

# SKYLINE

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## Tata Lockheed Martin chief meets Revanth



**From Our Staff Reporter Hyderabad, April 8 :** Tim Riffle, MD of Tata Lockheed Martin Aerostructures Ltd (TLMAL), paid a courtesy call on Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy at his residence in Hyderabad on Wednesday. Lockheed Martin is set to establish a C-130J Super Hercules final assembly line in India. Lockheed Martin has signed an agreement with TASL to manufacture F-16 wings at TASL's facility in India to meet global requirements. Tim conveyed to the Chief Minister the company's keen interest in making investments in Telangana. Lockheed Martin is planning to establish a C-130J Super Hercules final assembly line in India, a move expected to strengthen domestic aerospace manufacturing capabilities. The development forms part of broader efforts to enhance India's defence production ecosystem. Further, Martin has entered into an agreement with Tata Advanced Systems Limited to manufacture F-16 wings at its facility in India. The production will cater to global requirements and expand India's role in international supply chains.

The Tata Lockheed Martin discussions also reflected the company's intent to scale up operations in the region, with Telangana emerging as a potential hub for aerospace investments.

## Telangana Ghana cooperation talks held in Hyderabad

**From Our Staff Reporter Hyderabad, April 8 :** Telangana Ghana cooperation discussions were held after Kwasi Obiri-Danso met Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy at his residence in Hyderabad on Wednesday.

Kwasi Obiri-Danso, the High Commissioner of Ghana, paid a courtesy call during his first visit to Hyderabad since assuming office. During the meeting, Telangana Ghana cooperation remained the central focus, officials said.

The envoy expressed interest in strengthening ties between Ghana and Telangana. He proposed expanding cooperation across education, science and technology, healthcare, and commerce. Moreover, he emphasized sustained engagement between institutions in both regions.

The Chief Minister responded positively to the proposals. He assured support for initiatives that could enhance bilateral collaboration. As a result, both sides



indicated willingness to explore structured partnerships in key sectors.

The discussions highlighted multiple sectors for Telangana Ghana cooperation. Education and technology emerged as priority areas, given their role in economic growth. In addition, healthcare collaboration was identified as a potential area for knowledge exchange and capacity building. Officials noted that commerce could also benefit from closer engagement. Therefore, both sides showed interest in facilitating business linkages and institutional partnerships.

The meeting, however, remained a preliminary interaction without formal agreements. Kwasi Obiri-Danso's visit marked his first official interaction in Hyderabad after taking charge. Consequently, the meeting set the tone for future diplomatic engagement between Telangana and Ghana. Officials indicated that further discussions may follow to operationalise the proposals.

## MP VAMSI FLAGS 'BIAS AGAINST TELANGANA'

**From Our Staff Reporter Peddapalli/ Hyderabad, April 8:** Peddapalli Congress MP Gaddam Vamsi Krishna on Wednesday accused the Centre of discriminating against Telangana while inaugurating the Ambedkar Premier League cricket tournament at Singareni Stadium in Godavari Khani.

Addressing the gathering, he alleged that the Union Government was favouring Andhra Pradesh with higher fund allocations while neglecting Telangana. He also questioned Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy for not securing the state's interests despite being elected from Telangana.



## Jupally stands with commuters on crowded Metro



**From Our Staff Reporter Hyderabad, April 8 :** Minister for Tourism, Culture, and Excise Jupally Krishna Rao on Wednesday surprised everyone by

traveling on the Metro rail in Hyderabad just like an ordinary commuter. Breaking away from standard protocols, Krishna Rao boarded the Metro in a remarkably simple and unassuming manner. He traveled from Erramanzil station to Miyapur by Metro to attend a private event in the city. Upon reaching the station, the Minister personally purchased a ticket and proceeded to the platform. As the train was heavily crowded, the Minister did not attempt to find a seat but instead traveled standing alongside his fellow passengers. During the journey, he engaged in conversation with his co-travelers and inquired about the amenities available during the Metro ride. Although the passengers were initially surprised to see the Minister amidst them, they spoke to him enthusiastically once he greeted them. While several passengers showed keen interest in taking selfies with him, the Minister patiently posed for photos with them.

On the occasion, Jupally Krishna Rao expressed the view that the Metro contributes significantly to helping people reach their destinations quickly and without facing traffic congestion.

## Sridhar Babu accuses BRS leaders of misleading farmers on land acquisition

**From Our Staff Reporter Hyderabad, April 8 :** Minister for IT and Industries D. Sridhar Babu on Wednesday alleged that leaders of the BRS were attempting to politicise farmer protests in Vikarabad district and mislead people on land acquisition.

In a statement, he alleged that the 'political yatras' undertaken by BRS leaders were aimed at creating confusion among farmers, casting aspersions on the government, and hindering industrial development and investments in the State.

Sridhar Babu said Vikarabad, which he described as neglected during the previous regime, was

he noted that existing industrial parks such as Chandanvelly and Sitarampur had limited land available for new units, while some parcels were affected by legal disputes and lack of access infrastructure. In this context, the government had decided to create a land bank for future industrial requirements.

He added that areas including Kodangal, Pargi had been identified for industrial expansion, with proposals to improve connectivity through radial roads and the Regional Ring Road (RRR).

The Minister said land acquisition would be undertaken strictly in accordance with the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, following due process, including preparation of a Detailed Project Report (DPR) and necessary approvals.

Dismissing allegations on compensation as "baseless", Sridhar Babu said affected landowners would be provided compensation and rehabilitation benefits, including house sites, in accordance with the law.

Appealing to the public, Sridhar Babu said industrial development would generate employment, reduce migration, and improve infrastructure in the region.



## 2,322 additional nursing appointments within two days: Raja Narasimha



**From Our Staff Reporter Hyderabad, April 8 :** Minister for Health Damodar Raja Narasimha announced that the process of filling additional 2,322 nursing positions will be completed within the next two days.

The Minister attended the Safe Motherhood Day celebrations held at the Midwifery Training Institute in Boyaguda, an event conducted under the Praja Palana Pragathi Pranalika initiative.

During his remarks, he emphasised that the State government is prioritising the recruitment of nursing professionals in hospitals. Over the past two years, the government has reinforced the healthcare system by addressing more than 10,000 vacancies, the majority of which were nursing roles, he said.

"We are creating new nursing colleges to enhance opportunities for students. In order to support international career prospects, we are also facilitating English, German, and Japanese language training for nursing students," Minister Raja Narasimha noted. Additionally, the Minister highlighted that the government is enhancing midwifery services within the state to promote natural births.

## AUCTION BEGINS FOR 1400+ SHOPS IN 2BHK COLONIES FROM APRIL 9

**From Our Staff Reporter Hyderabad, April 8 :** The sale of over 1,400 shops located in Double Bedroom (2BHK) housing colonies under the CURE initiative will begin on April 9 through open auction across Hyderabad and surrounding districts. The District Collectors of Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy, Medchal-Malkajgiri and Sangareddy have issued notifications for auctioning shops spread across 36 colonies. The first phase will cover 273 shops in 8 colonies in Ranga Reddy district, scheduled for April 9 and 10. The shops, ranging from 60 to 400 sq ft, have been developed within the colonies to support local commercial activity and meet residents' daily needs. Housing Corporation Managing Director V.P. Gautham said the properties will be sold on an "as is, where is" basis, with upset prices set significantly below market rates to encourage participation. Interested bidders can inspect the shops in advance and must register at the respective RDO offices by 11 AM on auction days by submitting the required Earnest Money Deposit (EMD). Additional information regarding the sale of these shops, the interested parties may contact the respective Housing Project Directors of the concerned districts. Officials said the revenue generated from the auctions will be used exclusively for the maintenance and development of the same colonies. Resident Welfare Associations will be formed under the Cooperative Societies Act to manage these funds through a dedicated corpus, ensuring self-sustained upkeep of facilities such as lighting, elevators and water systems. The auction schedule for other districts is as follows: - Hyderabad: 77 shops in 10 colonies (April 15-16) - Medchal-Malkajgiri: 892 shops in 12 colonies (April 15 & 17) - Sangareddy: 372 shops in 6 colonies (April 15-18 and April 21). Authorities said the initiative aims not only to support maintenance of housing colonies but also to generate employment and improve access to essential goods for the residents.



