



**Peddi Team Racing Against Time to Meet the Deadline?**

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**HC pulls up Wipro for denying ex-gratia to former employee, slaps Rs 50,000 costs** **4pg**



**The new facilities, equipped with latest technologies, to provide quality medical care to serving personnel, veterans & their dependents** **5pg**

**Dinesh Karthik focuses on helping players understand roles at RCB** **7pg**



**In Brief**

**Home Minister visits and consoles police injured in Challapalli incident**

Amaravati, April 6: Home Minister Anitha visited and consoled the police personnel who were injured in an explosion incident at the Challapalli Police Station in Krishna district. She met the injured officers undergoing treatment at NRI Hospital in Mangalagiri and encouraged them. She also spoke to their family members and assured them that the government would stand by them. The Home Minister instructed officials to ensure better medical care for the injured police personnel.

Speaking on the occasion, Home Minister Anitha said that the explosion occurred while seized firecrackers were being transported to the court. These firecrackers had been confiscated from shops operating without permission under the jurisdiction of Challapalli Police Station in Krishna district. She stated that in the incident, a Sub-Inspector (SI), a court constable, and two constables were injured. A constable named Abdullah sustained 50-60% injuries, while the others are not in life-threatening condition. She added that the health condition of the injured is being continuously monitored by Krishna district SP Vidyasagar Naidu. The Home Minister expressed hope that all injured personnel would recover soon. She assured that the government would support their families in every possible way. She also thanked the NRI Hospital medical team for providing special care and treatment to the injured police personnel.

**Tragedy... One dead, four seriously injured due to lightning strike**

Markapuram: A series of lightning strikes in Andhra Pradesh is causing deep tragedy. Sunday, three people died due to lightning strikes in Srikakulam and Tirupati districts. Monday, another tragic incident occurred in Markapuram district. Lightning struck a maize factory in Pullalacheruvu. A man named Kannaya (28) died on the spot due to the strike, while four others were seriously injured. The injured were shifted to Yerragondapalem Government Hospital for treatment. Further details about their condition are yet to be known. On Sunday, heavy rains lashed B. Kesupuram in Mandasa mandal of Srikakulam district. A mother and daughter—Madiya Krishnaveni (35) and Madiya Yogeshwari (15)—who had gone for farm work took shelter under a tree due to rain. At that moment, a lightning strike killed both of them. Similarly, in Tirupati district, another person died due to lightning. The incident took place in Kalavagunta village of Srikalahasti mandal. A worker named V. Kamaraj (35), who had gone for toddy tapping, was struck by lightning and died. Though he was shifted to the Venkatagiri Government Hospital, doctors confirmed that he had already passed away.

**AP ranks No.1 in the country in micro irrigation: CM**



**From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, April 6 :** Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said that the future of the state and agricultural sustainability can be achieved only through water conservation. He stated that the government is working with the slogan: "Guide flowing water, store moving water, and recharge stagnant water into the ground", aiming to increase groundwater levels. On Monday, the Chief Minister toured Anantapur district and held a meeting with irrigation associations and farmers at Yadiki.

**Focus on water conservation and irrigation** Speaking on the occasion, he said that every citizen has the responsibility to protect natural resources and transform the land into a vast reservoir. He highlighted that due to innovative schemes like Neeru-Progress and NTR Jalasiri implemented during the Telugu Desam Party government, Andhra Pradesh now ranks first in the country in micro irrigation. He noted that micro irrigation has become a boon for farmers in the Rayalaseema region, where the value of rainwater is well understood. The govern-

ment has introduced micro and drip irrigation systems and is providing equipment with up to 90% subsidy. He added that: - 63% of crops in Rayalaseema are under micro irrigation - Rs.30,000 crore will be spent on horticulture over the next six years - Groundwater levels in Anantapur have improved to 11.25 meters - 20,000 tanks have been filled in Rayalaseema He emphasized that understanding the value of every drop of water is essential for securing a better future for coming generations.

The Chief Minister criticized the previous government, saying it played a "three capitals game" in the name of the capital. He described Amaravati as a "people's capital" and said the entire country supported it, except the YSR Congress Party. He assured that the Veligonda project will be completed this year and water will be released through it. He also assigned responsibility to the district collector to link streams and tanks in Anantapur. He said Andhra Pradesh can now proudly call Amaravati its capital. He pointed out that 1,500 TMC of water from the Krishna River flowed into the sea last year, and diverting even 300 TMC could solve water issues. He stressed that river interlinking would bring prosperity to the country. He added that through the Pattiseema project, water is being lifted and diverted to the Krishna delta, and efforts are being made to transform drought-prone Anantapur into a prosperous district.

**YSRCP has turned into a big drama company: MLC Anuradha**

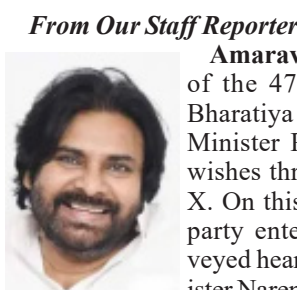
**From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, April 6 :** Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council Chief Whip and MLC Panchumarthi Anuradha said that the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) has turned into a drama company that misleads people rather than functioning as a political party. She criticized their double standards, saying that while they admit inside the Assembly that Amaravati is the capital, they spread negativity about it outside. She lashed out at YSRCP chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, saying that if he calls Amaravati's development "looting," he should first understand what real looting is. She stated that earning thousands of crores by misusing his father's power is looting, and being involved in illegal assets cases and roaming on bail for years is also looting. She said that taking funds in the name of mobilization advances without even starting the Polavaram project is looting. She also alleged that collecting cash



in liquor sales without digital payments is looting. She made serious accusations that exploiting mining leases is a real scam. Anuradha further alleged that during Jagan Mohan Reddy's tenure as Chief Minister, grabbing thousands of acres of valuable land in Visakhapatnam under the name of "22A" is also looting. She praised Amaravati, saying it is not just land but a global center with IT hubs, sports city, universities, and employment opportunities for thousands of youth. She added that the entire country is feeling sorry seeing Andhra Pradesh without a capital, and even MPs from other

states raising this issue in Parliament reflects YSRCP's moral defeat. She accused that leaders like Y.V. Subba Reddy and Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy are being used to conduct press meets to defame the capital. She said that spreading lies about Amaravati without a clear vision is purely an act of vendetta. She added that there is no consistency between what was said earlier and what is being done now, and that Minister Lokesh has exposed all of Jagan's lies with video evidence. She criticized YSRCP leadership for failing to answer Lokesh's questions and instead focusing only on mud-slinging. She advised that insulting the sacrifice of farmers who gave 30,000 acres of land for the capital, trusting Chief Minister Chandrababu, is not right. Anuradha sarcastically said that due to irresponsible behavior, people limited YSRCP to just 11 seats, not even granting them opposition status. She urged them to stop spreading false propaganda about the capital without understanding what a self-sustainable project is. She criticized that whenever serious discussions about the capital arise, instead of answering, they resort to meaningless words like "Mavign" just to pass time, which reflects irresponsibility.

**BJP is the largest party in the world: Deputy CM**



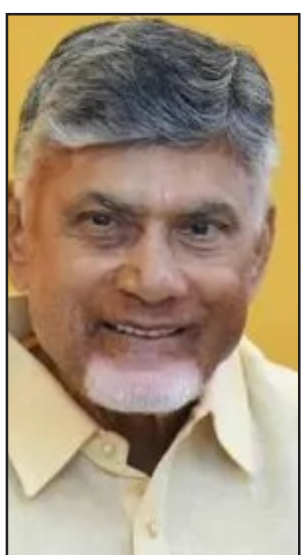
**From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, April 6:** On the occasion of the 47th Foundation Day of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan extended his wishes through social media platform X. On this auspicious occasion of the party entering its 47th year, he conveyed heartfelt greetings to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP national leadership, AP BJP president PVN Madhav, party leaders, and workers. He said the BJP is moving forward with the principles of love for the nation and dedication to its people. He stated that the vision of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and L. K. Advani, combined with the determined leadership of Narendra Modi, has helped the BJP emerge as the largest political party in the world.

**BJP 47th Foundation Day... CM extends greetings**

**From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, April 6:** On the occasion of the 47th Foundation Day of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu conveyed his greetings. Responding via the social media platform X, he said that BJP is committed to the all-round development of the nation with nationalism as its foundation. He added that the party has strengthened the country through decisive governance and its commitment to progress. "On the occasion of the

47th Foundation Day of the Bharatiya Janata Party, I extend my heartfelt greetings to the party leaders and workers. With nationalism as its foundation, the party is committed to the overall development of the nation. It continues to strengthen our culture and democratic values while striving for inclusive development and service to the country. From the party's founding leaders to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and under the leadership of current Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP has empow-

ered the nation through decisive governance and dedication to progress. In Andhra Pradesh, the National Democratic Alliance 'double-engine government' is working with double speed, serving the people with enthusiasm and standing as an example of cooperative federalism. Under the leadership of party president Nitin Nabin, I sincerely hope the BJP achieves more success in serving the nation and strengthens our journey towards the goal of 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India)."



**False propaganda on Mulapeta Port... Ministers lash out at YSRCP**

**From Our Staff Reporter Srikakulam, April 6:** Ministers B.C. Janardhan Reddy and Atchannaidu inspected the Mulapeta Port on Monday. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Janardhan Reddy said that they reviewed the port construction progress. He stated that Mulapeta Port is a long-cherished dream of the people of Srikakulam district. The port is being constructed at a cost of ₹4,360 crore, with four berths planned over 1,524 acres. He said the target is to complete the port by November 2026. The minister said that only 20% of the work was completed during the previous government, whereas now 70.54% has been completed. He added that 49.63% of the work was completed in

just 20 months. He strongly criticized YSRCP, accusing it of spreading false propaganda using certain media outlets. He alleged that the previous government did not act sincerely regarding the acquisition of salt lands required for the port. He explained that after coming to power, they held discussions with the central government and secured 385 acres of salt land on lease. He questioned YSRCP leaders, asking whether they had been "sleeping" for the past 20 months and accused them of doing politics only for survival. He said people of North Andhra had already "taught them a lesson." He added that even when Visakhapatnam was proposed as capital, North Andhra people did not be-



lieve YSRCP. He challenged Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and YSRCP leaders to come forward and discuss public issues. He criticized Jagan for initially supporting Amaravati as the capital and later changing stance to the "three capitals" idea. He remarked that Jagan is not a development-oriented leader but one who creates destruction, which is why the party was limited to 11 seats. He also said that

Bhogapuram Airport is expected to become the second-largest private airport in the country. "Mulapeta residents made sacrifices" - Minister Atchannaidu Minister Atchannaidu said that port works have progressed from 20% to 76%. He mentioned that a ship has already arrived at the port, implying that berths are functional. He said that after the port is completed, road and rail connectivity will

be essential. He reiterated that salt lands are necessary for the port and confirmed that 385 acres were leased by the central government, though someone has approached the court regarding it. He assured that the port will be completed by November and that issues related to forest land and power supply will be resolved soon. He criticized YSRCP leaders for making baseless allegations and praised Mulapeta residents for their sacrifices. He added that while the port itself may not directly create jobs, industries around it will generate employment. He revealed that 17 companies have already applied for land and invited YSRCP leaders to visit the Mulapeta Port.

**Amaravati Legitimacy Bill reaches Rashtrapati Bhavan**



**New Delhi, April 6 (UNI):** A key step has been taken towards granting permanent legal status to Amaravati as the capital of Andhra Pradesh. The Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Amendment Bill-2026, which was approved by both Houses of Parliament, has reached Rashtrapati Bhavan on Monday. The Lok Sabha Secretariat sent the bill for the President's approval. A crucial phase regarding Amaravati's legal status has concluded in Parliament. The bill was discussed for about five hours in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. Members from various parties expressed their views, while the central government explained the importance of the bill. After the discussion, both Houses passed the bill without any amendments. The bill is now under the consideration of the President. As per constitutional procedures, the President will consult legal experts before giving assent. Once the President approves, a Gazette notification will be issued in Hindi and English.

