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Andhra Pradesh Approves Rs39,436 Crore Investments: A Strategic Push for Green Energy, Manufacturing, and Jobs

Amaravati, April 7 : Andhra Pradesh State Investment Promotion Board on Tuesday approved 31 projects worth Rs 39,436 crore, with the potential to generate over 1.11 lakh direct jobs.

with a clear thrust on developing Rayalaseema as a major renewable energy hub. He emphasised the creation of large solar parks and called for robust transmission infrastructure to enable seamless power evacuation—not just within the state, but also to national grids and interstate markets.

Alongside manufacturing, the government is also pushing for the establishment of Global Capability Centres (GCCs) to deepen the IT ecosystem and attract high-value technology investments.

ment is scaling up food processing capacity in line with rising horticulture output, while enhancing market linkages for crops such as palm oil and cocoa to boost farmer incomes and MSME growth.



defined timelines and that investment commitments made during summits are translated into on-ground progress. With this latest round of approvals, Andhra Pradesh is reinforcing its positioning as a high-growth investment destination anchored in renewable energy, advanced manufacturing and sustainable industrialisation. (Contd. page 2)

Proud moment for every Indian, says Andhra CM on PFBR attaining criticality



Amaravati, April 7 : Naidu said on Tuesday Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu that Prototype Fast Reactor (PFBR) has attained criticality. (Contd. page 2)

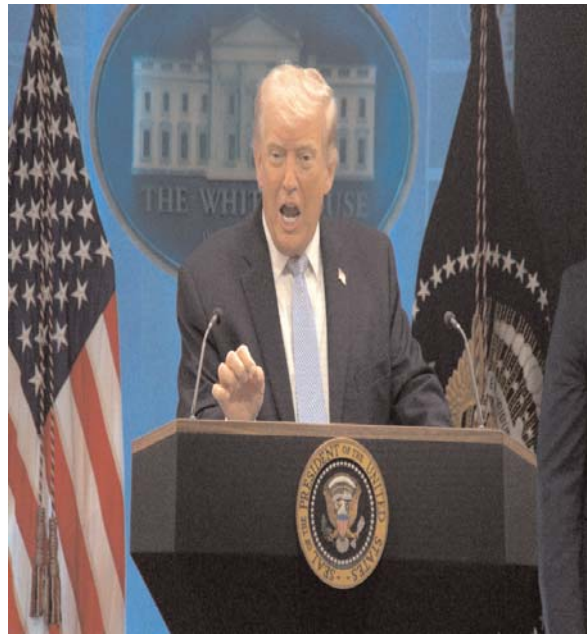
Andhra CM condemns attempt to attack media outlet office by YSRCP workers

Amaravati, April 7 : Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday condemned the attempt by YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) workers to attack the office of a Telugu media outlet in Hyderabad.



Chief Jagan Mohan Reddy on Amaravati. In a statement, Chandrababu Naidu criticised the YSRCP for allegedly misusing its own media platforms while resorting to baseless allegations and abusive rhetoric against independent media organisations. He noted that despite facing harassment and (Contd. page 2)

Trump warns Iran: Whole civilization will die tonight



Washington, April 7 : US President Donald Trump on Tuesday warned that "a whole civilization will die tonight, never to be brought back again" as he signalled a "complete and total regime change" in Iran, framing the unfolding crisis as one of the most consequential moments in modern global history.

don't want that to happen, but it probably will," he wrote. He then pointed to what he described as a decisive shift in Iran's leadership. "However, now that we have complete and total regime change, where different, smarter, and less radicalized minds prevail, maybe something revolutionarily wonderful can happen, who knows?" Trump said.

Kerala polls: War of words peaks as Revanth Reddy, Vijayan trade barbs in cross-state slugfest

Thiruvananthapuram, April 7 : A sharp and unusually personal war of words between the Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and his Kerala counterpart Pinarayi Vijayan escalated on Tuesday, turning into a full-blown political slugfest that has drawn national attention.



Telangana Chief Minister insisted he was unfazed. He also accused Vijayan of insulting the people of Kerala and declared that "his time is over", before signing off with a curt "bye bye Pinarayi". (Contd. page 2)

Don't cross our red lines... Iran responds strongly to Trump's warnings



Tehran April 7 : Tensions in the Middle East have reached a fever pitch. As the US deadline approaches, Iran has issued dire warnings. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has made it clear that crossing its 'red lines' (boundaries) will result in dire consequences and that its response will extend beyond the Middle East.

Assam set to grant BJP landslide victory to root out infiltration: Amith Shah

Guwahati, April 7 : Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on the Congress party while addressing a massive election rally in Patharkandi in Assam's Sribhumi district, asserting that only the BJP can safeguard the state from illegal infiltration and preserve its cultural identity.



Targeting Congress, HM Shah accused the party of indulging in "vote bank politics" by supporting infiltrators. He said that past Congress governments weakened legal safeguards by scrapping the Immigrants (Expulsion from Assam) Act of 1950 and introducing the IMDT Act in 1983, which he claimed gave shelter to illegal migrants. He also criticised the Congress party for opposing the Citizenship (Contd. on pg.2)

CM Naidu orders Fast-Track Implementation of Key Schemes, Launches 'Aware 2.0' App



Amaravati, April 7 : N. Chandrababu Naidu has directed officials to implement the government's priority schemes with a clear action plan and accelerated pace, emphasizing that targets must be achieved on time without delays. He stated that meaningful results can only be achieved when welfare schemes effectively reach people and deliver satisfactory services.

Fast Breeder Nuclear Reactor at Kalpakkam takes 'critical' leap forward

New Delhi, April 7: Marking a significant step forward in India's nuclear power programme, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, via a post on X, late on Monday (April 6, 2026), said that the prototype fast breeder reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam, Chennai, had



achieved 'criticality.' This means that the nuclear reaction in the reactor had become safely self-sustaining and was on its way to being able to produce electricity. "Today India takes a defining step in its civil (Contd. page 2)

Govt to start relief payments for Veligonda displaced families in April, says Minister



By Skyline Staff Reporter Ongole, April 7 Water Resources Minister Nimmala Rama Naidu announced that the State government will begin depositing relief and rehabilitation (R&R) payments to families displaced by the Veligonda project starting in April 2026. He made the announcement during an inspection of the feeder canal works near Dornala in Markapuram district on Tuesday.

Assembly elections 2026: ECI may roll out SIR in remaining 17 States, 5 UTs post polls



New Delhi, April 7: The Election Commission may roll out the third and final phase of Special Intensive Revision of voters' list in the remaining 22 States and Union territories, including Delhi, after the polls to five Assemblies this month, officials said. Assembly elections are taking place in Kerala, (Contd. on pg.2)

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Proud moment for every Indian, says Andhra CM on PFBR attaining criticality

Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu attaining criticality is a proud moment for every Indian and a boost to India's civil nuclear journey.

"India's indigenously built Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor at Kalpakkam has attained criticality. This marks a key step in the second stage of India's nuclear programme," the Chief Minister said in a post on social media platform X.

"It brings us closer to harnessing our vast thorium reserves in the third stage and strengthens the path towards long-term energy security under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji. Congratulations to our scientists and engineers on this remarkable achievement," he added.

Former Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party President Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy congratulated scientists and engineers. "Heartiest congratulations to our brilliant scientists and engineers at IGCAR, BHAVINI and the entire Department of Atomic Energy! Your dedication has delivered a historic milestone for India. The indigenously built Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor at Kalpakkam has successfully attained first criticality, a

giant leap in our nuclear journey. This 500 MW reactor marks a proud step towards clean, secure energy for generations and brings us closer to harnessing our vast thorium reserves for true energy self-reliance. A proud moment for every Indian! Jai Hind!," Jagan Mohan Reddy said on X.

Union Minister for Coal and Mines, G. Kishan Reddy, said that the indigenously designed and developed Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor at Kalpakkam achieving criticality is a testament to India's scientific excellence and engineering prowess.

"This advanced reactor, which generates more fuel than it consumes, brings us closer to unlocking the full potential of our vast thorium reserves in the third stage of our nuclear vision," he added.

Kishan Reddy said that in the spirit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and technological self-reliance, this achievement reflects the strength, determination, and innovation of our nation. Terming it a proud and historic moment for every Indian, he congratulated scientists, engineers, and everyone those who made this possible.

Andhra Pradesh Approves Rs39,436 Crore Investments: A Strategic Push for Green Energy, Manufacturing, and Jobs

Highlighting the need for industrial safety, the Chief Minister called for modern protocols across sectors, including pharmaceuticals, steel, green energy and battery storage. A comprehensive standard operating framework aligned with disaster management norms will be rolled out.

He also underlined the importance

of execution, directing officials to ensure that approved projects are grounded within defined timelines and that investment commitments made during summits are translated into on-ground progress.

With this latest round of approvals, Andhra Pradesh is reinforcing its positioning as a high-growth investment destination anchored in renew-

able energy, advanced manufacturing and sustainable industrialisation. "The focus is on speed, scale and sustainability—ensuring investments translate quickly into jobs and economic growth," the Chief Minister said, reiterating the state's ambition to emerge as a national leader in next-generation industries.

Andhra CM condemns attempt to attack media outlet office by YSRCP workers

conspiracies during the previous five years of YSRCP government, the regional media channel continued to function without fear.

He remarked that the participation of sitting MLAs and former Ministers, accompanied by mobs in targeting a media office is a clear reflection of the YSRCP's unruly culture. The Chief Minister also praised the regional media outlet's Managing Director Vemuri Radhakrishna for running the newspaper and channel fearlessly for decades despite facing cases, attacks and sustained pressure.

Chandrababu Naidu asserted that attempts to intimidate the media through attacks, protests and threats have no place in a democratic society and such political tactics have become outdated.

He also alleged that the people, especially women, have not forgotten the conduct of YSRCP leaders, including their treatment of women and even their own family members during their tenure in power.

The Chief Minister accused the YSRCP of resorting to diversionary politics, saying that instead of responding to the editorial questioning

on its alleged conspiracies against Amaravati, the party has chosen to engage in attacks and protests.

The YSRCP on Monday had lodged a complaint with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting against the media outlet for allegedly broadcasting defamatory and derogatory content.

In a letter to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Secretary Chanchal Kumar on Monday, YSRCP MLC and party's general secretary Lella Appireddy sought immediate intervention and appropriate action against the media

outlet, its anchor, editor, and management for allegedly broadcasting defamatory, derogatory, misleading, and unethical content through its electronic and digital platforms.

The MLC cited allegedly objectionable and defamatory language used by the news anchor while describing members and supporters of the YSRCP. The YSRCP quoted the news anchor as saying that party supporters would "blindly believe" anything said by Jagan Mohan Reddy and used language the party described as abusive and derogatory.

Trump warns Iran: Whole civilization will die tonight

The remarks come amid an escalating US-Iran confrontation that has intensified over the past several days, with military operations expanding and diplomatic signals narrowing.

Trump framed the moment as historic in scale. "We will find out tonight, one of the most important

moments in the long and complex history of the World," he said.

He also delivered a sweeping critique of Iran's leadership since the Islamic Revolution.

"47 years of extortion, corruption, and death, will finally end," Trump added.

He closed his message with a direct appeal:

"God Bless the Great People of Iran!"

The statement follows a series of developments in recent days, including US military strikes on Iranian-linked targets and mounting pressure on Tehran over its control of key regional waterways and infrastructure.

Washington has signalled that it is prepared to esca-

late further if its demands are not met, particularly on ensuring the free flow of global energy supplies through critical maritime routes.

Iran, however, has shown no indication of backing down, maintaining a defiant posture and warning of retaliation against US interests and regional assets.

Kerala polls: War of words peaks as Revanth Reddy, Vijayan trade barbs in cross-state slugfest

Reddy claimed that the Kerala Chief Minister had failed to respond to key political questions, including allegations of aligning with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

While maintaining that he respected Vijayan's age and office, the Telangana Chief Minister took a swipe by describing PM Modi as Vijayan's "brother", a remark loaded with political insinuation.

The controversy deepened after Vijayan's barb on Tuesday "dash mone" retort had already stirred

debate over the tone of political discourse. Seeking to regain the narrative, the Kerala Chief Minister responded with a formal letter addressed to "Dear Revanth Reddy", in which he laid out Kerala's developmental achievements in a measured, if pointed, rebuttal.

