionless nor predictable. The mythology of invulnerable airpower should give way to a more grounded understanding - one in which effectiveness coexists with risk, and dominance is always contested rather than absolute.

is trump the President who lost Asia to China?

For at least a decade, developing countries across Asia and Africa have worried about growing dependent on China. They're concerned about debt traps, coercive policies, and hidden costs that might push their economies toward crisis.

Crisis has come, and that logic has been turned on its head. After six weeks of the US and Israel's war on Iran and its ensuing counterattacks, it is the countries that bet on Chinese supply chains that are faring better than the ones that trusted Pax Americana.

Consider Pakistan. By now it should have been in the middle of yet another economic and social implosion. It has always been vulnerable to energy price shocks, given that it imports almost all of its energy, much of it through the Strait of Hormuz. The country has \$130 billion in external debt and a persistent current account deficit, and so the slightest nudge should have tipped it over into a familiar spiral: Emergency requests to the International Monetary Fund, 18-hour power blackouts, unrest on the streets.

None of that is visible. There are signs of stress, certainly: Islamabad has hiked fuel prices and is planning to

shut of electricity for two to three hours each day. A sustained shortage of liquid natural gas will make it hard to keep power plants running. But, compared to the situation just a few years ago - when, after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the economy had a full-scale meltdown - it's showing remarkable resilience.

What's the difference? Chinese-made solar panels. Pakistanis have gleefully transitioned to solar power, importing about 17 gigawatts a year of photovoltaics since 2024. A quarter of households have installed solar panels for their own use.

Islamabad didn't even have to spend too much money subsidizing the renewables rollout. They just had to ride Chinese overcapacity instead of fighting it, and make it work for their own citizens by keeping tariffs low. The price of imported solar panels dropped by almost 60% in 2024-25; Beijing's subsidies kept their factories humming, but also financed the electrification of millions of households across Pakistan.

Many other countries made the opposite choice, in order to insulate domestic production or minimize political risk. Those that tried to keep cheap photovoltaic cells out have seen much



slower rates of uptake - and are, in consequence, far more exposed to the chaos in the Gulf.

Nor are solar panels the only way in which cheap Chinese goods are turning out to be sources of resilience rather than disruption. Nepal has a higher proportion of electric vehicles than any other country in the world, barring Norway. Its huge imported fleet of cheap EVs mean that it is far less worried about gasoline prices than most of its Asian neighbors. And they run on clean electricity, emerging from a hydropower infrastructure that is financed in part by Beijing.

It's not hard to imagine policymakers

from across the developing world looking at examples like these and concluding that betting on Beijing isn't actually the riskier option. Some may already have taken that chance; imports of Chinese solar panels have shot up in the past couple of years across sub-Saharan Africa in particular. If the only options are dependence on predictably mercantilist Beijing and on an erratic, self-centered and disruptive US, the choice is obvious. That may turn out to be the wrong call. It isn't wise to imagine that relying upon Beijing's goodwill is any safer. In just the past year, China has shown the willingness to weaponize

control over supply chains, such as the production of magnets and rare earths. But right now, the contrast is glaring. Countries that believed that the open trading order, underpinned by American hegemony, would protect them from shocks are struggling; those who chose to run the risk of dependence upon Chinese imports and infrastructure are showing unexpected resilience.

This will only get worse if Trump withdraws from the Gulf without making an effort to reopen the Strait of Hormuz. Then the lesson the world learns is even harsher: America will make decisions about your energy supply, take no responsibility for the consequences, and then leave. China will sell you the technology that allows you to stop caring about what the US does.

This is a far greater geopolitical setback to the US than any loss of face in the Iran war might be. Trump may have thought that he would be remembered as the president who restored American greatness by solving long-running problems - Venezuela, Iran, perhaps Cuba. Instead, it looks like he will be remembered as the president who lost Asia to China.

The Himanta Biswa Sarma show: Forever No.2 to No.1

Assam election 2026 is Himanta Biswa Sarma's litmus test. While he has been around in Assam politics, and very visibly so, since the 1990s, this is the election when he is the incumbent and the face. The last two BJP victories were also largely credited to him, but in 2016, he was a neo-convert to the BJP, which picked Sarbanand Sonowal as the Chief Minister after the party's first win, and fought the next election in 2021 under his leadership. Himanta was not on the ballot, so to say. He became the Chief Minister after the victory. But this time he is. After a full 5-year-term, he is trying to deliver a hat-trick for the BJP, but more than that, he is trying to make a bigger political and personal point: that he is the winner, not just a backroom boy. The stakes are highest for Sarma in 2026 than ever.

The No.2 who always wanted to be No. 1

When former Assam Chief Minister and Congress veteran Hiteshwar Saikia was trying to bring young people to the party fold after the restive 1980s of the Assam Agitation, he found his man in Himanta Biswa Sarma. A young student activist in those days, Sarma, who had built a name for himself in campus politics by then, was associated with the influential All Assam Students Union.

Since joining the Congress in 1991 and quitting it in 2015, he remained the go-getter for both Saikia and later, Tarun Gogoi. Sarma helmed key ministries such as finance, health, PWD,

and was the driver of key govt programmes.

But he remained No. 2. The man who was trusted by the top. The man who would get the job done. The trusted lieutenant, not the general. He thrived, he rose, but not to the top.

As Tarun Gogoi's health started to fail after 2011 Assembly elections, Sarma was transparent in his ambition to be the Chief Minister. When it became clear to him that Gogoi would rather push his son, and not him, for the top, he walked away.

Since joining BJP in 2015, Sarma has been the party's face not just in Assam but the entire northeast. He is the party's chief strategist, alliance maker, the opposition breaker. The man trusted by the Centre. But even in the BJP, with all the accolades, and being credited for the party's first win in 2016, he remained the necessary No.2.

That jinx broke in 2021, and the BJP put Sarma in the driver's seat as Sarbanand Sonowal stepped aside. Sarma got what he always believed he deserved and worked tirelessly for it. Enter Chief Minister Himanta Sarma. This is the first election where Himanta is the face, front and centre, not a backroom planner and manipulator. This is his election. And he has consciously worked for it to be this way. His five-year reign has been all about himself. He is the face of the government. Learning from his own experience and political curve, Sarma has made sure that there is no No. 2 in his regime. He is a one-man show.

From addressing press conferences, to



inaugurations, to levelling stunning charges against his rivals, it is only the Chief Minister you see. To the extent that he even announces the board exam dates himself. It was Sarma, not a top cop, who addressed the press on the findings of SIT against Gaurav Gogoi over his alleged Pakistan connections.

Sarma has imbibed the rule book of three BJP leaders -- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is the face of all things in his government; former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who created an image of a benevolent "mama" (uncle) for himself; and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, whose contested bulldozer governance has made him a darling of hardliners as an unapologetically majoritarian leader.

Sarma plays all three with great success. Welfare push of Modi, personal touch of Shivraj, and the muscular Hindutva of Yogi.

The presence of bulldozers at rallies, where he dances and mingles with the people, is a stark contrast -- presenting Sarma as a leader who cares for his people and would go to any extent to "protect" their interests and their "land".

His hardline stance and rhetoric against Bangladeshi Muslims, deriding commentary on "mias" as also his singing, dancing, welfare pitch, schemes for women and youth, are all carefully crafted and calibrated political tools to further his image as a tough guy with a softer side. The one who can shake a leg and bulldoze a house in the same breath.

Even while responding to the opposition attacks on alleged corruption or his family wealth, he plays the "son of Assam" card, declaring that all his and his family's wealth will be "willed to people of Assam" and not his children. Again trying to present himself in contrast to the "dynastic" opposition.

The Majority He Really Cares About...

With 60 seats both in 2016 and 2021, the BJP has been running a coalition government. So, this is also Himanta's turn to show that he can deliver the magic number for the BJP. And he is following the BJP tried and tested playbook, hallowing out the Opposition.

Here Sarma is playing a two-pronged game. He is not just getting veteran Congress leaders to switch sides, he is also making it into a Hindu-Muslim issue, framing defections as 'Hindu' leaders quitting the 'Muslim' Congress.

