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Attention, Mumbai Commuters!
Western Railway announces mega block on April 4-5



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Indian Navy's latest stealth frigate 'INS Taragiri' commissioned in Visakhapatnam

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India U20 goalkeeper Suraj Aheibam overcomes social media distraction



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Aridhaman is not just a word, it is a force: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh

From Our Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam, April 3: Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh described Aridhaman as not merely a word, but a force. On Friday in Visakhapatnam, he inducted India's third indigenous nuclear ballistic missile submarine, INS Aridhaman, into the Navy.

Speaking on the occasion, Rajnath Singh said that Aridhaman is India's third indigenous nuclear submarine. He expressed confidence that this will further strengthen India's sea-based nuclear deterrence capability.

During the visit, the Defence Minister also toured the Naval Science and Technology Laboratory (NSTL), which operates under the Defence Research and Development Organisation. He also laid



the foundation stone for a cavitation tunnel there.

Following INS Arihant in 2016 and INS Arighat in August 2024, INS Aridhaman has now joined the fleet. With this addition, India has entered the exclusive group of nations—such as the United States, Russia, United Kingdom, France, and

China—that can independently build and operate nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines. These submarines can remain underwater for months without being detected by enemies. In case of a nuclear attack from adversaries, they can deliver a strong retaliatory strike from beneath the sea. (Full details on pg 5)

The whole country follows one path... YSRCP follows another: CM

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, April 2: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said that granting legal status to Amaravati is a victory for the people. Speaking to the media on Friday, he stated that while the YSR Congress Party tried to destroy Amaravati, his government ensured legal backing through legislation.

He said that Amaravati receiving legal recognition in both Houses of Parliament is a people's victory. Around 35 MPs spoke in support of Amaravati in both Houses. Chandrababu thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah on behalf of 50 million people. He criticized the YSRCP, saying that while

the whole country follows one path, they chose a different one, driven by selfish politics even at the cost of the state and nation.

"Not against Telangana"

Chandrababu clarified that he is not against Telangana, calling it his "brainchild," as he founded the Telugu Desam Party there. He recalled that he had said he would take oath as Chief Minister only after seven mandals were merged into Andhra Pradesh for the Polavaram Project.

He stated that with his experience and central support, those seven mandals were merged, which was essential for the project's completion.

"YSRCP supported it earlier"



The CM said that based on the Sivaramakrishnan Committee report, it was widely agreed that the capital should be located between Guntur and Vijayawada. He explained that the region was chosen due to its central location, political and cultural importance, availability of water, and fertile land.

He recalled that even YSRCP had supported

Amaravati as the capital in the Assembly earlier, and that Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy had suggested at least 30,000 acres for the capital.

"Farmers gave land without taking a rupee"

Chandrababu said, "I had no money, but I had the determination to build a new capital." He recalled that after announcing the land pooling scheme, farmers

voluntarily gave 34,000 acres without taking even a single rupee, purely out of trust. He added that within 11 months, the Secretariat, Assembly, and High Court were constructed. He criticized YSRCP for creating controversy even over the "transit Secretariat." He said Amaravati has spiritual significance, as soil and water were brought from sacred temples across the country.

Amaravati to Get a PIN Code Soon

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, April 3: It is known that the bill introduced in Parliament to grant legal status to the capital Amaravati has been approved. With the signature of President Droupadi Murmu, the bill is expected to be published as a Gazette within a day or two. In this context, the Department of Posts will soon issue a new PIN code for the new capital Amaravati. With this, Amaravati will receive official recognition as the sole capital of Andhra Pradesh by the India Post. Responding on Friday to a complaint filed by advocate and social activist V. Ramesh Chandra Varma, the postal department stated that land has already been acquired for constructing a General Post Office (GPO) in the capital region. It added that a new PIN code will be assigned after the completion of the GPO, with approval from the circle office. The postal department also clarified that it will consider the suggestions made by Ramesh Chandra Varma regarding Aadhaar, passport services, and a dedicated PIN code. Until then, these services will continue through the existing sub-offices. Ramesh Chandra Varma stated that, in the context of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2026, this development is a crucial step in the ongoing efforts for farmers' welfare and administrative convenience.

Minister Nimmala Serious About Irrigation Department Officials

From Our Staff Reporter Vijayawada, April 3: Andhra Pradesh Irrigation Minister Nimmala Rama Naidu expressed serious concern over the functioning of irrigation department officials. He showed anger over their negligence in discharging duties.

The minister conducted a review meeting via video conference with officials regarding the preparation of estimates for works such as weed removal, clearing wild growth, and desilting of canals constituency-wise. During the meeting, he criticized irrigation officials for their delay and negligence in preparing these estimates. He questioned the Chief Engineers (CEs), asking when they would prepare estimates for works



that are supposed to be carried out in April and May.

He remarked that in the past, approvals for works scheduled in April-May were given only in June, and warned that such practices from the previous government would not be tolerated now. He advised irrigation officials to change their approach immediately.

The minister directed all Chief Engineers to submit

the estimates by Sunday evening. He warned that those who fail to meet the deadline would have to appear at the Secretariat in Amaravati on Monday and provide an explanation. He expressed concern that due to lack of proper canal maintenance—such as removal of silt, weeds, and obstructions—farmers suffered greatly over the past five years due to inadequate irrigation water supply. Minister Nimmala stated that after the coalition government came to power, funds have been allocated under emergency works to ensure irrigation water reaches every last acre. He added that canal repair works have been initiated under the directions of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu.

CM Serious about MLA Aravinda Babu

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, April 3: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has expressed serious displeasure over Narasaraopet MLA Aravinda Babu from Palnadu district. He warned that any actions damaging the party's reputation will not be tolerated.

Recently, Aravinda Babu created a stir after a person he had recommended was not appointed to a Legal Advisor post. He even staged a protest by sitting inside the Palnadu district SP office. The issue reached the attention of party chief and CM Chandrababu Naidu, who then instructed TDP state president Palla Srinivasa Rao to speak with the MLA. Following these instructions,



Aravinda Babu was summoned today (Friday) to the party's central office in Mangalagiri by Palla Srinivasa Rao. He was asked to explain his protest at the SP office. Palla Srinivasa Rao conveyed that Chandrababu Naidu was unhappy with the incident and made it clear that such behavior is unacceptable. He questioned why the MLA did not bring the issue of the Legal Advisor appoint-

ment to the notice of the district party president, regional coordinator, or himself. He also criticized the MLA for acting in a way that tarnished the party's image. The act of staging a protest at the SP office and attempts to damage the party's reputation were strongly condemned. It was clearly stated that strict action would be taken if such incidents are repeated in the future.

Jagan cannot move Amaravati even an inch": Ganta Srinivasa Rao

From Our Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam, April 3: MLA Ganta Srinivasa Rao celebrated the approval of the Amaravati capital bill in Parliament by cutting a cake.

On this occasion, he released statements made by former Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on various occasions regarding the capital. He said that Jagan's comments on Amaravati reflect his state of mind. The MLA remarked that no one in the world has made as many statements about Amaravati as Jagan.

He stated that Jagan had accepted Amaravati as the capital while he was Leader of the Opposition, but after coming to power, he



proposed the idea of three capitals. He also pointed out that Jagan did not attend the special Assembly session held on the Amaravati resolution.

Ganta Srinivasa Rao said that the YSR Congress Party was the only party in Parliament opposing Amaravati. He criticized Jagan for lacking consistency on any issue, saying that

earlier he spoke about North Andhra, and now speaks differently.

The MLA further said that even after the public reduced YSRCP's strength from 151 seats to 11 seats, Jagan has not changed. He mentioned that the foundation stone for a Google project might be laid before April 15.

He stated that Amaravati, the dream capital, has now been achieved. He added that people have witnessed the difficulties faced by Amaravati residents under the previous government. Finally, he asserted that with the President's approval, Jagan cannot move Amaravati as the capital even by an inch.

"Is it wrong to question erring police officers?": Perni Nani

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, April 3: It is known that a case was registered against former minister Perni Nani at a police station for allegedly making inappropriate remarks against the police during the demolition of illegal constructions in the Kobbari Thota area of Machilipatnam.

Responding to this, Perni Nani reacted strongly. He criticized the way district police officers' association president Jayapal spoke in a press meet regarding Thursday's incident.

He said, "It would have been better if Jayapal had watched the video of the incident before speaking. What actually happened there, and what did he say in the press meet? Perni Kittu, who contested the Assembly elections on behalf of the YSR Congress Party, along with corporators, came in support. Dur-



ing our government, we never demolished poor people's houses. But now, municipal officials have started demolishing houses in Kobbari Thota."

He further questioned, "You talk about maintaining respect—that's fine. But without knowing what really happened, how can you accuse us of body shaming? We never even mentioned that CI anywhere. We didn't take his name. Then how can you speak in a disrespectful tone?"

Perni Nani alleged that false cases were filed

against him and his son. He questioned who was seeking publicity and stated that he fights for the people, not for political attention.

He added that some police officers are making mistakes without fear and that not all officers are like Jayapal. "The police system has changed. If all officers work by taking inspiration from you, then people wouldn't even need to approach the police," he remarked. He also raised questions about the posting and transfer of an officer in Pamarru, asking why he was given a posting and then transferred to another district soon after.

Perni Nani emphasized that questioning a few erring officers in the police system is not wrong. He pointed out that Minister Kollu Ravindra had criticized police officers several times, asking why Jayapal did not question him then.

"Didn't you even feel a sting?": Vijayasai Reddy fires at YSRCP MPs

Amaravati, April 3: Former MP Vijayasai Reddy criticized the YSR Congress Party, saying it has neither clarity nor a consistent policy on the capital Amaravati. He expressed strong displeasure over the behavior of YSRCP MPs during the approval of the Amaravati capital bill in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday. He objected to the silence of YSRCP MPs when a Congress MP allegedly made derogatory remarks about party chief and former Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. Vijayasai Reddy directly questioned them, asking, "When a Congress MP spoke like that about Y.S. Jagan, didn't you feel even a slight sting?" He wondered whether YSRCP MPs had become mere silent spectators in the Rajya Sabha. He further criticized them, asking why they did not at least condemn the Congress MP's remarks. It is known that the bill granting legal status to Amaravati as the capital has been approved in both Houses of Parliament. The bill was discussed in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday and in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday. During these discussions, several MPs criticized the handling of Amaravati during YSRCP's tenure under Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. Vijayasai Reddy expressed anger over why YSRCP members in the Rajya Sabha did not respond or condemn those remarks.



Who Is Mofakkerul Islam? Man Arrested In Connection With Malda Hostage Case



Kolkata: A leader from Asaduddin's Owaisi's All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), Mofakkerul Islam, alleged to be behind the dramatic hostage situation in Bengal's Malda district was arrested from Bagdogra airport in Darjeeling district on Friday while trying to escape from the state. The arrest was made by the West Bengal Criminal Investigation Department or CID. A resident of North Dinajpur, Mofakkerul Islam, a practising lawyer, had fought the 2021 elections from Itahar Assembly constituency on an AIMIM ticket. "He has 3 million followers on social media page and he is an advocate at the Calcutta High Court. He fought elections from his hometown on an AIMIM ticket," Imran Solanki, AIMIM's West Bengal chief told.

Special Intensive Revision (SIR) for the Muslims. AIMIM gave him a ticket after seeing his popularity due to the work he did and the way he addressed the crowd," he added. Islam was also made the North Zone in charge by the AIMIM. Lately he has been inactive and wasn't given any responsibility after AIMIM's Bengal chief took charge in 2025. At least three FIRs were registered by Malda Police against the lawyer whose video of standing on the bonnet of a vehicle and addressing the protesters who had held seven judicial officers hostage in Malda.

On Wednesday, seven judicial officers, including three women, were held hostage inside a block office at Kaliachak in Malda district by a group of voters whose names had been deleted during the process of judicial adjudication under the "logical discrepancy" category. At around 1 am on Thursday, a large

police contingent led by senior district officials reached the spot, dispersed the protesters, rescued the judicial officers, and escorted them to a safe location. The standoff lasted nearly nine hours. Akramul Bagani, who has been running a YouTube portal named Insaf Bangla since 2014, was the other person arrested by the CID. With over 4,000 videos and six lakh and seventy thousand subscribers, he is accused of producing anti-BJP and anti-Hindu content on Insaf Bangla YouTube channel. Over the past few years, he became acquainted with Mofakkerul Islam. Since then, the two have traveled together to various places.

