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## Iran Issues 10-Point Ceasefire Conditions, Trump Says "Plan Workable"

Washington, April 8: The US military has paused its strikes on Iran after President Donald Trump announced he has agreed to a two-week ceasefire with Tehran in a last-minute off-ramp, allowing him to delay his threat to obliterate Iran's power grid and bridges. Trump said the proposal, extended by Pakistan, would include opening the Strait of Hormuz -- through which a fifth of the world's energy supplies pass in peacetime-- while Washington and Tehran tried to negotiate a peace deal. Tehran also said it has accepted the proposal, with Iranian foreign minister Abbas Araghchi saying that if the US and Israel



halt their attacks, Iran will also suspend its "defensive operation" for two weeks. Araghchi-- a veteran of past nuclear negotiations with the United States--

said that the Iranian military will coordinate the passage of vessels through the critical waterway during the two-week ceasefire but insisted that "Iran's

Armed Forces" would retain control of the passage.

### Iran Claims Victory

Tehran also claimed victory in the war that started after US-Israeli strikes on February 28 and said it forced the United States to accept its 10-point plan, including lifting sanctions and accepting its nuclear enrichment. In a statement, Iran's Supreme National Security Council said the ceasefire plan would require "continued Iranian control over the Strait of Hormuz, acceptance of enrichment, and lifting of all primary and secondary sanctions". Other key demands in the blueprint, offered through mediators

in Pakistan, include US military withdrawal from the Middle East, an end to attacks on Iran and its allies, the release of frozen Iranian assets and a UN Security Council resolution making any deal binding.

"It is to be noted that the adoption of such a resolution shall render all these agreements binding under international law and shall constitute a significant diplomatic victory for the Iranian nation," the country's Supreme National Security Council said in a statement. Crucially, the plan also calls for expanded Iranian control over the Strait of Hormuz, a conduit (Contd. on pg.2)

## India welcomes US-Iran ceasefire, hopes agreement 'will lead to lasting peace'

New Delhi, April 8: India on Wednesday welcomed the ceasefire agreement reached between the US and Iran and expressed hope that the ceasefire would lead to lasting peace in West Asia. In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) reiterated that dialogue and diplomacy are important for bringing an end to the conflict. The MEA noted that the conflict in West Asia has caused suffering to people and disrupted the global energy supply. The MEA stated, "We welcome the ceasefire reached and hope that it will lead to a lasting peace in West Asia. As we have



continuously advocated earlier, de-escalation, dialogue and diplomacy are essential to bring an early end to the ongoing conflict." "The conflict has already caused immense suffering to people and disrupted

global energy supply and trade networks. We expect that unimpeded freedom of navigation and global flow of commerce would prevail through the Strait of Hormuz," it added. The MEA's statement (Contd. on pg.2)

## PM Modi highlights 11 years of PMMY, calls it a boost to self-employment among youth

New Delhi, April 8: As the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) completed 11 years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the scheme has played a crucial role in promoting self-employment among the youth.

Taking to social media platform X, PM Modi said, "Launched exactly 11 years ago today, the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana has proven to be immensely helpful in fostering self-employment among the youth. The success of this scheme demonstrates that, given the right opportunities, an individual can not only become self-reliant but



also contribute to the progress of the nation." The PMMY was launched on April 8, 2015, with the aim of providing collateral-free credit of up to Rs 20 lakh through Member Lending Institutions, including Scheduled

Commercial Banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies, and Micro Finance Institutions. Under the scheme, any eligible individual with a viable business plan for a small enterprise can avail (Contd. on pg.2)

## Minister Narayana reviews in Amaravati work, asks officials to expedite works

By Skyline Staff Reporter Amaravati, April 8: The State Government has intensified efforts to accelerate the development of Amaravati, with a renewed focus on completing key buildings, residential units and essential infrastructure.



At a review meeting held on Wednesday, Minister Narayana assessed the progress of ongoing construction works and emphasised the need for timely completion. Officials and contractors were instructed to expedite pending works to

ensure that several buildings are completed and handed over to the government within the current month. A major component of the initiative is the (Contd. on pg.2)

## Decision on utilisation of Rushikonda buildings soon, says minister

By Skyline Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam, April 8: The Cabinet Sub-Committee has prepared its report on options for using the Rushikonda buildings, said State Tourism Minister Kandula Durgesh.



The Minister, who chaired the panel meeting in Amaravati on Tuesday, stated that the report would be submitted to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu later this week, and a final decision on the utilisation of the Rushikonda buildings is expected at the upcoming

Cabinet meeting scheduled for next week. Durgesh, who is a member of the sub-committee, said the meeting discussed various options, including opening the (Contd. on pg.2)

## Create a wonder from waste and grab a prize

By Skyline Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam, April 8: As a part of the creative activities undertaken by the GVMC during Swachh Survekshan 2025-26, the municipal corporation is organising the 'Waste to Wonder' Championship competition.



It is an opportunity for welding shops, fabrication units and independent metal artists in the city to create masterpieces with scrap material. Those with creative ideas are requested to participate in all zones and submit the masterpieces to GVMC by April 24, 2026. In each

zone, the first prize (Rs. 1 lakh), the second prize (Rs. 50,000), the third prize (Rs. 25,000), and 10 incentive prizes (Rs. 5000 each) will be given to winners, according to a press note issued by GVMC Commissioner (Contd. on pg.2)

## AP CM Chandrababu naidu focuses on roads for AP economic growth

By Skyline Staff Reporter Amaravati, April 8: Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has made it clear that national and state highways should be constructed not only for travel convenience but also to boost wider economic activities in the state. He directed to build a strong connectivity system to connect the ports in the state with other parts of the country. He held a high-level review on roads-buildings, transportation and national highway projects at the Secretariat on Wednesday.

He issued clear instructions to the officials on key issues like road maintenance, pothole-free roads, use of EV buses and development of port corridors. **Outer corridors for various cities** The CM ordered to study outer corridor models in major cities of the state like Rajahmundry, Kakinada, Tirupati, Kurnool and Nellore. He opined that the construction of ring roads for cities would expand economic activities in those areas and reduce traffic prob-



lems. He made it clear that roads should be constructed to connect all major cities in neighboring states with AP.

### CM's focus on strong road management

The Chief Minister said that the road management in the state should be very strong and that the people should not face any problems. He said that out of the 45,433 km of roads across the state, 10,238 km need to be continuously maintained every year. He suggested that if potholes are repaired immediately, there will be no

problems and this should be a continuous process. He ordered to study the best practices adopted at the national and international levels in road management. He wanted to take steps without shortage of funds for the maintenance of R&B roads. He suggested that BT or white tap roads should be constructed in hybrid model in both Godavari districts as well as in areas with black soil, and that new technology should be studied with universities for the construction of (Contd. on pg.2)



New Delhi, April 8: The stage is set for another key moment in the assembly election season, which is arousing political interest across the country. Tomorrow (April 9), on Thursday, two states and one union territory will go to polls in a single phase.

The people of Assam and Kerala, as well as the union territory of Puducherry, will cast their votes. More than 6.1 crore voters in the three regions will exercise their franchise. These elections will be a test for regional and (Contd. on pg.2)

## Influential Endowments Officer Shanti sent to jail

By Skyline Staff Reporter Vijayawada, April 8: Controversial Andhra Pradesh Endowments Department Assistant Commissioner K Shanti, who was known for her alleged political connections during the YSR Congress Party regime, has now landed in jail in connection with a disproportionate assets case. On Tuesday, officials of the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) arrested Shanti after conducting raids at multiple properties linked to her. On Wednesday, she was



remanded to 14 days of judicial custody. The ACB launched the operation after receiving a complaint alleging that Shanti had accumulated assets disproportionate to

her known sources of income. As part of the investigation, simultaneous searches were conducted at four locations, including Tadepalli and Undavalli.

According to sources, ACB officials reportedly found several high-value assets during the raids. These include a luxury flat in Endada, Visakhapatnam, a G+2 residential building in Kunchanapalli, Tadepalli, around 770 grams of gold ornaments, 3 kilograms of silver, ?1.15 lakh in cash, about ?3 lakh in bank deposits, and two vehicles. After nearly 10 hours of searches, officials took Shanti into custody from her residence in Tadepalli (Contd. on pg.2)

## Now, CM Chandrababu Naidu govt targets Roja, Siddarth

By Skyline Staff Reporter Vijayawada, April 8: Andhra Pradesh Vigilance Department has reportedly submitted its inquiry report to the government on alleged irregularities in the 'Aadudam Andhra' sports initiative launched during the previous YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) regime. According to sources, the report allegedly points to the involvement of former sports minister R K Roja and former Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SAAP) chairman Byreddy Siddharth Reddy,



prompting the government to consider its next course of action. The Vigilance inquiry, which was ordered after the coalition government came to power, reportedly

found that Roja and Baireddy Siddharth Reddy played key roles in the alleged misuse of funds linked to the programme. The department is said to

have recommended the registration of criminal cases against both of them. The report also reportedly suggested disciplinary action against Harshavardhan, then in-charge Managing Director of SAAP, then School Education Commissioner Suresh Kumar, IAS officer Dhyanchand and retired IAS officer Vani Mohan. In addition, Vigilance officials are understood to have recommended action against personnel working (Contd. on pg.2)

# Tanishq marks a new chapter in nature gemstone category by roping in Rukimini Vasanth as the face of its new campaign for South

Kakinada, 08th, April 2026: As we approach the auspicious festival of Akshaya Tritiya, Tanishq, India's leading jewellery brand from the House of Tata, unveils its latest launch in the natural gemstones category featuring Rukimini Vasanth. In South India, gemstones have always been more than adornment, they are tradition, identity, and everyday elegance. From temple jewellery influences to vibrant celebrations, colored gemstones are deeply woven into the region's aesthetic language. The South has embraced the richness of rubies, emeralds, and other vivid stones as a staple, and Rukimini Vasanth embodies the

modern South Indian jewellery as Tanishq's new face in the south. Effortlessly elegant and refreshingly modern, she embodies the spirit of Hues, the latest collection where individuality meets timeless grace. Hues collection reimagines the way gold is experienced this Akshaya Tritiya, moving beyond traditional, investment-led purchases to jewellery that is expressive and meant to be worn. The new Hues collection takes centre stage with a focused design language that celebrates contemporary colour stories in gold, crafted for those seeking distinctive yet affordable fine jewellery, starting at an accessible price of ₹35,000.

Bringing together sculptural forms, radiant gemstones, and precision cuts that reveal the depth in every hue. Each piece places colour at its core, crafted for the woman who embraces jewellery as a reflection of her mood, style, and spirit. With a renewed focus on natural-colored gemstones, the collection deepens Tanishq's presence in a category the region already values, pairing contemporary design with timeless preference.

The use of smooth, cabochon-cut stones introduces a sculpted, luminous quality, while layered colour compositions and techniques such as bunching and slicing add depth, texture,



and a sense of movement, resulting in jewellery that feels dynamic and distinctly modern. Bringing together a curated selection of natural coloured gemstones such as emeralds, amethysts, citrines, tourmalines, and tanzanites, among

both beauty and durability for everyday wear. The range spans statement neck pieces & bangles for special occasions, alongside lighter earrings, rings, and pendant sets designed for everyday elegance, offering a versatile wardrobe that balances the enduring value of gold with the vibrance of contemporary design.

Speaking about the new collection, Ms. Pelki Tshering, Chief Marketing Officer, Titan Company Limited, said, "We are reimagining how the modern Indian woman engages with natural gemstones, through a lens that is deeply rooted in the South's rich aesthetic legacy yet

unmistakably contemporary. In a moment where jewellery is becoming an extension of personal identity, gemstones, with their depth of colour and individuality, offer an instinctive, expressive medium. Designed with an ethno-contemporary sensibility, our first collection draws from the fluidity and vibrance of an Indian summer. It brings colour alive in bold yet refined forms - mirroring how she wears jewellery today: with spontaneity, ease, and on her own terms."

Adding to this, Ms. Garima Maheshwari, Chief Design Officer, Titan Company Limited, said, "With Hues, we set out to create one of India's

most ambitious design-led explorations of coloured gemstone jewellery in recent years. The collection draws deeply from the richness of the Indian summer-its lush landscapes, vivid colours and translates these into jewellery through sculptural silhouettes and fluid compositions.

At the heart of this is our focus on coloured gemstones as a design-led category, where the stone is not an accent, but the starting point of the design itself. This required an intensive process of gemstone calibration and custom-cut development, ensuring precision in colour, proportion, and overall harmony across each piece.

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### Iran Issues 10-Point Ceasefire Conditions, Trump Says "Plan Workable"

for around a fifth of the world's oil that has been effectively blocked to maritime traffic since the start of the five-week conflict.

#### 'Demands Workable'

In a post on Truth Social, Trump said that he has received a "workable" 10-point ceasefire proposal from Iran. He said the reason for agreeing to the proposal is that the US has already met and exceeded all military objectives and is very far along with a "definitive agreement concerning Longterm PEACE with Iran, and PEACE in the Middle East."

"Based on conversations with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Asim Munir, of Pakistan, and wherein they requested that I hold off the destructive force being sent tonight to Iran, and subject to the Islamic Republic of Iran agreeing to the COMPLETE, IMMEDIATE, and SAFE OPENING of the Strait of Hormuz, I agree to suspend the bombing and attack of Iran for a period of two weeks. This will be a double-sided CEASEFIRE!" Trump said.

"The reason for doing so is that we have already met and exceeded all Military objectives, and are very far along with a definitive Agreement concerning Longterm PEACE with Iran, and PEACE in the Middle East. We received a 10-point proposal from Iran, and believe it is a workable basis on which to negotiate," he added.

Trump said that Iran has agreed to almost all the various points of past contention, and this extension will allow time for a permanent agreement to be finalised.