His personal attacks on Congress Dhubri MP Rakibul Hussain and incessant campaign against Gaurav Gogoi over alleged ISI links are part of the strategy to paint Congress as the party of Muslims and, by extension, of Bangladeshis, while projecting the BJP as the party of Hindus and himself as the son of the soil, the protector.

He plays on the demographic anxieties in Assam to his advantage. Himanta sees this majoritarian politics as the way to the still elusive majority in the Assembly.

Today, he is the most polarising figure in Assam. Will he seal his place as the Numero Uno of Assam politics, or will the aggressive polarising agenda boomerang? Assam will decide on April 9, and we will know on May 4.

Iran claims US 'rescue mission' ended in 'humiliating defeat', hints at nuclear fuel target

Iran has raised questions over a US mission to rescue a Colonel from a mountainous region in western Iran, suggesting the operation may have had a broader objective — possibly targeting enriched uranium — and describing the attempt as a “humiliating defeat” for the US. The US on Sunday announced it had successfully rescued a Colonel, who was the weapons systems operator on the ill-fated F-15E Strike Eagle jet that was downed on Thursday. The Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) referred to the images of destroyed planes and helicopters within Iranian territory and said “the enemy's flying objects were destroyed, and the US once again suffered a humiliating defeat”. The IRGC was referring to what it claimed was the loss of 11 US planes in the firefight that ensued during the “rescue mission”. Iran's joint military command later said the US bombed its own aircraft to “prevent embarrassment for President Donald Trump.” The Iranian Fars News Agency, which is close to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, reported that the US lost 11 planes in the “mission” — two C-130 aircraft; four UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters; one



A-10 “Warthog” attack aircraft; two “Little Bird” helicopters; two MQ-9 “Reaper” drones. These 11 aviation assets are besides the F-15E “Strike Eagle” two-seat fighter jet that was downed over Iran on April 3. The US has so far not given out its list of losses, however, if the Iranian claims are correct this could be \$400 million worth of hardware loss for the US. US-based news outlet CNN geolocated footage of the burnt-out planes and helicopters to the southern Isfahan province in Iran. In June last year, when Israel and US bombed Iran, the enriched nuclear fuel — Uranium — was moved to site near Isfahan. Western analysts, including former US and UK military officers, suggested the rescue mission did not need to

deploy so many aircraft and that the real target may have been ‘something else’. US forces said two of its planes, the MC-130J's, had not been able to fly out and described them as ‘struck in the sand’. Analysts noted that the rescued US Colonel had a location-emitting beacon and was positioned at an altitude of 7,000 feet. While a helicopter was dispatched for extraction, the presence of so many assets on the ground in Iran raised questions. Armed drones, the MQ9B kept a continuous watch from above and fired at anyone, or vehicle, within a 3-mile radius of the Colonel's location in a mountain crevice in western Iran. The Colonel had trekked to the height, away from the crash site, to avoid the trailing Iranian forces. The US deployed dozens of planes, special operations troops, cyber, space and intelligence assets. An attempted extraction of hostages in 1980 in Iran had failed, when two US aviation assets collided while aborting the mission. The airmen were taken hostage by Iran for almost 18 months. Another rescue attempt of a pilot in 1995 in Bosnia was successful, and it inspired a movie ‘Behind Enemy Lines’ in 2001.

Trump issues expletive-laden warning on Hormuz; Tehran calls remark uncivil

The US-Iran war of words escalated on Sunday, with President Donald Trump issuing an expletive-laden warning to Tehran to open the Strait of Hormuz or face action. The latest reaction came after Iran rejected Trump's earlier demand that it cut a deal within 48 hours or “face hell”. Trump took to social media and used abusive language to call on Iran to allow ships through the strait, while threatening further attacks on Iranian energy and transport infrastructure. In a post on Truth Social, he said, “Tuesday will be power plant day, and bridge day, all wrapped up in one, in Iran. There will be nothing like it. Open the **** strait, you crazy b****s, or you'll be living in hell -- just watch! Praise be to Allah”. Iran responded by terming Trump's language as lacking civility. A post on X said, “The low level of civility and intelligence shown by a leader of a country is

regrettable. The shameful fervour with which intentions to commit war crimes are repeated is staggering.” Iran added that invoking the divine despite “ill intentions exposed deep fanaticism”. Earlier in the day, Iran's central military command rejected Trump's previous ultimatum, with Gen Ali Abdollahi Aliabadi calling it a “helpless, nervous, unbalanced and stupid action”. Echoing Trump's language, he warned that “the gates of hell will open for you”. Trump had posted, “Remember when I gave Iran 10 days to make a deal or open the Hormuz Strait,” referring to an ultimatum issued on March 26. “Time is running out -- 48 hours before all hell will rain down on them,” he said. Meanwhile, Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty said he had spoken over the phone with US envoy Steve Witkoff and Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, as well as his



Turkish and Pakistani counterparts. The Egyptian Foreign Ministry said Abdelatty had discussed “ideas and proposals to achieve the required calm” and warned of an “unprecedented explosion” in West Asia, without elaborating further. Oman and Iran have also held deputy foreign minister-level talks to discuss options to ensure smooth transit of vessels through the Strait of Hormuz, according to the Omani Foreign Ministry. The meeting was held on Saturday at the level of undersecretaries and attended by specialists

from both sides. Earlier, Iran had said it was drafting a protocol with Oman to monitor traffic in the strait, through which about a fifth of global oil supplies pass, and which Tehran has severely restricted in response to the ongoing US-Israeli conflict. Meanwhile, Qatar's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani and his Kuwaiti counterpart Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah held talks on regional developments, including recent Iranian attacks on Kuwaiti energy facilities.

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman to visit India on Tuesday

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman will begin a three-day visit to India on Tuesday -- the first by a senior Bangladeshi minister since Prime Minister Tarique Rahman assumed office. Officials said Rahman's packed schedule in New Delhi signals an early push by both sides to stabilise and deepen ties. He is slated to hold back-to-back meetings with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, reflecting the breadth of engagement spanning security, trade and energy. Bangladesh media reported that Rahman's Foreign Affairs Adviser Humayun Kabir will accompany the minister, underlining the political weight of the visit. Just a day before the high-level engagement in New Delhi, India's High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pranay Verma met Rahman in Dhaka on Monday. According to official read-



outs, the two sides discussed expanding bilateral engagement with a focus on “people-centric cooperation” across sectors aligned with development priorities. Verma conveyed New Delhi's intent to work with Dhaka through a “positive, constructive and forward-looking approach” based on mutual interest and benefit -- signalling India's calibrated effort to rebuild momentum in ties after the political transition in Bangladesh. Diplomatic sources view the twin developments -- the ministerial visit and the envoy's outreach -- as part

of a coordinated attempt to bolster engagement at multiple levels, from political leadership to sectoral cooperation. Rahman is no stranger to New Delhi's strategic corridors. He had visited India in November last year as Bangladesh's NSA to attend a meeting of National Security Advisers of the Colombo Security Conclave, offering continuity in security dialogue even before the change of government in Dhaka. New Delhi has already indicated its intent to deepen ties with the new dispensa-

tion. Following the elections earlier this year, Modi congratulated Rahman, while senior Indian leaders attended his swearing-in ceremony, moves seen as signalling continuity in India's neighbourhood policy. With trade, connectivity, energy cooperation and border management on the table, Rahman's visit is expected to set the tone for the next phase of India-Bangladesh relations, even as both sides navigate a sensitive political transition and evolving regional dynamics.

