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## Minister Lokesh conducts 87th day of Praja Darbar



**From Our Staff Reporter Guntur, April, 8 :** Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh conducted the public grievance redressal program "Praja Darbar." The event was held for the 87th

day at the TDP central office in Mangalagiri, Guntur district. On this occasion, he addressed issues brought by people from various districts across Andhra Pradesh. Not only common

citizens, but also TDP workers and leaders brought their problems to the attention of the party's National General Secretary, Nara Lokesh. The minister patiently listened to their

concerns and received their petitions.

As part of the Praja Darbar program, a complaint was submitted to Minister Lokesh regarding the establishment of the South

Coast Railway. Staff requested him to ensure that the loco pilots' Galla depot in Vijayawada is not relocated during the formation of the South Coast Railway zone. Bus owners who suffered losses due to COVID requested support in the form of replacement buses.

S. Chinna Shivamma from Gundampadu in Kurnool district complained to Minister Lokesh that her inherited 2.63 acres of land had been encroached upon. She requested justice after an inquiry into the matter and asked for her land to be returned. Minister Lokesh patiently listened to everyone's issues, accepted their petitions, and assured that efforts would be made to resolve them after proper review. He also shared this update through a post on X (formerly Twitter).

## Resolve the issues of Home Guards : AP BJP Chief writes to CM Chandrababu

**From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, April, 8 :** After the bifurcation of the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh state, Home Guards have been facing severe difficulties as they are posted far away from their native places as part of their duties, expressed AP BJP Chief PVN Madhav with concern. He stated that many of them are currently serving in Andhra Pradesh, while their families are residing in Telangana. Around 200 Home Guards belonging to Telangana are presently working in AP. As a result, they are facing serious personal and financial problems. He also expressed concern that they are losing morale.



hope that allowing interstate transfers on a reciprocal basis would help resolve the long-pending issues of Home Guards.

Similarly, in the letter, Madhav explained to CM Chandrababu that fishermen from Cuddalore and Karaikal in neighboring Tamil Nadu are coming to areas like Nellore, Ongole, and Bapatla in Andhra Pradesh using boats and creating fear among local residents. He brought these two issues to the attention of Chief Minister Chandrababu through a letter. The letter was released by Madhav on Wednesday in Amaravati. He expressed

He recalled that in March this year, locals in Juvvaladinne area of Nellore district detained boats of Tamil Nadu fishermen who were allegedly moving illegally and behaving aggressively. However, with the support of state government and local officials, those boats were released overnight. He stated that no action being taken against them is raising many doubts. Through this letter, PVN Madhav appealed to CM Chandrababu to take action against Tamil Nadu fishermen who are illegally entering Andhra coastal areas and causing fear among locals.

## Central government to undertake major constructions in Amaravati worth Rs.2,534 crore

**New Delhi/Amaravati, April 8:** The Central Government has given good news to Andhra Pradesh. It is set to undertake major construction projects in Amaravati worth Rs.2,534 crore. A key step has been taken toward the construction of the Central Secretariat in Amaravati.

A PIB (Press Information Bureau) memorandum has been prepared allocating Rs.1,299.08 crore for the construction of the Common Central Secretariat (CCS) and Rs.1,234.91 crore for the development of residential complexes (GPRAs). For these projects

to move forward quickly, clearance is required for the file currently pending with the Cabinet Secretariat. Officials of Andhra Pradesh have already submitted the Gazette notification recognizing Amaravati as the capital to the Cabinet Secretariat. Approval for this proposal is likely in the upcoming Union Cabinet meeting. Only the Cabinet Secretariat's clearance, which is crucial for further approvals, remains pending.

The file from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has already been

approved by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

A total of 22.53 acres of land has been allocated for these central constructions in Amaravati. The Andhra Pradesh government has offered this land to the Central Public Works Department (CPWD). Out of this, 5.53 acres are designated for the Secretariat building and 17 acres for residential complexes (GPRAs). Once the Cabinet Secretariat grants clearance, construction of central government offices in Amaravati is expected to accelerate.

## Our goal is to win the highest number of Swachh Survekshan awards: Pattabhiram

**From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, April, 8 :** Swachh Andhra Corporation Chairman Komareddy Pattabhiram strongly criticized former Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and the YSRCP. Speaking to the media on Wednesday, he alleged that the previous YSRCP government imposed a tax even on garbage but failed to clear it, leaving huge accumulations behind.

He stated that around 153 lakh metric tons of waste across the state were left uncleared and pending. He said that 100 metric tons of

waste have already been cleared, and about 50 lakh metric tons still need to be processed. Pattabhiram added that steps are being taken to establish new processing centers to ensure that waste generated each day is processed on the same day.

**"Revenue from waste..."**

He revealed that fresh waste processing units are being set up in 107 municipalities across the state at a cost of Rs.528.65 crore. These units will have the capacity to process 5,300 tons of waste. He mentioned

that the Central Government has allocated ₹213 crore and the State Government ₹141 crore for these units. Agreements have been made to start operations from June. He also said that steps are being taken to generate revenue from waste.

**"Waste-to-energy plants..."**

Pattabhiram said the government is promoting the use of bio-fertilizers to reduce dependence on chemical fertilizers. Bio-fertilizers produced from processing units will be supplied to farmers at low cost. He added that 10% of the revenue from bio-fertilizer sales will go to the Swachh Andhra Corporation.

He also stated that efforts are being made to recycle waste, with municipalities and the corporation each receiving 10% of the revenue generated from recycling. The government is planning to set up waste-to-energy plants at six locations across the state.

He urged citizens to separate wet and dry waste. Awareness programs on sanitation are being conducted in 5,000 schools to educate children. He said that all these measures are



aimed at winning the highest number of Swachh Survekshan awards in the country. He also mentioned plans to introduce a real-time dashboard to continuously monitor waste collection.

## Our party worker faced injustice due to officials: MP Balashowry

**Machilipatnam, April 8:** It is known that municipal officials in Machilipatnam demolished a house being constructed by Jana Sena Party worker Sripati Venkatachalam. Responding to this incident, Machilipatnam Jana Sena MP Vallabhaneni Balashowry expressed anger. He condemned the demolition of the structure being built by Sripati Venkatachalam in Kobarithota. On Wednesday, he visited the affected family and offered them support and reassurance. Speaking to the media on this occasion, MP Balashowry said, "Due to the over-enthusiasm of officials, injustice has been done to our party worker Sripati Venkatachalam. Not just as an MP, but as a Jana Sena worker, I will stand by him. I will rebuild the demolished house at my own expense."

## Rs.185 crore for Vijayawada stadium development: Minister Mandipalli

**From Our Staff Reporter Vijayawada, April, 8 :** Andhra Pradesh Transport and Sports Minister Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy said that the coalition government is giving top priority to sports development in the state. He stated that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and young leader, Minister Nara Lokesh are encouraging the growth of sports. He expressed confidence that under Lokesh's leadership, Andhra Pradesh will become a hub for sports. He mentioned that the Indira Gandhi Municipal Stadium (IGMC) in Vijayawada is being developed with investments worth hundreds of crores.

**"Development worth hundreds of crores..."**

For the development of this stadium, Rs.20 crore will be provided through Khelo India, another Rs.20 crore through the Sports Author-



ity (SAAP), and around Rs.160 crore by the state government through the Municipal Administration in three phases, the minister said. He criticized the previous government for neglecting the stadium for five years. He added that under the leadership of MP Kesineni Sivanath, along with coordination from Municipal Administration and SAAP, a government order (GO) has now been issued for its development. He

also praised the MP's efforts in promoting sports as President of the Andhra Cricket Association and said that ministers and MPs are continuously meeting Union ministers to secure funds for the state.

**"A pride of Vijayawada..."**

MP Kesineni Sivanath said Vijayawada is rapidly developing and will gain further prominence with Amaravati receiving permanent recognition as the

state capital. He noted that sports infrastructure is improving in cities like Visakhapatnam, Tirupati, and Vijayawada along with the Amaravati region.

He announced that the IGMC Stadium in Vijayawada will be developed in three phases at an estimated cost of Rs.185 crore. He also said Amaravati will become a sports city and a sports university will be established there. The Chief Minister is determined to build a massive sports city over 2,500 acres in Amaravati.

The government is also planning to encourage women athletes further. Efforts are underway to host the National Games in Vijayawada and Amaravati by 2029. He added that dynamic officials in the district administration are playing a key role in the development of NTR district.

## Recognizing those who worked hard is TDP's ideology: Minister Lokesh



**From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, April, 8 :** TDP National General Secretary and Education & IT Minister Nara Lokesh said that recognizing those who have worked hard for the Telugu Desam Party is their core ideology. He stated that the party will never forget those who stood by it.

Minister Lokesh met the top-10 performers of the "My TDP App." He held a cordial meeting with them at the party's central office in Mangalagiri, Guntur district. On this occasion, he expressed happiness over the effective use of the "My TDP App" and their enthusiastic participation in programs called by the

party. He praised them, saying their performance is the reason they reached this level. The best-performing members were honored. Later, he interacted warmly with each of them and inquired about their well-being. He encouraged them to work even harder for the party and assured that TDP will always stand by them.

## SP Dheeraj Kunubilli inaugurated a state-of-the-art 'Crime Police Station' in Madanapalle

Madanapalle, April 08 (Skyline daily): In order to maintain law and order in the district and expedite the completion of pending criminal investigations, the newly established District Crime Police Station was inaugurated on Wednesday by District SP Dheeraj Kunubilli on the premises of BT College in Madanapalle. After performing religious rituals, the SP cut the ribbon and entered the station. Later, wishing for environmental protection, he planted a sapling and watered it. Speaking on the occasion, the District SP said that this special crime station has been set up with the aim of solving thefts, serious

property offences and long-standing unsolved cases in the district at the earliest. Later, speaking to Crime Inspector Chandrasekar, he ordered that this crime station should work to identify criminals from time to time and provide justice to the victims at the earliest. He said that the crime department should play a key role in solving crimes at the field level with solid evidence and handing over the property of the people to them. All kinds of infrastructure facilities have been provided to the officers and staff, and henceforth the district police machinery should be at the forefront in the results, the SP ordered. District Crime In-



spector M Chandra Sekhar, One Town Inspector K Raja Reddy, Taluka Inspector K Kala Venkataramana, DCRB Inspector A Adinarayana Reddy, Red Sandal Task Force Inspector A Mohan Kumar, Crime SIs Narasimhudu, Mohan Naik, Ramesh, Taluka SI Ramakrishna Reddy and CCS police personnel also participated.

## Use Atal Tinkering Labs as a platform to develop skills



Madanapalle, April 08 (Skyline daily): Dr Anuradha, Samagra Shiksha APC, called on the students to use Atal Tinkering Labs as a platform to develop skills. She visited the Atal Boot Camp being conducted at the Zilla Parishad High School in Chinnathippasamudram,

Madanapalle Mandal on Wednesday afternoon. Speaking at a meeting organized on the occasion, she said that to develop engineering-level technical skills among students, boot camps are being conducted in all Atal Labs in the district. Funds of Rs. 15,000 have been allocated to each

school. In these camps, technical skills are being taught to students by expert trainers. She said that through this, students in government schools are achieving engineering-level skills at the school level itself. With these skills, students are formulating their innovative ideas into

projects. Later, she visited the projects prepared by the students. She expressed happiness by testing their interest and skills in creating projects. She said that she is happy that Atal Labs is helping to develop holistic personality among the students of poor, backward and weaker sections of government schools. Later, she presented certificates of appreciation to 40 students who showed the highest talent in her lab. Mandal Educational Officers Prabhakar Reddy, Rajagopal, District Science Officer Marla Obul Reddy, school head masters Chandrasekar, Venugopal Reddy, teachers and students participated in this program.

