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PM Modi urges all parties to back Women's Reservation Bill for implementation before 2029 polls

New Delhi, April 12 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi has written to floor leaders of all parties in both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, seeking their support for the unanimous passage of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam to ensure the implementation ahead of the 2029 elections.

In his communication, the Prime Minister emphasised the importance of passing the legislation, which provides for one-third reservation for women in legislative bodies, during the upcoming special session of Parliament scheduled to begin on April 16. He described it as a significant milestone for strengthening democratic values. A Special Session has been convened next week



to deliberate on and pass the Women's Reservation (Amendment) Bill. In his letter, PM Modi wrote, "From April 16, a historic discussion related to the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam is set to take place in Parliament. This special sitting is an opportunity to further strengthen our democracy. It is also a moment to reiterate our collective commitment to moving forward

together, taking everyone along. I am writing this letter to you with this spirit and purpose." Highlighting the role of women in nation-building, he stated, "Any society progresses only when women have the opportunity to progress, make decisions and, more importantly, to lead. For India to realise its vision of becoming a developed (Contd. on pg.2)

Asha Bhosle passes away at 93, last rites to be held on Monday



Mumbai, April 12 : Legendary playback singer Asha Bhosle passed away at the age of 93 in Mumbai on Sunday. The singer was admitted to the Breach Candy Hospital on Saturday. Ashish Shelar, the Culture Minister of Maharashtra made the announcement outside the hospital. Her last rites will be held at Shivaji Park on Monday at 4:00 pm. On Saturday, her granddaughter, Zanai Bhosle had revealed that her grandmother was admitted to the hospital due to

extreme exhaustion and a chest infection. She requested privacy during such times. Dropping a photo with Asha Bhosle on her official Instagram handle, Zanai wrote, "My grandmother, Asha Bhosle due to extreme exhaustion and suffering a chest infection has been admitted to hospital and we request you to value our privacy. Treatment is ongoing and hopefully everything will be well and we shall update you positively (sic). (Folded hands emoji)." (Contd. on pg.2)

India rejects China's attempt to rename places, reaffirms Arunachal Pradesh an 'integral and inalienable part'

New Delhi, April 12 : India on Sunday rejected China's "mischievous attempts" to assign fictitious names to places which are part of the country, reiterating that territories, including Arunachal Pradesh, remain an "integral and inalienable part" of it.

In response to media queries regarding China giving fictitious names to places, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal urged China to refrain from actions that cause negativity in bilateral ties and undermine efforts



to create better understanding between Beijing and New Delhi.

In a statement, MEA spokesperson Jaiswal said, "India categorically rejects any mischievous attempts by the Chinese side to assign fictitious names to places which form part of the territory of India. Such attempts by China at introducing false claims and manufacturing baseless narratives cannot alter the undeniable reality that these places and territories, including Arunachal Pradesh, were, are, and will always remain an integral and inalienable part of India." (Contd. on pg.2)

Jagan's madness surpasses terrorism: Nimmala

By Skyline Staff Reporter Vijayawada, April 12 Nimmala Accuses Jagan of Political Terrorism in Andhra Pradesh State Irrigation Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu has strongly condemned YSRCP chief Jagan's politics, saying that his 'axe politics' has become a major threat to the state. He criticized the YSRCP for playing politics with the vile language of "we will kill and destroy" and making destruction its agenda. Speaking at a media conference organized at the TDP central office in Mangalagiri, he said that Jagan Reddy is now openly announcing his hidden agen-



da. He was incensed that their approach is such that they will resort to any atrocity for power. More dangerous than terrorism

Political parties should say that they will do good for the people, but the YSRCP says that if they come to power, they will demolish the existing ones, stop the work and corrupt the youth, Nimmala said. Does YCP's 'youth policy' mean destroying the future of the youth by selling liquor and introducing new drugs? He questioned. He openly warned that "we will drag Guntur here and there and beat them, and we will cut them in the other direction", and accused YCP leaders of being power-hungry just to leave mothers with the grief of their children. He questioned (Contd. on pg.2)

Trump backs 'final offer' after Iran talks fail



Washington, April 12 : US President Donald Trump was closely involved in high-stakes nuclear talks with Iran and has backed a "final and best offer" to Tehran after negotiations in Islamabad collapsed without agreement, Vice President JD Vance said. "We leave here with a very simple proposal, a method of understanding that is our final and best offer. We'll see if the Iranians accept it," Vance told reporters after 21 hours of negotiations. The Vice President underscored Trump's direct role in the talks, describing constant communication

between the negotiating team and the White House. "We were talking to the president consistently. I don't know how many times we talked to him. A half dozen times, a dozen times over the past 21 hours," Vance said. He said the President had instructed negotiators to pursue a deal in good faith but with clear limits. "The president told us, you need to come here in good faith and make your best effort to get a deal. We did that," Vance said. Despite intensive engagement, the talks failed to bridge differences over (Contd. on pg.2)

BJP issues whip for MPs ahead of 3-day special Parliament session from April 16



New Delhi, April 12 : The BJP has issued a strict three-line whip to all its Members of Parliament in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, directing them to remain present in the House continuously from April 16 to April 18, amid the upcoming special sitting of Parliament. In an official notice signed by Office Secretary Shiv Shakti Nath Bakshi, the party stated: "A Three-Line Whip is being issued to all BJP Members in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha from Thursday to

Saturday, 16th to 18th April 2026." It further instructed: "All Hon'ble Union Ministers and Members are requested to remain present in the House throughout all the three above-mentioned dates." The notice added, "Presence in the House is mandatory. No leave will be granted. Members are requested to strictly comply with the Whip and ensure their uninterrupted attendance in the House." The directive underscores the importance of the (Contd. on pg.2)

Endowments Assistant Commissioner Shanti suspended in disproportionate assets case

By Skyline Staff Reporter Vijayawada, April 12 : The Andhra Pradesh government has suspended an Assistant Commissioner in the Endowments Department following her arrest in a disproportionate assets case. The orders for Kalingiri Shanti's suspension were issued by Commissioner K. Ramchandramohan, official sources said on Sunday. The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) had arrested Shanti on April 7 after



simultaneous raids at premises linked to her. She was found to have amassed assets worth Rs 1.37 crore, disproportion-

ate to her known sources of income. The same day, a court in Vijayawada sent her to judicial custody till April 21. As per the government rules, any employee detained in custody for more than 48 hours on a criminal charge is deemed suspended. ACB officials conducted searches for 10 hours in different locations, including Tadepalli, Undavalli, and Visakhapatnam. (Contd. on pg.2)

Set for take-off: How Bhogapuram International Airport launch will change Vizag

By Skyline Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam, April 12 : The nearly-completed, eagerly-awaited Bhogapuram International Airport is on the verge of its launch. As per the latest headlines, the airport is likely to be inaugurated in July in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Envisioned as a key infrastructure anchor, the development is set to be a growth accelerator for nine districts in Andhra Pradesh, transforming regional-global interconnectedness and introducing exciting investment

opportunities to the State. In Visakhapatnam, the launch of the airport means big reforms in

connectivity, tourism, and hospitality in the region. Already, seven roads with

a budget of Rs 175 crores are being constructed speedily between the districts, with 60% of the works being completed. Anyone using them will be able to reach Bhogapuram in under one hour and thirty minutes. However, even more proposals are in the books to ensure that the Vizag-Bhogapuram track remains seamless and uncongested. VMRDA Chairman Pranav Gopal, in talks with Yo Vizag, said, "The aim is to improve connectivity alongside the employment (Contd. on pg.2)



The government's goal is to protect public health

Revolutionary changes in the field of medicine -- Health Minister Satyakumar Yadav

Vijay Sai Reddy to turn Media baron soon!

By Skyline Staff Reporter Vijayawada, April 12 Former YSR Congress Party leader and ex-Rajya Sabha member V Vijayasai Reddy has announced plans to launch a new media venture, beginning with a digital platform. Sai Reddy took to his social media platform X to reveal that the digital platform will be launched soon, with its name to be announced shortly. He stated that the initiative would function independently, without align-



ing with any political party, and aims to serve as a voice of the people. The proposed platform will deliver news in Telugu, English, and

Hindi, with a focus on balanced, fact-based reporting. He emphasized that the outlet would highlight issues concerning common citizens, including women, youth, farmers, workers, and marginalized communities. Sai Reddy also indicated that, in a later phase, a Telugu satellite news channel will be launched with the same editorial vision and values. His tweet reads: "Dear friends, very soon we will (Contd. on pg.2)

By Skyline Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam, April 12 : The main objective of the government is to bring corporate-level medical services closer to the poor, said Health and Family Welfare Minister Shri Satya Kumar Yadav, adding that the medical sector in the state has achieved remarkable growth in the last two years. On Sunday, the Minister, along with District Collector Abhishek Kishore, inaugurated water fountains along with an endobronchial ultrasound machine (ebus) at the Chest and Communicable Diseases Hospital in Visakhapatnam. Speaking at a gathering organized on this occasion, Minister Satya Kumar Yadav said that this ultrasound mission is the first of its kind in the Telugu states and will

be of great benefit to the people of this region. He said that OP and IP services have increased significantly in the hospitals in the last two years. He said that the number of patients in this chest hospital has reached 45,000 by 2025, and the increase in the number of

major surgeries from 359 to 649 is a testament to the dedication of the doctors and staff. For the first time in the country, free cancer screening tests are being conducted across the state, state-of-the-art cancer centers have been set up in Kurnool,

Visakhapatnam, Kadapa and Guntur, and by the next financial year, comprehensive cancer centers will also be completed in Kakinada and Anantapur, working towards a cancer-free Andhra Pradesh. He said that funds have been increased drastically under Aarogyasri (NTR Medical Service). He said that the payments, which were previously 6 lakh rupees, have now increased to 3 crore 76 lakhs. Due to this, people's trust in government hospitals and doctors has increased. He said that steps are being taken to ensure that a new dialysis machine is made available in the state every three days. They said that they are increasing the number of dialysis machines from 550 to 725 to (Contd. on pg.2)



'Jai Bhim' signifies 'May Knowledge Prevail'

— M. Nagesh pays rich tributes to Mahatma Jyotirao Phule on his Birth Anniversary

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Visakhapatnam, April 12

The birth anniversary of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule, the father of the Indian social revolution and a pioneer of education, was celebrated grandly in Visakhapatnam. On this occasion, Mr. Madasu Nagesh, National President of 'The Dalit Seva Sena' and 'The Consumer Victims Welfare Service Association', along with State President Mr. Alpana Ramana, laid floral wreaths and paid rich tributes to the statue of Mahatma Phule located behind the Visakhapatnam District Court.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Madasu Nagesh said, "Mahatma Phule emphasized that the true



essence of the slogan 'Jai Bhim' is 'May Knowledge Prevail'. He believed that progress is impossible without education. By establishing the first schools for

women and Dalits in India, he opened the doors of education for all. It is upon the educational foundation laid by Phule that Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was able to pro-

vide us with the Indian Constitution."

State President Mr. Alpana Ramana added that by following the ideals of Mahatma Phule and gaining awareness of constitutional laws, every individual can live with freedom and courage in society. The leaders affirmed that 'The Dalit Seva Sena' remains committed to protecting Dalit rights and spreading legal awareness.

The event saw the participation of key leaders, activists, and followers of the organization, who raised slogans such as "Mahatma Phule Amar Rahe," "May Knowledge Prevail," and "Jai Bhim."

Police Issue Warning Against IPL Betting in Cheepurupalli

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Cheepurupalli, April 12
Acting on the directions of the Superintendent of Police (SP) and under the guidance of the Sub-Divisional Police Officer, strict surveillance has been intensified across Cheepurupalli mandal to curb illegal betting activities during the ongoing IPL matches.

According to police officials, including the Circle Inspector, Sub-Inspectors, and staff, stringent legal action will be taken against individuals involved in organizing, promoting, or participating in IPL betting. Such offenders will also be recorded in police station history sheets.

The police have issued a



strong advisory to the youth, cautioning them against falling into the trap of betting, which could lead to financial losses, damage to family relationships, and loss of social reputation. They urged youngsters to stay away from such illegal activities and focus on building a

stable and respectable future. Officials further revealed that special surveillance is already in place on certain individuals suspected of involvement. If they fail to reform and continue these activities, strict cases will be registered and necessary legal action will be taken.

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PM Modi urges all parties to back Women's Reservation Bill for

nation, it is essential that women play a greater and active role in this journey."

Referring to the long-standing debate on women's reservation, the Prime Minister recalled the developments of 2023, when lawmakers across party lines supported the legislation.

"It was a memorable moment that reflected our unity. The entire world witnessed how a major decision was taken collectively to fulfil a commitment to the women of the country. Women represent nearly half of our population, and this was a strong step towards enhancing their participation in the political domain. I consider that day an important and inspiring milestone in India's Parliamentary journey," he said.

PM Modi also noted that several Members of Parliament had contributed to discussions on the issue, including the timing of its implementation. He added that the government had engaged in consultations with experts and political parties before arriving at its current position.

"After extensive deliberations, we have reached the conclusion that the time has now come to implement the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam in its true spirit across the country. It is imperative that the 2029 Lok Sabha elections and Assembly elections are conducted with women's reservation in place. This will infuse new energy into India's democratic institutions and strengthen public trust. It will also ensure greater participation and representation in governance," he said.

Calling for a united approach, the Prime Minister added, "I am writing this letter so that we may all come together in one voice to pass this amendment. It would be great to have many Members of Parliament express their views on this subject in Parliament. This is a moment above any one party or individual. It is a moment to demonstrate responsibility towards women and our future generations. Since all political parties have expressed the desire to increase women's representation in politics for a long time, this is the right time to turn that aspiration into reality."

Describing the move as a landmark step, he further said, "I have full confidence that we will all come together and achieve this historic feat in Parliament. Members of Parliament who contribute to the implementation of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam will always take pride in having been part of this historic effort. Therefore, we must not let this opportunity pass."

"Your support for the amendment to implement the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam will be the fulfilment of an important responsibility towards the women of our country. Let us further strengthen our great democratic traditions and take decisive steps toward a historic transformation," he added.

The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party will require support from opposition parties to secure the two-thirds majority needed for the passage of the constitutional amendment in Parliament.

The proposed legislation seeks to delink the implementation of women's reservation from the 2027 Census and instead base it on the 2011 Census, in a move aimed at ensuring that the quota comes into effect before the 2029 general elections.

Trump backs 'final offer' after Iran talks fail

Iran's nuclear programme.