## Governor unveils statue of Moturi Satyanarayana



**From Our Staff Reporter Hyderabad, April 8:** Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla on Wednesday paid rich tributes to Padma Bhushan Dr. Moturi Satyanarayana, describing him as a visionary freedom fighter who dedicated his life to national integration and the spread of Hindi in South India. He said Dr. Moturi Satyanarayana viewed language as a powerful instrument for unity and nation-building and worked tirelessly to promote linguistic harmony across the country. The Governor said that though a Telugu, Moturi Satyanarayana chose Hindi as a language that could unite people and be understood by all. He went to North India to propagate the language and played a pioneering role in establishing the Central Hindi Sansthan in Agra, thereby strengthening efforts to promote Hindi across regions. The Governor was speaking after unveiling the statue of the late Moturi Satyanarayana, founder of the Central Institute of Hindi, at a programme held at the Central Institute of Hindi, Bapuji Nagar, Bowenpally, Secunderabad.

# Komatireddy inaugurates urban PHC in Nalgonda town



**From Our Staff Reporter Nalgonda, April, 8 :** Reinforcing the government's focus on accessible and quality healthcare for the poor, Roads & Buildings and Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy inaugurated a newly built Urban Primary Health Centre (UPHC) at Manyam Chelka in Nalgonda town on Wednesday. Constructed at a cost of Rs.1.91 crore, the facility was launched as part of the ongoing Health Week celebrations under the Praja Palana-Pragati Pranalika

programme. Speaking on the occasion, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said the new UPHC would ease the burden on the Nalgonda Government General Hospital, which has been witnessing a surge in patient footfall. "Developed with a Rs.50 lakh contribution from Prateek Foundation alongside government funds, the new UPHC has been equipped with necessary infrastructure, medical equipment, and staffing," he said. Stressing on improved service delivery, the Minister

directed doctors to provide comprehensive primary care, conduct basic diagnostic tests, and ensure timely referrals to higher centres when required. "Special focus should be on the elderly, pregnant women, and vulnerable sections in surrounding areas," he said. In a significant announcement, the Minister revealed that an eye hospital would be established on three acres of land in collaboration with Prateek Foundation and LV Prasad Eye Institute, aimed at expanding specialised care in

the district. To address gaps in medicine availability, a mechanism has been put in place through the foundation to supply essential drugs via a designated private medical outlet based on doctors' prescriptions, he said. The Minister also stated that arrangements would be explored to provide meals to patients visiting the UPHC with support from Akshaya Foundation. Highlighting urban development works, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said Nalgonda, now a municipal corporation, is being equipped with improved civic infrastructure including CC roads, drainage, drinking water supply, and healthcare facilities. Works to beautify and expand the Manyam Chelka junction are also underway, he said. Mayor Burri Chaitanya Srinivas Reddy said the UPHC would benefit residents of Manyam Chelka and nearby wards, while appreciating the contribution of Prateek Foundation. MLC Shankar Naik lauded the government's efforts in strengthening public healthcare.

# Tripartite Agreement under BioNEST Incubation Program



**From Our Staff Reporter Hyderabad, April, 8 :** The Tripartite Agreement Signing Ceremony under the BioNEST Co-Incubation Program was successfully conducted at NAARM, Hyderabad, between a-IDEA, ICAR-NAARM (ICAR-National Academy of Agricultural Research Management), ICAR-NAARM (ICAR-National Academy of Agricultural Research Management), ICAR-Indian Institute of Rice Research (IIRR) and the selected startup/individual (Ventas Biosolutions LLP and Mrs. Lakshmi VSDS Rudraraju - Individual). The event marked a significant milestone in fostering innovation and strengthening, collabora-

tion between research institutions and emerging startups in the agri-biotech ecosystem. The program commenced with a welcome address by Dr. Ranjit Kumar, CEO of a-IDEA and Principal Scientist, ICAR-NAARM, who provided an overview of the BioNEST Incubation Program and its role in nurturing cutting-edge agri-biotech ventures. This was followed by a briefing on the selection process by Dr. Kalyani M. Barbadikar, Senior Scientist, ICAR-IIRR, who highlighted the rigorous evaluation process undertaken to identify promising startups.

Dr. Gopal Lal, Director of ICAR-NAARM and President of a-IDEA, addressed the gathering and emphasized the importance of innovation-driven entrepreneurship and institutional support in accelerating the agri-startup ecosystem. Further Dr. R Meenakshi Sundaram, Director, ICAR-IIRR underscored the critical role of research-backed incubation in driving sustainable agricultural advancements. Later, the founding teams and incubates briefed about their ideas and technologies to be developed in collaboration with ICAR-IIRR & a-IDEA.

The ceremony was held in the presence of ICAR-NAARM faculty (Dr. P. Supriya, Scientist), ICAR-IIRR faculty (Dr. D. Sanjeeva Rao, Senior Scientist and Dr. Papa Rao Vaikuntapu, Scientist), and representatives from a-IDEA (Mr. Paritosh Tripathi, COO and Dr. Subin Thomas, Project Manager). The ceremony reflects the continued commitment of a-IDEA, ICAR-NAARM, in collaboration with ICAR-IIRR, to promote innovation, support startups, and strengthen India's agri-biotech ecosystem through impactful initiatives like the BioNEST Co-Incubation Program.

# Ponguleti issues strong rebuttal to Harish Rao, KTR's criticism



**From Our Staff Reporter Hyderabad, April, 8 :** Minister for Revenue, Housing, and Information & Public Relations, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, responded strongly to various allegations made against the Congress government and Ministers by BRS leaders Harish Rao and KT Rama Rao, acting under

the guidance of BRS chief K. Chandrasekhar Rao. In a media briefing at the Secretariat on Wednesday, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, accompanied by Ministers Seethakka and Ponnambhakhar, MPs Anil Kumar Yadav and Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, as well as MLAs Naveen Yadav,

Samel, B. Laxma Reddy, and Sri Ganesh, criticised the BRS leaders for disseminating falsehoods regarding the Congress government. He remarked that individuals such as "Lies Rao (Harish Rao)", "Drama Rao (KT Rama Rao)", and "Uncle Shakuni (K. Chandrasekhar Rao)", who

exploited the state during their extended tenure and were deeply entrenched in corruption, are now attempting to cast that same corruption onto the People's Government. The Minister effectively countered the opposition's claims concerning the issues of Nadargul, Vattinagulapalli, and Kotwalguda, presenting substantial evidence to disprove their assertions. "My colleagues are systematically compiling a comprehensive dossier of the BRS's irregularities, including instances of land scams and misconduct during their administration. The process of revealing these matters, piece by piece, will undoubtedly commence shortly. The government is dedicated to this task with the utmost integrity," stated Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy.

# Speeding car kills two engineering students in Vanasthalipuram

**From Our Staff Reporter Hyderabad, April, 8 :** In a tragic road accident near Hastinapuram under Vanasthalipuram police station limits in Hyderabad, two engineering students lost their lives after a speeding car rammed into their two-wheeler on Wednesday. The victims have been identified as K. Shiva (19) and Sandeep Joel (19), both second-year ECE students of Mahaveer Engineering College. They were riding their bike when a Honda City car, approaching from behind at high speed, crashed into them.

# HEADMASTER, CLERK TRAPPED BY ACB IN Rs. 15K BRIBE CASE IN MAHABUBABAD

**From Our Staff Reporter Hyderabad, April, 8 :** In a significant anti-corruption crackdown, the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Wednesday caught a headmaster and a school assistant red-handed while accepting a bribe of Rs. 15,000 in Mahabubabad district. The accused, J. Ravi Kumar (A1), Headmaster of ZPHS Ayodhyapuram and Mandal Education Officer (MEO) of Gudur, along with G. Chandra Mouli (A2), School Assistant and in-charge clerk, were trapped by the ACB Warangal Unit at ZPHS, Gudur. According to officials, the duo allegedly demanded the bribe from a complainant to process Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) retirement benefit bills and forward them to the Accountant General's (AG) office. Acting on a complaint, ACB officials laid a trap and caught them while accepting the amount. The tainted cash was recovered from the possession of the second accused at his instance. Officials stated that both the officers misused their positions to obtain undue advantage. The accused have been arrested and will be produced before the Special Judge for SPE & ACB cases in Warangal for judicial remand. Further investigation is underway, while the identity of the complainant has been kept confidential for security reasons.