With Reddy having the first word and the last, the episode underscores a coarsening of political exchanges between the senior leaders. nWhat might once have remained a regional spat has now evolved into a high decibel con-

frontation, reflecting the increasingly combative tenor of contemporary Indian politics, where even Chief Ministers are not above trading barbs that resonate far beyond their states. Reddy's arrival for the poll campaign in Kerala had generated intense interest, the second time after his barb had turned viral and now with Vijayan making it clear, a reply would be soon sent, all eyes are on when it would happen as on Thursday the state goes to the polls to elect 140 new legislators.

Govt to start relief payments for Veligonda displaced families in April, says Minister

be completed by June 2026. Addressing the media after inspecting the project works, the Minister said, "Within two months, we have completed over 62 per cent of the construction of the 5.3-km retaining wall of the feeder canal, which was recently launched by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu." "Only 5 per cent of the 20-km feeder canal lining has been completed till date, and we ordered that the remaining works be taken up at swift pace. Nearly 70 per cent of work on the head regulator retaining wall and wings has been completed so far. We have put the remaining 2,400 metres of lining on the track in Tunnel-2 at the rate of 700 metres per month by June. We have completed 500 metres of hard rock excavation work on the feeder canal," he informed. The Minister travelled for two hours in the backwaters of Srisailem reservoir to inspect the work of the head regulators near Kollam stream in the Veligonda project.

CM Naidu orders Fast-Track Implementation of Key Schemes, Launches 'Aware 2.0' App

Department to fast-track the mass housing program this year. Along with completing pending Andhra Pradesh Township and Infrastructure Development Corporation houses, he set a target to construct and distribute an additional 5 lakh houses to beneficiaries. He also directed officials to begin the distribution of house plots immediately, noting that around 2 lakh people are still waiting. To prevent shortages during the rainy season, he ordered officials to build adequate sand reserves. He stressed strict monitoring at sand reaches and stockyards to ensure that no extra charges are levied under the pretext of transporta-

tion, as sand is being provided free of cost.Reforms in Higher EducationHighlighting the need for modernization, the Chief Minister called for significant reforms in college education. He instructed officials to redesign curricula by introducing industry-oriented courses alongside traditional programs. He emphasized continuous collaboration with universities and improving their national rankings, particularly urging Andhra University and other institutions to strive for better performance. He also asked the Higher Education Council to play a more proactive role.Public Safety and

WelfareThe Chief Minister reiterated that public safety remains a top priority. He directed strict monitoring of the mid-day meal scheme to eliminate any complaints. He also asked the Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh to intensify activities promoting sports and health awareness, including organizing events like 5K runs.Expressing concern over rising road accidents, especially due to triple riding, he stressed the need for awareness campaigns on helmet usage before enforcing strict penalties. He also warned officials to take immediate action to prevent fire accidents caused by hanging electrical and

cable wires.Lightning Alerts and Technology UseThe Chief Minister highlighted the need for stronger preventive measures against lightning-related deaths. He instructed officials to improve coordination between technology systems and field staff and explore alert mechanisms based on mobile tower locations to warn people in advance.After the review meeting, he launched the 'Aware 2.0' mobile app, developed by the RTGS system, aimed at enhancing disaster alerts and public safety services. Senior officials from various departments attended the meeting.

Fast Breeder Nuclear Reactor at Kalpakkam takes 'critical' leap forward

nuclear journey advancing the second stage of its nuclear programme...the PFBR at Kalpakkam has attained criticality...it is a decisive step towards harnessing our vast thorium reserves," he posted.

While it will be some months before the PFBR is powered up to its full capacity and even longer it produces useful electricity — multiple experiments have to be conducted at low power to check if it is running as expected which must be evaluated by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), which must give its go-ahead for commercial power operation — this is the beginning of the second stage of India's nuclear programme.

Since it was first formally approved as a project by the government in 2003, it has taken over two decades to reach this stage.

India's nuclear reactors are heavily dependent on importing enriched uranium. India's three-stage programme, conceived in

the 1950s, envisages being able to be independent of imports and be energy secure through the use of thorium, of which has vast stores. The PFBR serves as an essential bridge.

"This is a historic moment," Anil Kakodkar, Member, Atomic Energy Commission and former head of the Department of Atomic Energy told The Hindu, "What this means is that we are now on our way to extract 80-100 times more energy from a given quantity of uranium."

The PFBR is a 500 MWe sodium-cooled, pool-type fast breeder reactor designed by the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR) and built by Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited (BHAVINI), both operating under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE). Unlike conventional thermal reactors, the PFBR uses Uranium-Plutonium Mixed Oxide (MOX) fuel. The core of PFBR is surrounded by a blanket of Uranium-238. Fast neu-

trons convert fertile Uranium-238 into fissile Plutonium-239, enabling the reactor to produce more fuel than it consumes. The reactor is designed to eventually use Thorium-232 in the blanket.

Through transmutation, Thorium-232 will be converted into Uranium-233, which will fuel the third stage of India's nuclear power programme.

Currently India has a fleet of 18-20 Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) that use natural uranium as fuel and produce plutonium-239 (Pu-239) as a by-product in spent fuel. India's full fleet of 23 nuclear reactors have a combined capacity of 7.48 GWe.

In the second stage, plutonium recovered from Stage 1 spent fuel is combined with uranium-238 in FBRs. These reactors "breed" more fissile material than they consume by converting fertile U-238 into Pu-239 and, eventually, converting thorium-232 into fissile uranium-233 (U-233). "Beyond energy generation, the fast breeder pro-

Assam set to grant BJP landslide victory to root out infiltration: Amith Shah

e said that past Congress governments weakened legal safeguards by scrapping the Immigrants (Expulsion from Assam) Act of 1950 and introducing the IMDT Act in 1983, which he claimed gave shelter to illegal migrants.

He also criticised the Congress party for opposing the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), saying it was necessary to protect persecuted minorities.

The Home Minister further said that the BJP alone had the commitment to rename Karimganj as "Sribhumi", linking it to the region's cultural heritage.

In a personal attack, HM Shah took aim at Rahul Gandhi, saying that the

Congress party under his leadership had declined in public discourse and would not be allowed to turn Assam into an "infiltration-prone state".

Referring to recent remarks by Congress leaders, the Union Home Minister accused them of insulting BJP supporters and Gujarat, and said such statements were against democratic values.

He asserted that the BJP remained committed to protecting Assam's land, identity and economic interests, while urging voters to reject what he termed Congress' divisive and appeasement-driven politics.

HM Shah said Assam was set to grant the BJP a landslide victory to root out infiltration.

Assembly elections 2026: ECI may roll out SIR in remaining 17 States, 5 UTs post polls

Assam, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal this month and counting will take place on May 4.

The officials said Special Intensive Revision (SIR) could be rolled out after the polls conclude on April 29. Another possibility is to begin the massive exercise after the declaration of results. So far, SIR has been carried out in 10 States and three Union territories. A 'special revision' of electoral rolls was carried out in Assam.

Except for Uttar Pradesh, final voters' lists have been published where SIR was carried out. As many as 60 crore of the nearly 99 crore voters have been covered in these voters' list clean up exercises. The remaining nearly 39 crore electors will be covered in the proposed exercise in 17 states and five Union territories.

On February 19, the poll authority had asked 22 States and Union territories including Delhi to complete preparatory work related to SIR at the earliest as the exercise is "expected to start from April". Once the exercise is completed, all states and Union territories will be covered. In a letter to the chief electoral officers of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Ladakh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Delhi, Odisha, Punjab, Sikkim, Tripura, Telangana and Uttarakhand, the poll authority said pan-India SIR of voters' list was ordered in June last year.

Don't cross our red lines... Iran responds strongly to Trump's warnings

Israeli military bases. It said it had also carried out precision strikes on two American petrochemical complexes in Saudi Arabia and an Israeli ship transporting military equipment. It has said that it will not attack civilian targets, but that it will not back down and will retaliate if its civilian facilities are attacked. Iran has also threatened to destroy oil and gas facilities in the Middle East that could be put out of service for years. It has made it clear that they

have exercised restraint in dealing with US allies so far and that there will be no more restrictions.

These warnings have gained importance in the wake of US President Donald Trump's deadline for Iran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz and reach a ceasefire agreement. The US has attacked Kharg Island, which accounts for 90 percent of Iran's oil exports. It is known that Trump has previously threatened to bomb the island.

gramme strengthens strategic capabilities in nuclear fuel cycle technologies, advanced materials, reactor physics and large-scale engineering. The knowledge and infrastructure developed through this programme will support future reactor designs and next-generation nuclear technologies," the science ministry conveyed in a statement.

A significant technological challenge that has led to delays in the PFBR is the use of liquid sodium as a coolant to manage the extremely high heat from fissioning uranium atoms in the PFBR. In India's current reactors, the heat is largely absorbed by 'heavy water' or in some cases ordinary water.

Sodium is a great choice: Its heavier atoms allow fast neutrons to persist and is more suitable for breeding greater quantities of plutonium. It can efficiently remove heat from the reactor core and can keep the reactor safe for longer even if coolant flow is temporarily lost; the range between its melting and boiling is wider than water, meaning larger safety margins. It eliminates the thick, high-pressure containment vessels required by water-cooled reactors, enabling thinner vessel walls and more compact designs and can ultimately, produce more electricity for every unit of heat produced. It also does not corrode the stainless steel reactor components and in fact can protect metals from corrosion, provided the sodium is kept pure and free of oxygen impurities.

On the flip side, sodium is extremely chemically reactive. It burns on contact with air and reacts violently with water, producing sodium hydroxide and hydrogen gas (an explosion risk). This requires sealed, inert-atmosphere systems and rigorous leak prevention. The 1995 Monju accident in Japan, where a sodium leak caused a fire and 15-year shutdown, underscores this risk. Liquid sodium is opaque, making visual inspection of the reactor core impossible. Operators must rely on specialised ultrasonic and electromagnetic inspection and monitoring techniques. The coolant must be kept exceptionally free of oxygen, hydrogen, and carbon impurities. Contaminants can form corrosive compounds or solid precipitates that clog pipes and damage components. The reactor design uses two sodium 'loops,' specialised pumps (including electromagnetic pumps), inert gas cover systems, advanced leak detection, and stringent quality requirements - all of which add to the capital cost and operational complexity compared to conventional water-cooled reactors.

Before achieving criticality, the PFBR was loaded with fuel on October 18, 2025. Once fully operational, the PFBR is expected to generate 500 MWe of electricity with a design life of 40 years. Current plans call for building six FBR-600 units, co-locating two reactors at each site to share common auxiliary systems and reduce costs. The first twin unit is planned at the BHAVINI premises at Kalpakkam, close to the PFBR. Simultaneously, the Fast Reactor Fuel Cycle Facility (FRFCF) at Kalpakkam, which is designed to reprocess spent fuel from fast breeder reactors, is under construction and is expected to be completed by December 2027. This facility will be essential for closing the fuel cycle and extracting bred plutonium for use in future FBRs, according to documents on the DAE website.

Garividi Powerlifter Swetha Wins Bronze at State Championship



By Skyline Staff Reporter Cheepurupalli (Garividi), April 7
Bringing pride to Garividi, powerlifter Ganapathi Raju Swetha secured a bronze medal at the Andhra Pradesh 13th Powerlifting Championship-2026, held on April 4 and 5 at GMR IT campus in Rajam, Vizianagaram district. Competing in the Master I

category (76 kg division), Swetha delivered an impressive performance by lifting a total of 230 kg, earning her a place on the podium. Her achievement has been widely appreciated by residents of Garividi, who congratulated her for representing the town with distinction at the state level. Apart from her competi-

tive success, Swetha is also contributing to the local fitness community. She runs the Royal Gym near Victory Layout in Garividi, where she trains aspiring athletes and promotes strength sports among youth. Her dedication both as an athlete and a coach continues to inspire many in the region.

