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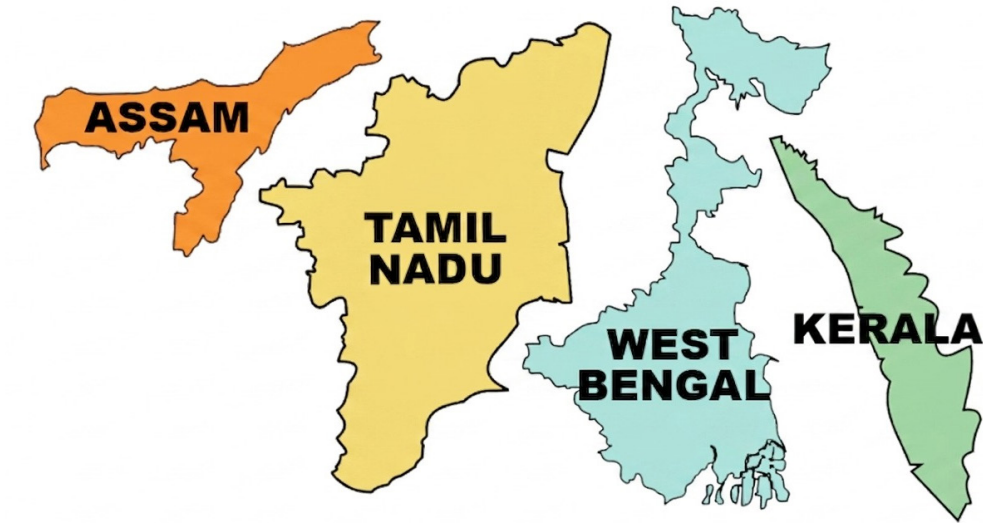
Stability Over Change Dominates Mood in Four-State Assembly Elections

RAVI PODILI

The ongoing Assembly elections in four states have brought an interesting trend into focus. Party manifestos, promises, and welfare schemes appear strikingly similar across the political spectrum. In this context, the central question is whether voter preference for stability with incumbent governments will outweigh the desire for change.

Historically, elections such as the 1977 defeat of Indira Gandhi and the 2011 fall of the Left Front in West Bengal were driven by strong waves of public anger. However, no such sweeping sentiment is visible in the states currently going to polls. While there is localized dissatisfaction, it does not seem intense enough to trigger regime change. Amid economic uncertainty, voters appear to be leaning toward continuity rather than experimentation. With all major parties competing aggressively on development agendas and welfare promises, there is little enthusiasm for change among the electorate. These elections, therefore, may not witness a strong "wave for change." Instead, voters seem to be prioritizing stability as a means to navigate daily challenges. Whether this trend will lead to political maturity or stagnation remains to be seen.

Several past electoral upsets had distinct triggers. The 1977 election was shaped by backlash against the Emergency, the 1980 fall of the Janata Party government under Morarji Desai was due to internal divisions, and the 2011 defeat of the Left Front in West Bengal followed controversies such as land acquisition in Singur and Nandigram. Such circumstances are exceptions rather than the norm in India's 75-year electoral history, where outcomes are usually determined by voters' broader per-



ception of whether it is "time for change." At present, no such decisive sentiment is evident.

In West Bengal, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee appears relatively secure despite facing sustained opposition from the BJP and criticism over governance issues. A controversial Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls has added a new dimension to the contest. Allegations that the exercise led to the deletion of nearly 9.1 million voters—particularly in minority-dominated districts—have triggered a political storm. Banerjee has termed it "vote theft," accusing the BJP of using the Election Commission to influence outcomes. The controversy has also helped divert public attention from governance shortcomings, even as BJP leaders privately acknowledge the difficulty of dislodging her government.

In Kerala, the Left Democratic Front (LDF) led by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has already broken the state's long-standing pattern of alternating governments every five years. Vijayan not only se-

cured a second term but did so with an increased majority. The key question now is whether he can achieve a rare third consecutive victory. Despite facing challenges such as unemployment, inflation, and controversies including the Sabarimala gold theft case, as well as internal dissent within the Communist Party of India (Marxist), ground reports suggest he may still hold an advantage. Dissident leaders contesting as independents could split the Left vote, with the Congress-led UDF attempting to capitalize on these divisions. In Assam, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma is aiming for a third consecutive term for the BJP. He faces anti-incumbency and a strengthening opposition alliance led by Congress, with new entrants like the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha attempting to tap into tribal issues. However, opinion polls indicate that the BJP and its allies continue to maintain a comfortable lead. Tamil Nadu presents a more complex contest. The DMK alliance led by Chief Minister M. K. Stalin is facing a dual challenge from the AIADMK-BJP combine

and a new entrant, the Tamila Vetti Kazhagam (TVK), founded by actor Vijay. Campaigning on a platform of change, TVK has generated significant enthusiasm, particularly among young voters seeking an alternative to traditional political leadership. With a strong grassroots network built through fan clubs, the party is emerging as a potential disruptor and could play a kingmaker role in the event of a hung Assembly. For now, however, the DMK appears to be in the lead.

Across all four states, ruling parties seem better positioned than their challengers despite pockets of anti-incumbency. This suggests that in times of economic uncertainty, voters tend to prefer familiar leadership over untested alternatives. With most parties offering similar combinations of development and welfare, the appetite for change appears limited. The larger question remains: in a vibrant democracy, can prolonged political stability be sustained without eventually leading to stagnation? The answer will unfold in the years ahead.

Naidu Campaign Boosts NDA in TN

Tamil Nadu, April 21 | TPN Bureau

N. Chandrababu Naidu concluded a two-day election campaign across Tamil Nadu with strong public response, campaigning in support of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). Despite a tight schedule, he covered key regions including Coimbatore, Krishnagiri, Virudhunagar, Madurai and Chennai.

The campaign included public meetings, roadshows and interactions with local leaders and prominent personalities to mobilise support for NDA candidates. Constituencies such as Coimbatore North, Coimbatore South, Singanallur, Kaundampalayam, Sulur, Thali, Anna Nagar, T. Nagar, Villivakkam, Sattur and Kovilpatti witnessed active participation from party candidates and supporters.

Naidu focused his campaign on development, governance, corruption issues and law and order concerns in Tamil Nadu.

He argued that a "double-engine government" model, combining state and central leadership, had driven rapid development in Andhra Pradesh and could deliver similar progress in Tamil Nadu.

Highlighting Andhra Pradesh as an example, he cited major global investments from companies like Google and ArcelorMittal, crediting strong central support for enabling large-scale industrial growth. He said Tamil Nadu's future growth and revival would be possible only under

NDA governance.

On inter-state water disputes, Naidu proposed river interlinking as a long-term solution, specifically suggesting the Ganga-Cauvery river linking project to address water sharing issues between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. He urged voters to support the NDA to turn such large-scale infrastructure ideas into reality.

He also referred to the successful Telugu Ganga project, which supplies drinking water to Chennai, as an example of cooperation between states. Calling for unity between Telugu and Tamil communities, he stressed the importance of shared development and mutual progress.

Naidu further highlighted cultural and historical ties between the two regions, recalling the friendship between N. T. Rama Rao and M. G. Ramachandran. He also praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for promoting national development.

Criticising the DMK and its stand on issues such as the Women's Reservation Bill and delimitation, he alleged that their policies have failed to protect women's interests and regional balance. He urged voters to reject parties that, in his view, have not delivered inclusive development.

Throughout the campaign, Naidu addressed public gatherings in Tamil, which was well received by local audiences, strengthening NDA's outreach in the state.

Mega Solar Boost in AP

Anakapalli, April 21 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh is set to witness another major industrial investment as ReNew Energy Global plans to establish a large-scale solar ingot and wafer manufacturing facility in Rambilli of Anakapalli district. The project, with an estimated investment of 5,400 crore, will be formally launched on April 23 by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu along with ReNew CEO Sumant Sinha.

The proposed facility will include a 6 GW solar ingot-wafer manufacturing plant with an investment of 4,200 crore, along with a 125 MW hybrid captive power plant costing 1,200 crore. The company aims to complete the project and commence operations within a record timeframe of 24 months.

The project is expected to generate employment opportunities for more than 2,100 people, both directly and indirectly, benefiting local youth in the region. Industry experts believe that the initiative will significantly enhance Anakapalli's industrial profile and contribute to regional economic growth.

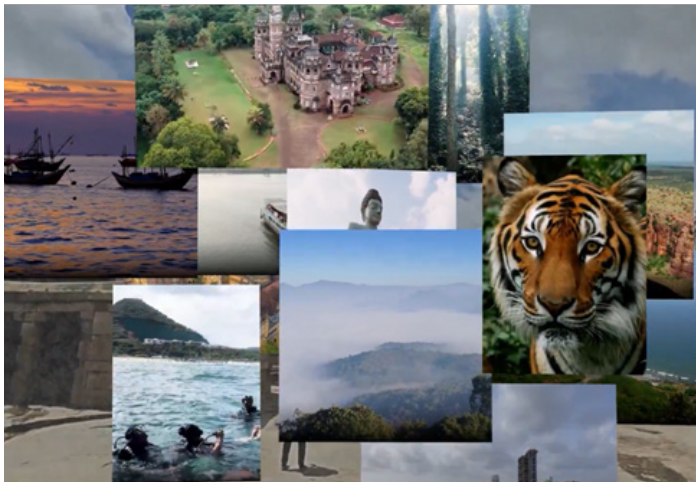
The manufacturing of ingots and wafers—key components in solar photovoltaic modules and cells—within the country will strengthen domestic supply chains and reduce dependence on imports. This aligns with India's broader push towards self-reliance in renewable energy manufacturing.



ReNew Energy Global has been actively expanding its footprint in Andhra Pradesh since 2015. The company is already developing one of India's largest hybrid renewable energy complexes in Anantapur district with an investment of 22,000 crore. With the addition of the Rambilli project, ReNew's total planned investment in the state is expected to reach 82,000 crore.

Officials say the project reflects the state government's proactive industrial policies and focus on attracting clean energy investments. The initiative is also expected to position Andhra Pradesh as a key hub for solar manufacturing in India, supporting the country's transition towards sustainable energy.

The Rambilli project marks a significant step in boosting industrial growth while promoting green energy solutions in the state.



A Journey of Heritage and Nature - AP

aAmaravati, April 21 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh offers a diverse travel experience shaped by its long coastline, scenic hills, rich heritage sites, and deep-rooted spiritual traditions, reflecting the cultural and geographical variety of southern India.

From the coastal beauty of Visakhapatnam to the misty valleys of Araku and the striking limestone formations of the Borra Caves, the state presents a landscape that blends natural wonder with tourism potential. These destinations continue to attract travellers seeking both adventure and tranquillity.

Andhra Pradesh's historical depth is equally significant. Ancient and architectural landmarks such as Lepakshi, the Buddhist heritage site of Amaravati Stupa, and the rock-cut marvels of Undavalli Caves highlight the region's long-standing cultural evolution and artistic excellence.

The state is also home to major pilgrimage centres that attract millions of devotees every year. The sacred shrine of

Tirumala Venkateswara Temple and the Kanaka Durga Temple in Vijayawada remain among the most visited spiritual destinations in India, reflecting the state's strong religious significance.

Andhra Pradesh's cultural identity is further enriched by its traditional crafts and cuisine. Art forms such as Kalamkari painting and Uppada silk weaving continue to preserve centuries-old artistic traditions, while regional delicacies like Gongura Pachadi and Pootharekulu represent the state's distinctive culinary heritage.

The initiative is part of NITI Aayog's "Divya Bharat – A Window to the Soul of India" programme, which aims to showcase the country's cultural, spiritual, and natural diversity through a state-wise journey.

By bringing together heritage, spirituality, nature, and tradition, Andhra Pradesh stands as a vivid reflection of India's living cultural mosaic, offering both residents and visitors an immersive and meaningful experience.

Tension in Pithapuram Over CM Photo Issue

Pithapuram, April 21, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Tension prevailed in Pithapuram constituency after a dispute broke out between TDP leader S.V.S.N. Varma and Jana Sena Party leader Pendem Dorababu during a public programme over the display of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's photograph.

The incident occurred during an official welfare-related event where a disagreement arose regarding the absence of the Chief Minister's photo on banners and flex displays. The issue quickly escalated into a heated exchange between the two leaders.

Both leaders engaged in a verbal argument, which led to a brief commotion as supporters from both sides gathered at the venue. The situation created tension in the area for some time before police personnel intervened and brought it under control.

According to local sources, S.V.S.N. Varma objected to the design of the flex banners and insisted that protocol norms should be strictly followed in government programmes. Pendem Dorababu, however, responded to the objection, resulting in an exchange of words between the two leaders.

The incident reflects ongoing differences at the local level between alliance partners, which have occasionally surfaced during joint programmes in the constituency.

Police advised both groups to maintain calm and ensure that public events are conducted peacefully without further disputes.

Party leaders from both sides are expected to take up the matter internally to prevent similar incidents in future programmes.

Naidu Backs NDA in TN

Chennai, April 21 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday asserted that Tamil Nadu can regain its past glory only under the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), stressing that development, employment generation, and welfare are best delivered through the coalition's governance model.

Addressing a press conference in Chennai alongside Union Minister Piyush Goyal as part of his two-day election campaign, Naidu highlighted the historic ties between Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. He recalled the latter's legacy as a major hub of South India and its contributions to national growth through eminent personalities and administrators.

Naidu observed that Tamil Nadu, once a frontrunner in development, is now facing stiff competition from cities like Bengaluru and Hyderabad. He urged voters to support parties that prioritise growth and long-term development. Criticising the Dravida Munnetra

Kazhagam (DMK) and the Indian National Congress, he alleged that their opposition to key legislations, including the Women's Reservation Bill, has adversely affected women and southern states.

On delimitation, Naidu said the Centre's proposal to increase constituencies by 50 per cent irrespective of population would benefit all regions and ensure 33 percent reservation for women. He recalled opposing population-based delimitation during former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's tenure to safeguard southern states' interests.

Expressing concern over slowing development and rising migration from Chennai, Naidu pointed to issues such as law and order, crimes against women, and drug abuse. He credited the Centre for supporting key infrastructure projects, including the modernisation of Chennai Railway Station and the proposed high-speed rail corridor linking Chennai, Bengaluru, and Amaravati.

Highlighting Andhra

Pradesh's progress, he cited investments from global firms such as Google and ArcelorMittal, attributing the growth to strong Centre-State cooperation. He urged Tamil Nadu voters to back NDA allies to replicate similar success.

Naidu also emphasised the importance of linguistic harmony, stating that while mother tongue education must be preserved, learning other languages is essential for progress. He noted that Hindi is not a national language and called for unity beyond linguistic divides, while praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi for promoting Tamil culture globally.

On inter-state water disputes like the Cauvery issue, he advocated river interlinking projects, citing Andhra Pradesh's Krishna-Godavari linkage as a successful model for ensuring water security.

Reiterating that development drives wealth creation and welfare, Naidu urged voters to support the NDA in the upcoming elections.



Kollu Ravindra Conducts Surprise Hospital Inspection

Machilipatnam, April 21 | TPN Bureau

State Minister for Mines, Geology and Excise Kollu Ravindra on Tuesday conducted a surprise inspection at the Government General Hospital in Machilipatnam and reviewed healthcare services provided to patients.