A few days ago, a photo of the two together was

found from a location in Kerala. Besides this, there have been reports of them traveling multiple times to areas such as Malda and Murshidabad. With links to Kerala emerging, the police have also begun probing links with banned outfit Popular Front of India (PFI), which had a strong presence in Malda and Murshidabad districts. Earlier today, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee blamed the AIMIM for the gherao of judicial officers in Malda district and accused the Congress and the BJP of instigation. "The BJP loaned him (the accused) from the AIMIM and brought him here," she alleged, while addressing an election rally at Harirampur in Dakshin Dinajpur district.

Congress Names 27 Candidates For Tamil Nadu Polls, State Chief Among Nominees

New Delhi: The Congress on Friday announced a list of 27 candidates for the April 23 Assembly elections in Tamil Nadu. According to the list, Tamil Nadu Congress president K Selvaperunthagai will contest the Sriperumbudur SC constituency, its legislative party leader in Assembly, S Rajesh Kumar, has been fielded from Killiyoor, while former MP A Chella Kumar is in the fray from Krishnagiri. The Congress will contest 28 out of 234 Assembly seats in Tamil Nadu in a coalition with the ruling DMK. The election results will be announced on May 4.



'Destroyer Of Foes'

About Aridhaman, Latest To Join India's Submarine Fleet

New Delhi: The third indigenous nuclear-powered submarine INS Aridhaman, which means 'destroyer of enemies', was inducted into the Indian Navy on Friday. Given the immense complexities involved in its construction, the nuclear submarine is a considered a military and technical feat. Part of the Arihant class, the 7,000-ton submarine has been constructed to an extent of 90 per cent using indigenous technology and is capable of conducting a nuclear strike. It is equipped with a nuclear reactor that provides it with a continuous supply of energy, eliminating the need to surface to refuel. It can reach underwater speeds of 45 kilometers per hour. Weighing 1,000 tonnes more than its predecessors Arihant and Arighat, Aridhaman carries double the missile strike capability and an extended operational range. While Arihant and Arighat have four vertical launch tubes, Aridhaman has eight such tubes. Aridhaman is fitted with nuclear warheads that can surge from the ocean's depths and strike targets in the skies or land.

Aridhaman is also capable of carrying 24 'Sagarika K-15' ballistic missiles, which possess a strike range of 750 to 1,500 kilome-



ters. It is equipped with eight long-range K-4 ballistic missiles, which have a range of 3,500 kilometers. In the future, it will also be equipped with the K-5 missile, which will have a range of approximately 6,000 kilometers. INS Arihant was the first vessel under the Submersible Ship Ballistic Missile Nuclear (SSBN) project that was followed by INS Arighat. INS Arihant is India's first home-made nuclear submarine. It was launched in July 2009 and was quietly commissioned in 2016. The Navy commissioned its second indigenous SSBN, INS Arighat, in August 2024.

India is among a select group of countries having nuclear-powered submarines. The countries that have such assets are: the US, Russia, the UK, France and China. Along with INS Aridhaman, Union

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh was also present for the induction of INS Taragiri at Visakhapatnam.

As the fourth potent platform of the Project 17A class, Taragiri is not merely a ship, it is a 6,670-tonne embodiment of the 'Make in India' spirit and the sophisticated engineering capabilities of our indigenous shipyards. Built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai, this Frigate represents a generational leap over earlier designs, offering a sleeker form and a significantly reduced Radar Cross-Section that allows it to operate with lethal stealth. With indigenous content exceeding 75 per cent, the ship highlights the maturity of a domestic industrial ecosystem that now spans over 200 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). Driven by a Combined Diesel or Gas (CODOG) propul-

sion plant, Taragiri is designed for 'High-Speed - High Endurance' versatility and multi-dimensional maritime operations. The ship's weapon suite is world-class, featuring supersonic Surface-to-Surface Missiles, Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missiles, and a specialised Anti-Submarine Warfare suite. These systems are seamlessly integrated through a state-of-the-art Combat Management System, ensuring that the crew can respond to threats with split-second precision. Beyond its role as a premier hunter of the seas, Taragiri is built for the complexities of modern diplomacy and humanitarian crises. Its flexible mission profile makes it ideal for everything from high-intensity combat to Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR).

Maharashtra Urges Homes To Switch To PNG Or Risk Losing LPG Connection



Mumbai: The Maharashtra government has asked people to shift from Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) to Piped Natural Gas (PNG) within three months, warning that LPG connections may be cut if they fail to comply. However, it has also clarified that this rule will not apply to areas where PNG infrastructure is not available. Despite this, the ground situation appears to be quite different from the policy.

Sion in Mumbai has emerged as a key example, where many areas still do not have fully developed PNG infrastructure. Residents here continue to depend on LPG cylinders for both household needs and small businesses, but now even LPG supply has become irregular, increasing their difficulties. A local hotel owner in Sion says, "There is no question of PNG here; the infrastructure simply doesn't exist. We are completely dependent on commercial cylinders, and now even getting those has become difficult." He adds that delays in cylinder supply have forced them to shut their hotel at times. "We are now cooking on coal," he says. Another business owner shares a similar concern: "Even after filling out forms for commercial cylinders,

we have to wait. The supply doesn't come on time, and it is affecting our work." The situation is not limited to Sion.

Residents in areas like Lower Parel are facing similar issues. One resident says, "When our society was redeveloped, there was no PNG infrastructure. Seeing the current situation, we applied immediately, but we are still waiting."

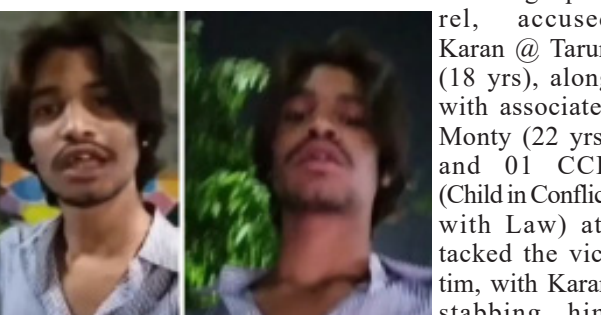
Domestic consumers are also affected. One resident says, "In the past few weeks, we did not get gas for 15-20 days. We somehow managed when it finally came, but it caused a lot of trouble." Some people also claim they had to buy cylinders at higher prices due to limited supply. "We applied in February itself, even before the minister's announcement.

Now the engineer says there is a backlog. They are giving a timeline of 1-2 weeks, but the infrastructure is still not ready," said Chetan, one of the residents of the building which has applied for the PNG. He adds, "Line expansion work is underway, but it will take time. Getting a connection soon seems unlikely." There are also complaints about LPG supply. Another person says, "The frequency of gas supply has reduced a lot. We often have to wait, and some people even have to buy it in the black market." Overall, while the government's intention may be to reduce dependence on LPG and improve supply, the ground reality shows that the infrastructure is not fully ready. In some places, the network is missing; in others, the process is incomplete, and in many areas, supply remains inconsistent.

"Tumhare Bhai Ne Murder Maar Diya Hai": Delhi Teen Stabs Man, Then Posts On Instagram

New Delhi: He stabbed a man to death in Delhi and then took to Instagram to brag about it. Karan Kumar (18), who calls himself a "photographer and visual storyteller" on Instagram under the handle 'villain_dad_ok_109', took to the platform on Saturday to inform his 1,500 followers that he had killed someone ("tumhare bhai ne murder maar diya hai"). Wearing a shirt with a heart symbol on it, Kumar said in the Instagram story, "Dekho bhai, raat ke baj rahe hai 11.22 pm. Tumhare bhai ne ek murder maar diya hai. Tumhara bhai kuch din ke liye andar ja raha hai. To saare bhai pyaar dena, hain? (It's 11:22 PM. Your

brother has committed a murder, and he is going away for a few days, okay?)



So, show your brother some love)," he said. Officials said Kumar and two other people, including a juvenile, stabbed 20-year-old Nitesh following an argument in the Shalimar Bagh police station area in North West Delhi. Nitesh was taken to a hospital,

where he was declared brought dead. "During investigation, it was revealed that following a quarrel, accused Karan @ Tarun (18 yrs), along with associates Monty (22 yrs) and 01 CCL (Child in Conflict with Law) attacked the victim, with Karan stabbing him multiple times," the Delhi police said in a statement. "Acting swiftly on local inputs and technical surveillance, police teams apprehended all three accused within four hours. The accused have confessed to their involvement," it added.

BJP vs Congress Over Extended Budget Session, Women's Quota, Delimitation

New Delhi: A high-stakes political confrontation is brewing between the BJP-led NDA government and the Congress over the implementation of the Women's Reservation law, turning what was hailed as a landmark reform into a fierce electoral and constitutional battle. At the heart of the clash is the Centre's decision to convene an extended budget three-day Parliament session from April 16, triggering sharp objections from the Opposition. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju has defended the move, saying key amendments are required to operationalise the women's quota in time for the 2029 Lok Sabha elections. The government argues that steps like delimitation are complex and cannot be delayed further if reservation is to be implemented. But the Congress has strongly questioned the timing. Senior leader Jairam Ramesh has accused the government of sudden urgency after "30 months of inaction", alleging the session is aimed at influencing upcoming assembly elections, particularly in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

All-Party Meeting Row Escalates

The confrontation has been fuelled by an exchange of letters between Kiren Rijiju and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge. March 16: Rijiju sought discussions with Congress on the bill March 24: Kharge insisted on a full all-party meeting after April 29, citing ongoing election campaigns March 26: Rijiju pushed back, warning delays could derail the timeline Congress maintains that consulting only a handful of parties cannot replace a formal all-party meeting.



"They spoke to four or five parties. That is not an all-party meeting," the party has said, accusing the government of avoiding broader consultation.

Delimitation Fears Trigger Southern Pushback

The most contentious issue is a reported proposal to increase Lok Sabha seats by 50 percent alongside implementing reservation. Congress leaders have warned that such a move, tied to delimitation, could significantly alter the federal balance. According to Jairam Ramesh, states in South India, parts of North-West India and the North-East could face a "serious disadvantage" if representation shifts in favour of

more populous northern states. The party has also flagged the lack of discussion, saying there has been no debate in Parliament or consultation with states on delimitation.

Credit War Over Women's Reservation

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has urged the Opposition to cooperate, saying timely implementation depends on completing the necessary processes. The BJP has accused Congress of delaying women's empowerment. Congress, however, has pushed back, asserting that it has consistently supported the legislation and was the first to initiate it. Party leaders have questioned why implemen-

tation was linked to census and delimitation in the first place, arguing that the current push appears politically timed.

Battle Lines Drawn

With the special session days away, the Congress is moving to rally Opposition parties and finalise a joint strategy. The party has made it clear it supports one-third reservation for women, but opposes what it calls a "rushed" process without wider consultation. The BJP, on the other hand, is framing the moment as a decisive step toward delivering long-promised reform. As April 16 approaches, Parliament is set for a heated showdown that goes far beyond the Women's Reservation law.

26 Students Face Breathing Issues After Inhaling Smoke Near UP School

Kushinagar: At least 26 schoolchildren complained of breathing difficulties allegedly after inhaling toxic smoke from burning dry leaves and garbage near a school here, officials said. All children were taken to the Community Health Centre in Sevarhi where they were given treatment and later discharged after their health improved. The incident occurred near Greenland Public School in the Tamkuhiraj tehsil area. Authorities said the smoke, which arose due to the burning of dry waste and leaves in an adjacent plot, possibly intensified and spread into the school premises, causing discomfort and respiratory distress among students. Following complaints of uneasiness and breathing problems, the affected children were rushed to CHC. Doctors administered primary treatment and later discharged all of them. As a precautionary measure, 11 children were referred to the Kushinagar Medical College for further observation, where they were also reported to be stable and subsequently discharged. Sub-Divisional Magistrate Akanksha Mishra reached the CHC and supervised the treatment arrangements. District Magistrate Mahendra Singh Tanwar, Superintendent of Police Keshav Kumar, and health department officials visited the CHC, the school, and the medical college to assess the situation. "All the children are healthy and have been sent home," the District Magistrate said, adding that the situation is under control.