Rising petrol prices hit Pakistan's students, poor

Lahore [Pakistan], April 6 (ANI): Pakistan is reeling under a severe fuel price shock, with petrol rates soaring to historic highs and triggering widespread frustration among citizens. The government's recent announcement of a dramatic price hike, pushing petrol to nearly 458 Pakistani rupees per litre, sparked intense public uproar, forcing officials to partially roll back the increase. But for many, the damage has already been done. The sudden spike has placed enormous pressure on students and low-income households, who say their daily routines and already-tight budgets have become impossible to manage. Amaad, a local student, voiced his distress: “Petrol prices have reached sky-high. What should we do? We are students. Even if we work, how will we manage everything? We sincerely appeal to the government to take necessary steps to



provide some relief. It would be a kind and much-needed support for us.” The government officials attribute the hike to rising global oil prices driven by geopolitical tensions involving Iran, Israel, and the United States (US). However, for ordinary Pakistanis, the impact is immediate and severe. Public transport fares have surged, and daily commuting -- particularly

for students -- has turned into a major financial burden. Another student, Ali Hassan, expressed the growing sense of helplessness: “People have come here just to fill petrol, but if all these people protested together, maybe something could change. But we don't have that power. In every country, petrol prices rise -- but nowhere as much as in Pakistan. The government must look into this.” Criticism of the government's economic management is intensifying, with many accusing authorities of failing to protect citizens from inflation and demanding urgent relief measures. For millions across Pakistan, the fuel crisis is no longer an economic indicator -- it is a daily struggle impacting mobility, education, and access to necessities. As frustration mounts, the pressure on the government to act swiftly and decisively continues to grow.

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Goods not reaching destinations, orders halted: Israel-Iran conflict hits Ludhiana exporters hard

The impact of the Israel conflict is starting to spread everywhere, and India is no exception. The biggest impact now is on exporters, who are extremely anxious and fearful because the future of their shipments, worth crores, is completely uncertain. The goods they have sent are not reaching their destinations, and orders from the other side have come to a halt, causing a lot of trouble for them. In Ludhiana, where various industries are catered to, whether it's woolen garments, nuts and bolts, or auto spare parts, everyone is saying that their exports have been severely affected by the conflict between Iran and Israel-US. Talking to The Tribune, Vikas Jain said that exporting garments to countries like UAE, Oman, Qatar, Dubai etc was very grim. “The freight which was 400 US dollars per container had risen to 5,000 US dollars. We are under constant fear as the war has started showing the impact,” said Jain. Pankaj Sharma, president, Association of Trade & Industrial Undertakings (ATI), convened a meeting of the Exporters Wing of ATI and said the exporters—particularly those dealing in engineering goods, hosiery and garments — highlighted multiple challenges affecting their operations. Sharma said, “They have reported widespread cancellation of export orders due to weakening global demand, along with delays and suspension of payments from overseas buyers. Adding to their distress, a sharp increase in raw material



prices within India has made production increasingly unviable.” Vijay Sharma, MD, FAS International and Head of the Export Unit of ATI maintained, “The lack of remittances from customers and absence of support from financial institutions have made it extremely difficult for exporters to sustain and plan operations.” He further elaborated that shipments routed through the Strait of Hormuz—covering key destinations such as Dubai, Dammam, Riyadh, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and Iraq—have been severely disrupted. The cargo is being diverted to smaller ports like Sohar, Fujairah and Khor Al Fakkan, leading to heavy congestion. In several cases, shipping lines have arbitrarily offloaded cargo at ports such as Chennai and Hong Kong, issuing ‘End of Voyage’ notices, leaving exporters stranded without logistical clarity. The exporters from city also raised serious concerns over arbitrary and excessive charges imposed by shipping lines, ranging between \$2,000 to \$6,000 per container, further escalating their financial burden. Rakesh Kapoor, MD, Paramount Impex, said, “Due to the restrictions

imposed by shipping lines, we are left with no alternative but to bear these unjustified costs, as buyers are already looking for reasons to cancel orders.” The former CII chairman Rahul Ahuja said Shipments to Iran, Egypt, UAE are held up. Orders are not coming from Europe and middle east and the input cost has gone very high. Another leading garment exporter, Madhur Gupta of Madhur Impex and Rajesh Gupta of National Yarns pointed out that the current disruption has created a pre-COVID-like situation, which could derail business momentum. They cautioned that such instability is likely to shake the confidence of foreign buyers, leading to long-term adverse effects on export relationships. Pranav Chadha, MD, BAUM Tools and a recognised star exporter, emphasized the urgent need for government support, stating that the situation demands immediate relief measures to safeguard the export sector. **Units may not survive:** Indermohan Singh Director Turbo Tools, a leading exporter of engineering goods to the UAE, warned that if the current situation persists for a few more weeks, many units may not survive. Pankaj Sharma informed that ATI has formally written to the Ministry of Commerce, urging immediate intervention and relief measures for exporters, keeping in view the prolonged uncertainty and severity of the crisis.

particular alarm over reports of strategic military movements, including a nuclear-capable bomber near Iranian airspace. “Once a nuclear war starts, I don't know how it ends,” he cautioned, underlining the gravity of escalation. Rejecting assumptions of a quick resolution, he argued that Iran's deep historical and political foundations make it resilient. “It may emerge wounded, but it will survive as an integral country,” he said, criticising Western expectations of regime collapse. A key concern, Amorim noted, is the erosion of diplomacy. He stressed that trust, central to negotiations, has been severely undermined by military strikes during ongoing talks. Such actions, he argued, empower headline

Chief advisor to Brazil's presidency Amorim warns of real risk of world war, says global order no longer exists

Brasilia [Brazil], April 6 (ANI): In a stark warning on the state of global geopolitics, Celso Amorim, chief advisor to Brazil's presidency, has cautioned that the world faces a “very serious” situation with a tangible risk of wider conflict, even hinting at the possibility of a third world war. Speaking in an interview, Amorim described the ongoing military escalation involving the United States, Israel, and Iran as “the worst possible scenario”. He warned that conflicts in West Asia from Gaza to southern Lebanon can no longer be viewed in isolation, as they increasingly intersect with broader tensions like the war in Ukraine, as reported by Brasil 247. Amorim expressed

particular alarm over reports of strategic military movements, including a nuclear-capable bomber near Iranian airspace. “Once a nuclear war starts, I don't know how it ends,” he cautioned, underlining the gravity of escalation. Rejecting assumptions of a quick resolution, he argued that Iran's deep historical and political foundations make it resilient. “It may emerge wounded, but it will survive as an integral country,” he said, criticising Western expectations of regime collapse. A key concern, Amorim noted, is the erosion of diplomacy. He stressed that trust, central to negotiations, has been severely undermined by military strikes during ongoing talks. Such actions, he argued, empower headline



factions while weakening space for dialogue. Beyond the battlefield, Amorim declared that the international system itself is unravelling. “There is no longer a world order,” he said, pointing to the weakening of multilateral institutions like the World Trade Organisation and the sidelining of forums such as the G20. He also highlighted the unresolved Palestinian

issue as a persistent catalyst of instability, warning that without its resolution, the region will remain volatile. Concluding, Amorim said overlapping conflicts risk converging into a larger crisis. He urged renewed commitment to diplomacy, warning that unchecked fragmentation could push the world toward a catastrophic global confrontation.

INS Sunayna reaches Male under IOS SAGAR, boosts India-Maldives maritime cooperation

Male [Maldives], April 6 (ANI): Reinforcing its regional outreach under the ‘Neighbourhood First’ policy, India marked a significant maritime engagement in the Maldives as INS Sunayna arrived in the capital of the Maldives, Male, on Sunday as part of the IOS SAGAR initiative, according to an official press release by the Indian High Commission in the Maldives. According to the issued press release, the deployment underscores India's strategic vision in the Indian Ocean Region and its commitment to deeper cooperation with neighbouring countries. According to the release, the INS Sunayna, a Saryu-class Offshore Patrol Vessel, is currently

manned by a multinational contingent from 16 Friendly Foreign Countries (FFCs) and was received with full naval honours by the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDFF). Highlighting operational coordination, the release noted that prior to docking, joint exercises were conducted at sea. “Prior to making port, INS Sunayna and MNDFF Coast Guard assets completed intensive Joint Seamanship Training manoeuvres. The at-sea phase focused on tactical station-keeping, advanced signalling, and extensive small arms firing for the crew. Further, Damage Control and Firefighting Drills were also progressed,” the release said.

The visit is part of a broader deployment aimed at enhancing maritime cooperation and interoperability. “The three-day stay will facilitate Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (SMEE) to consolidate maritime domain awareness,” the release said. Calling the visit strategically important, the release added, “As the first international stop in a 50-day deployment, this visit projects India's role as the Preferred Security Partner in the Indian Ocean Region.” Reaffirming India's commitment to the Maldives, it stated, “The visit to Male further emphasises India's role as the ‘First Responder’ and a trusted partner in the Maldives’ developmental and security journey.”

