

BUZZ POINTS



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Rajnath Singh Commissions INS Taragiri, Boosting India's Naval Capabilities

Visakhapatnam, April 03, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday formally commissioned the advanced stealth frigate INS Taragiri at the Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam, marking a major milestone in India's naval modernization and strategic maritime readiness.

In the Indian Navy. The frigate is equipped with stealth features, modern weapon systems, advanced sensors, and integrated combat management systems, enabling it to perform a wide spectrum of operations including surface warfare, anti-aircraft defense, and anti-submarine operations.

During the commissioning, Rajnath Singh inspected the warship, emphasizing the critical role of naval strength in safeguarding national interests and securing sea lanes.

INS Taragiri, a 6,670-tonne frigate built under the Project 17A programme by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, is among the most technologically advanced surface combatants

growing self-reliance in defence manufacturing. The Minister praised the contributions of Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders and hundreds of domestic suppliers, noting that the frigate's indigenous content exceeds 75 percent, a testament to the country's expanding defence industrial base.

commitment to strengthening its blue-water navy and enhancing maritime deterrence. With evolving regional security challenges, the addition of INS Taragiri to the fleet reinforces the Navy's ability to safeguard territorial waters, protect maritime trade routes, and support humanitarian and disaster relief operations when required.

Rajnath Singh called upon naval personnel to uphold the highest standards of professionalism and operational excellence, urging them to make the most of the ship's capabilities to ensure India's maritime security. The induction of INS Taragiri marks a significant step forward in modernizing India's naval fleet and positions the country as a capable maritime power ready to address contemporary and future security challenges at sea.

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Perni Nani Slams Police Following Case Over Demolition Incident

Machilipatnam, April 03, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Senior YSR Congress Party leader and former minister Perni Nani has once again strongly criticised the police after a case was filed against him in connection with the demolition of an allegedly unauthorised structure in Machilipatnam. The dispute erupted when authorities undertook the demolition at Kobbari Thota, a move that triggered a public confrontation between Nani and the local police.

tion to the growing tensions between local political leaders and law enforcement agencies, particularly when administrative decisions intersect with political sensitivities. Observers note that such incidents often generate heightened public interest and media scrutiny, reflecting the broader challenge of maintaining law and order while addressing political and social concerns.

At a press interaction, Nani reiterated his position that the enforcement action lacked sensitivity and failed to consider the difficulties faced by citizens. He urged the authorities to adopt a more measured approach in dealing with similar situations in the future. Nani's supporters also rallied behind him, echoing his criticism of the demolition and questioning the fairness of the police response.

Officials maintain that the demolition was conducted in accordance with legal procedures and that the resulting case was filed only after complaints regarding violations and obstruction of duty. The situation underscores the delicate balance law enforcement must maintain between executing official duties and managing public sentiment, especially in areas with active political engagement. As legal and administrative proceedings unfold, the case is expected to remain under close observation, with both sides likely to present their accounts of the incident. Analysts suggest that the episode could influence local political dynamics and the relationship between elected representatives and law enforcement in the district.

With tensions still simmering, the case involving Perni Nani highlights the complexities of governance, political accountability, and citizen engagement in urban administrative actions, raising important questions about authority, public interest, and the exercise of political influence in enforcement matters.

The case has drawn attention

Andhra Pradesh Tops in Micro Irrigation Implementation: Chandrababu

Amaravati, April 03, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Friday expressed delight over the state securing the top position in micro irrigation project implementation across India. He praised officials and staff for surpassing the targets set for the 2025-26 financial year, bringing a record 1.26 lakh hectares under micro irrigation. Following Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat ranked second with 1.05 lakh hectares covered under similar initiatives. Chandrababu commended the government's commitment to utilising every drop of water efficiently and acknowledged the efforts of field-level authorities in making the state a national leader in modern irrigation techniques.

systems, emphasizing that these techniques not only conserve water but also reduce cultivation costs, enabling farmers to achieve greater financial stability. He expressed hope that farmers adopting these methods would achieve high-quality harvests across a variety of crops, ranging from tomatoes, oil palm, and chili to pulses and cereals.

Chandrababu assured the farming community that the state government would continue to support them in diversifying and strengthening agriculture. He noted that as part of the project, a subsidy of 1,030 crore had been provided to farmers, helping them invest in advanced irrigation systems and adopt sustainable farming practices. He concluded by stressing that the micro irrigation initiative reflects the government's broader vision of sustainable agriculture, efficient water management, and the economic empowerment of farmers, reaffirming Andhra Pradesh's leadership in innovative farming solutions at the national level.

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Chandrababu Hails Parliamentary Approval of Amaravati as Capital

Amaravati, April 03, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Friday described the parliamentary approval of the Amaravati Capital Legislation Bill as a historic victory for the people, stating that it represents the respect and recognition due to the public's chosen capital. Speaking at a media conference at his residence in Undavalli, Chandrababu thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, and Rajya Sabha Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan for their support in passing the bill. He also expressed gratitude to all political parties, except the YSR Congress Party, that backed the legislation.



Chandrababu criticized the YSR Congress Party (YCP) leadership, alleging that they acted against the state's inter-

ests despite receiving public votes. He accused YCP leaders of trying to undermine Amaravati and claimed that their actions showed disregard for the welfare of the people. "Even

after the division of the state, they continued with a destructive approach, aiming to derail Amaravati," he said.

Reflecting on his tenure as Chief Minister of unified

Andhra Pradesh, Chandrababu highlighted his developmental initiatives, including the construction of Cyberabad and Hi-Tech City, emphasizing his commitment to Telugu

pride and regional progress. He underscored the principle of decentralized development promoted by the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), noting that Amaravati's central location was chosen based on public consultation to ensure equitable growth across the state.

Chandrababu reaffirmed his commitment to fair treatment for both Andhra and Telangana, stating that he has never opposed Telangana's development and has always respected its people. He emphasized that the establishment of Amaravati as the state capital was crucial for Andhra Pradesh's future, reflecting the TDP's vision for a balanced and prosperous state. With the bill's approval, Chandrababu declared that Amaravati's legal recognition strengthens the capital's role as a unifying symbol and central hub for Andhra Pradesh's administrative and developmental aspirations.

Seven Railway Stations Transferred to Visakhapatnam Division

Visakhapatnam, April 03, 2026 | TPN Bureau

In a major administrative move, seven railway stations along the Ichchapuram-Palasa section in north coastal Andhra Pradesh have been officially transferred from the East Coast Railway Zone's Khurda Division to the Visakhapatnam Division of the South Coast Railway Zone. The decision, announced by the Railway Board, comes as part of a broader strategy to streamline operations and strengthen the newly formed South Coast Railway Zone headquartered at Visakhapatnam.

Ichchapuram. Bringing these stations under the Visakhapatnam Division is expected to improve administrative efficiency, enhance coordination of train operations, and ensure better passenger and freight services in the region. The move also aligns the railway network more closely with the state's geography, facilitating faster decision-making and localized management.

Previously, this stretch of the railway line was under the administrative control of the Khurda Division in Odisha. The transfer marks a significant step in integrating Andhra Pradesh's coastal rail network under the South Coast Railway Zone, allowing for more direct oversight and faster implementation of develop-

mental and operational initiatives. Railway authorities believe that this realignment will also enhance maintenance, safety, and service quality along this busy corridor. Union and state officials welcomed the transfer, noting that it addresses a long-standing demand from local communities and stakeholders who sought closer administrative control for operational efficiency. The shift is seen as a positive development for north coastal Andhra Pradesh, particularly Srikakulam and Vizianagaram districts, where passenger traf-



fic and freight movement have been increasing steadily. The realignment is also viewed as a preparatory step in strengthening the operational readiness of the South Coast Railway Zone, which is expected to become fully functional with its headquarters at Visakhapatnam. Officials noted that the reorganization will help streamline schedules, reduce delays, and improve passenger amenities while supporting regional economic growth by facilitating better logistics and freight movement.

By transferring these seven stations, Indian Railways aims to create a more cohesive and responsive administrative framework for its coastal operations. The move highlights

the emphasis on decentralized management, operational efficiency, and service improvement, reflecting a broader trend toward optimizing India's railway infrastructure. As the changes are implemented, passengers and local communities are expected to benefit from more efficient services, better maintenance, and enhanced safety measures along this important railway corridor.

The transfer marks a significant milestone in the evolution of the South Coast Railway Zone and reinforces efforts to align India's railway divisions with regional priorities, ensuring improved governance, responsiveness, and support for economic and social development in Andhra Pradesh.

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# Coalition Govt Focused on Resolving Public Grievances: Minister Kollu Ravindra

Machilipatnam, April 02, 2026 | TPN Bureau

State Minister for Mines, Geology, and Excise, Kollu Ravindra, asserted that addressing public grievances remains the top priority of the coalition government. Speaking at a Praja Darbar held at the TDP office in Machilipatnam, the minister launched a sharp attack on the previous YSRCP regime, alleging that administrative systems were weakened during its five-year rule, leaving people without proper avenues to voice their concerns.

Ravindra stated that the current revenue-related issues being faced by citizens are a direct consequence of the "failures and misgovernance" of the previous government. He emphasized that the coalition government is committed to resolving every grievance received from the public. According to him, a total of 335 complaints have been registered in the constituency so far, out of which 296 have already been resolved. Of the remaining cases, 14 have been addressed, and only a small number remain pending.

Highlighting governance re-



forms, the minister said structured grievance redressal mechanisms have been put in place. Weekly grievance meetings are being conducted at the constituency level, while district collectors are receiving petitions every Monday. Additionally, special grievance pro-

grams are held every Friday to ensure timely resolution of issues. He noted that most complaints are related to revenue, police matters, and housing, particularly house site allocations, which he attributed to policy irregularities during the previous administration.

Ravindra also outlined several welfare initiatives being implemented by the coalition government. Under the NTR Bharosa scheme, pensions are being provided to 64 lakh beneficiaries. The "Thalli Ki Vandanam" program ensures annual financial assistance to

mothers, while farmers are receiving Rs. 20,000 under the Annadata Sukhivhava scheme, including both state and central contributions. He further mentioned the introduction of free bus travel as a key welfare measure. Criticizing former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, the minister alleged that the state suffered due to administrative inefficiency and politically motivated decisions. He reiterated that the coalition government is accelerating major development projects like Polavaram and expressed confidence that water would flow through gravity canals by the next Pushkaram. On the capital issue, Ravindra welcomed the Centre's move to grant legal backing to Amaravati, stating that it reflects the collective will of the people and political consensus across parties. He affirmed that Amaravati would be developed into a permanent and world-class capital. The minister also proposed expanding the CRDA limits to include Machilipatnam and surrounding mandals, aiming to boost regional development and ensure long-term planning for future generations.



## AP Seeks Faster Execution of National Highway Projects

Amaravathi, April 03, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Roads & Buildings Minister B.C. Janardhan Reddy met Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) Secretary Uma Shankar T in New Delhi, seeking enhanced support for the expansion and speedy execution of National Highway (NH) projects in the state.

During the meeting held at the MoRTH office, the minister discussed key issues related to the development, expansion, and resolution of pending challenges in ongoing NH projects across Andhra Pradesh. He emphasized the need to accelerate approvals and implementation of major highway works proposed for the financial year 2025-26. Janardhan Reddy highlighted that with the coordination between the NDA government at the Centre under Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the coalition government in the state led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, infrastructure development—particularly national highways—is progressing steadily in Andhra Pradesh. He urged the Centre to further expedite approvals and clearances to maintain this momentum. The minister informed the Secretary that the state government has constituted a dedicated task force committee to address bottlenecks in highway projects, including land acquisition, forest clearances, and revenue-related issues. He said the state is extending full cooperation to ensure timely completion of national infrastructure projects.

Among specific proposals, the minister requested approval for upgrading the two-lane road in Banaganapalle town of Nandyal district into a four-lane highway at an estimated cost of Rs. 60 crore. He also submitted several key proposals for expansion and development of major highway stretches across the state. Prominent projects discussed include four-laning of NH-165 from Akiveedu to Digmarru, NH-216 from km 32 to Amalapuram-Ravulapalem, and NH-42 from Mudigubba to Kadiri. Other proposals include development works on NH-216H from Pedana to Lakshimpuram, upgrading NH-365BB with paved shoulders, four-laning of NH-716 from Maddanur to Kadapa, and construction of a four-lane tunnel on NH-40 between Kadapa and Rayachoti. Additionally, the minister proposed a bypass road development in Chittoor town on NH-40, upgradation works on NH-544D from Bugga to Kaipa, and improvements on NH-167K from Nallakalva to Velugodu. The MoRTH Secretary responded positively to the proposals and assured consideration of new approvals as well as resolution of pending issues. The minister expressed confidence that once implemented, these projects would significantly enhance transportation infrastructure, reduce traffic congestion, and boost regional development across Andhra Pradesh.