EDITORIAL

This is not ideal,
it is necessary

Telangana has implemented a historic law for the care of parents. On this occasion, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy himself is telling about the incidents that he has witnessed firsthand, which shows how neglected elderly parents are. 'A person who has risen to the top as a public representative, when his father gets cancer, then he becomes a minister and does not even care about his father. He is in a situation where he cannot take his father to the market and buy fruits. He does not even keep a food box at home and is afraid of his wife. When he dies, all the leaders visit that former minister, but no one knows how his father died.' Such real incidents contributed to the Telangana government bringing the Parents Care Act. The Central Government brought the Parents' Maintenance and Elderly Welfare Act into effect in 2007. But the implementation of this law is limited to papers.

The speciality of this law brought by the Telangana government is that this law is applicable not only to government employees but also to employees of private companies and public representatives like MLAs. 15 percent of the employees' salaries or Rs. 10 thousand, whichever is less, is transferred for the welfare of parents. The Telangana government has taken a step forward by proposing an institutional mechanism to effectively manage this. In our country, which often mentions the ideal of Matrudevbhava and Pitrudevbhava, the action taken by the Telangana government now reflects an urgency. The question arises as to why the Parents' Welfare Act adopted by the Central Government is not being implemented properly. That is, there is a lack of integrity in the implementation mechanism. According to the long-term aging study conducted in the country in 2021, it was found that in 2020, 5.2 percent of the elderly in the country were subjected to verbal harassment by their families.

Such harassment is becoming commonplace. A study has revealed that the number of victims of such verbal harassment in Telangana is up to 2.1 percent. More than half of the elderly victims reported that they were neglected by their families. It is ironic that now that harassment has increased to 68% in Telangana. All this comes to light only when the elderly complain. In fact, there are many incidents where complaints cannot be made, but they do not come to light. The reason for this seems to be the social dharma that the family will be dishonored and the pressure not to speak out. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy expressed concern that it is unfortunate that the law has to interfere in the natural bond between parents and children. There is no need to take the Chief Minister's serious comments that those who neglect their parents will not learn a lesson unless they face social opposition.

The seriousness of this problem cannot be understated. Our Indian civilized culture worships parents and elders on a high pedestal equal to God. However, in complete contrast to this, it is extremely regrettable that many elderly people today are facing emotional abuse. Atrocities are being committed by the children they have raised and raised, keeping their own property in their possession and not giving them even a handful of money, or by not allowing them to stay in their own homes and eventually being sent to a crematorium alive. Will this inhuman and moral crisis be resolved by this law? The question arises. When the Center brought the Parental Care Act into effect in 2021, parental care laws were also implemented in states like Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu.

But the problem is that wherever the caterpillar is planted, there is a silver lining. However, it is the duty of the governments to strictly implement this law in view of the seriousness of the problem. Wide awareness should be created about this law and support should be given for its smooth implementation. Joint families are breaking up into small limited families as they independently decide who will live on their own and earn a little. There is nothing wrong with these families striving for better development. But parents are not asking for the return of the assets they have distributed. They are asking for their place in the family. We work for a few hours for the employer who pays the salary. But can't we spend even a minute for the parents who give us life? Forcing families to bow their necks in the name of law does not mean that parents are being cared for. A widespread civilizational cultural revival should be born.

Trump's Iran War Is About To Become
Someone Else's Problem Soon

Iran's stubborn resistance and its ability to withstand the US and Israel's relentless military campaign for over a month have disrupted Donald Trump's calculations. The war's increasing economic and political costs have pushed him to seek a quick exit. He now wants to leave Iran in two to three weeks, whether or not there is a deal. His comment, ahead of a national address on Wednesday evening, underlines a stark reality: even after losing its leadership and suffering significant damage to its military and economic infrastructure, Tehran has shown no signs of being as desperate as Trump to end the war. In his latest comment at the Oval Office on Tuesday, Trump insisted again that Iran was "begging" for a deal, adding that whether it happens is irrelevant to America's timetable. Iran strongly denied that it was engaged in negotiations with the US to reach a deal, while admitting that messages had been exchanged between the two sides. Iran's president, Masoud Pezeshkian, has said his country has the "necessary will" to end the war with the United States and Israel as long as certain conditions are met. Trump's comment came amid a growing buildup of US forces in the Gulf. Thousands of US Marines have already reached the region and many more are on their way. The US military also began flying B-52 bomber missions over Iran on Tuesday for the first time in the war, a sign that Trump is keeping the option open of escalating in the belief that it would help end the conflict swiftly.

Trump's Ever-Changing Wishlist

Trump has maintained that the US has achieved its goal of addressing Iran's nuclear programme, despite roughly 450 kg of enriched uranium still being present in Iran, believed to be hidden in Isfahan. His previous objective of regime change also remains unfulfilled, although he says the regime has already changed. He claims that Iran's new regime is reasonable, disregarding the fact that more headline elements now appear to be in control of the country. Some of his Gulf allies, including the UAE and

Saudi Arabia, want him to carry on the military operation for that reason. The most important strategic card Tehran has played in the war has been to block the Strait of Hormuz, through which about a fifth of the world's oil and gas passes. The near-closure of Hormuz, along with attacks on US bases and energy targets in Gulf countries, has driven global crude oil prices to \$117 per barrel on Tuesday and the average petrol price in the US to exceed \$4 per gallon for the first time in nearly four years. Now, Trump claims Hormuz is a problem for other countries to handle. Oil prices fell after Trump's comments about leaving Iran.

Allies No More?

Donald Trump has been angry with America's European allies for their refusal to get more involved in the Iran war, particularly for not sending their warships to protect ships at Hormuz. "Go get your own oil," from the Strait of Hormuz, Trump said on Tuesday, lashing out at his allies. But his anger at US partners in Europe is not limited to Hormuz. He wants them to join the American and Israeli military in fighting Iran, a war he started with Israel, without any consultation with his allies. "You'll have to start learning how to fight for yourself, the USA won't be there to help you anymore, just like you weren't there for us," Trump told his European allies in a post on Truth Social on Tuesday. Two weeks ago, he had angrily declared, "We don't need anybody; we're the strongest nation in the world", adding that his request for assistance in reopening the Strait of Hormuz instead amounted to a "loyalty test of America's allies". What Trump forgets is that unlike previous US Presidents, he went to war with Iran without building any support at home or abroad. President George HW Bush in 1991 formed a coalition of more than 40 countries when he launched Operation Desert Shield to free Kuwait from Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein. Two decades later, his son, President George W Bush, also received support from his allies for launching another war against Iraq,

though it was based on the false premise of getting rid of weapons of mass destruction. Europe was part of both coalitions, though the second time, France and Germany didn't join America's war.

Not Europe's War To Lose

NATO members in Europe have made clear that the current conflict in the Gulf is not their war. They do not feel obliged to join it because no NATO country has been attacked. On the other hand, Iran has been hit by the US and Israel. They have reminded Trump that the only time NATO's Article 5, which states that an attack on one member is an attack on all, was invoked was when the US suffered terror attacks on September 11, 2001, by al-Qaeda. Back then, NATO had joined America in a coalition to invade Afghanistan. However much they loathe Iran's Islamic regime, the priority for Europeans is not the Middle East. It's the threat from Russia they want to guard themselves against. The Europeans have sent some defence equipment to protect their Gulf allies from Iran's missiles and drones, but they don't want to fight alongside the US and Israel. The war is also widely unpopular with the public, as reflected in the decisions of European governments. Spain has openly defied Trump from the beginning, calling the US and Israeli actions illegal. Although Britain has permitted American fighter planes to use its bases, after initial hesitation, it has refused to send any warships to the Gulf. On Tuesday, France angered Trump by denying the US access to its airspace for American planes carrying ammunition to Israel. Even Italy, governed by a right-wing administration, refused to allow US military planes to land at one of its bases en route to the Middle East.

Lessons From Gallipoli

For Europeans, a disastrous campaign during the First World War serves as an important reminder to exercise caution before getting militarily involved in Hormuz. Britain's late leader Winston Churchill devised a plan to force passage through the narrow strait of the Dardanelles in Turkey, which



connected the Aegean Sea to the Sea of Marmara and beyond to the Black Sea, then controlled by the Ottoman Empire. The plan, known as the Gallipoli campaign, turned out to be one of the worst disasters, resulting in the deaths of 1.3 lakh men - 44,000 from Britain and its allies, and 86,000 Ottomans. The fact remains that even US warships have not challenged Iran directly to lift its chokehold. So, why should Europeans do so and risk their soldiers' lives? They are open to joining a multinational mission in the Strait of Hormuz, but the US must be involved. Another concern for Europeans is that Trump keeps changing his narrative and objectives. Since he began the current conflict, Trump has claimed multiple times that either the war has already been won or is about to end soon. They have observed Iran's response and are also watching US troops gathering in the Gulf for a potential ground campaign. Even if they are inclined to join the US, they would prefer not to get involved in a conflict clouded by strategic confusion. The Deal With Those Who Want War

Trump's decision to pull out of the Iran conflict soon will be welcomed by most people in the US, as opinion polls have shown the war is not backed by a majority of Americans. Even members of his own Republican party and MAGA supporters are opposed to a ground invasion. But it will disappoint the Iran hawks. One of them, Senator Lindsey Graham, boasted last week: "We've got two Marine expeditionary area units sailing to this island. We did Iwo Jima, we can do this.

What Graham didn't say was that 7,000 US soldiers died in the Battle of Iwo Jima (in Japan), one of the bloodiest military campaigns of the Pacific theatre in the Second World War. Graham was sharply criticised by fellow Conservatives. The strongest response came from Congresswoman Nancy Mace, a military veteran. "Graham has one foreign policy: send someone else's kids to war," she posted on X. "He was wrong about Iraq. He was wrong about Afghanistan. Now he's wrong about Iran."

Desperate Calls

All the evidence from the past five weeks of the war had indicated that Iran was unlikely to capitulate to US threats or even a ground invasion. Iran's proxy, the Houthis in Yemen, had already joined the military effort with missile attacks on Israel. The US ground invasion could lead them to obstruct shipping through the Bab al-Mandeb Strait, the Red Sea choke point equivalent to the Strait of Hormuz. That would wreak havoc on the world economy. Trump's decision to end the war without achieving any of his previously stated objectives will be viewed by many as a cut-and-run move. Some will interpret this as an admission of defeat. Israel would be unhappy with Trump's decision, as Iran's military capabilities and its ability to make a nuclear weapon have not been destroyed. For Europe, the challenge is even bigger, as Trump told the British newspaper, The Telegraph, that he is considering pulling the US out of the NATO alliance.

Why A 'Defeat' Is Now Essential For The Disoriented Left In Kerala

An expression attributed to King Louis XV of France is "Après moi, le déluge" (After me, the deluge). Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's desperate attempts to cling to power with a public relations overdrive might be reminiscent of the nihilistic statement. For, the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M), which the octogenarian has been leading since 1998 in Kerala, is showing clear signs of decay. The undivided Communist Party, which came to power democratically in the first election held to the state Assembly in 1957, has been an integral part of Kerala politics ever since. However, unlike its uninterrupted 34-year stint in West Bengal, the Left had never managed to win a successive term in Kerala until 2021, when Vijayan managed to buck that trend. The initial euphoria notwithstanding, a section of the Left base in Kerala has been increasingly vocal about leaders getting drunk on power and using all means to perpetuate it.

Bengal Redux?

In Gangster State: The Rise And Fall of the CPI-M in West Bengal, author Sourjya Bhowmick uses the iconic lines "it was the best of times, it was the worst of times" from Charles Dickens to describe the final term of the party in Bengal. He recalls how the party went from its peak to getting decimated in 2011, wondering if the youth were drawn to it due to ideology or were driven merely by power. Such a situa-

tion has also been brewing in Kerala for a while now, shaped by the trappings of power and visible loss of Communist values.

So much so that poet and Kerala Sahitya Akademi president K Satchidanandan himself came out publicly demanding that the Left should stay out of power for a term to regenerate itself. This was reminiscent of poetess Mahaswetha Devi publicly questioning the Buddhadev regime in West Bengal in 2007. Satchidanandan's exhortation has since come to vertically split Kerala's literary and cultural space. Noted litterateurs Sarah Joseph, Kalpetta Narayanan, and MN Karassery have all reiterated his prophecy that the Left will be beyond salvation in the state if it gets another term.