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Despite Losses, Producer's Master Plan With Five Films

Despite associating with many films of Tier-2 heroes, producer Anil Sunkara is not actively making any big projects after the heavy losses incurred by Akhil's Agent. However, the producer is not backing off, and he wants to give another big boost to his portfolio by launching as many as five projects, all at once, and already the plans are underway.



Here are some interesting details. Recently, with the release of his much delayed film Nari Nari Naduma Murari, producer Anil Sunkara scored the much needed relief at the box office as the film presented them with some profits. Reports are now coming that Anil Sunkara is in active talks with the likes of Sai Dharam Tej, Manchu Manoj and

Sandeep Kishan to take their respective films to sets. Earlier, he had worked with all these heroes and produced/funded the best commercial flicks of these stars. So, taking these projects to sets is not a daunting task. At the same time, he has already announced a film with newcomers, which is titled Bezawada Air Force

Batch. Another film with newcomers is also in the pipeline, as per the reports coming up. Guess what, the producer might take all five films to the sets all at once, to give a major boost to their portfolio. That way, even OTT platforms might give the best rate for all the 5 projects together, and that's the master stroke Anil Sunkara might be planning now.

Dacoit gave me new space to Explore: Mrunal



Adivi Sesh's love-and-action drama Dacoit is inching closer to its April 10th release, and the movie has generated solid buzz with its songs, teaser, and trailer.

Mrunal Thakur, who plays a key role as the leading lady, says she thoroughly enjoyed portraying a challenging character in Dacoit. "It's a very different role in my career and belongs to a genre I haven't explored before. I'm confident the audience will love it. I even performed some of the stunts myself." The actress affirms that she always likes to experiment and surprise herself. "This film gave me that new space. I love doing films that offer new emotions and characters I haven't done before. Dacoit is one such fresh

genre film." She adds that Sesh has delivered a standout performance. "I want people to come to theatres and watch this film for Sesh. He has taken up a very new kind of character. This will be one of his best films. Working with Sesh, Anurag Kashyap, and Prakash Raj was a wonderful experience."

Mrunal is also full of praise for producer Supriya Yarlagadda. "Supriya is a wonderful producer. Once, I was supposed to fly from Mumbai to Hyderabad for a shoot, but I had a fever. She immediately postponed the schedule by two days after learning about my health. I've never seen a producer who cares so much about the well-being of her actors."

Anil Ravipudi is a Hidden Actor: Dil Raju at LIK Event



Producer Dil Raju recently made an interesting statement about popular director Anil Ravipudi. He said that Anil Ravipudi is not just a director but also a very good actor. His comments came during the pre-release event of the upcoming film Love Insurance Kompany (LIK). Dil Raju shared that whenever Anil Ravipudi comes to narrate a story, he explains it with full expressions. He said Anil acts out scenes while narrating, which shows his natural acting talent. Dil Raju said that this quality proves that Anil has strong acting skills hidden inside

him. He also mentioned that he would like to introduce Anil Ravipudi as an actor in the future. This statement surprised fans and created excitement. Many people are now curious to see Anil in an acting role. The event was held for Love Insurance Kompany, love entertainer starring Pradeep Ranganathan and Krithi Shetty. The film has already created good buzz among the audience. The story is expected to have a fresh and interesting concept. The movie is all set to release on April 10 and is directed by Nayanthara husband Vignesh Shivan.

1st Time in History: Dhurandhar 2 is Untouchable!



It was always expected that Dhurandhar 2 would be one of the highest grossing films of all time in Indian cinema, and this is exactly turning out to be the case now. The film is phenomenal run at the Indian box office, and it has set an unprecedented record now. The latest installment of the blockbuster franchise, Dhurandhar 2, has made history at the Indian box office by becoming the first Hindi film ever to cross Rs.1,000 crore nett collections domestically. Released just over two weeks ago, the film has captured the audience's imagination with its high-octane action, star-studded cast, and gripping storyline. On its 16th day, the film continued its strong run, screening in more than 4,000 shows nationwide and adding significant revenue to its already record-breaking total. The consistent footfall in theaters across all major cities indicates that audiences are flocking to see the film repeatedly, highlighting its mass appeal. With this landmark achievement, Dhurandhar 2 now surpasses previous records set by major hits in Hindi cinema, firmly establishing itself as a cultural and commercial phenomenon. Industry analysts point out that crossing ?1,000 crore nett in India is a rare feat, previously seen only in Telugu and Tamil cinema, making this milestone even more significant for Bollywood. The film's success reflects not only the franchise's strong fanbase but also the growing market for Hindi-language blockbusters at a pan-India level. As theaters continue to report packed shows, Dhurandhar 2 is expected to maintain its momentum, setting new benchmarks for future releases in Indian cinema.



Sharwa's Biker collects huge in its first weekend

Charming Star Sharwanand starrer Biker, India's first Motorcross film, released on 3rd April with huge anticipation. The movie collected Rs.18.09 crores+ gross in the first weekend, worldwide. It showcased Sharwanand's huge market pull and great reputation among family audiences. With the premieres itself, the movie got a huge appreciation from audiences and critics alike. The sound design, visuals, racing sequences and conviction



of the director Abhilash Reddy, production values of UV Creations have been highly appreciated by audiences. Sharwanand's incredibly transformation, his screen presence, his performance and mainly his father-son bonding scenes have gained him innumerable amount of praises. Rajasekhar's performance and Malavika Nair's glamor have added to the overall highlights of

the movie. Family audiences are praising the unique concept and integration of high-end emotions in the racing sequences. VFX work and spectacular cinematic experience the movie provides have made it a trending blockbuster with high number of ticket sales on BMS. The first Monday bookings are huge as the movie has garnered great family audiences support.

Telugu Artists Getting Sidelined? JD Has Different Opinion

Long back, former actor Kota Srinivasarao started to complain that with the arrival of other language actors like Prakash Raj, the opportunities for local Telugu actors had declined in Telugu movies. Owing to that, many star directors started bringing various new talented artists from Tamil, Malayalam, Hindi and Marathi as well, while sometimes there are Bengali actors also. So, what's the take of former hero JD Chakravarthy on this?



In fact, JD has stopped doing films for some time as films that have him in the lead are not even working out. He's now doing a special role in the movie Gayapadda Simham that features Tarun Bhaskar in the leading role. While promoting this movie, JD was asked if non-state actors are ruling out the chances of

local Telugu stars, and his response was amazing. "There is nothing like Telugu actors are not getting the offers. Firstly, most directors approach Telugu actors for certain roles, and only if we reject it, then other language actors come in. Also, sometimes, when the director carves out a story, depending upon the fitness of an actor the character requires, he will go for other language actors. So that's a creative call and there is nothing to worry about," said JD Chakravarthy. In a way, the actor, who also happens to be the director, has pulled the curtains down on these allegations that Telugu actors are not getting enough chances, saying that it is a creative call. Surely this opinion resonates with many filmmakers out there.

Varanasi: Frustrated Rajamouli Takes Into own Hands!

First production and VFX creation is generally regarded as one of the most frustrating things for any film maker and Rajamouli is not different with the same. Many people say that Rajamouli usually gets frustrated with the delay in the production as the VFX output is not on his expected standards. Now, SS Rajamouli has partnered in setting up a dedicated VFX studio, further strengthening his grip over the technical aspects of his filmmaking.



The studio is equipped with international level technology and is already playing a central role in the production of his upcoming film Varanasi. A significant portion of the visual effects work for Varanasi is being handled in house at this studio, with an additional four to five international VFX companies also contributing to the project. Rajamouli has always been known for his meticulous attention to visual effects, never compromising on the quality of what appears on screen. Having his own studio in the mix gives him direct creative oversight over

the VFX pipeline, allowing him to maintain the exacting standards his films are known for worldwide. Industry insiders point out that with a state of the art facility under his own partnership, the scale and quality of visuals in Varanasi is expected to reach an entirely new benchmark. The combination of a proprietary studio and multiple global collaborators signals that the film is being built with extraordinary ambition from a technical standpoint. Rajamouli's track record with RRR and the Baahubali franchise already set the bar high for Indian cinema. Varanasi, backed by this kind of VFX infrastructure, is generating massive expectations across the industry.