"We have been at it now for 21 hours... we've had a number of substantive discussions with the Iranians. That's the good news. The bad news is that we have not reached an agreement," he said.

Washington, he added, had clearly laid out its negotiating boundaries.

"We've made very clear what our red lines are... and they have chosen not to accept our terms," Vance said.

At the core of the impasse is the US demand for a long-term guarantee that Iran will not pursue nuclear weapons capability.

"We need to see an affirmative commitment that they will not seek a nuclear weapon and they will not seek the tools that would enable 'em to quickly achieve a nuclear weapon," he said. Vance emphasised that Washington is seeking durable assurances, not temporary pledges.

"Do we see a fundamental commitment of will for the Iranians not to develop a nuclear weapon? Not just now, not just two years from now, but for the long term. We haven't seen that yet," he said.

He also highlighted the broader national security coordination behind the negotiations, noting that the team remained in touch with senior officials throughout.

"We obviously also talked to... the entire national security team... because we were negotiating in good faith," Vance said. While declining to disclose specific sticking points, Vance maintained that the US side had shown flexibility.

"I think that we were quite flexible. We were quite accommodating... and unfortunately we weren't able to make any headway," he said.

BJP issues whip for MPs ahead of 3-day special

Parliament session from April 16

upcoming legislative agenda, with the government expected to push key business during the special session of Parliament beginning April 16, which will run for three days.

Both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha will reconvene on April 16 after a brief break in the Budget Session. The session is expected to focus on significant legislative proposals, including major reform bills linked to electoral and structural changes in governance.

Lawmakers are also expected to engage in high-stakes discussions that may require full attendance and possible voting, prompting the ruling party to enforce strict discipline through the whip.

The Women's Reservation Bill (Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam), which provides 33 per cent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies, is expected to be taken up during the upcoming special session of Parliament beginning April 16.

A three-line whip is considered the strongest directive in parliamentary procedure, and violation can lead to serious disciplinary action, including possible disqualification from the party in extreme cases.

The issuance of the whip comes amid heightened political activity in Parliament, where the government is preparing for crucial debates and potential passage of key bills. The opposition is also expected to strongly contest the agenda during the session, making full attendance of ruling party MPs strategically important.

Asha Bhosle passes away at 93, last rites to be held on Monday

One of the most influential singers of her time, Asha Bhosle, sang her first song as a playback for the 1943 Marathi drama 'Majha Bal'. She is known for lending her voice to some noteworthy numbers such as 'Chura Liya Hai Tumne Jo Dil Ko', 'Do Lafzon Ki Hai Dil Ki Kahani', 'Kya Ghazab Karte Ho Ji', 'O Haseena Zulfonwale Jane Jahan', and 'Ye Ladka Hay Allah Kaisa Hai Diwana', to name just a few. Along with Hindi, she has sung in around 20 Indian and foreign languages.

In 2006, Asha Bhosle herself disclosed that she has almost 12,000 songs to her credit. During her tenure as a singer spanning several decades, Asha Bhosle has worked with many acclaimed music composers such as Shankar-Jaikishan, RD Burman, OP Nayyar, Ilaiyaraaja, Bappi Lahiri, and AR Rahman. She has received numerous awards throughout her career for many of her noteworthy songs. The singer was given the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award back in 2000, followed by a Padma Vibhushan in 2008.

India rejects China's attempt to rename places, reaffirms

by the Chinese side detract from ongoing efforts to stabilise and normalise India-China bilateral ties. China should refrain from actions which inject negativity into relations and undermine efforts to create better understanding," he added.

This is not the first time China has attempted such renaming of places in India.

In May last year, Chinese Ministry of Civil Affairs had released names for some places of Arunachal Pradesh, which China refers to as Zangnan.

At the time, India had rejected China's move to assign names to parts of Arunachal Pradesh, terming the action "vain and preposterous".

The MEA had asserted that such "creative naming" will not change the reality that Arunachal Pradesh is an "integral and inalienable part of India".

In response to media queries on renaming places in Arunachal Pradesh by China, MEA spokesperson Jaiswal said, "We have noticed that China has persisted with its vain and preposterous attempts to name places in the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh. Consistent with our principled position, we reject such attempts categorically. Creative naming will not alter the undeniable reality that Arunachal Pradesh was, is, and will always remain an integral and inalienable part of India."

Jagan's madness surpasses terrorism: Nimmala

what good those who slaughter animals and sprinkle their blood on flexi and enjoy demonic pleasures can do for the people.

He said that threatening to cut out the tongues of media organizations that are writing the facts is strangling the Fourth Estate created by the Constitution. He criticized that even though the people limited the number of seats from 151 to 11, Jagan has not come to his senses and is acting more like a maniac without learning lessons from his mistakes.

Questions rained on Viveka's murder

Minister Nimmala rained questions on Jagan, referring to the Vivekananda Reddy murder case. "Jagan has a history of killing his own father with an axe for politics. Isn't it true that Sonia Gandhi reprimanded you when

you threatened the uncontroversial Viveka to resign from the post of MP?" he questioned.

If Viveka died of an axe attack, why did Sakshi media advertise it as a 'heart attack'? He questioned why he came 12 hours late and was busy erasing evidence if his own younger brother was murdered. Would he try to cover up a murder by stabbing a person anywhere in the world? He was furious. He said that just as witnesses disappeared in the Paritala Ravi murder case, witnesses are being disappeared in the Viveka murder case today as well, and Jagan demanded an answer to this.

Is this the attitude towards family members?

Nimmala said that all the people of the state have seen the way Jagan Reddy treated his family members. He alleged that they would be thrown out of the house just by saying, "My mother, my sister." "Isn't it hypocritical to say that we will do good for the women of the state now?" he asked.

He said that collecting signatures and trying to become the Chief Minister when YS Rajasekhara Reddy died in a helicopter crash and his whereabouts were unknown is a testament to Jagan's perverse mentality. "Father Rajasekhara Reddy himself did not like Jagan's arrival. You should tell him to stay in Bengaluru," Vijayamma herself called Rosaiah garu and pleaded with him, and from this, Jagan's character can be understood. He said that Jagan

has no right to mention Ranga garu's name

Nimmala Ramanaidu strongly criticized Jagan for not having the moral right to talk about Ranga garu. "Jagan has a history of bringing Ranga garu's murderers under his wing. Jagan should tell which party the son of the main accused in the Ranga murder case is in today. Why was land worth crores in Hyderabad gifted to the murderer's family?" he questioned.

He said that honoring Gautham Reddy, who insulted Ranga garu by calling him a 'rowdy', by giving him the post of Fiber Grid Chairman is proof of Jagan's hatred towards Ranga garu. He was furious that he should be ashamed of raising Ranga's name by hanging around with murderous families. Nimmala accused Jagan of becoming an economic terrorist by obstructing his father's power during the political samadhi of the Goddali party, and today he has become a political terrorist and corrupted the state. He said that the damage caused by the YSRCP rule between 2019-24 is greater than the damage caused by the division of the state. He said that to save the state from that destruction, CM Chandrababu, Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan and Prime Minister Modi are taking the state back to its feet with the help of Prime Minister Modi.

He criticized Jagan for trying to create destruction again when the state's economy is in a slump. He called on the people to build a political grave for this 'axe party', which has abandoned the YSRCP flag and adopted the 'axe' as its flag, and to permanently expel such a fanatical party from the state.

Endowments Assistant Commissioner Shanti suspended in disproportionate assets case

They seized incriminating documents and unearthed assets, including a residential flat in Visakhapatnam, a G 2 building at Kunchanapalli, 776 grams of gold ornaments, nearly 3 kg of silver articles, cash worth Rs 1.15 lakh, bank balances of about Rs 3 lakh, a car, a motorcycle, and electronic gadgets.

Following the searches, the ACB registered a Disproportionate Assets (DA) case against the Assistant Commissioner under the Prevention of Corruption Act. The anti-graft agency took the action following information that she allegedly amassed wealth beyond her known sources of income.

This is the second time that Shanti has been suspended in two years.

She was appointed as Assistant Commissioner in the Endowments Department through the Andhra Pradesh State Public Service Commission (APPSC) in 2020, and worked in Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada.

After the TDP-led coalition government came to power in 2024, Shanti was suspended for over an allegation of irregularities.

She was under suspension from July 2024 to March 2026.

The Endowments Department had initiated a departmental inquiry into the allegations against Shanti. The government had seriously taken the allegations against Shanti, including her recruitment procedure itself.

The suspension was lifted last month, and she was waiting for a posting.

Vijay Sai Reddy to turn Media baron soon!

be launching a digital media platform for news in Telugu, Hindi, and English. This platform will be balanced, unbiased, and committed to the truth."

He said his aim is to give a voice to the people and highlight real issues that matter to the common man, women, youth, farmers, workers, and the underprivileged.

"The platform will remain independent and will not align with any political party. After a successful launch, we also plan to launch a Telugu satellite news channel with the same vision and values. The name of the plat-

form will be announced soon. Stay tuned," he added. Sai Reddy, a chartered accountant by profession, joined the YSR Congress Party and became a Rajya Sabha member in 2016, securing a second term in 2022.

However, he resigned from his post prematurely in January last year, announcing his withdrawal from politics.

Set for take-off: How Bhogapuram International Airport

sector. For instance, we have proposed a Ring Road from Atchutapuram to Rambili. For employees who work at ArcelorMittal or Blue Jet Healthcare, this would ease travel." But everyday travellers may stand just as much to gain. "We are considering AC shuttle buses to and from the airport, similar to the network at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Hyderabad," the Chairman said.

One of the defining aspects of the Bhogapuram International Airport project is its integration with multiple transport networks. The airport is planned to function as a multi-modal connectivity hub by linking air travel with road, rail, and port infrastructure across the region. Additionally, a proposed coastal corridor is expected to strengthen logistics and north-south mobility along the Andhra Pradesh coastline.

As the airport is expected to boost tourism, the coastal corridor is also set to become a tourist hotspot. "We are acquiring about 40 sq km worth of land on the Kailasagiri-Bheemili stretch to develop as 'Bay City' as the Bhogapuram International Airport brings international tourists to Vizag. In fact, we plan to launch a Trishul on Kailasagiri soon, at a height of 65 meters," added Pranav Gopal.

While serving North Coastal Andhra, the Bhogapuram International Airport is expected to function as a convenient international gateway for neighbouring regions outside the state as well. Parts of South Odisha and southern Chhattisgarh, particularly along the Raipur-Visakhapatnam corridor, could benefit from the airport's connectivity.

For people living in smaller towns in the region, access to global markets, educational opportunities, and tourism destinations. For travellers and businesses in these areas, Bhogapuram may strengthen cross-border mobility and trade flows. For youth, the airport offers employment opportunities. "The aerocity being built around Bhogapuram is majorly facilitating skill development among unemployed youth. It is also encouraging more IT companies to look at Andhra as a talent pool," the VMRDA Chairman remarked.

The Bhogapuram International Airport project by GMR also aligns with broader policy frameworks aimed at transforming Andhra Pradesh into a major economic growth centre. The state government's Swarna Andhra 2047 vision and NITI Aayog's roadmap for the Visakhapatnam Economic Region (VER) both emphasise infrastructure-led development as a driver of regional prosperity.

Currently on the onset of its big launch, Bhogapuram International Airport plays a key role in this vision by enhancing aviation capacity, spurring industrial progress, and bringing economic reform through real estate investments.

The government's goal is to protect public health

provide relief to kidney patients.

The Minister clarified that the 'Universal Health Scheme' will soon be implemented to provide free medical care up to Rs 25 lakh to every family, and that Andhra Pradesh is the only state providing free medical care on such a large scale. Speaking on the occasion, District Collector Abhishek Kishore said that it is heartening to see the availability of cutting-edge technology in government hospitals, no less than corporate hospitals. He said that this will play a key role in providing quality medical services to the people. He congratulated the hospital management for providing this equipment. He also thanked the state government and district administration for their cooperation in this program. He expressed hope that Andhra Pradesh should be at the forefront of all sectors in the country, especially Visakhapatnam should stand as an example in the health sector. He said that Visakhapatnam has achieved another milestone in the field of pulmonary medicine with this new device. He said that there is a need to utilize this facility effectively, conduct a large number of tests and treatments, and spread best practices across the state.

Similarly, he said that the district administration will work to mobilize more resources through CSR and provide necessary facilities in hospitals. For this, he suggested that doctors and related organizations prepare a list of their needs.

He said that steps will be taken to further develop Visakhapatnam as a global city through partnerships with domestic and international organizations. NTR Medical Service Chairman Seethamraju Sudhakar, Ravi Kumar, Dr. Pullarao, Chest Hospital Superintendent Sunil Kumar, Andhra Medical College Principal Dr. Sandhyarani, KGH Superintendent Dr. Vani, DMHO Dr. Jagadishwar Rao, Dr. Ramesh, other medical experts and staff participated in this program.

Vishnu Institute bags 'Best Engineering College Award'



Bhimavaram: Apr 12
Vishnu Institute of Technology has been conferred the prestigious "Best Engineering College Award" at the ISTE Andhra Pradesh Section Awards 2025 held at Aditya Institute of Technology and Management on April 10. The award was presented by Prof. G. Ranga Janardhana, Chairman of the ISTE AP Section, and Prof. B. Eswara Reddy, Honorary Secretary, in recognition of the institu-

tion's excellence in technical education. Principal Dr. Manga Venu attributed the achievement to the collective efforts of the faculty, students, placement cell, and administrative staff. He stated that the institution has been consistently focusing on delivering quality education, promoting research and innovation, and ensuring the holistic development of students. Describing the recognition as a proud moment, he said the award would serve as a

motivation for the college to scale greater heights in the future. He also expressed gratitude to the management for its continuous support and guidance. Vice Principal Prof. M. Sri Lakshmi, along with Deans, Heads of Departments, faculty members, supporting staff, and students, expressed their happiness over the achievement and extended their best wishes for the institution's continued success.

Inter-state gold shop thief held



Tirupati: Apr 12

The district police have solved a jewelry shop robbery that took place in Sullurupeta and arrested an interstate thief with a long criminal history. They also recovered 12 gold chains weighing 112 grams, valued at Rs 14 lakh, and the scooter used in the crime.