Senior officials, including AP Bhavan Resident Commissioner Praveen Kumar and MoRTH Regional Officer Harikrishna, were also present at the meeting.

## Rabi Procurement to Begin from Tomorrow; 23 Lakh MT Target Set: Nadendla Manohar

Amaravathi, April 03, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Civil Supplies and Food Minister Nadendla Manohar announced that Rabi paddy procurement will commence across the state from tomorrow, with a target of procuring 23 lakh metric tonnes. Addressing a press meet during his Nidadavole visit, the minister said elaborate arrangements have been made to ensure a smooth procurement process and to avoid inconvenience to farmers.

He stated that 1,917 procurement centers have been set up statewide, supported by 17,200 vehicles for transporting paddy. Additionally, 1,264 rice mills have completed bank guarantees and are ready to procure paddy from farmers. The minister assured that lessons from the previous Rabi season have been incorporated to streamline operations this time.

Highlighting reforms, Manohar said the government has introduced a self-declaration system for rice mills to address gunny bag shortages. Officials will verify these declarations and issue certifications, ensuring that sufficient gunny bags reach farmers directly at procurement points. He added that 5.40 crore gunny bags have been readied for the current season.

The minister emphasized the government's commitment to timely payments, stating that once the track sheet is completed, payments will be credited to farmers' accounts within hours. He recalled that during the previous Kharif season, 51 lakh metric tonnes of paddy were procured, bene-



fitting 7.81 lakh farmers, with Rs. 11,300 crore credited to their accounts within 24 hours—of which Rs. 7,300 crore was deposited in just eight hours. Criticizing the previous YSRCP government, Manohar alleged that farmers faced severe hardships due to lack of proper procurement systems and delays in payments. He pointed out that in 2022-23 and 2023-24 Rabi seasons, procurement was significantly lower compared to the current government's efforts. On welfare measures, the minister announced that from this year, steamed rice will be supplied under the mid-day meal scheme to improve quality for school children. He said the rice would be distributed in 25 kg bags with better standards. Manohar also accused former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy of attempting to create unrest in the state for political gains, particularly over the capital issue. He reaffirmed that Amaravati has been legally established as the permanent capital and assured that the government remains committed to its development.

Tourism Minister and local MLA Kandula Durgesh, along with other officials, were present at the press meet.

## Shivaji Maharaj's Ideals Inspire India's Rise as 'Vishwaguru': PVN Madhav

Amaravathi, April 03, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh BJP president PVN Madhav stated that the life and legacy of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj continue to inspire every Indian and play a vital role in shaping India's emergence as a 'Vishwaguru'. He was speaking at the Shivaji death anniversary celebrations held in Satyanarayanaapuram, Vijayawada. Recalling Shivaji Maharaj's historic achievements, Madhav said the Maratha warrior fearlessly challenged the Mughal Empire and established a strong Hindu kingdom rooted in the principles of self-rule. He highlighted the influence of Shivaji's mother, Jijabai, who instilled courage and values that shaped his leadership. He noted that Shivaji constructed several formidable forts and laid the foundation for a powerful empire, adding that his coronation at Raigad marked a resurgence of Hindu consciousness across the region. Madhav also pointed out Shivaji Maharaj's connection with Andhra Pradesh, stating that his military expeditions extended up to Visakhapatnam and that he is believed to have performed penance at the sacred Srisailem temple. He said Shivaji is revered by many as a divine figure and remains a symbol of courage, unity, and cultural pride. Calling upon citizens to remain vigilant against forces attempting to divide the nation, Madhav urged people to uphold their cultural values and develop a sense of respon-



sibility towards the country. He emphasized the importance of unity and awareness in the current global scenario marked by conflicts and ideological tensions. Praising the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Madhav said the government has achieved remarkable success in curbing left-wing extremism and making significant progress toward a Naxal-free India by March 31. He described this achievement as a major milestone in strengthening national security. Referring to ongoing global conflicts such as the Russia-Ukraine war and tensions in the Middle East, he said India's

philosophy of "Sarva Dharma Samabhavana" reflects Shivaji Maharaj's ideals and can guide the nation toward global leadership. Madhav urged citizens to take inspiration from Shivaji Maharaj and dedicate themselves to the service and protection of the nation. He also appreciated the efforts of organizers and party members who played a key role in conducting the event and promoting Shivaji's ideals among the public. Several BJP leaders, including state general secretary Sannareddy Dayakar Reddy, SC Morcha state president Panthala Suresh, and RSS representative Krishna Nagalingam Shivaji, participated in the event.

## YSRCP Slams TDP, Defends Jagan's 'Growth Engine' Vision

Amaravathi, April 03, 2026 | TPN Bureau

YSR Congress Party State General Secretary Gadikota Srikanth Reddy launched a strong attack on the ruling coalition and TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu, while defending former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and his vision of developing Andhra Pradesh as a "growth engine" through the 'Mavignan' concept.

Addressing the media at the YSRCP office in Kadapa, Srikanth Reddy warned that the coalition would not tolerate any derogatory remarks against Jagan Mohan Reddy. He alleged that attempts are being made to distort Jagan's vision, which, he said, aims at ensuring balanced development across all regions of the state. The YSRCP leader accused Chandrababu Naidu of encouraging divisive politics by fueling caste and regional tensions for political gains. Referring to remarks made in the Rajya Sabha by Renuka Chowdhury, he claimed they were made at the behest of the TDP leadership, and criticized coalition leaders for not condemning those statements.

Srikanth Reddy further alleged that the Amaravati capital project has become a hub of corruption under Naidu's leadership. He accused the TDP of indulging in insider trading earlier and now resorting to financial irregularities in the name of mobilization advances. He claimed that despite years of promises, even 10 percent of Amaravati's construction has not been completed, raising doubts about the government's intentions. He expressed concern over what he described as neglect of



backward regions like Rayalaseema and North Andhra, questioning whether the sentiments of people in these regions are being ignored in favor of Amaravati. He criticized the removal of Rayachoti district and alleged that such decisions have hurt regional sentiments.

On the Polavaram project, Srikanth Reddy blamed Chandrababu Naidu for delays and mismanagement, stating that the project, initiated during the late Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy's tenure, lost momentum due to alleged irregularities during TDP rule.

He also accused the government of failing to maintain law and order, alleging that incidents of violence and atrocities are increasing without strict action against the accused. He said the administration has lost control over its own legislators and governance systems.

Reiterating YSRCP's stand, Srikanth Reddy said the party is committed to safeguarding public interest and ensuring equitable development. However, he warned that any attempts to provoke divisions among people for political gain would be strongly opposed.

## MSME Parks to Drive Youth Employment in Andhra Pradesh: Minister Savitha

Amaravathi, April 03, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh BC, EWS Welfare, Handlooms and Textiles Minister S Savitha announced that the state government is focusing on establishing large-scale MSME parks to generate employment opportunities for youth. She stated that the initiative aims to transform at least one member from every family into an entrepreneur.

The minister inaugurated fertilizer and poultry feed outlets at Kondampalli village in Penukonda mandal of Sri Sathya Sai district on Friday. Speaking to the media on the occasion, she said the coalition government, under the leadership of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, is committed to fulfilling its promise of creating 20 lakh jobs by 2029. Savitha emphasized that the



government is encouraging interested youth to come forward and set up small and medium enterprises, assuring them of financial backing through subsidized loans. She said the MSME initiative would not only create employment but also promote self-reliance and industrial growth across the state. Highlighting the government's vision, the minister not-

ed that industrial development is being taken up on a large scale, with MSME parks playing a key role in boosting local economies. "Our goal is to empower youth by providing them with the necessary support to become entrepreneurs," she said. Criticizing the previous YSRCP government, Savitha alleged that lack of funds had severely impacted the

functioning of gram panchayats. She claimed that even basic maintenance, such as replacing streetlights, was neglected due to financial constraints. The minister further alleged that delays in clearing bills pushed several sarpanches into distress, with some reportedly resorting to extreme measures. She accused the previous ad-

ministration of diverting funds received from the Centre, stating that the focus was more on political control rather than grassroots development. In contrast, she said the present government is ensuring that central funds are directly transferred to panchayats, restoring transparency and efficiency. Savitha added that within 22 months of the coalition government's tenure, significant development has been witnessed in villages. She also highlighted that the Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj Department has won five prestigious central government awards for rural development works during 2025-26. The minister described these achievements as a reflection of the government's commitment to rural progress and youth empowerment. Several coalition leaders and party workers were present at the event.

# Former MP Bharat Ram Criticizes Amaravati Capital Construction Over Debt Concerns

TPN Bureau, East Godavari, April 3:

The debate over Andhra Pradesh's capital Amaravati construction has intensified again. Former MP and YSRCP National General Secretary Margani Bharat Ram strongly criticized the state government led by Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu during a media briefing on Friday. Bharat Ram expressed concerns that the ambitious Amaravati project, financed through loans worth several thousand crores, could push the state into a financial crisis. "Under the pretext of building a capital, citizens are burdened with massive

debt, which will weigh heavily on future generations," he warned. He pointed out that major cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, and Bengaluru developed over decades, and attempting to construct an elaborate new capital simultaneously is unrealistic. He termed the heavy expenditure on Amaravati without expanding existing urban centers as a waste of public funds. Bharat Ram suggested that even modest investments in cities like Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Guntur, and Machilipatnam could elevate them to modern capital standards. He argued that building a capital without a proper

growth center is economically unsound. Highlighting flood risks in the Amaravati region, he warned that constructing a capital in a potentially submerged area threatens the future of local residents. He also supported past policy proposals by former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, stating they were more aligned with the state's interests. Criticizing the state's inability to secure adequate grants despite being a coalition partner at the Centre, Bharat Ram stressed that the government must pressure the Centre to honor commitments under the state bifurcation law. He added, "Amaravati is no growth engine for the people; it benefits only a few leaders," referring to Nara Lokesh and Pawan Kalyan. He further warned that increasing state debt and interest obligations endanger the financial future of citizens, hinting that public sentiment in upcoming elections could influence changes in the capital project. Concluding his address, Bharat Ram urged the government to adopt a balanced approach to state development rather than spending excessively on Amaravati alone and called on citizens to carefully consider the long-term implications of the project.

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# Senior IPS Officer Warns Andhra Pradesh Deputy Speaker Raghurama Krishnam Raju

Andhra Pradesh, April 3 | TPN Bureau:

Tensions escalated in the state's political arena as senior IPS officer Sunil Kumar issued a strong warning to Deputy Speaker Raghurama Krishnam Raju over his recent public remarks and conduct. The confrontation has drawn attention across the state, highlighting a clash between political leadership and law enforcement officials. The controversy began when Raghurama Krishnam Raju, known for his outspoken nature, made comments that were perceived as disrespectful by senior officials. In response, Sunil Kumar publicly rebuked him, questioning both his behaviour and the appropriateness of his statements. The IPS officer reportedly used sharp words to make it clear that such conduct would not be tolerated, emphasizing the need for decorum from elected representatives. Sunil Kumar challenged Raju's public remarks, asserting that questioning his personal choices and attire was unacceptable. He admonished the Deputy Speaker for speaking recklessly and highlighted the importance of understanding cultural and social responsibilities before making public statements. The IPS officer underscored that repeated violations could lead to more serious responses and cautioned Raju to maintain a respectful tone in his public engagements.



The incident reflects a growing concern about the boundaries of political expression and the role of accountability in public life. It also underscores the sensitivity surrounding interactions between politicians and senior administrative officers, especially in a state where political tensions are high. Observers note that Raghurama Krishnam Raju has been a prominent figure in Andhra Pradesh politics, often making headlines for his bold statements and confrontational approach. His previous controversies and party-related disputes have already placed him under scrutiny, making this latest warning from an IPS officer particularly significant. During the exchange, Sunil Kumar stressed that public figures must exercise restraint and respect both social norms and institutional hierarchies. He made it clear that personal attacks, reckless statements, or

actions that undermine administrative officials would not be tolerated. This strong stance serves as a reminder of the expectations placed on elected representatives to uphold civility and responsibility in their public conduct. The warning has generated widespread discussion among political circles, media, and citizens, with many noting the unprecedented public reprimand from a senior law enforcement officer. Analysts suggest that this incident could influence political discourse in the state and prompt leaders to exercise caution in their statements. In conclusion, the confrontation between Sunil Kumar and Raghurama Krishnam Raju underscores the delicate balance between political expression and institutional respect. It serves as a cautionary tale for public figures to consider the implications of their statements and maintain decorum in public forums.