Hrithik Backs Ramayana VFX, Despite Criticism



The teaser of Bollywood's ambitious big-budget film Ramayana has sparked mixed reactions online, especially around its VFX. While some praised the scale, others compared it to video game visuals. At a time when some are criticising Adipurush for being a mediocre film, unlike Ramayana, some are taking a dig at Ramayana VFX and how they have used AI to generate visuals, and are inspired by various Hollywood movies rather than being original.

Now, Bollywood's Superstar Hrithik Roshan has stepped in with his take. He appreciated filmmakers who attempt large-scale visual storytelling, saying they take huge risks in terms of money, time and effort just to give audiences a new experience. At the same time, he brought up examples like Baahubali and Kalki 2898 AD, along with his father Rakesh Roshan's films like Krrish. His point is

simple. These films exist because someone dared to try something new. Now this is where it gets interesting. Should such films be judged too quickly based on early visuals?

In recent years, we have seen how VFX-heavy films face instant scrutiny after the teaser arrives. Even before release, opinions get locked. At the same time, many of these films undergo massive improvements by the time they hit theatres. On one side, audience expectations are higher than ever, especially for a film mounted on a reported ?4000 crore scale. On the other hand, as Hrithik says, thousands of artists spend years building these worlds, and that effort also needs some understanding. Well, both are right in their own ways. Directed by Nitesh Tiwari, Ramayana stars Ranbir Kapoor, Yash, Sunny Deol and Sai Pallavi, and is planned as a two-part release starting Diwali 2026.

AI Decides Whom You Should Marry: Pradeep Ranganathan at LIK Event



Actor Pradeep Ranganathan recently made an interesting comment about how people are using technology in their daily lives. He said that many people now depend on AI tools like ChatGPT for different things such as relationships, dressing ideas, and even medical advice. His statement has now become a hot topic on social media. Pradeep shared this thought during the event of his upcoming film Love Insurance Kompany. He said that the people are slowly trusting their phones more than real human connections. According to him, this change is happening

very fast, and it is affecting how people think and make decisions. He also revealed that he interacted with ChatGPT in Telugu during the event, which surprised many fans. It showed how advanced AI has become and how it can easily communicate in different languages. This also made people realize how close technology has come to our everyday lives. The most interesting part of his speech was when he jokingly said that in the future, AI chatbots might even help people decide whom to marry. Though he said it in a light way, it raised an

important question. Can technology really replace human emotions and personal choices? This idea also connects with the concept of his movie Love Insurance Kompany. The film is set in the future and shows a world where an app decides perfect matches for people. It explores whether love can be controlled or predicted by technology. Many people on social media are now discussing this topic. Some believe AI can be helpful in giving suggestions, while others feel that love and relationships should always remain personal and emotional.

Second edition of Rugby Premier League to be held in Hyderabad from June 16-28

Rugby India on Monday announced that the second edition of the Rugby Premier League (RPL) will take place at Gachibowli Stadium in Hyderabad from June 16 to 28. Geographic Reference After a successful inaugural event last year in Mumbai, the second edition will include the same six franchises from the first, maintaining a high-performance platform that features top Indian and international players, and delivers an exciting, action-filled rugby experience for fans.

Welcoming the league to Hyderabad, Jayesh Ranjan, IAS, Special Chief Secretary to Government (Youth Advancement, Tourism & Culture & Sports Department), Government of Telangana, said, "Hyderabad's emergence as a global sporting destination reflects Telangana's long-term policy vision and institutional support for international partnerships. Events like the Rugby Premier League contribute significantly to tourism, urban visibility, and the broader sports economy of the State."

Echoing this sentiment and outlining the league's continued evolution, Rahul Bose, President of Rugby India, said, "With everything one does in life, the quest is to always do better, be better, deliver better. That will continue to be the cornerstone of the RPL."



Elaborating on how this philosophy is implemented within the league, he added, "Building a world-class property will never be enough. We will always strive to deliver a better product for our fans, do better by our sponsors and last but not the least, be better partners for our franchisees, their owners and their support staff. RPL 2026 at the Gachibowli Stadium in Hyderabad sets out to achieve all this and more. We promise a better fan experience, an even more thrilling quality of world-class rugby and a brilliant television and OTT product. As always, we cannot do anything alone. We rely on all our partners, including the media, to guide, advise and be the wind beneath our wings. Here's to a cracking RPL 2026!"

The decision to host the league in Hyderabad aligns with GMR Sports' broader commitment to developing world-class sporting ecosystems. The announcement follows GMR Sports' recent signing of a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the

Government of Telangana, with a shared focus on developing a Satellite Sports City within Bharat Future City. Geographic Reference GMR Sports' CEO, Satyam Trivedi, announced the second Rugby Premier League season will be held in Hyderabad at Gachibowli Stadium, highlighting the city's prime infrastructure, connectivity, passionate fans, and the presence of a franchise partner. This move reflects GMR Sports' dedication to promoting rugby's growth, offering top-tier sporting experiences, and inspiring future athletes in Hyderabad and across India.

A. Sonibala Devi, IFS, Vice Chairman & Managing Director of the Sports Authority of Telangana (SATG), emphasised the event's significance from a high-performance perspective. "Hosting the Rugby Premier League at the Gachibowli Stadium strengthens our high-performance ecosystem and provides invaluable exposure to emerging talent. Such international competitions accelerate athlete development and reinforce Telangana's commitment to sporting excellence," she said.

The second edition of the Rugby Premier League is poised to showcase top-level rugby with elite competition, a tested league format, and a new host city, all while further supporting the growth of rugby in India.

IPL 2026: 'Building a season takes time...' says LSG owner Goenka after thrilling SRH win

Hyderabad: Lucknow Super Giants owner Sanjiv Goenka emphasised patience and collective belief after his team secured a thrilling last-over victory over Sunrisers Hyderabad in the Indian Premier League clash at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium, saying performances like these reflect the process of building a successful season.

Geographic Reference Lucknow edged past Hyderabad by five wickets in a tense last-over finish at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium on Sunday, with skipper Rishabh Pant guiding the chase of 157 with one ball to spare after a spirited fight from the hosts.

Following the win, Goenka emphasised that



building a successful campaign in a long tournament requires time and belief within the group and credited the leadership group and the clarity within the squad for the team's performance under pressure. He also acknowledged that, while the result was encouraging, the team remains focused on further improvement as the tour-

n a m e n t progresses. "Building a season takes time, patience, and collective belief. Today reflected all three. The captain set the tone, and the group followed with clarity and discipline. That alignment is what allows a team to grow. A step forward, with a long way still to go. Grateful for the support. We keep building from

here," Goenka wrote in an Instagram post.

Lucknow's bowlers had earlier laid the foundation by restricting Hyderabad to 156/9 despite a strong middle-order partnership between Heinrich Klaasen and Nitish Kumar Reddy. The chase later went down to the final over before Pant sealed the result.

The victory provided Lucknow with valuable momentum in the competition, marking their first win of the IPL 2026 campaign. Before Pant and Aiden Markram's knocks, Mohammed Shami registered a brilliant spell of 2-9 in four overs to keep the hosts in check. LSG will next face the Kolkata Knight Riders on Thursday at the iconic Eden Gardens.

I'm going to try to enjoy this beautiful surface: Alcaraz excited for Monte Carlo return

Top seed Carlos Alcaraz is excited for the start of his clay-court season at the Monte-Carlo Masters and said, "To be in Monaco as the defending champion is something that he is not thinking about." Alcaraz, who is set to compete in Monte-Carlo for the third time, is the defending champion at the first clay-court season off the back of two consecutive defeats, to Jack Draper at Indian Wells and David Goffin in Miami. But from his arrival in the Principality, he won 33 of his next 34 matches.

"I'm just really, really happy to be back here in Monte-Carlo, the first tournament of the clay season, at least for me, which is great," Alcaraz told ATP Media on Thursday. "I just missed it so much to be honest. I'm going to try to enjoy as much as I can this

beautiful surface, this beautiful tournament. It's great." "To be here as the defending champion, it's something that I'm just not thinking about to be honest. I'm just trying to be in a good mindset and trying to get better after every practice, and let's see how it goes," he said.