A String Of Desertions

Satchidanandan was particularly critical of Vijayan's appeasement of community leaders like Vellappally Natesan, despite the latter making several sectarian statements against the Muslim community. The rot the CPI-M is seeing in Kerala has been visible even in the electoral arena, with several veteran leaders across the state deserting the party ahead of the polls. These include G Sudhakaran, the seniormost leader of the party outside Malabar, and the duo of TK Govindan and P Kunhikrishnan

in Kannur. Those who quit have referred to ideological issues, such as an alleged right turn of the party under Vijayan's stewardship, along with nepotism and corruption. It was inconceivable even a decade ago



that there would be desertions (likened to apostasy in the past) in the CPI-M's Kannur unit, where tribal kinship to the party trumped every other societal connection. G Sudhakaran's quitting, who had served as minister under Vijayan during the first term, came as a jolt to the party in its cradle in Travancore. If P Kunhikrishnan's rebellion in Kannur was sparked by corruption perpetuated by Payyannur MLA PI Madhusoodanan, his candidature as an independent (supported by the Congress) was prompted by the CPI-M's

refusal to act against the erring leader. Veteran TK Govindan's exit was a reaction to the candidature of PK Shyamala - wife of namesake MV Govindan, the CPI-M state secretary - thrust down the Kannur district committee by the party. In fact, this is a repetition of the 2021 arrangement when the CPI-M-nominated R Bindu - wife of then state secretary A Vijayaraghavan in Irinjilakkuda - was elevated as minister, along with PA Mohammed Riyas, son-in-law of Vijayan.

Vijayan's Right Turn

Many feel that Vijayan's right turn was evident in his first term itself from, for instance, the way he shielded police excesses, such as in the alleged fake encounters of Maoists. There are echoes of Bengal in it; Sourjya Bhowmick recounts how the term "urban-Naxal" owed its coinage to the Bengal Marxists. The working-class character of the CPI-M in Kerala has undergone a significant transformation, and this has been exacerbated by Vijayan's brand of appeasement of community outfits under the garb of 'social engineering'. This has ultimately resulted in Left cadres gradually identifying more with religion and less with their identity as Communists. No wonder then that a section of Marx-

ist cadres was swayed by the Sabarimala agitation, and the party adopted a more flexible position in its wake.

The Number-One Man

The principle of democratic centralism has also invariably led to the concentration of power with Vijayan, without any line of succession. In Murali Gopy's Left Right Left (2013), Kaitheri Sahadevan - the character modelled on Pinarayi Vijayan - states, "to beat the bourgeoisie, you have to be a bigger bourgeoisie". Vijayan's tenures as Chief Minister have come to define that famous dialogue, with the Marxist party acquiring bourgeois characteristics, beating even the Congress's record. When the CPI-M adopted Vijayan's controversial 'Nava Kerala document' at its Ernakulam conference in 2022 and got it stamped by the Politburo, Vijayan basically overrode general secretary Sitaram Yechury, the party's numero uno. It can be argued that, like 'Mao Thought' in China, 'Pinarayism' has come to replace Marxism in Kerala. It was once predicted that capitalism would not survive due to its own contradictions; in this case, however, the CPI-M seems to be suffering from an identity crisis of sorts. British political scientist Archie Brown writes of three kinds of Communists in his seminal work, The Rise and the Fall of Communism. According to Brown, people who enlist themselves in a Communist party that rules perpetually are opportunists, unlike those who fight their way through hostile systems.



What's next for silver? Key triggers that could decide its next move



Mumbai: Silver is not easy to understand right now. Its movement is not simple. Prices are going up and down without a clear trend. This is happening because many global factors are working at the same time. Some are positive for silver, while some are negative. Because of this, investors are confused about where prices will go next. In this article, we explain the key triggers affecting silver prices.

War situation is keeping pressure on silver

The biggest factor right now is global tension. There is still uncertainty due to ongoing conflicts. When such situations hap-

pen, investors move towards safety. This makes the US dollar stronger. A strong dollar is usually bad for silver. It makes silver costly for buyers in other countries. As a result, demand slows down and prices come under pressure. Also, there is no clear sign that tensions will end soon. This means the pressure on silver may continue in the near term.

Interest rate story is not clear

Another important factor is US interest rates. There is a view in the market that rates may come down in 2026. If rates are cut, the dollar can weaken. This can support silver prices. But

this is not certain. Inflation is still a concern. Oil prices have also gone up. When inflation is high, central banks avoid cutting rates quickly. So even if rate cuts happen, they may be slow and limited. Because of this, silver is not getting a strong positive push from this factor yet.

Demand is strong in future-focused sectors

There is good news as well. Silver demand is strong from new-age industries. It is widely used in solar panels. It is also used in electric vehicles. Even in artificial intelligence and electronics, silver has an important role. These sectors are growing fast across

the world. Countries are investing heavily in them. This means long-term demand for silver looks strong. Some countries are also increasing their reserves. This adds extra support to demand.

But markets may have already priced this in

Even though demand looks strong, there is a catch. Markets already know this story. The earlier rally in silver prices happened because of these expectations. So a lot of positive news is already included in current prices. Now, for prices to move higher, new triggers are needed. Without fresh news, silver may not rise much from current levels.

Technology changes may reduce demand growth

There is another small risk. Technology is improving. For example, in solar panels, companies are trying to use less silver. This helps them reduce costs. If this trend continues, future demand growth may slow down. This can limit the upside in prices.

Supply is increasing due to recycling

On the supply side, there is a change. Mining output is not growing much. But

recycling has increased. When prices rise, people and companies start recycling more silver. This adds extra supply to the market.

If supply increases and demand does not grow at the same speed, prices can fall. This is what the market is watching now.

So what is the overall picture?

Right now, silver is stuck between many forces.

War and strong dollar are negative factors.

Rate cut hopes and strong demand are positive factors.

Higher supply is again negative.

Because of this mix, there is no clear direction. Silver may keep moving in a range. Prices can go up and down quickly based on news. For now, the trend remains uncertain. A clear move will only come when one side becomes stronger. This could happen when global tensions ease or when there is clear action on interest rates.

Until then, silver is likely to remain volatile and difficult to predict.

Sensex ends 185 pts higher at 73,319, Nifty regains 22,700 after strong rupee rally

Stock Market on 2 April 2026 | Share Market Highlights -Staging a spirited recovery, stock markets pared early losses to close higher on Thursday, with the benchmark Sensex rising by 185 points and the broader Nifty settling above 22,700 on strong value buying in IT and banking shares and a sharp rebound in the rupee. Rebounding more than 2,000 points from the day's low, the 30-share BSE Sensex finally settled higher by 185.23 points, or 0.25 per cent, at 73,319.55. The 50-share NSE Nifty followed a similar trajectory and closed above 22,700 at 22,713.10, up by 33.70 points, or 0.15 per cent.

Big fall, bigger opportunity? Swiggy, Zomato stocks down sharply —Analysts see strong upside



Mumbai: Zomato, Swiggy Share Price: If you've been tracking food delivery stocks lately, the sharp fall in Swiggy and Zomato might have made you nervous. Both stocks have slipped quite a bit from their highs. But here's the interesting part, a leading brokerage thinks this could actually be the time to step in.

According to HDFC Securities, Swiggy has corrected as much as 56 per cent from its peak, while Zomato is down about 38 per cent. Instead of seeing this as a red flag, the brokerage is calling it a "good entry zone" for investors. Let's start with Swiggy. The stock is currently around Rs 275, and a big chunk of the recent fall has come from broader concerns around costs and near-term pressures on the food delivery ecosystem. But the brokerage believes the market may be missing the bigger picture. At current levels, the valuation largely reflects only the core food delivery business. Other parts like quick commerce are not fully priced in yet. HDFC Securities has a

target of Rs 460 on the stock, which suggests a potential upside of around 67 per cent.

Instamart could be the turning point

A lot of the optimism around Swiggy comes from Instamart, its quick commerce arm. The business is moving closer to breakeven, and that's a big deal. The company is also tightening its strategy by cutting down on loss-making orders and focusing more on categories where margins are better. Add to that a push to reduce cash burn, and the path to profitability starts looking clearer.

Zomato looks more stable right now

Zomato, on the other hand, is being seen as a steadier story. The brokerage has upgraded the stock and expects more consistent growth going ahead. The 'Gold' membership programme is starting to show traction, and that should help boost both users and order volumes. On top of that, recent hikes in platform fees and tweaks in discounting are expected to support margins. With a

target price of Rs 340, the stock offers a potential upside of about 47 per cent from current levels.

Blinkit is doing the heavy lifting

One area where Zomato seems to have an edge is quick commerce. Its arm Blinkit is growing faster and is already becoming a key driver for the business. The pace of expansion, especially with new dark stores, suggests the company is doubling down on this segment. Compared to Swiggy's Instamart, Blinkit's growth trajectory looks stronger for now.

So, what should investors do?

The way the brokerage sees it, this correction is more of a short-term phase. Swiggy is being viewed as a recovery play, while Zomato is seen as a more stable, long-term compounder. In simple terms, prices have come down, but the underlying story hasn't really broken. And that's exactly why some analysts believe this could be one of those phases where patient investors get rewarded.

Attention, Mumbai Commuters! Western Railway announces mega block on April 4-5

Mumbai Commuters Alert: Commuters on Mumbai's suburban rail network should brace for disruptions this weekend as Western Railway -- an Indian Railways arm that caters to the western parts of the country along with select central regions -- has announced a major block and a jumbo maintenance block across key sections of the city. According to a press release issued by the railway's Public Relations Department, "Western Railway to undertake major block between Bandra Terminus and Bandra during the intervening night of 4th/5th April, 2026 from 00:15 hrs to 04:15 hrs. During this period, all fast line trains will be operated on Slow line between Santacruz and Churchgate," the statement said.

between Bandra Terminus and Bandra will remain closed for road traffic during the block period, potentially affecting vehicular movement in the area. "According to a press release issued by the Public Relations Department, Western Railway, a Major Block will be undertaken on 5th line between Bandra Terminus and Bandra from 10:00 hrs of 04th April, 2026 to 22:00 hrs of 05th April, 2026. During this block LC-18 between Bandra Terminus and Bandra will remain closed for road traffic," the release read.

Jumbo block on fast lines

In addition, a jumbo block will be undertaken on the UP Fast and Down Fast lines between Mumbai Central and Mahim during the intervening night of April 4 and 5 (00:15 hrs to 04:15 hrs).

During this period:

All fast line trains will be diverted to slow lines. The diversion will apply between Santacruz and Churchgate. This is likely to impact



travel time and cause congestion on slow lines, especially during late-night and early morning hours. "Further, a Jumbo Block will be undertaken on the UP Fast and Down Fast lines between Mumbai Central and Mahim during the intervening night of 4th/5th April, 2026 from 00:15 hrs to 04:15 hrs. During this period, all Fast line trains will be operated on Slow line between Santacruz and Churchgate," the statement said.

Why is Western Railway undertaking the blocks?

Western Railway is undertaking the blocks to carry out essential infrastructure and maintenance work. "For augmentation of Culvert No.22, a Major Block will be undertaken between Bandra Terminus and Bandra, while a Jumbo Block for maintenance of track, signalling, and overhead equipment will be carried out between Mumbai Central and

Mahim on 4th/5th April, 2026," the statement said. What should railway passengers do?

Railway passengers should do:

Plan their journeys in advance.

Expect delays and changes in train schedules. Use alternative routes where possible.

Passengers are advised to check official updates and announcements from Western Railway before travelling.

BFSI sector stabilising, earnings growth set to rebound sharply from FY27: Report



Mumbai: The Indian banking and financial services (BFSI) sector is poised for a gradual recovery after a challenging FY26, with improving earnings visibility and structural tailwinds expected to drive

medium-term performance, according to a recent report by Motilal Oswal Financial Services (MOSL). The report characterises FY26 as a "challenging year for investing," noting that macro volatility, margin pressures

and weak loan growth weighed on sectoral performance." However, it also highlights and stated that 21 stocks within their BFSI coverage universe delivered more than 25% returns, underscoring the importance of stock selection and the breadth of opportunities within the sector. Despite near-term headwinds, the sector continues to expand structurally. MOSL notes that "BFSI market cap has expanded to INR108t in 2026 from INR91t in 2025, reflecting a growth of ~18% in a year," driven by outperformance in PSU

banks, NBFCs and fintechs, alongside ongoing technological shift and innovation. Digitalisation and retail credit penetration remain key long-term drivers, broadening the investment universe beyond traditional banking. On the earnings front, the report flags that estimates have seen downgrades due to margin pressure, weak loan growth, and high credit costs, although it adds that the pace of earnings revisions...has moderated significantly in recent months. Importantly, early signs of stabilisation are emerging, particularly with improving collection effi-

ciencies and asset quality trends in unsecured segments. MOSL expects FY26 to mark the trough in the earnings cycle, with sector growth bottoming out at 5% YoY in FY26E. Thereafter, a recovery is anticipated, supported by easing credit costs, stabilising margins and a pickup in loan growth. The outlook for the next two years remains constructive. The report estimates that "earnings growth will rebound to 16-17% in FY27-28," with private banks expected to deliver even stronger momentum at around 20% growth over the same period.