## MLA Bojjala Sudheer Reddy Invited to Participate in Poshan Pakhwada Programme

Srikalahasti- 8 April (Skyline Daily) ICDS CDPO B. Shanti Durga has invited Srikalahasti MLA Bojjala Sudheer Reddy to attend the 8th phase of the nationwide Poshan Pakhwada programme, scheduled to be held from April 9 to April 23, 2026. She met the MLA at the Panchayati Raj Guest House in Srikalahasti and extended the formal invitation. Speaking on the occasion, she stated that the Poshan Pakhwada programme will be con-

ducted across the country at all Anganwadi centres, benefiting pregnant women, lactating mothers, and children. She explained that the initiative aims to create awareness about the importance of nutrition, including the distribution of nutritious food provided by the government and guidance on proper dietary practices to ensure better health. Various awareness sessions will be organized during the 15-day programme. The primary objective of the campaign is to reduce malnutri-



tion among pregnant women, nursing mothers, and children, with a special focus on brain development during the first 1000 days

of life. Shanti Durga also confirmed that MLA Bojjala Sudheer Reddy is expected to participate in the programme.

## Second Day of Mutyalamma Jatara Celebrated with Rituals and Annadanam in Srikalahasti



Srikalahasti- 8 April (Skyline Daily) The second day of the Mutyalamma Jatara was observed with devotion at Sri Mutyalamma Temple, an affiliated shrine of Sri Kalahasteswara Swamy Devasthanam. As part of the festivities, Pothuraju Muggu was performed at 9:00 AM, followed by an Annadanam (community meal program) at 12:00 noon. A Ganga Pette procession was also conducted, attracting devotees and locals. Temple

Trust Board Chairman Kotte Saiprasad participated in the event along with members V. Gurrappa Shetty and K. Nagaraju. Also present were affiliated temples supervisor Ravi, temple staff member (Gumastha) Lakshmaiah, former Trust Board member Renukamma, and the priests of Sri Mutyalamma Temple. The celebrations were carried out in a traditional manner, showcasing the cultural and spiritual significance of the jatara festival.



## Students should become entrepreneurs for the development of society

Madanapalle, April 08 (Skyline daily): Society will develop only if students become entrepreneurs, said Dr Anuradha, Samagra Shiksha APC. She attended the district level project exhibition program of the Entrepreneurial Mindset Development Program held at the Zilla Parishad High School in Madanapalle, the district headquarters, on Wednesday as the chief guest. Speaking on the occasion, she advised the students to develop an entrepreneurial mindset from the student stage. The Andhra

Pradesh School Education Department and Udyam Voluntary organization jointly implemented a program to develop an entrepreneurial mindset for class 9 students in a school in Annamayya district. Through this program, skills like critical thinking and creativity were developed in the students. Thus, students developed an entrepreneurial mindset. The products created by students from schools across the district were displayed in this exhibition. The students who made the best products were selected and



presented with mementos and certificates. Mandal Educational Officer Prabhakar Reddy, District Science Officer Marla Obul Reddy, EMDP District Coordinator Karimulla, jury members Venugopal Reddy, Varaprasad, Bhaskar, teachers and students participated in the program.

## The coalition leaders discussed the main issues of the Madanapalle Government Hospital with the RMO.



Madanapalle, April 08 (Skyline daily): The coalition leaders who were politely met with Radhika Gundabathini, who was appointed as the new RMO of the Madanapalle Govern-

ment Hospital, presented her with a shawl and a bouquet of flowers. On this occasion, they demanded that the government hospital should start a new ENT department and dental depart-

ment, increase the number of healthy deliveries in the hospital, increase the number of dialysis beds, deal with emergency cases quickly, and provide proper services to patients without

delay in the matter of sadharam health certificates. They said that they would take up the issues with the State Medical and Health Minister Y Satya Kumar for the necessary facilities for the hospital and resolve the issues. Rajampet BJP District Vice President Akula Krishna Murthy, General Secretary Ellampalle Prashanth, Rajampet District TDP District General Secretary and State Urdu Academy Vice Chairman Pathan Khader Khan, and senior BJP leader Barnepalli Ravi Kumar participated in the program.

## Shivashankar Joins TDP

Palamaner, April 7: (By our Skyline staff reporter)

On Wednesday, Shivashankar joined the TDP under the leadership of Gangavaram Mandal President Somasekhara Goud, and in the presence of Gundugallu Panchayat TDP President Jayanth and Unit In-charge Jayasimha. MLA Amarnath Reddy formally welcomed Shivashankar by draping the TDP party scarf around him. Shivashankar, in turn, presented floral bouquets to all of them and honored them grandly by draping shawls over them.



Shivashankar expressed his gratitude to State Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, Palamaner Constituency MLA Amarnath

Reddy, and senior TDP leader Vishnuvardhan Reddy. Speaking on the occasion, Shivashankar affirmed that he would strive for the development of the Telugu Desam

Party. He stated that he would remain accessible at all times and contribute to the progress of the party. TDP leaders and activists participated in this programme.

## Mutyalamma Jatara Celebrated in Traditional Style; Srikalahasti MLA Bojjala Venkata Sudheer Reddy Couple Participates



Srikalahasti- 7 April (Skyline Daily) The annual Mutyalamma Jatara was conducted in a traditional and devotional manner at Sri Mutyalamma Temple, an affiliated shrine of Sri Kalahasteswara Swamy

Devasthanam. On Tuesday evening at 7:00 PM, special rituals including Shesha Panpu Muggu, Ganga Pette Pooja, and a grand procession were organized as part of the festivities. Srikalahasti MLA Bojjala Venkata



Sudheer Reddy and his spouse participated in the celebrations. Others present on the occasion included member Gurrappa Shetty, DEO NR Krishna Reddy, affiliated temples supervisor Ravi, temple staff member

(Gumastha) Lakshmaiah, former Trust Board member Renukamma, and the priests of Sri Mutyalamma Temple. The jatara was observed with great devotion, reflecting the rich cultural and spiritual traditions of the region.

## Illegal intrusion of Tamil Nadu boat into Krishnapatnam Port... Task Force seizes it

Nellore, April 8: Task Force teams have seized a boat belonging to Tamil Nadu that illegally entered the coastal area of Krishnapatnam Port in Nellore district. Following recent instructions from Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, special focus has been placed on coastal security. This intrusion has caused concern amid continuous surveillance.

In the past few days, with an increase in illegal movements along the Krishnapatnam coast, Task Force teams intensified patrolling. With the latest seizure, a total of four boats have been confiscated so far. Recently, three



boats were caught in succession, and now a fourth has been seized. All the captured boats have been shifted to Juvvaladinne harbor for security reasons.

# EDITORIAL

## 'Increase in seats' strategy for victory

Although the BJP has minimal electoral strength in South India, it is already making new moves to maintain its dominance in the North Indian states and return to power in the 2029 general elections. The BJP believes that it can consolidate its power at the Center by winning huge seats in states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh. In the South, the BJP has less strength in the states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala. In 2024, the DMK won 39/39 seats in Tamil Nadu. However, the BJP is focused on increasing the vote share in Tamil Nadu and expanding its vote bank in Kerala. Now, it considers the upcoming assembly elections in Tamil Nadu and Kerala by 2029 as a foundation. To this end, it is planning to complete the delimitation of constituencies by 2029. To this end, it is considering increasing the seats in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies by up to 50 percent. It is convincing the public that its goal is to increase the seats without mentioning the delimitation of constituencies. Also Read - Donald Trump gambles again Advertisement If that happens, the Lok Sabha seats will increase from 543 to 816 and the Assembly seats from 4123 to 6385. As a result of population differences, the northern states have more constituencies compared to the south. The southern states have been demanding for some time now to correct these differences. In 1951, the southern states had 26 percent of the country's total population, but by 2022, this had decreased to 19 percent. The secret in the BJP's strategy is that Union Home Minister Amit Shah recently discussed this seat increase strategy with the NDA allies only and did not hold any consultations with other political parties. According to the seat increase formula, the current number of Lok Sabha constituencies will inevitably increase from 543 to 816. The seats in the northern states will increase by 150 to 200. Also Read - 'Pembu' tribals roar over stony hearts Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has recently expressed concern that this will give an "unfairly strong majority" to the northern states and weaken the southern states politically. For example, the seats in Uttar Pradesh will increase from 80 to 120. At the same time, Telangana seats will increase from 17 to only 26. The Telangana government is worried that the current difference of 63 seats will increase to 94 seats in the future. That is why the Telangana government has passed a resolution opposing the re-division of constituencies based on population. The Centre has asked for this decision only after discussing with all the states. The Andhra Pradesh government is also demanding that the current number of seats for each state be increased according to the population ratio and that the additional seats should be limited so that they do not go to the northern states. The BJP already has a reputation as a party limited to the Hindi heartland. Also Read - Hormuz.. Iran's Trump Card Advertisement While there is already a gap between the North and the South in terms of allocation of funds, approval of projects, appointment of high posts like President and Vice President, there is criticism that the gap will increase further if the seats are increased. It is known that the southern states are complaining that the central government continues to discriminate in the allocation of funds and sanctioning of development projects. The Modi government had previously tried to redistribute constituencies, but it backed down after large-scale protests from the southern states. Now, although the southern seats have not been directly reduced, there is concern that the attempt to increase the seats by 50 percent will be unfair to the south. After independence, the redistribution of constituencies has been done every decade. But due to the uneven population growth, the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi froze the expansion of Lok Sabha seats for 25 years. Also Read - Naxals are not the end of development After that, Atal Bihari Vajpayee also followed the same method in 2001. In the delimitation of constituencies in 1976 and 2002, the boundaries of the constituencies were changed without increasing the number of seats. Again, after 45 years, the Modi government has started efforts to delimit the constituencies. Although the Center says that no injustice will be done to the southern states, if we look at the ground realities, even if the seats of the southern states do not decrease, the importance of the south will decrease due to the relatively increased seats in the northern Indian states. This inequality will lead to an increase in the legislative dominance of the northern states. Moreover, it will be difficult for the southern states to resist the policies of the ruling classes that are detrimental to secularism, federalism, and the protection of the rights of the oppressed classes. There are already allegations against the BJP that it is using religious and caste differences for political gains. Now, political observers are expressing concern that the delimitation of constituencies risks further deepening regional divisions.

# When Naxals Killed 75 CRPF Jawans - And I Had To Arrange Aircraft For Their Coffins

The government has announced that the Maoist menace has been 'wiped out' from the infamous 'Red Corridor', meeting the deadline of March 31 it had set for itself. While one can bask in the glory of this announcement, it must be remembered that the task of shaping a 'normal', threat-free life for those in the dense jungles of the far-and-beyond has just begun. This was driven home by an almost full-page 'In Memoriam' published today in a national newspaper by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), which carried photographs of 75 of its jawans who were killed by Naxals in Bastar district this day, a decade and a half back. This touched a raw nerve in this writer.

My father was the Additional Collector of Bastar district in 1982-83 and based in Kanker, a name that got synonymous with Naxal activities later. The place was peaceful, like any other village in the hinterland of tribal India, and our visits there were wonderful. So, when the Naxal menace became acute at the beginning of this century, I asked my old man what had transformed that quiet place into one where the government writ did not run. His reply shocked me - "We kept sending reports that a parallel organisation had started taking root and political steps were needed urgently to curb it, but to no avail." The results came to haunt us in the coming years.