According to police, the accused entered Sri Venkateswara Jewellers in Sullurupeta on March 14 in the guise of buying gold chains, threw chili powder into the owner's eyes, and escaped with 12 gold chains. District SP L. Subba Rayudu ordered a special investigation. The probe was led by district crime Additional SP A. Srinivasulu and Naidupeta DSP G. Chenchu Babu, with special teams formed under the supervision of Sullurupeta CI M. Murali Krishna and other officers. Based on the information gathered by the teams, police detained Velmurugan Babu (Pulsar Babu) (35), a resident of Kumaran Nagar, Thondiarpeta, Chennai. During interrogation, he confessed to the crime. Officials informed that the accused has a criminal record of about 10 years and involved in 24 cases in Tamil Nadu and Tirupati district, including Puttur and Srikalahasti, with several NBWs pending against him.

House site pattas distributed to 62 families



Anantapur: Apr 12

Rayadurg MLA and Government Whip Kalava Srinivasulu distributed house site pattas to 62 economically weaker families in N Hanumapuram village of Kanekal mandal on Saturday.

Officials stated that eligible landless families were allotted three cents of land each, registered in the names of women beneficiaries, reflecting the government's focus on women-centric welfare measures and housing security for the underprivileged. Addressing the gathering, MLA Srinivasulu announced initiation of a long-pending drinking water pipeline project in the vil-

lage, with an estimated cost of Rs 18 lakh, aimed at providing a permanent solution to water scarcity. He further noted that the government has allocated 52 TMC of water to the district and earmarked a special budget for Bhairavanitippa project to ensure water security for farmers and residents. He also highlighted the ongoing efforts by both Central and State governments to promote women empowerment through welfare schemes and the proposed 33% reservation for women.

Responding to local demands, the MLA assured that drainage and soak pit works would be undertaken under the VG Ramji scheme.

Siberian migratory birds transform Gargayapuram tank



Kurnool: Apr 12

Gargayapuram tank on the outskirts of Kurnool has witnessed a remarkable arrival of migratory birds from the distant region of Siberia, turning the water body into a vibrant seasonal habitat. Thousands of these birds, known for their colourful plumage and long-distance travel, have flocked to the area, creating a visually captivating scene and drawing the attention of nature lovers and visitors.

The tank, located near a developing urban forest and boating facility, has increasingly become a preferred leisure destination for city residents. Visitors, especially during holidays, are thronging the site to witness the rare congregation of these birds. While traditional birding hotspots such as Kolleru Lake, Pulicat Lake, and Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary continue to host migratory species, Gargayapuram is steadily gaining prominence. The migratory birds undertake an arduous journey of thousands of kilometres every year to escape the harsh winter conditions and food scarcity in Siberia. Traversing regions such as Afghanistan, Mongolia, and Tibet, and crossing the formidable Himalayas, they reach India in search of a warmer climate and adequate food, including fish, insects, and plant shoots. Experts attribute their increasing presence in Kurnool to favourable climatic conditions and a relatively safe ecosystem. Arriving around January, these birds use the Gargayapuram tank as a breeding site, where they lay eggs and nurture their young. Both male and female birds actively participate in protecting the nests and feeding the chicks. After completing their breeding cycle, the birds begin their return journey to Siberia around August, accompanied by their offspring. The growing influx of these migratory species has enhanced the ecological and tourism significance of the region.

BC Bhavan will be completed by next year: MP Mastan



Nellore: Apr 12

Nellore: Rajya Sabha Member Beeda Mastan Rao announced that the long-pending BC Bhavan in Nellore city will be completed by next year. He addressed the gathering on the 200th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule, organised by BC Welfare Department at Nellore Collectorate MP Mastan Rao has recalled that though foundation was laid for the construction of BC Bhavan in Nellore city with an estimated cost of Rs 5.4 crore, works worth Rs 70 lakh were completed till date for various reasons. He said Municipal Administration Minister Ponguru Narayana, and MP Krishnaiah have contributed Rs 1 crore, and Rs 1.25 crore respectively for the purpose. The MP has urged the district Collector to arrange the remaining funds for early completion of the building by Phule's birth anniversary

next year.

Earlier, along with dignitaries, he paid floral tributes to Phule's portrait and inaugurated the programmes by lighting the ceremonial lamp. Later, the MP formally handed over sanction letter of Rs 1.25 crore for BC Bhavan construction to Joint Collector Mogili Venkateswarlu. ZP Chairperson Anam Arunamma, Joint Collector Mogili Venkateswarlu, RTC Zonal Chairman Sannapareddy Suresh Reddy, former MLC Boodati Radhaiah, former ZP Chairman Chenchala Babu Yadav, District BC Welfare Officer Venkata Lakshamma, BC Corporation ED Nirmala, and leaders of various BC associations were present. Meanwhile, Endowments Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy, YSRCP leaders Kakani Govardhan Reddy, Parvathareddy Chandrasekhar Reddy and others paid tributes to Mahatma Phule.

Conference proceedings on quantum AI released



Vijayawada: Apr 12

The conference proceedings of the two-day international conference titled "Technological Innovations in Quantum AI and Deep Tech for Next-Generation Intelligence" were officially released at Dr RVR NRI Institute of Technology (Deemed to be University) at Potharappadu of Agiripalli Mandal in Eluru district on Saturday. The conference was jointly organised by the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Dr RVR NRI Institute of Technology (Deemed to be University), and the Department of Computer Science, PB Siddhartha College of Arts & Science, Vijayawada, on February 6 and 7.

Held under the 'Vibrant Advocacy for Advancement and Nurturing of Innovation' (VAANI) scheme of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), New Delhi, the conference aimed to promote the dissemination of technical knowledge in regional languages. A total of 28 research papers were presented by faculty members, researchers, and post-graduate students.

The proceedings have been published in both English and Telugu and are being made available free of cost. The publication carries an ISBN (978-93-343-7220-5) and a DOI, with each paper also assigned an individual DOI number.

Telangana, AP CMs condole death of Asha Bhosle

Hyd: Apr 12

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Sunday condoled the demise of the legendary playback singer Asha Bhosle.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy expressed deep anguish over the passing away of the National Award-winning artiste and Padma Vibhushan awardee. Asha Bhosle breathed her last at Mumbai's Breach Candy Hospital on Sunday. She was 92-years-old. The singer was admitted on Saturday evening, due to exhaustion and a chest infection. Asha Bhosle's extraordinary contribution to Indian music, marked by unmatched versatility and excellence across decades and languages, leaves behind an enduring legacy that will continue to inspire generations. Her demise is a significant loss to the nation's cultural and artistic fraternity, the



departed soul. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu posted on social media platform X that he was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of veteran singer Asha Bhosle. "A legendary and versatile Indian vocalist, she was the most recorded artist in music history. Her extraordinary contributions to the music industry spanned more than seven decades, enriching generations with timeless melodies. A recipient of the Padma Vibhushan, her legacy will remain an integral part of India's musical heritage and will continue to resonate through the ages. Heartfelt condolences to

her family, friends, and admirers across the world," Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu said. Union Minister for Coal and Mines, G. Kishan Reddy, also posted on social media that he is deeply saddened by the passing of Asha Bhosle, one of India's most iconic and versatile voices. "Her extraordinary contribution to Indian music spans decades, transcending generations and linguistic boundaries. Through her evergreen songs, she brought joy, emotion, and cultural richness to millions across the nation and the world. My heartfelt condolences to her family, friends, and well-wishers," he wrote.

SCRWWO Vijayawada holds seminar on women's health



Vijayawada, Apr 12

The South Central Railway Women's Welfare Organisation (SCRWWO), Vijayawada Division, organised a seminar on women's health and well-being with a special focus on mental wellness at the Railway Auditorium in Vijayawada on Saturday. The programme saw active participation from women employees across the division and highlight-

ed the growing importance of mental health in today's fast-paced work environment. Delivering the keynote address, Dr Bhavani Prakash, Rehabilitation Psychologist, emphasised the importance of daily self-care and emotional well-being. SCRWWO Vijayawada Division President Vensha Sonakiya said the seminar was not just an event but an opportunity for women

to reconnect with themselves. She stressed that mental well-being is a necessity and encouraged participants to actively engage in such initiatives. During the programme, 15 women employees were honoured with meritorious awards for their exemplary service. SCRWWO Secretary Niharika, Vice President B Veena Chandana Konda and other executive members were present.

Andhra Endowments Assistant Commissioner suspended in disproportionate assets case

Nellore: Apr 12

The Andhra Pradesh government has suspended an Assistant Commissioner in the Endowments Department following her arrest in a disproportionate assets case. The orders for Kalingiri Shanti's suspension were issued by Commissioner K. Ramchandramohan, official sources said on Sunday. The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) had arrested Shanti on April 7 after simultaneous raids at premises linked to her. She was found to have amassed assets worth Rs 1.37 crore, disproportionate to her known sources of income.

The same day, a court in Vijayawada sent her to judicial custody till April 21. As per the government rules, any employee detained in custody for more than 48 hours on a criminal charge is deemed suspended.

ACB officials conducted searches for 10 hours in different locations, including Tadepalli, Undavalli, and Visakhapatnam. They seized incriminating documents and unearthed assets, including a residential flat in Visakhapatnam, a G+2 building at Kunchanapalli, 776 grams of gold ornaments, nearly 3 kg of silver articles, cash worth Rs 1.15 lakh, bank balances of about Rs 3 lakh, a car, a motorcycle, and electronic gadgets. Following the searches, the ACB registered a Disproportionate Assets (DA) case against the Assistant Commissioner under the Prevention of Corruption Act. The anti-graft agency took the action following information that she allegedly amassed wealth beyond her known sources of



income. This is the second time that Shanti has been suspended in two years. She was appointed as Assistant Commissioner in the Endowments Department through the Andhra Pradesh State Public Service Commission (APPSC) in 2020, and worked in Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada. After the TDP-led coalition government came to power in 2024, Shanti was suspended for over an allegation of irregularities. She was under suspension from July 2024 to March 2026. The Endowments Department had initiated a departmental inquiry into the allegations against Shanti. The government had seriously taken the allegations against Shanti, including her recruitment procedure itself. The suspension was lifted last month, and she was waiting for a posting.

SKYLINE

Monday 13.4.2026

Low Rate Era

Primary & Secondary Schooling (K-12)
The signal from the Reserve Bank of India is subtle but consequential: India may be settling into an extended phase of relatively low interest rates. This is not the exuberant easing of a crisis response, nor the defensive tightening of an inflation scare. It is something more structural – a reflection of an economy that, for now, appears stable enough to sustain growth without the discipline of high borrowing costs. At first glance, the reasoning is straightforward.

Inflation remains within the central bank's tolerance band, growth projections remain respectable, and financial transmission from policy rates to bank lending is functioning with reasonable efficiency. Under Governor Sanjay Malhotra, the RBI is effectively signalling that the traditional triggers for rate hikes are absent. But the deeper implication lies elsewhere. A low-rate environment over the medium to long term suggests that India's economic management is increasingly confident about its internal balance between growth and price stability.

This confidence is not accidental. It is built on years of fiscal calibration, supply-side interventions, and a more credible monetary policy framework that has, since the adoption of inflation targeting, anchored expectations more firmly. This also reflects a quiet shift in savings behaviour, as lower deposit returns may push households towards equities, real estate, or alternative assets in search of higher yields. Yet, the RBI's stance is carefully hedged. The emphasis on a "neutral" position is not mere caution; it is an acknowledgment that India's macroeconomic stability is still vulnerable to forces beyond its control.

The recent volatility in global energy markets, driven by geopolitical tensions in West Asia, underscores how quickly imported inflation can disrupt domestic calculations. Oil prices, currency pressures, and trade disruptions remain variables that no central bank can fully domesticate. This creates an interesting paradox. Domestically, the case for low rates is strengthening. Globally, the case for caution persists. The result is a policy posture that is accommodative in direction but conservative in commitment. For businesses and investors, this has tangible consequences. Cheap capital, if sustained, lowers the threshold for investment and risk-taking.

It can revive credit cycles, support infrastructure expansion, and make long-gestation projects more viable. For households, it sustains affordability in housing and consumption. But there is also a less visible effect: prolonged low rates can dull financial discipline, encouraging leverage and misallocation if not matched by productivity gains. The more strategic reading, therefore, is not that low rates are guaranteed, but that they are increasingly the baseline ~ subject to interruption rather than reversal. The RBI is not promising cheap money; it is signalling that, barring external shocks, India no longer needs expensive money to keep its economy in check. That distinction matters. It marks a shift from crisis management to structural confidence. Whether that confidence proves durable will depend less on domestic policy and more on how the world beyond India's borders behaves.

How do you know how food tastes? Your palate needs salt to make sense of what you're eating. Asha Bhosle's voice was like salt - 'namak'. To say there'll be no artist worth her salt is a truism.

For every stage of love, there was an Asha Bhosle song.

Attraction: Aaiye Meharbaan (Howrah Bridge)

Infatuation: Chura Liya Hai Tumne Jo Dil Ko (Yaadon Ki Baaraat)

Attachment: Abhi Na Jao Chhod Kar (Hum Dono)

Trust: Yeh Vaada Raha (Yeh Vaada Raha)

Worship: In Ankhon Ki Masti (Umraro Jaan)

Obsession: Piya Tu Ab To Aaja (Caravan)

Death/Surrender: Mera Kuch Saaman (Ijaazat)

Sassy, bold, seductive, playful, haunting, grieving, and soulful, Asha Bhosle could mould her voice in every way possible. Always the one to take the road not taken, she could do it all and be all.

"Mujhe film line mein 82 saal ho gaye hain. Abhi ye ichha hai gaate-gaate mera dum nikle. Mujhe sabse zyada khushi hogi main gaate-gaate jaaoon," Asha Bhosle said on her first podcast Couple of Things in 2025.

On April 12, the voice that entertained generations of music lovers fell silent.

Asha Bhosle died on Sunday at Mumbai's Breach Candy Hospital following multiple organ failure.

Asha Bhosle was born on September 8, 1933 in Sangli, Maharashtra, to renowned singer Deenanath Mangeshkar and Shevanti Mangeshkar.

Asha Bhosle was the third child of the couple, younger to melody queen Lata Mangeshkar and Meena Khadikar, and elder to Usha Mangeshkar and Hridayanath Mangeshkar.

"Asha Bhosle Died Due To Multiple Organ Failure": Breach Candy Hospital

Viral Again: Asha Bhosle Grooving With Mumtaz On Koi Sehri Babu. Watch

How Asha Bhosle's Iconic Piya Tu

Became A Dhurandhar Superhit

After their father died when Asha Bhosle was just nine, she and Lata Mangeshkar had to start working.

Asha Bhosle, who made her singing debut at the age of 10 with the song Chala Chala Nav Bala for the 1943 Marathi film Majha Bal, initially struggled to find her footing in the film industry, especially when Lata Mangeshkar was the first choice to playback for heroines.