Understanding Mumbai Real Estate: How the market has evolved over 50 years

Mumbai Real Estate: The journey of Mumbai's real estate sector over the past five decades mirrors the transformation of the city itself—from a simple, relationship-driven market to a complex, high-stakes industry shaped by scale, finance, and rapid urbanisation. Speaking about his decades-long experience in a conversation with Zee Business, veteran developer Vijay Wadhwa traced the evolution of the sector from the late 1960s, when he entered the business at just 17, to the present day of mega townships and multi-million square foot developments. In the early years, real estate in Mumbai was a modest business. Margins were as low as Rs 7 per square foot, and transactions were driven largely by trust and personal relationships. "There was no big capital. Even small profits felt significant because we had never seen money before," Wadhwa recalled.

Over time, however, the industry expanded dramatically. Today, developers handle projects spanning millions of square feet, backed by institutional funding, complex financing structures, and large-scale planning.

The shift after liberalisation

A major turning point came in the 1990s with economic liberalisation, which opened the doors for private developers and accelerated urban growth. The city began to expand beyond its traditional core, giving rise to multiple micro-markets—from Bandra and Khar to Thane and beyond. Mumbai, once seen as a single entity, gradually fragmented into self-contained zones where residents live, work, and socialise within limited geographic areas.

From homes to financial assets

One of the most significant shifts, according to Wadhwa, is the changing perception of housing itself. Earlier, homes were built primarily for living. Today, they are often treated as financial assets, with developers and investors focusing heavily on valuation, quarterly sales, and scale. "People are chasing numbers—how much was sold, how much valuation increased—but not enough attention is being given to planning and quality," he said. The cost of rapid expansion

The rise of the 'concrete jungle'

As Mumbai's skyline has grown denser, concerns about the quality of living have intensified. Wadhwa highlighted that many modern developments prioritise visual appeal over livability. "Most people focus on elevation, but for us, elevation is a by-product. The real focus should be on healthy living," he said. He emphasised the importance of natural light, ventilation, and air quality—factors he believes are often overlooked in the race to maximise space and profits. "If a home needs artificial lighting throughout the day, it means it has not been planned properly," he added.

financing models like subvention schemes have raised concerns regarding the transfer of risks to the homebuyers, especially in cases where projects are delayed or developers default.

Indian Navy's latest stealth frigate 'INS Taragiri' commissioned in Visakhapatnam

- The warship is a symbol of India's growing technological prowess, self-reliance & formidable naval power, says Raksha Mantri
 - "Building a strong & capable Navy is an absolute necessity in today's times"
 - Indian Navy is securing critical sea lanes, choke points & digital infrastructure inextricably linked to our national interests, establishing India as a responsible maritime power: **Rajnath Singh**



New Delhi, April, 3 (PIB): INS Taragiri, the fourth potent platform of the Project 17A class, was commissioned into the Indian Navy in the presence of Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh on April 03, 2026. A masterclass in modern naval shipbuilding, this latest stealth frigate, with a displacement of approximately 6,670 tonnes, has

been designed by the Warship Design Bureau and built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, with the support of MSMEs, for multi-role operations. It utilises advanced stealth technology to achieve a significantly reduced radar signature, providing a lethal edge in contested environments. With over 75% indigenous content and built in significantly reduced

timelines, INS Taragiri exemplifies India's shipbuilding prowess and strong public-private collaboration. Raksha Mantri, in his address, described INS Taragiri as not merely a warship but a symbol of India's growing technological prowess, self-reliance, and formidable naval power.

"This ship is capable of high-speed transit and can remain deployed at sea for extended periods. It is equipped with systems designed to monitor enemy movements, ensure its own security, and if necessary, deliver an immediate response. It features modern radar, sonar, and missile systems, such as BrahMos and surface-to-air missiles, which further augment its operational prowess. From high-intensity combat to maritime security, anti-piracy operations, coastal surveillance, and humanitarian missions, it fits perfectly into every role, making it a unique naval platform," said Shri Rajnath Singh.

Raksha Mantri asserted that India, with a coastline

stretching over 11,000 kilometers, is surrounded by the sea on three sides, and it cannot view its development in isolation from the ocean. He added that approximately 95 percent of the country's trade is conducted via maritime routes, and energy security is dependent on the sea, which makes building a strong and capable Navy not merely an option, but an absolute necessity.

Highlighting the immense significance of the maritime domain in the evolving security landscape, Shri Rajnath Singh stated that the Indian Navy maintains a round-the-clock presence across the Indian Ocean region amidst the global uncertainties. "The vast expanse of the ocean contains numerous sensitive points, where our Navy has consistently maintained an active presence to ensure the smooth flow of goods. Whenever tensions flare, the Indian Navy steps-in to guarantee the security of commercial vessels and oil tankers. It is not only safeguarding India's national

interests, but is also prepared to take every necessary measure to protect our citizens and trade routes across the globe. It is this capability that firmly establishes India as a responsible and formidable maritime power," he said.

Raksha Mantri added that in the modern digital era, the vast majority of the world's data travels through under-sea internet cables, and any damage to them could disrupt global order. He called to move beyond a traditional perspective on maritime security and view it through a comprehensive, future-ready framework. "We must not limit ourselves to safeguarding our coastlines; we must also ensure the security of critical sea lanes, choke points, and digital infrastructure that are inextricably linked to our national interests. The Indian Navy is proactively engaged in all these security endeavors. This approach prepares us for future challenges. Whenever India constructs and deploys advanced vessels such as INS Taragiri, it

serves as a guarantee of peace and prosperity for the entire region," he said.

Rajnath Singh also pointed out that whenever a crisis arises, be it evacuation operations or humanitarian assistance, the Indian Navy invariably stands at the forefront, serving as a symbol of India's core values and unwavering commitment. "INS Taragiri will further augment the strength, values, and commitment of our Navy," he said.

Reiterating the Government's commitment to make the Indian Navy one of the world's strongest in the times to come, backed by an indigenous industry, Raksha Mantri stated that defence manufacturing in the country is marching ahead as a national mission under Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's leadership. "Today, we're no longer confined to fulfilling our own requirements; we're actively securing our place within the global supply chain. India's participation is integral at every stage - from design and de-



velopment to final deployment. It gives us confidence that we possess the capability to design not only our own security but also our future. INS Taragiri stands as an embodiment of this very vision," he said.

Highlighting the transformation witnessed by the country in the last decade, Rajnath Singh stated that the Government has created an ecosystem for the youth and the industry that consistently fosters innovation, manufacturing, and exports. He stressed that India has no alternative but to pursue self-reliance in defence to stay ready in the present uncertain times. He added that the security efforts must not confine solely to the domains of land, sea & air, but extend to space, cyberspace, and economic spheres. He pointed out that guided by that very vision, the Government has taken several major policy decisions, the results of which are now visible.

Raksha Mantri com-

mended Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited and other Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) for their consistent positive contributions towards bolstering India's security apparatus. He termed the 16 DPSUs as the hubs of Aatmanirbharta in defence. Raksha Mantri appreciated the efforts of DPSUs and the private sector in taking defence exports to an all-time high of Rs 38,424 crore in Financial Year 2025-26. "13-14 years ago, we used to export defence items worth Rs 1,200 crore. Today, it has reached almost Rs 39,000 crore. This is proof that India's self-reliance is growing steadily, signifying that we are standing on our own feet," he said.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi highlighted INS Taragiri's rich legacy, recalling the erstwhile Leander-class frigate commissioned in 1980, which played a pioneering role in advancing India's anti-submarine warfare capabilities and operational innovation.

Providing Comfortable Ride & Better Travel Experience to Poor and Middle Class is Railways' Top Priority: Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw

New Delhi, April, 3 (PIB): Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, today chaired a review meeting with railway officials across the country at Rail Bhawan, New Delhi. The Union Minister emphasized that providing a good travel experience to the poor and middle class remains the top priority of Indian Railways. He called upon all officials to work collectively towards this goal. Shri Vaishnaw also congratulated the entire Railway family for their commendable performance last year. He highlighted that the historic reduction in rail accidents and record freight loading have significantly improved the image of Indian Railways across the country. He also appreciated the effective operation of a large number of special trains during festivals, which helped meet the increased demand for travel.

Highlighting the importance of passenger experience, the Union Minister stated that railway stations are the face of Indian Railways before the public and must be kept clean and well-maintained. He urged officials to work with full dedication to ensure cleanliness and improved passenger amenities at all stations. Referring to the record allocation for railway modernization in the past decade, he emphasized that officials must ensure optimal utilization of funds to transform railway stations and enhance passenger facilities. The Union Minister stressed that crowd management during peak periods, especially festivals, should ensure that passengers can reach platforms and board trains smoothly and without inconvenience. He directed officials to prioritise the use of allocated funds for improving passenger convenience and accessibility. The issue of pending land acquisition for ongoing railway projects was also discussed. Shri Vaishnaw directed officials to expedite the process and, if required, seek the expertise of experienced retired officers of state revenue and forest departments to overcome bottlenecks.

Addressing the sensitive issue related to people living near railway tracks, the Union Minister emphasized that livelihoods must not be adversely affected. He directed railway officials to adopt a humane and sensitive approach in resolving such matters, in coordination with state governments. He noted that this is a significant issue in many urban areas and requires timely and compassionate resolution. The meeting also reviewed the earlier decision regarding construction of rail underpasses (Puliyas). It was decided that, wherever feasible, convenient and accessible underpasses should be prioritised over foot overbridges for crossing railway tracks, both within station premises and outside. The Minister noted that underpasses are more user-friendly and are likely to be used more frequently by the public. It was further decided to undertake pilot projects in different parts of the country to construct such underpasses. These will be designed to facilitate movement not only for pedestrians but also for cycles, scooters and motorcycles, and in some cases, wider structures will allow movement of tractors and other vehicles. Designs will be tailored to meet the requirements of both urban and rural areas. The Union Railway Minister also appreciated the performance of zones in ensuring punctual train operations. He congratulated zones that have maintained high levels of punctuality and particularly appreciated those that have improved their performance by ensuring more than 85% punctuality despite operational challenges. Shri Vaishnaw reiterated that with sustained efforts, efficient planning and a passenger-centric approach, Indian Railways will continue to enhance safety, service quality and overall travel experience for passengers across the country.

Today's Horoscope



Aries

Your kind nature will bring many happy moments today. New contracts might look lucrative but will not bring gains as desired. Do not make hasty decisions when it comes to investing money. A better understanding with your spouse brings in happiness-peace and prosperity at home. Your presence makes this world a worthy place to be for your beloved. It is okay to talk to acquaintances, but sharing your deepest secrets without knowing their intention is just a waste of your time and trust. Today, you will realize that all the vows taken on your marriage were true. Your spouse is your soulmate. Today, you can get some bad news from someone living abroad. **Remedy :-** Avoid intake of alcohol and non-veg food, for strengthening financial condition.



Taurus

Be an optimistic and look at the brighter side. Your confident expectations open the door for realization of your hopes and desires. You should not invest your money today without consulting anyone. Domestic issues need immediate attention. Use your discretion power in love today. Today people will pass compliments-which you have always wanted to hear. Today, you will know that how does it feel to have a wonderful life-partner. You will remain disappointed by someone close to you today. **Remedy :-** Enjoy a blissful family life by engraving Shukra Yantra on a piece of Silver.



Gemini

You have to let go of the past if you wish to get out of the sentimental mood that grips you today. Although your financial position improves but the outflow of money will still create hindrance in executing your projects. Rituals or auspicious ceremonies should be performed at home. Your beloved will seem a bit irritated- which will add pressure on your mind. Your communication techniques and working skills will be impressive. You might fight today on an old issue with your spouse like he/she forgot your birthday, or something like that. **Remedy :-** Perform Surya Namaskar, twelve Sun Salutation exercises, along with the rising sun or early morning sun for great health.