The Minister said the state government is giving top priority to public health and is allocating substantial funds for the improvement of both education and medical sectors. He assured that the hospital would be further developed to ensure better services without inconvenience to patients.

Arriving on a two-wheeler, the Minister inspected the hospital premises and expressed displeasure over improper vehicle parking. He immediately directed officials to ensure that vehicles are parked only in designated areas and warned that

strict action would be taken if rules are violated.

During his visit, he examined various hospital departments and interacted with patients and their attendants. He enquired about the availability of doctors, medical services, and supply of medicines. He also gathered feedback directly from patients regarding hospital facilities.

The Minister later held a review meeting with senior doctors and administrators, discussing staff shortages and infrastructure needs. Officials informed him that around 1,600 outpatients visit the hospital daily and that there is a shortage of staff nurses.

He assured that necessary steps would be taken soon to fill vacancies and provide essential medical equipment. He also stressed improving cleanliness, security, and patient services to enhance overall hospital efficiency.

Waqf Board Approves Free Education Scheme

Amaravati, April 21 | TPN Bureau

The 14th meeting of the Andhra Pradesh Waqf Board was held in Vijayawada under the chairmanship of Abdul Aziz, where all agenda items were approved unanimously, including a major decision on education support for minority students.

The board decided to launch a fully funded residential education scheme for Muslim students under the programme “Taleem-e-Hunar.” Under this initiative, the Waqf Board will bear the entire cost of corporate-level education for selected students.

As per the plan, 250 students will be admitted in the first year for Intermediate first-year education. From the second year onwards, the intake will be increased to 500 students annually. The scheme will be implemented through a state-level talent test to identify

meritorious students.

The programme will also provide coaching for competitive examinations such as JEE Main and NEET. Officials said the talent test will be conducted after the release of Class 10 results next month, and the scheme will be formally launched thereafter.

Chairman Abdul Aziz said the initiative aims to promote higher education among minority students and reduce financial burden on families. He added that similar skill development programmes are already being run under the same initiative.

The meeting also approved the appointment of managing committees and mutawallis for various Waqf institutions across the state.

Several board members, including MLC Mohammad Ruhullah, MLA Mohammad Naseer, and other officials, participated in the meeting.

MSME Push for Entrepreneur Model

Amaravati, April 21 | TPN Bureau

State Minister for MSME, Rural Poverty Alleviation and NRI Empowerment Kollu Srinivas on Tuesday said that the government’s goal of “one entrepreneur in every family” must be implemented effectively through the MSME sector.

He was reviewing the performance of the industries department and ongoing MSME schemes at a meeting held at the APIIC Towers in Mangalagiri. The review focused on the progress of key initiatives, including the Chief Minister’s Entrepreneurs Programme and cluster development projects.

The Minister said that Industrial Promotion Officers will be appointed in every constituency to ensure better coordination and support for MSMEs. He instructed the Director of Industries to issue necessary orders in this regard.

He also directed officials to address pending payments to MSMEs from government and corporate entities. He suggested using an online dispute resolution mechanism to resolve

such issues quickly and transparently.

Kollu Srinivas further asked district-level officials to prepare action plans under District Industries Export Promotion Committees to strengthen MSME growth at the grassroots level.

He emphasized that all departments—from village and mandal levels to head offices—must work in coordination to strengthen the MSME ecosystem and support the Chief Minister’s vision for economic development.

Officials including Industries Secretary Dr. N. Yuvaraj, Director of Industries Shubham Bansal, and AP MSME Development Corporation CEO Vishva participated in the review, along with other department and district-level officers through virtual mode.

The Minister reiterated that MSMEs play a crucial role in job creation and economic growth and must be supported with timely policies, financial assistance, and institutional coordination to achieve sustainable industrial development in the state.



AP Ministers Study Singapore Model

Singapore, April 21 | TPN Bureau

An Andhra Pradesh ministerial delegation continued its study tour in Singapore on the first day, focusing on citizen engagement and social cohesion models aimed at improving public service delivery.

The team participated in a series of structured programmes in Singapore, beginning with official meetings and discussions with government representatives. During a lunch interaction, Singapore’s Foreign Affairs and Trade Ministry representative Ms. Gan Sio Huang held discussions with the delegation on investment opportunities and infrastructure development.

At the Tampines Hub, experts including Dr. Francis Chung and former Singapore

Deputy Secretary Ang Hak Seng explained Singapore’s governance model, highlighting strong social compact systems, citizen participation, and transparent public service delivery mechanisms.

The delegation also visited the Our Tampines Hub, Singapore’s largest lifestyle and community centre, where they observed facilities such as sports complexes, swimming pools, libraries, retail spaces, and cultural theatres. Officials from the centre explained how government services are efficiently integrated with community participation.

Ministers enquired about grievance redressal systems and how public issues are resolved in a transparent and time-bound manner. They observed a live “Meet-the-People

Session,” where elected representatives directly interact with citizens to resolve concerns. In the evening session, Ms. Gan Sio Huang interacted with citizens and demonstrated public engagement practices followed in Singapore.

The delegation stated that the visit is aimed at studying best practices in governance, transparency, and citizen participation to explore their implementation in Andhra Pradesh. The team includes Ministers P. Narayana, Vangalapudi Anitha, Kinjarapu Atchannaidu, Anagani Satya Prasad, B.C. Janardhan Reddy, along with senior officials Ananth Shankar and Alaparthi Venkateswara Rao. The delegation also met the Indian High Commissioner in Singapore as part of the visit.

Writers Must Spread Naidu Vision

Vijayawada, April 21 | TPN Bureau

A book titled “Ajeyudu”, chronicling the life and leadership of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, was unveiled in Vijayawada on Tuesday by State Housing and Information & Public Relations Minister Kolu Parthasarathy.

The book, authored by senior journalist T. D. Prasad with contributions from Dr. Ravi Kumar Boppana, was released as part of the Chief Minister’s birthday celebrations. The event was attended by senior journalists, political leaders and officials.

Speaking on the occasion, Parthasarathy said it was a matter of pride to be part of Andhra Pradesh’s development journey under Chandrababu Naidu’s leadership. He noted that even at the age of 76, the Chief Minister continues to work with full commitment towards the state’s progress and welfare.

The Minister said that no matter how many books are written on Chandrababu Naidu, they would still fall short of capturing the depth of his vision and dedication. He described Naidu’s development model as an inspiration not only for Andhra Pradesh



but also for the world.

He urged writers, journalists and intellectuals to take this vision to a global audience, highlighting their responsibility in shaping public understanding through documented work. He appreciated the author for presenting Naidu’s leadership journey in a structured and meaningful manner through Ajeyudu.

Parthasarathy also praised the co-author for highlighting the leadership qualities of IT Minister Nara Lokesh alongside Chandrababu Naidu, stating that the book reflects the governance vision of the state leadership.

He further said that such literary contributions will help future generations understand the transformational policies and development initiatives undertaken in Andhra Pradesh. According to him, documenting political and administrative milestones is an important service to society.

The event was attended by former Kanaka Durga Temple Trust Board member Satish, Krishna Zilla Parishad CEO Dr. J. Aruna, senior Telugu Desam Party leaders and veteran journalists, making it a notable gathering of political and media representatives in the city.

Free Bicycles for Students in Addanki

Addanki, April 21 | TPN Bureau

Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar on Tuesday said the coalition government under Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu is committed to improving government education and ensuring facilities comparable to private schools.

He was speaking during a visit to Addanki constituency, where free bicycles were distributed to 72 students of a Zilla Parishad High School in Kopparam village with support from a voluntary organisation. The Minister interacted

ed with students and highlighted the importance of education and welfare schemes. He said that a total of 11,044 bicycles have been distributed so far across the constituency to support school students. He appreciated donors and organisations contributing to such initiatives. The Minister reviewed the mid-day meal programme and instructed officials to ensure good quality food without compromise. He directed regular inspections and involvement of parents to monitor the scheme. He said over 16,000 teacher posts have been filled through

DSC recruitment to strengthen education. Students are also being provided uniforms, shoes, and financial assistance under welfare programmes. He announced that a dining hall will be constructed for the Kopparam school and 20 lakh has been sanctioned for a compound wall. He also said a 132 KV substation will be set up to improve electricity supply. Later, he conducted a grievance redressal session and assured prompt resolution of public issues. He reiterated that the government is focused on both welfare and development across the constituency.

Anil Chandra Punetha Takes Charge as SEC

Vijayawada, April 21 | TPN Bureau

Anil Chandra Punetha assumed charge as the State Election Commissioner (SEC) of Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday at the State Election Commission office located on Bandar Road in Vijayawada.

According to an official statement issued by State Election Commission Secretary A. Mallikarjuna, the appointment follows orders issued by the Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department. The statement confirmed that Punetha has been appointed for a term of five years from the date of assuming office.

The formal assumption of charge marks the beginning of his tenure overseeing local body elections and related electoral processes in the state. The State Election Commission is responsible for conducting elections to Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies in a free, fair, and transparent manner.

Officials said the new SEC is expected to focus on strengthening electoral systems, ensuring adherence to rules, and improving administrative efficiency in the conduct of local elections across Andhra Pradesh. Punetha, a retired Indian Administrative Service officer, brings extensive administrative experience to the role. His appointment comes at a crucial time when the state is preparing for upcoming local body electoral exercises.

The State Election Commission emphasized that the appointment is in accordance with statutory provisions governing the office of the SEC. The information was officially released by the Director of Information and Public Relations Department, Andhra Pradesh.

AP Tops Tourism Chart

Amaravati, April 21 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh has been placed in a prominent position in tourism development in the latest report released by NITI Aayog titled “Divya Bharat – A Window to the Soul of India,” which highlights India’s cultural, spiritual and natural diversity.

The report lauds Andhra Pradesh for its rapid progress in the tourism sector, crediting the state’s development push under the coalition government. It states that the state has emerged as one of the most attractive tourism destinations in the country.

The publication, along with a short documentary, showcases Andhra Pradesh’s major tourism destinations and recommends the state as a must-visit location for experiencing natural beauty, cultural richness and spiritual heritage. It also suggests that the best time to visit the state is between October and February.

Key attractions highlighted include scenic destinations such as Araku Valley, Lambasingi, Papikondalu, Horsley Hills, and Konaseema. The report also covers waterfalls, wildlife sanctuaries, caves, beaches, and heritage sites such as Borra Caves, Belum Caves, Gandikota, and Undavalli Caves.

Prominent spiritual centres like Tirumala Venkateswara Temple, Srisailem Temple, and Kanaka Durga Temple were also featured, along with Buddhist heritage sites, historic forts, and coastal attractions.

The report further highlights Andhra Pradesh’s cultural richness through traditional arts such as Kalamkari, Kuchipudi dance, handlooms like Mangalagiri and Uppada sarees, and regional cuisine.

Tourism Minister Kandula Durgesh welcomed the recognition, stating that the government is working to develop all identified destinations to international standards. He said the state aims to become a leading tourism hub by 2030 with support from infrastructure projects and new tourism policies.

He added that under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, Andhra Pradesh is being promoted as a “Swarandhra” destination offering world-class hospitality and experiences.

The report positions Andhra Pradesh as a key player in India’s tourism growth story, blending heritage, nature, and culture into a unified travel identity.



Civil Servants Urged to Follow Rule of Law

Amaravati, April 21 | TPN Bureau

Chief Secretary G. Sai Prasad on Tuesday said that civil servants must strictly adhere to the rule of law and deliver efficient public services with dedication. He was speaking at the 18th Civil Services Day celebrations held at the Andhra Pradesh Secretariat. The event was organised under the theme “Viksit Bharat – Swarnandhra 2047: Citizen Centric Governance for Last Mile Delivery,” focusing on effective delivery of government services to all sections of society. Sai Prasad recalled that Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel had described civil servants as the “steel frame of India” in 1947, and said Civil Services Day is observed every year to honour their contribution to nation-building.

He said civil servants play a crucial role in governance and must continuously upgrade

their knowledge and adopt modern technology. He stressed the importance of maintaining discipline, integrity, and a service-oriented mindset while ensuring humane administration.

He added that welfare and development schemes must reach the last mile in a transparent and effective manner. Officers should balance strict procedures with compassion while resolving public issues, he said. Special Chief Secretary S.S. Rawat said Andhra Pradesh civil servants have a strong reputation at the national level and must continue to maintain it through efficient governance.

Senior officials and department heads participated in the programme. The event concluded with a pledge to work with integrity and commitment for public welfare and national development.

Opposition Leader Targets Naidu Over Unfulfilled Promises, Governance

Amaravati, April 21 | TPN Bureau

A strong political attack has been mounted against Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, accusing his government of failing to deliver on key election promises and resorting to suppressing dissent.

In a sharply worded statement, the critic alleged that the much-publicised “Super Six” and “Super Seven” schemes, which were widely promoted during election campaigns, remain largely unfulfilled even after two years in power. The government’s claims of having implemented these schemes were termed as misleading and contrary to ground realities.

The statement further alleged that the administration has been unable to handle growing dissatisfaction among the public and government employees. It questioned the rising liabilities of over Rs 3.5 lakh crore, asking for transparency on fund utilisation. Concerns were also raised over the alleged targeting of individuals who question the government, including employee union representatives.

The removal of officials and action against critics were described as signs of “authoritarian governance.” The critic cited instances involving employee union leader Kakarla Venkatarami Reddy and a police officer, claiming they were penalised for raising concerns. The government was also accused of failing to fulfill promises related to job creation and unemployment allowances.



ises related to job creation and unemployment allowances. Pre-election assurances of 20 lakh jobs and monthly financial support for unemployed youth were highlighted, with claims that neither has materialised.

Additionally, the dismantling of the volunteer system, which reportedly affected lakhs of workers, was termed as unjust. Allegations were also made regarding pressure on government employees, with claims of serious consequences due to workplace stress.

The statement concluded by urging the Chief Minister to address public concerns transparently instead of taking action against critics, warning that people are closely watching the government’s performance.

YS Jagan Reassures Cadres in Pulivendula Visit

Pulivendula, April 21 | TPN Bureau:

YSRCP president and former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy interacted with party cadres, leaders, supporters, and local residents during his visit to Pulivendula, offering reassurance amid ongoing political challenges. During the interaction, he listened to their grievances, personal difficulties, and local issues. He assured them that he firmly stood with the party cadre and encouraged them not to lose confidence. Several leaders and workers expressed concerns over alleged attacks and harassment under the current coalition government. Responding to them, Jagan Mohan Reddy urged cadres to remain strong and face political challenges with courage. He said that difficult phases are temporary and expressed confidence that better days would come for the party. He also conveyed optimism that YSRCP would return to power and justice would be ensured for all sections. He called upon leaders and workers to stay united and continue serving people despite adversities. “Struggles are part of political life, but perseverance will lead to success,” he reportedly told the gathering. Earlier in the day, Vedic scholars from the Kodanda Rama temple visited his residence and offered blessings. They presented sacred offerings related to Sita Rama Kalyanam, including talambralu and prasadam, amid Vedic chants seeking his health and well-being. Jagan also held discussions with the scholars on temple traditions, Agama practices, and the importance of preserving cultural and spiritual values. He emphasized that rituals and festivals must continue in accordance with tradition to pass heritage to future generations. His residence in Pulivendula saw a large turnout of party workers and supporters. He advised public representatives and leaders to remain accessible to cadres, especially during challenging times, and to strengthen grassroots coordination.



practices, and the importance of preserving cultural and spiritual values. He emphasized that rituals and festivals must continue in accordance with tradition to pass heritage to future generations. His residence in Pulivendula saw a large turnout of party workers and supporters. He advised public representatives and leaders to remain accessible to cadres, especially during challenging times, and to strengthen grassroots coordination.