If Lata Mangeshkar was 'Lata Didi', Asha Bhosle was 'Asha Tai'. She was pretty much the antithesis of what Lata Mangeshkar was not.

If Lata Mangeshkar voiced the morally-upright, 'pure' leading lady, Asha Bhosle broke new ground by churning out foot-tapping dance numbers featuring the vamp or the 'item girl' performing cabaret at a club.

If not for Asha Bhosle, Helen would never have had a voice. O Haseena Zulfonwari, Aa Jaane Jaan, to Ye Mera Dil, it is impossible to imagine Helen's sultry dance moves without Asha Bhosle's vigour and passion.

And, Asha Bhosle knew she had to do something unique to be able to carve her own niche in showbiz. If she could make you groove to Jawani Jaaneman and Dum Maaro Dum, she could make you miss your beloved with Jaaoon Kahan Jaaoon and Ye Kya Jagan Hai Doston. Chura Liya Hai Tumne Jo Dil Ko, Piya Tu Ab To Aaja, Abhi Na Jao Chhod Kar, In Ankhon Ki Masti, Aage Bhi Jaane Na Tu, to Ek Main Aur Ek Tu, the range she displayed in the love song genre alone was phenomenal.

"I thought to myself, if I will continue to sing in a similar voice to didi, then I will never get work as long as didi is in the business. I won't have a name and fame of my own. After this incident, I began to change my style of singing."

"I started to watch English movies to learn Western songs, observe how they would sing in English. I also learnt how to sing qawwali, ghazals, the voice modulations needed in different forms of singing. I started to learn it all," Asha Bhosle once said.

There were many comparisons and a lot of speculation about sibling rivalry, one that neither confirmed.

"People did carry tales and try to create trouble, but blood is thicker than water. I remember, sometimes both of us would be at a function and some industry types would ignore me and interact only with her, as if to prove their loyalty. Later, Didi and I would have a good laugh," Asha Bhosle had said.

Sai Paranjpye's 1998 film Saaz was reportedly based on the professional tussel between Asha Bhosle and Lata Mangeshkar, a claim the former rubbished. "It's not true at all. To have two women in long plaits, take a couple of incidents and exaggerate them into a three-hour film is such a waste of time," Asha Bhosle had said.

She eventually went on to create her own space, independent of her elder sister Lata Mangeshkar. Initially pegged as the dance number voice, Asha Bhosle loved challenges and loved proving people wrong.

During the photo installation ceremony of her late sister Lata Mangeshkar at Deenanath Mangeshkar Natyamandir Hall in Mumbai, Asha Bhosle broke down remembering her 'Didi' a few years after her death.

"She used to say, 'My blessings are always with you whether you come here or not. Mai, Baba and I are always there for you.' Now after her, whose blessings should I seek? Whom should I tell my troubles? We all have become orphans. She should have been with us guiding us for at least a few more years," she recalled.

After Asha Parekh, Sadhana, Rekha, the 62-year-old Asha Bhosle sang for Urmila Matondkar, 21 at the time, in Rangoela. She also gave chartbusters for 90s stars Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Karisma Kapoor, and Shamita Shetty.

Even in her twilight years, Asha Bhosle -- whose X bio read: "Singer since 1943" -- was never complacent. "No one is complete. It is always about how you can change or evolve with time. I've sung songs for the main artist and for the dancers as well.

shimmering pink saree and her signature pearl bracelet with glittering tassels, a jewellery piece that was a constant at all her live shows.

She commanded the orchestra like the boss lady she was with her unconventional voice that still holds sway over music lovers.

Asha Bhosle also tried her hand at indipop in the late 1990s and early 2000s, with several remixes of her songs such as Parde Mein Rehne Do, a move for which she courted criticism. But she gave banger such as Jaanam Samjha Karo with Leslie Lewis.

In 2006, she released Asha and Friends, singing duets, with Sanjay Dutt and Urmila Matondkar and former Australian cricketer Brett Lee, with whom she sang, You're the One for Me (Haan Main Tumhara Hoon). She was 78 when she her acting debut with the Hindi film Mai in 2012.

Just six years ago, Asha Bhosle made her YouTube debut with the single Main Hoon, dedicated to spiritual guru Sri Sri Ravi Shankar.

Asha Bhosle, by her own admission, was "the last Mughal of this film line."

In 2023, the singer said, "If you look at the history of the film industry, only I know about it. I know the life of every person - directors, producers, artists, singers, everyone. If I start talking, it will take me three-four days. There are so many stories. I have not forgotten anything. I am the last Mughal of this film line."

So long, Asha Tai.



I believe I could fit in well with anyone. But I wish I had sung more songs in different languages. I wish I could have done more classical singing," said the late singer, who was recognised by the Guinness Book of World Records as the most recorded artist in music history in 2011.

Asha Bhosle, who sang over 12,000 songs in as many as 20 languages, formed key partnerships with music composers, including OP Nayyar, SD Burman, RD Burman, whom she later married, Bappi Lahiri, and AR Rahman. A firm believer in destiny, the singer was also vocal about facing politics in her heyday.

"In every field, there's politics. In films too there's politics, so it is not easy. I believe a lot in destiny and I believe whatever is meant for me will come to me and what is not meant for me, I'll never get that. I faced difficulties but today when I look back, it all looks mazedar (fun) as I came out of it," she told PTI ahead of her live concert in Dubai to mark her 90th birthday.

Yet life brought its fair share of troubles. Asha Bhosle was just 16 when she eloped with her personal secretary, Ganpatrao Bhosle, and had three children with him. After enduring years of mistreatment from her husband and in-laws, she separated from him in 1960. She remarried her frequent collaborator RD Burman in 1980; they had no children.

There's a faint memory of watching Asha Bhosle live in concert on television in the early 2000s. She wore this

Ahead of Bengal polls, decoding the Bhadraklok's views on SIR

In Kolkata's social vocabulary, a particular group has long held a special place - the 'bhadralok', or what is often referred to as the 'madhyabitta' (middle-class). In English-language discourse, this social class was once described as the "middling class", and the term later evolved into the "educated middle class", sometimes simply called the "middle class".

During the colonial period, British officials, who first encountered this social group, referred to them as "educated natives." Like most modern social classes, however, the boundaries of the bhadralok community are difficult to define precisely.

In West Bengal, and particularly in Kolkata, the bhadralok have historically played a central role in shaping public opinion.

In earlier decades, the Congress party enjoyed considerable support among Kolkata's urban middle class, while rural Bengal leaned more towards the Left parties. Later, during the final phase of Left rule, Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee maintained significant support among urban educated voters, while Mamata Banerjee emerged as the political favourite in rural Bengal.

Eventually, Banerjee managed to expand her influence across both demographics.

However, in the 2026 Assembly election, a different pattern appears to be emerging in parts of urban Kolkata. In some areas, there is visible anti-incumbency after nearly fifteen years of Banerjee's government. Among

sections of the bhadralok, too, a certain level of dissatisfaction has become evident.

Their concerns revolve around several issues that have dominated political debates in the state, including the education recruitment scam, allegations of corruption in political campaigns, and the activities of the so-called "syndicate" networks involved in construction and local contracting. For many members of the Bengali bhadralok community, these controversies have created a sense of disillusionment with the present administration.

The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the voter list has added another layer of controversy. Some argue that the deletions disproportionately affect slum residents or minority communities in Kolkata, while others suggest that the exercise targeted illegal infiltrators, including Bangladeshis living in railway colonies or old refugee settlements.

Differing Opinions
Renowned filmmaker Arindam Sil said, "We are not against SIR, but we are worried about the abrupt huge deletion. Bengali cultural degradation is a wrong perception because there are good films Bengalis are still creating. Tagore's songs, dance and book fairs -- all are still happening. But deleted voters can't get hearings on tribunals. This is unthinkable."

Painter and renowned artist Samir Aich disagreed. "After the RG Kar and Sandeshkhali incidents, Bengali

culture has completely eroded. I do not subscribe to any particular party but, as a creative person, I think Bengal has lost its cultural glory in the past 15 years. Vote bank politics should be stopped. The SIR idea is good," he said.

Retired police officer Nazrul Islam also said implementing the SIR was a good decision and that the Trinamool Congress government in the state had "destroyed" the state's development model.

Banerjee and the Trinamool have argued that many genuine voters have been removed from the list and that the deletions do not affect only minority communities, but also a significant number of Hindu voters.

There have been several reported instances where academicians, teachers, professors, college students, and government employees discovered that their names were missing from the voter lists. For many people, the

process of correcting the records and re-entering their names has proven to be complicated. The SIR verification procedure requires filling out multiple forms and appearing for inquiries, which many citizens have found difficult and stressful.

The BJP has tried to counter these criticisms by arguing that voter list revisions have taken place in several other states as well, including Kerala, Assam and Tamil Nadu, without similar political turmoil. The party says the protests in West Bengal are largely incited by the Trinamool.

Banerjee, however, has argued that there is a political conspiracy behind the process, claiming that it is being used as a method to remove voters sympathetic to her party. In her campaign speeches, she accused the Election Commission of functioning as a political instrument of the BJP, an accusation that the saffron party has denied.

Voices Raised
As a result, two parallel currents are now visible in Kolkata's public discourse. On the one hand, there is genuine discontent among sections of the bhadralok community regarding governance issues. Many of these voices regularly appear in television debates and discussions across social media platforms. Among sections of the Bengali middle class, criticism of the government has been growing.

However, the SIR controversy has also caused discomfort among several independent intellectuals and professionals who do not align with the Trinamool Congress. For example, Dr Kunal Sarkar, a well-known cardiologist, and Professor Sukanta Chowdhury, emeritus professor of Jadavpur University, have expressed concerns about the way the process has been handled. These figures are generally regarded as free-thinking public intellectuals rather than supporters of any particular political party, yet they have voiced dissatisfaction with how the Election Commission and judicial officers conducted the SIR process.

Sarkar said, "It is terrible. The BJP should not advance its political interests through the Election Commission and SIR."

In the end, how all these factors will influence the final electoral outcome remains uncertain. As the saying goes, the final word will only be known when the results are declared.



port the body's defense system.

According to health discussions shared by Acharya Balkrishna, these nutrients help improve immunity and may protect against common seasonal problems like cold, cough, and fever.

The digestion hero: papain and the stomach-friendly secret

If papaya had a "superpower label," it would definitely be digestion.

The real hero here is an enzyme called papain. This natural compound is known for breaking down tough protein chains, which is why people in tropical regions have used papaya for centuries to tenderize meat. It literally helps soften food before it even reaches your stomach.

Inside the body, papain continues the same job by making digestion

The great papaya: a natural remedy for immunity and gut health

Papaya is back in focus after Acharya Balkrishna highlighted its immunity-boosting, digestion-friendly and antioxidant-rich benefits, along with key health facts and safety tips.

If there is one fruit quietly stealing the wellness spotlight again, it is papaya. And no, it is not just another "diet fruit" sitting in your kitchen bowl. This soft, orange wonder is suddenly back in conversations after a fresh social media post by Acharya Balkrishna, who highlighted its health magic on Facebook.

But what is really going on inside this humble fruit that makes it such a big deal? Let's peel it open slowly.

Loaded with nutrients: the tropical fruit with a long journey

Papaya comes from the Carica

papaya plant and has a surprisingly global backstory. It first grew in Central America and Southern Mexico, but today it is planted in many warm regions across the world. The fruit itself can grow quite large, sometimes up to 20 inches long.

Its outer skin tells a clear story of ripening. When unripe, it stays



green and firm. As it matures, it turns orange on the outside, while the inside flesh may appear yellow, orange, or even reddish.

Inside, you will also find many black seeds. They are edible, though their taste is quite bitter.

Nutrition-wise, papaya is loaded. It carries a rich amount of vitamin A and vitamin C, both of which sup-

smoother and easier. This is why papaya is often considered helpful for constipation and digestive discomfort. Some traditional practices even suggest its use for symptoms linked with irritable bowel syndrome (IBS).

In one older study from 2013, people who used a papaya-based formula for 40 days reported noticeable relief from bloating and constipation.

Interestingly, different parts of the plant like seeds, leaves, and roots have also been used in traditional remedies for ulcers and other conditions in both humans and animals. However, researchers still say more high-quality studies are needed to fully confirm these uses.

Antioxidant power and the safety side of papaya

They came. They talked. What next and where does this leave Pakistan?

The bad news is the highest level talks between the US and Iran in nearly five decades ended without a deal, which seemed a heavy lift even for the most optimistic. The good news is neither ended the cease fire and fighting has not resumed. Thanks for reading Kathy Gannon's Substack! Subscribe for free to receive new posts and support my work. US Vice-President JD Vance left Pakistan on Sunday without a deal saying



Washington has made its last and final offer, though with US President Donald Trump it is never clear if last really means last, or final really means final. Even as the talks were underway Trump seemed uninterested in the outcome saying a deal "doesn't even matter because the US has already won." It is a fool's mission to read anything into Trump's utterings, but given the unpopularity of the Iran war in America and the president's nosediving poll numbers, it may be that he has lost his appetite for the war and simply declares victory. Unsurprisingly the sticking points to a deal remain the fate of the Strait of Hormuz and Iran's nuclear ambitions, both for its domestic energy needs and possible future use for weapons production, something Tehran has consistently insisted it is not seeking. Iran also wants an end to Israel's assault on Lebanon, which unsurprisingly Israel has refused, even as Washington seeks to broker a cease fire between the Middle Eastern neighbors. Where does this now leave Pakistan? Pakistan has been walking an increasingly wobbly tightrope leveraging its military strength and its friendship with both its neighbors and the United States to get the two-week cease fire agreement and significantly a historic face-to-face

meeting between Washington and Tehran. That feat alone has been monumental and it still might pay off with a final agreement. The stakes, however, are high for Pakistan which has put a lot on the line to broker these talks. While its international reputation has soared, a resumption of the war could drag Pakistan, which leveraged its military strength to get folks to the table, into the war. Even as Pakistan was basking in the glow of having orchestrated the talks and was working the American and Iranian delegations to get an agreement, Islamabad was deploying its forces to Saudi Arabia. The deployment reinforces its security alliance with Saudi Arabia and risks drawing Pakistan into the war if renewed fighting brings renewed attacks by Iran on Saudi Arabia. The troop deployment was announced at the start of talks and by Saudi Arabia, not Pakistan, both of which seem significant and would seem a message to Iran and to its Houthi allies in Yemen that a resumption of the war will mean they will have to answer to Pakistan as well as Saudi Arabia. Effectively Saudi Arabia has activated its Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement with Pakistan. According to the Saudi Foreign Ministry announcement "The

Pakistani force consists of fighter and support aircraft belonging to the Pakistani Air Force, with the aim of enhancing joint military coordination, raising the level of operational readiness between the armed forces of the two countries, and supporting security and stability at both regional and international levels." The last major assault by Iran on its neighbors prior to the two-week cease fire agreement was against

Saudi Arabia. On April 7 and 8 a barrage of Iranian missiles and drones hit the Jubail Industrial hub, including the large Sadra complex. The attack hit Saudi Arabia's critical east-west crude oil pipeline, its key export route, striking at the heart of the kingdom's petrochemical industry. Even as Saudi Arabia intercepted several of the Iranian missiles the damage was extensive and reportedly cut Saudi oil production by 600,000 barrels a day. Saudi Arabia has now activated its security agreement with Pakistan and that means if the war resumes and Iran again attacks Saudi Arabia, Pakistan will be obliged to enter the war. Pakistan's air force demonstrated its prowess last May during a brief four-day war with neighbor India downing as many as five Indian aircraft, including three French made Rafale fighter jets before declaring itself the winner of the war. Trump who took credit for brokering the cease fire between the nuclear armed South Asian neighbors also declared Pakistan the winner. A resumption of the Iran war risks again testing Pakistan's air force and dangerously escalating the war, something it is hoped Iran would not want to see. Pakistan's strategic defense pact with Saudi Arabia may turn out to be the greatest bargaining chip or the deadliest.

