

Collector Orders Massive 'School Calling' Enrollment Drive

Guntur, April 18 | TPN Bureau
District Collector C.M. Sai Kiran Varma has directed education officials to conduct the "Badi Pilustondi" (School Calling) programme on a large scale to ensure 100% enrolment of children in government schools. During a teleconference with District Education Officer Dr. Shaik Saleem Basha and other officials, the Collector said the initiative aims to improve enrolment, reduce dropout rates, and strengthen quality education in government institutions. He instructed officials to conduct awareness rallies and door-to-door

campaigns, urging parents to admit their children in government schools. He highlighted that government schools provide quality teaching, free textbooks, mid-day meals, uniforms, shoes, and other essential facilities. The Collector said mapping of children transitioning from anganwadis to schools must be completed systematically. He ordered a survey on April 20-21, followed by door-to-door awareness on April 22, and completion of admissions by April 23. Officials including DEO U. Manikyam Naidu and education department staff participated in the programme.

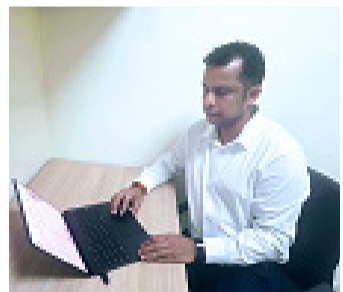
Tenali Police Probe Alleged Online Obscene Video Racket

Tenali, April 19 | TPN Bureau
A suspected online obscene video call racket allegedly operating from Tenali town in Guntur district has triggered local concern after reports claimed involvement of a family in running the activity through digital platforms. According to preliminary information, the group is alleged to have been engaging in explicit video chat services with clients through foreign-based websites and online portals. Police sources said payments were reportedly collected in advance through online transactions before providing access to such content. The operation is suspected to

have been run from a rented house, with different individuals allegedly coordinating technical and client-related activities. It is also alleged that vulnerable women were being recruited with promises of money. Local residents became suspicious after observing unusual movement of people at the residence and informed the police. Acting on the information, officials conducted surveillance and initiated preliminary checks. Police said further investigation is underway to verify the authenticity of the claims and identify those involved. Authorities are also examining digital evidence and financial transactions linked to the case.

Collector Urges Public Participation in Self Census Enumeration

Nellore, April 18 | TPN Bureau
Nellore District Collector Himanshu Shukla has urged public participation in the ongoing census self-enumeration process. He personally completed the online registration of his family details through se.census.gov.in, which includes 33 structured questions. Speaking on the occasion, he said the facility is available until April 30, allowing every household to submit its data online. He stressed that accurate population data is essential for development planning, employment generation, and industrial growth. The Collector appealed to citizens to actively take part and ensure suc-



cessful completion of the exercise. He also instructed officials to conduct awareness campaigns across the district and assist residents in the registration process. He added that the government is ensuring data security and transparency throughout the process as well today.

Cabinet Approves 24,815 Cr Rail Expansion Across UP, AP

New Delhi, April 18 2026 | TPN Bureau
The Union Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved two multitracking railway projects worth 24,815 crore covering 15 districts in Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. The projects will add about 601 km to the Indian Railways network and are targeted for completion by 2030-31. The approved works include the Rajahmundry (Nidadavolu)-Visakhapatnam (Duvvada)

3rd and 4th line (198 km) and Ghaziabad-Sitapur 3rd and 4th line (403 km). The Andhra Pradesh section will improve connectivity across East Godavari, Konaseema and Visakhapatnam districts and strengthen links to major ports. Officials said the projects will ease congestion, boost freight movement, reduce logistics costs and support tourism and industrial growth. The initiative is aligned with PM Gati Shakti and aims to improve operational efficiency and regional development.

Judicial Workshop on New Criminal Laws in Chittoor

Chittoor, April 18, 2026 | TPN Bureau
A judicial workshop on new criminal laws was held at the Chittoor District Court complex on Saturday, focusing on the transition from old statutes to newly enacted legislation. Andhra Pradesh High Court Judge and District Administrative Judge Ninala Jayasurya urged judicial officers to effectively utilize workshops to understand differences between old and new laws and enhance professional skills. Chief Dis-

trict Judge of Chittoor, Aruna Sarika, emphasized awareness on the relationship between IPC and BNS, including newly introduced and repealed offences. Discussions also covered BNSS, evidence law reforms, and constitutional safeguards. Speakers highlighted the importance of clarity in applying new criminal provisions and resolving procedural doubts. Resource persons and judicial officers participated actively in technical sessions following the inaugural address.



East Coast Railway Sets Tunneling Record in Eastern Ghats

Bhubaneswar, April 18 2026 | TPN Bureau

East Coast Railway achieved a major milestone in FY 2025-26 by completing breakthroughs in five tunnels across the Eastern Ghats, one of its most productive tunnelling years. The latest was Tunnel No.30 (1,043 m) in Sikar-

pai-Keutguda section of Koraput-Singapur Road doubling project on April 14, 2026, executed on a sharp curve with perfect alignment from both ends. Under Khurda Road-Balangir new line project, Tunnel T-4 (4,185 m) and T-2 (1,775 m) were completed, along with T-5, T-6 and T-7. Overall, 7,051 metres of tunnel-

ing breakthroughs and 2,475 metres of lined tunnels were achieved. The progress will improve connectivity, freight capacity and passenger movement across Odisha's coastal and tribal regions. This marks strong infrastructure growth under focused railway modernization efforts ongoing.