The impact was so severe that the car also hit a pedestrian before losing control, flipping multiple times on the road, and finally coming to a halt in an overturned position. Both students died in the horrific accident, while the injured pedestrian, identified as Sridhar (23), is currently undergoing treatment at a private hospital. Police have arrested the car driver, who is suspected to have been under the influence of alcohol at the time of the accident. The incident highlights the deadly consequences of drunk driving, raising serious concerns over road safety and enforcement in the city.

# WOMEN'S RESERVATION TO BE IMPLEMENTED FROM 2029: T-BJP CHIEF RAMCHANDER RAO

**From Our Staff Reporter Hyderabad, April, 8 :** Telangana BJP President N. Ramchander Rao on Wednesday said that 33% reservation for women in legislative bodies will be implemented from the year 2029 general elections. Addressing residents of Shilpa Park Apartments in Kondapur, the BJP leader described the "Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinyam", introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as a landmark step towards women's empowerment and political inclusion. Regarding ongoing electoral processes, Rao clarified that the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls is a routine exercise by the Election Commission of India, last conducted in 2002, and necessary to remove discrepancies caused by migration, deaths and address changes. He urged the citizens to use Forms 6, 7 and 8 for new voter registration, deletions and corrections to ensure protecting voting rights. Expressing concern over irregularities, he alleged abnormal voter concentrations in parts of Hyderabad's Old City and claimed illegal immigrants, including Rohingyas, have secured voter IDs with political support. He advocated a "Detect - Delete - Deport" approach to clean voters lists. Rao also praised the Centre's economic management amid global tensions, stating that India has maintained stability despite rising global oil prices.



# Kavitha promises 'Fresh blood, new culture' for Telangana on April 25

**From Our Staff Reporter Hyderabad, April, 8 :** Telangana Jagruti President K. Kavitha declared that April 25, 2026 will be a defining moment in the state's history, signaling the introduction of "fresh blood and a new political culture" to the soil of Telangana. The announcement came during a significant induction ceremony at the Telangana Jagruti office in Banjara Hills on Wednesday, where Gongalla Ranjith Kumar, President of the Nadigadda Hakkula Porata Samithi, formally joined the organisation along with 1,000 supporters from the Jogulamba Gadwal district. Addressing the gathering, Kavitha emphasised that the upcoming party would break away from traditional politics to adopt a people-centric approach based on three pillars - questioning, fighting for public issues, and resolving the problems. She criticised both the ruling Congress and the opposition BRS for neglecting public issues, stating that



"Jagruti" has become the only voice the public trusts to represent their concerns. Kavitha further added that the party will work closely with people at the grassroots level, undertake padyatras, and develop a comprehensive agenda with the help of international experts, which will be unveiled on April 25. She launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister Revanthy Reddy and alleged that Telangana has been turned into an ATM for the Congress party to fund elections across

India. Kavitha mocked the Chief Minister's subsmissiveness, claiming he remains standing even during phone calls with Rahul Gandhi. Kavitha highlighted the government's failure to implement Rythu Bharosa and complete farm loan waivers, accusing the Chief Minister of spreading lies in other states like Kerala while Telangana farmers suffer. She alleged that the current government has misled the people and is prioritising political interests over public welfare.

Kavitha criticised both the ruling Congress and the opposition BRS, alleging that they had neglected public issues. She said Telangana Jagruti now serves as a platform that reflects people's concerns. She also criticised Chief Minister A. Revanthy Reddy and alleged that the government used state resources for political purposes. She further raised concerns over the implementation of Rythu Bharosa and farm loan waivers, adding that farmers continued to face difficulties.

# HYD TO HOST GLOBAL ESOPHAGEAL CANCER SUMMIT FOR FIRST TIME

**From Our Staff Reporter Hyderabad, April, 8 :** In a first for India, the Basavatarakam Indo American Cancer Hospital & Research Institute (BIACH&RI), Hyderabad, will host the "International Society for Diseases of the Esophagus (ISDE) India Edition 2026" on April 10 and 11 at The Westin Hyderabad Hitec City. The two-day conference will bring together leading oncologists and researchers from seven countries, alongside top Indian experts, to discuss cutting-edge advances in esophageal cancer treatment. Notable participants include Prof. Lorenzo Ferri (Canada), Dr. Ken Kato (Japan), Dr.

Hiroiyuki Daiko (Japan), Dr. Edward Cheong (Singapore), Dr. Cuong Duong (Australia), and Dr. Steven Lin (USA), joining Indian leadership such as Dr. T. Subramanyeswara Rao, Medical Director of BIACH&RI; President of the Indian Association of Surgical Oncology (IASO); and President Elect of the Global Forum of Cancer Surgeons, and Dr. C.S. Pramesh, Director of Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai. The event coincides with the hospital's Silver Jubilee, marking 25 years of cancer care excellence. Nandamuri Balakrishna, Chairman and Managing Trustee, said the conference reflects a commit-

ment to bringing global medical expertise to India. "Medicine is not just a science - it is a commitment. ISDE India Edition 2026 reflects our commitment to bring the world's finest knowledge to our people", he added. Dr. T. Subramanyeswara Rao, Medical Director, BIACH&RI; President, IASO; President Elect, Global Forum of Cancer Surgeons has explained that "Hosting ISDE in India is more than an honor - it is a declaration that India is ready to lead the global fight against cancer." Dr. C.S. Pramesh, Director, Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai said that "This conference demonstrates how India's oncology

leadership is connecting globally, ensuring our patients benefit from the best science and care." As part of the Conference, on 10 April at 2:30 PM, the international faculty and organizing leadership will interact with the media at a press meet. Later that evening, the conference will be formally inaugurated at 6:30 PM, in the presence of ISDE leadership, distinguished faculty, and the trustees of BIACH&RI led by Chairman Nandamuri Balakrishna. The conference is expected to strengthen India's position in global oncology and improve patient care through international collaboration.

## Traditional Kumbhotsavam performed with devotion



**Srisailem: Apr. 8**

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

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

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

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



**Anantapur: Apr 8**

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

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

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



**Tirupati: Apr 7**

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

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

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

## PVKK IT student Lakshmi wins gold medal



**Anantapur: Apr 8**

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

## Medicover Hosp organises World Health Day prog



**Tirupati: Apr 7**

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

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

## Training for trainee excise SIs on toddy licensing held



**Kurnool: Apr 8**

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

**Vijayawada, Apr 8**

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



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

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



**Tirupati: Apr 8**

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

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

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

## MP Ambica distributes CMRF cheques to beneficiaries



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

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

## SKYLINE

Thursday 9.4.2026

## Edge of escalation

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

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

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

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

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

## PM Mudra has transformed India's credit architecture

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

## Why the Iran war worries Taiwan

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

## Corporate (mis) governance

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

## Unchecked gunfire turns Karachi into city of fear

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

## HBD Allu Arjun: He is always different and extraordinary

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



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

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

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



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

The pre-release event of Dacoit was held in a grand way. The film stars Adivi Sesh and Mrunal Thakur in lead roles. It is directed by Shanil Deo and produced by Supriya Yarlagadda under Annapurna Studios presentation. The movie is set to release on April 10 and its teaser, trailer and songs have already created huge buzz. At the event, senior star Venkatesh Daggubati attended as the chief guest and has shared his words about the film.



Speaking at the event, Venkatesh said, "Many think I came here for Supriya but I came for my favorite uncle Surendra. I am very happy that Supriya made such a wonderful film." He said, "There was always a strong vibe that this will be a great film because it is made by a passionate team. Everyone worked with the intention to give a big hit." Venkatesh also appreciated Adivi Sesh recalling

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

## Dacoit Censor Report: Adivi Sesh Sumanth says sorry for Mrunal Thakur delivers another masterpiece



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

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

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



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

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

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



The Telugu film industry has been very careful when it comes to Andhra Pradesh politics. Many people in the industry still remember the difficult time during the rule of Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy between 2019 and 2024. Because of that experience, most film personalities are now staying silent on political matters. Earlier, well-known producer Ashwini Dutt was one of the few people who openly spoke about political issues. He did not stay quiet even when he was working on a big-budget movie like Kalki. He shared his opinions without fear, even if it could affect his projects.