Iran says talks marked by 'mistrust, suspicion'; breakthrough wasn't expected in single round

Acknowledging the absence of a breakthrough in the latest round of negotiations with the United States, Iran on Sunday said the talks were held in an atmosphere of "mistrust and suspicion," with no realistic expectation of reaching a comprehensive agreement in a single session. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said the two sides were able to arrive at an understanding on several issues, but critical differences persisted. "We reached understanding on a number of points, but key disagreements remained on two to three major issues, and ultimately the talks did not lead to an agreement," he said. Baghaei described the negotiations as the longest in the past year, stretching over 24 to 25 hours of continuous engagement—an indication of both the complexity of the issues and the intensity of the discussions. He stressed that the context of the talks made a swift resolution unlikely. "These discussions took place after 40 days of imposed war, in an at-



mosphere of mistrust and suspicion," he said, adding that under such conditions, "no one expected an agreement to be reached in a single session—and no one did." The remarks underscore Tehran's attempt to frame the outcome not as a failure, but as part of a broader, incremental process shaped by deep-seated distrust and recent conflict. While no deal emerged, the acknowledgement of limited convergence on certain issues suggests that negotiations may continue, even as fundamental differences remain unresolved.

Cyclone lashes New Zealand's North Island, hundreds evacuated

A cyclone battered New Zealand's North Island on Sunday, cutting power to thousands of residents and forcing hundreds to evacuate, as officials warned conditions would worsen through the day. A cyclone battered New Zealand's North Island on Sunday, cutting power to thousands of residents and forcing hundreds to evacuate, as officials warned conditions would worsen through the day. Authorities have placed several regions under emergency declarations and issued "red" level wind warnings, which are reserved for only the most extreme weather events. Authorities have placed several regions under emergency declarations and issued "red" level wind warnings, which are reserved for only the most extreme weather events. The cyclone was tracking "more towards the fringes" of the North Island, sparing Auckland — the country's most populous city — from the worst conditions, Emergency Management Minister Mark Mitchell said. But stronger winds and swells were still expected when it crossed the coast. "It's moved more to the fringes and

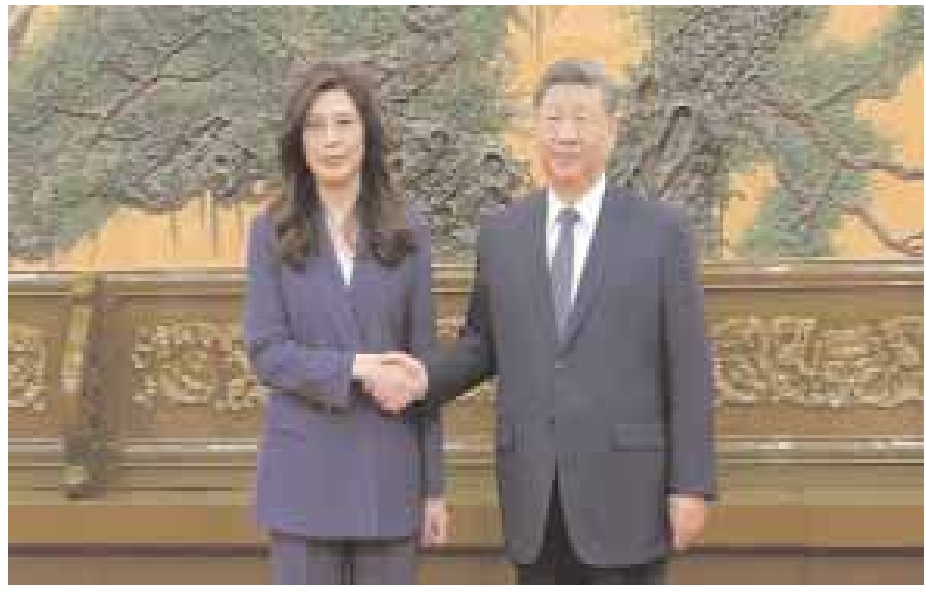
more to the east, which means that we haven't quite seen the intensity that we had prepared for or that we thought we were going to get hit with. So that is good news," Mitchell said. "In terms of what we're going to expect over the next 12 hours is we are going to see a bit more of intensification, as the cyclone starts to come down and get closer." The combination of the afternoon's high tide and large swells from the storm could trigger coastal inundation, Mitchell warned. "The concerning time is really from 2 pm this afternoon onwards when we've got high tides combined with those big swells," he said. The cyclone has forced hundreds of residents to evacuate and knocked out electricity to some 5,000 homes so far, with power restored to roughly 2,000, he



said. New Zealand Defence Force members and heavy equipment have also been deployed to assist with evacuations. MetService said it had recorded wind gusts of over 130 kph in some areas and 24-hour rainfall totals of over 100 mm (3.9 inches) in the city of Whangarei. Vaianu has conjured up memories of 2023's Cyclone Gabrielle, which killed 11 and displaced thousands in one of New Zealand's biggest natural disasters this century.

China offers incentives to Taiwan following opposition leader's visit

China on Sunday unveiled 10 new incentive measures for Taiwan, including easing tourist curbs, allowing in "healthy" television dramas and facilitating food sales, following a visit by the island's opposition leader. The move comes at the end of a trip to China by Cheng Li-wun, chairwoman of the Kuomintang (KMT), Taiwan's largest opposition party. She met Chinese President Xi Jinping and talked about the need for peace and reconciliation. The 10 measures, unveiled by the official Xinhua news agency, "explore" the establishment of a regular communication mechanism between the KMT and China's Communist Party, the full resumption of flights between the two sides and permission for individuals from Shanghai and Fujian province to visit Taiwan. A mechanism will be established to ease inspection standards for food and fish-



ery products, but that has to be on the political foundation of "opposing Taiwan independence", Xinhua said. Taiwanese TV dramas, documentaries and animation will be allowed to be shown as long as they have "correct orientation, healthy content, and high production quality", it added. There

was no immediate reaction from Taiwan's government. China refuses to talk to Taiwan President Lai Ching-te, saying he is a "separatist". He rejects Beijing's sovereignty claims over the democratically governed island. China and Taiwan have blamed each other for the lack of a resumption of large-scale Chinese tourism to the island since the end of the Covid-19 pandemic. Taiwan has also previously complained about Chinese restrictions on imports of certain agricultural and aquatic products, saying China has in some cases used unjustified excuses to stop the spread of pests and diseases.

US-Iran talks collapse in Islamabad; Vance returns without deal

High-stakes negotiations between the United States and Iran ended without a breakthrough in Islamabad on Sunday, as US Vice President JD Vance departed for Washington after 24 hours of intensive talks mediated by Pakistan. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, Vance acknowledged limited progress but confirmed that the two sides had failed to bridge core differences. "We've had a number of substantive discussions with the Iranians. That's the good news. The bad news is that we have not reached an agreement, and I think that's bad news for Iran much more than it's bad news for the United States," he said. Vance said Washington had clearly outlined its "red lines" and areas of possible compromise, but Tehran declined to accept the terms. At the heart of the impasse, he emphasised, was the US demand for a long-term, verifiable commitment that Iran would neither pursue nuclear weapons nor develop the



capability to rapidly produce them. "The simple fact is that we need to see an affirmative commitment—not just for now, not just for two years, but for a very long period of time," he said. Vance added that while Iran's previous enrichment infrastructure had been dismantled, the question of intent remained unresolved. "Do we see a fundamental commitment of will from the Iranians?" he asked, underscoring what he described as the central objective of the negotiations. Despite the deadlock, Vance said the United States had left behind what he termed its "final and best offer,"

leaving the door open for Tehran to reconsider. On the other side, Iranian officials struck a defiant yet measured tone. Esmail Baqaei, spokesperson for Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, described the talks as "intensive" and "wide-ranging," covering issues from the nuclear programme to sanctions relief, war reparations, and regional security, including the Strait of Hormuz. Baqaei said Iran's delegation had worked "without interruption" and remained committed to defending national interests. "The Islamic Republic of Iran is determined to utilise all tools, including diplomacy, to secure national interests and protect the country's well-being," he said. Baqaei also signalled that progress would depend on Washington's approach. "The success of this diplomatic process depends on the seriousness and good faith of the opposing side," he noted, warning against "excessive demands and unlawful requests." The spokesperson reiterated Iran's stance on safeguarding its sovereign rights, adding that recent national losses had only strengthened Tehran's resolve. Both sides expressed gratitude to Pakistan for hosting and mediating the talks, though the failure to secure even a preliminary agreement underscores the deep mistrust that continues to define US-Iran relations. With Washington returning empty-handed and Tehran holding firm, the prospects for a near-term diplomatic breakthrough remain uncertain, even as both sides leave the door ajar for future engagement.

Jaishankar begins UAE visit; Goyal holds talks with Saudi counterpart

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Sunday began his visit to the UAE, while Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal held a virtual meeting with his Saudi Arabian counterpart Majid bin Abdullah al-Qasabi. "We discussed strengthening India-Saudi Arabia trade relations, enhancing energy supply cooperation and advancing negotiations for a trade agreement between India and GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) countries," Goyal said. Jaishankar said he began his visit by interacting with members of the Indian community. "Spoke about the Government of India's efforts towards their well-being and security amidst the West Asia conflict," he said. He appreciated the contributions of the Indian community to local society during these difficult times, as well as the support of the UAE government in ensuring their welfare. Meanwhile, Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal posted on X



that another Indian-flagged vessel, 'Jag Vikram', navigated by 24 Indian crew members, successfully sailed out of the Persian Gulf region on April 11 carrying LPG. A day earlier, Sonowal had chaired a review meeting on port operations with senior ministry officials amid prevailing West Asia tensions. The minister also directed the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) to ensure transparency in shipping-related charges and reviewed grievance redressal mechanisms at ports, with instruc-

tions to strengthen them. He had said that India's major ports had cleared nearly 90 per cent of their cargo backlog. Indian ports have undertaken measures such as ground rent waivers, billing concessions, discounts on reefer charges and optimal yard utilisation to ease congestion and support trade, he had said. Major ports, including Deendayal Port, Jawaharlal Nehru Port, New Mangalore Port and Mumbai Port, have largely cleared their cargo backlog. A series of operational measures, increased yard capacities and improved logistics planning are said to have played a crucial role in achieving this. This comes as the Strait of Hormuz remains uncertain amid a fragile two-week ceasefire between Iran and US-Israel forces. The strait, which accounts for about 20 per cent of the world's energy exports, continues to see reduced traffic, though marginally higher than levels before the ceasefire.

India-UK free trade pact may come into force from second week of May: Official

The India-UK free trade agreement, signed in July last year, is likely to come into force from the second week of May, according to an official. India and the UK, on July 24, 2025, signed the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), under which 99 per cent of Indian exports will enter the British market at zero duty, while tariffs on British products, such as cars and whisky, will be reduced in India. "We are expecting the pact to be implemented from the second week of May," the official said. The two countries have also signed the Double Contributions Convention (DCC) pact to ensure temporary

workers would not have to duplicate social levies in either country. The official said that both pacts are likely to be implemented in parallel. CETA aims to double the USD 56 billion trade between the two economies by 2030. While India has opened its market to various consumer goods, including chocolates, biscuits and cosmetics, it will gain greater access to export products, such as textiles, footwear, gems and jewellery, sports goods, and toys. Under the pact, tariffs on Scotch whisky will be reduced from 150 per cent to 75 per cent immediately, and further lowered to 40 per cent by 2035. On automobiles, India will



reduce import duties to 10 per cent over five years, down from the current rate of up to 110 per cent, under a gradually liberalised quota system. In return, Indian manufacturers will gain access to the UK market for electric and hybrid vehicles within a quota framework.

Love Insurance Kompany(LIK) Review

Cast - Pradeep Ranganathan, S. J. Suryah, Krithi Shetty, Seeman, Yogi Babu, Gouri G Kishan, Shah Ra, Malavika, Anandaraj, Amritha Aiyer, Mysskin and others
Director - Vignesh Shivan
Producer - S. S. Lalit Kumar & Nayanthara
Banner - Seven Screen Studio & Rowdy Pictures
Music - Anirudh Ravichander



After establishing himself as one of the most bankable stars with three back-to-back successful films (i.e., Love Today, Dragon & Dude), Tamil hero Pradeep Ranganathan teamed up with director Vignesh Shivan for a futuristic romantic comedy. At the time it was announced, the film instantly raised expectations because of the combination of Pradeep Ranganathan, Vignesh Shivan and Anirudh Ravichander.

The expectations further increased when the team released the song 'Dheema Dheema', a few months ago. After getting postponed a few times for reasons best known to the makers, the film was finally released in theatres today. Did, Pradeep Ranganathan, score a fourth hit in a row as the lead actor? Did the director, Vignesh Shivan, come up with an engaging romantic comedy film? Did Anirudh Ravichander's music help the film become a hit? How did Pradeep and Krithi Shetty's pairing look on screen? Did, S. J. Suryah, excel in an antagonist role yet again? Let's figure it out with a detailed analysis.

What is it about?