**2010, Then 2013, Then 2017**

In 2010, I was Assistant Chief of the Air Staff controlling transport aircraft and helicopters, and on April 6 that year had to arrange An-32 aircraft to carry coffins of 75 CRPF jawans. The mayhem that must

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

The steely determination to tackle the Naxal challenge began head-on in 2006 with Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh declaring it as the biggest internal security threat. Police forces were pumped in, and the Indian Air Force provided helicopters from 2009 for non-kinetic tasks; it is noteworthy that, though the helicopters were armed, calls for their offensive use were firmly rejected by the government. The rules of engagement were crystal clear - while helicopters would not initiate any proactive kinetic action, they would act firmly in self-defence if fired upon; the belligerents on the ground were, after all, Indian citizens. It is to the credit of successive governments that the resolve to tackle the insurgency did not flag; in fact, it only went up.

**Insurgency As A Cancer**

An insurgency is like cancer. Even after its remission, the patient requires continu-



ous tending in the long term to prevent its return. The lingering sub-surface threat lies in the famous Mao Tse Tung quote that insurgents are like fish in water - water being the local population. If the water is removed from the equation, the fish die. The villagers/tribals who call them the 'common man' must always see two aspects of official power favouring them: the government as a dependable provider of daily sustenance, and second, a deterrent capability that cannot be challenged by any alternate source of power. The insurgent 'fish' must be continuously denied a favourable human cocoon for sustenance.

So, what should the long-term strategy be? First, 'winning hearts and minds' of the populace is the cornerstone of any anti-insurgency plan. Improved education facilities for the young would go a long way in strengthening the psychological link with the rest

of India. The extensive ingress of government machinery into the erstwhile Maoist strongholds and the widespread road infrastructure and communication facilities created must be improved further to cement governmental writ. As the entry of 'outsiders' into tribal areas increases, it is vital to ensure that tribal traditions and lands are not usurped by unscrupulous elements; the bottom line is that 'exploitation' of people indigenous to the area must be prevented at all costs.

Second, backing the administrative efforts should be deterrence, born of the gloved fist of the government's law-and-order machinery. Deterrence is built over time and is a 'process' of ensuring that an adversary follows one's guides without having to go kinetic - Sun Tzu termed it the 'acme of skill' for the warrior in conflict, but it is equally applicable in civil governance where the 'insurgent' is one's

own citizen. In anti-insurgency action, the threat of retribution is more important than the actual implementation of punitive measures of law. The 'Sentencing Project', a 2010 study in the United States, stated that increasing the severity of a punishment does not have much effect on lawbreakers compared to an assurance of certainty of punishment. It is the surety that the government would come down heavily on the lawbreakers that would prevent the tribal populace of the erstwhile Red Corridor from again being coerced to become a sanctuary for any insurgent ideology.

Finally, insurgents are masters at playing political football. The drive to ensure an insurgency-free India must be a bipartisan effort, else gains made so far will be frittered away. The task of arranging aircraft to carry coffins must not befall anyone again.

# How Iran Has Pierced The One 'Shield' That Protected America For 30 Years

If the early weeks of the 2026 Iran conflict were intended to showcase the return of decisive American airpower, the events of last week have served as a sobering corrective. Wars against capable state adversaries rarely conform to technological optimism, and this episode underscores the limits of even overwhelming military superiority. The downing of an American F-15E Strike Eagle over western Iran marks a significant inflexion point in the conflict not because of the scale of the loss, which remains limited, but because of its symbolism. For the first time in this war, a manned American combat aircraft has been brought down by enemy fire in hostile airspace. The potential loss of a crew member and the launch of a high-risk combat search-and-rescue operation by the US, though ultimately successful, reinforces the enduring reality that even a single aircraft loss can generate cascading operational, political, and psychological consequences.

**A Pattern, Not An Anomaly**

This incident did not occur in isolation. On the same day, an A-10 Thunderbolt II ground-attack aircraft was also lost to Iranian fire over Kuwait near the Persian Gulf, with the pilot ejecting. These developments point to a pattern rather than an anomaly. The vulnerability of non-stealth, low-altitude platforms operating in contested environments is once again being laid bare. The damage sustained by accompanying rescue helicopters - according to Iran's Revolutionary Guards, at least five people were killed, and several "flying objects" were destroyed, including a transport plane, during the rescue operation for the downed fighter jet crew mem-

ber - further illustrates the layered risks of modern warfare, where efforts to recover personnel can expose additional assets to enemy fire. It is true that these setbacks do not fundamentally alter the strategic balance. The United States retains overwhelming advantages in terms of airpower, precision strike capability, and operational reach. American aircraft continue to conduct sustained sorties across Iranian territory, targeting infrastructure, missile systems, and military installations. Official statements from Washington have emphasised this asymmetry, highlighting the degradation of Iran's air defences and the broader military pressure being exerted.

**US' Manned vs Unmanned Systems**

Such assertions, however, deserve closer scrutiny. Degradation is not destruction. Iran's integrated air defence system, though weakened, has demonstrated resilience. The ability to shoot down advanced aircraft, even sporadically, suggests that sufficient capability remains to impose costs. This is not trivial. In high-intensity conflicts, the ability to inflict even limited attrition can shape operational choices, slow campaign tempo, and impose political constraints. The broader pattern of US losses reinforces this point. Earlier in the campaign, a significant number of MQ-9 Reaper drones were shot down over key Iranian locations such as Isfahan and Bushehr. These unmanned systems, often viewed as relatively expendable, have proven vulnerable against layered air defences. While individually less politically sensitive than manned aircraft, their cumulative loss,



both in financial and operational terms, is far from negligible. More importantly, the distinction between manned and unmanned losses begins to blur in strategic impact. Drones enable persistence and reduce risk to personnel, but they are not immune to denial. Their attrition limits surveillance coverage, targeting precision, and operational flexibility. At the same time, the loss of even a single manned aircraft introduces a qualitatively different dimension - raising questions of escalation, domestic perception, and the risks associated with pilot capture or casualty.

**America's Air Superiority Isn't Absolute**

What emerges from these developments is a more complex and less reassuring picture of contemporary airpower. Air superiority, long viewed as the cornerstone of US military doctrine, no longer guarantees invulnerability. It provides access, freedom of manoeuvre, and the ability to shape the battlespace, but within constraints imposed by increasingly capable adversaries. This has implications that extend well beyond the immediate conflict. For much of the post-Cold War era, US air campaigns - in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Libya -

were conducted against relatively weak or degraded air defences. This created an expectation, both within military planning and public discourse, of low-risk intervention. Airpower was seen as a tool capable of delivering rapid, decisive outcomes with minimal cost. The Iran conflict challenges that assumption. Alongside lessons from the Russia-Ukraine war, it reinforces the reality that state-on-state conflicts involving capable adversaries are inherently contested. Integrated air defence systems, even when partially degraded, can deny airspace, impose attrition, and complicate operational planning. The battlefield is no longer permissive; it is dynamic, adaptive, and unforgiving.

**Where Does The US Go From Here?**

In response, doctrinal and technological shifts are likely to accelerate. Greater emphasis will be placed on stealth platforms, stand-off weapons, electronic warfare, and the suppression and destruction of enemy air defences (SEAD/DEAD). The role of autonomous systems and "loyal wingman" concepts will also gain prominence as militaries seek to distribute risk and enhance survivability. At the same time, the importance of

human capital - pilot training, mission planning, and resilience under pressure - remains undiminished. Equally, the events of April 3 highlight the importance of multi-domain integration. Airpower alone, however advanced, cannot deliver decisive outcomes in isolation. It must be complemented by cyber operations, intelligence capabilities, ground manoeuvre, and diplomatic engagement. The notion of quick, clean wars driven primarily by aerial dominance appears increasingly untenable. Ultimately, the April 3 losses are a moment of strategic introspection. They don't fundamentally undermine US military superiority but puncture its narrative of effortless dominance. The United States continues to hold the advantage, but it is an advantage that must be exercised with caution, adaptability, and a clear recognition of its limits. In that sense, the real significance of these events lies not in what was lost, but in what they reveal. Contemporary warfare, even for the most advanced militaries, is neither frictionless nor predictable. The mythology of invulnerable airpower should give way to a more grounded understanding - one in which effectiveness coexists with risk, and dominance is always contested rather than absolute.



## Gold or Stocks? Jewellery firms' shares rise to 15% vs gold's 1% weekly gain - What to buy

**New Delhi:** Jewellery companies such as Titan Company, Kalyan Jewellers and P N Gadgil Jewellers reported strong business momentum in the March quarter of FY26, supported by robust consumer demand despite a sharp rise in gold prices, according to brokerage updates. Gold prices on MCX remained volatile during the period. Gold June futures rose about 1.13 per cent in the last week but declined around 6.67 per cent over the past month. In contrast, jewellery stocks outperformed the commodity across both timeframes. P N Gadgil Jewellers gained about 9.56 per cent in one week and 13.86 per cent in one month, while Kalyan Jewellers rose around 14.96 per cent in a week and 12.50 per cent in a month. Titan Company also advanced about 10.32 per cent in one week and 5.66 per cent over one month, indicating that stock performance remained strong even as gold prices saw a correction on a monthly basis.

### Titan Company Share Price Target

Titan Company, which is trading at Rs 4,492, remains a key focus for analysts, with multiple brokerages maintaining a positive stance. The stock has a tar-

get price of Rs 5,200 by domestic brokerage Motilal Oswal, implying an upside of about 16 per cent from current levels.

The company reported around 46 per cent year-on-year growth in its consumer businesses in 4QFY26. Its jewellery division led the performance with nearly 46 per cent growth, driven by higher ticket sizes and strong demand. Secondary sales rose about 52 per cent, while like-to-like sales growth stood at around 48 per cent. Buyer growth improved to high single digits after remaining largely flat in the previous quarters. Category-wise, studded jewellery grew in the early 30 per cent range, while plain gold jewellery rose in the mid-30 per cent range. Gold coin sales nearly tripled year-on-year.

### Titan Company Share Price Target

The watches and wearables segment grew around 7 per cent, impacted by a sharp decline in the smartwatch category, while eyewear recorded steady growth of about 16 per cent. Titan's international business reported strong growth of around 156 per cent year-on-year. Among global brokerages, Goldman Sachs maintained a "Buy"



rating with a target of Rs 5,000, implying an upside of about 11 per cent. JP Morgan retained a "Neutral" rating with a target of Rs 4,700, indicating a potential upside of about 5 per cent. Citi also maintained a "Neutral" rating with a target of Rs 4,750, suggesting an upside of around 6 per cent. Morgan Stanley maintained an "Overweight" rating with a target of Rs 4,529, indicating a marginal upside of about 1 per cent.

### Kalyan Jewellers Share Price Target

Kalyan Jewellers, which is trading at Rs 445, also saw strong traction during the quarter. The stock has a target price of Rs 550, implying an upside of about 24

per cent. The company reported consolidated revenue growth of about 64 per cent year-on-year in 4QFY26, significantly higher than estimates. Its India business grew around 65 per cent, supported by strong wedding and discretionary demand despite volatile gold prices. Same-store sales growth stood at around 45 per cent, while the company added 24 net new showrooms in India during the quarter. International revenue grew about 45 per cent, with the Middle East segment reporting around 39 per cent growth. The Candere business recorded a sharp growth of about 360 per cent year-on-

year, supported by store expansion. Brokerage Motilal Oswal maintained a "Buy" rating with a target of Rs 550.

### P N Gadgil Jewellers Share Price Target

P N Gadgil Jewellers trading at Rs 615 is also in focus, with Motilal Oswal assigning a "Buy" rating and a target price of Rs 850. This implies an upside of about 38 per cent from current levels.