# Rachamallu Levels Fresh Criticism at Chandrababu Naidu, Says Amaravati Will Take 200 Years to Complete

Andhra Pradesh, April 3 | TPN Bureau:

The Amaravati capital project has once again come under fire from opposition leaders, with YSRCP leader Rachamallu Shivaprasad Reddy launching a blistering attack on Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu over the pace, cost, and priorities of the ambitious capital city plan. Addressing the media on Friday, Rachamallu criticised the Amaravati project as being mired in allegations of corruption and mismanagement. He said the vision of a grand "deity city" capital, first launched in 2014, has instead become synonymous with large scale land grab and financial imprudence. According to him, tens of thousands of acres of fertile land were acquired from farmers under questionable circumstances, benefiting only a select few rather than the public at large. Rachamallu drew attention to the stark contrast between the projected investment and the actual expenditure over the years. He pointed out that while the government once claimed it would develop infrastructure worth around 2 lakh crore over nearly 100,000 acres, in reality only a small fraction of that amount has been spent so far. He warned that if the work continues at the same



slow pace, it could take as long as 200 years to complete the Amaravati capital project — a statement that sent shockwaves through political circles. He also criticised the financing strategy of the project, describing it as an expensive self finance model that has instead saddled the state with heavy loans. Rachamallu alleged that the stated costs per square foot for construction were artificially inflated, diverting public funds and obscuring true value for money. He argued that such

approaches are not only economically unviable but also unfair to taxpayers, who ultimately bear the burden of long term debt. In his remarks, the opposition leader stressed that Amaravati, in its present form, no longer represents the aspirations of the people but has become a "story of endless cost and delay." He warned that without a fundamental reassessment, the project might never reach fruition during the lifetimes of current generations.

Rachamallu's criticism comes amid broader debate over the future of Amaravati, even as the Lok Sabha recently passed a bill to grant statutory recognition to the capital city — a move welcomed by the ruling party but questioned by rivals. The ongoing dispute underscores the deep political divide within Andhra Pradesh over resource allocation, development priorities, and the state's long term vision for urban growth and public welfare.

# Ganta Srinivasa Rao Slams Jagan's Attitude on Amaravati Capital Issue

Andhra Pradesh, April 3 | TPN Bureau:

Former minister and senior TDP leader Ganta Srinivasa Rao sharply criticised YSR Congress Party leader Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Friday over his attitude and past conduct regarding the Amaravati capital project, even as the Parliament recently granted statutory status to Amaravati as the sole capital of the state. Celebrating the parliamentary approval of the Amaravati Bill with a cake cutting event, Ganta expressed that the legislation marks a historic moment for Andhra Pradesh and its people. However, he took strong exception to Jagan's behaviour when the opposition was in power, highlighting what he described as a stark contradiction in the YSRCP leader's stance on the capital issue. Ganta accused Jagan of enthusiastically supporting Amaravati when he was in opposition, but once in power, he pursued the controversial policy of three capitals that stalled development and pushed the state's future backward by five years. He argued that Jagan's shift from backing Amaravati to promoting multiple capitals created confusion and uncertainty across political and civic circles. Rao also criticised Jagan's absence from the recent assembly session convened to discuss the capital resolution,



calling it "disheartening" that the former Chief Minister did not even attend the meeting meant to safeguard Amaravati's future as the state capital. He asserted that such behaviour undermined the sentiments of people who had long awaited stability on the issue. Despite the YSRCP's diminished electoral strength — having fallen from 151 seats to just 11 — Ganta said that Jagan's attitude has not changed. He emphasised that the current coalition government has already begun attracting significant investments to Andhra Pradesh within a short period of assuming office, signaling renewed confidence in development prospects. Ganta also disclosed a key upcoming event, revealing that a foundation ceremony linked to Google is expected in the

state before April 15, which he believes will further boost growth and put regions like Amaravati and northern Andhra Pradesh on the global IT map. Reiterating his belief in Amaravati's development, Ganta said the city would remain the Andhra people's dream capital, protected by law and momentum from recent legislative support. He acknowledged the sacrifices made by farmers and others involved in the struggle for Amaravati, saying their efforts were not in vain and had finally achieved justice with Parliament's endorsement. The spat highlights continuing political divisions over Amaravati's future, even as leaders on both sides of the debate try to shape public perception and policy direction on the capital's long term trajectory.

# Former MP Vijayasai Reddy's Tweet on Amaravati Sparks Political Debate

Andhra Pradesh, April 3 | TPN Bureau:

A tweet by former Rajya Sabha MP V. Vijayasai Reddy has ignited sharp political debate over the ongoing Amaravati capital controversy, drawing reactions from leaders across party lines. Reddy's remarks, posted on social media recently, criticized the state government's approach to Amaravati just as the Parliament passed a bill granting statutory status to the capital city. In his tweet, Vijayasai Reddy appeared to play on the word "Amaravati," referring to it as "Kamaravati," which triggered strong reactions from political circles and social media users alike. The comment was interpreted by many as a subtle critique of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) government's handling of the capital issue following the passage of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization (Amendment) Bill. The bill, which was cleared by both Houses of Parliament, legally designates Amaravati as the sole and permanent capital of Andhra Pradesh — a move aimed at settling long running uncertainty over the state's seat of governance after years of dispute and political shifts. The legislation has been welcomed by supporters of the capital project and farmers of the Amaravati region, but it has also drawn criticism from opposition parties. Reacting to the backlash



from his original post, Vijayasai Reddy issued a follow up tweet defending his position and raising questions about the clarity of the ruling party's policies. He challenged critics to explain what he described as inconsistent stances between the state government and its allies, and he also critiqued the YSR Congress Party's own leadership on how it communicated its vision for Amaravati. Critics of the Amaravati pol-

icy, including some opposition leaders, have maintained that the capital project has been mishandled over the years, with concerns raised about cost, pace of development, and the financial burden on the state. Several argue that the focus on a single capital city may overlook broader regional needs and equitable development across Andhra Pradesh. Meanwhile, supporters of the bill argue that granting legal status to Amaravati will

provide long awaited stability and pave the way for focused infrastructure development. They contend that the move will finally bring clarity after years of political uncertainty over alternative capital proposals. The political debate ignited by Vijayasai Reddy's tweet reflects the broader contention surrounding Amaravati's future and highlights the intense scrutiny faced by leaders on both sides of the capital issue.

# Sacred River Procession Marks Brahmotsavam Festivities

Indrakeeladri, April 03, 2026 | TPN Bureau

In a spectacular display of devotion and cultural heritage, the Chaitra Masa Kalyana Brahmotsavams-2026 reached a spiritual high on Friday evening with the sacred river procession, or Nadee Viharam, of Sri Malleswara Swamy and Goddess on the Krishna River.

The celebrations commenced at 5 PM from the Sri Malleswara Swamy Temple atop Indrakeeladri, drawing a large gathering of devotees eager to witness the divine spectacle. The procession was accompanied by the resonant chants of Vedic hymns,

traditional drummers, and the mesmerizing rhythms of Kuchipudi dancers and Kolatam performers, creating a festive atmosphere charged with devotion and cultural vibrancy. Bhajan groups further enhanced the spiritual aura, captivating all present with their melodious renditions.

As the procession made its way through the Mahaman-dapam to the Durga Snan Ghat, the deities were placed on a beautifully decorated floral float. Priests conducted special rituals and pujas to sanctify the float before it embarked on the ceremonial journey along the Krishna River. The float circled the river thrice, symbolizing di-

vine blessings across the three worlds, a practice considered central to the Brahmotsavams' spiritual significance.

The event witnessed fervent participation from devotees, who lined the riverbanks, offering prayers and partaking in the spiritual celebrations. The combination of ritualistic grandeur, cultural performances, and devotional fervor made the Nadee Viharam a highlight of this year's festival.

Temple Chairman Borra Radhakrishna (Gandhi), Executive Officer VK Seena Nayak, members of the Dharmakarta Board, Sthanacharya V. Shiva Prasad Sharma, Chief Priest R. Srin-

ivasa Sharma, and Executive Engineer Smt. L. Rama were among the prominent officials present, underscoring the event's importance.

The Brahmotsavams' river procession stood as a vivid testament to the rich spiritual and cultural traditions of Indrakeeladri, attracting devotees from across the state and reinforcing the enduring faith in the divine couple's blessings along the sacred waters of the Krishna River.

This grand celebration not only honored age-old rituals but also showcased the unity of faith, art, and community, leaving a lasting impression on all who witnessed the divine spectacle.



# Ward-Level Committees to Tackle Stray Dog Issues in Vijayawada

Vijayawada, April 03, 2026 | TPN Bureau

In an effort to address the growing concerns over stray dog management, the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) convened a meeting with ward-level committee members on Friday. The meeting was led by Veterinary Assistant Surgeon D. Harish, focusing on strengthening coordination and ensuring timely resolution of issues related to stray dogs across the city.

During the meeting, officials emphasized the need for proactive measures at the ward level to effectively control and manage stray dog-related concerns. It was directed that ward-level committees, under the leadership of Sanitary Inspectors, should regularly monitor situations and take prompt action to resolve complaints from residents. Highlighting the challenges posed during the summer season, D. Harish stressed the importance of ensuring



adequate arrangements at designated dog feeding zones. Special provisions for water supply were advised to prevent dehydration among stray animals, considering the rising temperatures. The initiative aims to strike a balance between public safety and animal welfare. Officials further instructed that ward committee members must conduct review meetings at least once a week. These meetings will serve as a platform to assess ongoing issues, track progress, and implement necessary solutions to

mitigate stray dog-related problems within their respective wards. The corporation reiterated its commitment to maintaining public hygiene and safety while also ensuring humane treatment of animals. By involving local committees more actively, the VMC aims to create a structured and responsive system to handle stray dog issues effectively. The meeting concluded with a call for collective responsibility, urging all stakeholders to work in coordination for a cleaner and safer urban environment.

# VMC Intensifies Efforts on Green Cover and Pollution Control

Vijayawada, April 03, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) is taking proactive steps towards plant conservation and pollution control in the city, said Special Officer and NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha. On Sunday morning, the Collector, along with Municipal Commissioner Dhyana Chandra, conducted a field inspection at the Bandar Canal bund near the Krishnalanka Fire Station to review ongoing initiatives. During the visit, officials closely examined the sprinkler irrigation system installed to ensure proper watering of the plants grown along the canal bund. The Collector reviewed the effectiveness of the system and issued necessary instructions to officials for better maintenance and sustainability of the greenery. Emphasis was laid on strengthening measures to protect the saplings and promote green cover expansion



across the city. Dr. Lakshmisha also assessed the steps being implemented by the municipal corporation to curb pollution levels in Vijayawada. As part of the inspection, special focus was given to the use of mist vehicles deployed for pollution control on city roads. The Collector observed their functioning and advised officials to enhance their efficiency to achieve

better results in reducing dust and air pollution. Highlighting the importance of environmental protection, officials reiterated their commitment to maintaining ecological balance while ensuring urban development. The administration is working towards integrating sustainable practices, including effective water management and pollution mitigation techniques, as

part of its broader urban planning strategy. Chief Engineer In-charge P. Satyakumari and other staff members accompanied the officials during the inspection. The visit reflects the corporation's continued efforts to create a greener and cleaner Vijayawada through systematic planning and on-ground implementation of environmental initiatives.



# Machilipatnam Launches Drive to Become Plastic-Free

Machilipatnam, April 03, 2026 | TPN Bureau

In a significant step toward environmental sustainability, the Krishna district administration launched a campaign on Friday to make Machilipatnam a plastic-free town. District Collector D. K. Balaji inaugurated the initiative, urging citizens to actively participate in reducing plastic pollution as part of the broader state government mission to promote cleanliness and a greener Andhra Pradesh.

The campaign, named Swachhaayudham and Swachha Yodhulu, aims to mobilize residents, youth groups, NGOs, and local communities to engage in daily efforts to collect plastic waste. At the launch event, the collector demonstrated a simple tool designed to safely pick up plastic litter from streets and public spaces, making the cleanup process easier and more effective for volunteers.

Under the programme, individuals dedicating 15 to 30 minutes daily to plastic collection will be recognized as Swachha

Yodhulu, or cleanliness warriors. The initiative encourages grassroots participation to complement municipal sanitation efforts, allowing municipal workers to focus on key activities such as drain cleaning, waste segregation, and maintenance of public spaces.

Collector Balaji highlighted that public involvement is essential for creating lasting environmental impact. He stressed the importance of collective responsibility, urging residents to adopt the mantra, "Our City - Our Responsibility," to ensure the campaign's success. Municipal officials, local leaders, and community members joined the launch, signaling strong local support for the initiative. By fostering a culture of active participation and awareness, the drive aims to significantly reduce plastic waste in Machilipatnam while promoting civic responsibility and sustainability. Authorities hope that with consistent effort, Machilipatnam can serve as a model for other towns in Andhra Pradesh to achieve a cleaner, healthier, and plastic-free future.