Now, once again, the industry is mostly silent after Amaravati was officially accepted as the capital through changes in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act. Since Jagan is against Amaravati, many people in the film industry are avoiding taking any side. They may be worried about possible problems in the future if political power changes again. Only a few people like Pawan Kalyan and Balakrishna supported Amaravati openly. However, both are active politicians, so their opinions are seen more as political views rather than reactions from the film industry. In this situation, Swapna Dutt, daughter of Ashwini Dutt, stood out. She became one of the first from the industry to respond. She shared the official Gazette on her Instagram story and welcomed the decision. Her action clearly showed her opinion without fear.

## Mythri movies drops a banger on #NTRNeel Project

In the last two days, there's been huge talk about pan-India star Jr NTR and his latest movie "Dragon" which is being directed by Prashanth Neel of KGF fame. It has come out that the actor is taking a break from the movie, preparing for the shoot, and some even stated that the shooting got halted. Till then, everyone is putting up exclusive news, and it looks like producer Mythri Movie Makers is fed up with all this. Finally, they have shed light on all the rumours by dropping a banger.



"There is absolutely no truth to the rumours circulating about the look or any schedule cancellation. The film is progressing as planned, with only a routine preparation gap. We request that everyone not to believe or spread unverified information. Official updates will always come from us", tweeted Mythri Movie Makers, killing all the rumours at the budding stage itself. The gap that has come is only a

preparation gap for the next schedule, but nothing else, and fans could now breathe a sigh of relief after hearing lots of disturbing rumours about the movie's halted schedules.

On the other hand, a huge set is being erected on the outskirts of Hyderabad to make this film very soon, and Jr NTR is now working on his new look so that they can restart the shooting. Dragon revolves around a vintage drug saga, where Jr NTR will be seen playing the role of a Drug Lord, a Telugu-Tamil guy settled in the north eastern part of India.

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

Many mammoth Telugu films lined up for the next couple of years are facing an unexpected issue from the overseas market, if reports are to be believed. They are struggling to find traditional distributors in the North American market, an arena where Telugu films used to make quick millions. Though it used to be like Overseas buyers used to buy Telugu films for simple prices and then make huge there, most of the times, right now the asking price is said to be worrying them.

In fact, Overseas Distributors in the US are now treating anything above ₹50 crore as a risky deal, because a film has to collect nearly \$6 million 'share' to recover that investment. But the current quotes for big films are going close to ₹100 crore or even higher, as per the reports. If you look at the lineup, films like Allu Arjun's Raaka, Prabhas' Kalki 2, Rajamouli-Mahesh's Varanasi, Jr NTR-Prashanth Neel's Dragon, and Prabhas-Vanga's Spirit fall into this high-price bracket. Except for Peddi, which was sold for ₹40 crores, rest of these movies haven't been committed to any distributor so far. In the



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

## Minakshi, Jaismine to fight for gold

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## Special trains to clear extra rush during summer season

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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



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

By Skyline Staff Reporter Cheepurupalli (Garividi), April 8 Kimidi Ram Mallik Naidu, State Secretary of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and a young leader, displayed a humanitarian gesture by personally visiting beneficiaries' homes in Garividi mandal and distributing cheques sanctioned under the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF). During his visit, he handed over financial assistance to individuals suffering from health issues and facing economic hardships. Speaking on the occasion, he said that supporting the poor during times of distress is



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

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

Labour Minister Vasansetty Subhash inspected various constructions in Visakhapatnam

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

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



labor department officials and employers to make the use of safety equipment mandatory. Speaking to the media, the minister said that there are also huge violations in the matter of cess payments. He especially reminded that some MVV companies are continuing their work without paying cess dues of Rs. 10 crore. He clarified that this is against the law. He said that there is also negli-

gences in the registration of construction workers. He explained that one can register for life by paying just Rs. 110, and through this registration, schemes like maternity assistance, marriage assistance, funeral expenses, and financial assistance for natural death will be available. The government is implementing many schemes for the welfare of workers, and the management and

## AU honours poet Bala Sudhaka Mouli at Centenary celebrations

By Skyline Staff Reporter Cheepurupalli (Garividi), April 8 Noted poet and Sahitya Akademi award recipient Bala Sudhakar Mouli was felicitated at Andhra University during its centenary literary celebrations organized by the Telugu Department. Mouli, who is serving as a Biology Assistant at ZPHS Kondapalem in Garividi mandal, was honoured for his meaningful contributions to socially relevant literature and poetry. The event recognised several writers and artists from the Kalinga region who have made



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

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

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



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

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

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

more understood, more accessible, and more actionable for people. For over a decade, we have been empowering individuals across India to care for their oral health with confidence. Building on this year's World Oral Health Day, our new initiative leverages the Dental Age Test to give people simple, intuitive insights into how their oral health is progressing and the steps they can take early to protect it. When people have the right information at the right time, they are far more likely to take action and that is where meaningful change begins. Improving everyday oral health requires collective effort from industry, experts, and communities. Our priority will remain expanding awareness and making proactive oral care easier and more inclusive for all, staying true to Haleon's purpose of delivering better everyday health with humanity."

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

By Skyline Staff Reporter Cheepurupalli (Garividi), April 7 The Garividi unit of the Andhra Pradesh Teachers Federation (APTF) held its general body meeting at Victory Layout on Tuesday, electing a new mandal committee unanimously. D. Appanna was named Honorary President, while P. Jagannadha Rao was elected as President. Nemmadhi Venkata ramana will serve as General Secretary. M. Ramesh and M. Ramanamurthy were chosen as Vice Presidents. K.



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

# 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.

# 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.



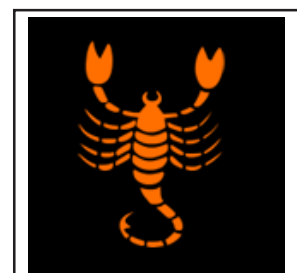
**Leo**  
 Sheer pleasure and enjoyment for those venturing out to have fun. Don't even try to lend money to anyone today, and if necessary, then take it in writing about the time duration in which s/he will repay the amount. Illness of infant would keep you engaged. You need to give immediate attention. 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.

## INDIAN NAVAL SHIP TRIKAND ARRIVES AT MOMBASA, KENYA



**New Delhi, April, 8 (PIB):** INS Trikand, 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 Trikand 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 Trikand 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.

## Grand Celebrations of Actor Allu Arjun's Birthday – Fans Organize Service Activities in Vemulawada

**Skyline Correspondent Vemulawada : April-08** Fans in Vemulawada town celebrated the birthday of popular film actor Allu Arjun with great enthusiasm. Under the leadership of Telangana Allu Arjun Fans State General Secretary Sheelam Vijay Yadav, the celebrations were held on Tuesday along with innovative service activities. On this occasion, a poster related to the HPV vaccine was unveiled by Telangana Munnuru Kapu State President Dr. Konda Devayya to create aware-

ness among women about the prevention of cervical cancer. He stated that administering the HPV vaccine to girls aged between 9 and 14 can effectively prevent cervical cancer in the future.

He appreciated the fans for organizing such socially beneficial programs and specially congratulated Allu Arjun and his fan association for taking this good initiative. Later, a birthday cake was cut and sweets were distributed.

Chief guest Dr. Konda



Devayya expressed his wishes that Allu Arjun celebrates many more birthdays in the future.

District Joint Secretary

Charan, Vemulawada town fans Tirupati, Vikram Yadav, Trinath, Sripathi, Shekhar, and others participated in the event.