"Almost all of the various points of past contention have been agreed to between the United States and Iran, but a two-week period will allow the Agreement to be finalised and consummated. On behalf of the United States of America, as President, and also representing the Countries of the Middle East, it is an Honor to have this long-term problem close to resolution," he said.

#### Iran's 10-Point Conditions

Iran's 10-point conditions that the US has accepted as "workable" include:

1. Non-aggression
2. Continuation of Iran's control over the Strait of Hormuz
3. Acceptance of enrichment
4. Lifting all primary sanctions
5. Lifting all secondary sanctions
6. Termination of all UN Security Council resolutions
7. Termination of all IAEA Board of Governors resolutions
8. Payment of compensation to Iran
9. Withdrawal of US combat forces from the region
10. Cessation of war on all fronts, including against the heroic Islamic Resistance of Lebanon.

### India welcomes US-Iran ceasefire, hopes agreement 'will lead to lasting peace'

comes after US President Donald Trump announced a conditional two-week pause in planned attacks tied to reopening the Strait of Hormuz, a development that came as a big relief to people across the world.

The decision came 90 minutes before the self-imposed 8 PM EST deadline set by Trump for Iran to reach a deal, after backchannel diplomacy.

Trump, in a post on Truth Social on Tuesday (local time), said he would "suspend" an escalation of attacks for two weeks if Iran agrees to open the key shipping route.

"The reason for doing so is that we have already met and exceeded all Military objectives, and are very far along with a definitive Agreement concerning long-term peace with Iran, and peace in the Middle East," Trump wrote. He added that the United States had received "a 10-point proposal from Iran" that was "a workable basis on which to negotiate."

Trump said "almost all of the various points of past contention" had been agreed, and the two-week pause would allow the agreement "to be finalised and consummated."

The ceasefire is conditional. Trump said it depends on Iran agreeing to the "complete, immediate, and safe opening of the Strait of Hormuz."

Iran signalled tentative acceptance. Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi said Tehran would halt operations if attacks stop.

"If attacks against Iran are halted, our Powerful Armed Forces will cease their defensive operations," he said.

"For a period of two weeks, safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz will be possible via coordination with Iran's Armed Forces and with due consideration of tech-

nical limitations," he added.

### PM Modi highlights 11 years of PMMY, calls it a boost to self-employment among youth

loans for income-generating activities across manufacturing, trading, and service sectors, including those allied to agriculture. The loans are categorised into four segments: Shishu (loans up to Rs 50,000), Kishor (loans above Rs 50,000 and up to Rs 5 lakh), Tarun (loans above Rs 5 lakh and up to Rs 10 lakh), and Tarun Plus (loans above Rs 10 lakh and up to Rs 20 lakh).

The scheme has significantly supported small businesses, handicrafts, traditional enterprises, and agriculture-allied activities, many of which are key sources of income for rural households.

Women entrepreneurs, in particular, have benefited from the initiative, as it provides access to credit without the need for collateral or an extensive credit history.

To further incentivise successful borrowers, the government introduced the 'Tarun Plus' category in 2024-25. This category offers collateral-free loans of up to Rs 20 lakh to entrepreneurs who have previously availed and successfully repaid loans under the Tarun category.

Additionally, the government has taken several measures to simplify the loan application process and ensure timely disbursement. Platforms such as the Jan Samarth Portal have been launched, enabling applicants to access multiple credit-linked schemes through a streamlined and user-friendly process.

Officials and supporters of the scheme have credited it with enabling millions of small entrepreneurs to access formal credit, reducing reliance on informal lending channels and boosting grassroots economic activity. The Prime Minister's remarks come amid continued emphasis on self-reliance and entrepreneurship as central pillars of India's development trajectory.

### AP CM Chandrababu naidu focuses on roads for AP economic growth

570 km of roads that are often damaged along the canal banks.

#### Special activities for Godavari Pushkarams

The Chief Minister ordered to speed up the work keeping in mind the upcoming Godavari Pushkarams. Especially in 471 villages in Godavari, Krishna and Guntur districts, road repairs should be undertaken immediately. He hoped that the road development work undertaken in Greater Rajamahendravaram should stand as a role model for the state.

He set a target of developing 531 km long roads with Rs. 400 crore 'SASKI' funds for Pushkaras in the joint East and West Godavari districts. He advised the officials to write a letter to the central government requesting to allocate funds for Pushkaras on the lines of Kumbh Mela.

#### The goal is to connect ports

Chandrababu said that ports are like the heart of the state economy and national highways should be built connecting them. He said that Andhra Pradesh should be developed as a hub of ports on the east coast on the lines of Gujarat model in western India. Plans should be made with the aim of significantly reducing logistics costs with the construction of East-West corridors.

He said that alternative routes should also be built connecting the ports of Moolapet, Visakhapatnam, Gangavaram, Kakinada, Machilipatnam, Ramayapatnam and Krishnapatnam and reaching the borders of neighboring states. He suggested that the necessary financial resources should be provided through 'AP Link'.

#### National highways are the key to economic progress

"Nation building happens only with the construction of national highways," the Chief Minister commented. He wanted economic activities to increase in nearby areas through the construction of roads. He said that the transportation of goods from AP, which is becoming a hub for industrial and horticultural products, should be facilitated to national and international markets. He said that connectivity would further increase with national highways like Kharagpur-Amaravati Greenfield Highway, Hyderabad-Srisailem-Dornala, Kalvakurti-Nandyala. He said that 1335 km of national highways would be made available in the next two years and a target of completing projects worth Rs. 24,502 crores this year itself. Chandrababu said that public transport should be made available to the people at the lowest cost through EV buses, and the right way to do this is to use electric buses. He suggested studying various models to reduce the current operating cost of EV buses, which is Rs. 72 per kilometer. He said that he should focus on issues like charging stations and battery standardization. The CM

made it clear that AC EV buses should be used in all categories and the use of e-cycles should be encouraged among the people and turned into a mass transport.

Ministers BC Janardhan Reddy, Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy, Special Chief Secretary of Transport Krishna Babu, RTC MD Balasubrahmanyam, and senior officials of the National Highways Agency participated in this review meeting.

### Minister Narayana reviews in Amaravati work, asks officials to expedite works

construction of 4,026 residential units intended for public representatives, officials and government employees. Discussions during the meeting also centred on the provision of basic infrastructure at sites nearing completion, including roads, drainage systems, water supply and electricity.

The Minister directed concerned agencies to take immediate steps to ensure that these facilities are delivered without delay. The meeting was attended by AGICL Managing Director Srinivas, along with engineers and representatives of various contracting firms.

### Decision on utilisation of Rushikonda buildings soon, says minister

buildings to the public as a source of income for the government. Other members, Payyavula Keshav and Dola Sri Bala Veeranjanya Swamy (both Ministers), took part in the meeting virtually.

He further said that hospitality groups like Taj Hotels, Atmosphere Core, the Leela Palaces Hotels and Resorts, and Fema Hotels were keen on managing the buildings.

### Create a wonder from waste and grab a prize

Ketan Garg.

The aim of the programme is to enhance the beauty of the city and contribute to environmental protection by creatively utilising scrap material and transforming it into works of art.

He called upon welding shops, metal fabricators and independent metal artists in Visakhapatnam to participate in the competition and showcase their talent.

The contestants have to make a 4 to 8-foot sculpture using 80 per cent iron scrap and auto waste. He said that the competitions would be organised in all zones of GVMC for welding shops, fabrication units and independent metal artists registered within the limits of GVMC.

### Kerala, Assam, Puducherry set for Assembly elections

national parties. Along with Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, the results of these elections will also be declared on May 4.

#### Assam

Polling will be held for all 126 assembly seats in Assam. The BJP is determined to form the government for the third consecutive term as part of the NDA alliance here. Current Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma is leading the party's campaign in these elections. Sarbananda Sonowal served as the Chief Minister between 2016-2021.

On the other hand, the Congress party is trying for a revival under the leadership of state president Gaurav Gogoi. It is entering the fray by forming an alliance with six parties. Akhil Gogoi's Rajgor Dal and Lurinjyoti Gogoi-led Assam Nationalist Congress Party are the key parties in this alliance.

There are a total of 2.5 crore voters in the state, of which 1.25 crore are men and women, almost equally. Also, 318 transgenders and 6.42 lakh people between the ages of 18-19 will vote for the first time. Kerala CPM leader and Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan is working hard to retain power in

#### Kerala

There are a total of 2.71 crore voters in Kerala, of whom 1.39 crore are women, 1.32 crore are men and 273 are transgenders. 4.66 lakh youth are going to vote for the first time. Voting will be held for 30 assembly seats in the union territory of Puducherry

The NDA government is likely to return to power here. All India N.R. Congress (AINRC) chief and Chief Minister N. Rangaswamy is eyeing the Chief Minister's chair for the fifth time. Rangaswamy, 76, started his political career in the Congress party and served as a minister in the 1990s.

He became the Chief Minister for the first time in 2001 and for the second time in 2006. He left in 2008 due to differences with the Congress and formed his own

AINRC party. He won again in 2011 and took charge as the CM for the third time. He served as the Leader of the Opposition between 2016-2021 and became the Chief Minister for the fourth time in 2021 as part of the NDA alliance.

There are a total of 9.44 lakh voters here, of whom 5 lakh are women, 4.43 lakh are men and 139 are third gender voters. 23,033 youth will be voting for the first time

### Influential Endowments Officer Shanti sent to jail

and later produced her before the ACB Special Court. Shanti has been facing serious allegations linked to her tenure in the Endowments Department.

While serving as Assistant Commissioner, she was accused of facilitating the lease of temple-owned commercial properties in Visakhapatnam and Anakapalli districts for 11 years without conducting auctions.

She has also been accused of irregular handling of temple hundi collections, with allegations that funds from various temples were transported in sacks through vehicles instead of being counted at the temple premises.

During her tenure in NTR district, Shanti reportedly faced several other allegations, including failure to remove encroachments despite tribunal orders, not acting against shop tenants of temple properties, and submitting misleading reports to higher authorities.

She was also said to have come under scrutiny for allegedly purchasing a luxury villa in Tadepalli, an area known for housing several ministers and MLAs.

Apart from official allegations, Shanti was also caught in controversy over her personal life, with claims that she had entered into a second marriage without legally divorcing her first husband, which was said to be a violation of service rules.

Her decision to address the media publicly against her first husband had also triggered controversy at the time. In view of the growing allegations and administrative irregularities reported from Visakhapatnam, Anakapalli, and NTR districts, the state government had suspended her in July 2024.

Later, three separate inquiries were conducted, and sources say the allegations were found to have substance.

The Endowments Commissioner is said to have even proposed compulsory retirement for her, but the file was allegedly delayed at the Secretariat level.

Shanti later approached the High Court, which reportedly observed that if no action was taken within one year of suspension, she should be considered for reinstatement or posting.

Following that direction, the government revoked her suspension on March 24, and she submitted her joining report the very next day.

However, before she could receive a fresh posting, the ACB moved in and now, she has landed behind bars.

### Now, CM Chandrababu Naidu govt targets Roja, Siddharths

in SAAP's IT wing, alleging that they had fully cooperated in the irregularities.

The inquiry reportedly found irregularities in several aspects of the programme, including procurement of sports equipment, accommodation for participants, food arrangements for players and event-level expenditure claims

The 'Aadudam Andhra' programme was initially launched with an estimated outlay of Rs 40 crore, but the total expenditure reportedly crossed Rs 100 crore by the time it concluded, raising suspicions even at the time.

There were allegations that the initiative was used more as a politically driven mass mobilisation exercise than as a genuine grassroots sports programme.

Following complaints from MLAs after the coalition government assumed office, the state ordered a detailed Vigilance probe.

As part of the inquiry, officials reportedly examined more than 600 locations and questioned hundreds of individuals, before compiling a report running into nearly 30,000 pages.

Sources said the Vigilance Department concluded that nearly Rs 40 crore was misused under the programme. The inquiry also reportedly found that many winners in the competitions were allegedly YSRCP activists, raising further concerns over the neutrality and integrity of the programme.

With the Vigilance report now said to be in the government's hands, the state is likely to order a formal criminal investigation through either the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) or the CID.

## Traditional Kumbhotsavam performed with devotion



**Srisailem: Apr. 8**

A traditional Kumbhotsavam was conducted on Tuesday, for Goddess Bhramaramba Devi, invoking blessings for the welfare of the world. As per long-standing custom, the festival is observed annually during the Chaitra month on the first Tuesday or Friday following the full moon. The ritual primarily involves offering "sattvic bali" (pure offerings) to the deity, symbolizing peace and prosperity. In a press release the temple authorities have stated that as part of the ceremony, large quantities of pumpkins, coconuts, lemons, and cooked rice were offered to the Goddess. This year, the offerings included over 25,000 pumpkins, more than 5,000 coconuts, and nearly

one lakh lemons, along with heaps of cooked rice presented as sacred "kumbham." Turmeric and vermilion were also offered in abundance as part of a ritual known as the "Shanti process." The local traders' association contributed significantly by donating these items for the offerings. Earlier in the day, temple priests performed a series of rituals including Navavarana Puja, Trishati, Khadgamala, and Ashtottara Kumkuma Puja in a secluded manner, strictly adhering to tradition. Special rangoli known as "Rajaka Rangavalli" was drawn near the Sri Chakra, followed by elaborate puja rituals. Subsequently, the first phase of sattvic offerings was made to the Goddess,

and special prayers were also offered to Mahishasuramardini (Kotamma) at the Harihara Raya Gopuram entrance. In the evening, following Pradosha Kala rituals for Lord Mallikarjuna Swamy, Annabhishekam have been performed. Later, cooked rice were ceremoniously placed in heaps at the Simha Mandapam facing the Goddess temple. The main highlight of the festival began with a male devotee in female attire offering Kumbha Harati to the Goddess, followed by the second phase of sattvic offerings. The celebrations conclude with special puja and Maha Naivedyam comprising traditional food offerings. Additionally, special prayers were also conducted in the morning for the village deity Ankallamma as part of the festivities.