Cancer screening packages at Omega Hospitals on the occasion of World Health Day

By Skyline Staff Reporter, Visakhapatnam, April 7
On the occasion of World Health Day, NABH accredited Omega Hospitals, Visakhapatnam, has launched special cancer screening packages to increase awareness about cancer among the people and to detect cancer at an early stage, said the hospital's Managing Director Dr. B. Ravi Shankar and the hospital's Chief Operating Officer Subhakar Rao. As part of the program, separate cancer screening packages for men and women have been made available at just Rs. 999/-.
Speaking on the occasion, Hospital MD Dr. B. Ravi Shankar said that if cancer is detected at an early stage, it becomes much easier for the patient to overcome the required treatment effectively and restore their lifestyle. He also said that by detecting cancer at an early stage, there is a possibility of completely curing many types of cancer. He said that such advanced facilities and treatment methods are available at Omega Hospital. Later, Chief Operating Officer Subhakar Rao said that people from Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram and Srikakulam districts should take advantage of this checkup opportunity, which is being offered at a very low cost, i.e. tests worth about Rs. 7000 for just Rs.999.
The package for women includes a complete blood count, CBC, creatinine, liver function test, random glucose, digital mammography or ultrasound scan depending on age, Pap smear, as well as doctor and dietician consultations. The men's package includes complete blood count, CBC, urine test, chest X-ray, Abromes ultrasound, PSA test, renal function test, fasting blood sugar, along with doctor and dietician consultations. This special offer is available only till April 30th, and people are urged to take advantage of this opportunity and protect their health.



Stone to be laid for Google data centre on April 28

By Skyline Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam, April 7
Said to be the largest data centre in Asia, it is being developed with an investment of \$ 15 billion in Tarluva village, 34 km from the city, where 3.6 acres of land have been allotted for the project. The project, which includes an open cable landing station, is expected to generate jobs on a big scale. Apart from changing the face of the

region, the mega project is likely to boost the role of Visakhapatnam as the global digital gateway. Union Minister of Information and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, and Electronics, Aswini Vaishnav and Google Cloud Chief Executive Officer Thomas Kurien will take part in the event.

61-day fishing ban to be effective from April 15

By Skyline Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam, April 7
A 61-day ban on fishing will come into effect in Visakhapatnam from April 15. Aiming at protecting the maritime life during the peak season of breeding, the ban prohibits fishing by mechanised and motorised fishing boats. However, the ban does not apply to traditional and non-motorised fishing boats. Meanwhile, the Federation of Indian Fisher Organisations (FIFO) has sought more aid from the government for fishermen during the ban period. As the restrictions pose a severe threat to the livelihood of fisher-



folk communities, the government should implement more inclusive policies to lessen the financial strain during the ban period. It demands a subsistence allowance of Rs. 20,000 for the women involved in the fish trade. The federation has sought extension of the 'Matsyakara Seva' benefits to all members of a fishing family rather than a single unit. It also seeks the extension of the boat registration renewal window from two days to at least one week, while stressing that the government must provide a more robust safety net for vulnerable communities whose entire income depends on the ocean.

Act fast on public grievances, Pranav Gopal tells staff

By Skyline Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam, April 7
Metr opolitan Region Development Authority Chairman M.V. Pranav Gopal has directed the staff to resolve the representations received at the Praja Darbar within the stipulated timeframe and provide an appropriate solution to the problems raised. Pranav Gopal, who participated in the Praja Darbar held at the conference hall of the VMRDA office on April 6, received the representations from the people. He discussed the problems with the officials concerned and



advised them to take the initiative to resolve them. He asked the victims about the actions taken by the department regarding their issues. A total of five grievances were aired at the Praja Darbar, out of which two were related to planning, one to real estate, and the remaining to the Administration Department. Joint Commissioner K Ramesh and other departmental officials participated in the programme.

BJP's commitment to nation-building is unparalleled: Madhav

By Skyline Staff Reporter Vijayawada, April 7
BJP State president P.V.N. Madhav said that the party's journey, which began as the Bharatiya Jana Sangh 75 years ago, has been phenomenal and marked by its unparalleled commitment to nation-building. The BJP stood as a role model for political parties around the world under the tutelage of its founders, he asserted, while calling for efforts to prevent the repeat of the circumstances of 1947 when the country was partitioned on the basis of religion and torn apart by communal hatred. Participating as the chief guest in the BJP Foundation Day celebrations at the State party office here on Monday (April 06), Mr. Madhav



said BJP was operating with the motto: 'nation first, party second, self last' and observed that India emerged as a force to reckon with under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He stated that about 168 welfare schemes were being implemented by the BJP-led NDA government, which did historic things like abrogating Article 370 and getting Ram Mandir built in

Ayodhya, and taking steps for notifying the Uniform Civil Code. Mr. Madhav said while the world was embroiled in a war, India stood strong under Mr. Modi's leadership and his successes on the diplomatic front were commendable. In Andhra Pradesh, he said, the BJP worked hard through many struggles and challenges and it has a lot more to do to make A.P. a progressive State.

SC Railway zone rollout gathers steam as staffing picks up pace

By Skyline Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam, April 7
The long-pending Visakhapatnam-headquartered South Coast Railway zone is inching closer to reality, with the Ministry of Railways stepping up efforts to finalise manpower and administrative arrangements ahead of its formal launch. Railway authorities have begun firming up the initial workforce of over 1,300 personnel for the zonal headquarters in Visakhapatnam. A temporary office is already func-



tioning with about 100 staff in a rented building at Siripuram Junction, even as preparations gather pace for the official gazette notification. The

recruitment and staff mobilisation process has now moved into an accelerated phase to ensure the zone is operational from day one.

Pithapuram railway station upgrade cleared at Rs.37.25 crore under ABSS, says Pawan Kalyan

Pithapuram, April 7
Deputy Chief Minister and Pithapuram MLA K. Pawan Kalyan on Monday announced that the Ministry of Railways has approved the development of Pithapuram railway station at an estimated cost of Rs.37.25 crore under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme in Kakinada district. In March, Mr. Pawan Kalyan met Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav and requested the inclusion of the station under the scheme, citing the influx of devotees from across South India visiting Pithapuram for darshan at local temples. He had also inspected the existing facilities during his recent visits. In an official release, Mr. Pawan Kalyan said the scheme focuses on long-term modernisation of



railway stations with improved passenger amenities. The station will get a new building with an entrance gate, along with facilities for differently-abled passengers, a rest house, improved drainage and

cabling, and renovation of platforms and shelters, as outlined in the approved master plan. Mr. Pawan Kalyan thanked the Railway Ministry and officials concerned for approving the project.

Andhra University cultural fest begins amid AU centenary

By Skyline Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam, April 7
The three-day cultural fest of Andhra University began on a colourful note at the engineering college grounds in Visakhapatnam on April 6. Being organised as a part of the AU centenary celebrations, the event saw participation of the students from the university and its affiliated colleges who showcased their skills, impressing the audience. Dances to the tunes of folk and film songs by students drew loud applause from the gathering. Participating as the chief guest in the programme, actor Rajiv



Kanakala was all praise for the performances of the students. "I feel glad for being a part of the celebrations of the university as

my father was a student of the great institute," he said. The actor lauded the university for giving priority to art and cul-

ture. University Vice-Chancellor G.P. Rajasekar said the cultural performances presented on the stage were a show of commitment and collective effort of the students. Describing it as an unprecedented event in the history of the university, the V-C said a festive atmosphere pervaded the grounds with students performing on the stage energetically. The function was attended by a member of the Governing Body, Sambireddy, Principals Jaladi Ravi, G. Girija Shankar, Seethamanikyam, M. Shashi, Padmashri, and M. V. R. Raju and others.

From Job Seekers to Job Creators – EMDP Program Inspires Students

By Skyline Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam, April 7
A District Level Project Expo was successfully conducted today at ZPHS Thotagaruvu in Visakhapatnam district, as part of the Entrepreneurial Mindset Development Program (EMDP), a prestigious initiative jointly organized by the Andhra Pradesh School Education Department, SCERT, and Udyam Learning Foundation, with the permission of the District Educational Officer. A total of 10 projects selected from the state level were showcased at the district level expo. Students demonstrated their creativity and innovation by presenting product-based projects with the aim of becoming future entrepreneurs.



Through their models, they conveyed a strong message of moving beyond job seeking towards becoming job creators. ZPHS Aganampudi secured the first place, while ZPHS Vellanki secured the second place at the district level. The program is being implemented for Class 9 students through weekly sessions conducted every

Saturday in schools. It aims to enable students to identify real-life problems and develop creative solutions. At a time when most students focus only on securing jobs, the organizers emphasized that the program is designed to nurture job creators who can contribute to the nation's growth. The event was attended by



Mandal Educational Officer C.H. Ravindra Babu, Academic Monitoring Officer Lakshmi, District Science Officer Raja Rao, District Manager K. Naresh, and State Lead Sushanth. Jury members including DIET Lecturer Sridhar, Shruvan, and Nageswara Rao (Krishna College) evaluated the projects and finalized the first and second positions. The school Headmaster and teachers also participated in the program.

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Strategic Survival

India's energy policy is often described in the language of "security". That framing is comforting ~ and misleading. What the country is really practising is strategic survival in a system where energy has become a geopolitical weapon. From the oil shock triggered by the Yom Kippur War of 1973 ~ the fourth Arab-Israeli war ~ to the current tensions around the Strait of Hormuz, the pattern is unmistakable: global conflicts do not just disrupt markets; they redefine the rules of access.

For a country that imports the bulk of its energy, each crisis is less an anomaly and more a reminder of structural vulnerability. India's response has been pragmatic rather than ideological. During the Cold War, it leaned into Soviet supply lines; after liberalisation under then Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao, it opened its energy sector to global capital; and in the aftermath of the Russia-Ukraine War, it pivoted swiftly to discounted Russian crude despite Western pressure. These are not contradictions. They are adaptations to a system where alliances shift faster than pipelines can be built.

The deeper logic is this: India is not diversifying because it wants to; it is diversifying because it must. Supplier spread, strategic reserves, and refining capacity are all attempts to manage exposure, not eliminate it. Even flagship assets like the Jamnagar refinery underline this paradox: India can refine and export fuel at scale, yet remains overwhelmingly dependent on imported crude. What has changed in recent years is the weaponisation of interdependence. Sanctions regimes, tariff threats, and maritime chokepoints now shape energy flows as much as geology does. When Washington pressures buyers of Russian oil, or when tensions in West Asia threaten tanker routes, energy becomes an instrument of coercion.

In such a world, neutrality is not passive; it is an active, calibrated strategy. This reality also reshapes domestic policy: pricing, subsidies, and inflation management increasingly reflect global shocks, turning energy policy into a central lever of political stability and economic governance. This is why India's foreign policy increasingly resembles a balancing act rather than a set of fixed alignments. It buys oil from Russia, maintains ties with the United States, and engages Gulf producers ~ while trying to avoid being locked into any single camp. The objective is not to maximise advantage, but to minimise vulnerability. Yet, there is a limit to how far this strategy can go. Geography still matters.

The concentration of supply routes through narrow corridors like Hormuz ensures that no amount of diplomatic agility can fully insulate India from external shocks. Domestic alternatives, whether coal, renewables, or incremental upstream gains, offer buffers, but not autonomy. The uncomfortable conclusion is that India's energy future will remain contingent on forces beyond its control. The real achievement, therefore, is not independence, but resilience: the ability to absorb shocks, reroute supplies, and keep the economy moving. In a world where energy flows are increasingly politicised, that may be the only realistic definition of power.

Most people don't think of their chats or cloud storage as something tax authorities might access. India's latest enforcement push is starting to change that. What began as a targeted response to tax evasion now reflects a broader instinct: when compliance becomes harder, expand access. That may seem practical, but it carries wider consequences. Tools designed to track financial misconduct are starting to shape how ordinary users engage with everyday digital services.

The logic is easy to see. Financial trails now run through messaging platforms, cloud services, and digital infrastructure. Authorities argued that enforcement must keep pace with technological change. That logic is understandable. But enforcement tools rarely remain limited to their initial scope. When suspicion alone becomes sufficient to justify intrusive access, the threshold for intervention moves from evidence-based investigation to administrative discretion. Globally, governments face similar pressures. Across most advanced economies, enforcement is seen as credible only when it operates within well-defined procedural safeguards,

even as agencies rely on sophisticated analytics to identify anomalies.