## Midnight Demolitions Spark Outrage in Ramagundam: BRS Leader Harish Rao Warns of Public Backlash



**Skyline Correspondent Peddapalli : April-08** BRS State leader T. Harish Rao strongly condemned the illegal demolitions carried out at midnight in Ramagundam, warning that people will revolt if democracy is undermined. "He expressed solidarity with a poor family in

Godavarikhani whose livelihood was destroyed when municipal and Singareni officials allegedly demolished their business structure, claiming it was an illegal construction on Singareni land. He accused MLA Raj Thakur of orchestrating the demolitions at midnight using police support. "He

criticized the police for failing to protect citizens and instead supporting unidentified individuals. He stated that every citizen has the right to live freely in a democratic society and condemned the alleged harassment of party workers, including physical assaults and confiscation of phones. He added that legal action would be pursued against responsible officials under Indian law. "Questioning the local MLA's claims of development and beautification, he asked whether displacing traders and demolishing their establishments was justified. He also raised concerns about increasing pollution in the region and criticized attempts to bring in

coal-based industries instead of creating green belts to protect public health. "He warned that such environmentally harmful projects would be opposed by the people. He further stated that in the coming days, the BRS party under the leadership of K. Chandrashekar Rao would return to power in Telangana, and action would be taken against officials who supported such "authoritarian governance. Several leaders and party members, including Tasneem Banu, Bobbili Satish, Burugu Vamsi Krishna, Alli Ganesh, Nadipelli Sai, Poyila Ravi, Kadamanda Srihari, Konda Suresh, and Zeenat, participated in the program.

## Cooling Water Facility Inaugurated for Travelers at Sircilla Old Bus Stand

**Skyline Correspondent Rajanna Sircilla : April-08** A cooling water facility (chalivendram) set up under the initiative of Markandeya Pharmacy at the old bus stand in Sircilla town of Rajanna Sircilla district was inaugurated by DSP Nagendra Chari. He appreciated the effort, stating that arranging drinking water for travelers and local residents during the summer season is a commendable initiative. "Speaking on the occasion, DSP Nagendra Chari said that such service-oriented ac-



tivities benefiting society should increase further. He encouraged more organizations to come forward and help the public. Keeping in

view the intensity of the summer, he advised people to take necessary precautions and pay attention to their

health. "Town Inspector Srinivas, pharmacy members, and local residents participated in the program.

## District Collector Inspects EVM Strong Room Security in Jagtial

**Skyline Correspondent Jagtial : April-08** District Collector B. Satyaprasad inspected the security arrangements and functioning of CCTV cameras at the EVM strong room. "As per the directions of the Chief Electoral Officer of the State, District Electoral Officer and District Collector B. Satyaprasad conducted an inspection of the EVM godown (strong room) located at Darur Camp in Jagtial on Wednesday. "Speaking on the occasion, the District Collector stated that routine monthly inspections of EVMs are being carried out

regularly. During the inspection, a detailed review was undertaken regarding the security of the machines stored in the godown, the functioning of CCTV cameras, and all related technical aspects. "He instructed the officials to ensure foolproof security at the godown at all times and to maintain strict vigilance without any lapses. "The inspection was attended by Additional Collector (Revenue) B.S. Latha, Jagtial RDO Madhusudan, Election Section Supervisors, Collectorate Administra-



tive Officer Hakeem, Rammohan, and other officials.

## Rajanna Sircilla District Ranks First in Indiramma Housing Completion; 40% Houses Completed

**Skyline Correspondent Rajanna Sircilla : April-08** The prestigious Indiramma Housing Scheme being implemented by the state government has achieved 40% completion in Rajanna Sircilla district, securing the first position in the state. The construction of houses is progressing rapidly, turning

the dream of self-respect into reality. The government is providing free sand to beneficiaries. So far, over Rs.161 crore financial assistance has been directly credited into the bank accounts of beneficiaries. Housewarming ceremonies are being celebrated in a festive atmosphere. Own-

ing a house is a long-cherished dream for everyone. To fulfill this dream, the government designed the Indiramma Housing Scheme. Financial assistance of Rs.5 lakh is being provided in four installments. Houses should be constructed between 400 to 600 square feet.



## Centre Asks States To Allocate More LPG To Key Industries Amid Iran Conflict

**New Delhi:** The central government has asked all states and Union Territories to allocate a larger share of packed non-domestic LPG to key industrial sectors. In a letter on Wednesday, Petroleum and Natural Gas Secretary Neeraj Mittal said major industries will now get 70 per cent of their LPG needs based on their pre-March 2026 bulk non-domestic consumption. The letter comes amid supply disruption due to the Iran conflict. A large percentage of India's LPG imports comes from the Middle East. With Iran blocking the critical Strait of Hormuz and striking other Gulf countries, LPG supply to India has been hit. This move will help sectors such as pharma, food, polymer and agriculture get more LPG supply. Other units covered include packaging, paint, uranium, heavy water, steel, seed, metal, ceramic, foundry, forging, glass and aerosol. Follow Live Updates



The allocation will be subject to an overall sectoral cap of 0.2 TMT per day for bulk LPG, the letter said. An inter-se priority will be given to units requiring LPG for specialised purposes that cannot be replaced by natural gas. The Centre also asked states to communicate the new gas and petroleum distribution order to relevant departments. It urged them to issue the 10 per cent reform-linked LPG allocation

quickly where it has not been done yet. The decision comes amid efforts to ensure stable supply of LPG for industries while also managing domestic needs.

**Will Ceasefire Ease Supply?**

US has reached a "double-sided" ceasefire with Iran. Under the arrangement, US will pause strikes on Iran for two weeks. On the other hand, Iran will let vessels pass

through the Strait of Hormuz. This is particularly significant for an energy-dependent country like India. The pause in hostilities is set to help India secure enough supplies to prevent any shortage-like situation. Despite the Iranian blockade, India was among the countries with the highest number of ships passing through the route. At least eight Indian vessels passed through the Hormuz Strait since the conflict started.

## Adani Group Announces Rs 33,081 Crore Investment In Odisha

**New Delhi:** The Adani Group pledged three large-scale infrastructure projects in Odisha, focusing on digital infrastructure, energy security, and manufacturing. Karan Adani, Managing Director of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone, detailed the initiatives at the ground breaking and inauguration ceremony of 36 industrial projects in Khordha. The expansion reflected a long-term commitment to the state's goal of becoming a

USD 1.5 trillion economy by 2047. Across these three projects, the total commitment to Odisha stands at Rs 33,081 crore, creating a total of 9,700 jobs, direct and indirect. Speaking at the event, Adani noted that the foundation for growth existed in Odisha's mineral wealth, coastline, and young workforce. He emphasized that the current government acted as a partner in this development rather than a gatekeeper. The first project involves a

data center at Info Valley, Bhubaneswar with an investment of Rs 800 crore. This facility is aimed at providing the infrastructure required for AI, cloud computing, and digital governance. Adani stated that the project would create 200 high-end jobs, both directly and indirectly.

"This project... is not a building full of servers. It is going to be Odisha's claim on the digital economy, the infrastructure through which AI, cloud computing,

and digital governance will flow for decades to come," he added. The second initiative consists of a thermal power plant near Cuttack with an investment of Rs 30,181 crore. The facility is aimed at providing reliable power to prevent growth from stalling. It is designed to generate 7,000 jobs and bring stability to the regional power grid, benefiting households and small businesses alike. "Growth without reliable power is growth that stalls.

## Rap, Spoofs And Satire: How Campaign Songs Shaped Kerala's Electoral Mood

**Thiruvananthapuram:** In Kerala's fiercely contested elections, campaign songs are emerging as powerful political tools to energise cadres, shape narratives and also influence voters' sentiments. During the 2021 polls, playback singer Sithara Krishnakumar's campaign track 'Urappanu Keralam' became a defining soundtrack of the Left Democratic Front's outreach. With its folk tone and lyrics emphasising continuity in governance, the song travelled far beyond party stages. Across the Malabar region, in particular, the song played repeatedly from campaign vehicles and local loudspeakers. The LDF went on to sweep much of the region, even denting strongholds traditionally associated with the Indian Union Muslim League. While multiple factors shape elections, the role of campaign music in building momentum was hard to ignore.

**Kerala Politics And Deep Musical Roots**

In Kerala, many candidates have commissioned personalised campaign tracks built around their



political image. Leaders such as Rajeev Chandrasekhar, V Sivankutty and V D Satheesan have featured in constituency-level campaign songs highlighting their credentials and local connect. Many of these were spoof-style campaign numbers set to familiar tunes with newly written political lyrics, helping them quickly connect with voters. Played repeatedly on campaign vehicles and street loudspeakers, they underline how music has become a central tool in shaping electoral messaging across the state.