Parthasarathy Slams YSRCP Over Kadapa Murder Case

Amaravati: State Minister Kolu Parthasarathy has alleged that YSRCP leaders are staging “dramas” to divert public attention in connection with the recent murder of real estate trader Pedda Dastagiri in Kadapa district.

Speaking to the media in Mangalagiri on Tuesday, the minister said the manner in which YSRCP handled earlier incidents, including the Vivekananda Reddy murder case, was well known to the public.

He alleged that from 2019 to 2024, the party misused power and acted without accountability. “They carry out the incidents and later come forward for condolence visits. They try to mislead both the public and the police by creating confusion,” he said.

Referring to Pedda Dastagiri, the minister claimed that he was closely associated with MP Avinash Reddy, Ravindranath Reddy, and also had links with key leaders in Tadepalli. He further alleged that Dastagiri was involved in secret meetings held in Pulivendula, a claim often discussed in Kadapa political circles.

“The pattern is simple—eliminate in secrecy and then stage public visits in the morning,” Parthasarathy alleged, calling it a calculated political strategy.

He urged that the public must understand the background and connections of those involved in the case and demanded transparency in the investigation.

The minister’s remarks have intensified political heat in the state, particularly over the ongoing allegations surrounding high-profile cases in Kadapa district.

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Ponnam Prabhakar Writes Open Letter to Chandrababu Over State Division Remarks

Hyderabad, April 21 | TPN Bureau:

Telangana Minister Ponnam Prabhakar has said that making inappropriate remarks on the bifurcation of the state is not in the interest of either Telangana or Andhra Pradesh. In this regard, he has written an open letter to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu.

In his letter, the minister expressed concern over statements made by leaders of the BJP, TDP, and Jana Sena regarding the state bifurcation. He said such comments were not appropriate and could create unnecessary animosity between the two Telugu states.

Ponnam Prabhakar stated that the division of the state should not be portrayed in a manner that fuels hatred or misunderstanding among people. He urged Chandrababu Naidu to take the initiative to counsel alliance leaders and ensure restraint in public statements.

He also referred to remarks made by an MP on the issue of bifurcation and requested that the Lok Sabha Speaker be approached to remove those comments from the parliamentary records, as they could lead to further controversy.

The minister emphasized that both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh must move forward through mutual cooperation and development. He said maintaining cordial relations between the two states is essential for regional progress and public welfare.

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BJP’s PVN Madhav Targets Congress Over ‘Soft’ Stand on Terror

Amaravati, April 21 | TPN Bureau

BJP state president PVN Madhav on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on the Indian National Congress, demanding that it clarify its leaders’ remarks on terrorism before criticizing Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Reacting to recent comments by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Madhav alleged that the party has repeatedly displayed a “soft approach” towards terrorists, raising concerns about its commitment to national security.

He questioned remarks made by senior Congress leaders in the past, including Rahul Gandhi referring to Masood Azhar with an honorific and Digvijaya Singh addressing Mumbai attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed respectfully. Such language, he argued, reflects a troubling mindset and undermines the seriousness of terrorism.

Madhav further cited instances where figures like Afzal Guru and Osama bin Laden were allegedly referred to with respect by Congress leaders, calling it an insult to victims of terror attacks. He accused the party of adopting a lenient stance for political gains, particularly in pursuit of vote-bank politics.



The BJP leader also raised concerns about Congress party’s past responses to extremist groups such as the Indian Mujahideen, stating that such positions weaken the country’s fight against terrorism.

Emphasizing the need for a firm national security policy, Madhav said the people of India would not forget these statements and expect accountability. He urged Congress to respond clearly on these issues and reaffirm its stand against terrorism.

Rejects Naidu’s Allegations in Dastagiri Murder Case

Pulivendula, April 21 | TPN Bureau

YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leader Ravindranath Reddy on Tuesday strongly refuted allegations linking the party to the murder of Pedda Dastagiri, accusing Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu of spreading “Goebbels-style propaganda.”

Addressing the media at the YSRCP office in Pulivendula, Ravindranath Reddy asserted that the party had no connection with the incident and maintained that there was no political angle involved. He described Dastagiri as a sympathiser of the party and a soft-spoken real estate broker, stressing that the perpetrators should be identified and punished strictly.

The former MLA alleged that efforts were being made over the past two days to falsely implicate YSRCP leaders in the case. He questioned the inclusion of certain names, stating that there was no known dispute between the victim and Kadapa Deputy Mayor Nityananda Reddy. He emphasized that the party would not engage in activities that could harm its own interests and called for an impartial investigation.

Ravindranath Reddy further stated that leaders like Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy and Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy had always stood against violence and factional politics, promoting peace and reconciliation in the region. Accusing Naidu of repeatedly targeting YSRCP through media narratives, he said that various incidents in the state were being unfairly attributed to the party. He also urged officials to remain neutral and not become instruments of political agendas, stressing that investigations must be guided solely by facts.

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TDP Leaders Accused of Rs 150 Cr Land Grab

Visakhapatnam, April 21 | TPN Bureau

YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) Visakhapatnam District President K.K. Raju has alleged large-scale land grabbing by TDP leaders in the city, claiming that prime government land worth nearly Rs 150 crore is under threat of illegal occupation in Jodugullapalem.

Addressing the media, Raju said an attempt is being made to encroach upon around 84 cents of valuable public land. He extended support to local fishermen who have launched protests against the alleged encroachment and warned that Visakhapatnam is fast turning into a hub for land scams under the current coalition government.

He accused TDP leaders of exerting pressure on officials and transferring government lands to benami entities out of fear of losing power in the future. Raju also criticised the district administration, including revenue authorities, for remaining “inactive” despite the scale of the alleged land grab.

According to him, senior officials such as the RDO and MRO are facilitating illegal deals by allowing private individuals to take control of government land without valid court orders. He demanded immediate registration of a land-grabbing case against an individual identified as Pasha, who is allegedly attempting to occupy the land using fabricated documents.

Raju further questioned the silence of ruling party leaders and intellectuals, stating that while minor issues receive attention, large-scale encroachments involving public assets are being ignored. He asserted that YSRCP, as a responsible opposition party, will continue to stand with affected communities and intensify protests if immediate action is not taken. He also urged the Visakhapatnam Police Commissioner to order a thorough investigation into the matter and bring those responsible to justice.

YSRCP Slams Govt Over MGNREGA Wage Dues

Anantapur, April 21 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP Panchayat Raj Wing State President Vennapoosa Ravindra Reddy on Tuesday strongly criticised the coalition government led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for alleged negligence in clearing MGNREGA wage arrears and failing to protect rural workers.

He said that over 1,000 crore in pending wages are yet to be paid, affecting nearly 18 lakh workers who have completed labour work under the scheme. He noted that despite working in extreme summer conditions, many labourers have not received payments on time.

Ravindra Reddy pointed out that MGNREGA guidelines mandate wage payments within 15 days, but the government has failed to adhere to this timeline, causing severe hardship to workers dependent on daily wages.

He alleged that the coalition government has not fulfilled its poll promises and questioned the role of senior leaders in addressing the crisis faced by rural labourers.

He further claimed that employment generation under the scheme has declined significantly compared to the previous regime, leading to a drop in total workdays and loss of income for the poor. The YSRCP leader also alleged large-scale deletion of job cards and removal of field assistants, which he said has disrupted the implementation of the scheme at the grassroots level.

He warned that the issue would be taken to the Central Government for intervention and said that those responsible for irregularities would be held accountable in future.

Inter-State Burglars Arrested, Gold Worth Rs 32 Lakh Recovered

Vijayawada, April 21 | TPN Bureau

City police arrested two inter-state burglars and recovered stolen gold ornaments weighing 216 grams, valued at around Rs 32 lakh. Acting on specific intelligence, a special CCS team detained the accused near the City Bus Terminal in One Town and seized the stolen property. The accused were identified as Gopinath alias Gopi (25) and Rambabu (25), both from Kondapalli in NTR district. Police said the duo, along with two absconding associates, were involved in multiple thefts across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Investigations revealed that the accused targeted locked houses and shops, conducting recce before committing thefts. Both have prior criminal records and had served jail terms earlier. Police officials appreciated the CCS team for their coordinated efforts in tracking and arresting the offenders.

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Jana Sena Leaders Hold Prayers for Pawan Kalyan’s Recovery

Prakasam, April 21 | TPN Bureau

Leaders and cadre of the Jana Sena Party conducted special prayers seeking the speedy recovery of party chief and Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. The rituals were organised at temples under the leadership of Singarayakonda mandal president Ainabattina Rajesh and Jarugumalli mandal president Guda Shashibhushan. Party leaders prayed for his quick return to public life with full health. Kondapi constituency coordinator Kanaparthi Manoj Kumar, along with several party members, participated in the programs. Leaders expressed hope that Pawan Kalyan would soon resume his responsibilities and continue serving the people effectively.

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Shankaracharya Jayanti Celebrated with Devotion

Vijayawada, April 21 | TPN Bureau

Shankaracharya Jayanti was observed at Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Devasthanam on Indrakeeladri hill with religious fervor. A special Abhishekam to Adi Shankaracharya was per-

formed in the morning following Vedic rituals.Devotees participated in large numbers, and prasadam was distributed. A Nagarotsavam is scheduled in the evening, with temple authorities inviting devotees to take part in the celebrations.

Focus Needed on Waste Management Units: PVN Madhav

Amaravati, April 21 | TPN Bureau

PVN Madhav has stressed the need for greater attention to waste management systems and compost units across villages and towns in Andhra Pradesh.

Speaking as part of the Janata Varadhi programme, he said public grievances—especially from rural areas—highlight lapses in sanitation and waste handling. Although infrastructure such as compost pits and segregation sheds has been established, many units are either poorly maintained or functioning only nominally.

Citing 2023 data under the Swachh Bharat Mission, he noted that over 31,000 compost pits, 17,000 sheds, and thousands of vehicles and biogas plants have been set up in the state, involving significant



public expenditure.

Madhav urged authorities to ensure effective utilisation of central funds and proper implementation at the grassroots level. He also called for public participation in strengthening initiatives like “Swarna Andhra-Swachh Andhra” for better sanitation and environmental protection.



Fire Safety Drill Conducted

Vijayawada, April 21 | TPN Bureau

The Vijayawada Municipal Corporation conducted a fire safety awareness programme as part of Fire Safety Week, focusing on life-saving measures during emergencies. A mock drill was held at a hotel in Labbipet, where staff were trained on evacuation procedures and res-

cue operations during fire accidents. Officials explained the use of firefighting equipment, safety precautions, and preventive measures to avoid fire hazards. They emphasized that alertness and timely response can save lives in critical situations. Fire department personnel, hotel management, and staff actively participated in the programme.

Enumerator Training Begins for Census Drive

Vijayawada, April 21 | TPN Bureau

The Vijayawada Municipal Corporation has launched the third phase of training for enumerators ahead of the population census scheduled from May 1 to 30, 2026.

Commissioner and Chief Census Officer Dhyanchandra said training sessions are being conducted across three city circles under zonal commissioning to ensure smooth implementation. He urged citizens to cooperate with enumer-

ators by providing accurate information.

Highlighting the self-enumeration facility, he noted that residents can submit their details online without waiting for field visits. Citizens can register through the official portal and participate easily in the process. Additional Commissioner A. Ravindra Rao and other officials attended the programme. Authorities appealed to all residents to actively take part and support the census exercise.

Complex Surgeries Successfully Performed

Amaravati, April 21 | TPN Bureau

Doctors at Tenali District Hospital have successfully performed complex surgeries on two women injured in separate road accidents, highlighting the growing capabilities of secondary healthcare facilities in the state. Both patients—Samrajyam (65) and Nanchaaramma (38)—have now fully recovered, officials confirmed. According to Director of Secondary Health Chakradhar Babu, the surgeries were carried out on April 18 by an orthopedic team with support from anesthetists. Nanchaaramma, who weighed 130 kg and suffered from asthma and other health complications, underwent a highly challenging procedure on her severely fractured arm using a regional anesthesia technique. In another case, Samrajyam sustained multiple frac-



tures to her thigh. Doctors used a supracondylar locking plate system to reconstruct the bone successfully. She expressed satisfaction with the treatment, praising the hospital staff and facilities. The treatments were provided free of cost under government schemes, including PM Relief and NTR Vaidya Seva

Trust. Health Minister Satyakumar Yadav lauded the medical team for their efforts. Officials said improved infrastructure and advanced equipment in government hospitals are enabling doctors to handle critical cases without referrals, ensuring timely and effective care for patients.

Deadline Set for Mosque Registration on UMEED Portal

Krishna/NTR Districts, April 21 | TPN Bureau

The Minorities Welfare Department has urged mosque management committees, imams, and muezzins in Krishna and NTR districts to complete mosque registration on the UMEED Portal before April 27, 2026. District Minorities Welfare Officer Abdul Rabbani

stated that the registration process is being carried out at the District Waqf Board office in Vijayawada. Applicants must submit relevant land documents of their mosques at the office located on the fifth floor of Imdad Ghar Complex, K.R. Market. Officials clarified that failure to complete registration within the stipulated dead-

line will result in the cancellation of honorariums provided to imams and muezzins.

The department emphasized the importance of timely compliance and requested all concerned mosque managements to cooperate by submitting the required documents without delay to ensure uninterrupted benefits.



Vocational Kits Distributed to Students

Vijayawada, April 21 | TPN Bureau

Vocational education students at PM SHRI MK Baig Municipal High School were provided tool kits and uniforms as part of skill development initiatives for the 2025-26 academic year. The programme aims to enhance practical knowledge and improve employability among students.

Courses in Information Technology (IT) and Electronics & Hardware have been introduced this year to meet modern industry demands. Officials highlighted that such training equips students with essential hands-on skills alongside academic learning.

NTR district Additional Project Coordinator Ramesh and GCDO Vishwabharati attended

as chief guests and encouraged students to utilise these opportunities for better career prospects. Headmaster Mainam Hussain emphasised that vocational skills would help students secure employment or pursue higher education with confidence. Faculty members and students participated in large numbers.

Lagerstroemia Blooms Beautify

Amaravati, April 21 | TPN Bureau

The Seed Axis Road, a key arterial stretch connecting the capital city of Amaravati, has turned visually vibrant with blooming Lagerstroemia flowers along its central median. Known for their striking clusters, the flowers are currently in full bloom, adding scenic charm to the city's landscape.

Planted in 2018 under the supervision of ADC Chairperson and Managing Director D. Lakshmi Parthasar-

athi, nearly 8,000 saplings now line a 4-kilometre stretch. These trees, belonging to the Queen's Crape Myrtle species, bloom prominently during April and May in shades of purple, pink, and light pink.