# Amaravati Bill Passed, Celebrations Erupt in Nandigama

Nandigama, April 03, 2026 | TPN Bureau

A festive atmosphere prevailed across Andhra Pradesh following the passage of the Amaravati Legitimacy Bill in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, granting legal status to Amaravati as the state capital. Marking the occasion, Andhra Pradesh Government Whip and MLA Tangirala Soumya, along with alliance leaders, organized a grand bike rally in Nandigama town on Friday.

The rally commenced from her office and proceeded up to Gandhi Center, drawing enthusiastic participation from party cadres and supporters. The



celebrations continued with bursting of firecrackers, cake cutting, and distribution of sweets, reflecting the jubilation among the public over the development.

Speaking on the occasion, Tangirala Soumya described the bill's passage as a "victory for the people" and a moment of pride for the state. She stated that all political parties, ex-

cept YSRCP, extended their support to the bill, highlighting a united national stance in favor of Amaravati. Criticizing the opposition, she alleged that YSRCP had failed the people of Andhra Pradesh despite securing their mandate. Soumya expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan for their role in facilitating the bill's approval. She also thanked the Lok Sabha Speaker, Rajya Sabha Chairman, and leaders of various political parties who supported the legislation. She further accused the previous government of at-

tempting to weaken the Amaravati brand and claimed that recent political statements by former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy were merely a diversion. "While some tried to derail Amaravati, we ensured its protection through legislation. The entire nation has stood in support of Amaravati, showcasing solidarity," she said. With the bill now passed in Parliament, Amaravati is set to receive official legal recognition as the capital of Andhra Pradesh upon receiving the President's assent. The development is being seen as a significant milestone, restoring clarity and confidence regarding the state's capital status.

# Illegal Ration Rice Seized in Guntupalli, Probe Intensifies

Guntupalli, April 03, 2026 | TPN Bureau

In a significant crackdown on illegal ration activities, Sub-Inspector Satyavathi conducted a raid in Guntupalli village of Mylavaram constituency in NTR district, leading to the seizure of 1.75 tonnes of illegally stored ration rice on Friday. According to police sources, the seized stock has been identified as belonging to a local trader, Pandi Sekhar V, who is allegedly involved in the unauthorized ration rice business for a long time. Following the raid, the seized rice was handed over to revenue officials for further action.

The incident has sparked criticism from locals, who allege that despite ongoing illegal activities by Sekhar, revenue authorities had failed to take timely action. Many residents expressed concern over the apparent negligence, questioning how such operations continued unchecked for so long. Adding to the controversy,



the seized rice was reportedly shifted to a ration depot within the same village, drawing dissatisfaction among the public. Locals have raised doubts over the handling of the case and the decision to store confiscated stock in a local depot, fearing possible misuse or lack of transparency.

There are also allegations that ration rice is being diverted from fair price shops. Residents claim that dealers are purchasing rice from beneficiaries at prices ranging between 10 to 12 per kilogram

and later selling it to local traders at around 17 per kilogram, indicating a possible organized network behind the illegal trade. Sub-Inspector Satyavathi stated that a case will be registered in connection with the seizure, and further investigation is underway to identify all those involved in the illegal supply chain. The incident has once again highlighted concerns over the misuse of the public distribution system and the need for stricter monitoring by authorities to prevent such malpractices.

# Enhanced Arrangements at Indrakeeladri Temple for Devotee Convenience

Indrakeeladri, April 03, 2026 | TPN Bureau

In a bid to ensure better facilities and maintain discipline for the increasing number of devotees, Executive Officer (EO) V.K. Seena Nayak of Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Devasthanam at Indrakeeladri has implemented several key measures.

Focusing on reducing congestion, additional prasadam counters have been arranged between Ratham Center and Kanaka Durga Nagar. These counters were set up in an open space to manage heavy footfall efficiently. The EO is personally monitoring the quality and weight of prasadam being distributed, ensuring transparency and satisfaction among devotees.

To streamline darshan arrangements, queue lines have been systematically organized from Ghat Road to the Gali Gopuram. Special time slots have been allocated for elderly and differently-abled devotees,

enabling them to have a smoother and more comfortable darshan experience without long waiting hours.

Further, special saree sale counters have been established along the Ghat Road to make available the sarees offered to the deity. Devotees can purchase these sarees at fixed and regulated prices, as staff have been strictly instructed to adhere to the pricing guidelines without any deviations.

The EO has also issued firm directives to security personnel and sanitation workers to maintain polite and respectful behavior towards devotees at all times. Emphasizing discipline and hospitality, officials have been asked to ensure a pleasant and orderly environment within the temple premises. These measures reflect the temple administration's commitment to providing a hassle-free and spiritually fulfilling experience for devotees visiting the sacred shrine during the festive period.

# YSRCP Slams TDP, Defends Jagan's 'Growth Engine' Vision

Amaravathi, April 03, 2026 | TPN Bureau

YSR Congress Party State General Secretary Gadikota Srikanth Reddy launched a strong attack on the ruling coalition and TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu, while defending former Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and his vision of developing Andhra Pradesh as a "growth engine" through the "Mavignan" concept.

Addressing the media at the YSRCP office in Kadapa, Srikanth Reddy warned that the would not tolerate any derogatory remarks against Jagan Mohan Reddy. He alleged that attempts are being made to distort Jagan's vision, which, he said, aims at ensuring balanced development across all regions of the state.

The YSRCP leader accused Chandrababu Naidu of encouraging divisive politics by fueling caste and regional tensions for political gains. Referring to remarks made in the Rajya Sabha by Renuka Chowdhury, he claimed they were made at the behest of the TDP leadership, and criticized coalition leaders for not condemning those statements.



Srikanth Reddy speaking at a podium during a press conference.

Srikanth Reddy further alleged that the Amaravati capital project has become a hub of corruption under Naidu's leadership. He accused the TDP of indulging in insider trading earlier and now resorting to financial irregularities in the name of mobilization advances. He claimed that despite years of promises, even 10 percent of Amaravati's construction has not been completed, raising doubts about the government's intentions.

He expressed concern over what he described as neglect of backward regions like Rayalaseema and North Andhra, questioning whether the sentiments of people in these regions are being ignored in favor of Amaravati. He criticized the removal of Rayachoti district and alleged that such decisions have hurt regional sentiments.

On the Polavaram project, Srikanth Reddy blamed Chandrababu Naidu for delays and mismanagement, stating that the project, initiated during the late Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy's tenure, lost momentum due to alleged irregularities during TDP rule.

He also accused the government of failing to maintain law and order, alleging that incidents of violence and atrocities are increasing without strict action against the accused. He said the administration has lost control over its own legislators and governance systems.

Reiterating YSRCP's stand, Srikanth Reddy said the party is committed to safeguarding public interest and ensuring equitable development. However, he warned that any attempts to provoke divisions among people for political gain would be strongly opposed.

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## MVGR College Conducts Comprehensive Disaster Management Awareness Program

Vizianagaram, April 03, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The NSS Unit of MVGR College, in collaboration with the 5th Battalion of the Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), organized an extensive Awareness Program on Disaster Management on Friday at the college campus.

The initiative was designed to equip students with critical knowledge, practical skills, and a sense of responsibility for responding effectively to various emergencies. The program commenced with an address by Inspector S. Chandra Sekhar, the chief resource person, who highlighted the increasing importance of disaster management in today's dynamic world. He elaborated on the roles and responsibilities of the SDRF and emphasized the need for youth participation in acquiring skills that could prove vital in saving lives during emergencies. He urged students to become proactive members of their communities, capable of responding swiftly and responsibly when disasters strike. A 25-member disaster response team conducted live demonstrations and practical training sessions, showcasing the use of modern rescue equipment and techniques applicable in cyclones, floods, and river or sea rescues. The demonstrations included hands-on practice in emergency scenarios, such as rescuing stranded individuals, administering first aid, and ensuring safety during thunderstorms, lightning, fire accidents, earthquakes, and train-related emergencies. Students were also trained in the use of early warning systems, CPR, and basic physical examination techniques, providing them with foundational life-saving skills. To contextualize the importance of these measures, the team shared real-life incidents from Andhra Pradesh, illustrating the unpredictability and severity of natural and man-made disasters. An exhibition on disaster response equipment and resources was set up on campus, allowing students to familiarize themselves with essential tools used in rescue and relief operations. The exhibition drew significant attention and encouraged students to engage actively with the training materials. The program was attended by senior officials and faculty members, including G. Siva Prasad, RSI, K. Bhaskara Rao, RSI, MVGR-NSS Programme Officer N. Shanmukha Rao, and Dr. G. Anjaneyulu, ECE Professor and Boys Hostel Warden. NSS volunteers, faculty, and a large number of students actively participated in the event, ensuring a lively and engaging learning environment. The disaster management awareness program at MVGR College successfully highlighted the importance of preparedness, community involvement, and proactive learning. By combining theoretical knowledge with practical demonstrations and hands-on training, the program empowered students with the skills and confidence needed to respond effectively during emergencies, reinforcing a culture of safety, resilience, and civic responsibility among the youth.

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## YSRCP Condemns Attack on Harshaveena, Demands Immediate Action Against Jana Sena Leaders

Kadapa, April 03, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The recent assault on Harshaveena, the woman who had publicly accused Railways Koduru MLA Arav Sridhar of serious misconduct, has sparked widespread outrage and criticism from political leaders and activists. YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) State Joint Secretary Kishore Boosipati strongly condemned the attack, calling it an unprecedented violation of law and human rights. Speaking in Kadapa, he questioned why Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, whose party has repeatedly claimed to support women, has remained silent on the matter.



Boosipati detailed the incident, stating that Jana Sena Party leader Tatam Shetty Nagendra and his supporters allegedly attacked Harshaveena in broad daylight while she was purchasing flowers in the Koduru town market. The attack involved verbal abuse targeting her caste, physical assault with sticks, and threats, causing public shock and fear. Her accompanying relative, Gopi, was also assaulted during the incident.

The YSRCP leader demanded immediate legal action against the perpetrators, insisting that Tatam Shetty Nagendra be booked under the SC/ST (Atrocities Prevention) Act and sections relating to attempted murder and other violent offenses, and arrested without delay. Boosipati also criticized the Jana Sena leadership for failing to respond, highlighting that the victim, a Dalit woman, is pursuing justice alone, with no political or administrative support. Boosipati expressed grave concern over the lack of intervention by the state Home Minister, who is a woman, questioning why protective measures have not been provided for Harshaveena and why authorities have not acted to prevent further threats. He warned that the attack not only endangers the individual but also reflects poorly on governance, law enforcement, and the political accountability of Jana Sena.

The YSRCP assured Harshaveena of continued support, pledging to take the matter to the National SC/ST Commission and even to the President of India if necessary. Party leaders emphasized that they would remain by her side until justice is secured, ensuring her safety and amplifying her call for accountability. The event was attended by YSRCP SC Cell President Singamala Venkateshwar and members of the party's doctors' wing, including Dr. Penchalayya, who underscored the need for immediate action against the attackers and voiced solidarity with the victim. This incident has reignited debates over political intimidation, protection of women and Dalit citizens, and the responsibilities of political parties to prevent acts of violence. The attack on Harshaveena stands as a stark reminder of the challenges faced by individuals seeking justice against powerful figures and highlights the need for strict law enforcement and vigilant political accountability.

## Alleged Attack on Harshaveena Sparks Controversy in Railway Koduru

Railway Koduru, April 03, 2026 | TPN Bureau

A shocking incident in Railways Koduru has stirred political and public outrage as Harshaveena, a woman who recently accused YSRCP MLA Arav Sridhar of serious misconduct, was allegedly attacked by local Jana Sena Party workers. The assault reportedly took place at the town market while Harshaveena was purchasing flowers, and her accompanying relative, Gopi, was also targeted during the attack.

According to reports, the incident was allegedly led by Jana Sena state secretary Tatam Shetty Nagendra along with other party activists. Eyewitnesses claim the attackers struck Harshaveena with sticks and issued threats, creating panic among locals. The assault took place just after she had participated in a grievance forum organized by the TDP, where she sought justice for previous alleged wrongs by the

MLA. Harshaveena has filed complaints at the local police station, resulting in separate cases being registered against the perpetrators under sections of the SC/ST (Atrocities Prevention) Act. She expressed deep concern over the lack of security in Railways Koduru, stating that even CCTV installations near her residence had not been implemented and that she and her family felt unprotected. Harshaveena emphasized that any harm caused to her or her relatives would be the responsibility of MLA Arav Sridhar, Tatam Shetty Nagendra, and TDP in-charge Mukka Rupananda Reddy. She claimed she was targeted because she raised her voice against the MLA.