"This week was really, really important. I would say that was the turning point of 2025. After the feeling that I got here, I just got better and better. I understood and I realised how I should play after this week. That's why I just did an exceptional year after this one. I do remember I didn't play that well, but everything that came after that, it was an amazing moment for me," he added.

Clay has always been a happy hunting ground for Alcaraz, who has won 84.4 per cent of his matches on the surface according to ATP Stats. Only Rafael Nadal (90.5%) and Bjorn



Borg (86.1%) own better winning percentages on record, so it is a good opportunity for the Spaniard to get back on track after a third-round loss in Miami to Sebastian Korda.

"I started playing tennis on clay courts. I grew up playing on clay courts. I started playing at four and I just didn't touch a hard court until I was eight years old, and I just touched it barely, so I was always on clay courts,"

Alcaraz said. "That's why I got the feeling of playing the clay season and when the clay season is over you have to wait almost one year to play again. So it's a really long period of time, at least for me," he said.

Alcaraz, who is also in the middle of a battle for World No. 1 in the ATP Rankings with Jannik Sinner, will face former World No. 3 Stan Wawrinka or Sebastian Baez in the second round.

India chase Billie Jean King Cup play-offs spot; Shrivalli pull out due to back spasm

New Delhi: India will look to make the most of familiar conditions and home support when the Asia-Oceania Group I ties of the Billie Jean King Cup begin at the DLTA Complex on Tuesday (April 6, 2026), with promotion to the 2026 play-offs firmly on their radar.

However, the home challenge has suffered a dent with the withdrawal of talented Shrivalli Bhamidipaty. Placed alongside Indonesia, Korea, Mongolia, New Zealand and Thailand, the hosts face a stiff challenge in a tightly-contested field where only the top two teams will progress, while the bottom two sides will be relegated to Group II for 2027. India return to the regional competition after a disappointing outing in the 2025 play-offs held in Bengaluru, where they finished third in a three-team Group G. The hosts suffered a 1-2 defeat to Slovenia and a 0-3 loss to the Netherlands, despite spirited efforts from debutant Shrivalli and Sahaja Yamalappali.

That campaign marked a transition phase for the team, and the responsibility in singles now firmly rests on Sahaja and top-ranked Vaishnavi Adkar, who lead India's charge in the format. Experienced campaigner Ankita Raina, meanwhile, is expected to focus on doubles duties, where her experience alongside Rutuja Bhosale remains a key asset. It won't be a surprise if skipper Vishal Uppal asks Ankita to play singles also dur-

ing the tournament. Sahaja, India's number two player at number 384, has been a consistent performer on the ITF circuit, reaching multiple semifinals over the past year and breaking into the top-300, underlining her role as the team's lead singles option.

She also gained valuable exposure at the WTA level, including a main-draw win on debut at the Chennai Open, reflecting her ability to compete against higher-ranked opposition. Shrivalli has shown her big-match temperament in national colours, having gone unbeaten in singles during India's strong run in the 2025 Asia-Oceania Group I event, defeating multiple higher-ranked players.

She faced early exits in recent events such as the Mumbai Open, but her fighting displays continue to underline her potential at this level. Her withdrawal is a setback for the hosts. "Shrivalli withdrew from the team due to back spasm. Vaidehee Chaudhari (India number 3) would have replaced her but she twisted her ankle on Thursday while practising with the team. She hasn't fully recovered so we can't risk her. Zeel Desai has replaced her," Uppal told PTTI. "We have to work with and make the best of the cards dealt to us. I am focusing on what we have and how we make the most of it," he said. The rise of Vaishnavi Adkar has added depth to India's singles lineup. The youngster, now the country's number one singles player at

number 383, earned her maiden national call-up after a breakthrough run to the final of a W100 event in Bengaluru—the first by an Indian woman in over a decade—and also clinched an ITF title earlier this season, highlighting her rapid progress. However, the absence of top-200 players remains a concern, with India's singles contingent still outside the top 300, reflecting the gap at the highest level.

Indonesia head into the tournament as favourites, led by the highest-ranked player in the field Janice Tjen, who has rapidly risen into the top 50 of the WTA rankings. Her recent performances underline why she is a major threat. The world number 41 Tjen made global headlines last year by winning a match on her Grand Slam debut at the U.S. Open, becoming the first Indonesian woman in over two decades to register a victory at that level.

She has carried that momentum into 2026, defeating top-30 player Leylah Fernandez at the Australian Open before reaching the second round. She has the ability to trouble higher-ranked opponents.

On the WTA Tour, she has already shown consistency against quality fields, including wins over established names and a run to the third round in a tour event earlier this season. Though she suffered an early exit at the Miami Open, her competitive three-set loss against Kazakhstan's Yulia Putintseva further illustrated her fighting ability.

'Dravid rarely seen inside...': Kumble's witty take on pavilion end honour at Chinnaswamy

Legendary India spinner Anil Kumble shared a hilarious take on being honoured with the pavilion end at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium named after him, saying the pavilion end has not been named after Rahul Dravid because he either spent most of his time outside it or because he was 'rarely seen inside' once he walked out with the bat.

The Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) unveiled the "Anil Kumble End" and the "Rahul Dravid End" ahead of the IPL 2026 clash between Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Chennai Super Kings on Sunday, recognising the contributions of two of Karnataka and India's finest cricketers.

Kumble shared a light-hearted remark involving Dravid. "Probably because Rahul spent most of his time outside the pavilion. When he used to bat, he was rarely seen inside," he told JioStar. The pavilion end of the stadium has now been named after Kumble, referencing his bowling style and long spells during his career. "And I have been given the pavilion end, probably because it is close to the pavilion and you don't need a run-up to bowl



from there. When I played, I bowled a lot of overs from both ends, so why did they give me the pavilion end?" he joked.

Reflecting on the honour, Kumble admitted the gesture had exceeded anything he had imagined during his playing days. "I never thought that there would be a permanent end at the Chinnaswamy Stadium in my name. It's a special feeling," he added.

The former leg-spinner, who remains India's highest wicket-taker

across formats, also reminisced about his early connection with the iconic venue, tracing it back to his childhood. "I was 9 years old when I first came to this stadium to watch a Ranji Trophy match between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. So, yes, this feels surreal."

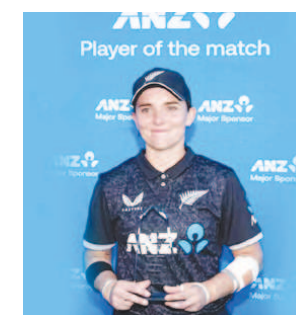
The ceremony, attended by KSCA officials, including president Venkatesh Prasad, marked a significant tribute to two stalwarts whose careers have left an indelible mark on Indian cricket.

Kerr, Mooney, and Khaka short-listed for ICC Women's Player of the Month award

New Zealand captain Amelia Kerr, Australia batter Beth Mooney and South Africa seamer Ayabonga Khaka have been shortlisted for ICC Women's Player of the Month award for March.

Amelia's all-round displays against Zimbabwe and South Africa have led to her being in contention for a third ICC Player of the Month award, while Beth impressed with consistent batting performances against India and West Indies. Ayabonga, meanwhile, topped the wicket charts in South Africa's T20I series in New Zealand before producing

a career-best effort in their opening ODI game. Amelia scored 176 runs at a strike-rate of 78.57 in four ODIs in March while also grabbing 18 wickets with an economy rate of 3.77. She was the Player of the Series as New Zealand defeated Zimbabwe 3-0 in ODIs, including taking 7-34 in the second match. In six T20Is, she scored 276 runs at a strike-rate of 158.62 and took six wickets as she extended her incredible streak of making 11 consecutive scores of 30 or more in the format. Amelia, the top-ranked all-rounder in the shortest format, was also



adjudged as the Player of the Series in New Zealand's 4-1 T20I series win over South Africa. Beth, meanwhile, scored 171 runs in two ODIs - an unbeaten 106 in the final ODI of the series against India in Hobart, which gave Australia a 3-0 series

win and 65 against the West Indies in Basseterre. She also amassed 107 runs at a strike-rate of 128.91 in three T20Is that included a match-winning 79 off 55 deliveries in the first T20I against the West Indies in Kingstown.