## Sailajanath seeks Jagan's leadership to achieve 'Gram Swaraj'



**Anantapur: Apr 8**

Former minister Sake Sailajanath on Sunday stated that strong leadership is essential to achieve village self-governance and asserted that YS Jagan Mohan Reddy is best suited to lead that effort. He was speaking at a felicitation programme organised for retired YSRCP sarpanches in the Singanamala constituency. The event was held at the constituency party office in Bukkarayasamudram mandal under the leadership of Panchayat Raj president Bhaskar Reddy. Addressing the gathering, Sailajanath honoured the sarpanches with shawls and bouquets, praising their contributions to rural development and their dedicated service to the public. He said that

sarpanches played a crucial role in strengthening grassroots governance and addressing local issues effectively. Recalling the previous YSRCP government, he said governance under Jagan Mohan Reddy was aligned with the vision of "Gram Swaraj." He criticised the current coalition government, alleging that people are facing increased difficulties after the change in administration. Sailajanath urged party workers and supporters to strive for the return of Jagan Mohan Reddy as Chief Minister to restore village self-governance. YSRCP State Panchayat Raj wing president Vennapusa Ravindra Reddy also attended the event and appreciated the efforts of sarpanches in resolving public issues at the grassroots level.

## 1st 'Bartan Bank' launched to promote plastic-free villages



**Tirupati: Apr 7**

Gudibanda: Sri Sathya Sai District Collector A Shyam Prasad inaugurated the district's first "Bartan Bank" in Karikera village of Gudibanda mandal on Tuesday, aiming to promote a plastic-free environment. The initiative, which provides steel utensils for community use, is designed to reduce dependence on single-use plastics during social and public events.

Addressing a gathering after the inauguration, the Collector praised the unity and efforts of the women in Karikera village, calling them a model for the district. He noted that many families in the village are adopting multiple livelihood options and progressing economically. Emphasizing the importance of sustainability, he urged residents to make effective use of the Bartan Bank facility and contribute to transforming the village into a plastic-free zone. Members of local self-help groups attended the event in uniform, showcasing their collective strength and coordination. Officials including DRDA Project Director Narasayya, DPO Samatha, ZP Additional CEO Venkatasubbayya, along with district and mandal-level officers and local leaders, were present at the programme.

tribute to transforming the village into a plastic-free zone. Members of local self-help groups attended the event in uniform, showcasing their collective strength and coordination. Officials including DRDA Project Director Narasayya, DPO Samatha, ZP Additional CEO Venkatasubbayya, along with district and mandal-level officers and local leaders, were present at the programme.

## PVKK IT student Lakshmi wins gold medal



**Anantapur: Apr 8**

PVKK Institute of Technology has once again demonstrated its academic prowess. B Rajya Lakshmi (213N1A3804), a student from the college's Department of Computer Science and Design, displayed exceptional talent by winning a gold medal from Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Anantapur (JNTUA), for the 2024-25 academic year. On this momentous occasion, it was a matter of immense pride for the college when she received the gold medal at the hands of the Governor, Abdul Nazeer. This remarkable achievement by Rajya Lakshmi stands as a testament to PVKK IT's high educational standards, effective teaching methodologies, and unwavering dedication to student development. Speaking on this occasion, College Chairman Dr Palle Kishore remarked, "It gives us immense joy to see our students demonstrating their talent not only at the state level but also at the national level. The gold medal won by Rajya Lakshmi brings distinct honor to our institution and has elevated our academic standards to a prestigious position within the state."

## Medicover Hosp organises World Health Day prog



**Tirupati: Apr 7**

Kurnool: Medicover Hospitals Kurnool conducted a special health awareness programme on World Health Day to promote healthy living, disease prevention, and timely treatment. The event featured talks by Nephrologist Dr Siddharth Herur, Gastroenterologist Dr P Abdul Samad, General Surgeon Dr Bhargav Vyas, and Emergency Medicine Specialist Dr T V Sunil Yadav. The doctors emphasized that many diseases can be prevented by maintaining a balanced diet, regular exercise, ade-

quate sleep, and prioritizing mental health. They also highlighted the importance of kidney, digestive, and emergency medical services, urging people to seek timely medical attention. Dr Maheswar Reddy, Head of Medicover Hospitals Kurnool, said, "Health is wealth, and it's crucial to focus on prevention rather than treatment. Our goal is to raise awareness about health precautions through such programs. Medicover Hospitals Kurnool is committed to providing continuous healthcare services to the community."

## Training for trainee excise SIs on toddy licensing held



**Kurnool: Apr 8**

Kurnool District Prohibition & Excise Officer M Sudheer Babu, imparted training on today administration procedures to the Trainee Excise Sub-Inspectors allocated to the Kurnool district. The training session was held at the Eetha Vanam (today palm grove) in Subbarayanapalle, Maddikera Mandal. As part of this programme, the trainees were instructed on various aspects, including the different categories of today licenses; the allocation of today palm trees to licensees; the methodology for extracting today from the trees and the precautions to be observed during the

process. Measures required for the conservation of the palm grove the protocols to be followed when issuing new licenses and the procedures and precautions involved in the renewal of toddy licenses. Furthermore, as a practical component of the training, today licensees provided a hands-on demonstration to the trainees on the technique of tapping today from the palm trees. The training session was attended by AES Ramakrishna Reddy CIs Chandrahah, Rajendra Prasad, and Swarnalatha Sub-Inspectors Rehana and Rajesh and the seven Trainee Excise Sub-Inspectors allocated to the district.

## Fire breaks out at Nallajerla Health Centre in East Godavari, no casualties

A fire broke out on Tuesday at the Primary Health Centre (Government Hospital) in Nallajerla after flames suddenly erupted in the facility's medicine storeroom. Hospital staff quickly raised the alarm, and preliminary reports suggest the blaze was caused by an electrical short circuit. Initial efforts to control the fire using extinguishers proved



unsuccessful as the situation worsened when medicine bottles inside the room began exploding. Fire service personnel rushed to the scene and worked extensively to contain the blaze. The incident led to a complete power outage at the hospital. Officials confirmed that medicines worth approximately Rs 15 lakh, including recently supplied essential stock amid an ongoing

shortage, were destroyed. Fortunately, no casualties were reported, as only a few patients were present at the time. Locals noted that the outcome could have been far more serious had the hospital been crowded. Authorities have launched an investigation into the incident and stated that steps will be taken to prevent such occurrences in the future.

## YS Jagan reiterates MAVIGUN capital Proposal, announces plans for padayatra

**Vijayawada, Apr 8**

Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, chief of the YSR Congress Party, on Wednesday defended his party's approach to resolving Andhra Pradesh's capital issue, while addressing party cadre from the Tadepalligudem constituency. Reddy said that upon assuming office, his government had proposed a decentralised capital model, with Visakhapatnam as the executive capital, Kurnool as the judicial capital, and Amaravati as the legislative capital. As an alternative, he reiterated the "Plan B" proposal — the MAVIGUN corridor — a 110-kilometre stretch linking Machilipatnam, Vijayawada, and Guntur. According to Reddy, developing Amaravati would impose a financial burden of ₹2 lakh crore on the state, whereas investing a fraction of that amount in the MAVIGUN corridor could deliver world-class infrastructure. The former Chief Minister also



announced plans to undertake a padayatra next year, during which he intends to engage directly with the public to understand their concerns. He warned that party cadre would intensify their activities during the march and levelled further criticism at the government, alleging that projects such as the Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Project had been stalled. Reddy added that despite nearly half of its five-year term having passed, the current administration had yet to provide a clear resolution on the state capital issue.

## Mixed Weather Across Telugu States, here is the forecast for next three days



**Tirupati: Apr 8**

The Telugu states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are currently experiencing contrasting weather patterns, with intense daytime heat followed by evening rainfall in several regions. While temperatures in some areas have crossed 40°C, others are witnessing spells of rain. Regional Politics Analysis The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an update indicating that light to moderate rainfall, accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning, and gusty winds, is likely across parts of both states over the coming days. According to the Amaravati South Coastal Andhra Meteorological Centre, a north-south trough has

developed at an altitude of around 0.9 km above mean sea level. This system extends from a surface circulation over Chhattisgarh, passing through Telangana, Rayalaseema, and Interior Tamil Nadu, and reaching up to the Gulf of Mannar. North Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam are expected to receive light to moderate rain or thundershowers at isolated places on Wednesday, with thunderstorms, lightning, and gusty winds of 40-50 kmph. Similar conditions are forecast for Thursday and Friday, though wind speeds may reduce to 30-40 kmph. South Coastal Andhra Pradesh is likely to witness light to moderate rain

at a few places on Wednesday and Thursday, accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning, with winds reaching 30-40 kmph. On Friday, similar rainfall activity is expected, though wind intensity may ease slightly. In Rayalaseema, light to moderate rain or thundershowers are forecast at isolated locations on Wednesday, along with thunderstorms, lightning, and gusty winds of 40-50 kmph. For Thursday and Friday, similar conditions are expected, with wind speeds ranging between 30-40 kmph. Officials have advised residents to remain cautious, particularly during thunderstorms and strong winds.

## MP Ambica distributes CMRF cheques to beneficiaries



The Member of Parliament for Anantapur, Ambica Lakshminarayana, on Tuesday distributed cheques from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to beneficiaries at the MP Camp Office. The cheques amounting to Rs. 2,45,859 were handed over to Sivanna from Anantapur, and Rs. 1,01,208 to Sri B Nagappa from the Bukkarayasamudram region who are suffering from health ail-

ments. Upon learning of the plight of these individuals—who had approached him while facing financial difficulties regarding medical treatment for their illnesses—MP Ambica Lakshminarayana took proactive measures to ensure they received government assistance, thereby facilitating the sanctioning of funds under the CMRF scheme.

## SKYLINE

Thursday 9.4.2026

## Edge of escalation

When a downed fighter pilot is recovered from hostile terrain, it is tempting to see only a story of military competence and individual survival. Yet the recent rescue of a US airman inside Iran reveals something far more consequential: how modern conflict is increasingly defined by rapid escalation triggered by isolated tactical events. At the operational level, the mission reflects the formidable reach of the United States military. Combat search and rescue is among the most complex undertakings in warfare, requiring precise coordination between air assets, intelligence networks, and ground survival protocols. The reported involvement of the CIA ~ including real-time tracking and deception tactics ~ suggests a fusion of covert and overt capabilities rarely acknowledged so openly. That such an operation could be executed inside adversary territory, and within a narrow time window, underscores how far surveillance and rapid-response doctrines have evolved. But this tactical success masks a deeper instability.

The very act of inserting aircraft and personnel into Iranian airspace transforms a recovery mission into a potential flashpoint for interstate confrontation. The reported engagement with elements of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, alongside the downing of an American drone, indicates that the line between rescue and retaliation is becoming increasingly blurred. What begins as a humanitarian imperative ~ to retrieve a stranded serviceman ~ can quickly resemble an incursion. This is where the role of political signalling becomes critical.

President Donald Trump's characterisation of the mission as one of the most daring in military history is not merely descriptive; it is declaratory. It frames the operation as a demonstration of resolve, reinforcing deterrence narratives at a time of heightened regional tension. Yet such rhetoric also raises expectations of continued assertiveness, narrowing the diplomatic space for de-escalation. Equally telling is Iran's response. By attributing the aircraft's downing to its air defence systems and highlighting local participation ~ whether by formal units or armed tribes ~ it projects a narrative of distributed resistance.

This decentralisation complicates accountability. If non-state or semi-autonomous actors engage US forces, the threshold for direct retaliation becomes ambiguous, increasing the risk of miscalculation. What emerges, then, is a pattern characteristic of contemporary conflict zones: micro-events with macro consequences. A single aircraft loss triggers surveillance surges, covert operations, cross-border incursions, and information warfare ~ all within hours. The speed compresses decision-making cycles, leaving little room for restraint. This compression of time and space also shifts risk downward, placing extraordinary pressure on field commanders whose split-second decisions can carry strategic consequences far beyond the immediate battlefield.

The rescued airman's survival will rightly be celebrated within military circles. But strategically, the episode illustrates a more troubling reality. In an environment where advanced militaries operate in close proximity, even routine contingencies ~ like airman recovery ~ carry the latent potential to spiral into wider confrontation. Success, in this context, is not just measured by extraction. It is measured by what does not happen next.

## PM Mudra has transformed India's credit architecture

The structural transformation of the Indian economy over the past decade has been anchored by a fundamental shift in the credit architecture, moving away from a historically top-heavy banking model toward a decentralized, inclusion-driven framework. At the vanguard of this revolution is the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), launched in 2015 with the strategic mission of "funding the unfunded". For an economy where micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) form the backbone ~ employing over 25 crore people and contributing nearly 30 per cent of GDP ~ the availability of formal, collateral-free credit has transitioned from a policy aspiration to a vital economic reality. As of late March 2026, the PMMY has facilitated the flow of Rs 39.18 lakh crore across 57 crore loan accounts, marking one of the most ambitious microfinance interventions in global history. The PMMY's design recognized that the "bottom of the pyramid" was historically credit-starved not due to a lack of entrepreneurial energy, but due to institutional rigidities and the absence of collateral. By removing the requirement for security-free credit and providing refinancing support through MUDRA, the government effectively lowered the barrier to entry for millions of micro-entrepreneurs.