Officials said the plants are maintained with regular nutrients, including nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, along with organic inputs. Special watering arrangements are also in place to protect them from pests and ensure healthy

growth. Apart from their ornamental value, Lagerstroemia plants are known for medicinal properties. Their leaves and flowers are rich in antioxidants and are used in herbal remedies, including treatments for diabetes and blood pressure.

Authorities noted that the plants may bloom again during August and September, with some flowering throughout the year, enhancing the city's green appeal.



Local Leader Provides Cooler to Ailing Infant

Vijayawada, April 21 | TPN Bureau

In a compassionate gesture, Gadde Kranthi Kumar extended support to an ailing infant in Mythri Nagar, Gunadala. The child, born prematurely and suffering from developmental and heart-related issues, has been facing severe discomfort due to rising summer temperatures. Responding promptly to the mother's re-

quest, Kranthi Kumar purchased and personally delivered a cooler to the family's residence. Local leader Guttikonda Krishnamohan appreciated the timely help, stating that such humanitarian acts provide relief and hope to struggling families. Family members expressed gratitude, noting the assistance would help improve the child's condition.

Municipal Workers Protest Over Unpaid Wages

Vijayawada, April 21 | TPN Bureau

Hundreds of municipal workers staged a protest at Dharna Chowk in Vijayawada, demanding immediate payment of pending wages. The agitation was organised by the CITU-affiliated Municipal Corporation Workers and Employees Union as part of a statewide strike call.

Union leaders alleged that despite repeated assurances, March salaries remain unpaid, causing severe hardship to workers' families. They criticised the government for ne-

glecting workers' welfare while focusing on publicity events. Leaders also questioned the absence of the municipal minister during the crisis.

Speakers including K. Umamaheswara Rao warned of intensifying the movement if wages are not cleared soon. They demanded implementation of previous agreements, wage hikes, and settlement of pending dues such as PF and ESI. The unions cautioned that failure to resolve the issue could lead to a large-scale movement across the city in the coming days.

Free Coaching for Inter Failed Students

Vijayawada, April 21 | TPN Bureau

KBN Shine Junior College announced free coaching classes for students who failed the 2025-26 Intermediate public exams. Principal T. Narendra said the classes will begin on

Thursday and cover MPC and BiPC subjects for both junior and senior levels.

The coaching will continue until supplementary exams. Students can contact the college office at Kothapet for further details.

Chandi Homam Performed for Pawan Kalyan's Health

Vijayawada, April 21 | TPN Bureau

A special Chandi Homam was performed with religious fervour at the sacred Indrakeeladri Hill, seeking good health and speedy recovery of Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan.

The ritual was conducted at the temple's Yagashala with de-

votion and traditional Vedic procedures. Temple board members and devotees participated in the ceremony, offering prayers for his well-being.

The events reflected strong faith and support from devotees, who expressed hope that Pawan Kalyan would soon recover and resume his public duties with renewed energy.

Minister Conducts Surprise Inspection at Hospital

Machilipatnam, April 21 | TPN Bureau

Minister Kollu Ravindra conducted a surprise inspection at the Government General Hospital in Machilipatnam, expressing dissatisfaction over mismanaged parking and directing officials to take immediate corrective measures.

Reviewing hospital facilities, the minister emphasized improved patient care, sanitation, and safety. He interacted with patients to assess service quality and enquired about availability of doctors, medicines, and infrastructure.

Officials informed that the hospital handles around 1,600 outpatients daily with 605 beds. A shortage of nearly 90 staff nurses was noted, along with the need for additional equipment and ventilators.



The minister directed authorities to streamline OP services and consider separate counters to ease patient inconvenience. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to strengthening healthcare services under the leadership of N. Chandrababu Naidu and Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav.

Sustainable Push

Khammam, April 22 | TPN Bureau

In a move aimed at promoting sustainable agriculture, Avasan Chakra, an initiative of Kernin Eco Solutions Pvt. Ltd., held a meeting with the District Agriculture Officer and Horticulture Officer in Khammam district to present its innovative farming solutions. During the meeting, the team outlined a comprehensive model designed to reduce farmers' financial burden while improving productivity and income. The initiative focuses on the entire agricultural cycle, from land preparation to final produce, making farming more efficient, cost-effective, and environmentally friendly. A key highlight was the conversion of crop residues into value-added products such as organic fertilizers. This approach not only reduces agricultural waste but also creates additional income opportunities for farmers, aligning with the Government of India's goal of enhancing farm



incomes. The initiative is closely aligned with national agricul-

tural programs, including soil health management, support through Krishi Vigyan Kendras, and the promotion of organic farming. By encouraging chemical-free cultivation,

Avasan Chakra aims to improve both farmer livelihoods and public health.

Leveraging advanced technologies, the organisation is building a connected ecosystem for farmers. Its efforts contribute to lowering carbon emissions, promoting clean energy, and supporting sustainable development goals.

Avasan Chakra is also exploring opportunities in the carbon credit space, enabling farmers to benefit from eco-friendly practices. Through its digital platform, it has already reached over 12,000 farmers, offering access to modern tools, training, and market linkages.

The team has conducted several grassroots workshops to educate farmers on sustainable practices and future-ready agriculture. The meeting ended on a positive note, with officials expressing interest in collaboration to strengthen sustainable farming initiatives in the district.



CBIT Seminar Focuses on Boosting NIRF Rankings

Hyderabad, April 21, 2026:

Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology (CBIT), Hyderabad, hosted a national-level seminar on "Tools and Techniques for NIRF Perception" on Tuesday at its SMS Seminar Hall.

The seminar was organised in collaboration with the Industrial and International Collaborations Cell and the PRO Office of CBIT, aiming to enhance awareness on strategies to improve institutional rankings under the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF). The programme featured key speakers from the public relations and media domain.

U.S. Sarma, National Vice President (South) of the Public Relations Society of India, spoke on the importance of strategic communication, data-driven perception building, and institutional branding in achieving better rankings. Y. Babji shared insights on media engagement, reputation management, and the role of consistent communication in shaping public perception.

Both speakers underlined

the need for analytics, stakeholder engagement, and structured communication practices to enhance institutional visibility and credibility at national and global levels.

Addressing the gathering, C. V. Narasimhulu, Principal of CBIT, stressed the importance of aligning institutional practices with NIRF parameters and strengthening research, outreach, and perception strategies. He appreciated the initiative and encouraged faculty and students to contribute towards improving the institute's national standing.

The seminar saw active participation from faculty, students, and administrative staff, leading to meaningful discussions and exchange of ideas.

G. N. R. Prasad, PRO of CBIT, coordinated the programme.

The session concluded with an interactive discussion, where participants clarified their queries related to NIRF parameters and institutional positioning. The event was widely appreciated for its relevance and practical insights.

Minister Reviews Paddy Procurement

Nalgonda, April 21 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy on Tuesday conducted a review meeting on procurement of Yasangi (rabi) paddy at Indira Bhavan, the minister's camp office in Nalgonda. District Collector Chandrasekhar, the Additional Collector, and other senior officials were present. The minister directed officials to ensure procurement is carried out on a "war footing" so that farmers do not face any inconvenience. He instructed authorities to immediately arrange sufficient number of lorries at all procurement centres and ensure uninterrupted transport of paddy to rice mills. Venkat Reddy emphasised the need for round-the-clock operations at procurement centres, asking officials to install adequate lighting facilities to enable both day and night activities. He also directed them to identify villages with higher paddy arrivals and deploy additional transport facilities in such areas. To prevent farmers from dumping paddy on roads, the minister suggested setting up procurement centres at alternative locations such as schools and function halls, if required. He further instructed officials to ensure that payments are credited to farmers' bank accounts within the stipulated time after procurement. According to officials, around 2.30 lakh metric tonnes of paddy is expected to arrive in Nalgonda constituency alone. The minister asked the administration to remain alert



and prepared to handle the influx efficiently. After the review, addressing a press conference, Venkat Reddy launched a sharp attack on Bharat Rashtia Samithi (BRS) chief K. Chandrashekar Rao and the party's functioning. He expressed confidence that the Congress party would remain in power in Telangana till 2039. Dismissing the prospects of BRS returning to power, the minister alleged that the party had already weakened internally. He claimed that internal conflicts were ongoing within the leadership over distribution of roles and responsibilities. The minister criticised Rao, stating that he was making statements out of frustration and advised him to "set his

own house in order" before speaking about rebuilding the party. He also questioned why key promises made during BRS rule, such as appointing a Dalit Chief Minister, providing one job per household, and allotting three acres of land to Dalits, were not fulfilled during its decade-long tenure. He further alleged that even basic welfare measures like issuing ration cards to the poor were not properly implemented. Venkat Reddy termed the decision of leaders like Jivan Reddy to join BRS as "unfortunate." On the Women's Reservation Bill, he reiterated that the Congress party, under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi, has consistently supported the legislation from the beginning.

app and transferred the funds to multiple beneficiary accounts.

Co-accused Kethavath Ramalal and Marepalli Shiva collected bank account details from acquaintances by promising commissions and claiming the transactions were legal. The fraud amount was shared among them as per a pre-planned ratio.

The scam was exposed when an account holder from SBI Koti branch in Hyderabad received an alert regarding unauthorized KYC changes and informed the bank.

Police recovered 1.10 crore directly from the accused and 1.31 crore from beneficiary accounts, totaling 2.42 crore. Six mobile phones and one laptop used in the crime were also seized.

The accused have been taken into custody, and further investigation is underway. The SP commended the police team for efficiently cracking the case using technical and scientific evidence.

Seed Plan Rolled Out for Kharif Season

Nalgonda, April 21 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana State Seeds Development Corporation has initiated a comprehensive seed supply plan in view of the upcoming kharif agricultural season, focusing on ensuring timely availability of quality seeds to farmers across the district.

Officials said paddy cultivation is expected to cover nearly five lakh acres in the district, with an estimated requirement of around 1.25 lakh quintals of seeds. Of this, the corporation has set a target to supply about 50,000 quintals. In addition to paddy, arrangements are being made to supply seeds for crops such as green gram, black gram, and red gram.

A review meeting was held at the Collectorate meeting hall in Nalgonda with seed dealers and representatives of cooperative societies. The meeting was attended by Seeds Development Corporation Chairman Anvesh Reddy, who issued key directions to ensure smooth implementation of the plan.

He stated that strict measures are being taken at every stage—from production to certification—to ensure farmers receive high-quality seeds. Only seeds that have passed tests in modern laboratories are being released into the

market, he added.

The chairman also informed that sufficient stock of both fine and coarse varieties of paddy seeds has been maintained, keeping in view market demand. He warned dealers to sell only government-approved seeds, stating that violations of norms would invite strict action.

Emphasising the need to protect farmers, Anvesh Reddy said reducing dependence on private seeds is a shared responsibility. He urged cooperative societies to play a proactive role in distributing all types of seeds. He also pointed out that the focus should not be limited only to subsidised seeds, and that non-subsidised seeds must also be made available to farmers based on demand.

Officials said plans are in place to ensure timely supply of green manure seeds required for the season. The chairman noted that the upcoming seed legislation would help curb the sale of spurious seeds and provide better protection to both farmers and genuine dealers.

Agriculture department officials, corporation staff, seed dealers, and representatives of cooperative societies participated in the meeting.

SBI Fraud Busted

Devarakonda, April 21 | TPN Bureau

In a major breakthrough, the Nalgonda district police have busted a large-scale financial fraud at the State Bank of India (SBI) – Agricultural Commercial Branch (ACB) in Devarakonda and arrested four accused persons. The police recovered cash worth 2.42 crore along with six smartphones and a laptop.

According to District Superintendent of Police Sharath Chandra Pawar, IPS, the fraud came to light following a complaint lodged on April 13 by SBI-ACB Branch Manager Phanindra Neelakantha Venkata Raghavapudi. The complaint stated that a contract housekeeping employee, Len-

dala Chakrapani, had misused inactive bank accounts and fraudulently transferred 2.65 crore by manipulating the KYC update process.

Based on the complaint, a case was registered under relevant sections of the BNS Act-2023 and IT Act-2008, and a detailed investigation was launched. Special teams were formed under the supervision of Devarakonda DSP M.V. Srinivasa Rao and led by Inspector P. Venkat Reddy.

Police said Chakrapani, who had been working at the bank for five years, gained knowledge of internal systems by assisting staff with computer work. He later conspired with SBI Manager Putta Venkata Ramanjaneyulu of Suryapet branch. Using his access to the Management Information Sys-



tem (MIS), Ramanjaneyulu identified 10 inactive accounts with substantial balances.

The accused allegedly created fake Aadhaar and PAN

cards using stolen customer data and updated mobile numbers linked to those accounts. They then generated new user credentials through the YONO

From the Track to Parliament: Why Women Must Lead India’s Future

I have spent my life running—first on mud tracks in Kerala, then on the world stage, and now in the corridors of public life. At every step, I have encountered barriers, some visible and many unspoken, that told women they did not belong. I have also seen what happens when those barriers begin to fall. Opportunity changes outcomes—and, more importantly, it changes belief.

That is why the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2023—the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam—is not merely a legislative milestone. It is a long-overdue structural correction. Reserving one-third of seats in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies for women is neither a concession nor tokenism. It is a necessary step towards a more representative and effective democracy.

What Sport Has Already Shown Us

When I competed at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics and missed a medal by a fraction of a second, there were very few Indian girls who could see themselves reflected on a global stage. Over the decades, that has changed. As access to training, infrastructure, and recognition improved, Indian women rose to international prominence.

Athletes like P. V. Sindhu, Mirabai Chenu, Vinesh Phogat and Mary Kom did not emerge in isolation. They are the result of a system that, however gradually, began to widen access. Representation creates aspiration—and aspiration, when supported, delivers achievement.

The lesson is clear. When women are given a place, they do not just participate—they excel.

Better Governance for

Every Indian

India has already seen the impact of women’s leadership at the grassroots. Since the 73rd Constitutional Amendment introduced reservations for women in Panchayati Raj institutions, multiple studies across states have shown improvements in access to drinking water, sanitation, education, and primary healthcare in areas led by women representatives.

These are not “women’s issues”; they are national priorities. Women leaders often bring focus to everyday governance challenges that directly affect families and communities—safe public spaces, functioning schools, nutrition, and health services.

Scaling this representation to State Assemblies and Parliament is not simply about fairness. It is about improving the quality of governance itself.

The Economic Case for Representation

India’s female labour force participation remains among the lowest in the world, hovering around 25 per cent. This is not just a social concern—it is an economic constraint.

Greater representation of women in legislatures can help prioritise policies that unlock this untapped potential: affordable childcare, safer workplaces, access to credit, and support for women entrepreneurs. The McKinsey Global Institute has estimated that advancing gender equality could add as much as \$700 billion to India’s GDP.

A more inclusive Parliament is not only a democratic necessity; it is an economic imperative.

Safety, Dignity, and Participation



For millions of women across India, participation in public life is still shaped by concerns of safety, discrimination, and unequal access. Whether in sports, education, or the workplace, these barriers remain deeply embedded.