### Jewellery sector: Demand Remains Resilient

The overall jewellery sector remained resilient despite a sharp increase in gold prices, which rose around 80 per cent year-on-year and 20 per cent quarter-on-quarter in 4QFY26.

## Govt tightens LPG norms for industries, links allocation to PNG adoption



**New Delhi:** Govt tightens LPG norms for industries: To streamline liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) distribution and encourage the wider adoption of pipelined natural gas (PNG), the government has taken significant steps. In a letter issued by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on April 8, the government informed that it has revised the allocation of packed non-domestic Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) for various industrial sectors.

"States have been allotted 70% LPG, which includes an additional allocation of up to 10% linked to the achievement of specified reforms for promotion of PNG," the official release said. The ministry conveyed that industries like pharma, food, polymer, agriculture, packaging, paint, uranium, heavy water, steel, seed, metal, ceramic, foundry, forging, glass, aerosol and other "shall also receive 70% of the units' pre-March 2026 Bulk non-domestic LPG consumption level subject to a

overall sectoral limit of 0.2 TMT/day." Highlighting the importance of PNG, the ministry reiterated that industrial units requiring LPG for specific purposes, which do not have an alternative to natural gas, will continue to receive supplies on a priority basis. "Inter-se priority shall be accorded to units requiring LPG for specialized purposes which cannot be substituted by Natural Gas," said the official statement. "Further, conditions stipulated in paragraph (b) of the letter dated 21st March 2026 regarding registration with OMCs, and paragraph (c) regarding application for PNG to CGD entities must also be fulfilled by the respective industries to avail Bulk LPG under this allocation," it added. "However, if the industries specified in para 2(a) above, where LPG is used as an integral input in the manufacturing process or for specialized purposes that cannot be substituted by Natural Gas, the requirement relating to application

for PNG shall stand waived," the letter further added. The ministry also told states and officials to quickly share these new rules with the concerned industries and make sure LPG quotas are allocated fast. Dr Mittal urged all concerned departments and bodies to communicate the Natural Gas and Petroleum Products Distribution Order of 2026 promptly and to expedite the allocation of the 10% reform-linked LPG quota to facilitate smooth transition and adoption of cleaner energy sources.

### "I also urge you to

(a) Communicate the Natural Gas and Petroleum Products Distribution (Pipelines and Other Facilities) Order 2026 to all concerned Departments/bodies, if not done so far. (b) Avail the 10% reform-linked LPG allocation to do so expeditiously, if not done so far. (c) Expediently notify the CBG States' policy (draft communicated vide D.O. No. 16022/9/2025-GP-I (E-54538) dated 6.4.2026)," she said in the letter.

## India needs \$20–25 billion investment in Iron ore to meet steel target, says Vedanta Chairman



**New Delhi:** The domestic iron ore production sector will require an investment of USD 20-25 billion or more to achieve national steel production targets and ensure self-reliance, according to Vedanta Group Chairman, Anil Agarwal. He noted that this scale of capital expenditure is essential to ramp up production to 800 million tonnes, which is needed to support the overarching goal of producing 300 million tonnes of steel within the country. Agarwal said on X that at the current production level, India would be required to import 75% of its iron ore needs. He noted that the global market is currently dominated by a handful of companies, including Vale, BHP, Rio Tinto, and Fortescue, which together produce 70%-80% of the world's supply. "It is the dream of our Prime Minister to produce 300 million tonnes of steel in India. For this, we need 800 million tonnes of Iron Ore. At our current production level, we will have to import 75% of our iron ore requirement. We also have no option but to have 3 or 4 companies which can each make 200-300 million tonnes. This sector requires a very big expenditure on infrastruc-

ture. In my estimate, it will take an investment of USD 20 billion - USD 25 billion or more," Agarwal said. He further emphasized that India's geology and the quality of its ore are comparable to or better than those of leading global producers. Agarwal highlighted that the world moved quickly toward the simplified production of minerals and hydrocarbons to meet modern needs, citing the US government's recent announcement regarding self-certified clearances to increase oil and gas production. "If we go about it in a simple manner, we can achieve our Prime Minister's goal of atmanirbharta. India's geology and quality of ore are same or even better than where/what the companies above are producing. The world is moving very fast to make simple production of minerals and hydrocarbons. Because it is the need of the hour. You may have seen the US Government has just announced that clearances are self-certified for increasing oil and gas production," the Chairman said. Along with locally sourced production, Agarwal also highlighted the employment opportunities it would create. "Below-the-ground re-

quires a big vision, like our PM's. Globally, we have also seen massive job cre-

ation in this sector and the well-being of people goes up where companies go for voluminous production," Agarwal noted. Earlier, the Ministry of Steel-owned NMDC has registered its highest-ever iron ore production output at 53 million tonnes in the Financial year 2025-26, the Ministry of Steel said in a press release. The ministry noted that NMDC has emerged as the first company in the India mining history to surpass the 50 million tonnes annual production mark. The company's iron ore production jumped 51 per cent on year to 5.35 million

tonnes in March and posted a growth of a robust 40 per cent over the corresponding year in iron ore sales. "The total production output reached 53.15 MT with a marvellous growth of 21%, and sales reached 50.23 MT, with a 13% jump, marking its best volumes since inception," the Ministry said in its press release. The Steel Ministry attributed its robust growth to NMDC's major iron ore mines in Kirandul and Bachel in Chhattisgarh and Donimalai in Karnataka, recording their best-ever performance in company history.

## 5:7 Bonus Issue: Agriculture stock set to reward shareholders; ex-date on April 10

**New Delhi:** 5:7 Bonus Issue: R M Drip & Sprinklers Systems Ltd has announced a bonus issue of 5 shares for every 7 shares held, with the record date set for 10th April 2026. Investors looking to be eligible must buy shares by 09th April 2026, as the date is fast approaching.

### Key details of the bonus issue

In a stock exchange filing, the company confirmed, "The revised Record Date for determining the entitlement of members to receive the aforesaid Bonus Equity Shares shall be 10th April 2026 (T Day). The deemed date of allotment of the Bonus Equity Shares shall be the next working day following the Record Date, i.e., 13th April 2026." A bonus issue is when a company gives extra shares to its existing shareholders for free. You do not have to pay anything for these shares. The company gives them from its profits or reserves. When you get bonus

shares, the total value of your investment does not change.

### What will change for shareholders

For example, A 5:7 bonus issue means you get 5 new shares for every 7 shares you own. Suppose you have 14 shares. You divide 14 by 7, which gives 2. You get  $5 \times 2 = 10$  bonus shares. Now you have  $14 + 10 = 24$  shares. The share price will adjust, so the total value of your investment stays almost the same. Earlier, the record date was 07th April 2026. The board had approved the issuance of 5 bonus shares for every 7 held, each valued at Re. 1, subject to member approval through postal ballot and receipt of statutory approvals. The record date is the date on which a company checks its list of shareholders. Only the people who own shares on this date can get benefits like a bonus issue or dividends. If you buy shares after the record date, you will not get

these benefits. Companies announce the record date in advance so shareholders know when to own shares to be eligible. The total number of bonus shares to be issued is 17,84,28,571, funded from retained earnings and free reserves. The company expects the shares to be credited within two months of board approval, likely by 27th April 2026. R M Drip & Sprinklers Systems shares closed at Rs 47.58 on Wednesday, up Rs 0.24, or 0.51 per cent. The stock has a market capitalization of Rs 1,190 crore, a 52-week high of Rs 123.80, and a 52-week low of Rs 35.79. Intraday, shares opened at Rs 49.70 and touched a low of Rs 45.25.

### Strong Q3 FY26 results

As per exchange filing, the company reported strong Q3 FY26 results for the quarter ended December 2025. It reported that the revenue rose 55 per cent year-on-year to Rs 74.6 crore and net profit jumped 36.5 per cent to Rs 14.05 crore.

## Samsung launches Bespoke AI WindFree Pro AC with 5 Motion Wind, smart cooling features



**New Delhi:** Bespoke AI WindFree Pro Air Conditioner Launched: Samsung has launched its latest innovation in home cooling – the Bespoke AI WindFree Pro Air Conditioner with 5 Motion Wind – in India on Wednesday, April 8. This new model features advanced Motion Wind technology, AI-powered cooling intelligence, and WindFree cooling. According to the company, it falls into the premium air conditioner category, with a simple design and is designed for modern lifestyles. "As Samsung marks its 30th anniversary in India, the company continues to innovate and deliver meaningful solutions for consumers here. With India's intense summers, consumers demand more than just cooling; they seek intelligent, personalised, and energy-efficient solutions. Our new Bespoke AI

WindFree Pro Air Conditioner combines precision airflow with smart technology to deliver faster cooling, draft-free comfort, and greater energy savings," said Ghufuran Alam, Vice President, Digital Appliances, Samsung India.

### According to the company, these are the key highlights of the newly launched Samsung Bespoke AI WindFree Pro Air Conditioner:

It combines multiple technologies such as Motion Wind, AI-based cooling intelligence and WindFree Cooling to offer a more customised and comfortable cooling experience instead of a one-size-fits-all approach. The air conditioner comes with a premium, minimalist design that, according to the company, blends easily with contemporary interiors. The new Motion Blade design is built to improve air-

flow distribution and also helps in purifying the air. Samsung's Motion Wind technology automatically adjusts both the direction and strength of airflow, helping maintain a more balanced and consistent cooling environment across the room. The system offers five different airflow modes, including Max Wind for quick cooling and Surround Wind for uniform airflow. WindFree Cooling works through 23,000 micro-holes to spread air evenly without a direct draft, creating a more comfortable "still air" environment, especially during longer usage. The AI Fast & Comfort Cooling feature studies factors like room temperature, humidity and size, and then automatically selects the most suitable cooling mode without manual intervention.

# Secretary (DARE) & DG, ICAR Reviews Climate-Resilient Wheat and Barley Research at ICAR-IIWBR, Karnal

- The country is well-prepared and expects higher output this year, ensuring both domestic food security and the ability to support other countries in the current global scenario: **Dr. M. L. Jat**  
 - ICAR Advances Conservation Agriculture and Climate-Resilient Wheat Research to Strengthen Food and Nutritional Security  
 - ICAR's Science-Led Innovations in Karnal Boost Water Efficiency, Farmer Incomes and Climate Resilience  
 - India Strengthens Aatmanirbhar Agriculture through ICAR's Climate-Resilient Wheat, BNI and Biofortification Initiatives  
 - ICAR Research Delivers Major Gains in Productivity, Soil Health and Sustainability, Supporting Viksit Bharat @2047



**New Delhi, April, 8 (PIB):** In a significant step towards advancing Aatmanirbhar Bharat and the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is spearheading transformative research in conservation agriculture and climate-resilient wheat and barley systems to strengthen national food security, fuel self-reliance, climate resilience and sustainable livelihoods.

Dr. M. L. Jat, Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and Director General, ICAR, today visited the ICAR-Indian Institute of Wheat and Barley Research (IIWBR) and ICAR-Central Soil Salinity Research Institute (CSSRI), Karnal, to review ongoing research and development initiatives. A media team from Delhi also accompanied the visit.