Cancer

Take special care of other's feelings when as you pass a judgement. Any wrong decision made by you will not only affect them adversely but also give you mental tension. Today you can invest your money in religious activities, and most likely to incur mental peace and stability. Family obligations require immediate attention. Negligence on your part could prove costly. Your beloved brings you immense romantic pleasure even as work pressure occupies your mind. You can watch any web series on your mobile in free time today. You may doubt the sincerity of your sweetheart, which will ruin the glory of your married life in coming days. Spending a lot of your time with your office friends can make you a victim of your family's anger. Hence, try avoiding it to the max. **Remedy :-** Feed Fishes with wheat flour balls



Leo

Health will remain fine despite a busy schedule but don't take your life for granted realize that the care for life is the real vow. You will make good money today- but the rise in expenses will make it difficult for you to save. People you live with will not be very happy with you- regardless of what you do to please them. Check the past few statuses of your love partner's social media, you will get a beautiful surprise. Time is precious, and you need to fully utilize it to attain desired results. However, flexibility in life and spending time with your family is an important aspect as well, which you need to understand. Today, your partner might take you in the realm of a different world of love and sensations. **Remedy :-** Always wear clean and ironed clothes, this indicates that you are aware about your lifestyle.



Virgo

Your tremendous intellectual potential will help you to fight the disability. Only by keeping positive thoughts you can fight this problem. Investment needs to be made with a long-term perspective. Children help you complete household jobs. Love life will be vibrant. A day when events will be good and disturbing-leaving you confused and tired. Looks like your spouse is feeling lucky to have you. Utilize the best of this moment today. You should not overhear the advice of someone younger than you, as even it can prove to be a major life lesson for you. **Remedy :-** Pay a visit to any running water and feed fishes there to get rid of boredom



Libra

Motivate yourself to be more optimistic. It increases confidence and flexibility but at the same time prepare it to leave negative emotions like fear hatred jealousy revenge. Married natives of this zodiac sign are likely to attain monetary benefits from their in-laws' side today. A close relative might demand more attention but would be supportive and caring. Unnecessary suspicion and doubt spoils the relationship. This is the reason why you must never doubt your beloved, and in case you feel strongly about something that's eating you up, then sit with them and try to find a solution. Today, you will love to spend your day away from all the relatives to a peaceful place. **Remedy :-** Offering Dhruv grass to Lord Ganesha will be beneficial for love life.



Scorpio

Quit smoking as it would help you to remain physically sound. Any advice from your father can prove to be beneficial at the workplace. This is the perfect day to attract the attention of others without doing much on your side. Cupids are rushing toward you with the shower of love in your life. All you need is to be aware of what is happening around. Today, you can plan on going home early as soon as you reach the office. Upon reaching home, you can plan to watch a movie or go to a park with family members. Married couples live together, but it is not always romantic. Hence today, it is going to be really really romantic. You can spend a good time with your mother today. **Remedy :-** For great health benefits, eat and distribute saffron-based sweets to poor and needy people.



Sagittarius

Your charming behaviour will attract attention. Financially, you will remain strong. Due to the benefic placement of planets and nakshatras, you'll come across numerous opportunities to earn money today. Your knowledge and good humour would impress people around you. You will never forget this day in your entire life, if you didn't lose the opportunity of making love today. Natives of this zodiac sign need to understand themselves a bit better today. If you feel lost somewhere in the crowd, then take time for yourself and evaluate your personality. Your spouse is all in mood to surprise you with the ecstasy of love; help him/her. Understand that money and wealth isn't as big as relationships. You can earn money but not love and trust of anyone. **Remedy :-** Mental stability is very important, wear a silver bangle or a silver chain for this.



Capricorn

Give every man an ear you might find solution of your problems. Your money comes to your work only when you stop yourself from spending extravagantly, today you can understand this thing well. Make sure you have approval of everyone before you make changes to your home environment. You will have serious problems with your lover if you dictate what to do. You will love walking under the clear sky and breathing clean air in your free time today. You will remain mentally calm, which will benefit you throughout the day. Work pressure had been hampering your married life since long. But today, all the grievances will be vanished. You can get your loaned money back from a debtor, which will solve some of your financial problems. **Remedy :-** Wear a snake shaped silver ring to maintain happiness in family.



Aquarius

The loyal heart and brave spirit of your spouse may give happiness. Today, your account will be credited with the money from your debtor without any prior notice, which can surprise you and make you happy. Quarrel with wife could lead to mental tension. There is no need to take unnecessary stress. A great thing in life is to learn to accept the things we cannot alter. Those engaged will find their fiancée a source of great happiness. Today, you can get so busy watching a movie on TV or mobile that you will forget to do your important tasks. Today, you will realize that your marriage had never been so beautiful. Today, you can be surprised to know some interesting facts related to your country. **Remedy :-** Offer Prasad at Shree Lakshmi Narayan temple and donate food products among needy people for happy and blissful family life.



Pisces

Some of you who have been working overtime lately and with your energy lagging- the last thing you want today is a day of stress and dilemma. Don't even try to lend money to anyone today, and if necessary, then take it in writing about the time duration in which s/he will repay the amount. Unexpected good news from distant relatives will bring happy moments for the entire family. Brighten the day of your lover with a lovely smile. You will want to devote your free time tending your mother's needs, but won't be able to do so due to something urgent coming up. This can trouble you. Do you think that married life is all about compromises? If yes, you will know today that it's the best thing ever happened to you. Today, you can get some bad news from someone living abroad. **Remedy :-** Keep black-white pieces of marble in plant pots to stay happy and enthusiastic.

All Eyes on 'Ramayana' Trailer: Will It Turn the Tables?



Though several tentpole pan-India films with huge box office potential are gearing up for release in the next two years, Bollywood's adaptation of epic Ramayana grabs the highest amount of spotlight because of the massive scale and the ambitious vision with which director Nitesh Tiwari is mounting it. The fact that Ranbir Kapoor and Sai Pallavi are playing the lead roles is another selling point for the hype. Usually, films on the much revered Hindu epics gen-

erate unprecedented buzz prior to their release because audiences of all age groups across the country embrace the retelling of ancient tales of mythology. But, this Ramayana: Part 1, which is billed as the most expensive Indian film till date with a monstrous budget of 4000 earmarked for its overall production, is unable to create significant hype that matches the grandeur and attention with the promotional content so far. As the film's release is just seven months away and given

that staggering money and mammoth expectations riding on it, the team should deliver something fascinating in the coming days to augment the expectations to the next level. Till now, the makers have only unveiled the videos of the title release and a 3 minute glimpse of 'Ramayana: The Introduction', giving a sneak peek into the VFX heavy first look at Ranbir Kapoor as lord Rama and Yash as Ravana. But, nothing concrete on how this visual spectacle will be different from

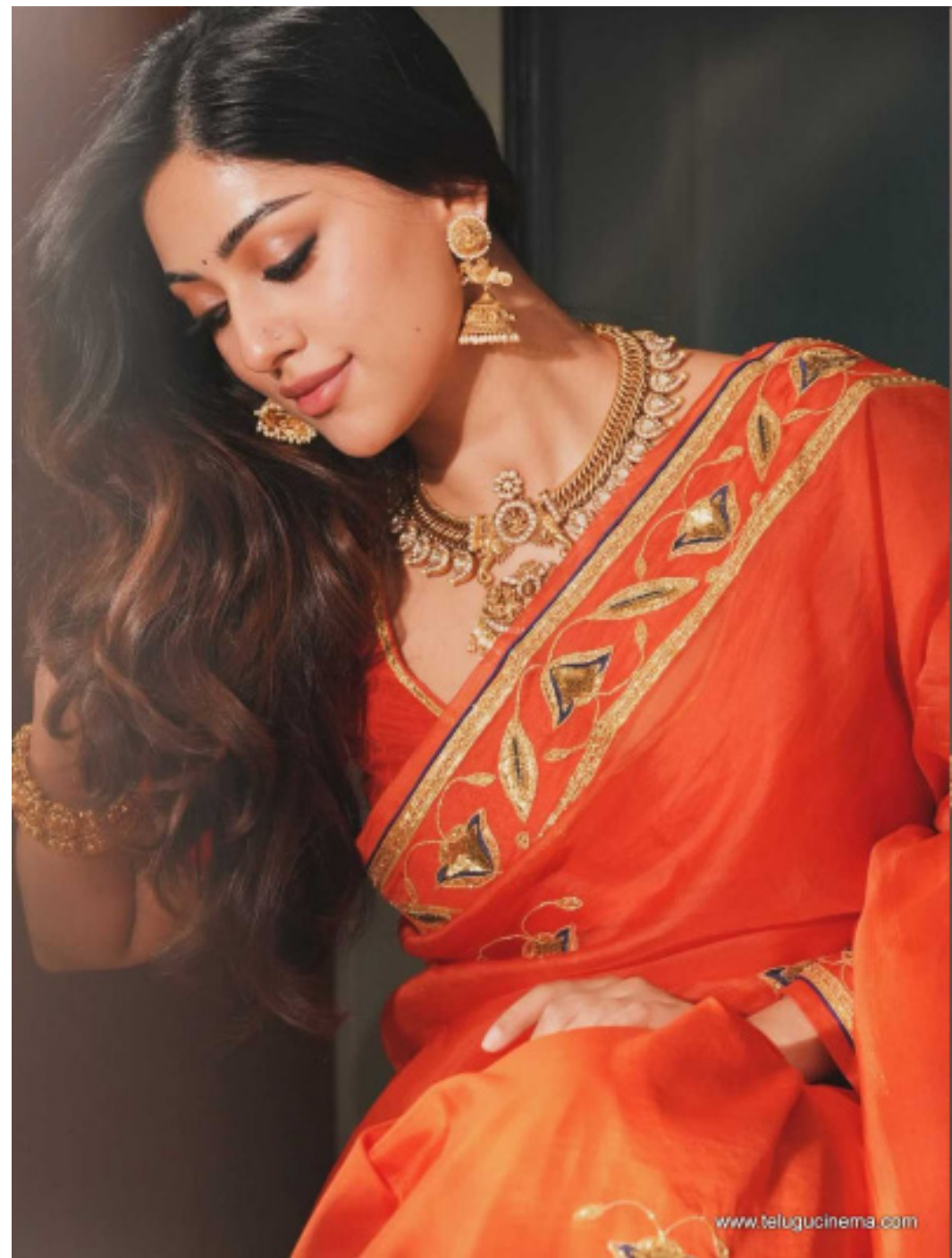
the earlier adaptations of Ramayana is not yet showcased. Now, the team is gearing up for the launch of first trailer on April 2nd as a treat for Hanuman Jayanti. All eyes are on this glimpse as both audiences and trade circles are eagerly awaiting a magnificent output from Nitesh Tiwari and his team. The response for this video will surely give a bigger picture on how well Ramayana will open at the global box office during the Diwali festival.

Days ahead of the grand launch of the glimpse, the film's team hosted a special event in Los Angeles to kick start the global promotions. Ranbir Kapoor, Nitesh Tiwari and Namit Malhotra attended the event where a select people were shown the glimpse of Rama. The initial reports suggest that the viewers were spellbound with the striking and out-of-the-world visuals in the video. Some have called it breathtaking and amazing.

It remains to be seen if the glimpse turns the tables and generates the much needed buzz on the film or not.

The two part epic boasts cutting-edge visual effects handled by DNEG and music composed by Oscar-winning composers A. R. Rahman and Hans Zimmer. It features an ensemble cast led by Kapoor as Lord Rama, alongside Sai Pallavi as Sita Mata and Yash as Ravana.