## MLA Jaha, who was busy in various programs along with a surprise inspection at the district government hospital



**Madanapalle, April 06 (Skyline daily):** MLA Shahjahan Basha conducted a surprise inspection on Monday at the Madanapalle District Government Hospital, Annamayya district headquarters, to find out about the medical services being provided to patients. As part of this, he went to each ward at the field level, met the patients directly and inquired about whether they were receiving proper

treatment or not. He asked whether the patients were satisfied with the medical services provided by the doctors and staff. Similarly, he inquired about the collection of money from security personnel, issues about drinking water, water for use. He said that another building will be constructed for the dialysis center soon. All the Telugu Desam Party and coalition leaders and doctors participated in this program. Later, MLAM Shahjahan Basha participated in a review meeting held at the Madanapalle MPDO office with the special officers appointed to Nimmanapalle, Ramasamudram and Madanapalle rural mandals of Madanapalle constituency and instructed them to know their panchayat responsibilities and provide more services to the people. Leaders from the respective panchayats participated in this program. Later, MLA Shahjahan Basha launched the "Water Safety, Irrigation and Water Societies Responsibility" program organized with farmers in Madanapalle Rural Mandal, Chikalbailu Panchayat, Medipalle village. Former Panchayat Sarpanch Prabhakar, leaders and farmers participated in this program in large numbers. Later, MLA Shahjahan Basha participated in the Enrollment 2026-27 awareness conference organized at the Zilla Parishad High School in Madanapalle town and asked the teachers to further increase the student-teacher ratio and bring the school back to its former glory. He assured that the dining hall would be available to the children as soon as the school starts in June. The school head master and all the teachers participated in this program.

## Applications Should be Processed with Special Care: Collector



**(from Our Staff Reporter)**  
**KADAPA (Skyline Daily) April 06:** District Collector Sridhar Cherukuri has directed the officials to deal with

the applications received through the Public Problem Solving Forum program with special attention and to provide quality solutions to the satisfaction of the applicants. On Monday, a program for accepting applications was held in the meeting hall of the Sabha Bhavan in the Collectorate through the platform for resolving public issues. District Collector along with Joint Collector Dr. Nidhi Meena, DRO Malli karjuna attended the program and received complaints from people. On this occasion, District Collector Sridhar Cherukuri said that the state government is organizing a platform for solving public problems by giving utmost importance to the solution of public problems. Through this platform, the officials should leave laziness in solving the applications and work with special attention and provide quality solutions to the applications so that the applicants are satisfied. In this program, ZP CEO Subramanyam, DRDA P.D. G.Ra. Jyalkshmi, Incharge DPO Venkata Subbaiah, District Officers of various departments and others participated.

## BJP's 47th Foundation Day - Our Village - Our Flag



**Palamaneru, April 6: (By our Skyline staff reporter)** The BJP's 47th Foundation Day was celebrated at the Mandal headquarters. As part of the "Our Village - Our Flag" initiative, the party flag was hoisted on Monday at the YSR circle, under the leadership of Mandal President Somasekar. District General Secretary Vijay Kumar participated in this event as the chief guest. Speaking on the occasion, he stated that the primary objective of this programme was not merely to hoist the party flag in every Panchayat; rather, a unique QR code has been affixed to

every party flag. He explained that this initiative was organized with the specific aim of enabling everyone to access complete information regarding the funds allocated to the Panchayats by the Central Government, as well as details concerning the beneficiaries. District Mahila Morcha President Kavitha Raju, Mandal President Shobha Amarnath, senior BJP leaders B.N. Ramachandra, Subrahmanyam Shetty, Prabhakar, Manjunath, Ramesh, Subrahmanyam, and Sri Hari, along with other party functionaries participated in this programme.

## SRI CHAITANYA STUDENTS WIN BIG AT NASA SPACE COMPETITION



**Srikalahasti - 06 April (Skyline Daily)** Students of Sri Chaitanya from Sriram Nagar Colony in the town have achieved a remarkable victory in the prestigious NASA Space Settlement Contest 2026, held in the United States. With this outstanding accomplishment, the students have showcased their intelligence, hard work, and dedication on a global platform. Speaking on the occasion, Principal A. Roopadevi expressed pride, stating that the students' project titled "Empyrean-In (Space Hotel)" won the World Merit Prize, bringing great honor

to the institution. In this competition, participants from 31 countries took part. Out of 134 winning projects, India secured 80 awards, of which an impressive 57 awards were won by students of Sri Chaitanya institutions, highlighting their exceptional performance. AGM Suresh stated that the success of their students in international competitions is a matter of great pride for the nation. The event was attended by Dean Triveni, in-charges Srihari and Vamsi, NASA coordinator Kavitha, along with students and others.

## Congress Flags 'Offshore Assets' in Himanta Sarma's Poll Affidavit

**Dispur:** In a fresh political development in Assam, a Congress delegation led by former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Monday filed a complaint before the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) in Guwahati against Assam Chief Minister and BJP candidate from Jalukbari constituency, Himanta Biswa Sarma. The delegation included Congress candidate from Jalukbari Smt. Bidisha Neog and Guwahati City District Congress President Swapan Das. The complaint alleges violations under Sections 33, 33A, 36 and 125A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, in connection with the election affidavit submitted by Sarma for the Jalukbari Assembly Constituency No.

37. According to the complainants, the affidavit allegedly contains concealment of offshore assets, including properties linked to Dubai, and indicates a 665 percent increase in declared assets. The Congress leaders claimed that the disclosures made in the nomination papers raise serious questions about transparency and accuracy. Speaking to the media after submitting the complaint, Bhupesh Baghel alleged that certain foreign properties, including a flat and a hotel suite, were not mentioned in the affidavit. He stated that the party has submitted documentary materials to the Election Commission for examination and further verification. Baghel further said that



the party will continue to pursue the matter through legal and constitutional channels and may approach central investigative agencies if required. He added that the Election Commission will examine the complaint and take appropriate action as per law. The development comes a day after political tensions

escalated between the BJP and Congress following allegations and counter-allegations involving senior leaders at the national level. The Election Commission is expected to review the complaint and verify the claims in accordance with the provisions of the Representation of the People Act.

## "Attempts To Turn Madurai Into Manipur": MK Stalin Jabs BJP Over Deepam Row

**Chennai:** With the election battle intensifying in Tamil Nadu, Chief Minister MK Stalin sharpened his attack on the BJP-led NDA, invoking regional pride, fiscal injustice, and social harmony while addressing a campaign rally in Madurai. Making a reference to the contentious deepam issue in Thiruparankundram, Stalin alluded to the ongoing legal tussle despite the Madras High Court Madurai bench permitting the lighting of the lamp both atop the hill pillar and near the Uchi Pillayar temple where it's lit over a century. The temple administration

and the state government have challenged this order, even as questions of contempt have been raised over non-implementation - turning the issue into a political flashpoint. Without getting into details, Stalin suggested that attempts were being made to disturb communal harmony. "Peace and brotherhood is the DNA of Tamil Nadu. But the NDA wants to destroy this," he said, alleging that the BJP was promoting a "divisive Aryan model" and had "attempted to turn Madurai into Manipur".

MK Stalin credited the people of Madurai for resisting such attempts. "Madurai people are intelligent. You have effectively foiled conspiracies to trigger clashes," he said, emphasising the city's ethos of harmony and co-existence. A major plank of Stalin's speech was fiscal federalism, as he directly challenged Union Minister Piyush Goyal over claims regarding central assistance. "Tamil Nadu's funds go directly to the people. But where does the tax paid by Tamil Nadu go?" Stalin asked. He demanded transparency, saying, "Reveal how much Tamil Nadu gets back for



every rupee it pays. If this comparison is released, the Centre will stand exposed." Escalating the attack, Stalin added, "If Tamil Nadu is given funds in the same proportion as BJP-ruled states, we can repay our debt and there will be no financial pressure."

## In Setback To Vedanta, Top Court Refuses To Interfere With Order Allowing Adani To Acquire JAL

**Mumbai:** In a setback to Vedanta Group, the Supreme Court declined to stay the implementation of Adani Enterprises' resolution plan for debt-ridden Jaiprakash Associates Ltd. A bench, led by Chief Justice (CJ) Surya Kant, noted that the insolvency proceedings are already listed for final hearing before the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) on April 10, and therefore found no reason to intervene at this stage.

"In view of the fact that company appeals are now listed for final hearing before NCLAT on April 10, we see no reason to interfere," the bench, also comprising Justice Joymalya Bagchi, observed, while directing the appellate tribunal to take up the matter on an out-of-turn basis and continue hearings, if necessary, on the next working day. The top court further directed that any major policy decision by the monitoring committee in the interim will be taken only after seeking leave of the NCLAT, given the nature and implications of the case. Vedanta had approached the top court seeking a stay on Adani Enterprises' Rs 14,500-crore resolution plan, contending that the insolvency process lacked transparency and failed to maximise value for creditors. The company argued that it had submitted a higher offer of Rs 16,726 crore and was initially declared the highest bidder before the outcome was allegedly reversed without adequate explanation. It also questioned the decision-making process of the Committee of Creditors, describing the approval of Adani Enterprises' plan as "unfair, opaque, and inequitable". However, the lenders defended their decision, arguing that resolution plans under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)

are not determined solely by the highest financial offer. Factors such as upfront cash component, feasibility of execution, and repayment timelines are also taken into account. According to them, Adani Enterprises' proposal was preferred due to a higher upfront payment of around Rs 6,000 crore and a shorter repayment schedule of about two years. They further contended that Vedanta's revised bid was submitted after the close of the bidding window and could not be considered without restarting the process.

Earlier, the NCLAT had declined to grant interim relief against the approval of Adani Enterprises' resolution plan by the National Company Law Tribunal, allowing the insolvency process to continue while seeking responses from stakeholders. Jaiprakash Associates Limited is undergoing insolvency proceedings under the IBC, 2016, following defaults on loans amounting to over Rs 57,000 crore. The company has diversified business interests spanning real estate, cement, power, and infrastructure, with key assets including large township projects in Noida and Greater Noida, as well as investments in expressway and power ventures. The proposed acquisition by Adani Group entities had earlier received approval from the Competition Commission of India (CCI), as required under the Competition Act, 2002, for such combinations. Senior advocates Kapil Sibal and V.V. Giri appeared for Vedanta Ltd., while Solicitor General Tushar Mehta represented the Committee of Creditors (CoC). Adani Enterprises was represented by senior advocates Mukul Rohatgi and Ritin Rai, assisted by a team from Karanjwala & Co.

## Top Maoist Commander From Bastar, 40 Others Lay Down Arms In Telangana

**Hyderabad:** A top commander of Maoist outfit People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) Sodi Keshalu, along with 40 others, surrendered before the Telangana Police on Monday. Keshalu, also known as Malla, was one of the top leaders of the PLGA from Bastar and worked as deputy commander of the Maoist battalion active along the Telangana-Chhattisgarh border. Police said he was considered the second-in-command after senior Maoist leader Badise Deva, who had surrendered earlier. The group, which laid down their arms and joined the mainstream, included divisional committee members, area committee

leaders and platoon-level cadres. They also handed over several weapons, including AK-47 rifles, INSAS rifles and SLR rifles. In his late 40s, Keshalu was considered the second most important commander active on the Telangana-Chhattisgarh border and he led around 20 to 30 cadres in the Karregutta hills. Though the Telangana Police have not officially announced the amount, officers familiar with the case said Keshalu likely carried a reward of around Rs 20 lakh. This year, Telangana had already seen a series of top Maoist commander surrenders. On January 2, PLGA Battalion-1 commander Barsa Deva aka Devanna



surrendered. On February 22, top most CPI (Maoist) politburo member and Central Military Commission member Thippiri Tirupati alias Devji, 62, surrendered in front of state DGP B Shivdhar Reddy after 40 years as part the Maoist movement. He was accompanied by senior leader

Malla Raji Reddy, along with 20 cadres. On March 7 in Hyderabad, 130 Maoists surrendered before Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and handed over 124 weapons. After this surrender, police declared that the Telangana Maoist state committee was completely finished.

# EDITORIAL

## War is on for Telangana exports

The West Asian war is known to have disrupted international supply chains, preventing anyone from getting oil, gas and other vital necessities. Exports from India to other countries are not what they need, and the disruptions are damaging the economy. In this context, exports from Telangana to the US, UAE, Saudi Arabia, etc. are coming to a standstill. Due to this, exporters are at a loss. The market system linked to other countries is being turned upside down. Five out of the ten major export destinations from Telangana to other countries are currently in turmoil. The US, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bangladesh and the United Arab Emirates are now experiencing a standstill due to the lack of exports of key equipment from Telangana.