In the United States, digital searches linked to financial crimes generally require judicial authorisation, even as agencies use advanced analytics to detect frauds. Across Europe regulators have tightened anti-money-laundering frameworks without extending broad powers to tax authorities to override digital security safeguards. The emphasis has been on improving intelligence and accountability, not widening intrusion. India risks moving in the opposite direction. By expanding administrative authority before strengthening due-process safeguards, enforcement begins to resemble surveillance. For individuals and businesses, the implications are immediate.

Platforms used for legitimate communication or financial coordination can begin to feel like points of exposure rather than tools of convenience. That uncertainty weakens the predictability that digital growth depends on. The economic effects are often subtle at first, but hard to undo. Digital ecosystems rely on trust. When users feel that everyday digital behaviour could invite disproportionate scrutiny, they par-

ticipate more cautiously. Entrepreneurs hesitate to fully digitise operations, freelancers rethink cross-border work, and startups begin factoring regulatory uncertainty into their decisions. Enforcement design, in effect, starts shaping market behaviour. There is also a clear technological trade-off. Encryption and distributed systems are not obstacles to governance; they are essential to modern cybersecurity. Weakening them, even with limited intent, risks creating broader vulnerabilities. Similar debates in Australia and the United Kingdom showed how quickly enforcement demands can collide with user security. The takeaway was straightforward: security cannot be selectively weakened without long-term costs. None of these suggests tax evasion should be ignored. Enforcement matters, especially in a digital economy. But effectiveness comes from better tools, not broader intrusion. Advanced analytics, interoperable reporting systems, and court-supervised digital searches offer more durable solutions than open-ended administrative access. India's own digital transformation offers a useful precedent. Digital payments expanded rapidly



because policy maintained a balance between accountability and innovation. Up take was driven not by heavy-handed oversight, but by clear rules and safeguards that users could trust. Tax enforcement reform should follow the same logic. When compliance mechanisms are perceived as proportionate and predictable, voluntary adherence improves. When they appear discretionary, enforcement becomes adversarial. The broader risk is cumulative. Each incremental expansion of digital access may seem justified in isolation, but over time it resets expectations of how much the state can see and access. What begins as an exception can quietly become

routine practice. India's digital economy has grown on the promise of empowerment. Preserving that balance requires recognising a simple reality: enforcement works best when it builds trust, not when it stretches its reach. Modernising tax administration is necessary. But modernisation should mean smarter tools, clearer legal thresholds, and stronger judicial oversight, not easier pathways into the private digital lives of ordinary users. The success of India's digital future will not be determined by how much data the state can access, but by whether citizens continue to trust the systems they are asked to rely on.

The Dantewada massacre, and what India needs to do to stay Maoist-free

The government has announced that the Maoist menace has been 'wiped out' from the infamous 'Red Corridor', meeting the deadline of March 31 it had set for itself. While one can bask in the glory of this announcement, it must be remembered that the task of shaping a 'normal', threat-free life for those in the dense jungles of the far-and-beyond has just begun. This was driven home by an almost full-page 'In Memoriam' published today in a national newspaper by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), which carried photographs of 75 of its jawans who were killed by Naxals in Bastar district this day, a decade and a half back. This touched a raw nerve in this writer. My father was the Additional Collector of Bastar district in 1982-83 and based in Kanker, a name that got synonymous with Naxal activities later. The place was peaceful, like any other village in the hinterland of tribal India, and our visits there were wonderful. So, when the Naxal menace became acute at the beginning of this century, I asked my old man what had transformed that quiet place into one where the government writ did not run. His reply shocked me - "We kept sending reports that a parallel organisation had started taking root and political steps were needed urgently to curb it, but to no avail." The results came to haunt us in the coming years. 2010, Then 2013, Then 2017

In 2010, I was Assistant Chief of the Air Staff controlling transport aircraft and helicopters, and on April 6 that year had to arrange An-32 aircraft to carry coffins of 75 CRPF jawans. The mayhem that must have happened is difficult to imagine. The brave hearts of No 62 Battalion, who were on an anti-Naxal operation, were ambushed by a group of 500-plus Maoists positioned on high ground; the troopers, devoid of any reinforcements due to roads being booby-trapped with IEDs, fought for six hours before making the supreme sacrifice. That these large-scale killings were repeated on May 25, 2013, when 30 people lost their lives (including the Chattisgarh Congress leadership) and on April 24, 2017, when 26 CRPF jawans were killed, showed that, irrespective of the political party in power, the basics of governance had been given short shrift in the previous decades through political unprofessionalism.

The steely determination to tackle the Naxal challenge began head-on in 2006 with Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh declaring it as the biggest internal security threat. Police forces were pumped in, and the Indian Air Force provided non-kinetic tasks; it is noteworthy that, though the helicopters were armed, calls for their offensive use were firmly rejected by the government. The rules of engagement were crystal clear - while



helicopters would not initiate any proactive kinetic action, they would act firmly in self-defence if fired upon; the belligerents on the ground were, after all, Indian citizens. It is to the credit of successive governments that the resolve to tackle the insurgency did not flag; in fact, it only went up. Insurgency As A Cancer An insurgency is like cancer. Even after its remission, the patient requires continuous tending in the long term to prevent its return. The lingering sub-surface threat lies in the famous Mao Tse Tung quote that insurgents are like fish in water - water being the local population. If the water is removed from the equation, the fish die. The villagers/tribals who call them the 'common man' must always see two aspects of official power favouring them: the government as a dependable provider of daily sustenance, and second, a

deterrent capability that cannot be challenged by any alternate source of power. The insurgent 'fish' must be continuously denied a favourable human cocoon for sustenance. So, what should the long-term strategy be? First, 'winning hearts and minds' of the populace is the cornerstone of any anti-insurgency plan. Improved education facilities for the young would go a long way in strengthening the psychological link with the rest of India. The extensive ingress of government machinery into the erstwhile Maoist strongholds and the widespread road infrastructure and communication facilities created must be improved further to cement governmental writ. As the entry of 'outsiders' into tribal areas increases, it is vital to ensure that tribal traditions and lands are not usurped by unscrupulous elements; the bottom line is that

'exploitation' of people indigenous to the area must be prevented at all costs.

Second, backing the administrative efforts should be deterrence, born of the gloved fist of the government's law-and-order machinery. Deterrence is built over time and is a 'process' of ensuring that an adversary follows one's guides without having to go kinetic - Sun Tzu termed it the 'acme of skill' for the warrior in conflict, but it is equally applicable in civil governance where the 'insurgent' is one's own citizen. In anti-insurgency action, the threat of retribution is more important than the actual implementation of punitive measures of law. The 'Sentencing Project', a 2010 study in the United States, stated that increasing the severity of a punishment does not have much effect on law-breakers compared to an assurance of certainty of punishment. It is the surety that the government would come down heavily on the lawbreakers that would prevent the tribal populace of the erstwhile Red Corridor from again being coerced to become a sanctuary for any insurgent ideology. Finally, insurgents are masters at playing political football. The drive to ensure an insurgency-free India must be a bipartisan effort, else gains made so far will be frittered away. The task of arranging aircraft to carry coffins must not befall anyone again.

America has painted itself into a corner

In his address to America last week, President Donald Trump stated that his 'objectives are nearing completion' in the war against Iran and that it could end in another couple of weeks. He also threatened to withdraw from NATO citing 'lack of help' in the conflict. The war has been extremely unpopular both in the US and around the world. Trump and Israeli Premier Benjamin Netanyahu waded into the conflict despite positive negotiations with Iran. All demands raised by Trump were being accepted by Iran but Netanyahu had his own intentions.

He possibly arm-twisted Trump into targeting Iran thereby reducing its ability to influence anti-Israeli groups as a pre-requisite for backing his Gaza peace plan. The US and Israel employed overwhelming air power against Iran, assassinating its leadership and destroying not only a major portion of its military capabilities but also educational institutes and research centres. Their goal posts to end the war continued to shift as operations progressed. The Strait of Hormuz was an open passage prior to the conflict but faces blockades now. Trump is demanding that it be re-opened. Iran, despite major losses, refuses to be cowed down, and has targeted the entire region, damaging US bases and impacting the global economy by rising oil prices and shortages. It has exploited its geography as a weapon and employed oil as pressure on Trump, actions the US had possibly not envisaged. The world

reacted largely in anger and disbelief to this unilateral action by the US. While most nations continue silently suffering shortfalls of oil, gas and fertilizers, few have begun hitting back. European nations, which had hesitated to anger the US considering its importance in NATO and its support to Ukraine, are finally displaying their frustration. They claim that the US launched this attack without consulting them and now has the audacity to demand that they join it in the conflict.

Italy, Spain and Austria amongst others have closed their airspace and airbases to the US. Poland refused to transfer its Patriot batteries to the Middle East. France blocked overflights for Israeli aircraft carrying military supplies from the US. Switzerland denied US permission to reconnaissance flights and Germany termed the war as 'possibly illegal.' The UK initially blocked use of its airbases but subsequently permitted it for 'limited defensive action.' These refusals have an operational impact as these bases are essential for transit and staging areas. A group of more than 30 nations, including India, under the aegis of the UK, are discussing diplomatic and political means to push Iran to re-open the Strait of Hormuz after a ceasefire. Nations in the Middle East were miffed with the US for ignoring them while employing its air defence resources to protect Israel. They refused to join the US in its operations while unofficially insist-

ing that degradation of Iran continues. Saudi Arabia ignored the US while inking an agreement with Ukraine on procuring anti-drone and interceptor technology. There has been widespread anger in the region over Trump's insulting comments on the Saudi Crown Prince. The retaliation from Trump to Europe's actions came swiftly. In a series of tweets Trump threatened Europe that he would not be there when NATO needed it in the future. He also threatened to pull the US out of NATO, something not easily feasible. He warned that the US will not re-open the Strait of Hormuz as they do not use it.

Trump tweeted, "You'll have to start learning how to fight for yourself, the US won't be there to help you anymore, just like you weren't there for us. Iran has been, essentially, decimated. The hard part is done. Go get your own oil." He also mentioned that they have been 'very unhelpful.' The rest of the world was also dismayed with oil prices skyrocketing and the shortages. China largely maintained silence over the conflict though it supported Iran with satellite intelligence on US movements. After the visit of the Pakistani foreign minister to Beijing, the two nations issued a joint statement. The statement placed emphasis on ceasefire, dialogue, protecting civilians and opening the Strait of Hormuz. Pakistan is attempting to be a negotiator in the conflict, alongside Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, though it is largely relaying mes-



sages back and forth. India has not backed any nation in this conflict. Neither will it participate in opening the Strait of Hormuz. While many claim India is displaying its strategic autonomy, in reality it is defending its national interests. India has close links with all nations involved in the conflict, Iran, Israel, the US and Gulf countries. Its neutrality ensures movement of vessels flying the Indian flag through the Strait. It was Trump who made a call to PM Modi and discussed the conflict, rather than the other way around. India has also provided safe berthing for an Iranian ship in its harbour. Russia, which was impacted by sanctions on sale of its oil from the US, is now back to rebuilding its economy. While it has criticized unilateral US actions, it continues supporting Iran with satellite inputs on US movements. Its silence ensures there is no pressure on it to end its operations in Ukraine and reduced US support to Kiev. Shortfalls and increase in

prices of oil, gas and fertilizers have impacted the global economy. Many nations are compelled to take measures to control their usage. This has further alienated them from the US and Trump. The targeting of Iran without assessing the ramifications and the impact of the closure of the Strait of Hormuz has worsened the US's global standing, which Trump feels he can ignore. Relations with Europe were already moving downhill because of Trump's insults and snide remarks on their leaders, imposition of tariffs, threats on Greenland and abandoning Ukraine. European nations needed an excuse to display their displeasure. The Iran war was when they hit back, refusing to join Trump's war. The war may end but the reputation of the US as a dependable partner has taken a major hit. Trump and his team of so-called macho-men, Rubio and Hegseth, passing comments against the US's traditional allies are only worsening ties.