During the visit, Dr. Jat reviewed key research activities aimed at enhancing productivity, reducing input costs, and improving resilience to climate variability in the Indo-Gangetic Plains, while emphasizing the importance of advancing climate-resilient and resource-efficient agricultural practices. Highlighting India's preparedness in wheat production, Dr. Jat stated that the country is well-prepared and expects higher output this year, ensuring both domestic food security and the ability to support other countries in the current global scenario. He further emphasized that ICAR's focus remains on developing climate-resilient and nutrient-rich crop varieties to address climate challenges while improving farmers' incomes and public health. He also underlined that innovations such as Biological Nitrification Inhibition (BNI) are enabling reduction in fertilizer use by up to 25 percent without com-

promising productivity, benefiting both farmers and the environment. India's agricultural sector, which transitioned from food insecurity to surplus production in the post-Green Revolution era, is now being reoriented to address emerging challenges such as groundwater depletion, crop residue burning, soil degradation, biodiversity loss, and climate-induced risks. Some of these projects are being implemented in collaboration with CIMMYT, BISA, and JIRCAS. To address these priorities, ICAR, in collaboration with the International Maize

and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), has been leading a long-term, systems-based research platform since 2009 at CSSRI, Karnal, focusing on locally tailored, climate-resilient and resource-efficient cropping systems, particularly the maize-wheat production system. This conservation agriculture platform has generated significant outcomes, including up to 85 percent savings in irrigation water, 28 percent reduction in fertilizer use, 51 percent savings in fuel consumption, and up to 95 percent reduction in crop residue burning. It has also contributed

to a 46 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, up to 33 percent increase in system productivity, and nearly doubling of household incomes, thereby strengthening national food and nutrition security while reducing dependence on external inputs and volatile global markets. The initiative has also demonstrated strong ecological benefits, with soil microbial populations and organic carbon levels doubling within 15 years, improving soil health, climate resilience and supporting national commitments towards carbon neutrality and One Health goals.

## INS SUDARSHINI DEPARTS SÈTE, FRANCE AFTER PARTICIPATION IN ESCALE À SÈTE 2026



**New Delhi, April, 8 (PIB):** INS Sudarshini, the Indian Navy's Sail Training Ship, departed the port city of Sète on 07 Apr 2026, marking successful culmination of her participation in the renowned Escale à Sète. This biennial festival is amongst the largest maritime gatherings in the Mediterranean, celebrating global seafaring heritage. During the event, INS Sudarshini actively engaged in a range of maritime activities alongside international tall ships. The ship's crew participated in cultural exchanges, maritime workshops, and sporting events integral to the festival program. A major highlight was the participation of the Indian Naval marching contingent in the Heritage City Parade, commemorating 400th anniversary of the French Navy. Marching through the historic streets of Sète, while proudly displaying the Indian tricolour, the contingent delivered a flawless display of discipline, unity, and ceremonial excellence. Adding to the accolades, the Sudarshini rowing team secured a bronze medal at the Jeux Maritimes. The festival concluded with the spectacular Grande Parade de Départ, a ceremonial sail past, during which the ship unfurled her sails, creating a captivating visual display. During her port stay, the ship was open to visitors and welcomed thousands, offering insights into her role and capabilities. The enthusiastic turnout reflected strong cultural engagement and deepening maritime bonds between India and France. A joint yoga session was also conducted with the crew of FS Étoile and ITS Corsaro, symbolizing a shared commitment to health, harmony, and overall well-being. An official reception was hosted onboard by Shri Sanjeev Singla, Ambassador of India to France, attended by international dignitaries and representatives from participating nations. In his address, he emphasized the strong legacy and growing maritime cooperation between the two navies. Following her departure, INS Sudarshini is now en route to Casablanca, continuing her mission of strengthening maritime ties under Lokayan 26.

## INDIAN NAVAL SHIP TRIKAND ARRIVES AT MOMBASA, KENYA



**New Delhi, April, 8 (PIB):** INS Trikan, frontline guided missile frigate of the Indian Navy, arrived at Mombasa, Kenya, on 07 Apr 2026, as part of its ongoing deployment in the South West Indian Ocean Region. The visit aims to strengthen maritime cooperation and enhance bilateral ties between India and Kenya. The port call coincides with the visit of VAdm Krishna Swaminathan, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command, to Kenya. Professional, cultural and social engagements will be progressed during the stay, and essential stores will be handed over to the Kenya Defence Forces. Additionally, the ship's Commanding Officer will call on senior government functionaries. On departure from Mombasa, INS Trikan will engage in a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with units of the Kenya Navy. The exercise will facilitate exchange of Best Practices and enhance bilateral maritime interoperability. The port call by INS Trikan is aligned with India's vision of MAHASAGAR - Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions.

## India Ranks third globally in Renewable Energy Installed Capacity: Pralhad Joshi

- India surpasses Brazil to secure third position in Global Renewable Energy Rankings: Joshi  
 - India reached its highest-ever renewable energy share in electricity generation: Joshi

**New Delhi, April, 8 (PIB):** Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy and Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Shri Pralhad Joshi said India ranks third globally in Renewable Energy Installed Capacity, according to the Renewable Energy Statistics 2026. He said India has moved ahead of Brazil in the ranking. The International Renewable Energy Agency released the statistics as of December 2025. While addressing media persons here today, Shri Joshi said India achieved a total non-fossil capacity addition of 55.3 GW during FY 2025-26. The Minister also highlighted that in July 2025, India reached its highest-ever renewable energy share in electricity generation. The renewables met 51.5% of the country's total electricity demand of 203 GW. He also said that a total of 283.46 GW of capacity from non-fossil fuel sources has been installed in the country as on 31.03.2026. Joshi said India's total power generation during 2025-26 (up to March 2026) reached 1,845,921 BU. The share of non-fossil fuels in total generation reached 29.2% in 2025-26 (538.97 BU). India achieved the milestone of 50% of its cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel sources in June 2025, five years ahead of the 2030 target set under its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the Paris Agreement.

# Today's Horoscope

**Aries**  
 Victory celebrations will give you tremendous joy. You can share this happiness with friends to enjoy your joy. You do not understand the importance of money in life, but today, you'll realize its significance as you'll be in need of finances but won't have enough to carry out. Short trip to the relative brings moment of comfort and relaxation from your daily hectic schedule. Leave dream worries and enjoy the company of your romantic partner. The day looks very smooth in the context of work. Natives of this zodiac sign will get plenty of time for themselves today. You can use this time to fulfill your desires, read a book or listen to your favorite music. You will experience the best day of your married life today.  
 Remedy :- Perform regular abhishek to Shivaling and enrich your finances.

**Taurus**  
 Sheer pleasure and enjoyment for those venturing out to have fun. You should not invest your money today without consulting anyone. Joyful time with family and friends. Have you ever smelled chocolate with ginger and roses? Your love life is going to taste like that today. Don't hand over important files to your boss until you are sure that it is complete in all respects. You will make up your mind to do some of your favourite things today but won't be able to do so due to the abundance of work. Rain is known for romance and you will feel the similar ecstasy with your life partner throughout the day.  
 Remedy :- Donate milk packets to poor and needy girl children and experience fast-paced growth in your business.

**Gemini**  
 Avoid overeating and keep a check on your weight. Today, some unemployed natives of this sign can get jobs, which will improve their financial condition. Friend would be helpful and highly supportive. Avoid being forceful in love affairs. Those who were obstructing your success way at work, will face a severe downfall today in front of your eyes. Those who were very busy for the last few days will finally get to enjoy their own time. You might feel annoyed by your spouse due to off mood.  
 Remedy :- Keep a scented handkerchief in your pocket for a wonderful and memorable love life.

**Cancer**  
 Take special care of other's feelings when as you pass a judgement. Any wrong decision made by you will not only affect them adversely but also give you mental tension. If you feel that you do not have enough money, then seek the advice from an elder regarding money management and savings. Old friends would be supportive and helpful. You will never forget this day in your entire life, if you didn't lose the opportunity of making love today. Your aptitude to learn new things would be remarkable. Today, you can go to a park or shopping mall with young members of the family. Physical intimacy will be at its best with your spouse today.  
 Remedy :- Enjoy excellent health benefits by having milk and curd.

**Leo**  
 Sheer pleasure and enjoyment for those venturing out to have fun. 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. Illness of infant would keep you engaged. You need to give immediate attention. Take proper advice as slight negligence on your part could worsen the problem. Your romantic relationship will suffer today. This is an excellent time for developing professional contacts in other countries. Pleasure trip will be satisfying. Relatives might become a reason of argument with your spouse today.  
 Remedy :- Family happiness will increase by distributing Kheer (sweet dish made up of rice) to girls who are economically backward.

**Virgo**  
 Cultivate a harmonious nature to kill your hatred because it is more powerful than love and deadly affects your body. Remember evil triumphs sooner than good. If you were about to take a loan and had been engaged in this work for a long time, then today is your lucky day. Good day to communicate with people whom you rarely meet. Sex appeal give desired result. Bold steps and decisions would bring favourable rewards. Communication will be your strong point today. With just little efforts, the day might become the best day of your married life.  
 Remedy :- Mix wheat, whole red lentils and red vermillion in water while bathing, for good health.

**Libra**  
 Pressure from seniors at workplace and discord at home might bring some stress-which would disturb your concentration at work. It's another high-energy day and unexpected gains are foreseen. Invitation in an award function of your child would be the source of happiness. You would likely to see your dream coming true as he lives upto your expectations. Once you are met with the love of your life, nothing else is required. You will realize this truth today. You would make major gains at work. Today, you can sit with your family members and talk about many important issues of life. Your words may be bothersome for your family, but you will be able to derive a solution.  
 Remedy :- Wear gold always, depending on your affordability, for constant improvement in your economic condition.

**Scorpio**  
 Your personal problems may ruin mental happiness but involve yourself in some mental exercise by reading something interesting to cope up these pressures. Investment in stocks and mutual funds recommended for long-term gains. Health of your parents requires extra attention and care. You can brighten your love life by visiting some picnic spot. Although some opposition will arise from people who are working at the senior level-still-it will be important for you to keep a cool head. Natives of this zodiac sign need to understand themselves a bit better today. If you feel lost somewhere in the crowd, then take time for yourself and evaluate your personality. Today, you will fall in love with your spouse again.  
 Remedy :- Feed cows with grass (Chara) to lead a prosperous family life.

**Sagittarius**  
 A day of recreation and fun. Today instead of just sitting around-why not get involved in something-which will improve your earning power. Gift from an overseas relative will make you happy. Your love will reach a new height. The day will begin with the smile of your love, and end in the dreams of each other. You will benefit from the changes occurring at work. If you have been waiting for a long time for interesting things to happen in your life- then you are sure to find some relief. Love making is at its best when you can feel the emotional bond with your life-partner.  
 Remedy :- For continued financial growth, never ill-treat or show disrespect to Kinnars (Eunuchs), as they are ruled by Mercury.

**Capricorn**  
 You will remain very active and agile today. Your health will fully support you today. Some natives of this zodiac sign may have to spend money on any land-related issue today. Friends and spouse brings comfort and happiness to you otherwise a dull and slow day. Romantic influences are strong on the card today. Think twice before you take on any new project. Loss or theft may occur if you are careless with your belongings. People around you might do something that will make your life-partner fall for you again.  
 Remedy :- Keep peacock feathers at home for a flourishing business / career.

**Aquarius**  
 Somebody may upset your mood but don't allow these annoyances to overtake you. These needless worries and anxieties could have depressing influence on your body and cause skin problem. Any advice from your father can prove to be beneficial at the workplace. You will face some problems today-but be realistic and do not expect miracles from people who extend help. Avoid raising controversial issues, if you happen to go on a date today. Work schedule becomes hectic as competition comes up. The natives of this zodiac sign can watch a movie or match at home with their siblings today. By doing this, love will increase among you people. A tiff is possible today due to relatives, but at the end of the day everything will be resolved beautifully.  
 Remedy :- Health will enhance by placing crystal balls in bedroom.