What happens when a guy (Pradeep Ranganathan), who doesn't even use a mobile phone in the year 2040, falls in love with a girl (Krithi Shetty), who is a social media influencer and depends on social networking platforms to find her a right match, is the storyline of the film. Why did, Vasu Aka Vibe Vassey, not use a mobile phone? How did Vasu end up lending his voice to the social networking app, Love Insurance Kompany (LIK)? What happens when Vasu proposes Dheema? What challenges did the couple face because of the app 'LIK'? Forms the rest of the story.

Performances:

Pradeep Ranganathan did well in parts. After a point during the filming, it looked like he lost interest in the project. The lack of interest in him was to be seen at many places in the film where he just appeared blank and bland. S. J. Suryah is the only actor who has appeared totally involved. He did a decent job with his performance and entertained in a couple of sequences with his dialogue modulation. Senior actor, Anandaraj, with his comedy timing, generated a few laughs at a couple of places.

Yogi Babu generated a few laughs but his character irritates after a point. Krithi Shetty in the lead actress role looked good but her performance should have been better. However, it is unfair to blame her for not coming up with a good performance in a poorly written and executed role. Same goes with the remaining actors in the film. Almost everyone appeared lost and uninterested.

Technicalities:

Anirudh is known for taking the films to the next level with his music. But in LIK, barring one song, his songs and background score are underwhelming to say the least. It seems like he was excited during the initial phase of discussing the story idea and eventually lost interest. It is surprising to see him scoring a song which is almost similar to his own song 'Hoyna Hoyna' from Nani's Gang Leader.

Pradeep E. Ragav's editing was poor. At least twenty minutes of trimming would have made the film at least bearable. There were at least four sequences in the film that dragged on forever and irritated. Cinematography by Ravi Varman is colourful and vibrant but there's nothing extraordinary. The art and production design

team, would have done a better job. We can see their lack of imagination and originality in the ideas they used to build a futuristic world. Let's discuss the writer and director, Vignesh Shivan's, work in detail in the analysis section.

Positives:

1.? ?Dheema Dheema Song

2.? ?Pradeep's Performance In Parts

Negatives:

1.? ?Writing & Screenplay
2.? ?Poor Direction
3.? ?Lack of Emotional Depth
4.? ?Lengthy Runtime
5.? ?Anirudh's Music

Analysis:

An emerging star hero with three consecutive hits, a most bankable music director, an actress with a decent following among youth, a highly successful actor in an antagonist role, and an interesting storyline 'Love Insurance Kompany (LIK)', has almost everything needed to become a hit. However, the lack of ideas and imagination from the writer and director, Vignesh Shivan, turned it into a mess of a film that becomes unbearable to watch after a point. After a painfully dull first hour, the pre-interval sequence briefly offers hope for a better second half, but it doesn't take long to realise that the second half is even more tedious than the first half. Whatever has to go wrong has gone wrong for the film at the writing table itself and we see it throughout looking at the uninterested performances from almost all the actors and below-par output from all the technicians, including the usually reliable music director, Anirudh. Now, read the following - In the year 2040, a person who failed in a love, develops an app with the name 'LIK'. The app aims to find the most compatible match for people to get into a relationship. It also talks to people, follows their instructions and does things it is asked to do. In no time, the app ends up becoming super successful among all sections of people and goes on to become a revolution across the globe and starts to give competition for Google Inc. and other tech giants

in terms of revenue.

While reading the above description, you must have started imagining an app which is developed using some cutting-edge technology and with the most advanced features, right? But, what we get to see is an app that is a hybrid version of Alexa and existing dating apps like Tinder, Hinge, etc. It is so laughable to even think the director and his team believed to engage the audience with such a lame idea for an app and that too in the year 2040. Now, let's read the following...

Young kids who don't eat food without watching videos on mobile phone, people who are obsessed with 'likes, shares and comments' on social media, influencers who can go to any extent to make a viral video, paid meme makers who mudsling on people by photoshopping pictures, over reliability on the e-commerce apps, people who goes to retreats like 'Vipassana' to unwind themselves from excessive usage of social media and hectic work schedules, people depending on apps to find potential partners for dating instead of seeking real life connections.

Aren't most people doing all the aforementioned things these days? In fact, people have been doing these things for the last decade or so, right? What is the need for the director to set up the film in 2040 to show the above-mentioned things? It makes no difference to the storyline of the film, even if the director set up the film in 2026 or even before. The lack of original ideas, imagination and creative ability of the director is to be seen throughout the film.

Overall, the storyline of Love Insurance Kompany(LIK), has the potential but the uninspiring writing, screenplay, and direction, along with a lengthy runtime, made it a boring watch. In a film with a love story as its core point, it was surprising not to see even a single emotional scene that touches your heart. When you have nothing else to do, you may watch it when the film releases on OTT but it certainly doesn't warrant or deserve a watch in the theatre. In all probability, the film is certain to be a speed breaker for Pradeep Ranganathan's success streak at the box office.



Dacoit will leave you with heavy heart - Nag Ashwin

Adivi Sesh has become hit machine among Telugu young heroes and his new movie Dacoit has taken his career best opening. It is matching towards becoming his biggest blockbuster. The movie collected Rs.28 crores+ gross worldwide and team conducted a blockbuster success meet. Dircgof Nag Ashwin, Producers Allu Aravind, Bunny Vasu, Swapna Dutt, director BV Nandini Reddy attended the event as special guests.

Nag Ashwin stated that no one will leave theatres without feeling heavy and he stated that he has similar passion and love like Adivi Sesh. He too feels like there is not enough time to give the final best product even after 2-3 years. He stated that he will ask his team to watch it again. He remarked that Supriya was his senior in school and she is needed as a producer in Telugu Cinema. Allu Aravind speaking at the event, said, "I am thrilled to watch Adivi Sesh bring such quality content to



Telugu Cinema. His passion, work ethic and talent are admirable. I know producer Supriya Yarlagadda from her childhood and her penchant to deliver best is remarkable. They both created this humungous film. My only request to Mrunal Thakur is that please settle in TFI and marry someone here. You're our Telugu treasure."Supriya Yarlagadda thanked everyone who attended the event and stated that she wanted to bring back SS Creations, her father Surendra's dream and deliver a spectacular cinematic experience. She stated that she is extremely proud of Dacoit and thanked director Shaneil Deo, entire team for their hard work. Adivi Sesh said, "I am speechless to see big producers, legendary filmmakers, the people I looked upto as a kid telling me that I did something right. This film exists because of Supriya, no matter how many hurdles we faced she stood like a pillar of support. We faced numerous issues but today, I'm relieved and proud to say that this film took my career best opening. Dacoit is a love story between me and my team till yesterday, today, it is a love story between me and my audiences."

Melody Goes Silent: Asha Bhosle Passes Away at 92

Legendary Singer Asha Bhosle, who is regarded as the voice of Bollywood for her mellifluous vocals, has passed away at the age of 92 in Mumbai. She breathed her last in ICU after getting admitted to Breach Candy Hospital on Saturday due to cardiac and respiratory complications. The news was confirmed by her son Anand Bhosle on Sunday afternoon.

Asha Bhosle is one of the prolific singers of Independent India. Sister of iconic playback singer Latha Mangeshkar, Asha has the rare distinction for lending vocals to over 20 Indian and foreign languages apart from Hindi in her career spanning over

seven decades. She has recorded more than 12000 songs and ruled the roost during her heydays with an stellar career.

Born in 1933 in the princely state of Sangli (now Maharashtra), she started her singing career with the help of her sister Latha Mangeshkar at a tender age to support her family. She made her singing debut in 1943 with Marathi film Majha Bal. Later, she made her entry into Bollywood in 1948. At the age of 16, she married Ganpatrao Bhosle. She later married composer Rahul Dev.

Though Asha Bhosle initially inclined towards singing fast paced dance numbers of Bollywood,



she later diversified her talent by giving vocals to ghazals, traditional songs, pop music, folk songs, classical numbers and devotional bhajans. She even made her acting debut in 2013 with Mai. For her stupendous contribution to the field of cine-

ma, Asha Bhosle was rewarded with the prestigious Dada Saheb Phalke award by the government of India in 2000. She also become the first Indian singer to be nominated for the coveted Grammy Award in 1997. She was honoured with the much

revered Padma Vibhushan for her illuminating career. Asha Bhosle was officially acknowledged by the Guinness Book of World Records for recording most number of songs in its history. She also featured in BBC list of 100 inspiring women in 2015 and holds numerous doctorates from various universities. She was the recipient of several Filmfare Awards and two time National Awards for her works.

Some of her evergreen songs include Garibon ki Suno, Piya Tu Ab To Aaja, Parde Mein Rehne Do, Yeh Mera Dil, Le Gayi, In Ankhon Ki Masti, Tanha Tanha, Radha Kaisa Na Jale, Kahin Aag Lage.

Harish Shankar Finally Understood UBS Debacle: Very Good?

The first step of returning to success is by acknowledging the defeat and setback in the first place, and this is where several Telugu directors have been suffering from lack of reality check in recent times. This was precisely the case with Harish Shankar as well, considering that he had been of the assumption that Ustad Bhagat Singh was a big hit. Several times in the recent past, Harish had been commenting that Pawan Kalyan's fans had great words to say about the film.

This was clearly of the implication that he felt he made a good film, but certain audience did not like it, which is the exact opposite to reality.

However, Harish appears to have a significant check of reality as the same is to be understood from his latest comment. While taking part in a film promotional event today, Harish Shankar stated that it is a fact that his previous film did not perform as well as expected. I understand, the kind of public feedback that I have been receiving, and this is due to the failure of my previous film. But this



isn't something strange or unprecedented either as I had faced similar situations in the past.

I directed nine film till now, and I had gone through 19 films, which did not make it to the sets, Harish said.

The commercial Director added that he is going to collaborate with trending OTT platform, ETV win for an upcoming project. However, he will not be directing this film, and instead, he will be writing and producing it. Now that Harish has fully acknowledged the failure of Ustad Bhagat Singh, the expectation is that he would change his method of operation and enhance the kind of films that he makes in the future.

Big Tension for Akhil Fans Due To Kannada Hero

Akhil Akkineni's upcoming film Lenin has already faced many delays in shooting and release. After a long wait, the team finally announced June 26 as the release date. Even though the date was pushed far from the earlier plan, fans stayed calm and hoped that the film would come out with good quality. They believed that a better movie is more important than an early release. However situation is still not fully clear. There are reports that the team is again thinking about changing the release date. Two new options are being discussed. One possible date is June 4. But on the same day, Yash's film Toxic is also expected to release. Though it was officially announced, there are still some doubts about whether Toxic will come on that date. The production house



behind Toxic is currently facing several issues. There were problems with another film's censor process, and also piracy issues have created tension in the industry. Because of this, some people believe Toxic may get delayed. But as per the latest talk in Bengaluru makers are trying hard to release it on time. If Toxic arrives as planned then Lenin may have to stay on June 25 or 26. But another film Peddi is also considering similar dates. This creates confusion. If both films release together then it may affect box office collections.

Bollywood Heading Towards Repetition Again?

Bollywood is currently enjoying the success of Dhurandhar 1 and Dhurandhar 2. These films have attracted large audiences to theatres and earned strong box office collections. Because of this success, people in the film industry are now asking an important question that is has Dhurandhar 2 truly revived Bollywood, or has it started a risky trend? In the past, Bollywood has often followed a pattern. When one film becomes a big hit the. Many filmmakers try to copy its style. They repeat similar ideas. This approach usually focuses only on surface elements like action scenes or character types but ignores the deeper story that made the original film successful.

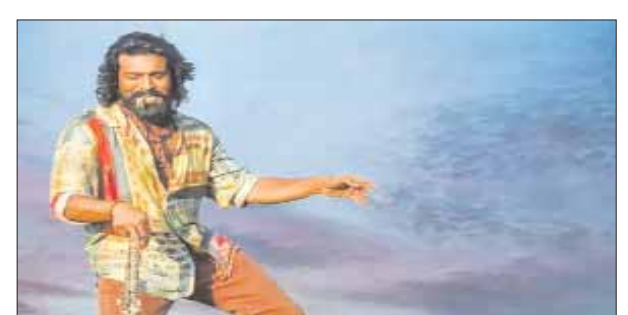
For example after Kabir Singh became popular several films tried to copy its theme. However they failed to connect with the audience because they lacked strong storytelling. Similarly films like KGF and Pushpa inspired mass action trends but not all films could match their impact. Big films like Pathaan and Jawan also encouraged the idea that large scale and star power alone can guarantee success which is not always true.



Many films that followed these formulas failed at the box office. Audiences today expect something new and meaningful. Repeating the same ideas again and again can make viewers lose interest. The success of Dhurandhar 2 is not just because of action or scale. It worked because of a strong script and good performances. These factors are not easy to copy. Simply following the outer style of the film will not guarantee success. The next one or two years will be very important for Bollywood. Filmmakers now have two choices : either follow the trend and make similar films or focus on original ideas. If creators bring fresh content, Bollywood can grow stronger.

Item Song becomes Headache for Ram Charan's Peddi

Mega Power Star Ram Charan is currently working on his much-awaited film Peddi. The movie is directed by Buchi Babu Sana, who earlier impressed audiences with Uppena. Expectations are very high for this film because of its big scale and strong team. However latest update about Peddi has made fans a little worried. The film's shooting has taken a short break. The reason behind this delay is the special song that was planned to be shot this week. The movie team wanted to shoot a grand and energetic song on a huge set. But they are still unable to finalize the heroine for this special appearance. The makers are searching for a perfect actress who can match the



energy and style required for the song. Reports say that names like Manasa Varanasi were considered. But the team is not fully satisfied yet and is still looking for a better option. Since this is expected to be a highlight song in the movie, they do not want to take any risk with the casting. Because the heroine is not finalized, the shooting schedule has been postponed. Meanwhile Ram

Charan has taken a small personal break to spend time with his family. Due to his absence the entire schedule had to be adjusted again. The shoot is expected to resume only after he returns. These continuous delays are now becoming a concern for fans. Many are worried that it might affect the film's release date. Also, delays can increase the production cost.

Logical Reasoning: Analogy

(For all Competitive Exams)

Defining Analogy Reasoning
Analogy reasoning involves comparing two items to draw conclusions. It identifies similarities and differences between the items. It allows individuals to apply knowledge from one context to another, aiding in comprehension and analysis.

By recognizing patterns and connections between seemingly unrelated concepts, analogy reasoning enhances cognitive abilities and fosters creativity.