Analysis of disbursement trends reveals a significant "graduation effect" over the scheme's decadal journey. In its nascent years, the Shishu category (up to Rs 50,000) dominated the portfolio. However, data from 2025 indicates a robust upward shift. The share of Kishor loans (Rs 50,000 to Rs 5 lakh) grew from 5.9 per cent in FY16 to 44.7 per cent in FY25. This trend indicates that micro-units are not merely surviving but are successfully scaling their operations, requiring larger capital infusions to sustain growth. The scheme has demonstrated remarkable policy dynamism. In the Union Budget 2024-25, the loan limit was doubled to Rs 20 lakh with the introduction of the 'Tarun Plus' category for borrowers with strong repayment records.

This strategic move rewards credit discipline and addresses the "missing middle" problem, where firms often struggle to transition from small to medium entities due to a lack of incremental capital. One of the most profound impacts of the PMMY has been the restructuring of India's social credit fabric. According to SBI Research, the Social Fabric Index ~ representing the participation of marginalized groups in formal banking ~ jumped 3.2 times in the five-year period ended FY22. Currently, over 50 per cent of Mudra accounts are held by

Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), and Other Backward Class (OBC) entrepreneurs. Women have emerged as the most significant beneficiaries, accounting for 68 per cent of all loan accounts. By providing collateral-free loans to women ~ who often lack title to property ~ the scheme has bypassed persistent barriers to gender parity. Between FY16 and FY25, the per-woman disbursement amount grew at a CAGR of 13 per cent, while incremental deposits by women grew at 14 per cent. This dual growth in borrowing and saving indicates a deepening of financial literacy and the creation of household-level safety nets. A primary criticism of economic growth has often been its "jobless" nature. PMMY has directly addressed this by funding the labour-intensive micro-sector.

A sample survey by the Ministry of Labour and Employment established that the PMMY helped generate 1.12 crore net additional jobs in just its first three years. The survey highlighted that 51 lakh beneficiaries were self-employed business owners, while 60 lakh were hired workers, demonstrating a shift from job seekers to job providers. Furthermore, PMMY has acted as a catalyst for economic formalization. The Udyam Registration Portal now boasts 5.93 crore registered MSMEs, with the vast major-



ity being micro-enterprises. This digital integration allows units to access Priority Sector Lending and participate in government procurement.

The impact is visible in banking data: MSME credit surged from Rs 8.51 lakh crore in FY14 to Rs 27.25 lakh crore in FY24. Concerns regarding asset quality in collateral-free lending have been mitigated by improved monitoring. As of FY24, the Mudra loan NPA rate for public sector banks dropped to 3.4 per cent, while private sector banks maintained a low of 0.95 per cent. The scheme is now expanding into high-potential sectors like tourism. The introduction of Mudra loans for homestays in the 2025-26 Budget, integrated with the 'Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan,' aims to develop 1,000 tribal homes-

tays. This initiative enables local families to transform their homes into income-generating assets, driving employment-led growth in rural regions.

The Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana has transcended its identity as a credit scheme to become an apilla of India's economic transformation. By systematically addressing the structural credit gap, it has empowered 57 crore entrepreneurs and shifted the labour narrative toward self-reliance. As India seeks to become the world's third-largest economy, sustaining this grassroots momentum will be indispensable. By "funding the unfunded," the scheme ensures that the promise of the Indian economy is the privilege of the many, not the few.

## Why the Iran war worries Taiwan

The United States and Israeli strikes on Iran have become increasingly concerning for the world due to the risks of further escalation and the impact on energy markets. In Taiwan, however, the focus has shifted in a different direction. Rather than treating the war as geographically distant, Taiwanese political leaders and analysts are viewing it as a real-time indicator of how the United States operates under strategic pressure. The key question is less about whether the United States would act if a conflict with China were to break out in the Indo-Pacific region, and more about how it would manage competing pressures if multiple crises unfolded at once.

There is growing recognition in Taiwan that US resources are not unlimited. The Middle East war has caused energy prices to fluctuate and stoked fears of rising inflation in the United States, demonstrating the domestic costs of military operations. US President Donald Trump's approval ratings have also taken a hit, with some in his own party now questioning his rationale for going to war. Some reports have indicated US supplies of interceptor missiles are running low. The US military has, for example, had to move some THAAD missile interceptors from South Korea to the Middle East. The US has also struggled to

defend against Iran's use of asymmetrical fighting tactics. This has direct implications for the deterrence Washington has long maintained in the Indo-Pacific.

This deterrence depends not only on US war-fighting capability, but on the expectation this capability will remain intact under strain. Conflicts elsewhere may not weaken the US resolve to intervene if China were to invade or pressure Taiwan in some fashion. But they can drain American resources and influence where these items are prioritised. The US has also framed its strikes on Iran as a "preventive" action aimed at mitigating a future threat rather than responding to an imminent attack. This raises broader questions about the changing threshold for the use of force in the Indo-Pacific.

For Taiwan, this is not an abstract notion. If the threshold for military action is lowered from imminent threat to potential risk, the strategic environment becomes less predictable in the Indo-Pacific. This broadens the range of circumstances under which force by the United States may be justified. The speed with which the Trump administration has acted in Iran has also increased uncertainty for regional partners like Japan and South Korea in assessing when and how the United States would act against China. The US' NATO partners weren't told about the Iran



strikes before they happened. This could make Japan and South Korea similarly worried about a lack of communication on potential US actions over Taiwan. The Iran war has also raised broader questions about how the United States adapts as crises evolve. Much of the discussion around Taiwan has traditionally centred on the possibility of a large-scale Chinese invasion. However, recent developments suggest escalation may be less linear than this. Rather than following a single, predictable pathway, conflicts can develop through a sequence of smaller decisions, the ambiguity over signals sent by an adversary, or rapidly changing political conditions.

This has contributed to a shift in strategic discussion in Taiwan. Recent defence policy debates and security forums have increasingly examined scenarios in which China

pressured Taiwan with grey-zone tactics, blockades and incremental escalatory moves, rather than focusing solely on full-scale invasion. As a result, attention is shifting to how such pressure might build over time-through cyber operations, maritime restrictions or limited military actions-and possibly spiral out of control. The current crisis in the Strait of Hormuz has been watched closely in Taiwan as an example of how disruption of a strategic chokepoint can quickly impact the world.

This raises questions about whether similar dynamics could emerge in the Taiwan Strait, and how prepared external actors ~ including the US ~ would be to respond. The US has also been unable to prevent the Iran war from spilling over into the Persian Gulf states. This raises questions about whether a war over Taiwan could

be contained or produce wider regional effects. For Taiwan, the most immediate challenge comes from how China interprets US actions in Iran. If Beijing concludes that diminishing military resources or domestic pressures would limit the US' ability to wage a sustained conflict in the Indo-Pacific, it may reassess the risks of applying coercive pressure on Taiwan. This does not imply immediate conflict is likely over Taiwan. However, it increases the likelihood that China would try to pressure or coerce Taiwan just below the threshold of full-scale war. History suggests that escalation is often shaped by how situations are interpreted by adversaries, rather than by clear shifts in power. When states believe conditions are more favourable than they actually are, the risk of misjudgement increases. For Taiwan, the challenge is therefore not only to assess developments in the Middle East, but to ensure that its own position is not misunderstood. This involves: maintaining credible defensive capabilities reinforcing internal cohesion against possible threats signalling clearly that any attempt at coercion would face robust resistance. Deterrence depends not only on what a country can do, but what others believe it will do ~ and whether those beliefs discourage risk-taking.

## Corporate (mis) governance

Resignation of the non-executive, independent Chairman of HDFC Bank Ltd. sent its share prices in a tailspin ~ declining by 5 per cent immediately, and reaching a sixteen year low within a fortnight. Apparently, the former Chairman spooked markets by his ultra-brief resignation letter wherein he cryptically observed: "Certain happenings and practices within the bank that I have observed over last two years, are not in congruence with my personal Values and Ethics. This is the basis of my aforementioned decision (resignation)." No amount of clarifications from HDFC Bank itself, or even RBI, could stem the downward price spiral of HDFC shares, because in the absence of details, investors feared the worst. The resigning Chairman ~ an IAS officer in his previous avatar, who was in his present office for more than five years ~ pointedly declined to elucidate his concerns. Corporate grapevine has attributed his resignation to an ego clash with the Managing Director, alleging disagreements on a host of issues. Investors, who have lost heavily, are at a loss to understand, firstly, as to why the Chairman resigned abruptly, without specifying any reason, and secondly, why the Board of Directors had not even discussed the contentious issues hinted at in the Chairman's resignation letter.

Independent Directors (IDs), the class of directors to which the former Chairman belonged, have no material relationship with the company, its executives, or its daily operations, hence IDs are expected to ensure unbiased decision-making, mitigate conflicts of interest, and impartially monitor manage-

ment and financial reporting. One can say that IDs are appointed to provide transparency, accountability, ethical conduct, and boost investor confidence by their objectivity and oversight ~ tasks in which the ex-Chairman pointedly failed.

The Companies' Act 2013, lays down that one-third of directors of every listed company should be Independent Directors; additionally, through Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirements (LODR), SEBI has mandated that one-half of directors should be IDs in case the MD also functions as the Chairman, or is related to any of the promoters. It was hoped that the presence of a sizable number of IDs on the Board of Directors would ensure good corporate governance. However, this seldom happens; contrary to what is public knowledge now, no disagreements were noted in the minutes of Board meetings of HDFC Bank; thus, it would appear that minutes of board meetings were not faithfully recorded ~ the first requirement for good corporate governance.

Thus, many of the present crop of IDs, are not aware of their rights and responsibilities, and sad to say, most of such IDs blindly toe the management line ~ provided the management panders to their massive egos ~ contributing little to the improvement of corporate governance. Another category of IDs are famous and well-recognised faces, who are taken on board for their brand value, but who do not have the time and inclination to involve themselves with the affairs of the companies they are associated with. No wonder, with such kinds of independent directors, the purpose of having IDs on company boards is



often lost. As of today, the aggregate market capitalisation of 593 top Indian companies stands at a massive Rs.357 lakh crore, with Reliance Industries Limited heading the list at Rs.19 lakh crore. Controlling such humongous capital, sometimes dishonest managers are tempted to line their pockets at company expense. Since company funds belong to shareholders, elaborate rules have been framed to ensure good corporate governance ~ so that investors' money remains secure. However, the enforcement of such rules leaves much to be desired; till the scam is on a small scale, like booking personal expenses to company accounts, or routing CSR funds to NGOs of directors' relatives, no one ever complains. Larger scams lead to resignations, typically 'on health grounds' or 'for better opportunities,' but seldom does a director's misfeasance come out in the open. The IL & FS scandal of 2018, amply demonstrated what damage a corrupt management may cause, even to unrelated entities, and what happens when principles of corporate governance are not observed. To recapitulate:

Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Ltd (IL&FS), promoted by Central Bank of India, HDFC Ltd, and the Unit Trust of India, was a systemically significant Core Investment Company, which provided loans and advances for infrastructure development.

Also, 46 IAS officers, serving and retired, sat on the boards of various IL&FS group companies. The reason for the inability of IL & FS to repay its debt was simple ~ it had taken short-term loans for long-term projects. The failure of the talented boards of IL & FS and its subsidiaries to detect this patent anomaly and correct its business model defies understanding. What followed was even more ignominious; manipulation of financial statements by IL & FS management to show non-existent profits and payment of outrageously high remuneration to managerial personnel. Sadly, account books of IL & FS consistently passed muster by RBI, and some renowned auditors. Also, till the last IL & FS had top credit ratings by all agencies ~ pointing to deft 'management' by the earlier IL & FS Board. incidentally, the new

management has filed a suit for recovery of excess remuneration of Rs.187 crore, from the old management. The total outstanding debt of IL & FS and its subsidiaries was Rs.99,000 crore, after eight years the new management has set a target for recovery of Rs.61,000 crores ~ a significant loss for the public. The Justice Sapre Committee, appointed by the Supreme Court, to probe allegations made by Hindenburg Research against the Adani Group, noted:

\* There was a need to consider if an abundance of disclosures, mandated by SEBI, overwhelms investors with data, causing them to miss essential information for decision-making.

\* SEBI should prioritize the quality and relevance of information provided rather than just the volume.

\* SEBI could better achieve its regulatory goal by more focused enforcement, implying that SEBI should concentrate its efforts on "timely and sharp action in a few large and complex cases" rather than numerous smaller ones. To avoid repetition of IL & FS, and HDFC episodes, good corporate governance should be the topmost priority for SEBI. For this purpose, the institution of independent directors needs strengthening; firstly, by having domain experts as IDs, and secondly, by thoroughly familiarising prospective IDs with the nuances of corporate functioning. Also, the performance of IDs should be closely monitored, and their concerns should be noted seriously by SEBI. Finally, it is the quality of leadership of a company (true for a country also), that determines its worth.

## Nepal PM Balendra Shah holds group discussions with foreign ambassadors stationed in Kathmandu

Kathmandu [Nepal], April 8 (ANI): Nepal's newly sworn-in Prime Minister Balendra Shah on Wednesday afternoon held group discussions with foreign ambassadors stationed in Kathmandu. It is the first time that ambassadors from multiple countries have met the newly appointed Prime Minister, whose party has a super-majority in Parliament. Over a dozen foreign ambassadors from India, the United States, China, Bangladesh, the EU, the UK, Saudi Arabia, and others reached the Office of the Prime Minister inside Singhadurbar in Kathmandu. According to the Prime Minister's Secretariat earlier in the day, ambassadors from over a dozen countries, including India, China, the US, Japan, and the UK, had been invited to the Prime Minister's Office for the discussion.