More women in Parliament means laws and policies shaped not by distant understanding, but by lived reality. It means stronger advocacy for enforcement, better allocation of resources for support systems, and a justice framework that is responsive

and accessible.

Governance becomes more effective when it reflects the experiences of those it serves.

Representation and the Power of Aspiration

The image of power in India has long been predominantly male. Changing that

image is not symbolic—it is transformative.

When a young girl from Manipur, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, or any part of India sees a woman who looks like her, speaks like her, and comes from a similar background shaping the nation’s laws, it

does more than inspire. It reshapes what she believes is possible.

Aspiration is the engine of social change. Reservation in legislatures does not lower standards; it widens the field of opportunity.

India’s women have already broken barriers—in sports arenas, in the armed forces, in aviation, and in boardrooms. Legislative representation is the natural next step in that journey.

The Time to Act Is Now

Having had the honour of serving in the Rajya Sabha, I have seen firsthand how diverse perspectives strengthen debate and decision-making. Yet, women today hold only about 15 per cent of seats in the Lok Sabha—well below the global average.

The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam has been passed. What remains is the political will to implement it fully, faithfully, and without delay.

India cannot aspire to become a developed nation while leaving half its population underrepresented in its highest decision-making bodies. A Viksit Bharat cannot be built by sidelining half its talent, nor can a true democracy thrive on half its voice.

The path ahead is clear: The question is whether we have the resolve to walk it.



Dr PT Usha

Vastu Plays a Key Role in Connecting Nature

The term vastu has been in prominence since the times unknown. It has been a predominant factor in the life of human being directly or indirectly and knowingly or unknowingly. Though many think that their study has superstitious factor in it, people who experience its results and observe it are of the opinion that it is scientific, technical and teachable. It can be simply defined as the science of dimensions, directions and measurements. In fact it can be seen anywhere and everywhere in the universe!

The creation, whether we believe it to be divine or physical in its origin does follow a certain dimensions, size and shape. Here we need to recognize the fact that nature is the first GURU to everyone. We learn everything from nature. Just if we turn to the time when there were no constructions and civilization, we come to know of the fact that the ancient man had observed a uniformity and co-ordination in the natural structures created by the almighty. Hence he started building shelters at least following some or other natural structure that would benefit his residence so, it is nothing but the skill of engineering that brought in time the durability and permanency to the construction anyway.

It is the art of planning the flow of water, air, etc and the penetration of natural light (sun and moon) into our living place. Considering all these factor it may be right to accept the prominent role of vastu in all constructions. We know

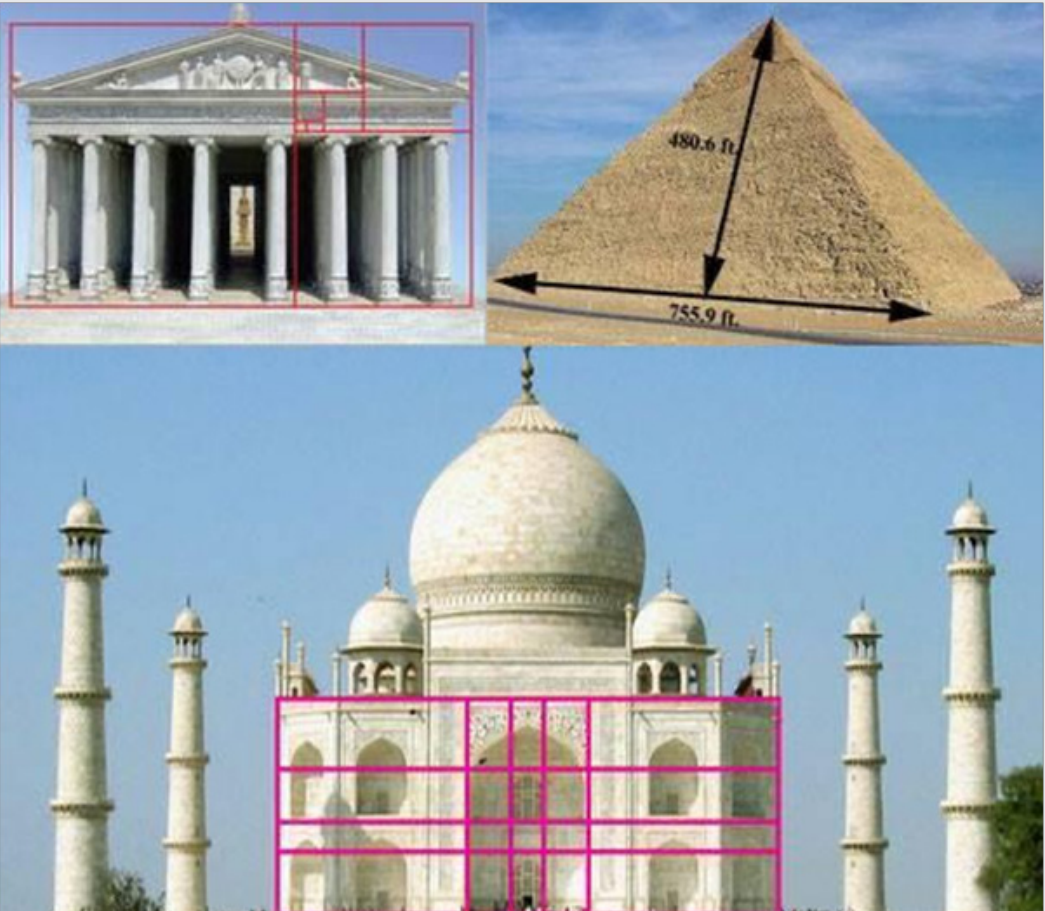
very well that a window that cannot be opened for the air and light is useless! It is just logical!

If we now turn our attention to natural creations like trees, flowers, leaves, fruits, nuts, etc, each follow a natural and particular ratio in their growth, size, shape and form (Ancient structural vastu is mainly based on these ratios). It reveals the fact that all things in nature have their own Vaastu. So, it is to be now accepted that vastu had something to do in the lives of human beings either consciously or in the unconscious state.

Now, if we observe keenly all the natural flowers are very attractive, eye catching and beautiful to the possible extent. Why does it happen so? Because the creator had followed certain ratios in the size, shape and form irrespective of colours and smell. Let us have a brief thought about the concept of beauty. What and how do we define "Beauty"? Don't we agree that it is just perfection in shape and size? We are common to agree that the things of fine finishing appeal to the eye than of the other products.

Observe a Rose, Sunflower, etc., which are more beautiful than others? They invariably follow a common ratio of their form.

What is the common ratio that these natural structures follow? Isn't it the need of the hour to know of it? If we take the example of the apple in fruits it is said that : "an Apple



a day keeps the doctor away". If it is so, then what is the ratio that the design of an apple became famous and popularly like because they are natural! Then what about the popularity and world fame of some man made constructions!

Let us turn our attention to our own species, the human beings. We all accept that we are the wonderful species in the whole universe. Then what about the concept of beauty in our species?

Observation reveals that eve-

ry limb of human beings follow a uniform ratio in the formation. The arms, legs, fingers, hip, thighs, and what not? every part has its own beauty and a particularly generalised shape! A beautiful face is commonly liked by the maximum! then what is the underlying fact in its making? Don't we agree that beautiful faces become popular?

A woman's breast! heaps the greatest eye appeal than anything else, though it was always kept hidden! A mother's

milk has the greatest nutritional value than any other feed in the whole world could bring about. Why? may be because of the mother's breast healthy shape has golden ratio that's the reason mother's milk became more precious and nutritional values. And hence the child is kept healthy thought his life facing and overcoming health hazards.

WHAT IS GOLDEN RATIO?

Ancient people and civilisations constructed their construction basing on above fac-

tors. if we observe these above factor has proportionate ratio, which plays vital role in the structural vastu, which is termed as **GOLDEN RATIO**!

The world famous constructions, like Pyramids in Giza, the Taj Mahal, famous Temples, Masjids, Churches, etc. so on, they have been in fame not just because of being historical or big! It is to be observed that they are constructed in this ratio. It is a physical, Mathematical, Architectural theorem derived by "Fibonacci pie" popularly considered the Golden Ratio.

The Lord Venkateswara Swamy Temple is built according to the Vaikhanasa Agama and Vaastu Shastra, which use mathematical proportions like the Golden Ratio to create aesthetic and spiritual harmony. These ancient Indian principles, known as Shilpa Shastras, govern everything from the height of the tower to the width of the sanctum.

The Ratio 1: 1.618 is the measuring golden ratio in construction. Hence structures constructed in this ratio have become popular. If we observe the painting of "Mona Lisa" by Da Vinci reveals the same fact. This measurement can be called the perfect rectangle... If we observed that the cross of Jesus Christ, why has this become so popular? The secret behind the structure is **GOLDEN RATIO**.

Let us observe the logos that became famous and branded like "Apple", "Toyota", "Honda", National Geography" and the like follow the same structural measurements.

The most important ruling

factor in the life of man has been the money and wealth. Is our currency notes made in this golden ratio? is the question of the time, why is the economic system fluctuating and facing crisis? It might be understood that our country's currency is not as per the golden ratio. In fact no county currency is not even close to this ratio, it might be the assumed reason for the economic and financial inflation.

Using proportions similar to the golden ratio in home design can enhance the feeling of comfort and stability. Rooms that are neither too long nor too narrow tend to feel more inviting. Similarly, proper placement of furniture and open spaces can improve both functionality and the overall energy of a home, which is a key goal in Vastu practices.

However, the golden ratio is more than just a mathematical concept—it is a universal principle of harmony that influences both nature and human design. When applied thoughtfully alongside Vastu principles, it can help create environments that are not only beautiful but also peaceful and balanced for everyday living.



Mudunuri Ramakrishna Raju
Vaastu Consultant

‘International Waters Not a Refuge’: US Intercepts Tanker in Indo-Pacific

The United States has said that international waters will not serve as a safe haven for sanctioned vessels after American forces intercepted a tanker in the Indo-Pacific region. The operation involved boarding a ship suspected of violating sanctions linked to Iran, highlighting Washington's expanding maritime enforcement efforts.

According to US officials, the tanker was identified as a “stateless” vessel, allowing authorities to board it under international maritime law. The operation was carried out without confrontation, and the boarding was de-

scribed as part of routine enforcement against illicit maritime activities.

The vessel was reportedly operating in the Indian Ocean region, along key shipping routes connecting South Asia and Southeast Asia. US authorities suspected the tanker of being linked to Iranian oil shipments, prompting the interception. Officials emphasised that ships attempting to bypass sanctions would be tracked and stopped even in international waters.

US military personnel conducted what was described as a “right-of-visit maritime interdiction,” a

procedure permitted when vessels lack proper national registration. By invoking this legal provision, the United States signalled its willingness to enforce sanctions beyond territorial waters.

The move forms part of Washington's broader strategy to disrupt illicit shipping networks and prevent sanctioned oil trade. The United States has stepped up maritime surveillance in recent years, particularly targeting vessels suspected of transporting Iranian oil or engaging in activities that violate international sanctions.

The development

comes amid ongoing geopolitical tensions involving Iran and heightened focus on global energy supply routes. The Indo-Pacific region remains one of the world's busiest maritime corridors, making enforcement actions there particularly significant.

Analysts say such operations reflect the growing importance of maritime enforcement in geopolitical strategy. Intercepting vessels in international waters demonstrates a more assertive approach aimed at deterring sanction evasion and strengthening oversight of global shipping lanes.

The incident is also expected to raise discussions around maritime law and the limits of enforcement authority in international waters. However, US officials reiterated that ships lacking proper registration cannot claim protection under international maritime norms.

The operation sends a clear message that vessels attempting to evade sanctions may face interception regardless of location, reinforcing Washington's stance that international waters will not provide refuge for illicit shipping activities.



Iranian Tanker Slips Past US Blockade Amid Rising Tensions

An Iranian tanker named Silly City reportedly slipped past a US naval blockade and entered Iranian waters despite warnings, marking a fresh development in the ongoing tensions between Washington and Tehran. The incident comes as diplomatic efforts continue amid heightened military and geopolitical strain in the region.



According to reports, the tanker managed to bypass the US-enforced blockade aimed at restricting Iranian oil shipments. The vessel's successful passage highlights the challenges faced by US forces in monitoring maritime traffic and enforcing restrictions in busy international shipping routes. The development comes at a time when tensions between the United States and Iran remain elevated. US officials have maintained that the blockade is part of broader efforts to curb Iranian oil exports and increase pressure on Tehran. Despite these measures, the tanker's movement indicates that Iran continues to test restrictions and maintain its shipping operations.

the region, making any disruptions or confrontations a major concern for global markets and trade. Meanwhile, US leadership has reiterated that enforcement measures will continue and warned of potential escalation if diplomatic progress is not achieved. The situation remains fluid, with both sides maintaining firm positions while negotiations remain uncertain.

ity of maritime monitoring in international waters.

Analysts note that incidents involving oil tankers often carry broader geopolitical implications, particularly when they occur in sensitive shipping corridors. Such developments can influence energy markets, investor sentiment, and diplomatic relations.

As tensions persist, global markets and policymakers are closely watching developments in the region. The movement of the Silly City tanker adds another layer of uncertainty, with further actions by either side likely to shape the trajectory of the situation in the coming days.

ton's willingness to engage at the highest level to secure a diplomatic resolution.

Pakistan has emerged as a key mediator in the conflict, hosting negotiations aimed at ending hostilities and restoring stability in the region. Islamabad's involvement reflects its diplomatic ties with both countries and its efforts to facilitate dialogue during heightened tensions.

The talks come amid ongoing uncertainty surrounding the fragile ceasefire between the United States and Iran. Both sides have continued to exchange warnings, while diplomatic efforts have intensified to prevent further escalation. Recent developments, including maritime tensions and disagreements over sanctions, have added urgency to negotiations.

Earlier, Trump had indicated that progress toward a deal was possible and suggested he might travel to Pakistan if an agreement is finalised. His potential participation in the talks is seen as a sign that negotiations may be entering a critical phase.

Meanwhile, officials from both sides are expected to discuss key issues, including security concerns, sanctions, and broader regional stability. The outcome of the talks could influence geopolitical dynamics and global energy markets, given the strategic importance of the region.

As preparations continue, global observers are closely monitoring developments. Trump's possible attendance — whether in person or virtually — underscores the significance of the talks and the urgency to reach a diplomatic solution.

Trump May Attend US-Iran Peace Talks in Pakistan, In Person or Virtually

US President Donald Trump may attend upcoming peace talks between the United States and Iran in Pakistan either in person or virtually, according to reports citing diplomatic sources. The discussions are expected to take place in Islamabad as efforts intensify to ease tensions between the two countries.



According to the report, the talks are progressing as scheduled and could take place as early as Wednesday. A Pakistani source indicated that preparations are underway, and negotiations are moving forward, raising hopes for a potential breakthrough in the ongoing conflict.

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Iran Sends ‘Pride and Prejudice’-Style Message to Trump Ahead of Peace Talks

Iran delivered a pointed and unusual diplomatic message to US President Donald Trump ahead of possible peace talks, using a literary reference from Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice to signal its stance on negotiations. The message came amid rising tensions and uncertainty over whether talks between Washington and Tehran would move forward.