**Pisces**  
 The loyal heart and brave spirit of your spouse may give happiness. Today, some unemployed natives of this sign can get jobs, which will improve their financial condition. By sharing your problems with your family members, you feel lightheaded. However, your ego doesn't allow you to share numerous important things, which is not right. Doing so will only increase the troubles. Likely to be rewarded for fair and generous love. Work put in the past brings in results and rewards today. You can watch any web series on your mobile in free time today. The day will show the extremity of your partner's romantic side today.  
 Remedy :- To have blissful family life, make moderate use of saffron in food.

## No new films for Pawan Kalyan, but this project is still happening

The team of Pawan Kalyan recently clarified that the actor-politician has not signed any new films. As per the official statement, any future project will be announced only by Pawan Kalyan himself.

However, there is an interesting development.

Despite being busy as the Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Pawan Kalyan is not stepping away from cinema entirely. He has already completed the films he had committed to earlier, including "Hari Hara Veera Mallu", "OG", and "Ustaad Bhagat Singh".

In addition, he had also com-



mitted to a project with director Surender Reddy, to be produced by Ram Talluri. This agreement was made well before the 2024 elections.

Sources say Pawan Kalyan is keen on honoring this commitment. While he plans to take a long break from films, this project is very much on track and will begin at a later stage.

The script work has reportedly been completed, and the story has impressed him greatly. Though there is no official timeline yet, clarity on the film's launch is expected in the next two to three months. The project is likely to go on floors sometime this year.

## The Paradise: Nani confident of sticking to August release date

Nani is fully immersed in the shoot of "The Paradise", his most expensive film to date. Directed by Srikanth Odela, the project has been in the making for quite some time and is progressing at a steady

pace.

Currently, the team is busy filming a crucial pre-interval episode. A massive set has been erected in Hyderabad, where an extensive action sequence is being shot. With the



completion of this schedule, nearly 50 percent of the film's shooting will be wrapped up.

The remaining portions are planned to be completed by July, and Nani is confident of meeting this timeline comfortably. The film was earlier postponed from March and is now scheduled for release on August 29. With sufficient time left for post-production, Nani is keen on avoiding any further delays. Meanwhile, Nani is also preparing to begin his next project with director Sujeeth. Titled "Bloody Romeo", the film is expected to go on floors soon.

## Patriot Trailer: Familiar Plot, Yet Looks Grand



From Anto Joseph Productions, the banner behind some of the most acclaimed and celebrated films in recent times, and visionary filmmaker Mahesh Narayanan, comes the film Patriot. The makers released the trailer today, showcasing glimpses of the star cast, including Mammotty and Mohanlal in the same frame. The film marks their reunion almost after 18 years. Billed as a spy action drama, involving political and technological elements, the film's story revolves around a controversial intelligence mission. There is enough dose of action, thrill, drama, and patriotic elements in the film that the trailer indicated. The trailer looks grand and intriguing. The makers shot it across countries. However, the conflict appears to be familiar, but then, if the execution can engage the audiences in theatres, it will become a sure-shot blockbuster. The presence of actors like Nayanthara, Darshana Rajendran, Kunchacko Boban, Fahadh Faasil, Rajiv Menon and Revathi will bring more charm to the film. The presence of big stars of Malayalam film together makes the film a prestigious one. The music and background score for the film are composed by Sushin Shyam. The film is hitting the screens on May 1st.

## Adivi Sesh's Caution for NRIs Looking to Enter Tollywood

Adivi Sesh is one of the successful heroes in Telugu cinema who is currently busy promoting his prestigious project, Dacoit. The actor is one of those who entered the film industry without any background but struggled his way to the top and carved out a market for himself. When Sesh entered the cinema, he was regarded as an NRI, but the effort he put in made his life easy today. A lot of times, NRIs working in the USA want to test their luck in telugu cinema, and Sesh has a suggestion for them.

Sesh thinks that anyone who wants to break out in the film industry after building a life in the USA tries to juggle between both cinema and life in the States. "I feel that they do a journey in two boats simultaneously. Ultimately, we will be drowned. But many people have a fear of losing everything they have built over the years. If they are ready to give up that and ready to give up fear, I think they can make it big," said Sesh.



Sesh's journey into films is also not a cake walk. He had his initial struggles but got a break with Panja. Later with Baahuabli and his individual films, he got enormous recognition. Film after film, he evolved and today emerged as one of the bankable pan-India stars. Coming to Dacoit, Shancil Deo is the film's director, and the movie is backed by Supriya Yarlalagadda and Sumiel Narang.

## Rajasekhar's Biker, Performance Becomes Talking Point



Biker is drawing attention primarily for its performances, with Sharwanand and Rajasekhar leading the praise. While Sharwanand impresses in the lead, it is Rajasekhar who has emerged as a major highlight of the film. Making a comeback after a long gap, Rajasekhar plays Sharwanand's father and brings remarkable depth and emotional weight to the role. His performance adds a strong dimension to the narrative, elevating several key moments.

Many feel that his decision to take up character roles at this stage of his career is a welcome move, as it opens the door for more diverse and impactful performances in the future. Speaking at a recent event, Rajasekhar shared an emotional anecdote. He revealed that he never allowed even his own family members to call him "grandfather," but during a scene in Biker, when he was addressed that way, it deeply moved him. This reflects the kind of emotional scope his character offered. With his proven acting prowess, Rajasekhar is now poised to explore a wide range of roles. It will be interesting to see what kind of characters he chooses next, as this phase could redefine his career in a big way.

## Nagarjuna & Nag Ashwin Laud Biker as Must Watch



Charming Star Sharwanand starrer Biker released yesterday to good reception. Many industry bigwigs are praising the film for its technical brilliance and superlative story. Mainly, the bike racing sequences and emotions have been talking point. King Nagarjuna and Nag Ashwin shared their delight after watching the film. Nag said "#Biker is a film that beautifully celebrates family emotions and relationships! Watch out for the

racing sequences and the climax! The film is so technically sound!! So proud of the director @abhilashkankara student of Annapurna College of film and media @acfmofficial in handling the subject with such maturity. Congratulations to the entire team of Biker!" Nag Ashwin watched the premiere and stated that Biker is one of a kind film in Indian Cinema with great human values. He praised the bike racing sequences as the

best ever shot on Indian and Telugu Screens. He recommended the movie to family audiences calling it a wholesome entertainer. Biker bookings are tremendous and it is trending on BMS app per hour. Sharwanand is receiving praises for his performance along with Rajasekhar and director Abhilash Reddy, producer UV Creations are being praised for their penchant to deliver such a unique, technically superlative film.

## Adivi Sesh's Smart Reply To Counter Dhurandhar Hype



In a recent interaction, Adivi Sesh addressed a question about whether Dhurandhar 2 would impact his upcoming film Dacoit. His response stood out for its clarity and strategic balance. Instead of dismissing the competition, Sesh acknowledged the strong run of Dhurandhar 2, stating that it could continue successfully for another three to four months, comparing its momentum to the popularity and endurance of the IPL. This com-

parison was both relatable and smart, especially for audiences in the North, where large-scale entertainment events often draw massive attention.

By recognizing the strength of Dhurandhar 2, Sesh avoided sounding defensive while also positioning his own film positively. He added that viewers who are unable to secure tickets for Dhurandhar 2 might turn to Dacoit, subtly presenting his film as an appealing alternative. This balanced approach plays

a crucial role in building buzz. If Sesh had spoken only from Dacoit's perspective, it might not have generated the same level of interest. Instead, by including both films in the conversation, he widened the appeal and tapped into an existing audience base. Overall, his response reflects a thoughtful promotional strategy that could help Dacoit gain attention, especially among audiences already engaged with Dhurandhar 2.

## LIK Failing To Cash In On Pradeep's Telugu Image?

With just days left for the release of Love Insurance Kompany, concerns are growing over its lack of promotions in the Telugu market. Headlined by Pradeep Ranganathan, the film is set to hit screens soon, but there is barely any buzz in Andhra and Telangana. Pradeep, who gained decent recognition among Telugu audiences with films like Dragon and Dude, has built a small but promising market here. Adding to that, Krithi Shetty, a familiar face in Tollywood, plays the female lead, which should ideally boost visibility. However, surprisingly, the team has not initiated any solid promotional activities in Telugu so far. With Dacoit starring Adivi Sesh gear-

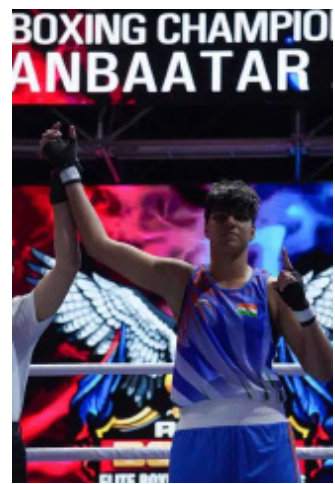


ing up for an April 10 release, competition is only going to get tougher. Trade experts feel the makers need to act fast with interviews, events, and localized promotions to create awareness. Without that push, Love Insurance Kompany risks missing out on a key market despite having the right ingredients to connect with Telugu audiences.

# SPORT

**Hyderabad:** Mehrunisha Begum secured Mehrunisha Begum IndiaSkills gold in the Logistics and Freight Forwarding category at the IndiaSkills Competition 2026, bringing recognition to Telangana's skill development efforts. The competition was organised by the National Skill Development Corporation under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India. Her victory followed a rigorous selection process that included district, state and regional rounds before the national stage.

## Preeti, Priya and Arundhati reach finals in Asian Boxing Championships



**Hyderabad:** India's bantam-weight dynamo Preeti Pawar downed Paris Olympics bronze medallist Aeji Im of Korea to book her place in the 54 kg Elite Women's final at the Asian Boxing Championships 2026 on

Monday. Geographic Reference Indian women's team members Priya and Arundhati Choudhary also joined Preeti in the title bouts, easing past their respective semifinal opponents in Ulaanbaatar. In the women's 54 kg semifinal, Preeti, a gold medallist from the World Boxing Cup Finals, delivered a composed and clinical performance, dominating all three rounds against Im to secure a 5-0 victory. She will now face Chinese Taipei's Huang Hsiao-wen, a three-time World Champion (2019, 2023, 2025) and Tokyo 2020 Olympic bronze medallist, in a marquee gold medal clash. In the women's 60 kg category, Priya produced a commanding display to defeat Namun Monkhor (MGL) by a 5-0 unanimous decision, seal-

ing her spot in the final. She will now take on North Korea's Un Gyong Won in the title bout. In the women's 65 kg category, Ankushita Boro went down 0-3 to Chinese Taipei's Nien-Chin Chen, the Paris Olympics bronze medallist, in the semifinals. The bout was interrupted due to a power supply issue after the first round, following which the result was decided based on points. In the women's 70 kg category, Arundhati impressed with a 4-1 victory over Oysha Toirova (UZB), showcasing control and composure to progress to the final. She is set to face Kazakhstan's Bakyt Seidish next. Meanwhile, in the women's 51 kg category, Nikhat Zareen went down 0-5 to China's Wu Yu, the reigning

Olympic gold medallist and one of the most dominant boxers in the division, in the semifinals. In the women's 75 kg category, Lovlina Borgohain suffered a 0-5 defeat to Uzbekistan's Aziza Zokirova, a World Championships bronze medallist in the 70 kg category, known for her aggressive style and strong international performances. In the women's 80 kg category, Pooja Rani bowed out after a 0-5 loss to Kazakhstan's Nadezhda Ryabets, a 2023 World Championships bronze medallist and an experienced campaigner. With four boxers already through to the finals, India's campaign continues with two more semifinal bouts in the women's 48 kg and 57 kg categories scheduled for April 7.