Since assuming office, Shah has not personally met with foreign representatives, despite repeated requests for traditional courtesy calls. Traditionally, newly appointed prime ministers invite ambassadors individually to their offices or residences within days of assuming office, a practice often criticised for its excessive formalities. Asim Shah, political advisor to the Prime Minister, said, "Previously, there was a culture of excessive movement of ambassadors and easy access that went beyond standard diplomatic etiquette. This time, that tradition will end." Shah, who was sworn in as prime minister on March 27, has not met foreign envoys individually despite several requests from embassies for courtesy calls. In 2022, a structural engineer with a signature pair of black rectangular sunglasses and a history in the underground rap scene did the unthinkable: Balendra "Balen" Shah dismantled the estab-

lished political machinery of Nepal to become the Mayor of Kathmandu. Running as an independent under the symbol of a walking stick, Balen secured 61,767 votes, comfortably outstripping veteran Sirjana Singh of the Nepali Congress, who received 38,341 votes, while CPN-UML candidate Keshav Sthapit, also a former mayor of the capital, got 38,117 votes. Now, just four years later, the 35-year-old is no longer just a local phenomenon; he is poised to become one of the youngest Prime Ministers in the nation's history. Balen's success was never accidental. While he rose to fame in 2013 through the rap battle league Raw Barz, he spent two and a half years quietly laying the groundwork for his mayoral run. His academic pedigree, a degree in engineering from Himalayan White House College and a Master's in structural engineering from India, gave him the technical credibility that resonated with a disillusioned electorate. His political strategy has been equally deliberate. Following the tragic death of 77 people during the September protests and the subsequent resignation of KP Sharma Oli, Balen was the first choice for Gen-Z activists to lead an interim government. He declined the interim role, supporting former Chief Justice Sushila Karki instead. It was a mas-

terstroke of foresight; he traded a six-month temporary stint for a shot at a full five-year term as Prime Minister. On January 18, 2026, Balen formally joined the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP), launching his campaign from Janakpur the very next day. In a move many labelled "foolish," Balen chose to contest the election from Jhapa-05, the long-standing stronghold of political heavyweight KP Sharma Oli, and defeated him by a huge margin. Located about 500 kilometres from the capital, Jhapa-5 had become the epicentre of a political earthquake. Balen's relationship with the public is defined by a massive digital footprint and a volatile temperament. With over 3.5 million followers on Facebook, he bypasses traditional press conferences to speak directly to the masses. However, his "unfiltered" persona has courted significant controversy. In a now-deleted November post, he lashed out at geopolitical giants (the USA, India, China) and every major Nepali political party, including the RSP, which he would join just two months later. Despite his aggressive rhetoric, including past threats to "burn down" the administrative hub of Singhadurbar, his supporters see him as the only "authentic" alternative to a stagnant status quo. Born in 1990, Balen is the youngest of four siblings. His late father, Ram Narayan Shah, was an Ayurvedic practitioner who passed away just before Balen's formal entry into mainstream politics. Even as he takes over the premiership, Balen continues to pursue a PhD in traditional infrastructure at Kathmandu University, blending the roles of an academic, a technical expert, and a populist firebrand.

## Israel contradicts 'mediator' Pakistan, says Lebanon not part of ceasefire deal

A fresh divergence emerged over the scope of the newly announced ceasefire between the United States and Iran, with Israel on Wednesday asserting that Lebanon is not part of the arrangement, contradicting claims made by Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. In a statement, the Office of the Prime Minister of Israel said it supported US President Donald Trump's decision to suspend strikes against Iran for two weeks, subject to Tehran immediately reopening key maritime routes and halting attacks on the US, Israel and other countries in the region. However, it clarified that the "two-week ceasefire does not include Lebanon," underlining that the understanding was limited in scope and conditional in nature. The Israeli statement also backed ongoing US efforts to ensure that Iran no longer poses what it described as a nuclear, missile or terror threat to the region and beyond. It added that Washington



had assured Israel of its commitment to achieving these shared objectives through upcoming negotiations involving regional allies. The assertion stands in contrast to an earlier announcement by Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who said an "immediate ceasefire everywhere including Lebanon and elsewhere" had come into effect. He described the develop-

ment as a "sagacious gesture" and credited both Washington and Tehran for demonstrating "remarkable wisdom and understanding." Sharif also invited delegations from both sides to Islamabad on April 10 for further talks aimed at reaching a comprehensive agreement, expressing hope that the proposed "Islamabad Talks" would lead to sustainable peace and more positive devel-

opments in the coming days. The conflicting statements have introduced uncertainty over the exact contours of the ceasefire, even as diplomatic efforts intensify to stabilise a region that has witnessed escalating tensions in the past 40 days. Clarity on the inclusion of flash-points such as Lebanon will be critical in determining the durability of the truce.

## West Asia War: US, Iran agree to 2-week ceasefire, Strait of Hormuz to reopen

In a dramatic breakthrough after days of escalating hostilities, the United States and Iran agreed to a two-week ceasefire, raising hopes of a broader de-escalation in the West Asia conflict. Announcing the development, US President Donald Trump said Washington would suspend planned military strikes against Iran, describing the pause as a "double-sided ceasefire" aimed at paving the way for a long-term peace agreement. The decision followed consultations with Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Army Chief Asim Munir, who urged restraint amid fears of a wider regional war. "Subject to the Islamic Republic of Iran agreeing to the complete, immediate, and safe opening of the Strait of Hormuz, I agree to suspend the bombing and attack on Iran for a period of two weeks," Trump said, adding that the US had already "met and exceeded all military objectives". He indicated that negotiations were at an advanced stage, with Washington viewing Iran's 10-point proposal as a "workable basis" for a final agree-



ment. "A two-week period will allow the agreement to be finalised and consummated," he added. Tehran confirmed the ceasefire framework shortly thereafter, with Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi announcing that Iran would halt its defensive operations if attacks ceased. "On behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran... if attacks against Iran are halted, our powerful armed forces will cease their defensive operations," Araghchi said, adding that safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz would be ensured for two weeks in coordination with Iranian forces. He also acknowledged Pakistan's role in mediating the breakthrough, thank-

ing Sharif and Munir for their "tireless efforts" to end the conflict. The agreement marks the first significant pause in hostilities since tensions spiralled into open confrontation, which got the entire Gulf region involved and disrupted the global energy supplies. The reopening of the Strait of Hormuz—through which a substantial portion of the world's oil shipments pass—is expected to stabilise energy markets in the short term, though uncertainties remain over the durability of the truce. Diplomatic sources said the coming fortnight will be critical, with both sides expected to finalise a broader framework addressing longstanding disputes, including security concerns, regional influence and economic sanctions. While the ceasefire has been widely welcomed as a step back from the brink, analysts cautioned that the situation remains fragile, with any violation or miscalculation capable of reigniting hostilities. For now, however, the attacks have fallen silent—offering a narrow but crucial window for diplomacy in one of the world's most volatile regions.

## Unchecked gunfire turns Karachi into city of fear

Karachi [Pakistan], April 8 (ANI): Karachi continues to grapple with a disturbing surge in stray bullet incidents, leaving at least nine people injured over a span of three days, according to officials and residents. Despite police claims that overall crime rates have declined, the persistence of indiscriminate firing has heightened anxiety among citizens, who no longer feel safe either outdoors or inside their homes, as reported by The Express Tribune. According to The Express Tribune, authorities confirmed that investigations are ongoing, but the randomness of the shootings has made it difficult to trace those responsible. In one of the most serious incidents, 22-year-old Ayan suf-

fered a critical chest injury after being shot near Ghaus Pak Road in Korangi 5. He was transported to Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre by rescue volunteers. In another case, Sherina, 45, was wounded in Baldia 24, while Jamila Begum, aged 52, sustained injuries at Al-Azam Square in Liaquatabad 10. The wave of violence extended across multiple neighbourhoods. Bilal Ahmed, 27, was injured in North Karachi, while 12-year-old Muzammil was hit near a bus stop in Chakiwara. Murtaza, 30, was wounded in New Karachi's Gabol Town, and Nauman, 28, was shot near Usman Park. Elderly citizen Naseer, 74, was injured in Paposh Nagar, and Najma, 39, was



wounded in Orangi Town, highlighting that victims span all age groups. All incidents occurred between April 4 and April 6, with police noting that the bullets appeared to have been fired from unknown locations, further complicating the situation. Residents have voiced anger and fear, criticising law enforcement for failing to control the unchecked use of firearms, as highlighted by The Express Tribune. Citizens argue that the ongoing crisis reflects a deeper breakdown in public safety measures. Many believe that without stricter enforcement and accountability, Karachi risks normalising a culture of reckless gun use, as reported by The Express Tribune.

## TANISHQ MARKS A NEW CHAPTER IN NATURAL GEMSTONE CATEGORY BY ROPING IN RUKMINI VASANTH AS THE FACE OF ITS NEW CAMPAIGN FOR SOUTH

Rajamahendravaram, 08th, April 2026: As we approach the auspicious festival of Akshaya Tritiya, Tanishq, India's leading jewellery brand from the House of Tata, unveils its latest launch in the natural gemstones category featuring Rukmini Vasanth. In South India, gemstones have always been more than adornment, they are tradition, identity, and everyday elegance. From temple jewellery influences to vibrant celebrations, colored gemstones are deeply woven into the region's aesthetic language.



The South has embraced the richness of rubies, emeralds, and other vivid stones as a staple, and Rukmini Vasanth embodies the modern South Indian jewellery as Tanishq's new face in the south. Effortlessly elegant and refreshingly modern, she embodies the spirit of Hues, the latest collection where individuality meets timeless grace. Hues collection reimagines the way gold is experienced this Akshaya Tritiya, moving beyond traditional, investment-led purchases to jewellery that is expressive and meant to be worn. The new Hues collection takes centre stage with a focused design language that celebrates contemporary colour stories

in gold, crafted for those seeking distinctive yet affordable fine jewellery, starting at an accessible price of ₹35,000. Bringing together sculptural forms, radiant gemstones, and precision cuts that reveal the depth in every hue. Each piece places colour at its core, crafted for the woman who embraces jewellery as a reflection of her mood, style, and spirit. With a renewed focus on natural-colored gemstones, the collection deepens Tanishq's presence in a category the region already values, pairing contemporary design with timeless preference. The use of smooth, cabochon-cut stones introduces a sculpted, luminous quality, while layered colour compositions and techniques such as bunching and slicing add depth, texture, and a sense of movement,

resulting in jewellery that feels dynamic and distinctly modern. Bringing together a curated selection of natural coloured gemstones such as emeralds, amethysts, citrines, tourmalines, and tanzanites, among others, each stone is sourced with expertise and selected through rigorous quality benchmarks for its exceptional colour, clarity, and intrinsic character. This lends the collection a sense of rarity and authenticity, while ensuring both beauty and durability for everyday wear. The range spans statement neck pieces & bangles for special occasions, alongside lighter earrings, rings, and pendant sets designed for everyday elegance, offering a versatile wardrobe that balances the enduring value of gold with the vibrance of contemporary design. At the heart of this narrative is Rukmini Vasanth, introduced as the face of the campaign and a symbol of the contemporary South Indian woman. Marking the beginning of a long-term collaboration with Tanishq, her association signals a shared vision that extends beyond a single season. Effortlessly elegant and refreshingly modern, she embodies the spirit of Hues, where individuality meets timeless grace.

## Whole civilisation will die, Trump warns Iran ahead of deadline

The West Asia crisis spiralled towards a dangerous inflection point on Tuesday, with US President Donald Trump issuing an extraordinary threat against Iran, warning that an entire civilisation could be wiped out, even as Tehran responded with defiance, its military signalled a widening conflict. Amid the mounting tensions, India urged its nationals in Iran to remain indoors and avoid any movement. The sharply escalating rhetoric came despite ongoing diplomatic efforts by intermediaries to broker a ceasefire. In a post on his social media platform Truth Social, Trump declared, "A whole civilisation will die tonight, never to be brought back again. I don't want that to happen, but it probably will." He described the moment as "one of the most important" in world history, asserting that decades of what he called "extortion, corruption, and death" would finally end. The statement was issued hours ahead of a self-imposed US deadline for Iran to open the strategically critical Strait of Hormuz, a key artery for global oil shipments, failing which Washington has warned of severe consequences. The deadline is

set to expire late Tuesday in the US, corresponding to early Wednesday morning in India. Even as he struck a combative tone, Trump left a narrow window for diplomacy open, saying "maybe something revolutionarily wonderful can happen," indicating that backchannel negotiations may still be underway. Tehran, however, responded with a mix of historical defiance and direct threats. Iranian officials invoked the country's civilisational resilience, noting that Iran had survived invasions by Alexander the Great and the Mongols, and would endure current threats as well. "You and your allies will suffer an unforgettable hit from the ancient civilisation of Iran," Tehran warned, signalling readiness for retaliation. Iran's Ambassador to India Mohammad Fathali said, "We had said if you start a war, you won't be able to finish it. And we have said again: if you target our infrastructure... learn from past mistakes." Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian too struck a defiant tone, claiming that more than 14 million Iranians had expressed willingness to sacrifice their lives in defence of



the country. "I too have been, am, and will remain ready to give my life for Iran," he said. The US, meanwhile, again struck the Iranian oil hub of Kharg Island, according to a White House official. As the crisis deepened, countries across the region and beyond are bracing for fallout. In New Delhi, the government issued a fresh advisory for Indian nationals in Iran, urging extreme caution. The advisory underscores growing concerns in India over the safety of its nationals. Since February 28, around 7,60,000 passengers have travelled from the West Asia region to India while at the same time Indian Embassy in Tehran has facilitated the movement of 1862 Indian nationals from Iran to Armenia and Azerbaijan for onward

travel to India, including 935 Indian students and 472 Indian fishermen. There is still a sizeable chunk of Indians who are believed to be in Tehran. Meanwhile, Iran's warning aligns with messaging from its Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), which on Tuesday declared that previous restraint had ended and that any future confrontation with the US would extend beyond the immediate theatre of conflict. It warned if US forces crossed what it termed "red lines", Iran's response would "go beyond the region" and could deprive Washington and its allies of access to oil and gas resources for years -- an explicit threat to global energy security.