Iran's ambassador to Pakistan, Reza Amiri Moghadam, echoed the famous opening line from the classic novel in a social media post, suggesting that a nation with a rich civilisation would not negotiate under threats or pressure. The remark was widely interpreted as a direct response to recent US warnings and mounting pressure ahead of potential negotiations.

and ideological principles. The statement highlighted Tehran's position that diplomacy should be based on mutual respect rather than force or intimidation.

The development comes amid uncertainty over Iran's participation in talks reportedly being planned in Pakistan. While there have been signals that negotiations could take place, both sides have continued to send mixed messages,

es, leaving the outcome unclear.

sion to the diplomatic exchange. By invoking Pride and Prejudice, Tehran appeared to stress the importance of dignity, respect, and balanced dialogue in any potential talks. The message also suggested that Iran would resist attempts to impose terms through pressure. Analysts say such public messaging often reflects cautious diplomacy, where countries communicate their positions indirectly while keeping the door open for negotiations. The move also underscores the delicate nature of the ongoing diplomatic efforts. As preparations for possible talks continue, Iran's message signals that while dialogue remains possible, Tehran is unlikely to engage unless negotiations take place on equal footing. The coming days are expected to be crucial in determining whether diplomatic efforts gain momentum or tensions continue to rise.

Tensions between the United States and Iran have remained high in recent weeks, with disagreements over sanctions, security concerns, and regional influence. The possibility of negotiations has raised hopes for de-escalation, but both countries continue to maintain firm positions.

Iran's use of a literary reference added a symbolic dimension

Xi Urges Reopening of Strait of Hormuz in Rare Call With Saudi Crown Prince

Chinese President Xi Jinping has called for the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and an immediate ceasefire in the Middle East during a rare phone conversation with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. The call comes amid escalating tensions in the region and growing concerns over disruptions to global energy supplies.



During the conversation, Xi stressed that the Strait of Hormuz should remain open for normal transit, describing it as being in the common interest of regional countries and the wider international community. The strategic waterway, which connects the Persian Gulf to global markets, remains at the centre of geopolitical tensions, with a US naval blockade and restrictions on shipping affecting movement through the route.

increasing diplomatic engagement in the region, particularly as tensions between the United States and Iran continue to affect global energy markets and regional stability.

tries should work together to shape their future independently and maintain long-term peace. The call aligns with China's broader diplomatic strategy of positioning itself as a mediator and advocate for stability in the Middle East.

The development comes after a turbulent period marked by shipping restrictions, military tensions, and uncertainty over peace talks between the United States and Iran. As diplomatic efforts intensify, Xi's intervention highlights growing international pressure to restore normal shipping operations and reduce the risk of further escalation.

described the move as provocative and accused the United States of escalating tensions.

Nikki Haley alleged that the vessel may have been transporting chemicals that could be used in missile production. She suggested the shipment could indicate growing

cooperation between China and Iran in sensitive military-related areas. However, the claims have not been officially confirmed, and authorities have not released detailed information about the cargo.

The interception took place near the Strait of

Hormuz, one of the world's most critical shipping routes for oil and energy supplies. Any disruption in this region is closely watched by global markets, given its importance to international trade and energy security. Iran strongly criticised the seizure and warned that such actions could undermine diplomatic efforts. Tehran indicated that continued maritime enforcement and blockades could complicate ongoing discussions aimed at reducing tensions between the two countries. The incident also adds complexity to potential peace talks between Washington and Tehran. Iran has suggested

ed that enforcement actions at sea could impact its willingness to engage in negotiations, raising concerns about the future of diplomatic efforts. Analysts say the situation reflects growing geopolitical friction involving the United States, Iran, and China. If confirmed, the alleged shipment could heighten concerns about missile development and deepen tensions in an already volatile region.

As the situation develops, global observers are closely monitoring the outcome of the seizure and its potential impact on diplomatic relations, regional stability, and global energy markets

Sensex Jumps 750 Points, Nifty Ends Above 24,550 on Optimism Over US-Iran Talks

Indian equity markets extended their rally for the third consecutive session on Tuesday, with benchmark indices closing significantly higher amid optimism surrounding renewed US-Iran negotiations. Positive global cues, easing geopolitical concerns, and broad-based buying across sectors boosted investor sentiment and pushed markets higher.

The BSE Sensex surged 753 points, or nearly 1 percent, to close at 79,273.33, while the Nifty 50 gained 211 points to settle at 24,576.60, comfortably

above the crucial 24,550 level. The rally reflected strong investor confidence and participation across sectors, suggesting improved risk appetite in the market. Sector-wise, all major indices ended in the green. FMCG and realty stocks led the gains, each advancing around 2 percent. Banking, telecom, and auto stocks also contributed to the upward movement, rising about 1 percent each. The broad-based rally indicated that investors were actively accumulating stocks across sectors rather than focusing on a few heavyweight counters. Market breadth re-

mained positive, with more than 140 stocks hitting their 52-week highs during the session. Mid-cap and small-cap stocks also witnessed strong buying interest, further strengthening overall market sentiment. Among individual stocks, PNB Housing Finance emerged as a top gainer, climbing around 8 percent and leading the pack.

Investor sentiment improved after reports suggested a second round of talks between the United States and Iran, raising hopes of easing geopolitical tensions. Such developments often reduce

global market volatility and support equity markets, particularly in emerging economies like India. Additionally, expectations of stable crude oil prices supported the rally. Lower oil prices are beneficial for India, which depends heavily on imports, as they help ease inflation concerns and support economic growth. Positive global cues and steady foreign investor participation also contributed to the bullish momentum.

From a technical perspective, analysts believe the Nifty continues to show strength after sustaining above key resistance levels.

Holding above 24,500 may pave the way for further upside in the near term, while immediate support is expected at lower levels. Market experts also noted that dips could attract buying interest as overall sentiment remains positive. Overall, the strong market performance highlights improving investor confidence driven by favorable global developments and easing geopolitical concerns. While volatility may persist due to evolving international events, analysts expect the bullish trend to continue if supportive cues remain in place.



Nvidia Supplier Victory Giant Set for Market Debut After Hong Kong's Biggest IPO This Year

Victory Giant Technology, a key supplier to Nvidia, is set to debut in Hong Kong following the city's largest initial public offering (IPO) this year, highlighting strong investor appetite for artificial intelligence-linked companies. The Chinese printed circuit board (PCB) manufacturer raised significant funds through the listing, reflecting growing interest in firms connected to the global AI boom.

The company, already listed in Shenzhen, manufactures high-end printed circuit boards used in AI servers, data centres, and advanced electronics. With rising demand for artificial intelligence infrastructure, Victory Giant has positioned itself as an important player in the global technology supply chain. Its association with Nvidia, a major beneficiary of AI growth, has further strengthened investor confidence in the company's prospects.

Investor demand for the IPO remained robust, with strong participation from institutional investors as well as retail buyers. The offering attracted cornerstone investors and saw healthy subscription levels, signalling continued enthusiasm for technology-focused listings in Hong Kong. The successful fundraising also indicates improving sentiment in the city's IPO market, which has seen mixed activity in recent months.

Victory Giant has reported

strong growth in recent years, driven by increasing demand for AI hardware and high-performance computing components. As artificial intelligence applications expand across industries, companies involved in the manufacturing of critical components such as printed circuit boards are expected to benefit from sustained demand.

The company plans to utilise the IPO proceeds to expand production capacity, invest in research and development, and strengthen its global footprint. These initiatives are expected to support long-term growth and help the firm capitalise on rising demand for AI infrastructure.

The listing also underscores the broader trend of investors gravitating toward AI-linked companies, which have gained significant attention amid rapid technological advancements. With demand for data centres, cloud computing, and AI processing power increasing, suppliers like Victory Giant are likely to remain in focus.

Market participants will closely watch the company's debut performance, as a strong listing could boost sentiment for upcoming technology IPOs in Hong Kong. The successful offering also reflects growing confidence in AI-related businesses, which continue to attract capital despite global market uncertainties.

Tim Cook and the Power of Sticking to What You Do Best

Apple CEO Tim Cook's decision to step down marks the end of an era defined less by disruptive innovation and more by disciplined execution and consistent growth. While Cook did not introduce revolutionary products like his predecessor Steve Jobs, he transformed Apple into the world's most valuable company by focusing on refining existing products, strengthening services, and improving operational efficiency. His tenure highlights a key business lesson — companies don't always need breakthrough innovations to succeed; they can achieve exceptional results by doing what they already do best.

Under Cook's leadership, Apple improved its existing product lineup, strengthened customer experience, and built manufacturing excellence. Though Apple experimented with new categories such as a car and a headset, its biggest success came from steadily enhancing core products like the iPhone and expanding its services ecosystem. Even without

leading technological breakthroughs, Apple successfully integrated emerging technologies into its offerings and maintained its dominance in the premium smartphone market.

Cook's approach also had global implications. India, for instance, benefited from Apple's expanding manufacturing strategy, particularly as geopolitical tensions encouraged diversification of supply chains. The growth of Apple's ecosystem contributed to the development of India's electronics manufacturing services industry, reinforcing the broader economic impact of Cook's leadership.

This strategy of focusing on strengths is not unique to Apple. Several companies have achieved success by refining their core competencies rather than chasing new opportunities. Eli Lilly, for example, became the world's most valuable drug maker by delivering a more effective weight-loss drug, even though it wasn't the first to enter the market. Similarly, Mahindra & Mahindra

concentrated on utility vehicles instead of diversifying into small cars, which helped the company achieve strong commercial success.

Other Indian companies have followed similar paths. TVS Motor captured significant market share in gearless scooters despite not pioneering the segment, while Tata Motors scaled up electric vehicles after consumer demand grew. IndiGo created shareholder value in the competitive aviation industry through cost discipline and operational efficiency. Companies like Groww, Max Healthcare, and HDFC Bank also delivered strong results by focusing on execution and customer relevance rather than being first movers. The broader takeaway from Tim Cook's leadership is clear: innovation is important, but execution often matters more. Businesses that understand their strengths, refine their offerings, and remain disciplined in strategy can create long-term value — even without being the first to innovate.



Aurobindo Pharma's 800 Crore Buyback Offer to Open on April 23

Aurobindo Pharma Ltd has announced that its 800 crore share buyback offer will open on April 23 and close on April 29, according to a regulatory filing released on April 21. The buyback will be conducted through the tender offer route, allowing eligible shareholders to tender their shares within the specified period.

The pharmaceutical company had earlier approved the buyback earlier this month. Under the plan, Aurobindo Pharma will repurchase up to 54,23,728 fully paid-up equity shares with a face value of 1 each at a price of 1,475 per share. The total buyback size will not exceed 800 crore, representing a small portion of the company's total outstanding equity.

The company has fixed April 17 as the record date to determine shareholder eligibility. Investors whose names appeared on the company's register as of this date will be eligible to participate in the buyback. Eligible shareholders can tender their shares during the buyback window based on entitlement and acceptance ratio.

The buyback will be executed on a proportionate basis through the tender offer mechanism. This route allows participation from all eligible shareholders, including promoters and promoter group entities, in compliance with regulatory norms. Typically, such

buybacks are viewed as a way for companies to return surplus cash to shareholders and signal confidence in their financial position.

The buyback price of 1,475 per share reflects a premium over the prevailing market price at the time of the announcement. Premium pricing often encourages shareholder participation and supports the stock price in the near term. Additionally, share buybacks reduce the number of outstanding shares, which may improve earnings per share and enhance shareholder value.

Aurobindo Pharma's decision comes amid steady business performance and strong cash flows. The company's move to return capital to shareholders is expected to boost investor sentiment and keep the stock in focus during the buyback period.

Market participants will closely monitor the acceptance ratio and overall participation levels, which will determine the final impact of the buyback. Analysts believe such corporate actions generally support stock performance, especially when backed by solid financial fundamentals.

With the buyback window opening on April 23, investors now await further developments as Aurobindo Pharma prepares to execute the 800 crore share repurchase plan.

Fidelity Securities Fund Buys 309 Crore Stake in Onesource Specialty Pharma

Fidelity Securities Fund has purchased shares worth 309 crore in Onesource Specialty Pharma through a bulk deal, signalling strong institutional interest in the pharmaceutical contract manufacturing company. The transaction took place on April 21 and involved the acquisition of a significant minority stake. According to bulk deal data, Fidelity Securities Fund, through its Fidelity Blue Chip Growth Fund, bought 20.17 lakh shares at an average price of 1,530 per share. The total deal value stood at ap-

proximately 308.7 crore, translating into a 1.76 percent stake in Onesource Specialty Pharma.

On the selling side, Authum Investment & Infrastructure and Nova Global Opportunities Fund PCC — Touchstone trimmed their holdings in the company. Authum Investment sold 7.77 lakh shares, representing a 0.67 percent stake, while Nova Global Opportunities Fund offloaded 10.57 lakh shares, equivalent to a 0.92 percent stake. The combined value of these transactions accounted

for the bulk of the shares acquired by Fidelity.

Following the bulk deal, Onesource Specialty Pharma shares ended marginally higher amid increased trading volumes. The stock gained around 0.7 percent to close near 1,560 on the National Stock Exchange. During the session, the stock recovered from intraday lows and continued to trade above key short-term moving averages, indicating sustained investor interest.

As per the latest available shareholding pattern, Authum Investment

& Infrastructure held a notable stake in the company prior to the transaction. The latest sale suggests portfolio reshuffling among institutional investors, while Fidelity's purchase reflects confidence in the company's growth outlook.

Onesource Specialty Pharma operates as a contract development and manufacturing organisation (CDMO), catering to pharmaceutical companies across global markets. The CDMO segment has gained traction in recent years as drug-makers increasingly out-

source manufacturing and development activities to specialised partners.

The investment by a global fund such as Fidelity is generally viewed as a positive signal by market participants. It often indicates confidence in the company's business model, earnings potential, and long-term growth prospects.

The stock is likely to remain in focus in the coming sessions as investors assess the impact of the bulk deal and monitor further institutional activity in the company.



Kindergarten Fees Hit 2.72 Lakh, Triggering Debate on Rising Education Costs

A recent report highlighted by NDTV has ignited widespread discussion after revealing that a kindergarten's annual fee has reached a staggering 2.72 lakh. The figure, which many parents found shocking, has once again drawn attention to the rapidly escalating cost of early education in urban India.

The debate began when details of the fee structure surfaced online, quickly going viral across social media platforms. Many users expressed disbelief that schooling at such an early stage—traditionally seen as

foundational and relatively affordable—has become so expensive. For several families, especially those in the middle-income bracket, such costs appear increasingly out of reach.

Critics argue that education, particularly at the kindergarten level, should not carry such a heavy financial burden. They point out that early childhood learning primarily focuses on basic social, emotional, and cognitive development rather than rigorous academics. As a result, many question whether such high fees are justified, or if they reflect a

growing commercialization of education.

On the other hand, some parents and educators defended the pricing, citing factors like modern infrastructure, international curricula, advanced teaching methods, and extracurricular offerings. Premium schools often provide facilities such as smart classrooms, low student-teacher ratios, and specialized programs that contribute to higher operational costs. Supporters claim that these features can enhance the overall learning experience, even at an early age.