Types of Analogy Questions in Reasoning

Letter-Based Analogy
Letter-based analogy questions involve determining the relationship between pairs of letters and applying it to a new pair. For example, if A is to B, then C is to D.

Number-Based Analogy
In number-based analogy questions, you analyze the relationship between pairs of numbers and apply the same logic to a new pair. For instance, 2:4 :: 6:12.

Image-Based Analogy
Image-based analogies require comparing relationships between different images and identifying patterns to find the correct answer. Analogy questions can be based on various elements like pairs of letters, words, numbers, or images. They test your ability to recognize patterns and relationships.

Alphabet analogy: A:B:: C:D (Letters)

Synonym analogy: Fast:Quick:: Big: Large (Words)

In a number analogy question, if the pair "3:9" is given, where the first number is multiplied by 3 to get the second number, then applying the same logic to "4" would result in "12".

General Knowledge Analogies
General knowledge analogies encompass a wide array of topics, testing understanding across various subjects. These analogies can span history, science, literature, and more, presenting a diverse range of comparisons.

To excel in solving general knowledge analogies, develop a strong foundation in different fields and enhance your logical reasoning skills.

Tips for Solving Analogies
Provided below are some of the tips for solving analogy reasoning questions:

Practice Techniques
Engage in regular practice sessions to enhance your analogy-solving skills. Dedicate time to solving various types of analogies to build proficiency.

Strategic Approaches
Identify the relationship between the terms in the analogy by breaking it down into smaller components.



Look for patterns, associations, or common themes that link the words together.

Elimination Method
Apply elimination strategies by ruling out choices that do not fit the established relationship. Focus on understanding the underlying logic behind each analogy.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q1. What is analogy reasoning?
Analogy reasoning involves identifying similarities between different concepts to draw logical conclusions. It helps in problem-solving by applying familiar patterns to new situations, aiding in critical thinking and decision-making processes.

Q2. Why is analogy reasoning important in problem-solving?

Analogies provide a structured approach to problem-solving by helping individuals recognize relationships between different elements. This process enhances cognitive skills, fosters creativity, and improves logical reasoning abilities for tackling complex issues effectively.

Q3. What are the types of analogy questions?

Analogy questions can be categorized into various types, such as letter and word analogies, number and numerical analogies, image-based analogies, and general knowledge analogies. Each type tests different cognitive abilities and reasoning skills.

Q4. How can letter and word analogies benefit problem-solving?

Letter and word analogies help improve vocabulary, language comprehension, and pattern recognition skills. By deciphering relationships between words or letters, individuals enhance their linguistic capabilities and develop a sharper analytical mindset for problem-solving tasks.

Q5. What are some tips for solving analogies effectively?

To solve analogies proficiently, it is essential to identify common patterns, establish connections

between elements, analyze relationships accurately, practice regularly with diverse analogy types, and maintain a strategic approach. These tips enhance cognitive flexibility and boost analytical reasoning skills.

Analogy in reasoning is a cognitive process and inductive argument form that draws conclusions about a target subject based on its structural similarity to a known source, functioning as a "resemblance of relations" rather than just surface similarity. It maps relationships across domains for problem-solving, learning, and decision-making.

Definition and Core Nature
Fundamental Definition: An analogy identifies that if two entities share several characteristics, they likely share others, transferring knowledge from a familiar domain (source) to an unfamiliar one (target).

Structure of Argument: It is generally framed as: "S is P; S' resembles S in being M; therefore, S' is P".

Nature as Inference: While deductive logic guarantees results, analogy is typically a "probable proof" or defeasible reasoning, meaning it offers plausible, not definitive, conclusions.

Relational Mapping: Modern cognitive science (Gentner, 1983) defines it as a structural alignment of relations rather than just shared superficial features.

Scope and Components
Source and Target: It requires a "base" (well-known domain) and a "target" (new domain to be understood).

Mapping: The process of identifying correspondences between elements in the source and target.

Types of Analogical Reasoning:

Literal/Relational: Focuses on matching relationships (e.g., A is to B as C is to D).

Empirical/Case-based: Used in legal or scientific scenarios where a precedent (similar past case) dictates the current ruling.

Evaluating Analogies
Strength: Depends on the relevance of similarities, the number of similarities vs. differences, and the degree of knowledge about the subjects.

Weakness: Too many significant differences, or lack of direct connection between the similar features, weakens the argument.

Applications
Problem Solving & Learning: Explaining abstract concepts (e.g., electricity as water flow).
Law: Legal reasoning via precedent.
Science: Modelling new phenomena based on familiar ones.
Logic Exams: Verbal, numerical, and image-based analogies assess-

ing cognitive mapping. Types of Logical Reasoning Analogy for Competitive Exams Here you will get to know about the types of logical reasoning analogy, analogy and non-verbal reasoning, types of analogy tests in logical reasoning and so on.

Concept of Reasoning Analogy
Analogy reasoning can be defined as the term used to compare two different things or find a healthy relationship between the two. There are options given in reasoning questions related to the analogy that might be or might not be associated with one another. As a candidate, you need to highlight the odd option out. These questions are often asked in several forms.

Here are some of its common types
Numerical analogy or Odd one out - A series of options are given based on certain patterns. Out of all the given options, one of them is most likely to be the odd one out. The candidate needs to pick that one out.

Numerical analogy or Choosing the same pair - Based on the pattern given, a set of options is given. Out of all the given options, the candidate is supposed to identify the same pattern options from the given ones.

Word analogy/Alphabetical or Odd one out - On the basis of certain patterns, a series of options are given. Out of all the provided options of the word analogy, one of them is most likely to be the odd one out. The candidate needs to pick that one out.

Word analogy/Alphabetical or choosing the same pair - Based on the pattern given, a set of options is given. Out of all the given options, the candidate is supposed to identify the same pattern options from the given ones.

Once the questions are solved based on the above-mentioned analogy types, the candidate gets a better understanding of all the concepts and is most likely to tick the right option.

Tips and tricks to solve analogy reasoning questions

Here is the list of tips and tricks used for solving analogy reasoning problems. Let's get started!

First and foremost, it is crucial to understand the overall pattern suggested in the analogy. If the candidate fails to understand the given pattern, he or she may fail to judge the options rightly.

The pattern base is followed for questions including numerical, squares, cubes, multiplication, addition, and so on. So make sure you're checking these patterns repeatedly.

Scoring marks in ques-

tions that are based on the analogy is easy as they are non-complicated and, most of the time, direct.

To solve these questions, having an understanding of basic static GK is crucial.

What Is Analogical Reasoning?
Analogical reasoning involves identifying similarities between different situations or concepts to make inferences or solve problems. It is sometimes classified as a sub-category of Inductive Reasoning.

Using analogical reasoning, we can draw upon existing knowledge and patterns to understand new or unfamiliar situations, applying solutions or insights from one context to another.

This argument exemplifies analogical reasoning because it involves observing one similarity between two distinct scenarios (i.e., two very different forms of speech that can both result in physical harm) and arguing for another similarity (i.e., that both should be banned).

Analogy-based reasoning plays an important role in problem-solving, decision-making, and creative thinking.

What is Analogical Reasoning?
Analogical reasoning occurs when we draw conclusions about a new situation based on similarities with a known situation.

This cognitive process is crucial to our ability to recognize patterns and apply existing knowledge to novel situations. However, analogical reasoning can be impacted by cognitive biases, or common irrational thought patterns:

Confirmation bias: Focusing on confirming beliefs may result in paying selective attention to analogical similarities and ignoring important differences.

Representativeness heuristic: Judging analogies based on their resemblance to prototypical examples may lead to overlooking nuance and variation.

Analogical vs Inductive Reasoning
Analogical reasoning is sometimes classified as a specific type of Inductive Reasoning, but some consider it a distinct form of reasoning altogether.

Inductive reasoning involves making generalizations based on specific observations or evidence.

Analogical reasoning involves identifying similarities between different situations to make inferences or solve problems. Both are forms of Implicative Reasoning, which is defined by extrapolating insights from one context to another, drawing connections, and identifying similarities between disparate situations.

In contrast to Deductive Reasoning, which involves deriving specific conclusions from general principles, all forms of implicative reasoning introduce new propositions that extend beyond the information provided in the premises.

Analogy Reasoning examples
Examples of analogical reasoning can be found in a wide variety of contexts, from academic and professional contexts to everyday life.

Analogy Reasoning examples in education
Cognitive processes are often compared to software for educational purposes, with neural networks being compared to hardware. This analogy helps people conceptualize intricate cognitive functions by framing them in terms of computational processes that people can directly observe and understand.

This use of Analogical Reasoning clarifies complex phenomena by presenting them in familiar terms.

Analogy Reasoning can also be used persuasively in political discourse to draw parallels between a familiar situation or concept and a more novel proposal.

Analogical reasoning example in policy making
Argument: Universal Basic Income (UBI) mirrors Social Security, providing a safety net for citizens similar to retirement benefits. Advocates suggest that just as Social Security ensures a basic standard of living for retirees, UBI could alleviate poverty, reduce income inequality, and promote economic stability for all citizens.

This argument is an example of Analogical Reasoning as it draws parallels between the objectives and benefits of Social Security and the proposed UBI implementation. In this example, the analogy facilitates understanding by framing the debate in familiar terms and makes an argument for a policy change more persuasive by making it seem similar to an existing policy.

Many aspects of everyday life are affected by Analogical Reasoning:

Decision-making: Comparing different options and predicting their potential outcomes based on comparable situations (e.g., deciding whether to invest in a new business venture by comparing it to previous successful investments)

Persuasion: Relating something novel to something familiar to make it seem appealing and easy to understand (e.g., encouraging a child to try a new food by comparing it to something they already enjoy)

Education: Drawing parallels between unfamiliar ideas and familiar ones to facilitate comprehension and retention (e.g., explaining the concept of fractions by comparing numbers to slices of pizza)

Creativity: Innovating by exploring connections between seemingly unrelated concepts or domains.

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ENACT Soft Skill: Bridging the Gap Between Thought and Action

In today's fast-paced, competitive environment, academic knowledge alone is insufficient for achieving success. Both students and professionals require a range of soft skills that enable effective interaction, adaptability, and efficient performance.

One such vital soft skill is ENACT, which emphasizes translating ideas into tangible actions, encouraging individuals to take initiative and execute plans.

ENACT refers to the ability to initiate, plan, and execute actions effectively, transforming knowledge, ideas, and intentions into tangible outcomes. Individuals with strong ENACT skills don't just articulate goals; they actively work towards achieving them, leveraging confidence, clarity, time management, accountability, and perseverance.

Importance of ENACT in Students' Lives:

ENACT plays a pivotal role in shaping students into proactive, responsible individuals. It fosters initiative, enabling students to take the first step in completing assignments, participating in activities, and solving problems, thereby enriching their learning experience. Effective time management is another benefit, as students learn to prioritize tasks, organize schedules, and avoid procrastination, leading to improved academic performance and reduced exam stress.

ENACT also promotes confidence and independence, as students gain practical exposure and self-assurance by implementing their ideas. For instance, organizing events, participating in debates, or leading group projects allows students to develop decision-making and lead-

ership skills. Additionally, ENACT enhances problem-solving abilities, as students learn to analyze situations, take action, and evaluate results, cultivating critical thinking and preparing them for real-life challenges.

Importance of ENACT in Professional Careers:

In professional settings, ENACT is highly valued by employers, as it demonstrates initiative, productivity, and innovation. Professionals with strong ENACT skills exhibit leadership qualities, guiding teams and ensuring successful task completion. This skill also enhances decision-making abilities, enabling professionals to analyze situations and act promptly, managing responsibilities efficiently.

ENACT also contributes to teamwork and collaboration, fostering accountability and reliability. Professionals who actively contribute to projects, suggest improvements, and implement solutions stand out, earning recognition and promotions. By developing ENACT skills, individuals can drive career growth, leveraging their ability to execute plans and achieve results.

Developing ENACT Soft Skill:
Cultivating ENACT skills requires consistent practice and self-awareness. Setting clear goals and objectives helps individuals focus on actionable steps. Creating a plan of action, breaking tasks into manageable steps, and avoiding procrastination also facilitate execution. Effective time management, accountability, and seeking feedback from mentors or colleagues further refine ENACT skills. Building confidence through small

achievements and maintaining persistence in the face of challenges are also essential. By adopting these strategies, individuals can develop strong ENACT skills, empowering them to bridge the gap between thought and action.

Conclusion:
ENACT is a powerful soft skill that transforms ideas into actions, driving success in both personal and professional spheres. By embracing ENACT, individuals can cultivate initiative, discipline, and responsibility, achieving academic and professional excellence. By setting goals, planning effectively, managing time, and practicing accountability, individuals can unlock their potential, moving beyond mere thinking to tangible action and success.

Dr. A. Harish Sharma MS (clinical psychology), MA, English, MCA, CFD(NHI California), CFN, CST English (Vidhya Bharathi sharadha dhamam).
MTIET Palamaner



Badminton Asia Championships: Ayush Shetty loses to Shi Yu, wraps up sensational campaign with silver medal

Shuttler Ayush Shetty's incredible run at the Badminton Asia Championships culminated in a runners-up finish after the Indian fell in straight games to second-seeded Shi Yu Qi of China in the men's singles summit clash here on Sunday. The 20-year-old Indian, ranked 25th in the world rankings, suffered an 8-21, 10-21 loss against the reigning world champion Yu Qi in the final here at the Ningbo Olympic Center.

With his silver medal finish, Ayush became the first Indian men's singles player since HS Prannoy in 2018 to earn a podium finish at the continental championship.

Ayush's win over defending champion Kunlavut



Vitidsarn of Thailand in the semifinal made him just the second Indian men's singles player, and third overall, to enter the Badminton Asia Championships final. A win in the final would have seen him emulate Dinesh Khanna, who became men's singles champion in 1965. Hailing from the small town of Sanoor near Karkala in

Karnataka, the 2025 US Open champion Ayush had a fairytale campaign, as he had registered major upsets in the tournament enroute to the final.

His giant-killing spree began in the opening round, where he stunned world No. 7 and reigning Asian Games champion Li Shi Feng of China. He followed it up with a composed win over Chinese

Taipei's Chi Yu Jen, ranked 20th, to book a quarter-final berth, where he delivered another statement performance by topping Olympian and world No. 4 Jonatan Christie of Indonesia before knocking out world No. 1 Kunlavut Vitidsarn in the semifinal. In the women's singles final, Korean star An Se-young defeated Wang Zhiyi 21-12, 17-12, 21-18 to win that one trophy she had yet to win among the major championships.