# HBD Allu Arjun: He is always different and extraordinary

Allu Arjun is always different and extraordinary; this line perfectly describes the journey of one of Telugu cinema's biggest stars. From a simple beginning to becoming a pan-India icon, his story is full of hard work, change, and success. First Step with Gangotri In 2003, Telugu cinema was mostly filled with mass movies. Audiences were waiting for something fresh. At that time, Allu Arjun entered films with Gangotri, directed by K. Raghavendra Rao. Coming from the family of legendary comedian Allu Ramalingaiah and producer Allu Aravind, Bunny chose acting instead of production. He worked very hard for his first film. He even agreed to dress as a girl for a song and performed confidently with senior actors like Prakash Raj. The movie became a success, but most credit went to the director. Bunny also faced criticism for his looks and acting. But just like a stone becomes a sculpture after hitting blows, he improved himself. Sensation with Arya Everything changed with Arya, directed by Sukumar. The concept of one-sided love was new. Bunny completely transformed himself, his dance improved, his acting became lively, and his style attracted youth. He won the Nandi Special Jury Award and gained a



huge fan following. People were surprised to see such a different Telugu hero. With films like Bunny and Desamuduru (directed by Puri Jagannadh), Bunny reached mass audiences. His six-pack body in Desamuduru created a trend in Tollywood. Advertisement Though some films like Varudu and Badrinath didn't succeed, his role in Vedam was highly appreciated by critics. In Arya 2, he played a complex character and made it a cult film. Stylish Star with Blockbusters His collaboration with Trivikram Srinivas started with Julayi, where he played an intelligent and energetic character. The film was a big

hit. Movies like Race Gurram and S/O Satyamurthy showed his versatility. He could entertain both mass and family audiences with ease. In Rudramadevi, Bunny played the role of Gona Ganna Reddy with a Telangana accent. Even with limited screen time, he impressed everyone. With Sarainodu, directed by Boyapati Srinu, he proved his box office power by entering the 100-crore club. Record-Breaking Success with Ala Vaikunthapuramloo This family entertainer became a huge success. Songs like "Butta Bomma" became viral across the world. The film showed that con-

tent-based cinema can also break records. Pushpa - A Huge Sensation The biggest turning point came with Pushpa, again with Sukumar. Bunny's role as a smuggler became iconic. His dialogue "Tagged Le" was followed by millions worldwide. The film was a massive hit across India, especially in the Hindi market. Pushpa 2 went even bigger, reaching close to 2000 crore collections, creating history. Awards and Recognition Allu Arjun is not just a star but a performer. He won many awards, including Filmfare, Nandi Awards, and even the National Award for Best Actor. This shows his dedication and passion. Starting as a child artist in films like Swathi Muthyam, Bunny has now become a global name. He even gained a huge fan base in Kerala, where fans lovingly call him "Mallu Star." Now, Bunny is aiming for international success. His upcoming project with Atlee Kumar is expected to be on a grand scale. Allu Arjun believes in being real, not copying others. He believes that true heroism lies in strong content. His journey shows that success comes from hard work, discipline, and constant improvement. That is why Allu Arjun is not just a stylish star. He is truly an Icon Star shaping the future of Indian cinema.



## "This will be Mrunal's best Film": Venkatesh at Dacoit Event

The pre-release event of Dacoit was held in a grand way. The film stars Adivi Sesh and Mrunal Thakur in lead roles. It is directed by Shanil Deo and produced by Supriya Yarlagadda under Annapurna Studios presentation. The movie is set to release on April 10 and its teaser, trailer and songs have already created huge buzz. At the event, senior star Venkatesh Daggubati attended as the chief guest and has shared his words about the film. Speaking at the event, Venkatesh said, "Many think I came here for Supriya but I came for my favorite uncle Surendra. I am very happy that Supriya made such a wonderful film." He said, "There was always a strong vibe that this will be a great film because it is made by a passionate team. Everyone worked with the intention to give a big hit." Venkatesh also appreciated Adivi Sesh recalling



that he saw his talent long back and believed he would become a great actor. He added, "Dacoit will definitely be a blockbuster. There is no doubt about it." He also praised Mrunal Thakur and said this could be one of her best performances. He said that he liked the fresh concept of combining love and action in a new way. Dacoit starring Adivi Sesh and Mrunal Thakur also features Anurag Kashyap in an important role.

## Dacoit Censor Report: Adivi Sesh delivers another masterpiece



Adivi Sesh returns to the big screen after a massive four-year gap, a testament to his unparalleled patience and eye for detail to deliver best for the audiences. His most anticipated film, Dacoit, is ready for release and the censor reports are extremely positive. The movie completed its censor formalities with U/A certification and movie runtime is locked for 2 hrs 30 minutes. The reports suggest that the film is going to continue Sesh's phenomenal success streak and it is a masterpiece from him. Investing the audiences right away, the film begins to explore a love story which feels fresh, authentic and genuinely interesting. But as the world of manipulation strikes, we see the layers peeling out and

interval twist is mind-blowing. Reports suggest that the terrain changes with slick edits and cinematography add to the gripping narrative as audiences are hooked to the flow. Second hour delivers tear-jerking moments with unpredictable twists and turns that make it a writer Adivi Sesh special. The actor Adivi Sesh delivers a knockout performance, dominating the screen with an intense presence while effortlessly pulling off a flawless dialect change. His chemistry with leading lady Mrunal Thakur is the highlight of the film. Their love-hate relationship add to the thriller elements with International standard action sequences and screenplay. Icing on the cake are cameos of Pawan Singh, Jonitha

Gandhi, and Bheems Ceciroleo. Anurag Kashyap is brilliant as Swamy while Prakash Raj adds his experience to the mix. The brilliant background score constantly elevates the heavy, tear-jerking emotions and unthinkable revelations. Reports suggest that the film successfully leaves you with an unforgettable love story ever told in the most commercial way. Presented by Annapurna Studios, Dacoit is produced by Supriya Yarlagadda and Suniel Narang, whose penchant to deliver the best ensures stellar production values throughout this grand cinematic experience. The movie is hitting theaters worldwide on April 10, 2026, with a loads of promise and anticipation.

## Sumanth says sorry for Mrunal Thakur



The pre-release event of Dacoit was held in a grand manner, and many film personalities attended the event. Among them was actor Sumanth, who came to support the film. It is known that his sister Supriya Yarlagadda is handling the production of this movie. During the event, Sumanth spoke in a fun way while interacting with actress Mrunal Thakur. He made an interesting comment that made everyone laugh. He said, "First of all, I want to say sorry for taking Ram away from you in Sita Ramam." He then clarified the reason behind this statement. He said that there was actually a similar scene in the movie Sita Ramam, but it was later deleted. So, he jokingly said those lines now at the event. He continued his speech and added, "As compensation,

now me and my sister are giving you this film." His comment quickly became a highlight of the event, and everyone present enjoyed the moment. Dacoit is directed by Shaneil Deo and stars Adivi Sesh and Mrunal Thakur in lead roles. The movie is expected to be a mix of romance and high-level action, which has already created a lot of buzz among fans. The film also features a strong supporting cast including Anurag Kashyap, Prakash Raj, Sunil, Atul Kulkarni, Zayn Marie Khan, and Kamakshi Bhaskarla. With good expectations and strong promotions, Dacoit is all set to release in theatres on April 10, 2026. Fans are eagerly waiting to watch this entertaining film on the big screen.

## Tollywood Stays silent; Swapna Dutt Dares to Speak out



The Telugu film industry has been very careful when it comes to Andhra Pradesh politics. Many people in the industry still remember the difficult time during the rule of Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy between 2019 and 2024. Because of that experience, most film personalities are now staying silent on political matters. Earlier, well-known producer Ashwini Dutt was one of the few people who openly spoke about political issues. He did not stay quiet even when he was working on a big-budget movie like Kalki. He shared his opinions without fear, even if it could affect his projects. Now, once again, the industry is mostly silent after Amaravati was officially accepted as the capital through changes in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act. Since Jagan is against Amaravati, many people in the film industry are avoiding taking any side. They may be worried about possible problems in the future if political power changes again. Only a few people like Pawan Kalyan and Balakrishna supported Amaravati openly. However, both are active politicians, so their opinions are seen more as political views rather than reactions from the film industry. In this situation, Swapna Dutt, daughter of Ashwini Dutt, stood out. She became one of the first from the industry to respond. She shared the official Gazette on her Instagram story and welcomed the decision. Her action clearly showed her opinion without fear.

## Mythri movies drops a banger on #NTRNeel Project

In the last two days, there's been huge talk about pan-India star Jr NTR and his latest movie "Dragon" which is being directed by Prashanth Neel of KGF fame. It has come out that the actor is taking a break from the movie, preparing for the shoot, and some even stated that the shooting got halted. Till then, everyone is putting up exclusive news, and it looks like producer Mythri Movie Makers is fed up with all this. Finally, they have shed light on all the rumours by dropping a banger. "There is absolutely no truth to the rumours circulating about the look or any schedule cancellation. The film is progressing as planned, with only a routine preparation gap. We request that everyone not to believe or spread unverified information. Official updates will always come from us", tweeted Mythri Movie Makers, killing all the rumours at the budding stage itself. The gap that has come is only a



preparation gap for the next schedule, but nothing else, and fans could now breathe a sigh of relief after hearing lots of disturbing rumours about the movie's halted schedules. On the other hand, a huge set is being erected on the outskirts of Hyderabad to make this film very soon, and Jr NTR is now working on his new look so that they can restart the shooting. Dragon revolves around a vintage drug saga, where Jr NTR will be seen playing the role of a Drug Lord, a Telugu-Tamil guy settled in the north eastern part of India.

## "Adivi Sesh Made Supriya Realize Struggles": Naga Vamsi

The team of Dacoit is currently busy with promotions as the film is getting ready for release. Recently, the makers conducted a grand pre-release event, which created a lot of excitement among fans and media. Popular actor Siddhu Jonnalagadda and producer Naga Vamsi attended the event as special guests. Their presence added more energy to the function. During the event, Naga Vamsi spoke in a fun and entertaining way about producer Supriya Yarlagadda. He said, "Usually, Supriya garu keeps saying that we put heroes on our heads, take many days to shoot films, and spend more budgets. But today, instead of sitting in the front and congratulating her, we sat in the back benches just to laugh." He continued in a humorous tone, saying, "Because



she also took almost two years and many days to complete this film. She always says we keep our heroes on head, but now Adivi Sesh garu film is made Supriya garu to release. So we sat at the back and teased her." His speech made everyone at the event laugh. He also added, "When we make films with our own people or family, we don't realize these difficulties. But now, after making a film like this, she understands what we go through." The light-hearted com-

ments created a fun atmosphere at the event, and Supriya also took them sportingly. Dacoit is directed by Shaneil Deo and features Adivi Sesh and Mrunal Thakur in lead roles. The film promises a mix of romance and high-level action, which has already impressed audiences through its trailer. The movie also has a strong supporting cast including Anurag Kashyap, Prakash Raj, Sunil, Atul Kulkarni, Zayn Marie Khan, and Kamakshi Bhaskarla.

## Overseas Trouble: No Buyers For Big Telugu films?

Many mammoth Telugu films lined up for the next couple of years are facing an unexpected issue from the overseas market, if reports are to be believed. They are struggling to find traditional distributors in the North American market, an arena where Telugu films used to make quick millions. Though it used to be like Overseas buyers used to buy Telugu films for simple prices and then make huge there, most of the times, right now the asking price is said to be worrying them. In fact, Overseas Distributors in the US are now treating anything above 750 crore as a risky deal, because a film has to collect nearly \$6 million 'share' to recover that investment. But the current quotes for big films are going close to 7100 crore or even higher, as per the reports. If you look at the lineup, films like Allu Arjun's Raaka, Prabhas' Kalki 2, Rajamouli-Mahesh's Varanasi, Jr NTR-Prashanth Neel's Dragon, and Prabhas-Vanga's Spirit fall into this high-price bracket. Except for Peddi, which was sold for 740 crores, rest of these movies haven't been committed to any distributor so far. In the



past, overseas deals were a major recovery zone for Telugu films. But things are changing now as distributors are playing it safe, and don't want to release movies for marginal profits. As a result, producers are now planning to release films independently. Instead of selling rights, they are using US distribution networks on a commission basis. That's a good move, because there will be no involvement of upfront investment for distributors, and the risk of giving back money if a film fails, from the producer's side. However, some distributors who had become accustomed to making huge money from overseas releases were upset by this trend, as commissions are nowhere near outright profits.