Air India scales up UAE ops to 32 flights amid West Asia tensions, IndiGo runs select services

Air India Group would operate 32 scheduled and non-scheduled flights to and from West Asia on Tuesday, increasing ad-hoc services to the United Arab Emirates amid continuing airspace restrictions, flight disruptions and rising geopolitical tensions across the Middle East. IndiGo would also operate select flights as carriers adjust schedules in real time. Of the 32 flights, 16 will be non-scheduled services to and from the UAE, reflecting a fresh push to maintain India-UAE connectivity despite ongoing flight cancellations, rerouting and slot constraints. These services are being operated subject to regulatory approvals and operational conditions. Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah would continue to depend entirely on ad hoc operations. Air India will operate a Delhi-Dubai flight, while Air India Express would connect Mangalore to Dubai. Abu Dhabi would see expanded connectivity through Air India Express flights from Delhi, Kochi, Mangalore and Mumbai. Sharjah would be linked to Amritsar and Kannur. Ras Al Khaimah remains open for limited ad hoc movements, though no specific sectors have been



uncertainty on international travel. Air India said its long-haul flights to North America, Europe and Australia are operating as per schedule, indicating that disruptions remain largely confined to West Asia sectors. Passengers affected by cancellations have been offered free rebooking or full refunds, with Air India Express allowing UAE-bound travellers to shift to alternate flights within its network without additional charges. The airline group is also reaching out to impacted passengers through registered contact details to facilitate rescheduling. It further said that additional ad hoc flights are being explored depending on approvals, as demand remains high and capacity constrained. IndiGo, meanwhile, said it will operate select flights to and from the Middle East, with schedules being continuously reviewed in coordination with aviation authorities. With travel advisories in place and airlines issuing regular updates, passengers have been advised to check their flight status before heading to the airport, as flight schedules remain fluid amid ongoing disruptions in West Asia airspace.

detailed, while Al Ain continues to remain without services. In Oman, scheduled operations would continue on the Muscat route, with Air India Express operating from Delhi and Mumbai. Salalah remains suspended. Saudi Arabia would see partial continuity in flight operations. Jeddah will be served by Air India from Mumbai and by Air India Express from Hyderabad, Kannur and Kozhikode. Riyadh will have scheduled services from Delhi and Kozhikode, while Dammam remains without operations. Flights to Bahrain, Doha, Kuwait and Tel Aviv remain suspended, underlining the ongoing impact of airspace restrictions and regional

Inflation, unemployment, corruption 'top concerns' of Indians, yet optimism remains: Survey

A survey report by a global entity has found that the "top concerns" of Indian citizens include inflation, unemployment, education, crime and violence, and financial and political corruption. However, India has emerged among the top five countries—incidentally all in Asia—whose citizens are 'more likely to believe' that their nation is heading in the right direction. The survey captures perceptions of Indian citizens on key national issues that directly impact their daily lives, said the report by Ipsos, one of the largest market research and polling companies globally, operating in 90 markets. The Ipsos Global Advisor report, 'What Worries the World', released on Monday, highlights how the epicentre of global optimism is concentrated in Southeast Asia and India. Across five key markets—Singapore, Malaysia, India, South Korea, and Thailand—the sentiment remains relatively positive. The survey, conducted across 29 countries, found that citizens in 25 countries feel their nations are on the

"wrong track." France and Peru recorded the lowest levels of optimism, at 9% and 13%, respectively. On India's top concerns, Suresh Ramalingam, CEO of Ipsos India, said, "Inflation, unemployment, education, crime and violence, and corruption remain key concerns for Indians, shaped not just by domestic challenges but also by global disruptions." Ongoing conflicts in West Asia and related energy and supply chain uncertainties are adding to inflationary pressures and influencing perceptions of instability, including concerns around violence. Despite this, India's relative optimism reflects confidence in its resilience, although prolonged geopolitical tensions could test this momentum, Ramalingam added. The report notes that 2026 has been marked by significant disruption, including the outbreak of a new conflict in West Asia. The Strait of Hormuz has emerged as a critical flashpoint, exacerbating challenges for global economies. India's neutral geopoliti-



cal stance, coupled with proactive efforts to mitigate the impact of the global fuel crisis, has contributed to its relative resilience. Although the survey was conducted between late February and early March—prior to further escalation observed by mid-March—factors such as local governance and geographic positioning may be helping insulate India and other Southeast Asian markets. However, with oil and gas supplies increasingly affected by the conflict in West Asia, the situation is rapidly evolving into a broader global crisis unless there is de-escalation in hostilities, the report said. India is actively diversifying its oil

import sources to mitigate supply risks and enhance energy security. The sample in India is more urban, more educated, and/or more affluent than the general population. The survey results for these markets should be viewed as reflecting the views of the more "connected" segment of these populations. India's sample represents a large subset of its urban population—social economic classes A, B and C in metros and tier 1-3 town classes across all four zones. Weighting has been employed to balance demographics and ensure that the sample's composition reflects that of the adult population according to the most recent census data.

Coincidence or calculated timing? Trump's Iran deadline overlaps India-focused meet at White House

A striking overlap in the schedule of US President Donald Trump has sparked speculation, as a high-stakes deadline for Iran coincides with a closed-door dinner involving the US ambassador to India at the White House. Steve Lookner, an anchor and founder of Agenda-Free TV, a news channel, wrote on X: Trump has set a Tuesday deadline for Iran to accept a proposed deal or face severe consequences, including threats targeting critical infrastructure. At the same time, his engagement with India's diplomatic channel raises questions about whether the timing is purely coincidental or part of a broader geopolitical calculation. During his visit to Washington, India's Ambassador to the United States, Vinay Mohan Kwatra, met with Sergei Gor, with both sides reaffirming their commitment to advancing the strategic relationship between the two countries. "Good to catch up with my friend, Amb Sergio Gor, during his visit to Washington, D.C.," Kwatra said in a social media post on Monday. "I respect and value his partnership as we



continue our robust efforts to achieve the goals set by our leaders for India-U.S. strategic Responding to the post, Gor said it was a pleasure to meet his friend. "Always a pleasure to catch up with Amb Kwatra. He deeply cares about our strategic relationship," he said. During his visit, Gor also met Kash Patel, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in Washington. The two discussed cooperation between India and the United States to counter transnational threats such as cybercrime, narcotics trafficking, and illicit networks. Gor praised Patel's leadership, highlighting improvements in law enforcement outcomes. "In 2025, there was a 112% increase in vio-

lent crime arrests year over year, along with a 20% decrease in homicides and a 20% drop in robberies," he noted. Gor also met with U.S. Vice President JD Vance to discuss bilateral ties. "Just wrapped up a fantastic meeting with the Vice President. Thank you, JD Vance, for your continued leadership and attention to the U.S.-India relationship. Under President Donald Trump's leadership, the White House is fully engaged in the region," he said. Gor is also scheduled to meet President Trump for a dinner in Washington, coinciding with the latest deadline set by the administration for Iran to reach a deal, reports ANI. In a previous interview with Span Magazine, Gor said

that President Trump considers Prime Minister Narendra Modi a true friend, noting that their strong personal rapport has helped strengthen ties between the two nations. He added that deepening India-U.S. relations and working toward mutually beneficial goals is a significant privilege. The situation unfolds amid escalating tensions involving the United States, Israel and Iran, with the conflict now stretching over several weeks. Trump has also demanded that Tehran reopen the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz to global shipping, warning of potential military escalation if demands are not met. Iranian authorities have firmly rejected the warnings, calling them "baseless threats" and vowing continued operations. Meanwhile, diplomatic efforts, including a proposed ceasefire, remain uncertain as Tehran seeks more concrete assurances. Against this volatile backdrop, the India-linked meeting adds another layer of intrigue. India's strategic importance in global energy routes and regional stability could make it a key player in backchannel discussions.

India, St. Kitts and Nevis deepen ties as High Commission opens in Delhi

New Delhi [India], April 7 (ANI): External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday met the Foreign Affairs Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis, Denzil Douglas, at Hyderabad House in the national capital, as both sides marked a key diplomatic milestone with the opening of the High Commission of St. Kitts and Nevis in New Delhi. According to the official X post by Jaishankar, the meeting focused on discussing "development projects, health cooperation, digital capacities and disaster response." In a post on X, Jaishankar said, "Delighted to host Denzil L Douglas, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade, Industry, Commerce & Consumer Affairs, Economic Development & Investment of St. Kitts & Nevis today. Discussed development projects, health cooperation, digital capacities and disaster response. Appreciated the exchange on regional and global issues. "Speaking at the opening ceremony, Jaishankar highlighted the historical and strategic depth of ties between the two countries. "I'm truly delighted today to join you all, and I congratulate the government of St. Kitts and Nevis on the official inauguration of the new High Commission in India. St. Kitts and Nevis and India have maintained close and very friendly ties since the establishment of our diplomatic relationship, which, if my memory serves me right, was in 1983. Our bilateral engagement is built on common values of democracy and our historic struggle against colonialism," he said. Emphasising shared global priorities, he added, "These shared experiences have fostered a deep bond that has developed as fellow members of the global south. In the years that have passed, the convergence of our views is evident on issues of contemporary



relevance, including climate justice, health security, and development challenges." Highlighting India's support for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Jaishankar said, "As small island developing states (SIDS), St. Kitts and Nevis face particular vulnerabilities to climate change. India remains committed to supporting SIDS in addressing these challenges through capacity building, technology transfer, and collaboration in renewable energy, disaster resilience, and sustainable development." He also underscored cooperation in global forums and development partnerships, like in the UN General Assembly. "We have worked closely in global and regional forums to make our voice heard and our interest recognised, and we meet regularly, I think in our case particularly so, Excellency, during the UN General Assembly." Referring to bilateral initiatives in terms of Lima beans, he said, "India is already engaged in a project on the processing and packaging of Lima beans. We agreed today in our discussions in our meeting earlier this afternoon to conclude a framework on quick-impact projects that would deliver for local communities." On healthcare and regional cooperation, Jaishankar noted, "We also spoke about health challenges and the

importance of maintaining medical inventories and emergency supplies nearby for the use of CARICOM [Caribbean Community] members." Touching upon economic sectors, he said, "Tourism is the lifeblood of the economy of St. Kitts and Nevis. Our discussions touched upon the involvement of Indian businesses in this sector. We also examined the merits of Indian talents and Indian skills being made available more readily, especially in the health, tourism, and infrastructure sectors." He further offered India's expertise in digital governance. He said, "India has enthusiastically embraced digital opportunities to promote good governance and economic efficiency. We would be glad to share best practices with our partners, including St. Kitts and Nevis and indeed other members of the CARICOM." Highlighting multilateral cooperation, Jaishankar said, "On the multilateral front, both our countries continue to support each other in south-south cooperation initiatives. We also appreciate St. Kitts and Nevis' active participation in the International Solar Alliance, reflecting our shared commitment to renewable energy and climate action." Congratulating St. Kitts and Nevis on assuming the chairmanship of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), he added, "India shares warm and longstanding relations with CARICOM countries. We attach great importance to this partnership. The second India-CARICOM summit, held in November 2024 in Guyana and co-chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was indeed very productive." Jaishankar said, "I once again congratulate the government of St. Kitts and Nevis on this important diplomatic milestone and I wish the High Commission every success in strengthening our partnership."

GITAM and Blockchain For Impact, Netherlands, sign MoU to turn everyday clinical problems into affordable medical technologies

Visakhapatnam, Apr 7 GITAM and Blockchain For Impact have signed a memorandum of understanding to establish a MedTech incubation centre at the GITAM Institute of Medical Sciences and Research in Visakhapatnam. Blockchain For Impact will support the centre through a structured grant to build and operate it. India imports a large share of its medical devices, often over 70% in key categories, and this points to a deeper issue. Hospitals face problems every day, but very few of these problems become usable solutions because doctors, engineers, and startups work in separate systems without a clear path from identifying a problem to developing and deploying a solution. GITAM has created an integrated healthcare and research environment through GIMSR, where patient care, medical education, and research function within a single system. Clinical problems are observed in real time and move directly into research and development. Dr Gitanjali Batmanabane, Pro



which healthcare problems identified within the hospital move through solution design and prototyping, with clinicians, engineers, researchers, and startups working in a single environment supported by prototyping facilities, mentorship, and access to clinical settings. The centre will focus on non-invasive diagnostics and patient monitoring, where earlier detection and lower care costs make a direct difference. It will support both external startups and in-house innovators, including students, residents, and faculty. Dr Shweta Jindal, Advisor, Blockchain For Impact, said, "We focus on ideas that can improve healthcare access and outcomes, and working with GITAM allows us to support innovations that are grounded in real clinical need and can be supported in real clinical settings before they reach the market." Work within the centre moves through defined stages with access to infrastructure and clinical expertise, so that development does not stall between stages, and ideas move forward within the same system.