However, the broader concern remains the widening gap in access to quality education. As elite institutions continue to raise fees, affordability becomes a significant issue, potentially limiting opportunities for many children. Several commentators noted that this trend could deepen educational inequality, making quality schooling a privilege rather than a basic right.

The conversation also touched on the lack of regulation in private school fee structures. While some states have introduced guidelines, enforcement remains

inconsistent, allowing institutions considerable freedom in setting prices. Parents are increasingly calling for greater transparency and oversight to ensure that fees remain reasonable and aligned with the services provided.

Ultimately, the 2.72 lakh kindergarten fee has become a symbol of a larger issue: the rising cost of education and its impact on families. As the debate continues, it raises important questions about affordability, accessibility, and the true value of early education in today's society.



China's 'Superdad' Adopts Nearly 300 Children, Takes Loans To Secure Their Future

A physical education teacher in China has earned widespread admiration after dedicating nearly three decades to raising hundreds of abandoned and underprivileged children. Bai Jian, a 52-year-old teacher from Liaoning province, has taken in nearly 300 children since 1995, helping many of them build stable and successful lives.

Bai's journey began when he noticed one of his students frequently skipping classes and taking food from classmates. Concerned, he later discovered that the boy had been abandoned and was struggling to survive. Moved by the child's situation, Bai invited him to stay in his dormitory. The boy eventually began calling him "dad," a moment that deeply impacted Bai and inspired him to help more children in need.

Over time, Bai's efforts expanded into what he calls "Dream Home," a rented residence where 20 to 30 children live at any given time. Since its establishment, more than 270 children have lived under his care. Most of them were orphans or came from difficult family backgrounds, and Bai took responsibility for their education, daily needs, and emotional support.

Supporting such a large family brought significant financial challenges. Bai relied primarily on his modest teaching

salary and often took loans to manage expenses. He also worked additional jobs to cover costs. His mother and two sisters played a crucial role in helping him care for the children, ensuring they received proper attention and guidance.

Recognizing his limited resources, Bai encouraged the children to pursue sports as a path to opportunity. He introduced a strict daily routine, waking them at 4:30 a.m. for long-distance runs, regardless of weather conditions. Bai believes sports help build discipline, resilience, and determination—qualities essential for overcoming adversity.

His efforts have delivered remarkable results. More than 100 of his adopted children have gone on to earn university degrees, while around 50 achieved China's top Level 1 athlete ranking. Others have built careers as professional athletes, teachers, soldiers, and public servants. Over the years, the children have collectively won nearly 1,300 medals, proudly displayed at Dream Home.

Through his dedication, sacrifices, and unwavering commitment, Bai Jian has transformed the lives of hundreds of children, giving them not only shelter and education but also hope for a brighter future.

Startup Founder Fires Developer, Claims AI Did Work Faster, Sparks Online Backlash

A startup founder has triggered a heated debate online after revealing that he fired a developer within weeks of hiring him and replaced much of the work using artificial intelligence. The story gained widespread attention after the founder shared his experience in a LinkedIn post, which quickly went viral and drew mixed reactions from professionals across the tech industry. The founder, Jeevanth Ramamurthy, explained that he had hired a developer with around two years of experience to help build his company's product. However, after a few weeks, he grew concerned about the pace of development. According to him, progress seemed slow, and he felt the developer wasn't delivering as expected. Since the startup was bootstrapped and funded using his own money, he said he needed faster execution and tangible results.

Frustrated with the situation, Ramamurthy decided to experiment with an AI-powered coding tool. Despite not having a technical background, he claimed he was able to rebuild a large portion of the product within four days using AI. The experience led him to question the developer's productivity and contribution to the project. Following this, the founder reportedly challenged the developer to match at least half of his speed and adapt to the newly created AI-generated codebase. However, the conversation did not go smoothly. The developer later asked for clarity about his role moving forward, expressing uncertainty about expectations and responsibilities. Soon after, the situation escalated. According to screenshots shared by the founder, the developer indicated he would not continue working under the circumstances. Ramamurthy then confirmed that the developer had been let go. He also mentioned that he suspected the

developer might have been working on other projects simultaneously and intentionally slowing progress. As a bootstrapped founder, he emphasized that he could not afford to pay someone who was not meeting expectations. The post quickly sparked backlash online. Many users criticized the founder's decision and questioned his leadership approach. Some pointed out that while AI can accelerate development, relying solely on it without considering long-term scalability, security, and maintenance could create problems later. Others argued that replacing developers with AI tools might lead to technical debt and unstable products. The incident has reignited discussions about the growing role of AI in software development, workplace expectations, and whether artificial intelligence can truly replace human developers, especially in early-stage startups.



50,000 Rent for 1BHK Sparks Outrage, Triggers Debate on 'Luxury' Housing in Gurugram

A viral post highlighted by NDTV has ignited a heated discussion on soaring rental prices in Gurugram, after a man criticised a 50,000 monthly rent for a one-bedroom apartment, calling it an example of "branding mediocrity as luxury."

The controversy began when a property listing for a 1BHK flat in Sector 43 surfaced online. The apartment was marketed as "ultra-luxury," despite offering fairly standard features such as a modular kitchen and a balcony. The pricing, however, caught the most attention, with rents reportedly ranging between 50,000 and 60,000 for similar units in the area.

Reacting to the listing, the user argued that such pricing reflects a growing trend where ordinary housing is being presented as premium to justify inflated costs. He described the situation as "crazy high" and went on to say that calling basic amenities luxurious is "straight up delusion."

The post quickly gained traction, with many social media users echoing similar concerns about the real estate market in Gurugram. Several pointed out that landlords and brokers may be deliberately pushing boundaries to see how much tenants are willing to pay. According to the viral commentary, the cycle continues because people, despite complaints, still end up renting

these properties at high rates.

Others highlighted how the city, once known simply for being expensive, is now entering what they described as an "absurd" phase of pricing. The blending of high demand, limited supply, and aggressive marketing has created a situation where even modest accommodations are tagged with premium labels.

The issue also raises broader concerns about affordability and transparency in urban housing markets. Critics argue that exaggerated branding misleads tenants and contributes to unrealistic price expectations. For working professionals and young migrants moving to cities like Gurugram, such rental costs can take up a significant portion of their income, making it harder to save or maintain a comfortable lifestyle.

At the same time, some observers note that rising rents are partly driven by demand in prime locations and the city's status as a corporate hub. However, the debate continues over whether these factors justify the steep increase in prices for relatively basic living spaces.

Ultimately, the viral post has struck a chord because it reflects a larger frustration among urban renters. As housing costs continue to climb, many are questioning not just the prices themselves, but the narratives used to justify them.

Woman Tries 100 Shopping Challenge In London, Ends Up Buying Just One Item

A woman's simple shopping experiment in London has gone viral after she tried to see what she could buy with just 100. The video, shared on Instagram, quickly caught attention online, highlighting the stark difference in purchasing power between India and one of the world's most expensive cities.

The video begins with the woman holding a 100 note and asking how far that amount would go in London. She then walks into a supermarket on a busy street, hoping she might be able to buy something basic. Initially optimistic, she says that 100 should at least be enough for a simple snack like a cheese and onion sandwich. However, her ex-

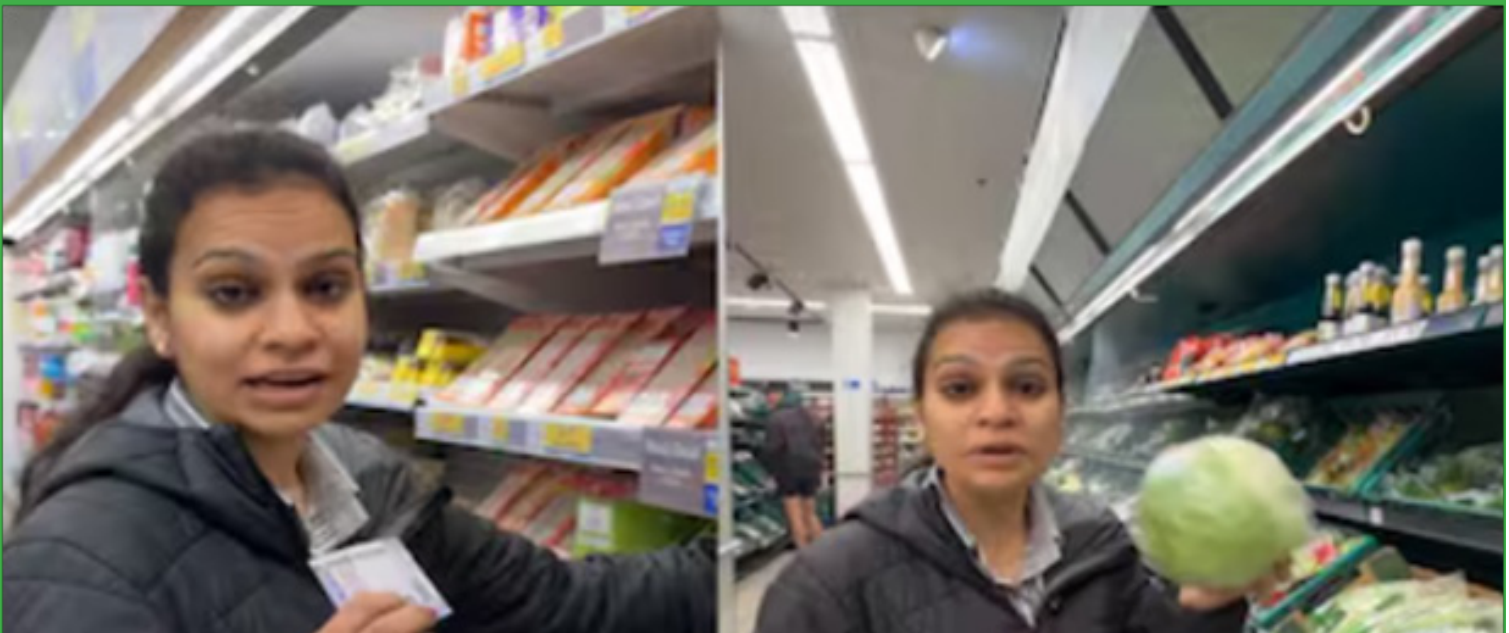
pectations are quickly challenged when she sees the sandwich priced at £1.50, which exceeds her budget.

Determined to find something affordable, she continues browsing the store. She then checks the price of a 500 ml bottle of water, hoping it would fit within her budget. But she is surprised to find it priced at £1.15, roughly 143, making it too expensive for her 100 challenge. She also looks at other items, including a cabbage priced at £0.89 and a packet of Oreos costing £1.65, both of which were beyond her limit. After searching through several aisles, she finally finds one item she can afford—a small packet of carrots priced at £0.60. Relieved, she

decides to purchase it, making it the only item she could buy with 100 in London.

The video quickly gained traction on social media, attracting millions of views and sparking conversations about the high cost of living abroad. Many viewers were surprised at how little 100 could buy in London, while others pointed out the stark difference in currency value and everyday expenses between countries.

The simple challenge offered a striking reminder of how far money can go in different parts of the world, with 100 buying very little in London compared to what it can typically purchase in India.





SRH Storm at Home

Sunrisers Hyderabad continued their dominant run in Indian Premier League 2026 with a comprehensive 47-run victory over Delhi Capitals at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium, registering a hat-trick of wins at home.

Riding on a sensational unbeaten century by opener Abhishek Sharma, the hosts produced a batting masterclass to overwhelm Delhi. The left-hander smashed a blistering 135 off 68 balls, studded with 10 fours and 10 sixes, dismantling the opposition bowling attack with ease. His knock ensured Hyderabad posted a daunting total of 242/2 in 20 overs.

After Delhi opted to field first, Hyderabad's innings began aggressively. Travis Head (37) provided a solid start, while Ishan Kishan (25) kept up the tempo in the middle overs. In the death overs, Heinrich Klaasen delivered a fiery cameo, hammering 37 off just 13 balls to push the total past the 240 mark.

Chasing a massive target, Delhi Capitals showed glimpses of resistance but failed to build sustained partnerships.



Nitish Rana top-scored with 57, while KL Rahul (37) and Sameer Rizvi (41) contributed useful runs. However, regular wickets derailed their chase, restricting them to 195/9 in 20 overs. Hyderabad's bowling unit delivered a clinical performance. Sri Lankan pacer Eshan Malinga starred with figures of 4/32, removing key batters including David Miller and Tristan Stubbs to break

the backbone of Delhi's batting. Young spinner Harsh Dubey impressed with his control and variations, picking up 3/12 in a decisive spell.

With this win, Sunrisers Hyderabad climbed to third place in the points table with four victories from seven matches. Their all-round performance, especially at home, has significantly boosted their playoff hopes.

MS Dhoni Resumes Wicketkeeping in CSK Training Ahead of 'El Clasico' Clash Against Mumbai Indians

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) received a major boost ahead of their high-profile IPL 2026 clash against Mumbai Indians, with MS Dhoni resuming wicketkeeping duties during a training session. The development has sparked speculation about the veteran's return for the much-anticipated 'El Clasico' encounter.

Dhoni, who had been sidelined due to fitness concerns earlier in the tournament, was seen actively participating in practice and keeping wickets, indicating that he is nearing match readiness. His presence behind the stumps is being viewed as a strong sign that the former India captain could feature in CSK's upcoming game against Mumbai Indians.

The five-time IPL champions have struggled to find consistency this season, with the team suffering multiple defeats in the early stages of the tournament.

Dhoni's potential return is expected to provide much-needed experience and leadership, especially in a high-pressure match against arch-rivals Mumbai Indians.

The CSK vs Mumbai Indians fixture is widely regarded as the 'El Clasico' of the Indian Premier League, given the intense rivalry and history between the two most successful franchises. With both teams boasting massive fan bases and a record of memorable encounters, Dhoni's possible comeback has further heightened anticipation around the contest.

Earlier, CSK management had indicated that Dhoni was working on regaining full fitness and confidence before returning to competitive action. His involvement in wicket-keeping drills suggests that he is progressing well and could soon be available for

selection.

Dhoni's experience, calm leadership, and finishing ability have been crucial for CSK over the years. Even in limited appearances, his presence often boosts team morale and provides tactical clarity during crunch moments.

Fans have reacted enthusiastically to visuals from the training session, with many hoping to see Dhoni back in action against Mumbai Indians. His return could also strengthen CSK's middle order and provide stability in crucial phases of the match.

With the much-awaited showdown approaching, all eyes will now be on the team announcement to see whether Dhoni makes his return in one of the biggest fixtures of IPL 2026.



R Ashwin Backs Priyansh Arya as 'Next Big Thing' Ahead of Young Stars Sooryavanshi and Mhatre

Former India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has identified Punjab Kings batter Priyansh Arya as the next big thing in Indian cricket, placing him ahead of promising youngsters Vaibhav Sooryavanshi and Ayush Mhatre following his impressive performances in IPL 2026.

Ashwin's remarks came after Arya delivered a stunning knock of 93 runs off just 37 balls against Lucknow Super Giants, a performance that caught the attention of cricket experts and fans alike. The innings showcased Arya's aggressive batting style and ability to dominate bowlers, strengthening his reputation as one of the tournament's emerging stars.