The attack drew condemnation from former YSRCP MLA Koramutla Srinivasulu, who criticized the perpetrators and demanded immediate action. He highlighted that such violence against women is unprecedented in the area and questioned the state of law and constitutional protections, noting that despite her persistent calls for justice over the past two months, there had been no adequate response from party leadership, including Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan.

The incident has sparked widespread debate on law enforcement, political accountability, and citizen safety, particularly concerning women who publicly challenge powerful figures. Authorities are investigating the assault, while political leaders from multiple parties have condemned the attack, calling for stringent action against those responsible. Harshaveena's case underscores growing concerns about political intimidation, law and order, and the protection of women exercising their legal and democratic rights. The local community, activists, and legal experts are closely monitoring the developments, demanding justice and stronger safeguards for victims of politically motivated attacks.

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## Nellore Rural MLA Office Conducts Weekly Prajadarbar to Address Public Grievances

Nellore Rural, April 03, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Nellore Rural MLA office has reinforced its commitment to public service by conducting its weekly Prajadarbar (public grievance session), providing a direct platform for residents to present issues and seek solutions from the authorities. This initiative, implemented under the guidance of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Youth Leader & Minister Nara Lokesh, ensures that citizens' concerns are heard, prioritized, and acted upon efficiently.

The Prajadarbar, led by TDP leader Kotam Reddy Giridhar Reddy, was held from 10 AM to 12 PM on Friday, as part of the office's ongoing daily availability to the public from 7 AM to 8 PM. Residents of Nellore Rural can approach the MLA office to discuss development-related issues, civic concerns, and welfare initiatives. Officials and party leaders work in close coordination to resolve grievances, monitor the progress of pending issues, and provide timely feedback to citizens. During the recent session, citizens submitted several requests related to local infrastructure, public amenities,

and social welfare schemes. In response, the MLA office announced the initiation of 240 development works across the constituency, funded with a total investment of Rs. 27 crore. These projects include road construction, water supply improvements, drainage systems, and other essential civic services. The office assured residents that future development works will continue based on fund availability and the importance of the submitted requests. Key officials and TDP leaders participated in the Prajadarbar, including AMC Chairman Manubolu Sridhar Reddy, Cluster In-Charges

Jaladanki Sudhakar and Sabir Khan, Co-Cluster In-Charge Rapuru Shekhar, 23rd Division TDP President Mekala Madhu, 28th Division TDP President Chekka Sai Sunil, and other party leaders such as Gaus, Vanaja Reddy, and Meghnath Singh. Their presence ensured that citizens' grievances were recorded accurately, reviewed promptly, and directed to the concerned departments for effective resolution. The initiative highlights the MLA office's dedication to transparent, accessible, and responsive governance, strengthening grassroots democracy by bringing officials closer to the people. By

offering a consistent forum for dialogue and problem-solving, the weekly Prajadarbar fosters community participation, encourages accountability, and ensures that development priorities align with citizens' needs. Residents have welcomed the initiative, emphasizing that regular interactions with officials enhance trust in governance and ensure that public resources and schemes are utilized effectively. The Nellore Rural MLA office's Prajadarbar exemplifies citizen-centric governance and the TDP's commitment to inclusive and sustainable development in the region.



# MLA Arani Srinivas Inaugurates Cooling Stations in Tirupati

Tirupati, April 3, 2026 | TPN Bureau:

In a bid to provide relief to citizens during the summer season, MLA Arani Srinivas inaugurated five cooling stations across Tirupati on Friday morning. Four of these stations were set up by the Municipal Corporation, while the JMC Trust established one.

The inauguration began at Ramanuja Circle, where MLA Arani Srinivas officially opened the first cooling station. He subsequently inaugurated additional stations at MR Palli Circle, Four Kallu Mandapam, Sub-Registrar Office, and near Oriental College. Addressing the public, he highlighted that these cooling stations were established to quench the thirst of both devotees visiting the city and ordinary citizens. He assured that the initiative would continue throughout the summer season to ensure relief from the heat.

MLA Srinivas also mentioned that he had personally facilitated the setup of one cooling station and that the JMC Trust would soon establish more centers across the city. Complementing the MLA's



efforts, State Yadav Corporation Chairman Narasimha Yadav stated that the government had set up multiple cooling centers to serve the needs of citizens and devotees. He encouraged donors and organizations to come forward and help set up additional stations in key areas of the city until the end of summer.

The inauguration program was attended by several local leaders and officials, including Janasena City President Rajareddy, Gangamma Gudi Committee Chairman Mahesh Yadav, S.K. Babu, Nainar

Srinivas, Nagabhushanam, Dodda Reddy Srinivas Reddy, Itamkula Hemant Kumar, Anand, Chintamshetti Madhu, Ankalamma Gudi Chairman Konda Rajmohan, Suman Babu, Hemakumar, Uday, Konda Reddy, Rangareddy, Sangetham Venkatamuni, Dharaani, Mauli, Prasad Yadav, Laxman Rao, Ramu, Keshav\*\*, and Kotha Veedhi Venkateswara Gudi Committee Chairman Vinod Royal, among others. Members of the HDS Committee, Munaswami, Gangamma Gudi Committee, and several other local community representatives also participated. MLA Arani Srinivas emphasized that such initiatives not only provide immediate relief but also demonstrate the government's commitment to public welfare, particularly for devotees and citizens navigating the summer heat in Tirupati.

This initiative marks a proactive step in community welfare, combining governmental support and private contributions to ensure that citizens have access to basic necessities like water and cooling during peak summer months.



## Andhra Pradesh Launches Seaweed Cultivation Across Nine Coastal Districts

Kakinada, April 3, 2026 | TPN Bureau:

Andhra Pradesh is set to expand seaweed cultivation across nine coastal districts to provide sustainable livelihoods for fishing communities and boost the state's marine economy. The initiative will cover 14 villages along the coast and is being implemented with the support of government agencies, research institutes, and self help groups.

The program is led by the Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) in collaboration with research institutions and local organizations. Beneficiaries from self help groups will receive training, financial support, and technical guidance to establish seaweed farms. This initiative aims to supplement income for families traditionally dependent on fishing and related occupations, providing a reliable source of earnings.

Farmers participating in the project can potentially earn between 1.5 lakh and 3.5 lakh per hectare annually, depending on the species of seaweed, cultivation methods, and level of processing. Besides economic benefits, seaweed cultivation also contributes positively to the environment, including carbon sequestration and supporting the health of marine ecosystems.

The project will initially develop model farms in key locations such as Kakinada, Konaseema, Bapatla, and Srikakulam districts. Additional efforts are

planned for villages in Nellore, Anakapalli, Krishna, Prakasam, and Tirupati districts. Technical expertise and monitoring will be provided by research institutes to ensure proper cultivation techniques and best practices are followed in all regions.

Seaweed cultivation presents a promising alternative income source, particularly for uses in food products, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and agriculture. However, it is perishable and must be processed or marketed soon after harvesting, which occurs within 45 to 60 days. To address this, efforts are being made to encourage entrepreneurs to set up nearby processing units, ensuring the crop is efficiently utilized and marketed.

The initiative also aligns with broader goals of rural development, coastal sustainability, and employment generation. By integrating marine farming with community welfare, the project aims to create a scalable model that benefits both local populations and the environment.

If successful, the seaweed cultivation program could become a model for other coastal regions, promoting economic diversification, environmental conservation, and sustainable development. The government's proactive support and involvement of local communities are expected to make this initiative a significant step in enhancing livelihoods along Andhra Pradesh's coastline.

# Case Registered Against Former Minister Perni Nani in Machilipatnam

Machilipatnam, April 3, 2026

A police case has been registered against senior YSR Congress Party leader and former minister Perni Nani following an altercation with law enforcement officials during an enforcement action in Machilipatnam on Thursday. Authorities booked him after complaints that he obstructed official duties and threatened police personnel, leading to tensions at the site of an ongoing demolition drive.

The incident unfolded when local officials began demolishing an allegedly unauthorized structure in the Kobbari Thota area of Machilipatnam. During the operation, Perni Nani arrived at the scene along with his supporters and confronted the enforcement team. Verbal exchanges escalated into accusations that Nani threatened and intimidated officers and used abusive language against them, prompting the police to file a formal complaint.

Based on this complaint, law enforcement registered a case under sections related to ob-



structing public servants and threatening officials. The charges reflect the gravity of the allegations, including disrupting police duties and in-

timidation. Political tensions have heightened as a result of the case, with leaders from various parties weighing in. Perni Nani, a seasoned politician and

former minister who has served multiple terms as an MLA from Machilipatnam, has previously been involved in other controversies, drawing

public attention in past years. The local administration confirmed that the investigation is underway, and authorities are expected to question Nani in due course. Police will examine the sequence of events at the demolition site, including witness testimonies and any available video or documentary evidence, to determine the extent of involvement by all parties. The case has sparked debate in political circles, with supporters and critics of the former minister offering contrasting narratives. Some describe the situation as political interference in administrative processes, while others argue that no individual — regardless of political stature — should impede official action or intimidate law enforcement personnel. As the investigation progresses, further developments are anticipated, including possible summons, statements from police officials, and commentary from political leaders. The case is likely to remain a focal point of local news in the coming days as authorities clarify the circumstances surrounding the confrontation.

# CM Assistance Fund Cheques Distributed in Nidadavolu

Nidadavolu, April 3, 2026 | TPN Bureau:

In a significant step towards supporting citizens facing medical emergencies, the Chief Minister's Assistance Fund (CM Aid Fund) cheques were distributed to beneficiaries across Nidadavolu town, mandal, Undrajavar, and Peravali regions on Friday.

A total of 49 applicants, who had approached the CM Aid Fund for assistance with hospital bills due to various health issues, received cheques amounting to Rs. 27.58 lakh. The event aimed to provide timely financial relief to families dealing with medical expenses.

The distribution ceremony was presided over by Burugupalli Shesharao, Chairman of the Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation, who personally handed over the

cheques to the recipients at Velivenu in Undrajavaram mandal. Beneficiaries expressed gratitude for the support, noting that such timely assistance greatly eased the financial burden during medical crises.

Following the cheque distribution, celebrations were held to commemorate the formal recognition of Amaravati as the state capital of Andhra Pradesh. Coalition leaders and party workers participated in a cake-cutting ceremony, marking the milestone alongside the fund distribution event.

The programme was attended by prominent local leaders, including Kommineni Venkateswara Rao, President of the Nidadavolu TDP unit, and several party members who assisted in organizing the event. The ceremony highlighted the government's dual focus on welfare measures for citizens and the

ongoing development initiatives for the state capital.

Officials emphasized that the CM Aid Fund serves as a crucial support mechanism for residents facing urgent medical and other critical needs, ensuring that financial constraints do not prevent access to necessary healthcare services.

This initiative also reinforced the government's commitment to proactive citizen welfare, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas, where access to immediate financial assistance can significantly impact quality of life.

By combining celebratory events with meaningful welfare distribution, the local administration successfully showcased both civic engagement and government support for public welfare programs, leaving a positive impression on the community.



# Rotary Human Milk Bank in Tirupati: Lifeline for Vulnerable Infants

**Tirupati, April 3, 2026 | TPN Bureau**

The Rotary Human Milk Bank in Tirupati has emerged as a crucial initiative to support infants who lack access to maternal milk, providing them with essential nutrition and improving their chances of healthy growth and survival. Established at the Government Maternity Hospital under the efforts of the Rotary Club of Tirupati, the milk bank collects donated breast milk, pasteurizes it, stores it safely, and distributes it to infants in need, free of cost.

On Friday, the facility celebrated the completion of its

second year, with District Collector Dr. S. Venkateswar visiting the milk bank to observe its operations. He highlighted the bank's role in filling a critical gap for infants who cannot receive maternal milk and praised the Rotary Club and hospital staff for their dedication. The collected milk undergoes rigorous pasteurization and quality checks to prevent infections, ensuring that it is safe and highly nutritious. This process provides newborns with the energy, hydration, and essential nutrients required for optimal growth, particularly benefiting preterm and low-birth-weight babies.

The milk bank has already

benefited over 8,288 infants, contributing significantly to reducing neonatal mortality and promoting infant health. Mothers who donate milk are recognized with certificates, mementos, and public appreciation from the District Collector, fostering community participation. The bank operates under strict safety protocols, and milk distribution is conducted based on doctors' recommendations, ensuring the infants receive proper care and nutrition.