30-Year Monopoly in Pushshottapatnam Ferry Auction Alleged

East Godavari, April 18 2026 | TPN Bureau

Allegations have surfaced over irregularities in the Pushshottapatnam ferry (revu) auction process, with locals claiming a single operator has dominated the contract for nearly three decades. The ferry service, a key water transport link, is said to have been restricted through questionable

eligibility rules, including an "experience certificate" requirement. Locals and observers allege that certificates are being issued without proper authority, bypassing technical officials, raising concerns of administrative misuse. It is also alleged that the actual operator differs from the auction bidder, suggesting a benami arrangement that may be caus-

ing revenue loss to the government. Residents have demanded modernization of ferry services to support four-wheelers and improved facilities, instead of outdated systems. They also called for district-level monitoring and transparent auction procedures. Authorities are yet to respond to the allegations.

PM-RAHAT Scheme a Boon for Road Accident Victims: Collector

Kadapa, April 18, 2026 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Dr. Sridhar Cherukuri said the PM-RAHAT scheme launched by the Central Government is a boon for road accident victims, ensuring timely and cashless medical treatment. He stated that the scheme provides coverage up to 1.5 lakh per accident and focuses on saving lives during the "golden hour".

Launching awareness posters at the Collectorate, he said the scheme, implemented through the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund, offers treatment for up to seven days in empanelled government and private hospitals. Integration of police eDAR reports with hospital systems will speed up emergency response.



He also highlighted that good Samaritans assisting victims will receive 25,000 as incentive along with legal protection. The public was urged to dial

112 immediately during accidents. The initiative aims to reduce fatalities and ensure quality emergency care across the district.

Couple Reunited After Police Counselling in Podili

Podili, April 18, 2026 | TPN Bureau

A family dispute in Podili ended in reconciliation after police intervention, as a separated couple reunited following counselling by police. Swarooparani, a resident near Niramala Convent in Podili town, staged a protest along with her two children in front of her husband's house, alleging that she was not allowed to enter the home after a domestic conflict. Upon receiving information, Podili police responded promptly and gathered details from the complainant. Sub-Inspector S. Rajesh intervened and summoned both parties for counselling. He explained the importance of marital harmo-



ny and the welfare of their children. Moved by the counselling, the husband agreed to

resolve differences and promised to take care of family leading peaceful settlement.

Collector Orders Strict Action Against Child Marriages, Teenage Pregnancies

Kurnool, April 19 | TPN Bureau

District Collector A. Siri has directed officials to take strict measures to completely eliminate child marriages and teenage pregnancies in the district. Chairing a review meeting at the Collectorate mini conference hall, she said continuous monitoring is essential as such cases are still being reported. She instructed village secretariat staff, ANMs, ASHA workers, and women police to counsel adolescents and parents regularly and create awareness on the legal and health consequences. The Collector warned that those involved in child mar-

riages will face a 1 lakh fine and up to two years imprisonment under relevant laws, along with provisions under the Nirbhaya Act. She directed schools to appoint "friendly women teachers" as nodal officers, display Child Helpline 1098, and conduct awareness pledges among students. She also asked police officials to educate boys about the POCSO Act. Further, she instructed departments to conduct awareness campaigns through Kalajatha teams, social media, and mobile publicity vans. Medical officials were asked to educate students on health risks through expert sessions in schools across the district.



Police Act on Substance Abuse Among Minors in Mangalagiri

Mangalagiri, April 19 | TPN Bureau

Concern has been raised in Mangalagiri over reports of minors getting addicted to harmful substances such as solution, polish, and spirit, with several children reportedly seen in an intoxicated condition on public streets. Locals alleged that some shopkeepers are selling such materials without restriction, enabling easy access for minors. Residents expressed worry that children are being pushed into addiction and child labour-like situations, calling it a serious social issue. They urged the Child Welfare Department and police

to conduct a joint special drive to identify affected children and prevent further misuse of intoxicants among minors. Responding swiftly, Mangalagiri town police initiated an inquiry and took some minors into custody for counselling and protection measures. Officials said preventive steps will be taken and awareness programmes will be conducted in coordination with child welfare authorities. Police also warned that strict action will be taken against illegal sale of intoxicating substances and assured efforts to safeguard children from harmful habits and exploitation.

Call to Make Guntur District Child Marriage-Free

Guntur, April 18 | TPN Bureau

State Child Rights Commission member P. Padmalatha has called for making Guntur district completely free from child marriages. Speaking at the District Level Committee meeting held at the Collectorate, she said the Centre is implementing the "Child Marriage Free India" programme and stressed strict enforcement at the grassroots level. She directed officials of the Women and Child Welfare Department to maintain accurate data and identify areas where child marriages are more prevalent. Padmalatha urged all departments to work in coordination to eliminate this social

evil and suggested conducting awareness programmes in schools and parent meetings to highlight the harmful effects of child marriages. She instructed ASHA workers, Anganwadi staff, and field-level officials to remain vigilant and report any cases immediately. Special drives should be conducted with inter-departmental coordination, she added.

Officials including the District Revenue Officer, police, education and ICDS departments participated in the meeting. The Commission also encouraged public reporting of such cases to ensure timely intervention and protection of children.

Women's Hockey agurated in Chittoor

Chittoor, April 18, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The 16th Andhra Pradesh State Inter-District Junior Women's Hockey Championship-2026 was held at B.T. Compound Ground, Chittoor, on April 18, 2026. District Collector Sumit Kumar and Superintendent of Police Tushar Dudi attended as chief guests and inaugurated the event. Teams from several districts participated, showcasing talent and competitive spirit. The Collector highlighted government ef-

orts to promote sports and develop rural talent through training and infrastructure. The SP emphasized that sports build discipline, leadership, physical fitness and mental strength, encouraging women athletes to excel at state and national levels. Officials appreciated the players' performance and urged them to embrace both victory and defeat in true sporting spirit. Coaches, sports officials and Hockey Association representatives were also present there. The event concluded successfully.