Anu Emmanuel turns heads in a saree



Kathanar Trailer Disappoints Anushka Fans

Anushka Shetty is doing fewer films in her career these days and her last film, Ghaati ended as a massive flop. Now, she is set to captivate audiences with her ambitious new project Kathanar – The Wild Sorcerer, which also marks her debut in Malayalam cinema. The film stars Jayasurya in the lead role alongside her. The trailer, released today, hints at a visually rich fantasy drama filled with mystery and magical elements. Directed by Rojin Thomas, the film promises a grand cinematic experience, backed by Sree Gokulam Movies on a lavish scale. The story appears to revolve around the

life of a powerful magician, blending folklore with fantasy. While the trailer has generated excitement, some Telugu fans feel that Anushka Shetty hasn't been showcased as much as expected. Usually, Anushka commands a strong screen presence irrespective of the genre she chooses. Given the film's grand scale, showcasing her more prominently in the pre-release promotional material could work in the film's favor. Featuring Anushka with better screen time in upcoming promos may help the film connect strongly with the masses, especially in Telugu and other language markets. Kathanar



also features a strong supporting cast including Vineeth, Sandy, Sanoop San, Devika, Harish Uthaman, and Srikanth Murali. Music is composed by Rahul Subramanian, adding to

the film's appeal. Despite Anushka's limited presence in the trailer, the anticipation remains high as Kathanar gears up for a pan-Indian release in multiple languages.

Jana Nayagan To Release Before Election 'Results'?



Speculation is growing around the release plans of Vijay's Jana Nayagan, with fresh reports suggesting a major shift in strategy. Initially, many believed the film would clear censor formalities and arrive only after the election results, avoiding the politically sensitive period. However, the latest buzz indicates otherwise. Sources suggest that the team is likely to receive final censor clearance within this week. If everything goes as planned, the makers are considering a release immediately after polling, targeting April 24. This move, if finalized, would be a bold and strategic decision.

As a backup, April 30 is also being discussed as a potential release date. If the film locks either of these dates, it could impact other movies that have already planned their releases around the same window.

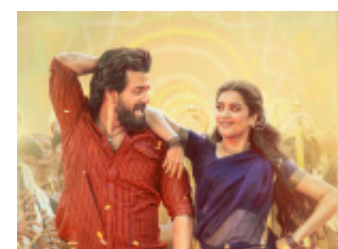
In Telugu states, since a few Telugu films are planning release for that date and Peddi is likely to move to another date, Jana Nayagan may not face a direct impact. However, there could still be an issue with screen sharing if multiple

Telugu releases choose the same date.

At the same time, releasing before the election results could work in the film's favor, as it would avoid any direct

influence or distraction caused by political outcomes. With clarity expected soon, all eyes are now on the makers to see which date they finalize for Jana Nayagan.

Lenin moves ahead with promotions amid date confusion



The team of "Lenin" has kickstarted promotions despite fresh uncertainty surrounding release dates of competing films. Starring Akhil Akkineni and Bhagyashree Borse, the film was initially scheduled to hit theaters on May 1 but was later postponed

to June 26. The makers had cited the need to avoid a box office clash with Ram Charan's "Peddi," which was earlier planned for an April 30 release. Starring Akhil Akkineni and Bhagyashree Borse, the film was initially scheduled to hit theaters on May 1 but was later postponed to June 26. The makers had cited the need to avoid a box office clash with Ram Charan's "Peddi," which was earlier planned for an April 30 release.

Tovino Thomas confirms he is not part of NTR's Dragon

Tovino Thomas has officially put an end to speculation about his involvement in "Dragon," starring NTR, and directed by Prashanth Neel. Rumors had been circulating that Tovino was roped in to play a key role, reportedly as NTR's brother in the film. However, the Malayalam star has now clarified that he is not part of the project. Movie merchandise store Speaking during a recent visit to Hyderabad for film promotions, Tovino revealed that he couldn't allocate dates for the big-budget Telugu film. He explained that committing to such a large-scale project would significantly impact his work in Malayalam cinema. Tovino highlighted the difference in working styles between the two industries. While Malayalam films are typically shot in a single stretch and completed quickly, Telugu big-budget productions often span over a year or more.

According to him, dedicating that much time to one project would mean letting go of multiple Malayalam films. "If I allot dates to one Telugu film for a year, I will have to miss out on four Malayalam projects," he explained.



SPORT

Miami: World No. 2 Jannik Sinner beat home hope Alex Michelsen 7-5, 7-6(4) to enter the Miami Open quarterfinals, keeping his mission to complete the coveted 'Sunshine Double' on track. The 24-year-old Italian is just the third man to reach the quarterfinals on his first five appearances at the Miami Open, joining Yannick Noah and Stefan Edberg. Indian Wells champion Sinner rallied from 2-5 in the second set to complete a one-hour, 42-minute win and improve his tally of consecutive sets won at Masters 1000 events to a record-extending 28. "I felt like the serve helped me quite a lot today, especially in important moments and in the tie-break, so I am happy about that. At the same time, I know that if I want to go far in this tournament, I have to improve from the back of the court. "Tomorrow is a day off, which helps me, and I will try to find good rhythm in the practice session."

India face Bhutan in SAFF Under-20 Championship semi-final



Hyderabad: Defending champions India will look to rise to the occasion when they take on Bhutan in the semi-finals of the SAFF Under-20 Championship at the National Stadium in Malé, Maldives, on Wednesday. The match will kick off at 21:00 IST and will be streamed live on the Sportzworkz YouTube channel. The other semi-final is between Nepal and Bangladesh and will start at 16:15 IST. The Indian team heads into the semi-final after making full use of the three-day break following their group-stage matches. The Blue Colts used the time to recover physically and reset mentally after their outings against Pakistan and Bangladesh. The squad also enjoyed a day out at the

beach, allowing the players to unwind and strengthen team bonding ahead of the decisive encounter. The positive atmosphere carried into training, where the players showed sharpness, enthusiasm and renewed focus as preparations intensified. India progressed to the semi-finals as group toppers after composed performances against Pakistan (3-0) and Bangladesh (1-1) in Group B. The team showed resilience in key moments and handled pressure well, particularly in phases where the matches demanded patience and discipline. India head coach Mahesh Gawali praised his players for their effort and mindset so far. "The boys have been playing well as they

handled pressure well. We did not get time to prepare before the tournament, but the boys are giving their 100 per cent. I am really happy and proud of the way we have performed so far," said Gawali. While the group-stage results were encouraging, the Indian camp is aware that the semi-final will require another step forward. The team created opportunities in both matches but will aim to be more clinical in front of goal. Maintaining concentration during defensive phases will also be important in a knock-out encounter. "Nothing is easy. We created chances to score, and we need to convert more. We also need to be more focused when defending," Gawali added. Bhutan enter the

semi-final after showing determination in Group A. They began with a defeat against Nepal but recovered with a goalless draw against hosts Maldives. Their qualification was sealed in dramatic fashion when they scored in injury time to beat Sri Lanka 1-0. The late winner underlined Bhutan's persistence and ability to stay in the contest until the final whistle. India will therefore approach the match with caution. Bhutan's disciplined performances and ability to capitalise on decisive moments make them a dangerous opponent. Staying focused for the full 90 minutes will be crucial for the Blue Colts. There will also be a key battle in front of goal. India's Vishal Yadav and Omang Dodum have each scored twice in the tournament and have led the attacking effort. Bhutan's Dhendup Gyeltshen has also scored two goals and will be a major threat. The performance of these forwards could influence the outcome of the match. With no extra time scheduled, the semi-final will go directly to penalties if the scores are level after regulation time. That adds further intensity to the encounter, where composure and decision-making will play a vital role. India will look to build on the positives from the group stage, remain disciplined and deliver a strong performance as they aim to secure a place in the SAFF Under-20 Championship final.

India U20 goalkeeper Suraj Aheibam overcomes social media distraction



Hyderabad: Social media can quietly disrupt an athlete's routine, turning short breaks into long distractions and slowly affecting focus, recovery and performance. For young players chasing consistency, the impact can be even greater. India U20 men's goalkeeper Suraj Singh Aheibam experienced this first-hand. The night of April 14, 2025, was difficult for Suraj. Classic Football Academy had just lost the Reliance Foundation Development League 2024-25 final 0-3 to Mohun Bagan Super Giant. As disappointment lingered, the Classic FA goalkeeper found himself reflecting not just on the result, but on his own routine. Hours spent scrolling through social media, late nights and constant distractions had slowly crept into his life. That evening, the realisation was clear. If he wanted to grow, something had to change. Within hours, Suraj deleted his Instagram and other social media accounts, choosing discipline over distraction. "I had become a social media addict, and I would be doomscrolling all the time," Suraj said in an interaction with the-aiff.com during the ongoing SAFF U20 Championship in Maldives. "I would watch reels after breakfast and lunch, and whenever I had free time. But the worst was after dinner. I would go back to my bedroom and keep watching reels for two to three hours," he added. As a result of watching reels till late at night, Suraj woke up tired and struggled to maintain focus

during training. Recognising the adverse impact, he decided to take a complete break. The move helped him introduce discipline into his routine. He began sleeping earlier, paying more attention to recovery, improving his diet and structuring his day around training. The clarity in his schedule also quickly reflected in his performances. Within a month, the results followed. On May 18, 2025, Suraj produced a defining moment in the SAFF U19 Championship final in Yupia, Arunachal Pradesh. With the match tied 1-1 after regulation time, he saved the decisive penalty from Bangladesh's Salahuddin Sahed to help India win the tie-breaker and lift the title. "It validated my move. It showed how social media addiction could hamper your performance. When I stayed away, I felt calm and could focus clearly. During the penalty, I was completely in the moment," said Suraj. The 18-year-old reactivated his accounts only after the triumph, but the mindset had changed. The emphasis now remained on balance and discipline. "Now, I have changed my habit. I would go back to my room and watch a few YouTube videos about goalkeeping and then go to sleep at 10:30 pm sharp. Even when I am not watching YouTube, I would rather listen to some Manipuri music than go on social media and watch reels," he said. The maturity also coincided with another milestone as Suraj secured his

first Indian Super League contract with Bengaluru FC last year. Already a winner of SAFF U16, U17 and U19 titles, he now embraces greater responsibility as he is also leading the India U20 side in the ongoing SAFF U20 Championship. "I had a different mindset before I became a captain. Now, there is extra responsibility and I want to be a disciplinarian," he said. Suraj also draws inspiration from former Manchester City goalkeeper and current Fenerbahçe custodian Ederson, particularly for his distribution and composure with the ball. "I follow Ederson's playing style. He is very good with his feet, and I try to follow that style, how he distributes the ball and how he can launch a counterattack quickly," he added. A key figure in his development has been former India midfielder Renedy Singh, who worked with him at Classic Football Academy and Bengaluru FC. "Renedy sir has done a lot for me. He has bought boots, goalkeeping gloves, and I stayed in his home for more than two years. When I go to Manipur, I stay with him. He has also given me good advice: train hard and maintain modern discipline," Suraj said. The guidance continues. Before leaving for the SAFF U20 Championship, Suraj spoke with his mentor. "I keep chatting with him, and I had a chat with him before coming to the tournament. He asked me not to lose to any team. The goal is to keep winning and go till the end," he said.

"Bas Ho Gaya": Rishabh Pant Helps As Digvesh Rathi, Nitish Rana Bury The Hatchet After Major Spat

"The Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 serves as a platform for players young and old, local and overseas to rub shoulders on the premier stage of T20 cricket. As a result, it also offers players who've clashed in the past to make a truce. Harbhajan Singh and Andrew Symonds were involved in the infamous 'Monkeygate', but bruised the hatchet during their stint together at Mumbai Indians. A similar episode seems to have happened between Delhi Capitals' (DC) experienced batter Nitish Rana and Lucknow Super Giants' (LSG) controversial spinner Digvesh Rathi. Rana and Rathi had nearly come to blows during a Delhi Premier League (DPL) 2025 game after a heated on-field spat. Many fans had expected a continuation of the rivalry with DC taking on LSG in their opening IPL 2026 game. However, with the aid of LSG captain Rishabh Pant, it appears that Rana and Rathi have put the animosity behind them. In a video shared by Lucknow



Super Giants on social media, Rana and Rathi can be seen sharing a laugh ahead of their game on Wednesday, with Pant also joining the duo. "Tu kaha ja raha hai? Bas ho gaya (Where are you going? That's enough)," Pant can be seen telling

Digvesh. "Tere saath baithna padega. Aana padega tujhe (I'll have to sit with you. You have to come)," said Rana to the LSG spinner. "Bohot gyaan de diya (You've lectured a lot)," Kuldeep told Pant in a humorous manner. LSG and DC face

off in their opening game of IPL 2026. Both sides missed out on the playoffs in 2025. Pant, in particular, will be at the centre of attention, and will be eager to justify his Rs 27 crore price tag after a disappointing 2025 campaign.