An, 24, Se Young became the first female singles player to cap a career sweep of badminton's majors – the Olympic Games, world championships, World Tour Finals, All England Open, Asian Games and now the Asian Championships.

Arjun, Aditya clinch India's first gold at US Open Pickleball Championship

Arjun Singh and Aditya Singh secured India's first gold medal at the ongoing US Open Pickleball Championship 2026, defeating top seeds Ryder Brown and Soli Messiri in straight sets in the U-18 boys' doubles category in Naples, Florida. The Indian pair dominated the final, registering an emphatic 11-1, 11-5 victory to outclass the favourites and clinch the title in their maiden appearance at the tournament.

In the women's singles category, Naga Moksha added to India's tally by winning a bronze medal after a closely contested match.

"This is extremely special for us; achieving this together is something that we and our family will cherish for a long time. We have worked very hard to make this happen and thank everyone who have supported us from back home. Most importantly, we are really

grateful to the Maharashtra Pickleball Association and the Indian Pickleball Association for this opportunity."

Arjun Singh & Aditya Singh said right after winning the gold at the championship. The 2026 edition marks India's first participation at the US Open Pickleball Championship under the affiliation of the Indian Pickleball Association (IPA).

Mega Free Medical Camp Benefits Hundreds in Garividi

By Skyline Staff Reporter Cheepurupalli (Garividi), April 12

A mega free medical camp organized under the aegis of Viswanharath Seva Trust was conducted successfully on Sunday, providing much-needed healthcare services to hundreds of people from Garividi town and surrounding villages. The camp was spearheaded by Trust Chairman Balivada Ramesh, whose efforts were widely appreciated by attendees and organizers alike.

The camp witnessed a remarkable turnout from early morning, with people queuing up to avail themselves of the free medical services. A team of experienced doctors and healthcare professionals conducted various health check-ups, including blood sugar tests, ECG examinations, blood pressure monitoring, and general health screenings. Patients were also given medical consultations and guidance on preventive healthcare measures.

In addition to diagnostic services, essential medicines were distributed free of cost to all beneficiaries based on doctors' prescriptions. Special attention was given to elderly patients and individuals suffering from chronic conditions such as diabetes and hypertension.

Several political leaders and prominent personalities graced the occasion and addressed the gathering, applauding the



ing, applauding the Viswanharath Seva Trust for its commitment to public welfare. They highlighted the importance of organizing such medical camps, especially in rural and semi-urban areas where access to healthcare facilities can be limited. TDP youth leader Ram Mallik Naidu and Youth leader Dr. Botsa Anusha, along with other dignitaries, actively participated in the programme. They interacted with patients and medical staff, expressing satisfaction over the smooth conduct of the camp. They emphasized that such initiatives play a

crucial role in promoting health awareness and ensuring early detection of diseases.

Speaking on the occasion, organizers stated that the primary objective of the camp was to extend quality healthcare services to underprivileged sections of society. They reiterated their commitment to conducting more such camps in the future to reach a larger population.

Members of the organizing committee expressed immense happiness over the overwhelming response and seamless execution of the event. They conveyed their sincere gratitude to Balivada Ramesh for his leadership and dedication, as well as to the medical team, volunteers, and supporters who contributed to the success of the camp.

The event stood as a testament to the spirit of service and community welfare, leaving a positive impact on all those who benefited from the initiative.



Simhachalam Chandanotsavam arrangements to be ready by April 16

By Skyline Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam, April 12

State Endowments Minister Anam Ram narayana Reddy has said that all arrangements for the annual event of Chandanotsavam will be completed by April 16. The Minister, who participated in a review meeting held at the Collectorate on April 11 along with Home Minister Anitha and District In-Charge Minister Dola Sri Bala Veeranjanya Swamy, said the normal darshan of the Lord would be stopped after 7 a.m. on April 19 to facilitate hassle-free darshan for devotees on the Chanda not-savam day on April 20.

According to the Minister, the auspicious day will start with the presentation of silk clothes by the fam-



ily members of Ashok Gajapathi Raju, hereditary trustee of the temple, in the early hours, followed by darshan of the Lord by VIPs. There will be a special darshan for the aged and the physically challenged persons. Devotees have been advised to visit the temple according to the time slot and park their vehicles in the allotted area. Each queue line will accommodate 21,000 devotees.

The Minister said volunteers should be identified for the distribution of buttermilk, biscuits and drinking water to devotees. Over 1.40 lakh devotees had a darshan last year, and the number would go up by 35 per cent this year, he said.

Anitha said that the officials concerned should take steps for the hassle-free darshan for devotees, keeping in view the past experiences.

61-day fishing ban to be effective from April 15

By Skyline Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam, April 12

A 61-day ban on fishing will come into effect in Visakhapatnam from April 15. Aiming at protecting the maritime life during the peak season of breeding, the ban prohibits fishing by mechanised and motorised fishing boats.

However, the ban does not apply to traditional and non-motorised fishing boats.

Meanwhile, the Federation of Indian Fisher Organisations (FIFO) has sought more aid from the government for fishermen during the ban period. As the restrictions pose a severe threat to the livelihood of fisher-



folk communities, the government should implement more inclusive policies to lessen the financial strain during the ban period. It demands a subsistence allowance of Rs. 20,000 for the women involved in the fish trade. The federation has sought extension of the 'Matsyakara Seva' benefits to all members of a

fishing family rather than a single unit. It also seeks the extension of the boat registration renewal window from two days to at least one week, while stressing that the government must provide a more robust safety net for vulnerable communities whose entire income depends on the ocean.

Grand swearing in ceremony of the new executive committee of the Builders Association

By Skyline Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam, April 12

The oath-taking ceremony of the new executive committee of the Builders Association, Visakhapatnam Center was held with great pomp. On the occasion of the election for the year 2026-27, the program held at the BAI Conference Hall in Siripuram on Sunday was attended by BAI National Trustee Cheruvu Ramakotiah and Past Chairman Dr. K. Kumar Raja as the chief guests. Mada Narayana Murthy as the new president of the association, C. H.



Mangapathi Rao as the vice-president, G. V. Subba Rao as the secretary, D. Suri Babu as the deputy secretary, G. Pothana Reddy as the treasurer,

Kashivishwaswara Rao as the BAI All India General Council members, P. H. K. Kishore, Imm.Past.Chairman Ch.Navneeth, Dr. K. Kumar Raja, P.

Satyanarayana, K. Venkateswarlu, A. Chinna Rao Reddy, G.V. Raviraja, J. Dhanuvu, Sudhir Ojha, S. Ram Gopal, B.V.S. Subbaraju, V. Srinivasa Rao, V. Ramulu, P. Vivek

Reddy, A. Manohar Reddy, G. Ramaraju, T. Venkateswara 8 were sworn in as members of the executive committee, while Dr.R. Venkateswara Rao, Dr.S. Vijaya Kumar, P. Murali Mahayeswara Raju, and G. Ram Mohan were sworn in as special invitees to the executive committee. Speaking on the occasion, President Mada Narayana Murthy said that this new executive committee will work towards advancing the goals of the organization and for the welfare of the members.

Housing Census in Andhra Pradesh from May 1; self-enumeration to start on April 16

By Skyline Staff Reporter Vijayawada, April 12

Andhra Pradesh will undertake the houselisting and housing census from May 1 to May 30, with a self-enumeration window scheduled from April 16 to April 30, as part of India's nationwide census exercise beginning April 1.

Interacting with The Hindu, J. Nivas, Director of Census Operations and Citizen Registration for the State, said the exercise marks a significant shift, as the Census will be conducted digitally for the first time. The introduction of self-enumeration is a key feature aimed at enabling citizens to fill in their own household details, thereby reducing the burden on field enumerators. Citizens can access the self-enumeration facility through the official portal, where they can log in using their mobile number, identify their location on the map, fill in household details and submit the information. A Self-Enumeration ID



will be generated, which must be shared with the enumerator for validation. Enumerators will continue door-to-door visits using the HLO mobile application, designed to function even in

offline areas. Any discrepancies in self-enumerated data will be verified and corrected during field visits. Houselisting blocks will be mapped using a web-based geo-referencing system to ensure comprehensive coverage. The State has deployed about 1.08 lakh enumerators, including a 10% reserve workforce. Extensive training programmes have been conducted, with district-level sessions already completed and further training for field trainers scheduled between April 9 and 22.

Highlighting data security, Mr. Nivas said strict safeguards are in place to ensure privacy, with no unauthorised access to individual data permitted. The population census is scheduled for February next year.

Mr. Nivas said strict safeguards are in place to ensure privacy, with no unauthorised access to individual data permitted. The population census is scheduled for February next year.

From Job Seekers to Job Creators – EMDP Program Inspires Students

By Skyline Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam, April 12

A District Level Project Expo was successfully conducted today at ZPHS Thotagaruvu in Visakhapatnam district, as part of the Entrepreneurial Mindset Development Program (EMDP), a prestigious initiative jointly organized by the Andhra Pradesh School Education Department, SCERT, and Udyam Learning Foundation, with the permission of the District Educational Officer.

A total of 10 projects selected from the state level were showcased at the district level expo. Students demonstrated their creativity and innovation by presenting prod-



uct-based projects with the aim of becoming future entrepreneurs. Through their models, they conveyed a strong message of moving beyond job seeking towards becoming job creators. ZPHS Aganampudi secured the first place, while ZPHS Vellanki secured the second place

at the district level. The program is being implemented for Class 9 students through weekly sessions conducted every Saturday in schools. It aims to enable students to identify real-life problems and develop creative solutions. At a time when most students focus only on securing jobs, the organizers



emphasized that the program is designed to nurture job creators who can contribute to the nation's growth. The event was attended by Mandal Educational Officer C.H. Ravindra Babu, Academic Monitoring Officer Lakshmi, District Science Officer Raja Rao, District Manager K. Naresh, and

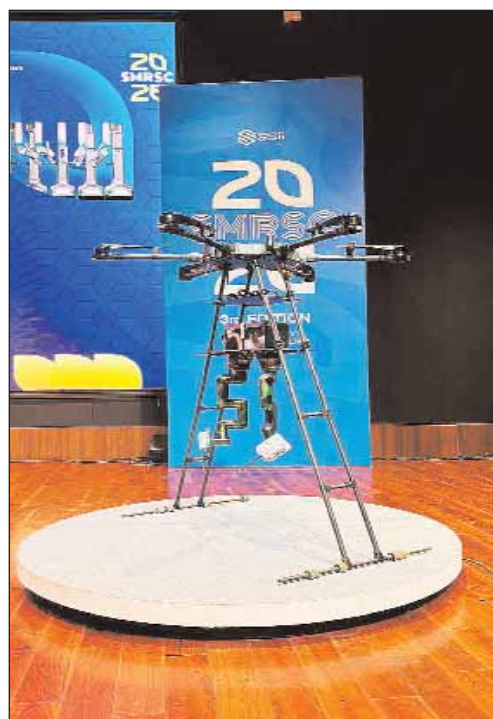
State Lead Sushanth. Jury members including DIET Lecturer Sridhar, Shrivani, and Nageswara Rao (Krishna College) evaluated the projects and finalized the first and second positions. The school Headmaster and teachers also participated in the program.

Breakthrough Defence technology SSI Vimana and Project Operion launched at the 3rd edition of global robotic medtech conference SMRSC 2026

Visakhapatnam, April 12., 2026: SS Innovations International, the maker of India's first and only home-grown surgical robotic system, SSI Mantra, successfully hosted the Third Global SSI Multi-Specialty Robotic Surgery Conference (SMRSC) 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. On the first day, the conference witnessed participation from over 1,500 doctors and 250+ leading experts from across the world, reinforcing its position as a premier platform for advancing robotic-assisted surgery and next-generation healthcare technologies.

Building on the momentum of previous editions, SMRSC 2026 brought together global surgeons, healthcare leaders, researchers and innovators to explore the transformative potential of robotic surgery, artificial intelligence, telesurgery and mobile surgical platforms. The conference featured live telesurgeries, scientific sessions, immersive technology showcases and hands-on experiences, offering a comprehensive view of the rapidly evolving surgical landscape. Over the course of the three-day conference, a total of 15 live telesurgeries and 14 live surgeries will be performed using the Mantra-3 and MantraAsana systems, offering attendees a first-hand view of advanced robotic surgical capabilities in action.

A defining highlight of SMRSC 2026 was the unveiling of two groundbreaking innovations that signal the next frontier in surgical mobility and accessibility. Taking centre stage, Project Vimana emerged as a game-changing advancement in battlefield and emergency medicine. Designed to deliver expert robotic surgical care directly to wounded soldiers in forward combat zones, the system is deployed via a heavy lift autonomous drone and lands near the casualty site. Equipped with dual 7-degree-of-freedom miniature robotic arms and advanced surgical instruments,



Project Vimana enables trauma surgeons to perform life-saving procedures remotely through the SSI Mantra Surgeon Command Center. From haemorrhage control and chest decompression to shrapnel removal and wound repair, the system bridges the critical gap between injury and evacuation, bringing surgical precision to environments where immediate medical access is otherwise impossible. This innovation represents a paradigm shift in emergency response, transforming how critical care can be deliv-

ered in high-risk, time-sensitive scenarios. Complementing this vision, Project Operion showcased the future of surgical infrastructure through a fully mobile, platform agnostic operating room ecosystem. Built on a wheeled chassis with Overhead-Integrated Robotics and a Zero-Footprint Architecture, Operion eliminates conventional spatial constraints by suspending all surgical components from an integrated overhead system. This enables 360-degree clinician access, real-time reconfiguration, and seamless deployment across hospitals, remote locations, and disaster zones. With integrated telesurgery capabilities and low-latency connectivity, Operion allows expert surgeons to operate remotely, expanding access to advanced surgical care across geographies. From defence operations to humanitarian missions and rural healthcare delivery, Operion transforms the operating room into a deployable, mission-ready asset.

Further strengthening the innovation momentum at SMRSC 2026, SS Innovations International unveiled a Single Arm Robotic Endoscopy and Ultrasound Assist Cart, representing a notable advancement in diagnostic and interventional robotics. Designed to provide stable, precise, and repeatable positioning of endoscopic and ultrasound instruments within clinical environments, the SSI Technologies Single Arm system brings robotic consistency to diagnostic workflows. Operating under direct clinician supervision, the robotic arm incorporates controlled speed, force limits, and predictable motion behaviour, ensuring safe interaction with both patients and operators. Its compatibility with standard hospital infrastructure and existing clinical workflows ensures seamless integration into established clinical settings.