On the other hand, Ayabonga was the leading wicket-taker in their T20I series in New Zealand, grabbing eight wickets in four matches. She followed it up with consistent performances - like picking 6-56 in the first ODI against New Zealand in Christchurch, as South Africa won the game in thrilling fashion.

IPL 2026: When and where to watch RR vs MI, know all details

Guwahati: Buoyed by their early success, Rajasthan Royals, winner of the inaugural edition in 2008, will face five-time champions Mumbai Indians in the 13th Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 match at Barsapara Cricket Stadium in Guwahati on Tuesday. RR have started their campaign strongly, securing wins in their first two matches. They opened with a commanding victory over the Chennai Super Kings and later achieved a narrow six-run victory against the Gujarat Titans in Ahmedabad.

The former champions possess a powerful batting lineup, featuring an aggressive opening pair in Vaibhav Sooryavanshi and Yashasvi Jaiswal. Additionally, skipper Riyan Parag and Dhruv Jurel provide support in the middle order. Their quick bowlers, led by Jofra Archer and Nandre Burger, have also performed well with the new ball. Mumbai Indians, meanwhile, head into the

match after a setback against Delhi Capitals. The five-time champions have had a mixed start, securing a win over Kolkata Knight Riders but struggling with consistency overall. Currently placed sixth in the table, MI will be eager to bounce back, with captain Hardik Pandya likely to return to the playing XI. The addition of Mitchell Santner strengthens their spin department and provides better balance, enabling the side to field a three-pronged Indian pace attack alongside Trent Boult. On paper, both teams appear evenly matched, setting the stage for a competitive clash in Guwahati. While Rajasthan will aim to extend their winning run and cement their status as early contenders, Mumbai will be eager to regroup and get their campaign back on track. Where: Barsapara Cricket Stadium (ACA), Guwahati

Where to watch: The RR vs MI match will be broadcast by Star Sports Network, with JioHotstar

live-streaming the game.

Squads:
Rajasthan Royals: Riyan Parag (c), Dhruv Jurel, Donovan Ferreira, Lhuan-Dre Pretorius, Ravi Singh, Aman Perala, Shimron Hetmyer, Shubham Dubey, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Ravindra Jadeja, Dasun Shanaka, Adam Milne, Brijesh Sharma, Jofra Archer, Kuldeep Sen, Kwena Maphaka, Nandre Burger, Ravi Bishnoi, and Sandeep Sharma.
Mumbai Indians: Hardik Pandya (c), Rohit Sharma, Suryakumar Yadav, Tilak Varma, Ryan Rickleton, Robin Minz, Mitchell Santner, Corbin Bosch, Naman Dhir, Jasprit Bumrah, Trent Boult, Allah Ghafanar, Ashwani Kumar, Deepak Chahar, Will Jacks, Raghu Sharma, Raj Angad Bawa, Sherfane Rutherford, Mayank Markande, Shardul Thakur, Quinton de Kock, Mohammad Izzar, Danish Malewar, Atharva Ankoekar, Mayank Rawat

Special attention should be paid to resolving PGRS complaints

District Collector M. Abhishikth Kishore instructions to the officials
People submitted 334 petitions at PGRS and Revenue Clinics

By Skyline Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam, April 06 : District Collector M. Abhishikth Kishore has instructed the officials to pay special attention to the resolution of complaints received from the public through the PGRS (Public Grievance Redressal System) platform, resolve them promptly without delay, and take quality action. In the PGRS organized at the Collectorate meeting hall on Monday morning, he, along with DRO M. Visveswara Naidu and ADC Satyaveni, received complaints from the public. On this occasion, he



gave clear directions to the officials on the steps to be taken in resolving complaints. He said that the officials should talk directly to the petitioners and conduct a thorough examination of the complaints received repeated-

ly. He said that the problems need to be resolved before the deadline. A total of 334 complaints were registered in the PGRS program held on Monday. Out of them, 59 were from the Revenue Department, 83 from the GVMC, 23 from the Police Department, and 169 from other departments. In the PGRS, the District Collector, DRO, and ADC received complaints from the public, while in the Revenue Clinic, RDOs and Tahsildars received complaints from the public. District level officers of all departments were present.



Job fair on April 9th Selection process for 1960 jobs DRDA Project Director Srinivas Pani

By Skyline Staff Reporter Vizianagaram , April 6: The Rural Development Agency (DRDA) and the Society for Employment Generation and Enterprise Development in Andhra Pradesh (SEEDAP) are organizing a job fair with 1960 job opportunities for employment in various companies, said District Rural Development Agency , Scheme Director , Srinivas Pani in a statement. He said that this selection process will be held on Thursday, 09-04-2026 from 9.00 am at the local TTDC , Women's Campus. For information about the qualifications required and other details, candidates should contact D. Tirumala Rao on 8712495526 and S. Sai Kishore - 8712495524 . Candidates who are eligible to appear for the selection process will have to submit Aadhaar card , educational qualification certificates in xerox , two passport size photographs and bio-data.

Jobs details
1. Royal Enfield Company , Chennai invites applications from male candidates with BE/B.Tech (Mechanical/Automobile , Electrical , Electronics & related disciplines/Diploma Degree/ITI) for 50 posts.
2. Male candidates with SSC/Inter/Degree Diploma for 70 jobs in Waltas , Gummidiapudi Sri City , Nellore ,
3. Hetero , men with B.Sc Chemistry , M.Sc Organic Chemistry , ITI Fitter

qualifications are looking for 70 jobs in Hyderabad.
4. Male candidates for 100 Security Guard jobs in GMR Raxaul , Hyderabad
5. Male candidates with B.Sc Chemistry and Diploma Mechanical (Freshers) for 150 jobs in Deccan Fine Chemicals , Tuni
6. Candidates who have completed Inter Pharmacist for 20 (10 Male + 10 Female) posts in Central Pharmacy , Visakhapatnam
7. W. N. S. (WNS), Visakhapatnam for 100 posts of D/B Pharmacy female/male candidates
8. Wooyoung DSC Hmaseung , BISA, Bangalore , Chennai for 600 jobs (free accommodation , food) for male candidates with SSC , Intermediate , ITI , Diploma , B.Tech , M.Tech.
9. Male and female candidates who have completed SSC and Intermediate for 200 jobs in Big Basket (KL Technical Service)
10. Dazzle Sportswear (Pvt) Ltd. , Hyderabad , for 50 jobs (Free accommodation , meals, 12 hours shift) Female candidates with 5th class , SSC and basic sewing machine experience
11. He said that candidates who have studied SSC , Intermediate , ITI , Diploma , B.Tech (Mechanical) should appear for job interviews for 550 jobs (free accommodation and food) in Greentech Industries India Private Limited , Hyderabad .

AP govt sets its sights on setting up an international arbitration centre in Vizag

By Skyline Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam, April 6
In a major push to strengthen Andhra Pradesh's industrial and legal ecosystem, the state government has set its sights on establishing a world-class international arbitration centre in Visakhapatnam. Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Kondapalli Srinivas mentioned that Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu is committed to making this a reality and described it as a transformative step for the state's economic and dispute resolution framework. Addressing a gathering at the 'MSME Conference 2026' organised by the Asian Centre for International Arbitration and Mediation, the minister highlighted that the initiative builds upon earlier discussions held last September in collaboration



with the National Law University. He lauded the Chief Minister's resolve to make Andhra Pradesh a hub for international arbitration and mediation, which is expected to attract global investments and enhance ease of doing business. The government remains committed to strengthening the Alternative

Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism across the state and will extend complete support to institutions like ACIAM. Emphasising on efficiency and transparency, the minister noted that delayed payment claims from MSMEs are now being processed through the ODR portal established by the

Ministry of MSME, ensuring faster and more reliable resolutions. He further informed that the state currently operates one state-level and four regional MSME Facilitation Councils, which are actively resolving pending payment disputes. With an aim to create widespread opportunities for economic growth and self-employment , the minister announced an ambitious plan to establish MSME parks in all 175 assembly constituencies across Andhra Pradesh. Supreme Court Judge Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, MSME Ministry Director Ankita Pandey, Visakhapatnam North MLA P. Vishnukumar Raju, and Andhra Pradesh MSME Development Corporation CEO Surya Raju, along with entrepreneurs attended.