Equipped with an analyzer, the Tirupati Human Milk Bank is capable of accurately collecting, storing, and monitoring milk quality. It stands out as a model facility

in Andhra Pradesh, demonstrating the importance of well-managed milk banks in enhancing neonatal care. Officials including Medical Superintendent Dr. Prameela Devi, AP Medical Council Chairman Dr. Srihari, and senior doctors from the hospital and nearby medical colleges participated in the program, lauding the services provided by the bank.

Speaking at the event, Rotary Club President Rajendra Shetty noted that the bank was established through support from Rotary Global Grants and collaborations with Rotary Club of Green Tin, Malaysia. He emphasized that the project not only ensures that vulnerable

infants receive life-sustaining maternal nutrition but also strengthens community involvement in healthcare initiatives.

Through continuous efforts, the Tirupati Human Milk Bank is transforming infant care by providing life-saving nutrition, promoting healthy development, and offering hope to thousands of newborns across Andhra Pradesh who otherwise might be deprived of proper maternal nourishment.

This program exemplifies how local leadership, medical guidance, and community participation can come together to protect the most vulnerable members of society.



## Tiruchanur and Affiliated Temples – April 2026 Special Festivities

**Tirupati, April 3, 2026 | TPN Bureau:**

The month of April at Tiruchanur Sri Padmavathi Ammavari Temple and affiliated temples is set to witness a series of special religious events and celebrations, attracting devotees from across the region.

**Tiruchanur Sri Padmavathi Ammavari Temple**

- April 10, 17, 24 (Fridays): Evening Tiruchchi Utsavam at 6:00 PM.
- April 11 (Uttarashada Nakshatra): At 6:45 PM, the deity will proceed on a Gaja Vahanam procession through the temple streets, offering blessings to devotees.
- April 30 – May 2: Annual Vasanthotsavam festival. Key events include April 28 – Koyil Alwar Tirumanjanam, and April 29 – Ankurapanam (sacred sowing ceremony).

**Sri Sundararaja Swamy Temple**

- April 16 (Uttarabhadra Nakshatra): Evening Tiruchchi procession at 7:00 PM for the deity.

**Sri Balaramakrishna Swamy Temple**

- April 21 (Rohini Nakshatra): Evening Tiruchchi Utsavam at 7:00 PM in honor of Lord Krishna Swamy.

**Sri Suryanarayana Swamy Temple**

- April 29 (Hasta Nakshatra): Tiruchchi Utsavam at 5:00 PM for Lord Suryanarayana Swamy.

**Sri Srinivasa Swamy Temple**

- April 4, 11, 18, 25 (Saturdays): Morning Abhishekam at 8:00 AM.

**Appalayagunta Sri Prasanna Venkateswara Swamy Temple**

- April 7 (Tuesday): Morning Ashtadala Padmapradarshanam at 8:00 AM.
- April 10, 17, 24 (Fridays): Morning Vastra Alankarana and Abhishekam at 7:00 AM.
- April 8: Morning Ashtottara Shata Kalasha Abhishekam at 8:00 AM.
- April 12: Morning Kalyanotsavam at 10:30 AM.
- April 5, 12, 19, 26: Morning Abhishekam to Lord Anjaneya Swamy.

These carefully planned rituals and festive events are designed to enhance devotion and community participation, providing devotees with multiple opportunities to seek blessings and partake in traditional

ceremonies. The April calendar demonstrates a seamless blend of processions, abhishekams, special Nakshatra observances, and annual festivals, reinforcing Tiruchanur's significance as a spiritual hub in Andhra Pradesh. Devotees are encouraged to plan their visits in accordance with the timings of the Tiruchchi Utsavams, Vasanthotsavam, and other ceremonial events to experience the temple's sacred ambiance in full glory.



ceremonies.

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## Grand Opening of Sunrise Hospitals in Renigunta

**Renigunta, April 3, 2026 | TPN Bureau**

The newly established Sunrise Hospitals in Renigunta celebrated its grand inauguration on Friday morning at the Old Check Post Circle, marking a significant milestone in healthcare accessibility for the region. The event was attended by medical professionals, local dignitaries, and residents, reflecting the community's enthusiasm for improved healthcare services.

The chief guest for the occasion was Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Chairman and ex-officio Member of Parliament, Dolars Divakar Reddy, who also serves as the principal secretary of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) Tirupati Parliament unit. Chairman Reddy formally inaugurated the hospital by cutting the ceremonial ribbon, officially opening its doors to patients.

Addressing the gathering, Chairman Reddy emphasized the importance of providing quality healthcare to meet the needs of the growing population in Renigunta. He praised the management of Sunrise Hospitals for introducing modern medical infrastructure and



state-of-the-art equipment, which will enhance patient care and improve access to advanced medical services. He also underscored the need for affordable healthcare, urging the hospital to focus on delivering cost-effective treatments while maintaining high standards, ensuring that even economically weaker sections can access professional medical care.

The inauguration highlighted

ed the hospital's commitment to comprehensive healthcare services, including general medicine, specialized diagnostics, emergency care, and preventive healthcare programs. Chairman Reddy appreciated the hospital for its initiative to cater to the community with modern facilities while maintaining a patient-centric approach. He expressed hope that Sunrise Hospitals would gain recognition for excellence in

medical service delivery and contribute meaningfully to the overall health and well-being of the local population.

The ceremony also included the participation of Dr. Sandeep Reddy and the hospital's medical team, staff, and several prominent local personalities. The event showcased the hospital's infrastructure, medical equipment, and readiness to serve the public efficiently.

Sunrise Hospitals aims to be a center of medical excellence in Renigunta, combining advanced technology with compassionate patient care. With its inauguration, the hospital is expected to significantly improve healthcare access and services in the region, supporting preventive care, early diagnosis, and treatment for various medical conditions. The hospital management expressed commitment to building long-term trust with patients by ensuring high-quality, reliable, and accessible healthcare services. This opening marks a major step toward strengthening the healthcare network in Renigunta, offering residents a modern facility that meets the growing medical needs of the community while prioritizing affordability, efficiency, and quality care.



## Ashok Leyland Donates Mini Truck to TTD

**Tirumala, April 3, 2026:**

In a gesture of support to temple operations, Ashok Leyland donated a Dost Plus XL mini truck worth Rs 8.75 lakhs to the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) on Friday morning.

The donation ceremony commenced at the Srivari Temple, where the company's Area Manager, Sri Mohammed Nazeeruddin, performed special prayers for the vehicle to ensure its safe and auspicious use in temple services. Following the rituals, the vehicle keys were formally handed over to TTD Additional Executive Officer, Sri Ch. Venkaiah Choudary.

The mini truck is expected to aid in the smooth functioning of TTD's operations, including transport of materials, supplies, and other logistical requirements across the Tiruma-

la complex. This initiative reflects Ashok Leyland's commitment to corporate social responsibility and support for religious institutions.

The donation was warmly appreciated by TTD officials, who expressed gratitude to the company for contributing a valuable asset that would enhance operational efficiency. Such contributions are expected to benefit devotees and staff alike, ensuring better service and management at the temple. This event further strengthens the partnership between corporate entities and spiritual institutions, highlighting the role of private organizations in supporting public and religious services. The mini truck donation adds to TTD's fleet, reinforcing its ability to manage the increasing footfall of devotees, particularly during festivals and peak pilgrimage seasons.

## SWIMS Tirupati Hosts Joint Workshop on Physiotherapy and Psychiatry

**Tirupati, April 3, 2026 | TPN Bureau**

The Sri Venkateswara Institute of Medical Sciences (SVIMS), Tirupati, organized a two-day joint workshop under the Physiotherapy and Psychiatry departments, aiming to enhance students' practical skills and theoretical knowledge in these fields. The inaugural session of the workshop was held on April 3, 2026, at the Smt. Padmavati Auditorium, commencing at 11:00 AM, according to Medical Superintendent Dr. Ram.

The workshop began with a ceremonial lighting of the lamp by SVIMS Director and Vice-Chancellor Dr. R.V. Kumar, Organizing Secretary Dr. Srikumari, Head of Psychiatry Dr. Ganesh Kumar, and Resource Person Dr. Sanjeev Gupta, marking the formal start of the program. Dr. R.V. Kumar highlighted the significance of such workshops, noting that



they provide students with opportunities to improve both their academic knowledge and practical expertise, which are critical for future clinical practice. The sessions included a detailed presentation by Dr. Sanjeev Gupta, Research and De-

velopment Dean from Gurugram University, Delhi, focusing on the fundamentals of nerve-muscle physiotherapy and surface electromyography in psychiatric disorders. Using PowerPoint presentations, he guided students

through theoretical concepts as well as practical applications, emphasizing the integration of physiotherapy techniques in managing mental health conditions.

Organizing Secretary Dr. Srikumari expressed gratitude to the SVIMS administration, including Dean Alok Sachan, Registrar Aparna R. Bitla, and Physiotherapy Principal Dr. Madhavi, for their support in facilitating the workshop. She also acknowledged the cooperation of Head of Psychiatry Dr. Ganesh Kumar, who played a pivotal role in coordinating the interdisciplinary initiative.

Dr. Ganesh Kumar highlighted the value of joint workshops in improving clinical practice, especially in managing tension headaches, stress-related disorders, and other psychiatric conditions. The program allowed students to gain hands-on experience and interact directly with faculty and experts,

enhancing their understanding of patient care across disciplines.

Participants included faculty members from the Physiotherapy department, such as Dr. K. Senthil Kumar, Dr. G. Kameshwari, Dr. S. Raghavakrishna, and Dr. Mude Govinda Nayak, along with students from SVIMS Physiotherapy College, JEMS College, Sriakulam Physiotherapy College, and SVIMS alumni pursuing postgraduate studies in Psychiatry. The collaborative approach of the workshop fostered knowledge sharing, interdisciplinary learning, and strengthened clinical skills, benefiting both students and faculty.

The two-day workshop is expected to significantly enhance students' competence in integrating physiotherapy and psychiatric care, reinforcing SVIMS Tirupati's commitment to advanced medical education and patient-centered training.

## Free Power Scheme Brings Relief and Boosts Handloom Sector in Andhra Pradesh

**Tirupati, April 3, 2026 | TPN Bureau**

The Andhra Pradesh coalition government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, has taken a significant step to support the handloom sector, which sustains the livelihoods of thousands of low-income families across the state. Recognizing the challenges faced by weavers and power loom operators, the government has introduced a free power scheme, aimed at reducing operational costs and ensuring that artisan families can continue their craft without financial stress.

As revealed by APSPDCL CMD Siva Sankar Lotheti, the scheme came into effect on April 1, 2026, and provides 200 units of free electricity per month to handloom weavers and up to 500 units per month to power loom operators. This

initiative will benefit 41,046 weavers across APSPDCL's jurisdiction, which covers districts including Nellore, Tirupati, Chittoor, Annamayya, Kadapa, Kurnool, Nandyal, Anantapur, and Sri Sathya Sai. The state government is bearing an annual subsidy of Rs. 25.56 crores toward electricity bills under this program.

Within the scheme's framework, APSPDCL is committed to ensuring uninterrupted and reliable power supply. Measures include upgrading transformer capacity in high-demand areas, installing capacitors to stabilize electricity supply, and promptly addressing power-related complaints from weaver communities. These efforts aim to improve productivity, reduce downtime, and enhance the overall efficiency of the weaving and power loom operations.



The scheme is already creating a positive impact on the ground. With the reduction in electricity expenses, families dependent on handloom and power loom weaving are experiencing tangible relief, enabling them to invest more in raw materials and expand pro-

duction. The initiative also promotes sustainable development by allowing artisans to operate efficiently without compromising on the quality of their craft.

Across the APSPDCL jurisdiction, the scheme covers 29,075 handloom services and 11,971 power loom services, en-

sureing that a large section of the state's artisan community benefits directly. The government's intervention reflects its commitment to supporting traditional sectors that provide significant employment opportunities and contribute to rural economic development.

The free power initiative not only strengthens the handloom sector but also encourages youth participation, preserves cultural heritage, and enhances the financial stability of artisan families. By alleviating one of the major operational costs, the government is helping the sector move toward growth, modernization, and sustainability. Weaver families have welcomed the move, seeing it as a government-backed step toward better livelihoods, higher productivity, and long-term development of the handloom industry in Andhra Pradesh.

# PM Modi Holds Roadshow in Puducherry as Triangular Contest Heats Up

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a major roadshow in Puducherry, intensifying campaigning ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections. The visit comes at a crucial time, as the political battle in the Union Territory is shaping into a closely watched triangular contest.

## Massive Roadshow Ahead of Polls

The Prime Minister's roadshow witnessed large crowds lining the streets, with supporters gathering along the route to welcome him. The event was part of the Bharatiya Janata Party's campaign push ahead of polling, which is scheduled to take place soon. The roadshow stretched across key areas of Puducherry, with party workers and supporters participating in large numbers.