## GMR Sports announces Rugby Premier League 2026 in Hyderabad



**Hyderabad:** GMR Sports, in partnership with Rugby India, the national governing body for the sport, announced that the second edition of the Rugby Premier League (RPL) will be held at the Gachibowli Stadium here from June 16 to 28. Following a successful inaugural edition last year in Mumbai, the Rugby Premier League returns in the fast-paced Rugby 7s format, aligning with the league's long-term vision of accelerating the growth and global competitiveness of rugby in India. The second edition will feature the six franchises from the first edition, continuing to provide a high-performance platform that brings together leading Indian and international players while offering fans an engaging and action-packed rugby experience. The decision to host the league in Hyderabad aligns with GMR Sports' broader commitment to developing world-class sporting ecosystems. The announcement follows GMR Sports' recent signing of a Strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Telangana, with a shared focus on developing a Satellite Sports City within Bharat Future City, underscoring the Group's strategic emphasis on sports infrastructure, innovation and athlete development. Welcoming the league to Hyderabad, Sri Jayesh Ranjan, IAS, Special Chief Secretary to Government (Youth Advancement, Tourism & Culture & Sports Depart-

ment), Government of Telangana, said: "Hyderabad's emergence as a global sporting destination reflects Telangana's long-term policy vision and institutional support for international partnerships. Events like the Rugby Premier League contribute significantly to tourism, urban visibility and the broader sports economy of the State." Echoing this sentiment and outlining the league's continued evolution, Mr Rahul Bose, President of Rugby India, said: "With everything one does in life, the quest is to always do better, be better, deliver better. That will continue to be the cornerstone of the RPL." Elaborating how this philosophy translates into the league's execution, he added: "Building a world-class property will never be enough. We will always strive to deliver a better product for our fans, do better by our sponsors and, last but not the least, be better partners for our franchisees, their owners and their support staff. RPL 2026 at the Gachibowli Stadium in Hyderabad sets out to achieve all this and more. We promise a better fan experience, an even more thrilling quality of world-class rugby and a brilliant television and OTT product. As always, we cannot do anything alone. We rely on all our partners, including the media, to guide, advise and be the wind beneath our wings. Here's to a cracking RPL 2026!" City & Local Guides Outlining GMR Sports' decision to host the

second edition in Hyderabad, Mr Satyam Trivedi, CEO, GMR Sports, said: "We are delighted to announce that the second season of the Rugby Premier League will be hosted in Hyderabad at the world-class Gachibowli Stadium. Hyderabad's premier sports infrastructure, excellent connectivity and passionate fan base make it the perfect home for the league. One of our franchise partners is rooted in Hyderabad, underscoring the city's pivotal role in our long-term vision for rugby in India. This reflects GMR Sports' commitment to growing participation, delivering world-class sporting experiences and inspiring the next generation of athletes in Hyderabad and beyond." Highlighting the importance of the event from a high-performance perspective, Dr A Sonibala Devi, IFS, Vice Chairman & Managing Director, Sports Authority of Telangana (SATG), said: "Hosting the Rugby Premier League at the Gachibowli Stadium strengthens our high-performance ecosystem and provides invaluable exposure to emerging talent. Such international competitions accelerate athlete development and reinforce Telangana's commitment to sporting excellence." With elite competition, a proven league format and a new host city, the second edition of the Rugby Premier League is set to deliver top-tier rugby action while continuing to play a pivotal role in the development of the sport in India.

## Shreyas Iyer leads Punjab Kings against struggling Kolkata Knight Riders

**Kolkata:** A beleaguered and increasingly rudderless Kolkata Knight Riders will need a strong turnaround to halt their poor start when they face an in-form Punjab Kings in their IPL clash here on Monday. The three-time champions may point to the absence of frontline pacers Mustafizur Rahman, Harshit Rana, Akash Deep and Matheesha Pathirana for their early struggles, but the larger issue lies in a flawed team strategy that has left them staring at a third successive defeat. The decision not to retain Shreyas Iyer, who led them to the 2024 title, raised eyebrows, and it has only looked worse in hindsight. Iyer went on to vindicate himself by leading Punjab Kings to a runners-up finish in 2025, becoming the first captain to guide three different franchises — Delhi Capitals (2020), KKR (champions 2024) and PBKS (2025) — to the finals. In contrast, KKR endured a forgettable campaign last season, finishing eighth for the first time since 2009. Ajinkya Rahane, brought in as captain despite being out of favour in the T20 scheme of things, did silence critics to an extent by emerging as their leading run-getter. But the team's thinking, including the elevation of Abhishek Nayar as head coach in place of Chandrakant Pandit, has come under scrutiny. Nayar was incidentally the coach of UP Warriorz in this year's WPL in their bottom-placed finish. The muddled strategy is most evident in their team combination. Despite having three top New Zealand players — Finn Allen,



Tim Seifert and Rachin Ravindra — KKR have failed to utilise their resources effectively. Allen has been the only one to get a look-in, while Seifert, the second-highest run-getter in the last T20 World Cup, and Ravindra, a proven spin-bowling all-rounder, continue to warm the bench. Instead, KKR's persistence with Sunil Narine, a franchise regular since 2012, despite his diminishing returns, has raised questions. The situation is further complicated by the inclusion of all-rounder Cameron Green, who has been restricted from bowling by Cricket Australia, leaving the side with two overseas players not fully contributing. Add to that the presence of Rovman Powell, another proven T20 performer, on the sidelines, and KKR's

selection calls appear increasingly baffling. Even their high-profile support staff — Shane Watson, Dwayne Bravo and Andre Russell — has not been able to provide clarity, making one ponder who is actually calling the shots at KKR. While their bowling was expected to be a concern, the batting has fared no better. Rahane's move to promote himself to open has yielded mixed results, and the lineup looks thin beyond No. 5. In their first home match, they were bowled out for 161 in just 16 overs while chasing 227 against Sunrisers Hyderabad at Eden Gardens. City & Local Guides The lower middle order, comprising Ramandeep Singh and Anukul Roy, lacks the firepower, while Narine has been pushed down to No. 8, reflecting the lack of a settled plan. In

stark contrast, Punjab Kings have everything going their way. Led by Iyer, who knows the Eden conditions well, they come into the match with two wins in two matches. Young Cooper Connolly has been a revelation at No. 3 with 108 runs from two matches, while Priyansh Arya and Prabhsimran Singh have provided explosive starts. Iyer has anchored the middle overs with assurance. Their bowling unit, featuring Arshdeep Singh, Marco Jansen and Vijaykumar Vyshak, looks balanced, while veteran leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal adds further bite. For KKR, among the few positives have been the efforts of Kartik Tyagi and young Angkrish Raghuvanshi, but those sparks alone may not be enough against a well-oiled Punjab unit. Match starts: 7.30pm.

## Carlos Sainz Leads F1 Drivers' Call For Safety Changes After Oliver Bearman's Japanese GP Crash

**Grand Prix:** Formula 1 drivers called for changes to protect their safety after Haas's Ollie Bearman slammed into a barrier at high speed at Japanese Grand Prix. The 20-year-old avoided serious injury after spinning off the track midway through the race, although he was limping heavily as he was helped off the course by stewards. Sweeping new energy-saving regulations in Formula One this year mean cars can be travelling at drastically different speeds on the track at the same time. Bearman was moving at high speed as he approached the slower Franco

Colapinto and had to take evasive action to avoid hitting him. Williams driver Carlos Sainz called on racing authorities to make sure there was no repeat of the incident. "As drivers, we have been extremely vocal that the problem is not only qualifying, it's also racing, and we were warning this type of accident was always going to happen," said the Spaniard. "Here we were lucky there was an escape road -- now imagine going to Baku, Singapore, Las Vegas and having this type of closing speeds, crashes next to the walls."



## Andhra Open golf tournament to be held in Visakhapatnam



**Hyderabad:** The DP World Professional Golf Tour of India (DP World PGTI), the official sanctioning body of professional golf in India, announced the inaugural edition of the Andhra Open, which will be held at the picturesque East Point Golf Club in Visakhapatnam from April 7 to 10 with a total prize money of Rs 1 crore. City & Local Guides Partners DP World and its Tour Partners Amul, Axis Bank, Campa, Amrutanjan Enerlyte, Kalyani, Golf Plus Monthly and Golf Design India for their support in growing the tour. The Andhra Open 2026 is supported by host

venue East Point Golf Club (EPGC) and event partner Andhra Pradesh Golf Association (APGA). The leading Indian professionals participating in the event include DP World PGTI Order of Merit leader Saptak Talwar, Veer Ahlawat, Om Prakash Chouhan, Manu Gandas, Angad Cheema (winner at EPGC in 2024), Honey Baisoya and Ajeetesh Sandhu, to name a few. The leading foreign player at the event is Sri Lankan N Thangaraja (winner at EPGC in 2023). There are 18 foreign players participating from nine different countries. The local challenge will be led by Visakhapatnam-based pro-

fessionals S Muthu and Mohammed Rahman. Mr M S N Raju, Honorary Secretary, East Point Golf Club, said, "East Point Golf Club was established in 1884. In 1964 it shifted to this location. After getting 18 acres of land in 2018 from the Government, we were able to make a championship course by 2021 and were awarded Best Renovated Golf Course in India in 2022. APGA also established its base at EPGC and started promoting golfing activities in Andhra Pradesh, including DP World PGTI's Andhra Open 2026. This is the third time we are hosting the PGTI.

## Narayana Health Marks 10,000+ Surgeries Milestone, Strengthening Leadership in Advanced Orthopedic & Spine Care

With over 1,000 robotic joint replacements, the hospital continues to expand access to advanced, patient-centric treatment for complex orthopaedic and spine conditions



**Anantapur, April 8, 2026 (skyline daily) :** Reinforcing its leadership in delivering advanced, technology-enabled care, Narayana Health has achieved a significant milestone of over 10,000 successful orthopaedic and spine surgeries, including more than 1,000 robotic joint replacements. This milestone reflects the network's continued focus on clinical excellence, innovation, and improving patient outcomes. As part of this achievement, the hospital recently managed two complex cases advanced knee arthritis and a rare multi-level spine tumour with highly successful outcomes.

Commenting on the milestone, Dr. Abhinandan S. Punit, Senior Consultant, Clinical Lead – Arthroplasty Narayana Health, said, "At Narayana Health, our endeavour has always been to make high-quality, advanced healthcare accessible to a larger population. This milestone is a testament to our continued investment in cutting-edge technologies such as robotic-assisted surgery and our focus on building strong multidisciplinary teams. These capabilities not only enhance surgical precision but also enable faster recovery and better long-term outcomes for patients, even in highly complex cases." In one of the recent cases, Mr. A P Chandrappa (69 years) presented with severe knee pain for over six months, significantly impacting his mobility and quality of life. Upon evaluation, he was diagnosed with advanced osteoarthritis of the left knee. The orthopaedic team, led by Dr. Abhinandan S Punit, performed a successful total knee replacement. The patient was mobilized from the first post-operative day and showed steady recovery and was discharged in stable condition with improved mobility. In another complex case, Mr. Mohanraj (53 years) had been experiencing chronic back pain for over two years with weakness of both lower limbs, which had worsened in recent months, affecting his ability to walk. Detailed investigations re-

vealed a rare spinal tumour in paraspinal locations known as epithelioid haemangioma (on minimally invasive biopsy) involving multiple spinal levels (L2-L5). The spine surgery team, led by Dr. Shashidhar B K, along with Tumor surgeons Dr. Suman Byregowda and Dr. Anjana Reddy, performed a highly advanced surgical procedure involving tumour excision and multi-level spinal stabilization from D11 to S1 with innovative triple rod pillar technique under the guidance of latest O arm guided neuro navigation and multimodal advanced neuromonitoring. The advanced technologies and hugely trained expert team ensure enhanced precision and safety, with patient regaining full power in lower limbs. Preoperatively patient underwent Digital subtraction angiography for reduction in Tumor blood supply which made the surgery easy. "Robotic-assisted technology allows us to operate with a level of precision that was previously very difficult to achieve in complex spine surgeries. It enables accurate implant placement, better visualization of critical structures, and minimizes the risk to surrounding tissues. In cases like this, it not only enhances surgical safety but also plays a crucial role in improving patient outcomes and recovery." said Dr Sashidhar BK.