## Molineux was the best captaincy option, on track for T20 WC: Australia chief selector Shawn Flegler

New Delhi, April 8 : Australia's chair of selectors Shawn Flegler has acknowledged that the early phase of Sophie Molineux's captaincy has been anything but conventional, citing her ongoing back issue as an unusual challenge, while backing the decision to appoint her as leader across formats. Molineux, who succeeded Alyssa Healy earlier this year, assumed leadership duties in phases, initially during the T20I series against India and then on a full-time basis for the West Indies tour following Healy's retirement. However, a stress reaction in her back disrupted those plans, significantly limiting her role during the Caribbean leg. The allrounder was unable to bowl in that series and featured only as a specialist batter in the T20Is and the opening ODI before being rested for the remainder of the tour, a situation Flegler described as a setback during a crucial transition phase. Despite the complication, selectors have maintained their long-term focus on the upcoming T20 World Cup, which headlines a packed global calendar that also includes the 2027 Champions Trophy and the 2028 Olympics. "We were clear from the start that the T20 World Cup was the priority series and we were going to make decisions around that," Flegler told reporters as the 2026-27 contracts list was announced. "So, yeah, the stress reaction in the back during the Indian series, not ideal, but things do happen. We just made decisions around that and we decided we could either push through with it, take a big risk and see if she got through, or we just pull back a little bit." We decided to pull back, but we still thought it was important that she was around the group [in the West Indies]. She's on track for the T20 World Cup and that's what the goal was at the start. It's probably a fair point to say it's



unprecedented. But we think, on balance, she was the candidate that was the best option for a number of reasons: her on-field experience and success that she'd had, her off-field connection and a vision for the team. "We'll be judged on that as time goes on, but we think it was the right decision at the time. I think she's done really well in the games that she has captained and the way she's been around the group so far. I guess we'll see how that ends up in the T20 World Cup and how it goes in the future as well," he added. Flegler made it clear that Molineux's role in the World Cup will hinge on her all-round capabilities, ruling out the possibility of her featuring solely as a batter. "We're certainly not looking at her as a batting captain. She'll be playing as a bowling allrounder to be available," Flegler noted. The selector also stressed that the decision to elevate Molineux ahead of other senior figures such as Tahlia McGrath and Ashleigh Gardner was the result of a prolonged evaluation rather than a reactive call. Both McGrath and Gardner currently serve as vice-captains, with McGrath stepping in as stand-in skipper during the West Indies tour. "These conversations took place over 12 months, essentially. Sophie was picked as a 20-year-old initially and her leadership capabilities were recognised very early. So if she wasn't injured, you could easily have seen her being captain a cou-

ple of years earlier. "I guess it's hard when you're not on the inside, you don't get to see all the stuff that does happen with team dynamics and how the group operates and what energy is around. When you're seeing decisions made and from an external point of view you go, that doesn't make sense, but we're comfortable internally that was the right decision for this group at this time. So we're happy to be judged on that down the track," he stated. Molineux's limited bowling role in the West Indies has also added complexity to Australia's selection plans for the World Cup, particularly concerning the composition of the spin attack. Alana King impressed during the T20I leg, earning Player of the Series honours, while Georgia Wareham continues to be viewed as a frontline option. Gardner further strengthens the spin resources, leaving selectors with a challenging balancing act. Conditions in England, where the tournament will be held, are expected to play a significant role in shaping the final squad, especially with some matches scheduled in the morning. "One of the things we need to look at is conditions. We spoke to Alana about this as well... but she's certainly put her hand up. I think with Sophie's injury, that does come into the discussions about what's the best fit in the squad if we have four spinners or are we comfortable with three that we've got. Whoever misses out is going to be really unlucky because I think there's a number of players who have put their hand up," Flegler said. Australia are likely to finalise their squad early next month, with preparatory camps lined up in Brisbane before they travel to the United Kingdom. The team is also scheduled to play a warm-up series against South Africa, followed by official ICC practice matches ahead of the marquee event.

## 'He's instilled fear into bowlers': Steyn on Vaibhav's heroics against Bumrah

New Delhi, April 8 : Former South Africa pacer Dale Steyn believes that the Rajasthan Royals (RR) opener Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has already begun to create a psychological edge over bowlers, even forcing the likes of Jasprit Bumrah into rare errors. Steyn pointed to the moment when Sooryavanshi launched Bumrah over mid-on off the very first ball in the Rajasthan Royals clash against the Mumbai Indians on Tuesday, suggesting that the youngster's aggressive reputation is already influencing how bowlers approach him. "I think that's what he's done. I mean, honestly, he's created and instilled the fear into bowlers that he's going to hit you for boundaries," Steyn told ESPNcricinfo. Highlighting the influence of Sooryavanshi, Steyn added that even the pre-

mier Indian pacer, Bumrah, appeared to be second-guessing himself and missed his mark, which is very rare for a bowler of his calibre. "That delivery from Bumrah, that's in the slot. That's so rare of Bumrah. So even the great Bumrah is thinking in the back of his mind: 'don't get it wrong, because if I get it wrong, this guy's going to hit me for six,'" he said. "I feel, if you think like that, more often than not, you do get it wrong. You can see even when he's hit him for six, he almost started to laugh afterwards and then go, 'I knew that was going to happen if I got it wrong'. And that's exactly what happened," he explained. Steyn believes that Sooryavanshi is not scared of anyone, and his fearless intent makes him dangerous regardless of the bowler's stature. "And this



kid's not scared, man. If you miss a half-volley, he's going to hit you out of the ground. So drag your length back and hit a good length, and you might be on the money with him. Miss and you're travelling the distance. It doesn't matter who you are, Bumrah or Joe Average. So that's fantastic batting," he added. Speaking of the match, RR rode on an explosive 80-run opening stand

between Yashasvi Jaiswal and Sooryavanshi to beat MI by 27 runs in a rain-curtailed match at the ACA Stadium in Guwahati on Tuesday and registered their third straight victory of the IPL 2026 campaign. Vaibhav scored 39 runs off just 14 balls, which included two sixes against Bumrah and three vs other bowlers. While Jaiswal remained unbeaten at 77 off just 32 balls.

## MCA to unveil Ravi Shastri stand, honour Sardesai, Solkar and Edulji at Wankhede

The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) is set to honour four of Indian cricket's distinguished figures with the unveiling of the Ravi Shastri Stand and the dedication of stadium gates in the names of Dilip Sardesai, Eknath Solkar, and Diana Edulji at Wankhede Stadium on Thursday. The ceremony will be attended by Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, along with MCA President Ajinkya Naik, members of the Apex Council, office bearers, and prominent figures from the cricketing fraternity. The decision to honour these stalwarts was approved during the MCA Apex Council meeting in February. As part of the initiative, the Level 1 stand located below the press box will be named after Ravi Shastri, recognising his immense contribution to Mumbai and Indian cricket as a player, former India captain, coach, and broadcaster. In addition, Gate No. 3, Gate No. 5, and Gate No. 6 at the venue will be renamed as the Dilip Sardesai Gate, Diana Edulji Gate, and Eknath Solkar Gate, respectively. The move



pays tribute to three iconic Mumbai cricketers who left a lasting legacy in Indian cricket. "This ceremony marks a proud moment for Mumbai cricket as we come together to honour these iconic figures," said Ajinkya Naik. "The unveiling of the Ravi Shastri Stand, along with the dedication of stadium gates, reflects our deep respect for their invaluable contributions. We hope their legacy continues to inspire future generations."

The initiative highlights the MCA's continued effort to preserve its rich cricketing heritage while building a strong foundation for the future. Notably, in May 2025, the MCA had unveiled a stand in honour of Rohit Sharma. The Wankhede Stadium already houses stands named after legends such as Sunil Gavaskar, Dilip Vengsarkar, and Sachin Tendulkar, while gates have been dedicated to greats like Polly Umrigar and Vinoo Mankad.

## Minakshi, Jaismine to fight for gold

Reigning world champions Jaismine Lamboria and Meenakshi Hooda progressed to the finals along with two others at the Asian Boxing Championships here on Tuesday, taking India's total finalists to eight. Vishvanath Suresh (50kg) and Sachin Siwach (60kg) also registered impressive semifinal wins, while Akash (75kg), Lokesh (85kg), Narender Berwal (90+kg) and Harsh Choudhary (90kg) signed off with bronze medals. India will thus have eight boxers -- six women and two men fighting in the final. In the women's 48kg semifinal, Meenakshi secured a confident 4-1 win over Thailand's Thipsatcha Yodwaree to book her place in the gold medal bout, where she will



face local favourite Nomundari Enkh-Amgalan. Jaismine joined her in the finals after edging past Uzbekistan's Nigina Uktamova 3-2 in a hard-fought 57kg semifinal. The 2022 Commonwealth Games bronze medalist will take on Thailand's Punrawee Ruenros in the title clash. In the men's section, Vishvanath, who had

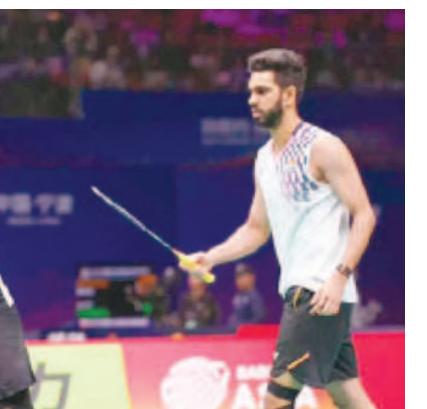
stunned reigning world champion and world No. 1 Sanzhar Tashkenbay of Kazakhstan in the previous round, continued his fine run with a dominant 5-0 victory over Jordan's Huthaifa Eshish to advance to the final. World Cup medallist Sachin (60kg) also impressed, posting a solid 4-1 win over Thailand's Sakda Ruamtham in his

semifinal. Akash, however, lost 1-4 to Uzbekistan's Javokhir Abdurakhimov while Lokesh went down 0-5 against Jasurbek Yuldotshev of Uzbekistan. Asian Games bronze medallist Narender suffered a 1-4 defeat to China's Bayikewuzi Danabieke with the bout being stopped in the first round due to a cut. Harsh Choudhary also went down by a similar 1-4 margin to Tajikistan's Parviz Karimov. In other key finals featuring Indian boxers, Preeti (54kg) will go up against Chinese Taipei's Huang Hsiao-wen, while Priya (60kg) faces North Korea's Un Gyong Won. Arundhati Choudhary (70kg) is set to meet Kazakhstan's Bakyt Seidish in her gold medal bout.

## Dhruv-Tanisha pair wins on mixed day for India

India's leading mixed doubles pair of Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto advanced to the second round, but the duo of Rohan Kapoor and Gadde Ruthvika Shivani crashed out of the Badminton Asia Championships 2026, which got underway here on Tuesday. Kapila and Crasto won 21-14, 11-21, 21-15 over Thailand's Phuwanat Horbanluekit and Benyapa Aimsaard. However, Rohan Kapoor and Gadde Ruthvika Shivani went down fighting against Malaysia's eighth seeds Goh Soon Huat and Lai Shevon Jemie 13-21 19-21 in a 34-minute contest at the Ningbo Olympic Centre. The Indian duo of Kapoor and Shivani struggled to find rhythm early on, conceding the first game comfortably, but showed signs of resistance in the second before the experienced Malaysian combination shut the door in straight games. In another match, Ashith Surya and Amrutha Pramuthesh also failed to cross the opening hurdle, losing 16-

21 15-21 to Malaysia's Wong Tien Ci and Lim Chiew Sien in 31 minutes. The Indian pair fought hard but were unable to sustain pressure at crucial junctures against their steady opponents. The focus will shift to singles competition on Wednesday with India's top stars set to begin their campaigns. Lakshya Sen, fresh from a runner-up finish at the All England Championships, will spearhead the men's singles challenge. The country's top-ranked shuttler faces a tricky opening match against Hong Kong's Lee Cheuk Yiu, against whom the Indian has a 2-3 head-to-head record. In the women's singles, double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu



returns to action after a disrupted European leg and will open her campaign against Malaysia's Wong Ling Ching. Apart from Sen and Sindhu, India will also have Kidambi Srikanth, HS Prannoy and Ayush Shetty in men's singles, while Tanvi Sharma, Unnati Hooda and Malvika Bansod will feature in the women's draw, with all of them slated to begin their campaigns on Wednesday.

## IPL 2026: 'Jaiswal's biggest strength is self-belief,' says Rathour after RR beat MI

Guwahati, April 8 : Rajasthan Royals (RR) lead assistant coach Vikram Rathour heaped praise on Yashasvi Jaiswal after his unbeaten 77 powered the side to a convincing win over Mumbai Indians (MI) in IPL 2026 and said the opener has shown again and again that if "he believes that he can do something, he'll achieve that." After rain reduced the match to 11 overs per side, Yashasvi Jaiswal began the innings with a bang as he hit Deepak Chahar for four boundaries and a maximum to extract 22 runs off the very first over. He remained unbeaten at 77 as RR posted a mammoth total of 150 runs, which proved too much for the five-time champions, as they scored just



123/9 in 11 overs. "The biggest strength Yash has is basically the belief that he has in himself. If he believes that he can do something, he'll go all out for that, and he'll achieve that. He's shown

that again and again," Rathour said in a video released by IPL on X. The former India batting coach further noted that Jaiswal's ability to fully commit to his decisions at the crease sets him apart.

"Whenever he wants to do certain things, he'll make up his mind, and he'll go with 100% commitment. Today, we could also see that he was committed to playing his shots. He went there with a very clear game plan, and he really backed it, and today it came off," he added. Jaiswal is in top-notch form in the ongoing season. He has scored 179 runs in three matches at a strike rate of over 160. He is also currently holding the Orange cap. Meanwhile, the Rajasthan Royals are at the top of the points table with six points in three matches and a net run rate of 2.403. They will next face defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) on April 10.