During the visit, Narendra Modi also interacted with party workers and encouraged them to strengthen grassroots outreach and convert public support into votes. The roadshow is seen as a significant effort to energise the party's cadre and boost momentum ahead of the elections.

**Triangular Contest Takes Shape**  
The election in Puducherry is turning into a three-way contest involving the ruling alliance, opposition parties, and a new entrant. Actor-politician Vijay's party, TamilagaVetriKazhagam, is making its electoral debut, adding a

fresh dimension to the political landscape.

The emergence of the new political force has made the election more competitive, with traditional players now facing an additional challenge. Political analysts believe that this could influence vote shares and reshape the contest in several constituencies.

## High Stakes Election

The Puducherry Assembly election is scheduled to be held on April 9, 2026, with all 30 seats going to polls. The results are expected to play a key role in determining the political direction of the Union Territory for the next five years. Major parties and alliances have stepped up their campaigning efforts, with top

leaders conducting rallies, roadshows, and public meetings across constituencies. The intense campaigning reflects the high stakes involved in the election.

## Campaign Momentum Builds

With the triangular contest gaining momentum, all parties are focusing on voter outreach and strengthening their ground presence. Narendra Modi's roadshow marks one of the biggest campaign events so far, highlighting the importance of the Puducherry election in the broader political landscape.

As polling day approaches, political activity in Puducherry is expected to intensify further, with leaders from various parties continuing to campaign aggressively.



# BJP vs Congress Face-Off Over Extended Budget Session, Women's Quota And Delimitation

A political confrontation has erupted between the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Indian National Congress over the Centre's decision to extend the Budget Session of Parliament to discuss key issues related to women's reservation and delimitation. The move has sparked sharp reactions from opposition parties, setting the stage for an intense political debate.

## Why The Budget Session Is Being Extended

The government has decided to reconvene Parliament for a short three-day session beginning April 16. The session is expected to focus on legislative measures required to implement women's reservation and restructure parliamentary representation.

The proposed legislation is aimed at operationalising the long-pending 33 percent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies. The government is also considering expanding the strength of the Lok Sabha to accommodate the women's quota while ensuring broader representation across the country.

Officials believe these changes could fast-track the implementation of the women's reservation framework, which currently depends on census data and delimitation of constituencies. The move is being seen as a major structural reform in India's electoral system.

## Congress Raises Concerns

The Indian National Congress and several opposition parties have raised objections over the timing of the extended session. They argue that introducing major constitutional reforms during ongoing political campaigns could be politically motivated.

Opposition leaders said they support women's reservation



in principle but questioned the urgency and the process being followed. They also expressed concern about linking women's reservation with delimitation, which could significantly alter political representation across states. Some opposition leaders have also demanded wider consultation and an all-party discussion before implementing such sweeping reforms. According to them, consensus is essential for major constitutional changes that could reshape the political landscape.

## BJP Defends The Decision

The Bharatiya Janata Party defended the move, stating that the government is committed to implementing women's reservation and strengthening democratic representation. Party leaders said extending the session is necessary to move forward with reforms that benefit women and improve governance. Government representatives also dismissed allegations of political motives, saying Parliament has the authority to convene sessions when required to pass important legislation. They emphasised that the decision reflects the government's in-

intention to deliver long-pending reforms.

## Delimitation Adds To Political Tension

The proposed delimitation exercise has added another layer of complexity to the debate. Delimitation involves drawing constituency boundaries and could potentially increase the number of parliamentary seats. Since women's reservation is expected to be implemented after delimitation, the issue has become politically sensitive. Different states may see changes in representation, making the debate even more intense.

## High-Stakes Parliamentary Debate Ahead

With Parliament set to reconvene soon, the issue is expected to trigger heated discussions between the ruling party and opposition leaders. The clash highlights the high political stakes involved, as the proposed reforms could reshape India's electoral structure.

As the debate unfolds, the extended Budget Session is likely to become one of the most closely watched political developments, with both sides preparing for a strong showdown in Parliament.

# Rajnath Singh Commissions Indian Navy's Stealth Frigate INS Taragiri

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh commissioned the Indian Navy's stealth frigate INS Taragiri, marking a major boost to India's maritime defence capabilities. The commissioning ceremony was held with senior naval officials and defence personnel in attendance, highlighting India's growing naval strength and focus on indigenous defence manufacturing.

## Major Boost To Naval Power

During the ceremony, Rajnath Singh described INS Taragiri as a significant addition to India's naval fleet. He said the warship would enhance the country's ability to safeguard maritime borders and strengthen operational readiness. The Defence Minister emphasised that the induction reflects India's increasing capability to design and build advanced warships domestically.

The newly commissioned warship is equipped with advanced weapons, including missile systems and modern



## Indigenous Warship With Advanced Features

INS Taragiri is a 7,000-tonne stealth frigate with sophisticated combat capabilities. Built with around 75 percent indigenous components, the warship represents India's push toward self-reliance in defence production. The ship is designed to operate with reduced radar visibility, making

it difficult for adversaries to detect.

The vessel is also capable of multi-role operations, including anti-surface warfare, anti-air defence, and maritime surveillance. Its advanced systems enable it to operate effectively in high-threat environments, strengthening India's maritime security framework.

## Part Of Project 17A Programme

INS Taragiri is part of Project 17A, which involves the construction of advanced stealth frigates for the Indian Navy. These warships are designed as successors to earlier

classes and incorporate modern technology, improved stealth features, and enhanced combat systems.

The project aims to modernise India's naval fleet and improve operational efficiency. With multiple ships under construction, the programme is expected to significantly strengthen India's maritime presence in the Indian Ocean region. Strengthening Maritime SecurityRajnath Singh said the commissioning sends a message of peace and stability while reinforcing India's defence preparedness. He highlighted the importance of a strong navy in protecting national interests and ensuring secure sea routes. The addition of INS Taragiri comes at a time when India is focusing on expanding its naval capabilities and enhancing indigenous defence manufacturing. The new stealth frigate is expected to play a crucial role in boosting India's maritime security and operational readiness in the coming years.

# Before Tamil Nadu Poll, MK Stalin Writes To PM Over Foreign Funding Bill

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi raising concerns over the proposed amendments to the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act ahead of the upcoming Tamil Nadu Assembly Elections 2026. The letter comes at a politically sensitive time, with campaigning intensifying across the state.

## Stalin Flags Concerns Over Proposed Amendments

In his letter, Stalin expressed serious concerns about the proposed foreign funding bill, saying the changes could negatively impact non-governmental organisations, charitable institutions and civil society groups that rely on foreign contributions. He warned that expanding regulatory powers

and increasing scrutiny may discourage individuals and organisations from engaging in charitable activities.

The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister also highlighted provisions that could widen the scope of liability to include key functionaries of organisations. According to him, such provisions may create an "implicit presumption of guilt" and discourage participation in social and humanitarian work.

## Timing Of Bill Raises Political Questions

Stalin also pointed to reports that the bill had been temporarily held back due to concerns over electoral repercussions in states like Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Assam. He warned that there is apprehension the

proposal may be revived after elections, raising concerns among stakeholders.

He urged the Centre to clarify its position and reconsider the proposed amendments, arguing that such changes could affect educational institutions, NGOs and welfare organisations across the country.

## Demand For Wider Consultation

Stalin called for broader consultation with state governments and stakeholders before moving forward with any changes to foreign funding regulations. He emphasised that decisions affecting civil society organisations should be taken with consensus and transparency.

The Chief Minister also stressed that many organisa-

tions play an important role in social welfare, education, healthcare and disaster relief, and any restrictive measures could hamper their functioning.

## Political Heat Ahead Of Elections

The letter has added to the political debate ahead of the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections. With campaigning gaining momentum, the issue of foreign funding regulations is likely to become another point of contention between the Centre and opposition parties.

As the election campaign intensifies, the debate over the proposed bill is expected to continue, with political leaders raising concerns over its implications and timing.

# BJP Names 27 Candidates For Tamil Nadu Polls, L Murugan Among Key Nominees

The Bharatiya Janata Party has released its first list of 27 candidates for the upcoming Tamil Nadu Assembly Elections 2026, fielding several prominent leaders including Union Minister L. Murugan. The announcement marks a key step in the party's preparations as campaigning intensifies ahead of polling later this month.

## Key Leaders In BJP's Candidate List

The party has fielded L. Murugan from the Avanashi constituency, while former Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan has been nominated from Myslapore. National president of the BJP Mahila Morcha Vanathi Srinivasan will contest from Coimbatore North.

Other candidates announced include Kirthika Shivkumar from Modakkurichi, S. Vijayadharani from Vilavancode, and Nagesh Kumar from Thalli. The list reflects a mix of experienced leaders and new faces as the party looks to



strengthen its presence in the state.

## BJP Contesting 27 Seats

The BJP is contesting 27 seats in Tamil Nadu as part of the National Democratic Alliance arrangement. The party's candidate selection has taken into account regional representation, caste equations and local political dynamics.

Party leaders expressed confidence that the candidates will help expand the BJP's footprint in Tamil Nadu, where the party has traditionally had

limited electoral success. The selection also reflects the party's focus on promoting leaders with strong grassroots connections.

## Polling Date Announced

Polling for the 234-member Tamil Nadu Assembly is scheduled for April 23, while counting of votes will take place on May 4. Political parties have intensified campaigning across the state, with senior leaders expected to hold rallies and roadshows in the coming days.

## Alliance Strategy

The candidate announcement comes after the NDA finalised seat-sharing arrangements in Tamil Nadu. The BJP's list signals the beginning of an aggressive campaign strategy, with the party hoping to improve its performance in key constituencies.

With major parties announcing candidates and stepping up campaigning, the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections are shaping up to be a closely watched contest.

# "Will Bring Uniform Civil Code, Infiltrators Won't Be Able To Marry 4 Times": Amit Shah In Assam Poll Pitch

Union Home Minister Amit Shah intensified campaigning for the Assam Assembly Elections 2026, promising implementation of a Uniform Civil Code and stronger action against illegal infiltration if the Bharatiya Janata Party returns to power in the state.

## UCC Promise At Election Rally

Addressing a rally in Dudhnoi in Goalpara district, Amit Shah said that the Uniform Civil Code would ensure uniform laws for all citizens. He added that once implemented, infiltrators would not be able to marry multiple times, stressing that the move would bring equality and transparency in personal laws.

He also assured voters that the BJP government would take strict action against illegal infiltration, an issue that has remained central to Assam's political landscape. According to Shah, protecting the identity and rights of indige-



nous communities would remain a priority.

## Focus On Tribal Development

During his address, Amit Shah highlighted development initiatives aimed at tribal communities. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Himanta Biswa Sarma have prepared a comprehensive roadmap for tribal develop-

ment in Assam. He emphasised that continued development would depend on the BJP returning to power in the state. Shah urged voters to support the party to ensure sustained growth and improved infrastructure across Assam.

## Infiltration A Key Election Issue

Illegal infiltration has

emerged as a major election issue in Assam. BJP leaders have repeatedly highlighted the need for stricter border control and measures to protect indigenous communities.

The party has also emphasised implementing the Uniform Civil Code as part of its broader governance reforms. These issues have dominated campaign speeches and political debates ahead of polling.

## High-Stakes Assam Polls

The Assam Assembly elections are shaping up to be a closely watched contest, with major political parties intensifying their campaign efforts. Senior leaders from different parties have been holding rallies across the state to gain voter support.

With Amit Shah's latest remarks, the political temperature in Assam has risen further. Campaigning is expected to intensify in the coming days as parties compete to secure voter backing ahead of the elections.

# Inside the Fallout That Cost US Army Chief Randy George His Job

A major leadership shake-up hit the United States Army after Chief of Staff Randy George was asked to step down following a growing dispute with Pete Hegseth. The disagreement reportedly revolved around military promotions, leadership authority, and broader policy direction, ultimately leading to George's removal.

## Dispute Over Military Promotions

The conflict between George and Hegseth reportedly began over senior officer promotions. Sources indicated that Hegseth attempted to block or delay promotions of certain officers, while George pushed back, insisting that promotions should follow established military procedures and merit-based evaluations.

This disagreement created friction between civilian leadership and military command. As tensions escalated, communication between the two reportedly deteriorated, making it increasingly difficult to maintain a functional working relationship. The dispute eventually reached a breaking point, resulting in George being asked to step down from his role.

## Removal During a Sensitive Period

George's departure comes at a particularly sensitive time



for the U.S. military. The United States is currently navigating multiple global security challenges, making leadership stability crucial. Changes at the top of military leadership during such periods are uncommon and often raise concerns about continuity and strategic planning.