50% of Telangana's export markets are engaged in these foreign markets. The major export countries are the US (23.64%), UAE (11.74%), Saudi Arabia (6.74%) and China (3.69%), France (3.38%), Britain (2.72%), Turkey (2.32%), Czech Republic (1.95%), Bangladesh (1.83%) and Kuwait (1.75%). Now all these countries are facing uncertainty in trade agreements due to the war crisis. Despite the setbacks so far, Telangana's exports have continued to perform strongly. In 2023-24, goods worth Rs. 1,16,182 crore were exported, while in 2024-25, goods worth Rs. Exports worth Rs 1,61,843 crore showed a growth of 39.3 percent. Exports of aircraft, spacecraft components, pharmaceutical products, organic chemicals, electrical and engineering equipment, etc. were high.

In addition, agricultural products and processed food items are being exported at a significant rate. There are 500 registered exporters of agricultural products in Telangana. However, due to the current crisis, exports to the Gulf countries and other countries are declining. It is noteworthy that the Agricultural Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) revealed that the main reason is that trade agreements have not yet been finalized. According to the NITI Aayog Export Readiness Index 2024, Telangana ranks eighth among all states in exports. According to the Logistics and Safety 2024 report, Telangana is in the Achievers category. However, exporters say that the skyrocketing transportation costs are leading to severe instability.

However, some say that they are finding it difficult to ship goods to the Gulf countries via Europe due to the heavy load. They say that they will not get any relief unless the situation in West Asia normalizes. They say that they are now receiving more export orders as other exporters are unable to afford the air freight charges. This effect is also visible on other sectors due to the restriction on the movement of ships through the Strait of Hormuz. Some exporters have expressed concern that the burden of transportation charges is increasing due to the lack of ships available to export egg powder and frozen egg liquid to Dubai, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Those who transport chocolates based in Hyderabad said that they have received fewer orders than in the past.

Companies that make chemicals and fertilizers from petroleum byproducts are closing down due to lack of production. Manufacturing of products like pharmaceuticals, semiconductors, detergents, dyes, and plastics is also being hampered. Fertilizer production in the country has fallen by a quarter in the last month. Textile manufacturing units in Surat are operating only five days a week due to fuel shortage. In Morji, the ceramic hub of Gujarat, three-fifths of the workers are returning home without completing their work. The reason for this is the shortage of propane, which is used to fire ceramic kilns. LPG gas or big restaurants and hotels are closing down everywhere. No matter how much the government insists that there is no real shortage of gas cylinders and that there is no need to wait in queues unnecessarily, artificial shortages are inevitable. Selling them at three times the original price in the black market is becoming the norm. If the war continues for a few more weeks, the situation will become even worse. Then rationing may be the last resort. If such a catastrophic situation like the Covid pandemic really arises, the countries of the world must cooperate with each other and those with excess reserves must distribute them to their neighbors.

# In Tamil Nadu, Vijay Attempts A Hostile Takeover Of AIADMK's Very Soul

Around 100 seconds into the election campaign song unveiled by the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) on April 1 come the images of CN Annadurai and MG Ramachandran, the two biggest icons of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK). They are immediately followed by the image of Vijay. It is no oversight or the work of an enthusiastic video editor. It is increasingly clear that the unobtrusive message being driven home is that Vijay is the natural political successor to Anna and MGR. Analyse the moves made by Vijay on Tamil Nadu's political chessboard, and it is very obvious that demolition of the AIADMK dream of a comeback to power is on the agenda before he battles MK Stalin on April 23. What is being undertaken is a less-than-hostile takeover of the AIADMK template, fundamentally replacing the party founded by MGR in the mindspace of the anti-DMK voter. Elections in Tamil Nadu have always revolved around the two-pole narrative. Vijaykanth, popularly referred to as 'Karuppu MGR' ("dark-complexioned MGR") was the last one to try to break the hegemony of the two fronts, but did not quite succeed. Vijaykanth's rugged appear-

ance resonated with the rural masses and the working classes in Tamil Nadu, pitching him as the MGR of the dark-skinned Tamilian. But the 2006 election saw him not being able to go beyond 8% of the vote, which, though impressive, failed to translate into more than one seat. After Vijaykanth, the likes of Kamal Haasan faltered by trying to be the third player - an alternative to the two Dravidian majors - and failed miserably. Now, Vijaykanth's namesake is attempting the invocation of the MGR legacy. By repeatedly stating that the contest is between the TVK and the DMK, he is attempting to render the AIADMK as a spent force and make the two leaves wilt on the EVM. The bid to appropriate the foundational icons of the AIADMK started last year, when an AI-generated video used a deepfake of Annadurai saying "Thambi vaa, thalaimai thaanga vaa" ("Come brother, come to lead"), as if Vijay was being encouraged to lead the way. The TVK messaging was that the Palaniswami-led AIADMK, which has lost many of its leaders to other parties, is no longer the AIADMK of MGR and Jayalalitha and that Vijay is now the real political successor to the AIADMK political stalwarts.

By calling the BJP his "ideological enemy", Vijay has also indirectly accused EPS of diluting and compromising his Dravidian roots by allying with the saffron party. By fighting all the 234 constituencies sans an alliance partner, Vijay wants to send across the message that he is the secular alternative to the DMK.

Vijay's leadership style has also taken a leaf out of Jayalalitha's book. Like the late AIADMK supremo, he remains inaccessible, lending a mystique to his persona. Like the former chief minister, the women votebank is the key demographic for Vijay. His public interactions are limited to his speeches at public meetings, and just like AIADMK was Amma during Jayalalitha's time, TVK today is Vijay. The image of the Supreme leader is a 'Ctrl-C-Ctrl-V' copy of the Jayalalitha template. Vijay's decision to contest from two constituencies (Perambur and Trichy East) is also following in Jayalalitha's footsteps. Jayalalitha in 1991 had contested from Bargur and Kangayam.

After Jayalalitha's demise in 2016, the AIADMK's strength - monolithic leadership - was replaced by regional satraps. Though Palaniswami over the years has managed to get rid of his rivals in the party, he still



has to prove himself as someone acceptable to all regions and caste groups and not be seen only as a Kongu belt Gounder leader. In contrast, Vijay offers the moniker alternative of the 'Thalapathy' (commander) who reigns supreme.

But it won't be so easy to peel away at the AIADMK stronghold votebank in rural Tamil Nadu, particularly in western (Coimbatore-Salem) and southern (Madurai) regions. These belts are dominated by the Gounder and Thevar communities, respectively, and were the backbone of the party during Jayalalitha's innings.

That will be Vijay's challenge, and if he can woo much of the anti-incumbency vote towards himself, the AIADMK may find itself struggling, particularly in the urban pockets.

What Vijay is offering is the AIADMK, rebranded. The party was, till 2016, led by charismatic actor-turned-politicians, and Vijay, by chipping away at the AIADMK base, is promising to go back to that era. Interestingly, he is trying to replace the AIADMK in an unconventional way. He is not taking the easy route of poaching leaders from the party. Barring a KA Sengottaiyan, and, to an extent, CT Nirmal Kumar, no senior leader has moved sides to the TVK. Vijay's bold attempt is to take away the voters of the AIADMK instead.

In Tiruchy (East) to file his second nomination on April 2, Vijay garlanded the statue of MGR and delivered his speech with the statue in the background. The significance of Vijay hyphenating his politics with MGR was not lost on anyone from Tiruchy. MGR had described this delta district as the geographical and political heart of Tamil Nadu. Vijay being seen in the same frame as MGR was a tribute to the AIADMK founder's argument that to rule Tamil Nadu, you have to first win over its heart.

# 450 Missile, 2,000 Drone Attacks Later, Why Is UAE Still Not Fighting Iran?

According to the latest statistics released by the UAE Ministry of Defence, the country's air defences have engaged 457 ballistic missiles, 19 cruise missiles, and 2,038 drones launched by Iran. This makes the UAE the biggest target of Iran since the joint US-Israel war on it began on February 28. In fact, on the very first day, Dubai airport, the city's famed Burj Al-Arab hotel, the landmark Palm Jumeirah, and Jebel Ali port were hit by missiles. Exasperated by these attacks, the UAE, reports say, has asked the US to continue the war in Iran and complete the job there. In the latest update, however, it has ruled out putting boots on the ground in Iran but has signalled its willingness to join any multi-nation endeavour to open up the Strait of Hormuz to international shipping. These developments spotlight a complex relationship between the two neighbouring states that share waterways, communities, and extensive trade links. The UAE is Iran's second-largest trading partner, with bilateral trade amounting to around \$25-27 billion annually. In 2024, Iran imported over \$20 billion worth of goods from the UAE, making it Iran's largest single source of imports. At the same time, Iranian non-oil exports to the UAE were more than \$6 billion. Around half a million Iranians live and work in the UAE, with the community having stayed there for decades, preceding the birth of the Islamic Republic in 1979.

**A Tense History**  
Yet, tensions have persisted - territorially since the UAE's birth in 1971, and ideologically since the Iranian Islamic revolution in 1979, spilling over into wider geo-strategic considerations. Territorially, Iran and the UAE are locked in a dispute over three tiny islands - Abu Musa, Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb. The largest, Abu Musa, has a population of only around 2,000 people. But they occupy an extremely strategic location - sitting as they are at the entrance to the Strait of Hormuz, whose importance by now needs no further explanation. These islands serve as useful bases to monitor maritime traffic through the Strait



and are critical to Iran's naval defence architecture.

Britain had occupied the islands in 1908. When the UAE gained freedom from the British in 1971, the British withdrew from these islands. Iran, under Shah Reza Pahlavi, occupied the islands, citing old maps, including those by the British. The UAE, however, maintained that they are the rightful owner. Given Iran's size and its military muscle, the UAE has been restrained, relying mostly on diplomatic tools to manage the tensions. The UAE's size - 83,600 sq. km in total - and its population - the local Emirati population is only 1.33 million out of a total population of 11.57 million, comprising expatriates - has shaped its approach towards Iran, as also towards the region as a whole.

**The Revolution And The American Turn**

The 1979 Islamic revolution in Iran, which overthrew the Shah and established a Republic, added another layer of complexity to regional politics. All five Gulf Sheikdoms, along with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, are hereditary monarchies, with some, like the UAE, also representing a federative union with a constitution, to give it some semblance of a democratic polity. But they all remain absolute monarchies. Furthermore, as Iran began ex-

porting its revolutionary ideology, small sheikdoms sought to hedge themselves and their enormous oil wealth by constituting the Gulf Cooperation Council and investing in American security and defence procurement. Today, all GCC states house US air bases. Of them, the UAE hosts the Al Dhafra Air Base, which hosts American, French, and Emirati air forces, while the Jebel Ali port in Dubai hosts US Navy ships, making the UAE a key logistical hub. There are, besides the US, UK and French military bases as well, all of which have been a cause of tensions between Iran and the UAE. The UAE also closely aligned itself with Saudi Arabia, though that alliance has recently come under strain. Over the years, the invasion of Kuwait by Saddam Hussein's Iraq, the Arab Spring, and the rise of radical Sunni forces both as state power - as seen in Turkey and in Afghanistan with the return of the Taliban there - and through the emergence of non-state actors such as the ISIS in Iraq and Syria, created another set of dynamics in the region.

**The UAE's Unique Vulnerability**

The UAE, given its territory and population, was particularly vulnerable and sought to counter both Shiite and Sunni radicalism. When it took the

unprecedented step of intervening militarily, together with Saudi Arabia, in the Yemen civil war of 2015, it was as much to prop up the legitimate government of President Abdul Hadi Mansour as it was to push back against Iran, which was liberally training, arming, and financing the Houthi rebels there. The same logic made the UAE support anti-Assad groups during the Syrian Civil War: to contain Iranian influence in the region. But the intervention in Yemen produced only a stalemate, with the Houthis targeting both Saudi Arabia and the UAE. The latter has since withdrawn from Yemen, but it pursued other efforts to counter the twin threats of Sunni and Shiite radicalism. One was to follow policies for increasing tolerance and pluralism in UAE society, such as building temples, restoring churches in post-conflict Iraq, initiating inter-faith dialogues, and easing social activities and norms for expatriates. This is only practical given that almost 80% of the UAE's population comprises expatriates, most of whom belong to different faiths and cultures.