**Campaign Music Is**

**Evolving** Thrissur-based playback singer Indulekha Warrior says political expression through music today reflects changing social moods and audiences. She said youngsters are opting for rap as well. During the campaign season, she performed a rap composition on Thrissur Pooram, another song centred on women's empowerment, and also spoke about the need to remove the stigma surrounding women entering politics. She also pointed to a broader generational shift, noting how younger people often carry strong ideas and aspira-

tions but do not always follow them through, a trend she believes cultural expression can help address indirectly. Referring to rapper Vedan, who openly campaigned for Left candidates, she observed that contemporary genres such as rap carry political messaging directly to a younger audience and shape conversations beyond traditional microphone platforms.

**Microphone As Powerful As Manifesto**

In Kerala, the connection between campaign songs and electoral mobilisation appears especially pronounced. From folk melodies to rap lyrics and viral spoofs, parties are investing heavily in music as a campaign strategy. During the recent local body polls, a spoof targeting the alleged Sabarimala gold heist and widely circulated by UDF supporters created sharp messaging on the ground. Eventually, the Congress-led UDF performed strongly. As the election campaign draws to a close, one lesson stands out. In Kerala's political theatre, the microphone can be as powerful as the manifesto. And whichever side finds the most resonant soundtrack may gain a crucial edge in the battle for votes.

## Designer Riyaz Gangji Faces Non-Bailable Warrant Over Alleged Default

**Mumbai:** The Bombay High Court today issued a non-bailable warrant against fashion designer Riyaz Gangji, founder and owner of apparel brand LIBAS, and ordered the Mumbai Police to bring him to court. The order came in a contempt petition arising from an alleged Rs 5 crore default involving a Ludhiana-based real estate company. The court noted repeated non-compliance with its earlier directions and said Gangji had failed to honour pay-



ment commitments, despite multiple opportunities. The court observed that the fashion designer's conduct showed disregard for the judicial process and deserves "no sympathy or mercy", news agency PTI

reported. The bench imposed a sweeping injunction on LIBAS, restraining the company and its directors from dealing with or disposing of any assets - movable or immovable, tangible or intangible - pending further orders. Court records show the contempt proceedings stem from allegations that Gangji and his firm accepted funds and subsequently defaulted, leading the complainant to approach the court after civil remedies proved ineffective.

### Special Focus on Drinking Water, Healthcare, and Infrastructure – Comprehensive Review at DISHA Meeting in Bhadradi Kothagudem



**Skyline Correspondent Bhadradi Kothagudem :** April-08 A DISHA full committee meeting was held on Wednesday at the IDOC office in the district headquarters of Bhadradi Kothagudem under the auspices of the District Rural Development Agency. The meeting was chaired by MP Ramasahayam Raghuram Reddy, with Mahabubabad MP Porika Balaram Naik participating as Co-Chairman. District Collector Ankit, Aswaraopeta MLA Jare Adinarayana, Yellandu MLA Koram Kanakaiah, Pinapaka MLA Payam Venkateswarlu, Bhadrachalam MLA Tellam Venkata Rao, Kothagudem Municipal Mayor Mood Ganesh, Forest Officer Krishna Goud, DISHA committee members, and district

officials of various departments attended the meeting. The meeting reviewed the implementation of decisions taken in the previous DISHA committee meeting and the progress of development works across departments. MP Raghuram Reddy instructed officials to complete development works within stipulated timelines and to regularly submit progress reports. He emphasized expediting pending works and strictly implementing previous decisions. Mahabubabad MP Porika Balaram Naik stated that detailed discussions were held on the implementation of Central Government schemes and appropriate instructions were issued to officials. He emphasized ensuring drinking water supply even to remote areas and providing

quality healthcare facilities with adequate infrastructure in hospitals. Officials were advised to work responsibly to ensure welfare schemes reach every eligible beneficiary. District Collector Ankit stated that all departments should work in coordination to complete development works within deadlines. He instructed officials to prioritize decisions taken in the DISHA meeting and expedite pending works while maintaining efficiency in their responsibilities. He emphasized strengthening monitoring mechanisms to ensure timely delivery of Central and State Government schemes without compromising on quality. Special focus should be given to drinking water, healthcare, and electricity during the summer

season. MLAs requested detailed reports from officials regarding the progress of Central Government schemes in their respective constituencies. Aswaraopeta MLA Jare Adinarayana, Yellandu MLA Koram Kanakaiah, Pinapaka MLA Payam Venkateswarlu, and Bhadrachalam MLA Tellam Venkata Rao sought comprehensive updates. The meeting was also attended by Yellandu Municipal Chairperson Dodda Kiran Mitra, Aswaraopeta Municipal Chairperson Shashikala, DRDO Vidya Chandana, ZP CEO Nagalakshmi, Kothagudem RDO Madhu, DISHA committee members Burra Suresh, Yesumani, Swarna, district officials, public representatives, and others.

### District Collector Orders Comprehensive Measures to Prevent Maternal Deaths in Mahabubnagar

**Skyline Correspondent Mahabubnagar :** April-08 District Collector Khushboo Gupta has instructed health department officials to take comprehensive measures to prevent maternal deaths in the district. She spoke during a review meeting on maternal mortality held on Wednesday at the Video Conference Hall in the District Collector's Office. Officials from the health department informed that since April 2025, a total of 7 pregnant women have died during delivery due to various reasons. Among them, 5 deaths occurred at the Government General Hospital in Mahabubnagar, one at SS Hospital in the town, and one at Gandhi Hospital in Hyderabad. The Collector directed medical officers and health staff at the concerned Primary Health Centers to take necessary steps to reduce maternal deaths.



She emphasized the need for a thorough analysis of each maternal death recorded in the district, identifying the causes, and taking immediate corrective measures. The Collector highlighted the importance of providing timely medical services to pregnant women and identifying high-risk pregnancies in advance for special monitoring. She instructed ASHA and Anganwadi workers at the village level to work in coordination and continuously monitor the health condition of pregnant women. She also

stressed ensuring the availability of required staff, medicines, and equipment in government hospitals. She further instructed that emergency obstetric services should be available 24/7 and that the system for quickly referring critical cases to higher medical centers should be strengthened. Every maternal death should be taken seriously, thoroughly investigated, and detailed reports should be submitted, she added. District Medical and Health Of-

ficer Dr. K. Krishna explained the measures already being implemented. Medical officers and other health officials participated in the meeting and shared their views. It was emphasized that all departments must work in coordination to completely reduce maternal deaths in the district. Additional Collector (Local Bodies) Madhusudan Naik, Maternal and Child Health Program Officer Dr. Shiva Kant, and others attended the meeting.

### Strengthening Public Trust in Government Healthcare in Agency Areas: District Collector Ankit



**Skyline Correspondent Bhadradi Kothagudem :** April-08 On the occasion of World Health Day, District Collector Ankit attended a program held on Tuesday at the Medical and Health Department meeting hall in Palvancha as the chief guest. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector stated that in a district with agency areas, it is everyone's responsibility to provide quality and ac-

cessible healthcare services to the people. He emphasized that strengthening public trust in government healthcare services is extremely important, especially in agency regions, and that maintaining this trust is the responsibility of every staff member. He informed that, as part of World Health Day, various health awareness programs are being conducted across the district from April 6 to

11. He added that the government gives top priority to public health and noted that, compared to other districts, people in this district have a remarkable level of trust in government healthcare services. The Collector appreciated the role of ASHA workers and ANMs in creating health awareness among the public at the grassroots level. He advised every employee to perform their duties responsibly and strive

for higher achievements. He also mentioned that district medical and health department officials have gone to Hyderabad's Ravindra Bharati to receive state-level awards. He expressed hope that they would achieve recognition not only at the state level but also at national and international levels. On this occasion, District Medical and Health Officer Tukaram Rathod explained the various programs being implemented by the department, the services provided to the public, and the measures being taken for health protection. During the event, 43 employees who showed excellence in various fields in the district medical and health department were honored with appreciation certificates by District Collector Ankit. Tahsildar Dara Prasad, Deputy DMHO Prasad Naik, Dr. Spandana, Dr. Tejaswi, medical staff, and other concerned officials participated in the program.