Sabala food festival draws 50,000 visitors in Visakhapatnam

By Skyline Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam, April 6
The second edition of the Sabala Bhojanala Panduga, a community-led food festival centred on natural farming and sustainable living, was held from April 1 to 5 at the Simhachalam Goshala in Visakhapatnam, drawing an estimated 50,000 visitors over five days. Launched in 2024 under the initiative of Vijay Ram, an advocate of natural farming and organic food systems, the festival draws inspiration from agriculturist Subhash Palekar. Farmers from Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram and Srikakulam districts have been central to the initiative, which aims to create awareness and address misconceptions surrounding traditional food practices. Sabala Bhojanala Panduga was held at the Simhachalam Goshala in Visakhapatnam from April 1 to 5. Sabala Bhojanala Panduga was held at the Simhachalam Goshala in Visakhapatnam from April 1 to 5. | Photo Credit: Paul Nicodemus
Many people assume that natural foods are difficult to cook or inac-



cessible, a hesitation that has adversely affected farmers who have shifted to organic methods, said Chalapathi Rao, a member of the organising team. He added that the festival was conceived to bridge this gap and foster a direct connection between farmers and consumers. A diverse range of dishes prepared using indigenous ingredients, including millets, grains, lentils and vegetables, was served during the festival. Organisers said more than 50 varieties of traditional seeds and rice were showcased through the

menu, with different preparations introduced each day. The food was served free of cost, with visitors encouraged to make voluntary contributions. Visitors said the festival offered both culinary and educational value. Dabbada Aswini, an employee of the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation Engineering Department, said they came to know about the festival through social media and recommendations from friends abroad, adding that it was their first visit and a very good experience.

Pidintla Pravalika, who works in the Home Department, said the sessions provided valuable insights into bio salt, its preparation, benefits and methods of making it at home, and noted that the explanations were clear and engaging. Around 30 stalls were set up by farmers to sell natural and organic produce. Seed conservation was a key focus, with experts from Maharashtra and Telangana participating in discussions. Organisers emphasised the importance of farmers retaining and regenerating seeds after each crop cycle instead of purchasing them repeatedly. The festival also featured demonstrations on sustainable living practices, including bamboo craft, palm-leaf bedding and pottery, along with indigenous healthcare systems such as Ayurveda, Siddha and Homoeopathy. Native cattle breeds were displayed, and folk performances from the three districts added a cultural dimension. Organisers said the initiative aims to strengthen local food systems while supporting farmers adopting sustainable practices.

District administration's efforts are successful in resolving PGRS/Revenue Clinic requests: Dist Collector

By Skyline Staff Reporter Vizianagaram , April 6: The ' Public Issues Resolution Forum ' (PGRS) and ' Revenue Clinic ' programs organized at the Collectorate Auditorium on Monday are receiving a great response. People from all over the district came to submit their petitions and complaints on their issues. District Collector M. Ram Sundar Reddy, who received the petition directly from the petitioner: The steps taken by the district administration under the leadership of District Collector M. Ramsundara Reddy towards the satisfactory resolution of the petitions are yielding results. People are expressing happiness over the manner in which the petitions are being resolved under the auspices of the district administration. On Monday, the District Collector personally went to the Collectorate Portion and received the petition from Sabbavarapu Pothuraj, a disabled person from Uttarapalli village of Kothavalasa mandal, and ordered the officials of the DCH / Medical / Differently Gifted Departments to immediately examine and resolve the application filed for increase in the disabled pension from



Rs. 6,000 to Rs. 15,000 on medical grounds, proving his humanity. The District Collector is directly talking to petitioners from various parts of the district and taking steps to ensure that their requests are satisfactorily resolved. Focus on PGRS/Revenue Clinic Requests: Out of the total 228 requests received by PGRS/Revenue Clinic, 89 were from the Revenue Department. District Collector S Ramsundara Reddy has instructed the district officials to work expeditiously in resolving PGRS and Revenue Clinic requests and to dispose of

pending requests immediately after resolving them. The Collector has instructed that delay in resolving PGRS and Revenue Clinic requests will not be tolerated , prompt action should be taken on the requests , and revenue issues and survey issues should be resolved immediately. He has instructed the officials to check PGRS requests online on the website from time to time and resolve the requests expeditiously. Digital Monitoring of PGRS: He instructed the officers to be responsible for the calls received through the 1100 toll free number. He said that he

is personally reviewing the progress of PGRS every week. Since the Chief Minister/CS is reviewing the PGRS from time to time, the officers should act with caution and pay utmost attention to resolving the issues. He instructed the officers of the concerned departments to give endorsement only after meeting and talking to the applicant. The date and time of talking to the applicant should also be recorded in their report. He said that the public should be made aware of the PGRS toll free number 1100. He said that the concerned officer should also respond to the calls received on this number in a proper manner. He issued orders to the concerned officers to take appropriate steps and take prompt action to resolve the issues of the applicants. The district administration, as per the instructions of the District Collector, is paying special attention to revenue-related complaints and issues and is immediately addressing the complaints of the people and farmers , which is receiving a special response from the people and farmers. The people and farmers are expressing happiness as the revenue complaints are being resolved quickly .

Black Ribbon Protest by Veterinary Students Demands Safer Work Conditions



By Skyline Staff Reporter Cheepurupalli (Garividi), April 6
Responding to a nationwide call by the Indian Veterinary Association, a protest was held at the local Veterinary College in Garividi on Monday afternoon. Students and faculty members staged a demonstration wearing black ribbons to express concern over the increasing dangers faced by veterinary professionals. The protest follows two tragic incidents that shocked the veterinary community. Dr. Samaiky Reddy died on March 20

after sustaining injuries in a hippopotamus attack while on duty at a zoo in Shivamogga, Karnataka. In a similar incident, Dr. Vaishak lost his life on April 1 after an elephant attack at a zoo in Gujarat. As part of a coordinated nationwide movement, veterinary institutions observed the protest to urge authorities to strengthen safety protocols. The appeal has been directed to the Veterinary Council of India and the government, seeking policy-level interventions to ensure the safety of veterinarians working in haz-

ardous conditions. At the Garividi Veterinary College, the protest took place in the presence of Associate Dean In-charge Dr. Malakondayya, Student Affairs Officer Y.R. Ambedkar, and Technical Officer Dr. Muralidhar. Students participated actively, voicing their concerns. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Malakondayya advised students to remain vigilant and follow strict safety measures while handling animals, stressing that awareness and precaution are key to preventing such incidents. As part of the program, cold but-

Winter camp inaugurated in Sri Durgamma temple premises

By Skyline Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam, April 6 : A cold storage center was set up at the Sri Durgamma Ammavari Temple at Chandrapalem Jataru Gattu under the auspices of handloom associations as a service to the people and buttermilk was distributed. This winter camp was organized by members of the handloom associations Padmasali, Devanga, Pattushali, Karuna Bhakta, and Karikala Bhakta associations with the support of Doddi Venkateswara Rao, Vice President of PM Palem Sri Padma Markandeya Seva Sangam, Madicherla Durga Prasad, and the Gangabhavani family. As part of the program, cold but-



termilk was distributed to the people, providing relief from the scorching sun. Speaking on the occasion, Sangha President

Koppala Nageswara Rao expressed special gratitude to the members of the Sri Durgamma Temple Committee, as well as the

couple Doddi Venkateswara Rao and Ramadevi. Vice President Doddi Venkateswara Rao said that it is commendable that PM Palem Sri Padma Markandeya Seva Sangam and other organizations are also participating in this program. He hoped that such service programs will continue successfully every year and that everyone will receive the blessings of the Goddess. Representatives of Padmasali, Devanga, Pattu Shali, Karuna devotees, Karikala devotees associations, and representatives of the Sri Durgamma Temple Committee participated in this program.