**The Deal That Changed Everything**

The other was to diversify its strategic partnerships with players like Russia, China, South Korea and India. But the

most pathbreaking step was the normalisation of relations with Israel, through the Abraham Accords. The UAE became the third Arab country and the first GCC member to establish diplomatic relations with Israel, known for its intelligence-gathering and military prowess. This rang alarm bells in Tehran, which had fought a shadow war with Israel for decades by then. Even a moderate like the then-Iranian President, Hassan Rouhani, condemned the move in strong terms as a "betrayal" of the Palestinian people. The issue of Palestine has placed the Gulf monarchies in an awkward position. On one hand, they continued their aid and pledges to the Palestinian people, yet, despite their close alignment with the US, they have been unable to find any meaningful resolution. A Palestinian state has never seemed more elusive than now. In contrast, Iran was arming Hamas - even when it is a Sunni group - in Gaza. The Hamas was the only force seen to be countering Israel's occupation and penalising it for its actions against the Palestinians. The GCC states seemed helpless. Amidst this, the Abraham Accords, from Iran's point of view, were another instance of Israel prevailing over the Arabs. Following in the footsteps of the UAE was Bahrain.



## Zomato, Swiggy shares: Brokerages see up to 49% upside, but here's the catch

**Zomato, Swiggy:**  
Up to 49% upside seen,  
but target cuts muddy the outlook



**Mumbai: Eternal, Swiggy Share Price Today:** Food delivery stocks are back in the spotlight, but this time with mixed signals from brokerages. Shares of Zomato Ltd and Swiggy Ltd saw limited movement on Monday, even as global brokerage Morgan Stanley trimmed its price targets on both companies. At the same time, domestic brokerage Elara Securities remains upbeat on the sector head-

ing into the March quarter results. Zomato, known as Eternal Ltd officially, ended at Rs 232.09 with marginal gains of 0.16 per cent, while Swiggy Ltd closed at Rs 271.80, down over 1 per cent. The latest moves reflect a shift in how global brokerages are viewing the space. Morgan Stanley has maintained its 'overweight' rating on Zomato Ltd but cut its target price to Rs 345 from Rs 420 earlier. For

Swiggy Ltd, it retained an 'equal weight' stance and reduced the target to Rs 319 from Rs 375. The message is fairly clear. The long-term growth story is intact, but valuations are being recalibrated as competition intensifies and profitability remains a work in progress. In contrast, Elara Securities is taking a more constructive view. The brokerage expects food delivery gross order value to grow around

20 per cent year-on-year for Zomato and about 19 per cent for Swiggy in the March quarter. It has also named Zomato among its top picks, seeing potential upside of up to 49 per cent, while flagging strong upside potential of nearly 36 per cent in Swiggy as well.

**Demand trends remain steady**

One of the key takeaways is that demand has not really weakened. Despite disruptions linked to LPG issues, order growth has held up. Consumers appear to be shifting towards QSR chains and outlets that are less dependent on LPG, which is helping maintain volumes. At the same time, contribution margins are expected to improve slightly on a sequential basis, which could support better operating performance.

**Quick commerce shifts focus to profitability**

The quick commerce segment is entering a slightly different phase. Growth

may moderate as companies start focusing more on profitability rather than just expansion. Even so, store additions remain strong. Blinkit is expected to add significantly more dark stores compared to Instamart in the quarter. Margins in this segment are also likely to improve, with contribution margins expected to expand and early signs of profitability beginning to emerge.

**What investors should watch**

For now, the sector sits at a turning point. Growth is still visible, demand remains steady and profitability is slowly improving. At the same time, valuations are being questioned more closely than before. With March quarter results approaching, the fact that will matter the most will be execution. The fact that how these quick commerce companies will balance growth with profitability is likely determine sentiment in these stocks.

## Sensex Surge over 1% as Iran-US Ceasefire Hopes ease Oil Concerns

The Indian stock market ended Monday on a high note, with benchmark indices Nifty 50 and Sensex gaining over 1% after sharply recovering from early losses. The rebound was driven by improving sentiment on hopes of a potential Iran-US ceasefire, which helped ease concerns around oil supply disruptions. Market breadth remained strong, reflecting broad-based participation across segments. The Nifty Midcap and Smallcap indices advanced in the range of 1.3% to 1.5%.

## Fertiliser stocks surge up to 5%; THIS is the reason behind the rally



**Mumbai:** Fertiliser stocks were in action in Monday's trade. The sector saw broad-based buying after a key government announcement on gas supply.

**Fertiliser stocks in action**

Shares of Teesta Agro Industries led the rally. The stock surged 5.24 per cent to Rs 106.90. Rama Phosphates gained 4.91 per cent to Rs 119.26. Aries Agro rose 4.11 per cent to Rs 358.10. Among other movers, Zuari Agro Chemicals climbed 2.11 per cent to Rs 205.45. Madras Fertilizers advanced 2.62 per cent to Rs 60.35. Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers added 1.89 per cent to Rs 117.10. Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore (FACT) moved up 1.74 per cent to Rs 787.20. Chambal Fertilisers was an exception and slipped 1.27 per cent to Rs 446.65.

Smaller names also saw traction. Nagarjuna Fertilisers rose 3.12 per cent. Bharat Agri Fert gained 2.68 per cent. Teesta Agro remained the top gainer in the space. The rally comes amid improving outlook for input availability and production

stability.

**Why fertilizer stocks are rising**

The government said gas supply to fertilizer plants will increase from April 6. Supply will rise to around 90 per cent of their average consumption over the past six months. Currently, supply stands at about 70-75 per cent. This move is aimed at ensuring stable urea production. It also reduces input uncertainty for fertilizer companies. Higher gas availability directly supports margins. It also ensures steady plant utilisation.

**Government steps amid West Asia tensions**

The announcement comes as India manages the impact of geopolitical tensions in West Asia. The situation has disrupted global energy flows, including the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. The government said it is taking coordinated steps to maintain stability. These include ensuring energy supply, maritime safety, and support for Indian nationals. LNG cargo arrivals and existing inventories will support the higher gas allocation. Sup-

ply to industrial and commercial users will also rise by 10 per cent. Priority continues for PNG households and CNG transport. These segments are receiving 100 per cent supply.

**Fuel supply and LPG situation**

Authorities said petrol, diesel, and LPG stocks are adequate. Retail outlets are functioning normally across the country. Consumers have been advised not to panic buy. The government also asked people to rely on official information. While LPG supply has seen some pressure, no stock-outs have been reported. Around 51 lakh cylinders were delivered in a single day. Commercial LPG supply has been capped at 70 per cent of pre-crisis levels. At the same time, enforcement has increased to curb hoarding.

**What it means for the sector**

The gas supply boost is a positive trigger for fertilizer companies. It improves visibility on production and costs. Markets are reacting early to this policy support. If supply remains stable, the sector could see sustained interest in the near term.

## Railway Stocks To Buy: Jefferies bullish on Titagarh, cautious on Jupiter Wagons — Here's why

**Mumbai: Railway Stocks To Buy:** India's railway stocks are back in focus after global brokerage Jefferies initiated coverage on the sector with a positive long-term outlook but a clear stock preference. The brokerage expects 10 per cent CAGR in rolling stock capex between FY26 and FY30, driven by modernisation and rising demand. However, it has taken a divergent stance on Titagarh Rail Systems and Jupiter Wagons, favouring Titagarh for its stronger earnings growth while flagging Jupiter Wagons over valuation concerns.



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A key theme highlighted by Jefferies is the government's continued focus on railway modernisation.

Higher investments in passenger coaches

Strong expansion in metro rail projects

Policy push supporting domestic manufacturing

This shift is important because passenger and metro segments typically offer better margins and faster growth, compared to wagon-led businesses.

**Why Jefferies prefers Titagarh Rail Systems**

Jefferies has initiated coverage on Titagarh with a 'Buy' rating, backed by strong earnings visibility and favourable segment ex-

posure.

43 per cent EPS CAGR expected between FY26-30

Increasing focus on passenger and metro coaches

Strong order book and execution track record

The brokerage believes Titagarh is well positioned to benefit from the ongoing shift towards passenger-centric investments, which could drive both revenue growth and margin expansion.

**Target and upside:**  
CMP: Rs 639.35  
Target price: Rs 810  
Potential upside: 26.7 per cent

Titagarh Rail Systems stock performance

Shares of Titagarh Rail Systems Limited ended higher on April 6, closing at

Rs 639.35, up Rs 24.45 or 3.98 per cent from the previous close of Rs 614.90.

**Why Jupiter Wagons gets 'Underperform' tag?**

In contrast, Jefferies has rated Jupiter Wagons as 'Underperform', mainly due to its business mix and valuation.

23 per cent EPS CAGR expected between FY26-30

Heavily dependent on wagon segment

Limited exposure to high-growth passenger segment

The brokerage highlights that despite lower growth, the stock trades at around 40x FY27E PE, which it considers expensive.

**Target and downside:**  
CMP: Rs 258.22  
Target price: Rs 200  
Downside: 22.5 per cent

Same valuation, different growth outlook

One of the most important takeaways from the report is that both companies are trading at similar valuations:

Around 40x FY27E PE for both stocks

Yet, their earnings growth outlook differs sharply:

Titagarh: 43 per cent EPS CAGR

Jupiter Wagons: 23 per cent EPS CAGR

This gap in growth is the key reason why Jefferies prefers Titagarh over Jupiter Wagons.

**Jupiter Wagons stock performance**

Shares of Jupiter Wagons Limited also ended in the green on April 6, closing at Rs 258.22, up Rs 1.61 or 0.63 per cent.

**What it means for investors?**

Jefferies' report signals that while the railway sector remains a strong long-term theme, stock selection will be critical. Companies linked to passenger and metro growth may outperform Wagon-focused businesses could see relatively slower growth

High valuations make risk-reward more selective

## Govt notifies new safety norms for electrical appliances, BIS certification mandatory from October 1

**Mumbai: New Safety Norms for Electrical Appliances:** The Ministry of Commerce and Industry issued a notification on Monday, April 6, notifying a new quality control order for electrical appliances used in homes and commercial establishments, replacing last year's norms. The new order, called the Safety of Household, Commercial and Similar Electrical Appliances (Quality Control) Order, 2026, will come into effect from October 1, 2026. The move has been issued under the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Act and covers a wide range of devices, from household ap-

pliances to those used in commercial establishments. The voltage range mentioned in the notification is up to 250 volts for single-phase and 480 volts for others, and also includes battery-operated and DC-powered products. "It shall apply to all electrical appliance intended for household, commercial or similar application with rated voltage not exceeding 250 V for single-phase appliances and 480 V for other appliances including direct current supplied appliances and battery-operated appliances," the release said. Under the revised rules, all covered products will be

required to carry the BIS Standard Mark, indicating compliance with Indian safety standards. Manufacturers will need to obtain a licence under the conformity assessment framework laid down by the Bureau of Indian Standards. However, the government has carved out certain exemptions. Export-only goods are not part of this. The government has also allowed companies to bring in up to 200 units a year for research and development, but these can't be sold and have to be scrapped after use, with records maintained. Relief has also been provided to micro and small



enterprises, which will be allowed additional time to comply with the standards, as per timelines to be specified. Further, manufacturers holding existing stock pro-

duced or imported before the implementation date will be permitted to sell such inventory for up to six months, subject to declaration requirements.

## All eyes on Trump's White House address as 48-hour ultimatum to Iran nears end

**Washington:** US President Donald Trump is scheduled to speak at the White House at 1 pm Eastern Time on Monday (10:30 pm in India). The US president took to social network Truth Social -- owned by one of his own companies -- to remind the media about the end of a final 48-hour deadline he gave to Iran to open the Strait of Hormuz or face consequences. The development comes at a time when a 10-day pause in planned US strikes against Iranian power infrastructure is set to expire at 8 pm ET on the same day. White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt wrote on microblogging site X (formerly Twitter) that the news conference will now take place at 1 pm ET in the White House's briefing room. Earlier, the press conference was scheduled to take place from the Oval Office. In a post on Saturday, Trump had warned Tehran that "all hell will rain down" if it did not comply.