### Safe Motherhood Program Conducted Under Health Department in Kamareddy

**Skyline Correspondent Kamareddy :** April-08 As part of the Praja Palana Pragati Pranalika, a Safe Motherhood Program was organized under the supervision of the Health Department during the Health Week celebrations being conducted from April 6 to 11. The program was inaugurated by the District Collector, who attended as the chief guest and lit the ceremonial lamp at the IDOC conference hall. Speaking on the occasion, he emphasized that safe motherhood initiatives are extremely crucial for the health care of pregnant women. He stated that the health of both mother and child is a key factor in the overall development of the state. He advised pregnant women to make full use of the free medical and mater-



nity services provided by the government. He also instructed health staff to work more actively at the village level to create awareness among the public. Anganwadi and ASHA workers were directed to identify pregnant women in villages and ensure they receive necessary medical check-ups, nutrition, and vaccinations. He called upon everyone to actively participate in spreading awareness about health. On this

occasion, a special workshop was conducted to raise awareness on safe motherhood. The workshop focused on the health of pregnant women, precautions to be taken before and after delivery, the importance of nutrition, and methods to ensure the safety of both mother and child. Expert doctors and health workers participated in the program and explained the problems faced by women during pregnancy, ways to pre-

vent them, and the importance of timely medical check-ups. They also emphasized that deliveries should be conducted in hospitals for safety. The organizers stated that the awareness on safe motherhood would increase in society through this workshop, which was explained using a PowerPoint presentation. DMHO Ravinder, health department officials, medical staff, and representatives from other concerned departments participated in the program.

### District Collector Khushboo Gupta Orders Comprehensive Measures to Prevent Maternal Deaths in Mahabubnagar



**Skyline Correspondent Mahabubnagar :** April-08 District Collector Khushboo Gupta has directed the health department officials to take comprehensive measures to prevent maternal deaths in the district. She spoke during a review meeting on maternal deaths held on Wednesday at the video conference hall in the Collectorate. Health officials informed that from April 2025 till date, a total of 7 pregnant women have

died due to various reasons during delivery. Among them, 5 deaths occurred at the Government General Hospital in Mahabubnagar, 1 at SS Hospital in the town, and 1 at Gandhi Hospital in Hyderabad. The Collector instructed the medical officers of the concerned Primary Health Centers and health staff to take appropriate steps to reduce maternal deaths. She emphasized the need to thoroughly analyze the mater-

nal deaths reported in the district, identify the causes, and take immediate corrective actions. She highlighted that providing timely medical services to pregnant women and identifying high-risk pregnancies in advance for special monitoring is crucial. At the village level, ASHA and Anganwadi workers should work in coordination and continuously monitor the health condition of pregnant women. She also directed that necessary staff, medicines, and equipment should be made available in government hospitals. Emergency obstetric services should be ensured round the clock, and the referral system should be strengthened to shift critical cases quickly

to higher medical centers. The Collector instructed that every maternal death should be treated seriously, thoroughly investigated, and detailed reports should be submitted. District Medical and Health Officer Dr. K. Krishna explained the measures already being taken. Medical officers and other health officials participated in the meeting and shared their views. It was stated that all departments should work in coordination to completely reduce maternal deaths in the district. Additional Collector of Local Bodies Madhusudan Naik and Maternal & Child Health Program Officer Dr. Shiva Kant, among others, were present at the meeting.

### Speed and Quality Must Go Hand in Hand in Development Works: Jagtial District Collector B. Satya Prasad

**Skyline Correspondent Jagtial :** April-08 District Collector Sri B. Satya Prasad, I.A.S., has directed that all development works in Jagtial district should be carried out with both speed and high quality standards. In this regard, the Collector inspected the ongoing works under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) at Narasimhulapalli village in Beerpur Mandal on Wednesday. During the inspection, he reviewed the progress of the works in detail. He examined the worker attendance recording system, the usage of the NMMS app, and the geo-tagging process with photographs. He instructed officials to

ensure proper attendance registration at worksites and to strengthen supervision to avoid any lapses. He emphasized that the primary objective of MGNREGS is to provide employment to rural workers and directed that all eligible individuals should be given work. Later, the Collector inspected the Indiramma Housing units under construction at Beerpur Mandal headquarters. He directed officials to complete the housing works within the stipulated time and hand over the houses to beneficiaries at the earliest, while maintaining quality standards. He also reviewed the construction of the Primary Health Centre (PHC) building and instructed that the work be



completed quickly without compromising on quality. He stated that the PHC would play a crucial role in providing better healthcare services to rural people. As part of the 99-day action plan under the Praja Palana Pragati programme, the Collector instructed medical officers to ensure improved and quality

healthcare services to the public. The inspection was attended by DRDA Project Director Raghuvamshan, Housing PD Prasad, EE (PR) Lakshman Rao, the Tahsildar, MPDOs, and officials from concerned departments.

### Godeti Bhagavat Kumari Appointed as Annavaram Temple Trust Board Member

**Skyline Correspondent Bhadradi Kothagudem :** April-08 The government has officially announced the appointment of Godeti Bhagavat Kumari, a resident of Etapak Mandal and wife of former Bhadrachalam

ZPTC Godeti Ravi Kumar, as a member of the Annavaram Temple Trust Board. On this occasion, she expressed her gratitude to the coalition government for placing trust in her and appointing her as a member of the

governing body of the historic Annavaram Temple. She thanked Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, IT and Education Minister Nara Lokesh, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for this opportunity.



### Greenko Foundation Extends Support to Flood-Affected Tribal Gurukul School in Nagireddipet

**Skyline Correspondent Kamareddy :** April-08 The Tribal Gurukul School and College located in Sarampalli of Kamareddy district suffered severe damage due to heavy floods that occurred last year. Particularly, the computer lab was completely submerged in water, caus-

ing disruption to students' education. Principal B. Amar Singh brought this issue to the attention of District Collector Ashish Sangwan, IAS, who responded positively and assured immediate assistance. On this occasion, the school teachers and students



expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the representatives of Greenko Foundation, as well as to

District Collector Ashish Sangwan for providing such valuable support and opportunity.

## CSR Funds from local Industries must be allocated local development



ized for local development initiatives, they are currently being diverted to other regions. Expressing deep concern, he noted that development works within the constituency have stalled over the past two and a half years due to the non-receipt of CSR funds. He emphasized that these funds are urgently required for the development of medical and infrastructural facilities in pollution-affected areas. He warned that the government must respond immediately and ensure that CSR funds are spent locally, otherwise, he said that he would launch a protest movement along with the public.

(By Our Reporter / Skyline)  
**Patancheru, April.8 :** Gudem Mahipal Reddy, the Patancheru legislator has demanded that the CSR funds generated by industries of Patancheru con-

stituency be allocated specifically for local development works. To this effect, he submitted a memorandum to District Collector Pravinia. The MLA said that due to the high concentration of bulk drug and

chemical industries in the Patancheru constituency, pollution levels have risen, causing residents to face various health issues. He alleged that while CSR funds generated by these industries ought to be uti-

## TGIIC Chairperson inaugurates 'Vedha' Restaurant



imity to the city of Hyderabad, a large number of people commute to and from Sangareddy on a daily basis. She added that hotels, restaurants, and commercial complexes are emerging at a corresponding pace to meet the growing needs of the public. She expressed her hope that 'Vedha Restaurant' would serve high-quality and healthy food to the people. The Program was attended by Sangareddy Municipal Chairperson Kuna Vanitha, leaders Kuna Santhosh, Srisailam, Shailesh Reddy, Ramesh, Ravi Naik, Vamsi, Ashwin, and others.