Post-surgery, the patient regained full power in lower limbs and walked home comfortably in a highly intricate and rare spinal condition. With a continued focus on early diagnosis, clinical innovation, and integrated care delivery, Narayana Health is strengthening its position as a center of excellence in orthopaedic and spine care. The milestone underscores the institution's commitment to making advanced surgical solutions for complex spine and orthopaedic conditions more accessible while consistently delivering high standards of patient care across its network.

## Andhra Jyothi MD Radhakrishna is cooperating with dirty politics under the guise of journalism



**Madanapalle, April 08 (Skyline daily):** Madanapalle YSRCP coordinator Nisar Ahmed has demanded that the insulting comments made by ABN Andhra Jyothi MD Vemuri Radhakrishna on women should be condemned by the society and an unconditional apology should be given. Protesting the comments made by ABN Andhra Jyothi MD Vemuri Radhakrishna, the police stopped YSRCP coordinator Nisar Ahmed and YSRCP leaders who went to Kadapa to protest in front of the Kadapa ABN Andhra Jyothi office. The police were told that they did not have any permission and that the 30 Act was in force and ordered them to vacate immediately. They blocked the way to Andhra Jyothi office by erecting barricades. An argument broke out between the YSRCP leaders and the police for some time. Speaking on the occasion, Nisar Ahmed demanded that Andhra Jyothi MD Radhakrishna, who not only made

inappropriate comments but also made comments that belittled top leaders of YSRCP and women, should apologize unconditionally. He said that the society does not support the analysis that insults women, and the police should immediately register a case against Radhakrishna on his own. He said that it is not right for the police to register illegal cases against protesters and house arrest against those who protest peacefully. He alleged that Andhra Jyothi MD Radhakrishna is cooperating with dirty politics under the guise of journalism, and such comments clearly show complete disrespect for women. He warned that Andhra Jyothi MD Radhakrishna should change his stance and apologize, otherwise the movement will be intensified. YSRCP Intellectuals Forum State Secretary VS Reddy, senior leaders L Raghunatha Reddy, Digital Coordinator Yasin, Jabi, Sankar Naik, Sheikh Abdullah, and Sohail participated.

## Dalit Christians Should be given SC Status : Katragadda Martin

**Kadapa (Skyline Daily) April 08:** Rayalaseema Bishop and Leaders meeting was held under the leadership of National Bishop Council Bishop Mallem Vijaya Bhas kar at Redeemer Church, Kadapa city. N Tulasi Reddy, former state member of Congress party was the chief guest of this program. TDP State Vice Presidents Ameer Babu Bandi Zakaria and Bonam Sailasu were present. On the occasion, Tula C Reddy said that everyone should respect the Constitution of India. Equality is equality as prescribed by the Constitution. Every one wants to have one. TDP leader Amir Babu said that Hindu, Mus-

lim and Christian should have unity in secular democracy. Bandi spoke strongly and said that there is no protection for Christians and Dalits in the country and the central state governments want to provide protection to Dalits. Bonam Kailas said that TDP is credited with providing many welfare schemes to Christian pastors and said that it is great to have spirituality. In this program, 15 people were anointed as bishops and 9 people were anointed as Reverends. Bishop Bonam Prabhudas in this program. Casey David, Mallem Vijaya Shekhar Bishop Daniel Krishna Dasu Rev. Marku and others participated.

## Field Inspection on Groundnut Raised Bed Technology by KVK in Padamatavaripalli



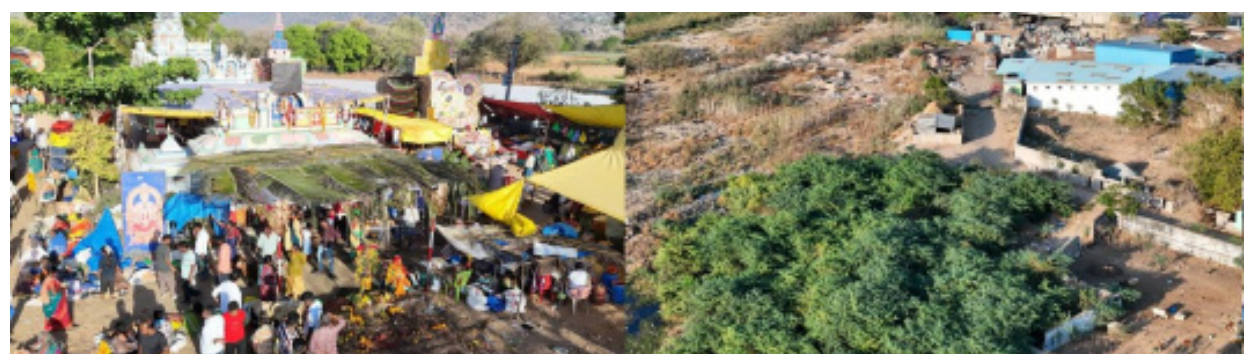
(By our Skyline Staff Reporter)

**Nimmanapalli, April 8:** The Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Kalikiri conducted field inspections and field-level visits in Padamatavaripalli village of Nimmanapalli mandal, focusing on raised bed seed drill technology in groundnut cultivation. Senior Scientist & Head, Dr. K. Manjula, along with other scientists, visited the village and inspected groundnut fields under raised bed seed drill technology, as well as tomato and coconut crops. They advised farmers on the necessary precautions to be taken under the current conditions. During the inspection of groundnut fields, it was observed that in varieties such as Vishishta and K-6, the average plant population per square meter ranged from 27-29. The number of filled pods per plant was 40-50, plant height ranged from 42-48 cm, and the number of branches per plant was 8-9. It was noted that

this technology resulted in better crop growth and improved yield. Farmers expressed satisfaction with the use of this machinery.

The team also inspected coconut plantations and identified damage caused by mites, rugose spiraling whitefly, and rhinoceros beetle. Dr. K. Manjula (Senior Scientist & Head) suggested appropriate control measures to manage these pests. Scientists interacted with farmers and created awareness about modern agricultural practices and the importance of mechanization. The scientists stated that such programs help in disseminating new technologies to farmers, thereby contributing to increased productivity and reduced cultivation costs. They also informed that experiments related to snails, monkeys, rabbits, and various pests affecting coconut crops would be conducted in farmers' fields on behalf of KVK, Kalikiri.

## Tremor in the hearts of criminals -- Assurance to the common man



**Madanapalle, April 08 (Skyline daily):** The police department has taken up a new 'weapon' to control the anti-social forces in Annamayya district. A 'drone operation' has been started on the orders of District SP Dheeraj Kunubilli to find out the criminals wherever they hide in any bush or alley. As if it is impossible to commit a crime and get away with it, the district police are keeping a watchful eye from the sky.

**Whether at a fair.. or at a school.. everything is recorded!....**

Usually, there are frequent thefts and riots at crowded fairs and festivals. Drones are being used to monitor the crowd during festivals in the district. These drones play a key role in monitoring the safety of students at schools or colleges and preventing illegal activities from taking place in deserted areas. Police warn that no one can escape the camera's eye.

**If you step out, it's 'drone' surveillance!....**

Every inch of the district is being scanned with cameras floating in the air. Drone camera surveillance continues along the bushes and streams in the suburbs. Drone operators trained under the supervision of the SP are constantly analyzing the scenes and providing information to the field officers from time to time.

**Protective shield with technology.....**

Public safety is our first priority. Adding technology will make crime control easier. If suspicious people are seen, information should be given to the local police station or 100/112 and everyone should cooperate with the police, the district SP said.

While trains are running in the hearts of criminals with this 'hi-tech' patrol of the police, the common people are expressing joy. The police, who are keeping watch from the sky, are being praised across the district.

## Tirumala – The Cradle of the Vedas Glorious Journey of Sri Venkateswara Veda Vijnana Peetham at Dharmagiri



**Tirumala, 08 April 2026 (skyline daily) :**

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams has been playing a pioneering role in the preservation, propagation, and promotion of Vedic traditions, which form the foundation of Hindu Sanatana Dharma in the Indian culture. In this direction, Sri Venkateswara Veda Vijnana Peetham at Dharmagiri in Tirumala has emerged as one of the most prestigious Vedic educational institutions in the country. History of the Veda Vijnana Peetham Established in February 1884 under the leadership of Mahant Prayag Das Ji, the institution began as a Veda Patashala with three sections. Over the time, it has evolved into a distinguished center imparting comprehensive education in Vedas, Agamas, priesthood, and Shastras. In 1992, it was permanently established at Dharmagiri, Tirumala, and was renamed as "Veda Vijnana Peetham." Vedic Education in 17 Departments At present, the institution operates 17 specialized branches under four major streams: - 7 Vedic branches under Vedic studies - 5 Agama disciplines under Agama studies - 4 divisions under Smartha studies - Divya Prabandham covering 4000 Pasurams of Alvars These long-term courses provide deep spiritual knowledge and traditional learning. Currently, a total of 374 students are enrolled: - 140 in Vedic courses - 177 in Prabandha and Agama courses - 57 in Smartha courses A dedicated team of 43 schol-

ars imparts education to these students. Strong Focus on Student Welfare TTD gives utmost priority to student welfare. The institution provides hostel facilities with a capacity of 540 students, along with clean living conditions, 24 hour water supply, and hot water facilities. Nutritious meals are provided daily: - Morning: Milk, idli, dosa, upma - Afternoon: Rice, dal, curries, sambar, rasam, curd - Evening: Milk - Night: Dinner Additionally, students receive free clothing, books, and essential items such as soap, oil, and tooth-paste. Healthcare services are provided daily through Ashwini Hospital. In case of necessity, free treatment is also extended at SVMS and BIRRD hospitals in Tirupati. Securing the Future of Students To ensure a secure future for students, TTD implements special incentive schemes: - Rs.3 lakh deposit for Vedic students. - Rs.1 lakh deposit for students of other courses Upon course completion, the amount with interest is handed over along with a merit certificate and a 10-gram silver dollar of Sri Venkateswara. Holistic Education Based on Vedic Practices The daily routine of students is structured according to Vedic traditions. It includes Sandhyavandanam, Agnikaryam, study sessions, recitation, teaching, physical activities, and night study ensuring a well rounded education system. National Level Scholarly Conferences The Sri Venkateswara Veda Shastra Agama Vidvat Sadas attracts scholars from across the country. Traditional examinations are conducted, and meritorious scholars are honored. The latest session was successfully held from March 8 to 13. Apart from Dharmagiri, TTD successfully operates similar Veda institutions in places like Keesaragutta, Nalgonda, Bhimavaram, Kotappakonda, and Vizianagaram. Upholding the spirit of "Tirumala – the birthplace of the Vedas," the Sri Venkateswara Veda Vijnana Peetham stands as a divine center of learning, preserving and passing on India's spiritual heritage to future generations.