**Trump truth social post on X**

Earlier, Trump had given Iran 10 days to give up control of the Strait of Hormuz -- a crucial maritime region that connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea, and normally enables the passage of 20 per cent of the

world's oil and gas supplies. That deadline is set to expire at 8 pm ET later in the day. US military rescues 'seriously wounded and really brave' F15 pilot: Trump donald trump truth social Separately, Trump claimed that the US rescued a seriously wounded F-15 crew member from Iranian soil following an operation deep in the country's mountainous provinces. Earlier, foreign media reports had said that a US F15 was shot down over Iran and search-and-rescue efforts were on -- marking the first such known incident of its kind in the 'war now in its sixth week. It could not be immediately ascertained whether Trump's post mentioned the same pilot. Trump described the rescued officer as a highly respected Colonel, stating that such rescue raids are rare due to high risk to personnel and equipment. He also said that a second rescue operation was also held in broad daylight.

The POTUS praised the operation as an "amazing show of bravery and talent".

"The Iranian Military was looking hard, in big numbers, and getting close. He is a highly respected Colonel. This type of raid is seldom attempted because of the danger to 'man and

equipment'. It just doesn't happen! The second raid came after the first one, where we rescued the pilot in broad daylight, also unusual, spending seven hours over Iran. An AMAZING show of bravery and talent by all!" he wrote. "God Bless our great MILITARY WARRIORS!" he wrote. Last week, Iran claimed to have hit around five US aircraft, including F-15 and A-10 jets, along with multiple drones, stating that it had deployed a new air defence system. Those remarks challenged America's claims that Iran's defences were destroyed. Since the onset of the conflict, many of the POTUS's claims about the Strait of Hormuz have been disputed by the Iranian side, fuelling concerns about the impact of prolonged escalation in the region on global energy markets. Last week, Trump threatened to launch "extremely hard" attacks against Iran, stating that the US would hit the country "over the next 2-3 weeks" in strikes that would send "them back to the Stone Ages where they belong". The American president hinted at further escalations if Iran did not agree to Washington's terms.

## The new facilities, equipped with latest technologies, to provide quality medical care to serving personnel, veterans & their dependents

- Innovation, capacity building & integration of advanced tech must to meet emerging military medicine challenges: Rajnath Singh  
- "Military medical services within the country & neighboring nations have emerged as a powerful testament to India's soft power"  
- "AFMS must focus on research, achieving self-reliance in pharmaceuticals & reforms within clinical trial framework"



**New Delhi, April, 6 (PIB):** Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh, on April 06, 2026, laid the foundation stones of Ophthalmology, Oncology and Joint Replacement Centres at Army Hospital (Research & Referral) and new infrastructure at Base Hospital, Delhi Cantt as part of the 262nd Army Medical Corps Raising Day celebrations. The state-of-the-art facilities at Army Hospital (Research & Referral) are envisaged to significantly enhance the tertiary care capabilities of the Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS), particularly in the domains of advanced eye care, cancer treatment, and complex joint replacement surgeries,

while the new hospital infrastructure at Base Hospital is being developed with a capacity of 998 beds along with an additional 100 crisis expansion beds, to address routine and emergency healthcare requirements of the Defence Forces personnel.

In his address, Raksha Mantri underlined the importance of continued innovation, capacity building, and integration of modern technologies to meet the emerging challenges in military medicine. He exuded confidence that the new facilities, equipped with modern technologies and infrastructure, will provide quality medical care to the serving personnel, veterans &

their dependents. Rajnath Singh commended the dedication, professionalism, and compassion of the AFMS personnel for rendering services to every nook and corner of the country, from towering mountains to inaccessible forests, from times of peace to moments of disaster. He appreciated them for organising medical camps across the country and neighboring nations, including Nepal, while specially mentioning the successful conduct of glaucoma surgeries and eye care services. "Such initiatives strengthen our ties with friendly nations while simultaneously bringing about positive transformations in the lives of people. Your services have emerged as a powerful testament to India's 'soft power'," he said.

While Raksha Mantri reiterated the Government's commitment to providing world-class healthcare facilities for the soldiers & their families, and termed it as top priority, he exhorted AFMS to lay special emphasis on 'research', stressing on the integration of modern medical science with ancient philosophy to present a truly effective healthcare model to the

public. "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the nation has made significant strides in the medical domain, from continuous expansion of healthcare infrastructure, increase in the number of institutions such as AIIMS to the access of healthcare facilities to everyone through the Ayushman Card, and advancements in fields such as cancer treatment, bypass surgery, and critical care. However, when it comes to frontier technologies and deep research, we still have a long journey ahead. For instance, in cancer research, specifically early detection technologies and personalised medicine, several countries are currently ahead of us. We also must further strengthen our capabilities in developing advanced predictive models for cardiovascular diseases, as well as in neuro-research related to mental health," he said.

Underscoring the importance of achieving self-reliance in the pharmaceuticals sector, Shri Rajnath Singh asserted that while India is a major global supplier of medicines, dependency on external sources remains evident in the fields of high-end drug innovation and

original research. He highlighted the need to move beyond generic production and focus on fostering an innovation-driven pharmaceutical ecosystem. He added that concurrently, priority must be given to the discovery of new drugs, strengthening of clinical research, and adoption of global quality standards. He endorsed the integration of MSMEs and start-ups into the pharmaceutical innovation landscape, development of robust testing infrastructure, and cultivation of a skilled workforce. This approach will not only fulfill domestic requirements but also enable India to emerge as a global leader in these sectors, he said.

Drawing attention on the crucial subject of clinical trials, Raksha Mantri said that clinical trials are industry-sponsored in many advanced nations, and equal emphasis is placed on research, treatment & innovation. He pointed out that while efforts in this direction are being made in India, there is a need for reforms within the clinical trial framework. "We must explore how AFMS can make a meaningful contribution in this domain, ensuring that

our medical capabilities extend beyond mere curative treatment to encompass the creation of new knowledge," he said. Rajnath Singh also pitched for creating robust Standard Operating Procedures and standardised protocols for dissemination of clinical experience regarding a specific disease to other doctors and hospitals through systemic channels. "This would render faster, more efficient, and evidence-based treatment, enhancing not only individual capability but overall system efficiency. Establishing a national-level data pool would be a monumental step in this direction. It would provide better inputs for policy formulation, aid in validating new medical practices, and enable large-scale replication of effective treatments, thereby gradually transforming our healthcare system from a reactive into a proactive model," he said.

On the heavy workload in hospitals, Raksha Mantri stated that doctors remain constantly occupied with providing treatment & performing surgeries, and crucial aspects such as research, training, and teaching tend to take a backseat. This is a practical chal-



lenge that needs to be acknowledged, urging AFMS to explore ways to effectively balance the immense workload. Rajnath Singh also urged AFMS to examine the feasibility of setting up institutions at par with Army Hospital (R&R) in all four corners of the country with the aim to provide the soldiers at every region and location, superior medical facilities. "It is not strictly necessary to establish a greenfield project or construct an entirely new institution. There are immense possibilities within brownfield projects. Command Hospitals or Base Hospitals at various locations can be upgraded with modern facilities and elevated to

this very same standard," he suggested. Raksha Mantri emphasised that in today's context, 'security' encompasses far more than merely safeguarding borders, with health security holding equal significance. "Health security plays a pivotal role when we successfully execute major operations like Operation Sindoor. When our soldiers possess the confidence that superior medical support is available to them, they accomplish their missions without apprehension. Therefore, it is imperative to adopt a consistently proactive and positive approach toward health security," he said.

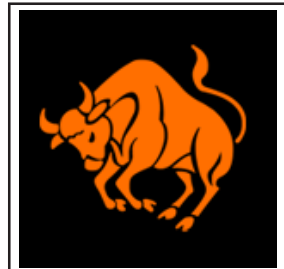
# Today's Horoscope



**Aries**

Good day filled with happiness. You could find yourself in an exciting new situation which will also bring you financial gains. You will be in the limelight at the social get-together that you attend today. Instant romance could come your way if you go out with friends in the evening. Use your judgment before you sign up for any costly venture. The elders of this zodiac sign can go and meet their old friends today in their free time. Your spouse is truly your angel, and you will know this today.

Remedy :- For a faster career growth, ensure that contaminated water is not collected in or around your home.



**Taurus**

Some physical changes that you do today will definitely enhance your looks. You will emit a positive aura today and step out of your house with a good state of mind, but your mood can get affected due to any of your precious items getting robbed. Health of some female member in the family may cause worries. You are going to make your life worthy by giving pleasure and forgiving for past mistakes. Successful day for those in the creative fields as they receive long awaited fame and recognition. In today's busy lifestyle, it gets difficult to find time for yourself. But today is your lucky day, as you will have plenty of time for yourself. Today, you will know that how does it feel to have a wonderful life-partner.

Remedy :- For increase in income, establish chandra yantra at the place of worship in your home.



**Gemini**

Health will be perfect despite a hectic day. You are very likely to attain monetary benefits from your mother's side today. It is possible for your maternal uncle or maternal grandfather to help you financially. Your witty nature will make you popular at social gatherings. Your courage would win the love. Today you will realize that it is the support of your family that you are doing well at work. You have spare time today for socializing and follow up with things that you love doing the most. Today, you will realize that your marriage had never been so beautiful.

Remedy :- Store water in a red or maroon coloured glass bottle and let it absorb Sun's rays. Then mix this water with your bathing water and have bath for active professional life.



**Cancer**

You will have ample time to do things to improve your health and looks. Unexpected bills will increase financial burden. An old friend makes an unexpected visit bringing back pleasant memories. Love is limitless, love is boundless; you must have heard these things before. But today, you will experience it. Your cooperative attitude and analytical skills will be noticed. Nothing is impossible as long as there's a will to overcome it. Rain is known for romance and you will feel the similar ecstasy with your life partner throughout the day.

Remedy :- Apply mark of white sandalwood paste on your forehead for financial success.



**Leo**

Maintain your mental health which is prerequisite for spiritual life. Mind is the gateway of life because everything whether it is good/bad comes through mind. It helps in solving life problems and endows one with requisite light. Avoid any long-term investments and try to go out and spend some pleasant moments with your good friend. Good advice from family members will bring gains to you today. Don't give up to emotional demands of your lover. New ideas would be productive. You can read a book in your free time. However, you may constantly feel disturbed by the members of your family. Your health might suffer due to the stress given by your spouse.

Remedy :- Distribute (and also eat) sweets and savouries made of gram flour for fun-filled and happy love life.



**Virgo**

Try to get out of your office early and do things that you really enjoy. You could find yourself in an exciting new situation which will also bring you financial gains. Stay away from people who are likely to influence you with bad habits. Travel will promote romantic connection. If you should be going on a days leave then do not worry- as things will run smoothly in your absence. If for some strange reason there's a problem- you'll fix it easily when you return. Travelling will not bring immediate results but will lay down good foundation for future benefits. You will spend the best day of your life with your spouse today. Remedy :- Make use of marbles and coloured pebbles in plant pots, and keep in these in the corners of the home.



**Libra**

Take care of health and set things in order. Well-established and known businessmen of this zodiac sign are required to invest their money very thoughtfully today. Friends will come to your aid if needed. You need to be in your best behaviour, because your lover will be in a highly unpredictable mood. Success and recognition would be yours if you stay focused on your job. Pleasure trip will be satisfying. You might feel troubled due to your spouse today. Remedy :- Worship Lord Bhairava for excellent health.



**Scorpio**

Health remains perfect. The arrival of money today can relieve you from many financial troubles. Your ability to impress others will bring rewards. You will never forget this day in your entire life, if you didn't lose the opportunity of making love today. Success is definitely yours- if you make crucial changes one step at a time. A day when events will be good and disturbing-leaving you confused and tired. Your life looks really wonderful in terms of marriage today. Remedy :- Wear bangles or khadas made of silver and make your love life memorable.



**Sagittarius**

Your swift action will motivate you. To achieve success-change your ideas with time. This would broaden your vision-widen your horizon-improve your personality and enrich your mind. Try to control your spending- and buy only the essential items today. Unexpected good news from distant relatives will bring happy moments for the entire family. The ecstasy of entire universe is held between the two who are in love. Yes, you are the lucky one. Get involved in jobs which are of creative nature. Today you would be full of good ideas and your choice of activities will bring you gains far beyond your expectations. There are fairly good chances that people around you will try to create differences in your relationship. Do not go as per the advice of outsiders. Remedy :- For progress in professional life, pay obeisance to the twelve names of Sun God daily (Mitra, Ravi, Surya, Bhanu, Khaga, Pushan, Hiranyagarbha, Marich, Aditya, Savitar, Arka, Bhaskar).