(District Correspondent / Skyline)  
**Sangareddy, April.8 :** Nirmala Jaggareddy, the TGIIC Chairperson Nirmala inaugurated the newly es-

tablished 'Vedha Multi-Cuisine Restaurant,' located opposite the Collectorate office in Sangareddy town. Speaking on the occasion, Nirmala Jaggareddy said

that Sangareddy town is expanding day by day. She remarked that, due to the presence of prestigious institutions like IIT Hyderabad and its prox-

## PMR attends wedding ceremony

(District Correspondent / Skyline)  
**Sangareddy, April.8 :** The grand wedding ceremony of Bharat and Chandana, son of Mr. and Mrs. Atipamula Satyalakshmi and Krishna, residents of Sadashivapet town, were held amidst great joy and enthusiasm at the local Basava Seva Sadan Function Hall. State Congress leader Pulimamidi Raju attended the occasion and blessed the bride and groom. Engaging in warm conversation with members of the Atipamula family, he extended his best wishes for the couple to lead a married life filled with happiness and peace. Speaking on the occasion, Pulimamidi Raju remarked that



marriage signifies the union not merely of two hearts, but of two families. He expressed that participating in such events brings him immense

joy. He further emphasized that family bonds and traditional values play a pivotal role in the fabric of society. The event was attended by

Srikanth, Venkanna Babu, Nalla Sai, Prem, Shraavan, Akhil, Soma Shankar, and leaders of the PMR Yuvasena.

## Efforts for Maternal and Child Care : District Collector Kumar Deepak

**Skyline Correspondent Mancheril : April-08** District Collector Kumar Deepak stated that efforts are being made to ensure maternal and child care by encouraging deliveries in government hospitals. On Wednesday, on the occasion of Safe Motherhood Day, he attended a program organized at the Maternal and Child Hospital in the district headquarters along with District Medical and Health Officer Dr. Anita, Mancheril Municipal Corporation Mayor Darni Madhukar, Deputy Mayor Salla Ramya, and RMO Sridhar. "Speaking on the occasion, the District Collector said that the government is giving priority to maternal and child care and is taking necessary measures.



As part of the Praja Palana - Pragati Pranalika 99-day program, special focus is being given to sanitation management and public health. "He advised that good health can be achieved by consuming clean drinking water and nutritious food, and by taking preventive measures

to avoid diseases. He stated that details of pregnant women are being registered and awareness is being created regarding timely medical check-ups, proper diet, and precautions, which has helped increase the number of institutional deliveries in government hospitals. "He further

added that steps are being taken to provide better medical services through health sub-centers, primary health centers, community health centers, government hospitals, rural and urban clinics, and government medical and nursing colleges.

## Strict Action Against Fake Seeds: District Collector Kumar Deepak

**Skyline Correspondent Mancheril : April-08** District Collector Kumar Deepak stated that stringent measures are being taken to curb the circulation of fake seeds. On Wednesday, a review meeting was held at the Integrated District Offices Complex meeting hall in Naspur with officials from Agriculture, Revenue, and Police departments, including DCP A. Bhaskar, Additional Collector (Revenue) Srinivasa Rao, District Agriculture Officer Surekha, and ACPs Prakash, Kiran Kumar, and Venkateshwarlu of Mancheril, Bellampalli, and Jaipur. He informed that task force teams comprising Police, Revenue, and Agriculture officials will be formed at the mandal level. These

teams will work in coordination to crack down on illegal seed suppliers and also conduct awareness programs for farmers. Farmers were advised to purchase seeds only from licensed dealers. The Collector urged villagers to inform the police if anyone is found selling cotton seeds illegally, assuring that the identity of informants will be kept confidential. He warned that the use of fake and banned cotton seeds leads to excessive weed growth, forcing the use of glyphosate, which damages soil fertility and poses serious health risks, including cancer. Officials were instructed to conduct extensive inspections and set up check posts at dis-



trict borders to prevent the entry of fake seeds. Farmers were advised to use only government-approved seeds and obtain receipts while purchasing from authorized shops. The DCP stated that last year, 17 cases were registered in the district, 54 persons were arrested, and around 14 quintals of fake seeds were

seized. He stressed the need for early action and coordinated efforts among departments before the sowing season to effectively prevent the spread of fake seeds. Tahsildars, ADAs, SIs, Mandal Agriculture Officers, Agriculture Extension Officers, and other officials participated in the meeting.

## Special Measures to Prevent Road Accidents: District Collector Kumar Deepak



**Skyline Correspondent Mancheril : April-08** District Collector Kumar Deepak stated that special measures are being taken to prevent road accidents in the district. On Wednesday, a Road Safety Committee meeting was held at the Integrated District Offices Complex meeting hall in Naspur, with the participation of DCP A. Bhaskar, Bellampalli Sub-Collector

Manoj, and officials from the Police, Transport, National Highways, Roads & Buildings, RTC, Electricity, Panchayat Raj departments, along with Municipal Commissioners and other concerned officials. He further stated that proper lighting should be arranged in areas with low visibility and at locations with low-height beams. On national highways, rumble strips,

lighting, and cautionary signboards should be installed. Strict action should be taken against vehicles that are out of control, overloaded, or exceeding speed limits. Traffic police officials were directed to strictly enforce helmet usage among two-wheeler riders. Municipal Commissioners were instructed to take necessary steps to ensure

road safety within their jurisdictions. In rural areas, appropriate precautions should be taken on internal roads. Awareness programs should be conducted to stop the use of cage wheels on tractors. "The Collector emphasized creating awareness among the public regarding overloading, speeding, drunk driving, and wrong-side driving, and taking strict action against violators. The DCP stated that accident-prone hotspots in the district have been identified and measures are being taken to control vehicle speeds within urban limits. He urged all departments to work in coordination to reduce road accidents and fatalities.

## Speed up Khammam-Bhadradi Kothagudem Gas Pipeline Works: Collector Ankit



**Skyline Correspondent Bhadradi Kothagudem : April-08** District Collector Ankit has directed officials to expedite the City Gas Distribution (CGD) pipeline expansion works from Khammam to Bhadradi Kothagudem. A district-level review meeting was held on Wednesday at the IDOC office conference hall with officials from various departments. "On this oc-

casional, Collector Ankit spoke via video conference with Ramakrishna, Quality In-charge of the Mega Distribution company, and reviewed the pipeline route map, current progress of works, challenges faced, and necessary measures to be taken. He instructed officials to identify issues in project implementation and take immediate steps to resolve them. "The Collector

emphasized that all departments should work in coordination to ensure there are no obstacles in pipeline construction. He directed officials to avoid delays in land acquisition, granting permissions, road excavation works, and traffic management. He also stressed the effective implementation of the single-window system provided by the government to obtain ap-

provals within 24 hours and to utilize the dig-and-restore facilities efficiently. "To address the shortage of LPG gas in the district, he stated that PNG (Piped Natural Gas) supply should be made available at the earliest. He instructed that the works be completed on a war footing in coordination with the Mega City Gas Distribution company and that the project be treated as a top priority. The meeting was attended by Panchayati Raj official Srinivas, R&B official Nageswara Rao, municipal commissioners, Electricity Department SE Mahender, Mission Bhagiratha EE Tirumalesh, Panchayat Officer Sudhir, officials from various departments, and CGD committee members.

## Grand Welcome to BJP State Executive Member Surabhi Naveen Kumar in Korutla Constituency

**Skyline Correspondent Korutla : April-08** BJP leaders and party workers of the Korutla constituency extended a grand welcome to Surabhi Naveen Kumar, who is visiting his hometown Korutla for the first time after assuming charge for the second time as a BJP Telangana State Executive Member. A large rally was organized starting from the Ayyappa Swamy Temple in Metpally town, proceeding as a bike rally to his residence in Korutla town. Addressing party work-

ers at a corner meeting held near the Korutla bus station out gate, Surabhi Naveen Kumar said that BJP is a party of workers, and no leader exists without the support of party workers. He assured that he would stand by the workers like a family member in times of difficulty and declared that he would remain committed to the party (saffron ideology) until his last breath. He also stated that he would face and overcome any obstacles that come his way. He expressed gratitude to State President



Ramchander Rao, Union Minister Kishan Reddy, Union Minister of State Bandi Sanjay, and senior leaders for giving him the responsibility for the second time with trust. Later, the rally continued towards his resi-

dence. On this occasion, BJP members felicitated him for assuming the position for the second time. Leaders, party workers, and supporters from the Korutla constituency participated in the program.