"No One Wants To Sit On Bench": Arjun Tendulkar On Mumbai Indians Exit

Arjun Tendulkar, the son of Indian cricket great Sachin Tendulkar, is ready to start a new chapter in his career with the Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026. Arjun first entered the IPL when he was signed by the Mumbai Indians in 2021. He played for the franchise until 2025, though opportunities were limited, before joining the Lucknow franchise ahead of this year's campaign. While the southpaw is yet to make his debut for the new franchise, he understandably arrived with the expectation of playing a little more than he did for MI.



During an interview on Shubhankar Mishra's podcast, Arjun opened up about his experience at MI and the limited opportunities he received at the franchise. "You played a few matches for Mumbai Indians (MI) and bowled well. Your swing was good, so did you feel you should have gotten more opportunities?" Arjun was asked. He replied, "Who doesn't feel

that? No one wants to sit on the bench. But we want to work hard and perform when we get a chance." Arjun also shared his thoughts on a debatable rule in the IPL—the Impact Player—which has been criticised by a number of Indian internationals in recent times. Arjun echoed these sentiments, saying cricket is a game of 11 players and that is how it should be played. "Pick 11 and play. Because in international T20s, and in any other league, there is no Impact Player. So, I am personally against the Impact Player rule." The Lucknow team is often seen as a side that has incredible batters at the top, but the middle and lower-middle order has looked fragile.

Sinner moves closer to Alcaraz in live rankings after Miami title



London: After triumphing in Indian Wells and Miami to complete the 'Sunshine Double', Jannik Sinner has moved closer to his rival Carlos Alcaraz in the Live Race, with just 50 points separating the two players. Alcaraz began the year with title runs at the Australian Open and the ATP 500 in Doha, building a 16-match winning streak that ended in the Indian Wells semi-finals. Sinner has since gained momentum and completed the 'Sunshine Double'. Alcaraz and Sinner are leading the battle for ATP Year-End No. 1 with 2,950 and 2,900 ranking points, respectively. No other player is within 1,000 points of the pair, with third-placed Daniil Medvedev currently 1,200 points behind Sinner, ATP reports. Meanwhile, Arthur Fils and Jiri Lehecka earned career milestones in Miami to continue their pursuit of a maiden qualification for the ATP Finals. Fils, 21, reached his biggest ATP Tour semi-final in South Florida, helping him rise to eighth in the Live Race. The Frenchman was also a finalist in Doha and a quarter-finalist in Indian Wells. Lehecka surged 54 places to 10th following his first ATP Masters 1000 final appearance. The Czech arrived in Miami with a modest 6-5 season record, according to the ATP Win/Loss Index, yet found his best form at the hard-court event, where he went unbeaten until the championship match against Sinner. He was also a quarter-finalist at the ATP 500 events in Doha and Dubai. German Alexander Zverev, a semi-finalist in both Indian Wells and Miami, leapfrogged 101-time tour-level titlist Novak Djokovic for fourth. Alex de Minaur and Ben Shelton, both former competitors in Turin, are also currently in the top eight.

Clothes Distributed to Tribals by Reddy Welfare Association in Nerabailu ST Colony – Grand Felicitation to Reddy Welfare Association Leaders

(By our Skyline Staff Reporter)

V.V. Palem, April 3: Providing clothes to tribal Yanadi people is a noble act and a result of good deeds from past lives, said Puli Satyanarayana Reddy, Chairman of Gandaboyanapalli Sri Satamma Thalli Temple Committee and President of the Reddy Welfare Association. On Friday, under his leadership, a clothes distribution program was organized in the Nerabailu tribal colony of V.V. Palem mandal. On this occasion, tribals felicitated Puli Satyanarayana Reddy, Amarnath Reddy, Ramireddy, Tatireddy, and APGYSS State President Puli Srinivasulu by garlanding them and honoring them with shawls. Speaking on the occasion, Puli Satyanarayana Reddy said that serving and supporting tribal communities is a virtuous act. He emphasized that helping the underprivileged sections of society is everyone's responsibility. APGYSS State President Puli Srinivasulu stated that more attention needs to be given to the welfare of tribal communities. He suggested that everyone should work together to improve facilities in education and healthcare for tribals. Donor Ramireddy highlighted the importance of education, stating that it is essential for everyone and that it helps indi-



viduals gain awareness and understand how to live in society. APGYSS State Honorary President Janam Gangi Reddy, Reddy Welfare Association members Amarnath Reddy, Sudhakar Reddy, Thathireddy, tribal leaders Adinarayana, Tirumalashetty Ramana, and tribal leader Papaiah, along with others, participated in the program.

MITS Physical Director excels at international level in SPORTINTEL 2026 organized by SRM



Madanapalle, April 03(Skyline daily): Dr C Damodaran, Physical Director of MITS (Madanapalle Institute of Technology & Science) Deemed to be University near Madanapalle, has excelled at international level, said the university's Vice Chancellor Dr C Yuvaraj. At the 3rd International Conference-Advanced Sports Science and Intelligence Performance Technologies (SPORTINTEL 2026) organized by SRM Institute of Science and Technology in Chennai, Dr C Damodaran presented his research paper on "Role of Physical Education and Sports Sciences-Health, Fitness and Active Lifestyle Throughout Life" and was awarded the bronze medal for third position in the

Physical Education category, he said. Academicians, researchers and sports experts from all over the world participated in this conference and shared their research papers on modern technologies like sports science, artificial intelligence and data analytics. On this occasion, Dr T Maithili, Additional Registrar, SRM University, presented the bronze medal and certificate. Dr C Damodaran, who excelled in this international conference, was congratulated by MITS Founder and Chancellor Dr N Vijaya Bhaskar Chowdhary, Pro Chancellor N Dwarkanath, Executive Director Kirti Nadella, Vice Chancellor Dr C Yuvraj and faculty.

Granting Legal Recognition to Amaravati is Commendable: Dr. Batula Sanjeeva Rayudu

(By our Skyline Staff Reporter)

Pileru, April 3: There is widespread joy over the key decision taken by the Central Government, bringing an end to the uncertainty that has persisted for many years regarding Amaravati. Dr. Batula Sanjeeva Rayudu, National BC Secretary, stated that the unanimous resolution passed yesterday in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, recognizing Amaravati as the capital of Andhra Pradesh with the consent of all political parties, is a historic milestone. Speaking on the occasion, he said that the "eclipse" of uncertainty surrounding Amaravati has now been completely lifted, and this decision has fulfilled the long-standing aspirations of 55 million people of Andhra Pradesh. He expressed special thanks to the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, and the Chief Minister of the state, N. Chandrababu Naidu, for taking this historic decision. He expressed hope that Amaravati would develop not only as an administrative capital but also emerge as a hub for industries, gain prominence in tourism, become a focal point for economic development, and lead in the fields of science and technology. At the same time, he wished that Amaravati would preserve its spiritual and historical heritage while growing into a world-class city. This decision has sparked joy across the state. Various voluntary organizations, youth groups, and women's associations have welcomed the resolution and expressed their support. They opined that this is a crucial step towards fulfilling the as-



pirations of the people. Overall, analysts believe that granting legal status to Amaravati as the permanent capital provides a new direction for the state's development and will further strengthen the future of Andhra Pradesh.

Online applications are invited for admissions in the Diploma in the Elementary Education Common Entrance course



Madanapalle, April 03(Skyline daily): DEECET-2026 examination, which will be conducted for admissions to the Diploma in Elementary Education (D.El.Ed) course in the state of Andhra Pradesh for the academic year 2026-2027, is being invited through online applications, said Diet Principal Dr. K Subramaniam in a statement on Friday. Speaking on this occasion, he said that for admission to the two-year course offered in government District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) and private Elementary Teacher Training Institutions, candidates should apply only through online. The complete no-

tification, eligibility criteria, and details regarding the online application process are available on the websites (<https://cse.ap.gov.in> and <https://apdeecet.apcfss.in>) from March 31st. Submission of applications is from 31st March to 15th April 2026. It was also clarified that manual (offline) applications will not be accepted. The examination dates will be announced soon. For other details, the Diet In-charge Principal Madithati Narasimha Reddy can be contacted on cell number 9440246825, and the help center set up in Rayachoti Diet can also be used, he suggested.

The official approval of the Centre by declaring Amaravati as the capital of Andhra Pradesh is commendable

Madanapalle, April 03(Skyline daily): The official approval of the Central Government by declaring the historic Buddhist pilgrimage site Amaravati as the capital of Andhra Pradesh is a matter of pride for all of us, said District Collector Nishant Kumar. Declaring Amaravati as the capital of the people is a historic moment and a matter of pride for all of us, he said. He said that the dreams of the people have come true today. He said that just as Delhi has been the capital of the country in history, Amaravati, a Buddhist pilgrimage site, will remain in the history of Andhra Pradesh as the capital. He said that a historic decision was taken in the Assembly under the leadership of State Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, and Amaravati was declared as the capital, passed a resolution and sent to the Centre. He said that the official approval of the Centre by declaring Amaravati as the capital of Andhra Pradesh after the bifurcation of the state is commendable. On this occasion, as per the instructions of the government, the District Collector has instructed the government officials to light rangoli and lamps by women at all village and mandal levels across the district and decorate every government building with electric lamps. On the auspicious occasion of the approval of the bill in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, recognizing Amaravati as the only permanent capital of Andhra Pradesh, on Thursday evening, under the auspices of the DRDA, MEPMA and Education departments, women across Annamayya dis-



trict made rangoli, lit lamps and celebrated with joy. Many residents of the district expressed their gratitude to the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister and the Prime Minister of the country for their special efforts in establishing a permanent capital for us.

Legitimacy of the capital in Parliament is a victory for the people of AP

Punganur, April 03(Skyline daily): TDP senior leader and retired DSP Sukumar Babu expressed his joy that the legalization of Amaravati as the permanent capital of Andhra Pradesh in Parliament is a victory for the people of AP. On Thursday night, he celebrated with candles at High School Street, along with former TDP councilor K Sulochana and TDP ranks. Speaking on the occasion, Sukumar Babu said that the work on the people's capital Amaravati had stopped due to the negligence of the previous YSRCP government. He said that as soon as the coalition government came to power in 2024, under the leadership of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, the work on the capital Amaravati gained momentum. He said that this will be very beneficial for the farmers who gave their lands. He said that Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu is a visionary leader. He



expressed confidence that he will make Amaravati the most ideal capital in the country. He expressed happiness that AP is developing rapidly under the coalition government and that large investments are coming in. A large number of TDP and coalition leaders participated in this program.

Fire-damaged lorry, loss of Rs 9 lakh

Madanapalle, April 03(Skyline daily): On Friday morning, at around 02.30 am, a fire broke out in a 12-wheeler lorry, AP03TJ0178, located at Amin Lorry Mechanic Garage, behind Rama Tulasamma Mandapam, Punganur Bypass Road, Madanapalle town, said Fire Officer G Sivappa. As soon as the information was received, the Fire Officer along with his staff reached the spot and found the lorry already on fire. The fire brigade personnel immediately doused the fire completely. The cabin of the lorry was completely gutted in the accident, causing a loss of about Rs 9 lakh, said the owner Shlivakumar. The owner said that the fire broke out due to an electrical short circuit.



Mini Truck Donated to TTD



Tirumala, 03 April 2026: Ashok Leyland donated a Dost Plus XL mini truck worth Rs 8.75 lakhs to TTD on Friday morning. On this occasion the company's Area Manager Mohammed Nazeeruddin performed special prayers for the vehicle in front of the Srivari Temple and handed over the vehicle keys to TTD Additional Executive Officer Ch. Venkaiah Chowdary.

Minister Keshav conducts 'Praja Darbar'

From Our Staff Reporter

Anantapur: Andhra Pradesh Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav conducted a 'Praja Darbar' at his camp office in Ram Nagar, Anantapur, to directly receive grievances from the public.

During the programme, citizens and local leaders submitted petitions highlighting various issues. The Minister assured that all representations would be addressed promptly and necessary action would be taken without delay.

Speaking on the occasion, Keshav stated that the State government, under the leadership of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, is giving top priority to resolving public grievances.



He emphasised that development and welfare are the two key pillars of the government's governance approach. He further noted that the government is com-

mitted to delivering welfare schemes to all eligible beneficiaries while simultaneously undertaking development initiatives to steer the State towards progress. The

Minister personally received petitions from people arriving from different parts of the district and directed officials to take immediate steps to resolve their concerns.