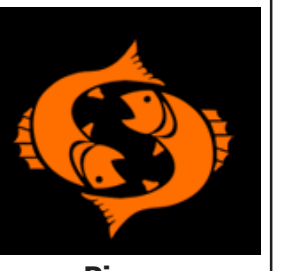
**Capricorn**

Your personal problems may ruin mental happiness but involve yourself in some mental exercise by reading something interesting to cope up with these pressures. You will like to overspend on others. Make sure you have approval of others before you make changes to your home environment. Be careful as falling in love could be sacrifice for you today. Banking sector professionals will receive a good news. Promotion chances are for some are high on the card. You can share your happiness with colleagues to double the joy. While fulfilling the needs of the family, you often forget to give yourself a break. But today, you will be able to take out some time for yourself and look for a new hobby. You might find your married life going boring. Find some excitement. Remedy :- Enjoy a blissful family life by engraving Shukra Yantra on a piece of Silver.



**Aquarius**

You will find it hard to concentrate on your work-as your health would not be perfect today. Those who are managing their business with their close ones or relatives need to remain very careful today, otherwise financial losses can occur. You should spend your spare time enjoying the company of children-even if you have to go out of your way to make that happen. If you feel that your beloved does not understand you, then take some time out and spend it with them. Talk openly and speak out your heart clearly. Today you will have the stamina and the know-how to raise your earning power. 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. The day is really romantic. With nice food, fragrances, happiness, you will spend an amazing time with your better-half. Remedy :- Engrave Mangal (Mars) Yantra in a gold ring and wear it to attain good health.



**Pisces**

Your health and energy conservation habit will benefit you immensely as you plan to go on a long journey. Despite a busy schedule you will be easily able to cope up with the tiredness. 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. Work hard for the welfare of your family. Your actions should be dictated by love and positive vision and not by greed. Today your love blooms to show what a beautiful deed you have done. You will benefit from the changes occurring at work. After completing household chores, housewives of this zodiac sign can watch a movie on TV or get engaged in their mobile phones in the free time today. If you were craving for the love of your spouse, the day will bless you. Remedy :- Financial life will become better by using green vehicles.

## Launch of the first ever Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises

**New Delhi, April, 6 (PIB):** The National Statistics Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), launches the first ever Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) from April, 2026 covering all States and Union Territories; accompanied by an explainer document titled Know Your Survey: A User Guide to the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE), designed specifically for communicating survey processes in a user-friendly manner. In terms of economic significance, the services sector contributes more than half of India's GDP, generates millions of jobs and has been a major catalyst for the country's economic transformation in the last few decades. ASISSE is envisaged to be a key source of official data on the incorporated services sector of the economy comprising of services like trade, transport, hospitality, information technology, education, health, etc. and thereby representing one of the most dynamic components of India's economy. ASISSE is a significant initiative aimed at developing a comprehensive database of the incorporated services sector in India. A comparable database for the registered manufacturing sector already exists through the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI), conducted by the NSO, MoSPI. The unincorporated non-agricultural sector (excluding construction) is covered by the Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) of MOSPI. Together, these three surveys provide a holistic view of the non-agricultural economy, capturing key indicators at both state and industry levels.

The survey covers corporate entities in the services sector - companies registered under the Companies Act, 1956/2013 or Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008. With a sample size of approximately 1.21 lakh enterprises, the survey is expected to generate key operational and economic indicators, which are crucial for evidence-based policymaking and economic analysis. The survey will be conducted under the provisions of Collection of Statistics Act, 2008, as amended in 2017 and through the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023 and data will be collected through a secure web-based portal.

On this occasion, NSO also releases an explainer document "Know Your Survey - A User Guide to ASISSE", aimed at promoting greater awareness, transparency, and ease of compliance, and at improving the quality and reliability of data collected under ASISSE. The guide provides detailed information on survey objectives, coverage, concepts, definitions, and other relevant information in a clear and user-friendly manner. It addresses frequently asked questions and clarifies reporting requirements for selected enterprises. The document also includes a dedicated section for survey respondents, addressing their common queries, concerns, and doubts that may arise during the course of survey. The preparation of this document is aligned with global best practices followed internationally by national statistical systems in communicating survey design, processes, and outputs. The publication reflects NSO's commitment to fostering a more informed, aware, and engaged data user community, thereby strengthening public trust in official statistics.

## Adipurush Director Joining Hands With His Lucky Hero



Ajay Devgn and filmmaker Om Raut are reportedly set to reunite after their blockbuster Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior, sparking excitement among fans of historical dramas. The duo, who delivered a massive hit in 2020, are now in advanced discussions for another ambitious project that aims to highlight the bravery of an unsung Maratha warrior. According to industry sources, Ajay Devgn had been waiting for the right story to take forward the unsung war-

rior theme. When Om Raut pitched a new narrative centered on another lesser-known Maratha hero, the actor reportedly gave his nod almost instantly. The project is still in the development stage, with discussions underway regarding budget and scale. Ajay is said to be keen on mounting the film with a grand vision while ensuring the costs remain controlled. The film's visual world is expected to be developed with his VFX company, NY VFXWala, indicating a high

technical standard. Multiple meetings between the actor and director have already taken place, and both are said to be aligned creatively. For Om Raut, this film could mark a return to rooted storytelling, a space where he found major success earlier. Om's last film, Aadipurush earned him a lot of flak and one needs to see how he makes a comeback. While an official announcement is awaited, the potential reunion promises another large-scale historical spectacle celebrating Maratha pride and valor.

## Percentage System Back Just Before Peddi & Toxic!



A day ahead of the Release of two major releases – Biker and Rakasa, Telangana Exhibitors brought up the issue of Percentage System once again. Twenty Three Single Screen Theaters owners have released a Press Note that they will operate only under Percentage System going forward. The terms would be 60% for first week, 50% for Second Week, and 40% for Third Week with One Show Housefull Gross as Hold Over. They say this system will be followed across the state in Stages.

Big Players – Suniel Narang, Sirish Reddy, and

Bobby (Geetha) have agreed to this but Mythri Sasi did not as the Distribution has some of the Big Budget Films and they will be most impacted if the Percentage System is followed. The Percentage System issue has come last year and it first started in East Godavari. And was spread to other areas. Producers have rejected that outrightly but when Pawan Kalyan thought they were trying to stop his Hari Hara Veeramallu. They issue got mellowed down. It is true the Rental System is making life difficult for the Exhibitors as for most films, the Distribu-

tors are shifting to Percentage System when the movie slows down on First Monday. It is like the Distributors pay Rent when the movie is doing good and give peanuts on Percentage Basis when the movie is not doing good. On the other hand, Producers are not willing to go to Percentage System permanently as their Shares will be severely impacted especially in the First Weekend. They say they can not take the hit with the non-theatrical market already down and audiences not coming to Theaters.

SVC Group which is a

strong advocate of Percentage System opted to push this issue before their Big Release, Toxic to send an indication that they are doing all this for the Good of Theaters. However, it is just before Mythri's Big Release – Peddi. So the battle lines are clearly drawn. Obviously, Distributors of both the film's will suffer due to the Percentage System. But the Hit is like Bigger the film Bigger the Hit. We will have to see if this issue leads to a conclusion or we may see Theaters shutting down again until it is resolved.

## Decks cleared for Chiranjeevi's Mega158 launch

Chiranjeevi's next film, tentatively referred to as Mega 158, is finally set to move forward after facing multiple delays.

The project was announced long ago, even before the release of "Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu," but its launch got pushed due to issues within the production house. Bengaluru-based KVN Productions had initially planned to begin the film earlier in collaboration with director Bobby Kolli.

However, the banner encountered hurdles due to censor-related issues surrounding Jana Nayagan starring Vijay, as well as the postponement of Toxic featuring Yash. These developments reportedly led to financial strain, forcing a delay in Mega 158's launch. With things now stabilizing, the makers are planning to hold the formal pooja ceremony on April 11. The film is said to feature two



female leads, with one playing Chiranjeevi's wife and the other his daughter. Thaman S is likely

to compose the music. Bobby and Chiranjeevi earlier collaborated on "Waltair Veerayya".

## Satya Is Not Jetlee: Satya, Rhea Singha light up with dance

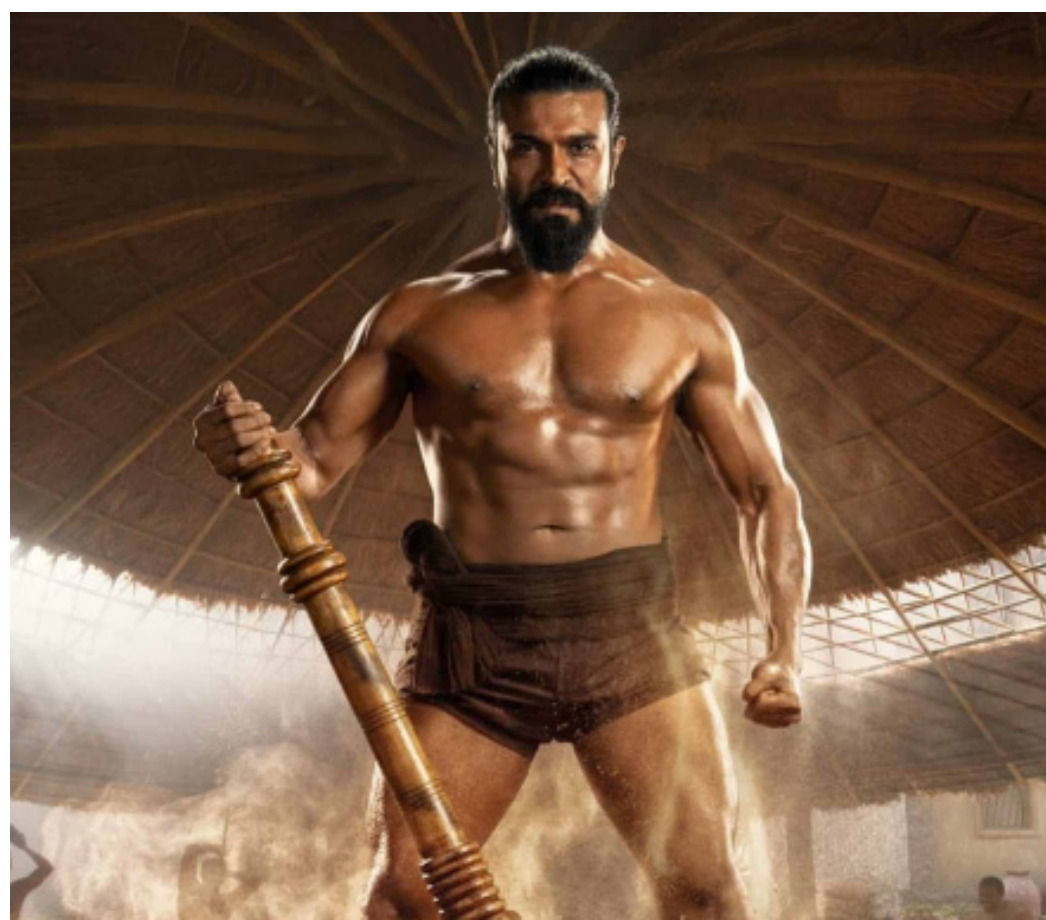


Satya teams up once again with director Ritesh Rana for the upcoming comedy entertainer "Jetlee," where Satya plays the lead role. The makers have unveiled the promotional track "Satya Is Not Jetlee," which perfectly captures the quirky and fun-filled nature of the film. Composed by Kaala Bhairava, the song reflects Satya's comic persona, while lyricist Sai Somayajulu adds witty and playful lines. Singer Sravana Bhargavi energizes the track with her lively rendition. Satya shares screen space with debutante Rhea Singha, who adds glamour and impresses with her stylish dance moves in the song. The film is bankrolled by Chiranjeevi (Cherry) and Hemalatha Peddamallu under Clap Entertainment and is presented by Mythri Movie Makers. The release date is yet to be announced.

## Peddi Team Racing Against Time to Meet the Deadline?

The suspense on Ram Charan's long awaited rural entertainer Peddi still continues even as the release date is now less than a month away. Even after Charan himself revealed that the film won't get delayed, there are strong rumours within the industry circles about postponement. Moreover, the latest poster didn't feature the release date, leading to more doubts among trade circles.