Vice-Chancellor, Medical Sciences, GITAM, said, "A hospital sees problems every day that do not have simple solutions, and when clinicians, engineers, and researchers work together in the same environment, those problems can be studied and solved in a structured way." Dr Raja Phani Pappu, Dean, Business School, and Dr Gautama Rao, Pro Vice-Chancellor, GITAM, spoke about how GITAM brings multiple disciplines together on one campus and enables this way of working. Doctors, researchers, and engineers at GITAM work with direct access to patients, diagnostics, and clinical data, which keeps the work anchored in real conditions and reduces the gap between identifying a problem and beginning work on a solution. The MoU establishes a system in

Pakistan issues over 2,800 visas to Indian pilgrims for Baisakhi

The Pakistan High Commission on Tuesday announced that it has issued more than 2,800 visas to Indian pilgrims to enable them to participate in the upcoming Baisakhi celebrations in Pakistan. The annual festival is scheduled to be held from April 10 to 19, with pilgrims expected to visit key Sikh religious sites across Pakistan. The move reflects Islamabad's efforts to facilitate religious travel and promote people-to-people exchanges between the two countries, despite broader bilateral tensions. Baisakhi, one of the most significant festivals in the Sikh calendar, marks the formation of the Khalsa



and draws devotees from across the world, particularly to gurdwaras in Punjab province, including

Nankana Sahib, the birthplace of Guru Nanak. Official sources noted that the issuance of visas is part of the existing bilater-

al framework aimed at enabling religious pilgrimages and maintaining cultural linkages between India and Pakistan.

Megastar Chiranjeevi's Fight With Single-Eyed Monster

What was considered to be a magnum opus has just taken a pause, because the initial teaser released by the team hasn't impressed with VFX, and the audience gave a major thumbs down for the same. That's the reason Megastar Chiranjeevi's upcoming film "Vishwambhara" got delayed by a year already when it comes to hitting the cinemas. Finally, the film's output is said to be shaping up well, and the makers are getting ready to target the coming month of June for a release. A snippet is coming out from the VFX circles that the Computer Generated Imagery, the shot creation, and the special effects have all turned into an action sequence featuring Chiranjeevi and a single-eyed monster, which has come out pretty well. Those in the know revealed that this particular sequence will be fea-



tured in the trailer too, and it will give goosebumps to movie lovers. Anyway, if this much delayed film could come up with interesting visuals and terrific action sequences, surely it will excite the audience in a big way. Directed by Vassishtha of Bimbisara fame, Vishwambhara is bankrolled by UV Creations. While Chiranjeevi recently scored a massive blockbuster with Mana Shankara Varaprasad

Garu, UV Creations saw respite at the box office with films like Couple Friendly and Biker doing well for them. With that momentum, we have to see if they will hit the bullseye with Vishwambhara now. On the other hand, if Vishwambhara also joins the release race, then that will be troubling some of the June-July releases. So the makers should announce the date well in advance.

Summer Surprise: Raakaasa Turns Into a Family Favourite at the Box Office



Raakaasa is continuing its steady run at the box office, shaping into a relaxed, feel-good entertainer that audiences are gravitating towards this summer. The film is seeing strong traction from family audiences, who are turning up in groups and contributing significantly to its theatrical momentum. With its clean comedy and easy-going narrative, Raakaasa is becoming a go-to choice for those looking for a light, enjoyable big-screen outing. The humour is working strongly, with the Sangeeth-Getup Srinu track turning out to be a clear crowd favourite, consistently drawing laughter across theatres. Their sequences are adding a lively rhythm to the film, connecting well with audiences. Alongside this, Vennela Kishore delivers one of his most effective performances in recent times, with his timing and presence elevating several stretches and enhancing the film's entertainment quotient. What's adding to the film's acceptance is how dif-

ferently it is being enjoyed across age groups. Kids are getting fully absorbed into the fantasy elements and reacting with visible excitement, while adults are engaging with it as a laid-back, no-pressure watch, enjoying the humour at their own pace. This natural split in engagement is turning Raakaasa into a comfortable family outing, where everyone finds their own space within the same experience. On the business front, the film has shown strong growth, crossing 15.80 Cr+ worldwide in 3 days, indicating steady momentum beyond its opening phase. The overseas market is also contributing positively, with North America crossing \$250K and continuing to build, reflecting encouraging reception among family audiences abroad as well. With consistent word-of-mouth, steady footfalls, and growing family turnout, Raakaasa is holding its ground firmly in theatres, continuing to draw audiences as a breezy, family-friendly entertainer this summer.

Rajamouli - Mahesh Mighty show in 1 Year: will it Happen?

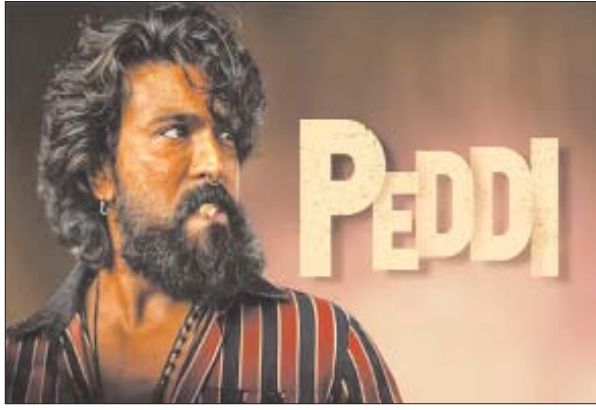


One of the greatest collaborations in the history of Indian cinema is currently happening as Rajamouli and Mahesh Babu have come together for Varanasi, which is currently in the production stage. All eyes in the film world are locked on Varanasi, the ambitious next project from visionary director Rajamouli starring Mahesh Babu opposite Priyanka Chopra and Prithviraj Sukumaran, with a worldwide theatrical release scheduled for April 7, 2027 which is exactly a year from today. Industry sources say that if production stays on track, Varanasi will mark Rajamouli's return

to the big screen with Mahesh Babu exactly one year from now, ushering in what many are calling a defining moment for global cinema. The scale of Varanasi already sets it apart: it's being shot partly in Antarctica, making it one of the most logistically complex Indian films ever undertaken, and is reported to carry a colossal budget in excess of Rs.1200 crore, positioning it among the most expensive films in Indian film history. Visual effects, motion-capture technology and world-class production facilities are in focus as Rajamouli pushes technical boundaries in a bid

to deliver a cinematic spectacle that resonates far beyond traditional markets. Expectations are astronomical among fans and industry watchers alike, who view the combination of Rajamouli's storytelling and Mahesh Babu's star power as a global event rather than just another film release. Some analysts even suggest international studio interest and unprecedented OTT deals could follow its theatrical run. With exactly one year to go, Varanasi isn't merely a film, it's being talked about as a global cultural moment that could redefine Indian cinema's footprint on the world stage.

Peddi For June: No Other Option Left Now?



Ram Charan is extremely committed to making a strong comeback with his next film Peddi. This film is prepared for its release on April 30, but it appears that this is pretty much out of the equation. This is due to the delay in the production. After facing a series of postponements over the past few months, Peddi is once again at the center of fresh release date speculation. The film, which has been in the news more for its delays than its progress, is now reportedly considering two new target dates in June either June 04 or June 25. Industry buzz suggests that the makers are carefully evaluating the release window to avoid clashes and to ensure better box office prospects. While no official confirmation has been made by the production team, trade circles indicate that internal discussions are actively underway. The uncertainty surrounding the release has kept fans and distributors on edge, especially after earlier dates were quietly pushed without detailed explanations. Sources say the team is also factoring in post production timelines and promotional planning before locking the final date. Given the film's scale and expectations, the makers are said to be cautious about announcing a date prematurely this time. The repeated postponements have naturally triggered curiosity and concern among audiences who have been waiting for clarity. At the same time, this renewed chatter around June has revived interest in the project. Whether Peddi finally arrives on June 04 or June 25 remains to be seen. Until an official announcement is made, the film's release continues to be a topic of speculation within the trade and among moviegoers.

Even Anil Ravipudi is doing Ramayana: will It work?



Director Anil Ravipudi has established a strong reputation as a specialist in commercial entertainment, particularly with his consistent Sankranti hits. Despite facing criticism for his template-style approach, he continues to deliver box office success, which is why the industry calls him a 'hit machine'. As it has come out already, he's now getting ready to do an animation film as well apart from his next Sankranti movie. Reports are coming out that Anil is reportedly planning a film based on Ramayana. Not a regular film, but an animated version, bankrolled by KVN Productions. That itself is a surprising shift. A director known for fun entertainers stepping into a mythological space is not something many expected. If you look at the current

trend, Ramayana is already being explored by multiple filmmakers. The big one right now is Ramayana starring Ranbir Kapoor. With such large-scale versions already in the pipeline, the space is getting crowded. So naturally, the question is simple. Will there be space for another Ramayana, that too from a director known for comedy entertainers? In the past, we have seen how directors struggle when they don't reinvent. Someone like Sreenu Vaitla couldn't sustain once his formula got repetitive. Anil seems to be aware of that risk and is now trying to explore something new through animation. But then, he should have picked up something other than the Ramayana, is what many feel.

I Have Quite Films, Married Rich Man: Trisha



Popular South Indian actress Trisha Krishnan has recently responded to rumours about her quitting films. Over the past few days, social media was filled with news claiming that she had decided to retire from acting. These reports surprised many of her fans, as she is still very active in the film industry. The rumours started after Chitra Lakshmanan mentioned in a YouTube video that Trisha had stepped away from cinema. He also claimed that some producers had confirmed this information. Soon, this statement spread widely online, leaving fans confused and disappointed. However, Trisha did not stay silent. She chose a fun and sarcastic way to respond. Taking to Instagram, she shared a witty message dismissing all such claims. In her post, she joked that not only had she quit films, but she had also married a rich businessman and was raising four children. She added humorously whether anything else needed to be included in the "fiction quota" for the day. Her reply clearly showed that the rumours were false. Fans appreciated her light-hearted response and were relieved to know that she is not retiring anytime soon.



Is this the biggest Problem with Telugu Cinema?

Telugu cinema has been leading the race in Indian cinema with regard to quality of production and also the scale of the filmmaking. But there are certain things that have not been going the way of the Telugu film industry and here is a discussion on the same. Noted Telugu screenwriter BVS Ravi has made some sharp observations about the production economics behind the recently released Bollywood spy thriller Dhurandhar, drawing a striking contrast with how films are made in Tollywood.



BVS Ravi pointed out that the makers of Dhurandhar produced an eight-hour spy saga across two parts at a combined budget of just Rs 260 crore. The film features a star-studded cast including Ranveer Singh, Arjun Rampal, Akshay Khanna, and Sanjay Dutt, and was shot across rich and visually impressive locations. Despite the scale and the ensemble, the project was completed within what he considers a disciplined budget. Ravi then turned his comments toward the Telugu film industry, noting that the same film, if produced in Tollywood, would have cost at least Rs 500 crore.

The remark was aimed at a broader pattern he sees in the industry, where filmmakers invest heavily in grandeur and spectacle but do not bring the same level of focus and discipline to content. His comments have sparked conversation online, with many in the film community seeing his remarks as a pointed critique of the tendency in Telugu cinema to prioritise lavish production value and star power over storytelling quality. BVS Ravi's observation has been widely shared and discussed as the debate over budget discipline and creative priorities continues to resonate within the industry.

Mixed Opinions on Fauzi's Postponement to December

Superstar Prabhas has decided to deliver two films a year, and already half of the 2026 quota was met by "Raja Saab" earlier in January. Now, the onus is on the next film, which happens to be "Fauzi" directed by Hanu Raghavapudi. This film has been in the making for a long time, and initially it was set for a Dasara release. Without attending shoots of other films like Sri or Kalki 2898 AD, Prabhas has now dedicated himself full-time to Fauzi only, but here's the twist. Apparently, Fauzi will not be able to make it to the Dasara season due to pending Visual Effects and other post-production processes. For that same reason, the makers have thought that December first week would be an ideal release, like how the films like Animal, Pushpa



2 and Dhurandhar 1 in the recent times have come around that time and clicked. However, as Ramayana 1 is scheduled for November 2026 release, and in the third week of December, there's the release of Dune 3, some feel that these movies might affect the chances of "Fauzi" at the box office. However, trade experts have written that off.