Speaking about the young batter, Ashwin said that Arya currently looks "a step ahead" of teenage sensations Ayush Mhatre and Vaibhav



Sooryavanshi. While both youngsters have generated significant buzz with their performances, Ashwin believes Arya's maturity and impact in crucial moments set him apart.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, one of the youngest players in the league, has already attracted widespread attention with his fearless approach and stroke play. Similarly, Ayush Mhatre

impressed with consistent performances and composure at the top of the order. However, Ashwin suggested that Arya's ability to produce match-winning innings gives him an edge over his peers.

Arya's rise has been one of the standout stories of IPL 2026, with the batter consistently delivering impactful performances. His aggressive in-

tent in the powerplay and ability to accelerate in the middle overs have made him a valuable asset for Punjab Kings.

The former Indian spinner also highlighted how domestic leagues like the IPL are becoming key platforms for identifying future stars. With young players getting opportunities against top international bowlers, standout performances often accelerate their path to national selection.

As IPL 2026 progresses, the spotlight will remain firmly on emerging talents like Arya, Sooryavanshi and Mhatre. Their performances are not only shaping the current tournament but also offering a glimpse into the future of Indian cricket.

With Ashwin backing Priyansh Arya as the next big talent, expectations around the young batter are likely to rise further as he continues his impressive run in the league.

Chennai Super Kings Suffer Major Blow as Ayush Mhatre Ruled Out of Remaining Season

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) have suffered a major setback in their IPL 2026 campaign after in-form youngster Ayush Mhatre was ruled out of the remainder of the tournament due to injury. The development comes as a significant blow for the five-time champions, who have already struggled for consistency this season.

The 18-year-old batter sustained a left hamstring injury during CSK's clash against Sunrisers Hyderabad on April 18. Following medical assessment, the franchise confirmed that Mhatre will require six to 12 weeks of rehabilitation, effectively ending his IPL 2026 campaign. The young opener had been one of the brightest performers for Chennai this season before his injury.

Mhatre's absence is particularly damaging for CSK given his strong form. The youngster scored 201 runs in six matches at an impressive strike rate of over 177, including two half-



centuries. His aggressive approach at the top of the order provided Chennai with solid starts and helped stabilise the batting unit during a difficult phase. The injury occurred while Mhatre was batting against Sunrisers Hyderabad, when he experienced discomfort in his hamstring and required immediate medical at-

tention. Subsequent scans confirmed the severity of the injury, forcing the franchise to rule him out for the rest of the season. CSK's campaign has already faced several challenges, and Mhatre's exit further complicates their plans. The young batter had quickly become a key player in the lineup, especially at a time when senior

players were struggling to find form. His ability to attack in the powerplay and maintain momentum made him an important part of the team's strategy. The franchise now faces the challenge of finding a suitable replacement for the youngster. With crucial matches approaching, CSK management will likely explore internal options or potential replacements to fill the void left by Mhatre.

Fans and analysts have also expressed concern over the timing of the injury, as CSK look to revive their season and climb up the points table. Mhatre's performances had been one of the few positives for the team, and his absence could impact their chances of making a strong comeback.

As IPL 2026 progresses, Chennai Super Kings will need other players to step up and deliver consistent performances to compensate for the loss of one of their most promising young talents.

Match-Winning Knock by Macha Datta

Reddy Powers Anantapur to Big Victory

Anantapur district registered a convincing victory over North Zone in the Senior T20 Zonal Cricket Tournament being held at the Andhra Cricket North Zone Academy in Vizianagaram under the auspices of the Andhra Cricket Association. The win marked Anantapur's first victory in the tournament.

Winning the toss, Anantapur elected to bat first and posted a massive total of 215 runs for the loss of six wickets in the allotted 20 overs. Macha Datta Reddy played a sensational innings, attacking the North Zone bowlers from the outset. He smashed boundaries all around the ground, scoring a brilliant 67 runs off just 27 balls, which included five sixes and nine fours. His aggressive batting laid the foundation for Anantapur's imposing total.

Other Anantapur batters also contributed to the team's strong score. Rohit Roshan scored 49 runs, Rajakullayappa

added 28 runs, Arjun Tendulkar contributed 20 runs, Vinay Kumar made 19 runs, and Girinath Reddy chipped in with 12 runs.

Chasing a challenging target of 216 runs, the North Zone team struggled to build momentum and suffered a batting collapse. The Anantapur bowlers delivered an impressive performance to restrict the opposition and secure a comfortable victory.

Pramod Kumar starred with the ball, claiming five wickets and playing a key role in dismantling the North Zone batting lineup. Vinay Kumar, Girinath Reddy, and Mallikarjuna picked up one wicket each and supported the bowling effort effectively.

With this comprehensive win, Anantapur district registered their first victory in the Senior T20 Zonal tournament, boosted by Macha Datta Reddy's explosive innings and an all-round team performance.



Hayden Contradicts Shubman Gill After Gujarat Titans' 99-Run Loss To Mumbai Indians

Gujarat Titans batting coach Matthew Hayden openly disagreed with captain Shubman Gill following their heavy 99-run defeat to Mumbai Indians in IPL 2026, blaming the team's batting collapse rather than bowling for the loss.

Mumbai Indians posted a challenging 199/5 after a late onslaught, smashing 73 runs in the final four overs. In reply, Gujarat Titans struggled throughout the chase and were bowled out for just 100, suffering one of their heaviest defeats of the season.

After the match, Shubman Gill pointed to poor bowling execution as the primary reason behind the defeat, saying the bowlers failed to hit the right areas while defending the total. However, Hayden strongly disagreed and instead criticised the batting unit.

"I expect our margins to be a lot smaller than 100. That is an

unacceptable scorecard for our batting unit," Hayden said in the post-match press conference. He described the performance as a "horror" batting display and also highlighted poor execution in the death overs as contributing factors.

Hayden further noted that Gujarat Titans had the capability to compete better but failed to execute their plans, particularly with the top and middle order collapsing during the chase.

The defeat came after Mumbai Indians' dominant batting performance, headlined by Tilak Varma's explosive century, which powered MI to the commanding win and boosted their campaign in IPL 2026.

The contrasting views between Gill and Hayden reflect growing concerns within the Gujarat Titans camp as they look to bounce back in the remainder of the tournament.

Muskan Kamdar Expands Her Horizons From Rajasthan to Bollywood

Actor, model and fashion influencer Muskan Kamdar is steadily carving a niche for herself in the entertainment industry. Born and brought up in Alwar, Rajasthan, Muskan began her journey in the glamour world as a model, quickly gaining recognition after securing a spot in the Top 10 of Miss Rajasthan.

Following her early success, Muskan went on to feature in advertisements, music videos, brand shoots, and media campaigns, building a strong foundation in the modeling industry. Her growing popularity and ambition soon led her to Mumbai, where she relocated at the end of 2024 to pursue broader opportunities in acting.

After shifting to Mumbai, Muskan began working in television shows, marking the beginning of her acting career. Her dedication and consistent efforts soon opened doors to bigger opportunities in the entertainment industry.

In a significant mile-

stone, Muskan is now set to make her Bollywood debut with the upcoming film “Dulhaniya Le Aye-gi.” The project marks an important step forward in her career and showcases her transition from modeling to mainstream cinema.

Apart from her Bollywood debut, Muskan will also be seen in the upcoming web series “Kartoot-nama,” which is scheduled to release soon on an OTT platform. In addition, she has been actively involved in multiple drama series, music videos, and advertisements, further strengthening her presence across various entertainment platforms.

With her growing portfolio and diverse projects, Muskan Kamdar is emerging as a promising new face in the industry, steadily moving from modeling to television, OTT, and now Bollywood.

Kannada star Yash has shared an important update about the highly anticipated KGF: Chapter 3, confirming that the film will definitely happen, but not anytime soon.

In a recent interaction, Yash revealed that he is currently occupied with his upcoming big-budget projects Toxic and Ramayana, which are taking up most of his schedule. Due to these commitments, KGF 3 will take some time before it officially goes on floors.

The actor also mentioned that he and director Prashanth Neel are in discussions about the third installment, but the team wants to move forward only after finalizing a strong and compelling script. Yash emphasized that they do not want to rush the project and are focused on delivering a film that lives up to the expectations created by the first two parts.

While this update may disappoint fans hoping for an immediate start, Yash reassured that KGF 3 is very much in the pipeline and will be made at the



right time.

Meanwhile, Yash is currently busy with Toxic, which is progressing at a brisk pace, and Ramayana, a large-scale mythological project expected to release in multiple parts. These films are expected to further strengthen his pan-India appeal.

The KGF franchise, directed by Prashanth Neel, became a massive success across India

and established Yash as a pan-India superstar. With the third installment already teased at the end of KGF: Chapter 2, expectations remain extremely high.

Though fans may have to wait longer, Yash’s confirmation has once again reignited excitement around KGF: Chapter 3, one of the most anticipated projects in Indian cinema.



Kajal Aggarwal to Reunite With Balakrishna for NBK111

Star actress Kajal Aggarwal is set to reunite with Nandamuri Balakrishna once again for his upcoming film, tentatively titled NBK111. The film is being directed by mass filmmaker Gopichand Malineni, and the project has already generated significant buzz among fans.

Balakrishna is currently enjoying a strong phase in his career with consecutive hits, and his reunion with director Gopichand Malineni—after the success of Veera Simha Reddy—has further heightened expectations. The upcoming film is said to be a period action entertainer, reportedly set against the backdrop of 1960s-70s Mumbai, blending historical elements with high-voltage action. Initially, reports suggested that Nayanthara would play the female lead in the film. However, due to script changes and call sheet issues, she is believed to have stepped away from the project. Following this, Kajal Aggarwal’s name emerged as the frontrunner,

and she is said to have given a positive nod after hearing the script. An official announcement from the makers is expected soon.

Balakrishna and Kajal Aggarwal previously shared screen space in Bhagavanth Kesari, which turned out to be a commercial success. The makers are reportedly looking to recreate the same successful combination in NBK111, adding to the excitement surrounding the project.

The film is being produced by Venkata Satish Kilaru under the Vriddhi Cinemas banner on a grand scale. The makers have already completed the first schedule and are currently working on the next phase, with high-voltage action sequences being shot in specially designed sets.

With Balakrishna’s powerful screen presence, Gopichand Malineni’s mass appeal, and Kajal Aggarwal likely joining the cast, NBK111 is shaping up to be one of the most awaited projects in Tollywood. The film is expected to release in 2026.



Rajinikanth’s ‘Jailer 2’ Shoot Wrapped Up; Post-Production Underway

Superstar Rajinikanth’s highly anticipated film Jailer 2 has officially wrapped up its shooting, much to the delight of fans. Directed by Nelson Dilipkumar, the sequel to the blockbuster Jailer has now entered the post-production phase.

Rajinikanth recently confirmed that filming has been completed and the team is currently working on the final stages of the project. With the shoot wrapped, the makers are expected to announce the film’s release date soon, further building excitement around the sequel.

Jailer 2 will see Rajinikanth reprise his powerful role as Tiger Muthuvel Pandian. The film is expected to feature a strong ensemble cast, along

with possible special appearances, making it one of the most awaited films.

The movie is being produced on a grand scale by Sun Pictures, while Anirudh Ravichander is composing the music. The first installment of Jailer was a massive blockbuster and received tremendous response from audiences, which has significantly raised expectations for the sequel.

With filming now complete and post-production underway, fans are eagerly waiting for the teaser and trailer announcements. Given the massive popularity of the first part and Rajinikanth’s strong fan base, Jailer 2 is expected to be one of the biggest releases in Indian cinema.

Classic Pair Siddharth and Trisha Set to Reunite for Dil Raju’s New Film



The popular on-screen pair Siddharth and Trisha are reportedly set to reunite once again for a new film backed by leading producer Dil Raju. The news has generated excitement among fans, especially those who fondly remember their hit film Nuvvostanante Nenoddantana.

According to industry buzz, Dil Raju is planning to bring the beloved duo together for a fresh romantic entertainer.

While the project is still in early stages, the makers are said to be working on an interesting script that suits the pair. An official announcement regarding the film is expected soon.

Siddharth and Trisha first captured audiences’ hearts with Nuvvostanante Nenoddantana, which released in 2005 and became a major blockbuster. Their on-screen chemistry, emotional storytelling, and memorable music made the film a cult favorite among Telugu audiences.

Reports suggest that the upcoming film will feature a new-age love story and may also include another young pair, adding more appeal to the project. The makers are said to be planning the film on a decent scale, with a visually ap-

pealing backdrop.

Over the years, Siddharth and Trisha have collaborated in multiple films, and their reunion is expected to bring nostalgia for fans. Both actors continue to enjoy popularity across South Indian cinema, making the project even more exciting.

Currently, Trisha is busy with several projects across multiple languages, while Siddharth has been focusing on content-driven roles. If the project materializes, it will mark a special comeback for one of Telugu cinema’s most loved pairs. Fans are now eagerly waiting for an official announcement, as the reunion of Siddharth and Trisha under Dil Raju’s production is expected to create significant buzz in the industry.

Directors Kaushik Pegallapati, Muralikanth Devasoth Launch ‘Surya B Positive’ Teaser

The teaser of the upcoming film Surya B Positive was launched by directors Kaushik Pegallapati and Muralikanth Devasoth at a special event held in Hyderabad. The film is being produced under Kali Crafts and Nirmalam Dramas banners, with Subba Madhavarapu handling story, screenplay, and direction. Arun Kumar Parvathaneni has worked as the cinematographer, while Gyani has composed the music.

The film stars Charan Pisarla as the lead, alongside heroines Annie Diana and Divya Vishwakarma. The supporting cast includes Rohit Satyan, Sujatha Deekshith, Chandra Goutham, Sathya, Surabhi Lalitha, and Geethan Sai Teja in key roles. Murali Krishna Manyam has handled editing, while Rambabu Gosala has written the lyrics. Dialogues for the film were penned by Brijesh Thangi and Charan Pisarla.

Speaking at the event, actor Balagam Sathya thanked the team for offering him a unique role and expressed confidence that the film would connect well with audiences. Actor Rohit Satyan shared his emotional journey in the industry since 2017 and described his role in the film as challenging and different. He also urged audiences to experience the film in theatres.

Actress Sujatha Deekshith said her character in the film is quite different from her usual roles and emphasized that the film portrays a relatable story from everyday life. Divya Vishwakarma expressed her happiness about acting in a Telugu film and thanked the team for supporting her despite language differences. Annie Diana, making her debut, also thanked the team and hoped audiences would support the film.

Lead actor Charan Pisarla spoke about the struggles behind making a new film and thanked the guest directors for supporting the project. He highlighted the dedication of director Subba Madhavarapu, who balanced his job in the United States while directing the film. Charan also appealed to audiences to encourage new talent and support the movie.

Lyricist Rambabu Gosala praised music director Gyani and expressed confidence that the songs would become popular. Director Muralikanth Devasoth appreciated the team’s dedication and said making a film under current circumstances is challenging. He also praised the visuals and performances.

Director Kaushik Pegallapati said the teaser looked impressive and appreciated the team’s effort, especially director Subba Madhavarapu for completing the film within six months despite working abroad. He wished the film great success and hoped audiences would connect with the story.

Surya B Positive is

hoped audiences would connect with the story.