Charan revealed that the entire talkie part has been wrapped up barring one item song. But, the re-recording activities and pending post production formalities will need considerable time for completion. Meanwhile, the overseas distributor is confidently promoting the film, hoping that there is no change in the release date. Wrapping up item song and getting the first copy ready in the next few days is going to be a very challenging task for the team given that they have only four weeks time. So, many in industry believe that postponement is inevitable because the team should be able to complete all formalities in the next few days for a smooth release. Sources close to the team informed that both the makers decided to put in all possible efforts and push for April 30 release even though the chances are very slim as of now.



The team has reportedly decided to race against time and complete the shooting of item song and pending patch works.

The next few days will decide the fate of the release date. Besides getting the first copy ready, the makers will need to complete theatre agreements

well in advance. Moreover, they have to sorted out the issues relating to latest percentage model of single screens in Nizam. Amid all these issues, Peddi cannot afford to get postponed again as there are strong expectations among moviegoers and trade circles.

So, it is going to be an uphill task for Charan and his team. It will be a big achievement if they manage to meet the crucial deadlines and ensure proper release without postponing the film for the third time. Or else, they have no option but to find another ideal date.

## Young Lady Director Eyes Big Break in Tollywood

Manasa Sharma is the latest new director in the tinsel town, trying to test her luck with the film Raakaasaa. The film marks her debut as a director in terms of a theatrical cinema.

Despite not speaking heavily about the film during the promotions, the director is on the spotlight for her introverted and modest nature during public appearances. Telugu cinema rarely witnesses female filmmakers and if Raakaasaa becomes success, it will help Manasa grow big in career.

Ever since the team began promotions and started coming out in public events, Manasa carried the girl next door image and vibe. Her presence and speech during the pre-release event also brought a lot of attention

towards her. Interestingly, she also broke silence on how she is enjoying this attention. Subtly reacting to the newfound attention, Manasa acknowledged all that happening on social media saying, "Telugu Yuvatha chala manchi vallu, Ammailni barga encourage chestharu," which is currently trending on social media.

Manasa Sharma's debut with Raakaasaa will be an important test for her career. Tollywood rarely sees female directors stepping into mainstream theatrical films, and a success here could open new doors for her as well as inspire many aspiring filmmakers.

In recent times, a few talented women directors entered the industry with big dreams but faced setbacks



after one unsuccessful film. So, Raakaasaa becomes a crucial moment for Manasa. If she manages to impress the audience with this comedy-fantasy thriller, she could quickly become one of the most talked-about new

directors in Tollywood. Manasa Sharma earlier created Oka Chinna Family Story and directed Bench Life for OTT. Niharika Konidela is backing Raakaasaa, starring Sangeeth Sobhan and Nayan Sarika in the lead roles..

# SPORT

## India face Bangladesh in SAFF U-20 final with title on line



**Hyderabad:** A familiar rivalry will take centre stage when the India Under-20 men's team faces Bangladesh in the final of the SAFF U-20 Championship 2026 at the National Stadium in Malé, Maldives, on Friday. The match will kick off at 20:30 IST and will be streamed live on the Sportzworkz YouTube channel. With both sides having shared intense contests in recent times, including a 1-1 draw in the group stage, the summit clash promises another gripping encounter where composure and belief could decide the title. India head into the final aiming to defend their crown and secure a fifth SAFF trophy at this level. The weight of history, there-

fore, will add to the intensity. India coach Mahesh Gawali acknowledged the challenge posed by Bangladesh. "It won't be easy. Bangladesh are an aggressive and talented side, and it will be tough for us. Moreover, there will be a lot of support for them in the stadium. Our boys are used to that. We just have to perform on the ground. But we will focus on our goal and performance," Gawali added. The final also brings back memories of last year's SAFF U-19 Championship summit clash, where India defeated Bangladesh on penalties after a 1-1 draw in regulation time. Bangladesh will be eager to reverse that result, adding another layer of anti-

ipation to the contest. The two teams also met earlier in the group stage, playing out a hard-fought draw on March 28. That result underlined how closely matched the sides are. Their journeys to the final, however, have been contrasting. India produced an emphatic performance in the semi-final, scoring five goals against Bhutan, while Bangladesh battled to a narrow 1-0 win over Nepal to secure their place. Gawali was pleased with the team's performance in the semi-final but highlighted areas for improvement. "I am happy and proud of the performance of the team in the Bhutan game. However, there are areas where we can still improve. In the first half, we were a bit casual on a couple of occasions. But we came back strongly in the second half. I am very proud of the boys. They came together as a unit and performed really well," he said. India's attacking hopes will once again rest on Omang Dodum, who is the joint-highest scorer in the tournament with three goals. Vishal Yadav and Rohen Singh Chaphamayum, both with two goals each, have also been in-

fluent. With the race for the top scorer title still open, the trio will be keen to make their mark. Dodum's performances have even drawn many accolades, although head coach Mahesh Gawali prefers to keep the focus on collective growth. "Omang is a special player, but all the players are very promising. Hope he carries on his performance and makes us all proud," Gawali said. India's midfielders have played a crucial role in maintaining structure and tempo, helping the team transition smoothly between defence and attack. Their discipline has complemented a well-organised backline that has stayed compact under pressure. Behind them, goalkeeper Suraj Singh Aheibam has produced assured displays, with his composure and timely interventions adding confidence to the defensive unit. With both teams evenly matched and the title at stake, the final promises drama, tension and high-quality football, as India look to defend their crown and Bangladesh aim to rewrite the script.

## Dinesh Karthik focuses on helping players understand roles at RCB

**Hyderabad:** From one of the most accomplished finishers in T20 cricket to shaping one of the most dynamic batting units in the league, Dinesh Karthik's transition into a coaching role at Royal Challengers Bengaluru is yielding strong results as the side began their 2026 IPL campaign by scripting history, pulling off the fastest 200-plus chase in IPL history against Sunrisers Hyderabad, chasing down the target in just 15.4 overs, a performance that highlighted both preparation and execution under pressure. "In our team, we have players at very different stages of their careers. All of them are eager to learn, and my role is to understand what each individual needs, while ultimately preparing them for match situations," says Karthik. "Where they bat and the challenges they face are very different. For example, someone like Phil Salt will often deal with the new ball swinging, whereas for someone like Romario Shepherd, swing is rarely a factor at that stage," he said. "So, it's about helping them understand those scenarios, what positions to get into, what to look for and then observing and giving them feedback accordingly. Coaching is as much about understanding the person as it is about the skill," Karthik said, reflecting on his coaching philosophy. Drawing from both his playing days and time in broadcasting, Karthik has also emphasised clarity, brevity and trust, allowing players to make informed decisions in high-pressure situations. "DK is a mastermind. He's very detailed



and excellent at gathering information along with Freddy (Wilde) and the rest of the coaching staff, and then simplifying it into something that's easy to take onto the pitch. That's probably his biggest strength. He brings a lot to the coaching setup, and it's even more valuable because he's played at the highest level so recently. We're very fortunate to have him," Phil Salt commented on the batting coach. "These are elite players who are already dominating world cricket, so you don't need to overcoach. It's about giving them the right inputs and trusting them to make the best decisions. My experience in broadcasting has been very helpful. You travel, watch different teams and players closely, and analyse both their strengths and weaknesses. As a commentator, you're constantly observing and breaking the game down, which

helps later in coaching. It's also taught me to communicate clearly and concisely, and that really helps when working with players," Dinesh Karthik added. RCB's batting performances this season have reflected a clear sense of structure and adaptability across phases. A key aspect of Karthik's work has been tailoring preparation to individual players, particularly in helping them anticipate and respond to specific match scenarios. "Tim David is working on specific scenarios that bowlers might target him with. It starts with understanding his strengths. He's a tall player with a unique range, and we figure out how to get him into positions where he can execute certain shots consistently. We try to simulate match situations in training, identify the shots he's most comfortable with, and also the areas where he feels he can improve. Then it's about designing drills around that," Karthik said.

## Nikhat Zareen, Priya and Preeti Pawar enter semifinals as India assures three medals at Asian Boxing Championships



**Hyderabad:** India confirmed three medals at the Asian Boxing Championships 2026 as Nikhat Zareen, Priya, and Preeti Pawar registered impressive victories to advance to the semifinals on Friday in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Leading the charge, Nikhat Zareen was in complete control in the women's 51kg quarterfinal, sealing a first-round RSC victory over Xian Baguhin (PHI) in a dominant outing. She now faces her toughest test yet against China's Wu Yu, the Paris 2024 Olympic gold medallist, in the semifinals.

In the women's 60kg category, Priya showcased composure and tactical maturity to defeat China's Chengyu Yang by 4-1, continuing her impressive run in the tournament. She will next take on Mongolia's Namuun Monkhor for a place in the

final.

Meanwhile, in the women's 54kg category, Preeti Pawar, the gold medallist at the World Boxing Cup Finals, delivered one of the most clinical performances of the day, outclassing Munguntsetseng (MGL) with a 5-0 unanimous decision victory.

Preeti is set to face a formidable opponent in Korea's Im Aeji, the Paris 2024 Olympic bronze medallist and 2025 World Championships bronze medallist, in what promises to be a gripping semifinal clash. In the men's 70kg category, Deepak exited the competition following a 1-4 defeat to Jordan's Zeyad Eashash in the quarterfinals.

With three medals already secured and a place in the finals at stake, India's campaign continues to gather momentum at the continental showpiece.

## Telangana thrash Gujarat 20-0 in sub junior men's hockey championship



**Rajgir:** Andhra Pradesh, Mizoram, Delhi Hockey, Telangana Hockey and Chhattisgarh Hockey registered notable wins in their respective matches on the second day of the 16th Hockey India Sub Junior Men National Championship 2026 at the Rajgir Hockey Stadium in Bihar. In the first match of the day, Hockey Andhra Pradesh secured a 3-1 win against Le Puducherry Hockey in Pool A of Division C. Surya Ganesh Kataru Pradeep (13'), Chaitanya Lanka Chaitanya Yesu (19') and captain Maduru Ganga (27') scored for the winners. For Le Puducherry Hockey, Dharshan (58') netted their only goal. The second match of the day in the same division saw Hockey Mizoram beat Assam Hockey 6-0. Joseph

Malsawmtluanga (5', 33', 54') bagged a hat-trick, with captain Malsawmkima (12'), Vanlalhmangaiha (38') and Lalhmanga ihzuala (48') also scoring. In Pool A of Division B, Delhi Hockey registered a 9-1 victory against Hockey Bengal. Aryan (4', 14'), captain Yuvraj Singh (10', 22'), Sushant Sehrawat (26', 58') and Siddharth (29', 53') all scored a brace each, with Luv (24') also adding to the tally. Ayush Pradhan (13') scored for Hockey Bengal. In the same pool, Telangana Hockey overpowered Hockey Gujarat with a 20-0 win. Amit Dayal (5', 21', 22', 37', 41', 47', 50', 52', 55', 56') had a day to remember, while Hadrian Lawrence (2', 20'), Harsh Kumar Gautme (4', 7'), Akhil Gogula (24', 34'), Gyaneshwar Pittala (12'),

Pendor Dhanraj (26'), Eslavath Yuvaraj (35') and captain Yashith Jala Surya (44') also scored. In Pool B of Division B, Hockey Karnataka played out a 2-2 draw against Hockey Arunachal. Captain Adarsh Govind Mutagar (18', 54') scored for Hockey Karnataka, while captain Hockey Shashank (4') and Ashwani Patel (45') netted for Hockey Arunachal. In the final game of the day from the same pool, Chhattisgarh Hockey prevailed 7-2 against Hockey Himachal. Captain Piyush Kumar Sahu (30', 38', 60') netted a hat-trick, with Yogesh Thakur (39'), Om Kumar Yadav (47'), Aadrsh Raj Singh (51') and Abhishek Yadav (53') also scoring. Sidhant Kaushal (13') and Daksh (59') scored for Hockey Himachal.

## Hyderabad's Hruthik Katakam to lead India in Junior Davis Cup qualifiers

**Gurugram:** Hruthik Katakam of Hyderabad has been selected as the No.1 player to represent India in the Junior Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Final Qualifying event 2026.

The other two members of the team are Ribhav Saroha and Tavish Pahwa while Rana Banerjee will be the coach. For the record, Hruthik, who trains at Trinity Challengers Tennis Academy (Habsiguda) here under the Henry Praveen and Ramakrishna with former Davis Cupper Vishnuvardhan as the mentor, has won all the five matches in the selection trials. Hruthik defeated Tavish of Haryana 6-4, 6-3, Paranjay of Haryana 7-5, 6-1, Ribhav of Chandigarh 6-2, 6-0, Lakshya of Andhra Pradesh 6-4, 6-2 and Divey of Haryana 6-0, 6-2. The young talent from the City recently won the ITF Juniors singles and doubles title in Gurugram.