They say that if Fauzi is arriving in December, surely that would be a proper commercial treat for fans, and neither Ramayana nor Dune 3 falls in the same groove, so they are not even in the league of Prabhas starrer. At the same time, Fauzi hasn't come up with any updates till date, and if the shooting is going at a brisk pace, surely that itself is good news for fans.

Adivi Sesh's Goodwill Working: Good Advances for Dacoit!

Adivi She is one of the most trusted heroes for Telugu audience when it comes to delivering quality films. He appears to be back on job again for Dacoit and that is reflecting in the advance bookings for this film. The advance bookings for Dacoit Hyderabad have opened on a remarkable note, signaling strong anticipation among moviegoers. At AMB Cinemas, shows are filling up at a rapid pace, with ratings showing a perfect score of 5 out of 5 in early bookings.



Art Cinemas is also seeing high demand, with a rating of 4 out of 5, indicating that seats are going fast. Even the early morning 8 am show at Prasad's PCX is drawing audiences, with tickets being snapped up quickly. This surge in advance bookings reflects not just the film's intriguing premise but also the goodwill and popularity of the lead actor, Adivi Sesh. Over the years, Sesh has built a reputation for choosing scripts that combine quality storytelling with memorable performances. His consistent connection with the audience has

created a loyal fan base that trusts his choice of films. People are now willing to book early, confident that they will witness a compelling cinematic experience. Sesh's presence in a project has become a significant factor in drawing audiences to theaters, even before reviews or word-of-mouth take effect. This trend demonstrates the power of an actor's credibility and how it can translate directly into box office traction. With advance bookings off to such a strong start, the film is poised for a promising opening, highlighting how star goodwill can create early momentum and set the stage for commercial success.

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



Rugby India on Monday

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Open E-Tender Notice No. CAO/Con/RSP/SC/02/2026-Capital (Works) Deposit dated 01/04/2026 & 02/04/2026

For and on behalf of President of India, the undersigned invites e-tender for the following works up to 11.00 hrs on 24.04.2026

SI.No 1 e-Tender No. CONST-GAO-RSP-26-003 Name of the work Vijayawada Division: (1) BZA-GDV section: Construction of Proposed 2 lane ROB in Lieu of L.C.No.16 between Nidamanuru and Uppalurur Stations. (2) BZA-VSKP section Construction of Proposed 2 lane ROB in Lieu of L.C.No.324 between Gannavaram and Pedda Avutapalli Stations & (3) BZA-VSKP section Construction of Proposed 2 lane ROB in Lieu of L.C.No.328A between Pedda Avutapalli and Telaprolu stations. **Approx. Tender Value in Rs.** 128,28,37,926.53 **EMD [Rs.]** 2,56,56,800.00 **Completion period (in Months)** 18 **Defect liability period (in Months)** 48 **Works considered similar in nature towards Standard eligibility criteria B.II (d)Any** "Railway/Metro/Road Bridge Work having steel composite/Bowstring girder and/or PSC girder in super structure".

SI.No 2 e-Tender No. CONST-GAO-RSP-26-004 Name of the work Vijayawada Division: BZA-VSKP Section: Construction of Proposed 2 lane ROB in Lieu of L.C.No.422 between Medapadu and Samalkot Stations. L.C.No.426 between Samalkot and Pithapuram Stations & L.C.No.439 between Ravikampadu and Annavaram Stations. **Approx. Tender Value in Rs.** 168,93,61,889.66 **EMD [Rs.]** 3,37,87,300.00 **Completion period (in Months)** 18 **Defect liability period (in Months)** 48 **Works considered similar in nature towards Standard eligibility criteria B.II (d)Any** "Railway/Metro/Road Bridge Work having steel composite/Bowstring girder and/or PSC girder in super structure".

SI.No 3 e-Tender No. CONST-GAO-RSP-26-005 Name of the work Secunderabad Division - Kazipet - Balharsha Section - Construction of Public Foot Over Bridge with Both side ramps (for Pedestrian and Two/Three Wheeler vehicle movements) in lieu of L.C.No.13 between Uppal and Hanasparthy stations. **Approx. Tender Value in Rs.** 11,01,76,703.42 **EMD [Rs.]** 22,03,500.00 **Completion period (in Months)** 12 **Defect liability period (in Months)** 48 **Works considered similar in nature towards Standard eligibility criteria B-5:** Any work consisting of steel fabrication and erection of FOB or Steel / Composite girder Bridges or ROB with steel composite girder or Industrial Shed or PF shelter (steel) or Microwave /HT tower or replacement of steel members / repairs on steel girder Bridges or Steel Sleepers over girder Bridges.

SI.No 4 e-Tender No. CONST-GAO-RSP-26-006 Name of the work GTL Division: Renigunta(RU) - Gooty(GV) section: Proposed construction of new Road under Bridge in lieu of L.C.No.179 at Gooty Station yard. **Approx. Tender Value in Rs.** 27,77,93,553.89 **EMD [Rs.]** 55,55,900.00 **Completion period (in Months)** 12 **Defect liability period (in Months)** 48 **Works considered similar in nature towards Standard eligibility criteria A3:** Any Civil Engineering work consisting of construction of bridge involving Box pushing / pipe jacking technique or bridge work involving casting and launching of PSC Slab/PSC Girder/PSC Box.

SI.No 5 e-Tender No. CONST-GAO-RSP-26-008 Name of the work Guntakal Division: Katpadi - Tirupati Section: Construction of 2 lane Road Over Bridge (Railway portion) between Katpadi and Bommasamudram Stations. **Approx. Tender Value in Rs.** 65,06,697.16 **EMD [Rs.]** 12,11,700.00 **Completion period (in Months)** 12 **Defect liability period (in Months)** 48 **Works considered similar in nature towards Standard eligibility criteria B-1A:** Major Bridges with Steel Composite Superstructure Any Civil Engineering work consisting of construction of steel and/or composite girders bridge on substructure with (a) open/pile/well foundation or (b) pile/well foundation or (c) well foundation.

*Tenders should participate through e-tendering only and no manual offers will be considered. *Tender conditions /other particulars are available in the Tender documents on IREPS website at ireps.gov.in which can be downloaded, view modification, if any and can be participated through the website as mentioned. * All the prospective tenderers are requested to remit EMD through online payments/BG only. *The tender notice is also displayed in the Notice Board located in the office of CAO/ Construction/RSP, South Central Railway which can be seen on all working days. * The Railway reserves the right to cancel the tender without assigning any reason thereto. * All the prospective tenderers are advised to get GSTIN identification Nos. and submit along with their offer.

Visit our site at "www.ireps.gov.in"

Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Vijayawada

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at <https://www.ireps.gov.in> or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

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.

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 Yamalappalli. 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 during 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 PTI. "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 line-up. 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.

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 ATP Masters 1000 event of the season. In 2025, he began his 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.

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 pace 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 tournament progresses. "Building a season takes time, patience, and collective belief. Today reflect-

ed 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.

Kerr, Mooney, and Khaka shortlisted 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.

VASTU HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION LTD
Unit 203 & 204, 2nd Floor, "A" Wing, Navbharat Estate, Zakaria Bunder Road, Sewri (West), Mumbai 400015, Maharashtra. CIN No.: U65922MH2005PLC272501

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred to him under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice calling upon the borrowers mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notice within 90 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on me under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the date mentioned below. The borrower and guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Limited Branch for an amount mentioned as below and interest thereon, costs etc.

S/N	Name of Borrower, Co-Borrower and LAN No.	Date & Amount of Demand Notice	Description of Property	Date & Type of Possession
1	Rajeswari Kodati (Borrower), Mr/Mrs.Srinivas Kodati (Co Borrower) LP000000024823 LP000000040896	15-Dec-25 Rs.11875787 & Rs.545242 as on 12-Dec-25	All that Piece and Parcel of west Godavari District, Talapudi Mandal, Vegeswarapuram Sub-registry, Talapudi Gram Panchayat, kukunuri Village, Grams Karlam, R.S.No.38, Site consisting of 46Sq.Yards building with RCC building bearing D.No.7-78 and Plinth area is 381.84 Sq.Feet and within the mentioned boundaries site consisting of 46 Sq.Yards or 38.461 Sq.Meters along with RCC building with doors, doorways, windows, cupboards etc., along with all usual and easementary rights Boundaries as follows: North - Daba wall belongs to Nandam Buchayya South - daba walls belongs to Parasra Padmarajam Rao East - R.B.Road West - Site Belongs to Kankipati Veerabhadra Rao	Symbolic Possession Taken on 04-Apr-26
2	Mudeddhula Raju (Borrower), Mudeddhula Adhi Lakshmi (Co Borrower) MLP00000028276	15-Dec-25 Rs.908218 as on 12-Dec-25	Kurnool District, Pathikonda Regidistrict, Khyruppala Village,aspar Mandal, Near H.No.3-191 Sy No 433,an Extent Of 152 Sq.Yards, Or 1368 Sq.ft In And In It Constructed An Extent Of 98.86 Sq.Yards Or 888 Sq.ft Of Site, Khyruppala Village Plinth Area An Extent Of 888 Sq.feet. Of Rcc Rcc House And Within These Boundaries An Extent Of 98.86 Sq.Yards Of Site And In It Construction An Extent Of 888sq.feet Of Rcc House Including All Easement Rights Therein. Along With All Fixtures And Fittings Therein, Ofwith All Easement Rights Therein. Boundaries As Follows: North - Road South - Road East - Bajari Land West - Narasamma House	Symbolic Possession Taken on 02-Apr-26
3	Tallar Suraj (Borrower), Gousiya Barui (Co Borrower), Mr/Mrs. Tallar Khajasaheb (Co Borrower) LP0000000190670	15-Dec-25 Rs.932798 as on 12-Dec-25	Property Covered under Document No. 2943/2023-Kurnool District, Adoni Reg-District, 104 Basapuram village and 104 Basapuram gram panchayat, H.No 4-75, Sy No 132 an extent of 73.33 Sq. Yards, or 860 Sq.ft in and in it constructed an extent of 50.8 Sq. Yards or 456 Sq.ft of Site, 104 Basapuram Gram Panchayat, 104 Basapuram Village plinth area an extent of 456 Sq.feet. of RCC roof house in Site,Andhra Pradesh, 518301 Boundaries as follows: North - Plot No 294 South - Rashtia East - Rashtia West - Plot No 296	Symbolic Possession Taken on 02-Apr-26
4	Satyanarayana Yatham (Borrower),Mr/Mrs. Narayana Rao Yatham (Co Borrower), Mr/Mrs. Priya Darsini Yatham (Co Borrower), Mr/Mrs. Nagamani Yatham (Co Borrower) LP000000049752	15-Dec-25 Rs. 1589908 as on 12-Dec-25	Immovable Property RCC Building Door No. 2-52 Present Door No. 2-202 (as per Tax Receipt) with an extent of 412.2 square yards site in R.S.No. 25719, Losari Gutlapadu Village, Losari Grama Panchayat, Bhimavaram Mandal, Bhimavaram Sub Registry, West Godavari District lying and situated at Losari Gutlapadu Village in Registration District West Godavari of Bhimavaram S.R.O. Boundaries as follows: North - Site of Yatham Satyanarayana (B) Schedule share holder) South - site of Pechetti Subbarao East - East Margin site West - Site of Kopparthi Pallathiramayya	Symbolic Possession Taken on 06-Apr-26

Date : 08.04.2026
Place : West Godavari, Kurnool

Authorised officer
Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Ltd

Clean drinking water, LED expansion top government agenda: Minister Narayana



Chittoor: Apr 7
Municipal Administration Minister P Narayana said the government is spending nearly Rs 14,000 crore to provide tap connections and supply clean drinking water to every household in the State by 2030. He visited Chittoor Municipal Corporation on Monday and inspected roads, dumping yard and other civic facilities before conducting a review meeting on the ongoing development works in the city. The Minister said municipal development should move forward with proper planning and clear targets. Basic infrastructure facilities are being provided to people in all 123 municipalities across the State. LED streetlights have already been installed in all municipalities and are being monitored through a central dashboard system.