## Badminton Asia c'ships: Sindhu, Shetty, Prannoy advance, Lakshya, Kidambi exit

New Delhi: Two-time Olympic medallist P. V. Sindhu and men's singles stars Ayush Shetty and H. S. Prannoy kept India's campaign on track, while Lakshya Sen and Kidambi Srikanth exited early as Indian shuttlers experienced a mixed outing on the opening day of the Badminton Asia Championships on Wednesday. Indian badminton player P. V. Sindhu in action against Nguyen Thuy Linh of Vietnam during the Yonex Sunrise India Open 2026 at the Indira Gandhi Stadium, in New Delhi on Wednesday, January 14, 2026. (Photo: IANS/Wasim Sarvar) Two-time Olympic medallist P. V. Sindhu and men's singles stars Ayush Shetty and H. S. Prannoy kept India's campaign on track, while Lakshya Sen and Kidambi Srikanth exited early as Indian shuttlers experienced a mixed outing on the opening day of the Badminton Asia Championships on Wednesday. Sindhu was pushed hard by Malaysia's Wong Ling Ching before coming through a gruelling three-game contest. After conced-

ing the first game 15-21, the Hyderabad found her rhythm to take the second 21-11. The decider proved to be a closely fought affair, with both players trading points in a tense finish. Locked at 19-19, Sindhu held her nerve to win back-to-back points and close out the match in one hour and seven minutes. She will next face China's Wang Zhi Yi in the second round. One of the biggest positives for India came in the form of promising Ayush Shetty, who produced a stunning upset by defeating China's world No. 7 Li Shi Feng in straight games. The youngster's composed performance secured him a place in the pre-quarterfinals, where he will take on Chinese Taipei's Chi Yu Jen for a spot in the last eight. Prannoy, meanwhile, battled his way into the next round with a 24-22, 21-12 victory over Vietnam's Nguyen Hai Dang. The opening game was a tight contest, with Prannoy saving multiple game points before edging ahead 24-22. He then took control in the second game, maintaining pressure to wrap up the match comfortably. He is set

to face China's Weng Hong Yang next. In contrast, Lakshya Sen's campaign ended in the opening round following a straight-game loss to Hong Kong's Lee Cheuk Yiu. Coming into the tournament with some momentum after a solid run at the All England Championships, Lakshya struggled to find consistency, going down 12-21, 19-21 in a 41-minute match. While he showed improvement in the second game, Lee's composure in key moments proved decisive. Former world No. 1 Kidambi Srikanth also bowed out after a three-game defeat to Singapore's Loh Kean Yew. Srikanth started well, taking the opening game 21-18 after building momentum midway through. However, Loh responded strongly to claim the second game 21-9 and carried that dominance into the decider, sealing it 21-11 with a series of attacking rallies. Elsewhere, India endured setbacks in women's singles as Malvika Bansod and Tanvi Sharma crashed out following straight-game defeats in their respective matches.

## Union Secretary Dr. Saurabh Garg visits National Statistical Office

By Skyline Staff Reporter, Visakhapatnam, April 8  
Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, Dr. Saurabh Garg visited the National Statistical Office in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday. He directly observed the field work of the National Household Income Survey, which will start across the country from April, at the field level and reviewed the implementation process with the officials. He suggested that accuracy, integrity and transparency should be given priority in conducting the survey. Stating that public cooperation is very important for the success of this survey to be conducted across the country, Saurabh Garg urged every household to participate in the survey and provide truthful information.



## Special trains to clear extra rush during summer season

By Skyline Staff Reporter  
Visakhapatnam, April 8  
Keeping the demand of the public of this region in the mind and in order to clear the extra rush of passengers during summer season, East Coast Railway has decided to run special trains on demand as detailed below.  
**VISAKHAPATNAM - SANTRAGANCHI - VISAKHAPATNAM SUMMER SPECIAL EXPRESS TRAINS (08502/08501)**  
Train No. 08502 Visakhapatnam - Santragachi summer special express train will leave Visakhapatnam at 23:45 hrs on Fridays from 10.04.2026 to 24.04.2026 which will reach Simhachalam on the next day (midnight) at 00:01 hrs and departure at 00:03 hrs, Vizianagaram at 00:35 hrs and departure at 00:40 hrs, Srikakulam Road at 01:33 hrs and departure at 01:35 hrs and which will reach Santragachi at 14:30 hrs on the next day i.e. Saturday (Total 03 trips).  
In return direction, Train No.08501 Santragachi - Visakhapatnam summer special express train will leave Santragachi 18:30 hrs on Saturdays from 11.04.2026 to 25.04.2026 which will reach Srikakulam Road on the

next day morning at 09:10 hrs and departure at 09:12 hrs, Vizianagaram at 10:00 hrs and departure at 10:05 hrs, Simhachalam at 10:53 hrs and departure at 10:55 hrs and which will reach Visakhapatnam at 11:45 hrs i.e. Sunday (Total 03 trips).  
**CHARLAPALLI - BHUBANESWAR NEW - CHARLAPALLI (07165/07166)**  
The train No. 07165 Charlapalli - Bhubaneswar New special express train will leave Charlapalli on Monday i.e. on 13.04.2026 at 18.10 hrs which will reach Duvvada on the next day at 09.15 hrs and departure at 09.17 hrs and will reach Bhubaneswar New at 17.20 hrs.  
In return direction, the train No. 07166 Bhubaneswar New - Charlapalli special express train will leave Bhubaneswar New on Tuesday (on 14.04.2026) at 18.30 hrs extension which will reach Duvvada on the next day early morning at 03.53 hrs and departure at 03.55 hrs which will reach Charlapalli at 18.15 hrs.  
People are requested to make use of these special train services

## All India Workshop on State Income Statistics to be held in Visakhapatnam

By Skyline Staff Reporter  
Visakhapatnam, April 8  
The "All India Workshop on State Income and Related Statistics based on New Standard Year (2022-23)" under the auspices of the Office of the Director of Finance & Statistics, Planning Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh began on Wednesday at Hotel Dasapalla, Visakhapatnam. The program was attended by Union Statistics Ministry Secretary Saurabh Garg, State Finance and Planning Department Principal Secretary Piyush Kumar, State Economics & Statistics Director B. Gopal, Central Government officials Subra Sarkar, Siddharth Kundu and others. This workshop will be



held for three days from April 8 to 10. Statistical experts and officials from various states across the country are participating in this program. The workshop is being jointly organized by the National Accounts Division (NAD) and National Statistical Office (NSO), New Delhi, under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Government of India. The workshop will discuss in detail the state revenue estimates, calculation methods, changes and amendments in data collection based on the new standard year (2022-23). Officials said that the main objectives of the workshop are to enhance coordination among states and improve the quality of statistics.

## The services of the Indian Mahila Foundation are commendable: ACP Ambedkar

By Skyline Staff Reporter  
Visakhapatnam, April 8  
ACP Ambedkar praised the services of The Indian Mahila Foundation with the slogan of Sarvejana Sukhinobhavantu. As part of the Sarvejana Sukhinobhavantu program, the founder of the foundation, GVL Padma, paid a courtesy call on ACP Ambedkar. Speaking on the occasion, GVL Padma said that for the advancement of women, children should not be the

heirs of property, but should be a support for their aging parents. She explained the reasons for the increase in old age homes in the society and asked for action to be taken on the main sources. She said that children should not be the heirs of property, and that today's youth should be made aware so that they develop responsible behavior to take care of their aging parents. ACP Ambedkar said that all the volunteers



in the city should form a group for the progress of women and provide high-quality services with unity. He said that women should regain their self-

confidence even in difficult times and that death should not be the solution whenever there are problems. He hoped that these voluntary organizations should be guides and inspire women. He said that if a group is formed with collective efforts, not one, then a society with high values can definitely be built. Among those who met the ACP were foundation members NA Kumar, K. Kumari, Ramya and Sita.

## Strict action will be taken if building regulations are not followed

Labour Minister Vasansetty Subhash inspected various constructions in Visakhapatnam

By Skyline Staff Reporter  
Visakhapatnam, April 8  
The State Labor Minister has warned that strict action will be taken if safety standards and regulations are not strictly followed in building construction and workers' welfare measures are mandatory. He issued orders on several issues during a surprise inspection of the ongoing building construction work in Visakhapatnam district. On Wednesday, he inspected several construction sites in the district. He inspected the projects of MK One in Endada, Burugupalli Sagar in Sagar Nagar, and North Star Golden Valley companies within the scope of the Madhuravada IT SEZ. On this occasion, he spoke directly to the workers and learned about their problems. He explained the facilities

and conveniences provided to them by the government and the law. He advised everyone to definitely get labor registration done. Speaking on the occasion, he said that several shortcomings were revealed during the inspections, especially in many places where even the minimum necessary bathroom facilities were not available to the workers. He said that in some places, the bathrooms built just for the sake of it were locked and the workers were facing difficulties. He said that it was noticed that the workers were not using protective equipment like masks, gloves, helmets and safety shoes. He warned that this is a serious risk to the health of the workers who work amidst cement and dust. Therefore, he explained that he has instructed the



labor department officials and employers to make the use of safety equipment mandatory. Speaking to the media, the minister said that there are also huge violations in the matter of cess payments. He especially reminded that some MVV companies are continuing their work without paying cess dues of Rs. 10 crore. He clarified that this is against the law. He said that there is also negligence in the registration of construction workers. He explained that one can register for life by paying just Rs. 110, and through this registration, schemes like maternity assistance, marriage assistance, funeral expenses, and financial assistance for natural death will be available. The government is implementing many schemes for the welfare of workers, and the management and

officials should act responsibly to ensure that their benefits reach every worker. Therefore, the Minister directed construction companies to strictly implement aspects such as worker registration, cess payments, safety regulations, and provision of basic amenities. Minister Vasansetty Subhash warned on this occasion that strict action must be taken against owners who violate the rules. The Minister was accompanied on the field visit by AP Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board Chairman Valavala Mallikarjuna Rao (Bajji), Joint Commissioner of Labor Rama Rao, and Deputy Commissioner of Visakhapatnam District Labor Department Dinesh Kumar and others.



## TDP leader Kimidi Ram Malli Naidu distributes CMRF cheques in Garividi Mandal

By Skyline Staff Reporter  
Cheepurupalli (Garividi), April 8

Kimidi Ram Mallik Naidu, State Secretary of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and a young leader, displayed a humanitarian gesture by personally visiting beneficiaries' homes in Garividi mandal and distributing cheques sanctioned under the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF). During his visit, he handed over financial assistance to individuals suffering from health issues and facing economic hardships. Speaking on the occasion, he said that supporting the poor during times of distress is



their responsibility. He emphasized that the CMRF plays a vital role in saving lives and assured that efforts will continue to ensure that aid reaches every eligible beneficiary. Among the beneficiaries, Basava Tirumala Rao received financial assistance of Rs.43,306. The beneficiaries and their family members expressed happiness over receiving significant support and thanked him for personally visiting their homes to deliver the cheques. Local TDP leaders and party workers also participated in the programme.

## AU honours poet Bala Sudhaka Mouli at Centenary celebrations

By Skyline Staff Reporter  
Cheepurupalli (Garividi), April 8

Noted poet and Sahitya Akademi award recipient Bala Sudhakar Mouli was felicitated at Andhra University during its centenary literary celebrations organized by the Telugu Department. Mouli, who is serving as a Biology Assistant at ZPHS Kondapalem in Garividi mandal, was honoured for his meaningful contributions to socially relevant literature and poetry. The event recognised several writers and artists from the Kalinga region who have made



notable contributions to literature and culture. Andhra University, established in 1926, marked 100 years of academic excellence with a series of literary and cultural programmes. The felicitation of Mouli has been welcomed by the staff of his school and members of the United Teachers Federation, who congratulated him on bringing recognition to the institution.

## Sensodyne India rolls out 'Know Your Dental Age' Campaign - An Oral Health Awareness initiative supported by Ministry of Health & Family welfare and Indian Dental Association

Visakhapatnam, 8th April: - Sensodyne, Haleon's leading oral care brand, is strengthening its commitment to better oral health in India with the launch of its 'Know Your Dental Age' initiative, placing the concept of Dental Age at the forefront of proactive care. India continues to face a significant oral health gap, with 9 in 10 people experiencing dental issues and most seeking treatment only when symptoms become severe. To drive early awareness and encourage preventive habits, Sensodyne has partnered with the Indian Dental Association (IDA) to introduce the Dental Age Test - a unique oral health and well-being tool that helps people understand whether their teeth are aging faster than they should. Accessible through a quick QR scan, it highlights potential concerns and provides simple, actionable steps to manage them, empowering individuals to



take timely action and prioritize everyday oral health. Smt. Anupriya Patel, Union Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers, led the launch in Delhi, underscoring the government's commitment to making oral healthcare a public health priority. She was joined by Dr. Ashok Dhoble, Hon. General Secretary, Indian Dental Association (IDA), and Mr. Kedar Lele, CEO India and President India Subcontinent, Haleon. Together, they flagged off

the initiative, demonstrating the power of public-private collaboration in shaping a healthier and better informed India. To extend the reach of Dental Age across the country, Sensodyne is also bringing screenings to select Vande Bharat Express routes. Leveraging the wide passenger base of these trains, the effort is making oral health information more accessible for 10 lakh people on the move. Speaking at the launch, Smt. Anupriya Patel, Union

Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers, said: "Oral health is fundamental to overall well-being, yet awareness and timely action remain limited. Initiatives like Sensodyne's innovative Dental Age Test are integral to bringing preventive care closer to people and encouraging early intervention. Under the National Oral Health Programme, we remain committed to expanding access to affordable, quality dental care, with prevention at the heart of our healthcare vision. Building a healthier, more informed India requires collective effort, and safeguarding oral health is a shared national responsibility." Kedar Lele, CEO India and President India Subcontinent, Haleon, added "Oral health has long been an overlooked part of overall well-being, and our mission at Sensodyne is to help change that by making it

## Garividi APTF Unit Forms New Committee, Submits Teachers' Issues

By Skyline Staff Reporter  
Cheepurupalli (Garividi), April 7

The Garividi unit of the Andhra Pradesh Teachers Federation (APTF) held its general body meeting at Victory Layout on Tuesday, electing a new mandal committee unanimously. D. Appanna was named Honorary President, while P. Jagannadha Rao was elected as President. Nemmadhi Venkata ramana will serve as General Secretary. M. Ramesh and M. Ramanamurthy were chosen as Vice Presidents. K.



Eswara Rao was appointed Additional Secretary, and M. Satyam, A. Ramappa, and Y. J. Prasad were elected as Secretaries. The election process was overseen by Election Officer A. Appala Raju and M. V. Ramana Master. During the meeting, members contributed Rs.33,000 towards the establishment of the APTF state office in Amaravati. Later, the representatives met the Mandal Education Officer and submitted a memorandum addressing key issues faced by teachers in the region.