## Chitra Magimairaj ends nine-year drought with national 9-ball title

**Ludhiana:** Karnataka's Chitra Magimairaj ended a nine-year title drought with a dominant display in the final of the women's 9-ball pool Nationals at the Rotary Bhawan in Ludhiana. The seasoned Chitra overcame a mid-match slump before scoring a facile 7-4 win over Madhya Pradesh's Ishika Shah for her third 9-ball title and fourth pool National crown overall. "It feels great to win a national title again," said an elated Chitra, who last won in 2017. "Winning the nationals gives me the added motivation to do well at international events." One of the few cueists who plays pool professionally, Chitra got off the blocks in a jiffy, jumping to a 3-0 lead in the race-to-7 affair. Instead of tightening the noose, she gave her rival a look-in by committing a few errors with her attacking style of play.

## Call for the Success of Annamayya District Panchayat Workers' General Conference

(By our Skyline Staff Reporter)

**Pileru, April 6:** Under the leadership of the AP Gram Panchayat Employees and Workers Union, activities at the district level in Annamayya district are gaining momentum. In this context, union leaders have called for the successful conduct of the second general conference. A meeting was held near the Pileru Gram Panchayat office under the leadership of Union President B.V. Ramana. State President Venkatramaiah attended as the chief guest and spoke extensively on workers' issues. Speaking on the occasion, Venkatramaiah emphasized that uncompromising struggles are necessary to resolve the problems of Panchayat workers. He urged everyone to make the district-level conference organized under the leadership of CITU a grand success. He expressed concern that sanitation workers in the district are working in severe unhealthy conditions and even losing their lives, yet officials are not paying attention. He alleged that basic facilities and safety measures meant for workers are not being properly implemented, and welfare schemes such as PF and ESI are not being effectively enforced. He also stated that in some Panchayats, PF funds have been collected from workers for years and misused. He criticized that despite submitting multiple representations to the District Collector and District DPO regarding these issues, no resolution has been achieved, and officials are delaying without respond-



ing. He called upon all workers to unite and move forward with awareness if their issues are to be resolved. He appealed to make the second Annamayya district general conference, scheduled to be held on the 10th of this month near the NGO office in Madanapalle, a success. District leaders Puli Reddappa, Pileru Union Treasurer B. Nagarjuna, Ramesh, Chittamma, Rajeswari, Bhaskar Pratap Reddy, Y.S. Masthan, Shyamala, Saroja, Nagamma, and others participated in the program. A large number of Panchayat workers attended and extended their support to the conference.

## Two-wheeler Riders Must Wear Helmets to Ensure Safe Travel: MLA



**Palamaner, April 6:** (By our Skyline staff reporter)

On Monday, a programme was organized at the Mother Teresa Educational Institutions' auditorium in Palamaner town to distribute helmets to college staff, students, and

journalists. Approximately 450 people received free helmets during the event. Speaking as the chief guest at the programme, Palamaner MLA Amamath Reddy emphasized that two-wheeler riders must strictly wear helmets, as doing so helps prevent accidents. He stated that this is a crucial measure for road safety. Furthermore, he advised against speeding, noting that accidents can be completely avoided if individuals exercise caution and responsibility. Motor Vehicle Inspector Madhusudan and Gangavaram CI Rambhupal also addressed the gathering, observing that in recent times, many accidents have occurred due to vehicles being driven at excessive speeds. They urged drivers to keep their families in mind while driving, warning that if the head of a family were to lose their life in an accident, the entire family would be left destitute. Palamaner Motor Vehicle Inspector Madhusudan, Gangavaram CI Rambhupal, College Correspondent Ravindra Babu, Chairman Sunil, Director Dr. Rajender Reddy, Principal Lakshmi Kantha Reddy, Madhusudan Rao, and Divakar Reddy participated in this programme, along with the students and faculty members.

## Bring refugees to safety: Syed Salahuddin

**Kadapa (Skyline Daily) April 06:** In view of the ongoing war situation in the Gulf countries, the state president of the Muslim Samayakya Vedika Syed Salahuddin appealed to the district joint collector Nidhi Mee na. He submitted a petition to JC in the grievances held at the local collectorate on Monday. He felt that our expatriates living there are suffering from serious anxiety due to the ongoing war situation in the Gulf countries. Expressed. He said that those who left their families and homelands and went abroad for livelihood are working hard there and sending money to their relatives every month in the form of remittances and also contributing to the country's economic development. In the current situation, their safety has become a major problem. There fore, on behalf of the government, it is necessary to provide the necessary assistance to them and take steps to bring them home safely. Therefore, through you, bring this matter to the attention of the state and central governments and immediately protect the expatriates in the Gulf countries. He



requested that appropriate steps be taken to bring him home

## Top priority for Public Complaints : SP S N Vishwanath



(from Our Staff Reporter)

**KADAPA (Skyline Daily) April 06:** District SP Shelke Nachiket Vishwanath participated in the program "Public Grievance Redressal For um" and received petitions on various issues from people from all corners of the

district. Talked face to face with the complainants and got to know the problems. A total of 114 complaints were received. On this occasion, the District SP received complaints from the people, examined them and spoke directly to the concerned police officers over the phone. Clear instructions were issued to resolve them within the stipulated time frame within the legal limits. The authorities were ordered to take steps to ensure justice to the victims. He assured that justice will be done within the ambit of law. He said that people want to freely bring to our attention every complaint that is solved by the police department. People voiced their concerns on various issues. The district SP directly spoke to the concerned police officers about them and resolved the issue within the legal framework. Additional SP (Admin. K. Prakash Babu Female PS DSP Balaswamy Reddy) participated in this process.

## On 10th march under the auspices of CPI, BKMU



**Kadapa (Skyline Daily) April 06:** CPI district secretary Gali Chandra, BKMU district secretary C. Subramanyam called. A meeting of district office bearers was held at the CPI office in Kadapa city on Monday. On this occasion, wall posters related to the march were unveiled by the leaders of CPI-Agricultural Labor Union. On this occasion, CPI District Secretary Gali Chandra, AP Agricultural Labor Union Kadapa District

Secretary C. Subrahmaniam, Matla Daru. The leaders of the CPI Agricultural Labor Union, the people working in employment guarantee, the leaders and activists have appealed to participate in large numbers and make it a success. In this program, the district president of the Agricultural Labor Union V. Veerasekhar, District Office Bearers Manohar Reddy, Shawali, Brahman, Nagaraju and others participated.

## Madanapalle BJP ranks celebrate their 47th foundation day



**Madanapalle, April 06 (Skyline daily):** On the occasion of the 47th foundation day of the Bharatiya Janata Party, the party flag was unfurled at the district party office and a grand bike rally was organized along with party workers and leaders to the municipal office. BJP Mahila Morcha State President Nishita Raju, who was the chief guest for the event, extended her greetings to the party ranks and unfurled the party flag at the municipal office. Speaking on the occasion, Nishita Raju said that whether it is protecting the country's borders, strengthening internal security, setting new standards in development or reviving the history and ways of life of Indian culture - BJP has shown its resolve in all matters. Later, District President Sai Lokesh said that the BJP's basic mantra is "Country first, party next, individual last", and every BJP worker is working day and night

with this main concept in mind, dedicated to serving the country. On the occasion of BJP's foundation day, I bow my head and salute all the activists who sacrificed their everything in the great sacrifice for the national interest and played a key role in making BJP a great tree. The party's commitment to serving the country, value-based politics and development is truly commendable, he said. He said that it is the dedication, sacrifice and hard work of every worker that has taken the party to this wonderful position as the largest political party not only in India but also in the world. Ellampalle Prashanth, Narendra Reddy, Anand, Balajyothi, Krishnamurthy, Mohan, Purushotham, Bhagavan, Madhu, Nagaraju, Venkata Ramana Reddy, German Raju, Srikanth, Naik, Narada Reddy, Ravi, Kiran, Jagadish, Varma, Venkatesh and others participated in this program.

## Ganja Batches Should be Arrested: CPI

**Kadapa (Skyline Daily) April 06:** Taking full lives in the premises of RIMS hospital is the worst inhumane incident, turning a life-saving hospital into a center of murders is a proof of the failure of the state's law system, hunting down and killing a victim in the hospital and killing the victim in the hospital shows the lack of fear of the criminals. CPI city secretary Yan Venkata Siva said that it is causing panic. CPI city leaders Venkata Siva, Mallikarjuna, Brahma, Bhagyalakshmi, Narayana, Nagaraju, Narasimha Rao came out and examined the body of Kathi Potla Dastagiri at Rims mortuary and consoled his family members. He inquired about the incident. On this occasion, Venkata Siva said that the fighting of children in Alankhan village for the last two days is atrocious, leading to the murder of adults. He demanded that a special drive should be taken against the gangs of ganja and that security should be tightened in all government hospitals including RIMS. The state government has completely ignored the law system and the criminals have no fear and the lives of the people are not safe in this situation. They said that they should not worry. He said that appropriate measures have been taken against the security failures of this murder in the premises of Rims Hospital. They want to



support the family of the victim Dastagiri in all possible ways. They demanded that all the accused in Dastagiri's murder case should be arrested immediately and punished strictly according to the law and that the ganja gangs should be dealt with iron feet.

## National Development Awards under the auspices of Abhilasha Helping Hands - Applications invited by April 8

**Tirupati, April 6:** In a statement, the founder of the organization, Dr. Sarojamma, said that a special program will be organized on April 12, 2026 under the auspices of Abhilasha Helping Hands Organization, which conducts various service programs aimed at community service. She revealed that on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and Babu Jagjivan Ram, the "Swarna Nandi" and "National Development" awards will be conferred on Soundarya, who is popularly known as Andhra Dokka Seethamma and Annapurnadevi, respectively. He said that folk artists, leaders, social workers, TV anchors, artists and people who have provided the best services in various fields will be selected and honored with these ICASA Awards. Dr. Sarojamma urged interested and eligible candidates to apply by the 8th of this month. She clarified that only those who register in advance will be given the opportunity. He said that this program will be held at the Ravindra Bharathi campus in Hyderabad on



April 12 from 12 noon to 5 pm. For further details, please contact 6302908528. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Sarojamma said that the main objective of the organization is to encourage people who serve the society and that similar service programs will be widely organized in the future as well.

## Honouring Excellence in Social Service - Abhilasha Awards Announced

(By our Skyline Staff Reporter)

**Tirupati, April 6:** Dr. Sarojamma, Founder of Abhilasha Helping Hands Organisation, announced in a statement that a special programme will be organized on April 12, 2026, under the organisation's initiative aimed at promoting social service activities. On the occasion of the birth anniversaries of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and Babu Jagjivan Ram, the organisation will present the "Swarna Nandi" and "National Vikas" awards in the names of Andhra Dokka Seethamma and Soundarya, who is renowned as Annapurna Devi, she said. Folk artists, leaders, social workers, TV anchors, artists, and individuals rendering outstanding

services in various fields will be selected and honoured with these IKASA Awards, she added. Dr. Sarojamma invited eligible and interested candidates to apply on or before April 8, stating that only those who register in advance will be considered. The programme will be held on April 12 at Ravindra Bharathi in Hyderabad from 12:00 noon to 5:00 PM, she informed. For further details, she requested interested persons to contact the number 6302908528. On this occasion, Dr. Sarojamma stated that encouraging individuals who serve society is the main objective of the organisation, and that more such service-oriented programmes will be conducted in the future.

## Madanapalle Tahsildar Kishore Kumar Reddy transferred to the Collector's office

**Madanapalle, April 06 (Skyline daily):** Kishore Kumar Reddy, who is working as the Tahsildar of Madanapalle, has been transferred. It is reported that a local Boyapati Ravi Kumar has filed a complaint with the CCLA Vigilance against the Tahsildar. In the wake of Boyapati's allegations that Boyapati Ravi Kumar had deposited Rs. 5 lakhs in tahsildar sister's bank account in connection with the mutations of their lands, complaints were recently received by the Sub-Collector that Tahsildar Kishore Kumar had also regularized several disputed lands. During their investigation, it was heard that it was found true that a person named Boyapati had deposited Rs. 5 lakhs in the Tahsildar's sister's account.