Steps are being taken to procure another 10 lakh LED bulbs soon. Narayana said tenders worth Rs 29.7 crore have been called under the AMRUT scheme for development works in Chittoor. He also announced that kacha drains will be constructed in Chittoor Municipal Corporation at a cost of Rs 82 crore, while works related to used water management have been sanctioned with an allocation of Rs 39.21 crore. Municipal Corporation Special Officer and district Collector Sumit Kumar said special focus is being given to various development programmes within the Corporation limits. Speaking about the corporation's financial position, he noted that nearly Rs 1.2 crore is being paid every month as

interest on loans taken in the past, and the repayment period will continue until 2035. The Collector said around Rs 18 crore is required for parks, lighting and other civic needs, and these works will be taken up in phases. Chittoor MLA Gurajala Jagan Mohan stressed that road widening in the town is urgently required and said it is essential for urban development. He also said steps have been initiated to address the long-standing drinking water problem in Chittoor. Puthalapattu MLA K Murali Mohan, CHUDA Chairman Katari Hemalatha, CDMA Manager Sampath Kumar, Municipalities Chief Engineer Prabhakar Rao, Commissioner Narasimha Prasad and other officials participated in the programme.

Minister participates in Jaladhara programme



Tangutur: Apr 7
Minister Dola Sree Bala Veeranjanya Swamy, along with Prakasam District Collector P Raja Babu, participated in the Jaladhara programme at Valluru village in Tangutur mandal on Monday. They performed special prayers to Gangamma Thalli at the village tank and offered a traditional saree. Speaking on the occasion, the minister stated that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's core vision through the Jaladhara initiative is to significantly enhance groundwater levels across the state. Being a farmer's son, the CM has always prioritised water conservation, with the welfare of farmers and agricultural labourers remaining his primary goal. He assured that drought-prone Prakasam district would be transformed into a green and fertile region by boosting groundwater levels. He further announced that CM Chandrababu is targeting completion of the Veligonda Project by June this year to ensure water supply to farmers, and pledged to develop Prakasam district into a major horticulture hub.

Haier India Launches the Desert Rose Super Heavy Duty Air Conditioner Powered by AI-Atmox



Vijayawada, India, 6th April 2026: Haier Appliances India, the world's No. 1 global major appliances brand for 17 consecutive years, has raised the bar for climate-ready innovation with the launch of its Desert Rose Super Heavy Duty Air Conditioners powered by AI-Atmox, a premium addition to the brand's portfolio that delivers powerful cooling and high-performance efficiency. As India braces for long and harsh summers, the AI-Atmox powered range is engineered to endure and deliver reliable performance even when temperatures peak. With Desert Rose, Haier combines heavy-duty endurance with next-generation smart cooling to redefine comfort across the country's harshest climates. The Desert Rose Air Conditioners exemplify Haier's commitment to intelligent, next-generation cooling that understands consumers' needs. Equipped with AI Human Detection, its advanced sensors detect room occupancy and automatically switch to energy-saving mode, optimizing power use without compromising comfort. This seamless combination of precision, endurance, and intuitive operation positions Desert Rose as the benchmark for premium, high-performance air conditioning in India's most demanding climates. Powered by AI-Atmox, the Desert Rose Air Conditioner is built on the three core pillars: AI for comfort with AI-Atmox Neuro, AI for savings with AI-Atmox Power Manager and AI for service with AI-Atmox Auto Clean. It brings together advanced features such as AI Climate Control 2.0 which studies the usage patterns to personalize cooling complemented by Dynamic Environmental Adaptation for real-time performance optimisation, AI Target Cooling for directed airflow and AI Pre-Cooling with a 100-meter geofence that anticipates user arrival to cool the room in advance. For energy efficiency, multi-level AI ECO optimizes energy usage in real time, ensuring peak efficiency without compromising performance. It also offers AI ODU Cyclone Clean which automatically clean the outdoor unit using powerful reverse-airflow to ensure faster cooling, lower energy use, and year-round reliable performance. The indoor unit self-cleans every 240 hours with the AI Frost Self-Clean process, eliminating manual effort while also allowing users to initiate additional cleaning cycles manually whenever needed. Commenting on the launch, Mr. NS Satish, CEO, Haier Appliances India, said, "With the launch of Desert Rose Air Conditioners, we are reinforcing Haier's commitment to innovation that truly meets the evolving needs of Indian consumers. Our goal is to deliver solutions that combine performance, efficiency, and reliability, while responding to the challenges of a rapidly changing climate. Under our 'Made in India, Made for India' vision, we continue to invest in local innovation and premium offerings that redefine standards in the home appliances segment and strengthen our leadership in the market." The Haier Desert Rose Super Heavy Duty Air Conditioners will be available starting at INR 55,990 and can be purchased across leading online and offline retail channels in India. Haier Desert Rose Super Heavy Duty ACs will be available in 2 models. HSA20DSD-GA15NB-I with Gold Stripe| HSA20DSD-NA15NB-I with Nebula Blue Stripe.

Guv calls for socially relevant research

Anantapur: Apr 7
Andhra Pradesh Governor S Abdul Nazeer on Monday emphasised the need for research and technological innovation aligned with societal needs to drive sustainable development, while addressing the 15th convocation of Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University (JNTU), Anantapur. The Governor attended the ceremony as Chancellor and chief guest at the university's NTR Auditorium.



He was accorded a ceremonial reception earlier and welcomed by senior officials, including the Vice-Chancellor H Sudarshan Rao and other dignitaries. In his address, the Governor underlined that true education goes beyond the transfer of knowledge and should foster harmony in life and society, recalling the ideals of Rabindranath Tagore. He noted that Andhra Pradesh has been making steady progress in higher education, with a gross enrolment ratio of 36.5 percent, surpassing the national average. He highlighted that the National Education Policy 2020 has ushered in transformative changes in the education system, benefiting students across the country. The Governor also pointed to the state's advancement in industrial growth and infrastructure development, stating that Andhra Pradesh is attracting investments in sectors such as renewable energy, electronics, information technology and food processing. He added that improvements in road networks, ports, inland waterways and airports are strengthening the state's economic prospects. Encouraging students, he urged them to use their knowledge for the benefit of society and to uphold values such as integrity, perseverance and compassion. He called on graduates to continuously learn, innovate and

strive for excellence in their chosen fields. During the ceremony, honorary doctorates were conferred on 74 individuals, while 31 students received gold medals for academic excellence. More than 40,000 students were awarded degrees across various disciplines, including engineering, pharmacy, management and computer applications. Renowned scientist Tessy Thomas, popularly known as the "Missile Woman of India," was conferred an honorary doctorate at the event. Addressing the graduates, she described convocation as a celebration of perseverance and discipline, and encouraged students to pursue innovation and achieve professional excellence. She also shared insights from her career in India's missile development programmes. Vice-Chancellor H Sudarshan Rao highlighted the university's academic strength, noting that it oversees around 130 affiliated colleges across several districts. He stated that JNTU Anantapur has earned a distinct place at the national level in technical education and has produced numerous engineers and scientists. Several public representatives, officials and academic leaders attended the convocation, which marked a significant milestone for graduating students and the university alike.

Collector irked over poor grievance redressal performance

Nandyal: Apr 7
District Collector G Raja Kumari on Monday expressed serious concern over the unsatisfactory handling of public grievances by several officials across the district. Speaking at a review meeting held at the grievance redressal hall in the Collectorate, she said that a detailed assessment of 412 officials revealed that 106 of them had scored zero in resolving complaints.



Terming the situation alarming, the Collector directed that show-cause notices be issued and warned of strict action if there was no immediate improvement in performance. She observed that officials from key departments, including revenue, rural development, agriculture, police, municipal administration, housing, health, social welfare, minority welfare, forest, marketing, and education, were among those with poor performance. The Collector pointed out that certain mandals and urban areas had recorded particularly weak results, while appreciating a few officials who demonstrated commitment by addressing grievances promptly. She made it clear that negligence in handling petitions endorsed by the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister would not be tolerated, and identified 35 important petitions that were either kept

pending or closed without proper justification. These cases, she said, would be reopened and reviewed at the district level. Expressing concern over delays in sensitive cases, including the sanction of a house site for a disabled child, the Collector called for greater responsibility and responsiveness from officials. She also noted slow progress in certain departments and instructed all officials to clear pending petitions at the earliest. With a high-level review scheduled next week, she set a target of achieving zero pendency and announced a special review with 15 officials who recorded the highest pendency and poorest performance. Reiterating the importance of accountability, she stressed that performance-based evaluation would continue and that strict measures would be taken against those failing to meet expectations.

100-day spl programme on water management inaugurated in Srikalahasti

Tirupati: Apr 7
District Collector Dr S Venkateswar inaugurated a 100-day special programme titled 'Water Security - Responsibility of Water User Associations' under 'Jaladhara' at Suravari Palli village in Srikalahasti constituency on Monday. Srikalahasti MLA Bojjala Sudheer Reddy and RDO Bhanu Prakash Reddy were present at the event. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said efficient use and conservation of water resources have become an urgent necessity. Protection of tanks, canals and groundwater sources is very important in rural areas that depend largely on rain-fed agriculture. He explained the key activities planned under the 100-day programme. These include restoration of tanks and canals through desilting, cleaning and repair works to improve water storage capacity. Nearby tanks will be interconnected to store and utilise rainwater effectively. Water conservation structures such as check dams, percolation tanks and recharge pits will be constructed to enhance water storage and groundwater recharge. The programme will also focus on increasing greenery by



planting trees around water bodies to maintain environmental balance. Measures will be taken to improve groundwater levels by enabling rainwater to seep into the soil. Integrated water management plans will be prepared at the village level and implemented with the participation of Water User Associations. Speaking at the programme, MLA Bojjala Sudheer Reddy said the initiative would support rural development and farmer welfare. Restoration of tanks and canals would help increase irrigation coverage and benefit farmers. He called for public participation in every village to make the programme successful. Water Resources Department Superintending Engineer Radhakrishna Murthy, Deputy Engineer Siva Reddy, and a large number of farmers participated in the programme.

Fast track clearance given to six new waste to energy plants: Min Narayana



Tirupati: Apr 7
Municipal Administration Minister P Narayana stated that all legacy garbage at the dumping yard at Ramapuram, including buried waste, would be cleared within the next two months. Ramapuram yard will be transformed into a model modern waste management facility as part of 'Swachh Andhra - Swarna Andhra' vision of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, he added. Along with local MLAs Arani Srinivasulu (Tirupati city) and Pulivarti Nani (Chandragiri) and Municipal Corporation Commissioner N Mourya, the Minister inspected the dumping yard at Ramapuram on Monday. Speaking after the inspection, Minister Narayana called the previous YSRCP government as

'dirty government', which collected taxes on garbage, but left massive piles of garbage in 123 municipalities across the State, seriously harming public health. Narayana said that soon after coming to power in 2024, the Chief Minister set a strict target to clear all legacy waste within one year and to stop the practice of unscientific dumping. Under this drive, already about 85 lakh (8.5 million) tonnes of legacy waste was removed across urban areas. Another 68 lakh (6.8 million) tonnes of waste buried beneath the ground at various dump yards will be fully cleared within the next two months, he added. The Minister stressed that waste to energy plants are the only permanent and sustainable solution to

Andhra Pradesh's solid waste crisis. CM Naidu visited similar waste to energy plants in Tokyo and Singapore and decided to set up 10 such facilities across the State. Currently, plants in Visakhapatnam and Guntur are fully operational and together burn about 2,800 tonnes of garbage per day, generating electricity from it. He informed that the government gave fast track clearance to six new plants in Kakinada, Nellore, Vijayawada, Tirupati, Kurnool and Kadapa, which are expected to become operational by 2027. Once all 10 plants are fully functional, the State will be able to process around 7,000-7,500 tonnes of solid waste per day, eliminating the need for traditional dumping yards.

MP Uday Srinivas meets Collector Harindhara Prasad



Kakinada, April 7: Kakinada MP Uday Srinivas met M. N. Harindhara Prasad, who took charge as the new Collector of Kakinada district, on Tuesday at the office of the Collector of Tangella Uday Srinivas

and congratulated him. On this occasion, MP Uday Srinivas discussed with Collector Harindhara Prasad the progress of the welfare schemes and development works being undertaken by the government.