The move also reflects broader shifts within the defense es-

tablishment, where leadership alignment with policy priorities has become increasingly important. Analysts suggest that the decision signals a stronger push by civilian leadership to shape military direction and decision-making.

## Broader Pentagon Restructuring

George's exit is part of a wider reshuffle within the United

States Department of Defense. Several senior officials have either stepped down or been replaced in recent months, indicating ongoing restructuring efforts within the defense leadership.

These changes are seen as part of an attempt to bring in leadership that aligns more closely with evolving strategic priorities. The reshuffle has

drawn attention because leadership changes at this level are relatively rare and can influence long-term defense planning.

## Who Is Randy George?

Randy George served as the 41st Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army. A career infantry officer, he held multiple senior roles during his military service. He also served in major conflict zones, including deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan.

George took over as Army Chief in 2023, and his tenure was expected to continue for several years. His sudden departure therefore surprised many observers and highlighted the seriousness of the internal disagreement.

## What Happens Next

Following George's exit, interim leadership is expected to take charge while the administration considers a permanent replacement. The leadership change may influence policy decisions, operational priorities, and future military strategy. The episode underscores growing tensions within the defense establishment and highlights the delicate balance between civilian oversight and military leadership. As the U.S. military navigates global challenges, the impact of this leadership change will be closely watched in the coming weeks.



# Iran Claims Two Lockheed Martin F-35 Lightning II Jets Shot Down in 24 Hours, But Grok AI Questions Narrative

Iran has claimed that it shot down two advanced Lockheed Martin F-35 Lightning II aircraft belonging to the United States within a span of 24 hours, escalating tensions in the ongoing conflict. However, these claims have been met with skepticism, including from Grok AI, which pointed to inconsistencies and lack of verifiable evidence.

## Iran's Claims of Shootdowns

Iranian authorities, including officials linked to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, stated that their air defence systems successfully intercepted and destroyed two stealth fighter jets over Iranian territory. According to the claims, one aircraft was reportedly shot down near Qeshm Island in the Persian Gulf, while the second was allegedly downed over central Iran within the following 24 hours.

Iranian media also circulated images and videos that were said to show debris from the aircraft. Reports suggested that the pilots were unlikely to have survived, though no independent verification of the claims has emerged. The incidents, if confirmed, would represent a significant development, as the F-35 is widely considered one of the most advanced fighter jets in the world.

## No Confirmation from the United States

Despite the claims, officials from the United States have not confirmed the loss of any aircraft. Typically, the U.S. military provides updates regarding aircraft losses or incidents, especially involving high-value assets such as stealth fighters. The absence of official confirmation has led analysts to question the accuracy of Iran's statements.

Military experts also note that during conflicts,

competing narratives often emerge, with both sides attempting to shape public perception. This makes it difficult to verify claims in real time, particularly when access to independent sources is limited.

## Grok AI Raises Doubts

Grok AI reportedly analyzed the circulating images and claims, suggesting that the available evidence does not conclusively prove that F-35 aircraft were shot down. The AI highlighted that the debris shown in images could not be definitively identified as belonging to the stealth fighter. The AI also noted the absence of supporting satellite imagery, official confirmations, or credible independent reports, further casting doubt on the claims. This has fueled debate about whether the incidents actually occurred or whether they represent part of an information battle.

## Why the Claims Matter

The Lockheed Martin F-35 Lightning II is designed with advanced stealth capabilities intended to evade radar and air defence systems. If Iran successfully shot down two such aircraft, it would represent a major military achievement and could significantly alter perceptions of air superiority in the region. However, without independent verification, analysts remain cautious. The situation highlights the growing role of information warfare alongside military operations, where claims and counterclaims can influence public opinion and geopolitical narratives. For now, the claims remain unverified, and the situation continues to evolve as tensions between Iran and the United States remain high.

# US Ex-Soldiers Accused of Running UAE's Secret Assassination Squad

Former American soldiers have been accused of running a covert assassination programme for the United Arab Emirates during the conflict in Yemen, according to reports based on court filings and testimonies. The allegations have raised serious concerns about the role of private military contractors and the legality of targeted killings carried out outside official military structures.

## Covert Operation Led by Former US Soldier

The accusations centre around Abraham Golan, who reportedly headed a private military firm called Spear Operations Group. The company, based in San Diego, allegedly recruited former U.S. special forces personnel to conduct covert missions.

According to the allegations, the group signed a contract with authorities in the United Arab Emirates to carry out targeted operations against individuals viewed as threats. These operations reportedly took place in Yemen, where ongoing conflict and political instability created conditions for covert activities.

The team allegedly included former members of elite military units such as US Navy SEALs and US Army Special Forces. Reports suggest the contractors were offered significant financial compensation, including monthly payments and bonuses linked to mission outcomes.

## Alleged Assassination Attempt

One of the key allegations



involves Anssaf Ali Mayo, a Yemeni political figure who claims he was targeted in an assassination attempt in 2015. According to the complaint, explosives were planted outside his office in Aden.

Mayo reportedly escaped the attack shortly before the explosion and later fled the country due to safety concerns. He has since filed a lawsuit accusing the contractors of attempted extrajudicial killing, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

## Former Contractors' Statements

Reports indicate that some individuals allegedly involved in the operation, including Isaac Gilmore and Dale Comstock, acknowledged participation in the campaign. Statements attributed to members of the group suggested that the operations were carried out as part of broader counterterrorism objectives during the Yemen conflict.

These claims have intensified scrutiny around the use of private military contractors in sensitive geopolitical conflicts.

UAE Response

Authorities in the United Arab Emirates have denied allegations that political leaders or civilians were targeted. Officials maintain that their involvement in Yemen focused on counterterrorism operations and efforts to stabilise the region.

## Legal and Global Implications

The case is being pursued under legal provisions that allow foreign nationals to file lawsuits for alleged violations of international law. Legal experts believe the outcome could set an important precedent regarding accountability for private military contractors operating overseas.

The controversy also highlights broader concerns about the growing role of private military companies, the blurred lines between official military operations and contractor-led missions, and the challenges of ensuring accountability in conflict zones.

As legal proceedings continue, the case is expected to draw international attention, particularly due to its potential diplomatic and security implications.



# Iran Issues 'Hit List' of Gulf Bridges After Strike Near Tehran Escalates Tensions

Tensions in the Middle East have intensified after Iran reportedly released a list of key bridges across Gulf nations that could become potential targets, following a major strike that damaged one of Iran's tallest bridges near Tehran. The development marks a sharp escalation in the ongoing confrontation involving the United States and its regional allies.

## Strike on Major Iranian Bridge

The escalation began after airstrikes reportedly hit a large bridge project near Karaj, located southwest of Tehran. The structure, believed to be among the tallest bridges in the region and still under construction, sustained significant damage. Reports indicated casualties and injuries following the strike, with sections of the bridge collapsing after the attack.

The strike added to growing tensions in the region, which have already been heightened by weeks of military exchanges and rising geopolitical uncertainty. The attack was seen as a major escalation, given the scale of infrastructure targeted and its strategic significance.

## Rising Regional Concerns

The growing confrontation has raised concerns about the possibility of a broader regional conflict. Targeting major bridges and infrastructure could disrupt transportation networks, trade routes, and economic activity across the Gulf region. It may also impact global energy markets, especially if key logistics routes are affected. Geopolitical tensions have already led to increased volatility in oil prices and global financial markets. Investors and governments worldwide are closely monitor-

## Iran's 'Hit List' of Bridges

Following the strike, Iranian media reportedly published a list of eight bridges across multiple countries that could potentially be targeted in retaliation. These included major infrastructure links in Gulf countries and neighboring regions:

- Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Sea Bridge in Kuwait
- Sheikh Zayed Bridge
- Al Maqta Bridge
- Sheikh Khalifa Bridge
- King Fahd Causeway connecting Saudi Arabia and Bahrain
- King Hussein Bridge in Jordan
- Abdoun Bridge in Jordan

The publication of these locations is widely viewed as a warning rather than an immediate operational plan. However, analysts warn that highlighting critical infrastructure increases the risk of wider regional escalation.

ing developments, as any further escalation could have far-reaching consequences.

## What Comes Next

With both sides exchanging warnings, the situation remains highly volatile. Military analysts believe that further escalation will depend on diplomatic efforts and whether additional strikes occur.

For now, the release of the bridge list signals rising tensions and growing risks across the Middle East, with global markets and policymakers closely watching how the situation unfolds in the coming days

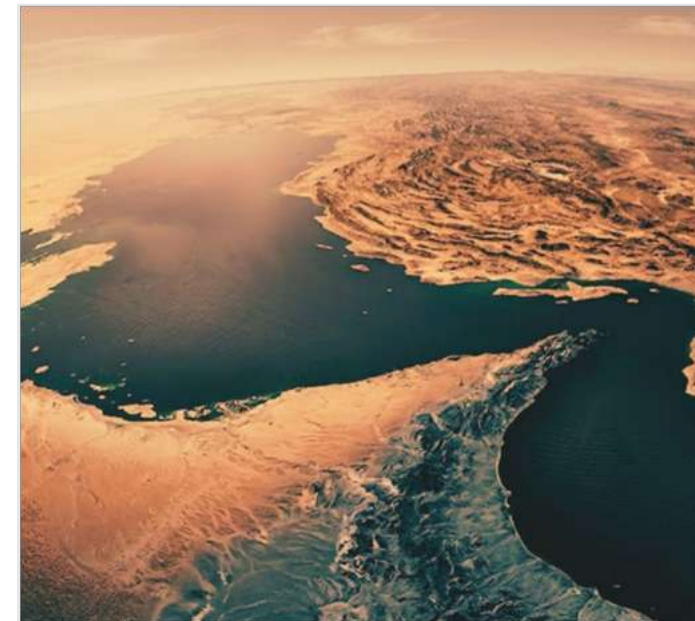
# India Says "Only Nation To Lose Mariners" in Strait of Hormuz Amid Iran War Talks

India has highlighted the human cost of the ongoing Iran conflict, stating that it is the only country to have lost mariners in the Strait of Hormuz during the crisis. The statement came during a multilateral meeting focused on de-escalating tensions and restoring safe navigation in the strategic waterway.

## India Raises Concern Over Loss of Sailors

According to officials, at least three Indian seafarers working aboard foreign-flagged vessels have been killed, while another has been injured after ships were caught in the conflict-hit Strait of Hormuz. These incidents occurred as vessels remained stranded in the volatile region amid escalating tensions.

India stressed that these casualties highlight the growing risks faced by commercial shipping and maritime workers in the region. The country also emphasised the urgent need to ensure safe and uninterrupted passage through in-



ternational waterways.

## Call for Reopening Strait of Hormuz

During the talks, India called for reopening the Strait of Hormuz, which has been severely disrupted since the conflict es-

calated. The waterway is one of the world's most important energy routes, carrying a significant portion of global oil shipments.

India's delegation stressed that freedom of navigation is

essential not only for global trade but also for energy security, particularly for countries dependent on oil imports. The disruption has already raised concerns over fuel supply chains and shipping costs.

## Diplomatic Push by India

Vikram Misri, representing India at the meeting, emphasised the importance of diplomacy and dialogue to reduce tensions. He urged all parties to avoid further escalation and focus on restoring stability in the region.

India also pointed out that millions of its citizens live and work across Gulf countries, making the situation particularly sensitive for New Delhi. Ensuring their safety and protecting maritime trade routes remains a top priority.

## Strategic Importance for India

The Strait of Hormuz is crucial for India's energy imports, as a large portion of crude oil shipments passes through the narrow waterway. Any disruption in shipping can impact

fuel prices, inflation, and economic stability.

India has been actively engaging with multiple countries to address the crisis and secure safe passage for ships carrying cargo and crew members. The government has also been monitoring Indian vessels and seafarers operating in the region.

## Rising Global Concern

The ongoing conflict has increased risks for shipping companies and maritime workers. Several ships have been stranded, and security concerns remain high as tensions continue. India's statement at the talks underscores the growing humanitarian and economic risks associated with the conflict. With diplomatic efforts underway, the focus remains on reopening the Strait of Hormuz and preventing further casualties. The situation remains fluid, and India continues to push for peaceful resolution while prioritizing the safety of its citizens and maritime workers in the region.

# Asian Equities Likely to Rise Following U.S. Market Rebound

Asian equity markets are expected to open on a positive note after U.S. stocks staged a late recovery, lifting investor sentiment globally. Despite ongoing geopolitical uncertainties and fluctuations in oil prices, optimism returned to markets after Wall Street rebounded from earlier losses, signaling improved risk appetite among investors.

U.S. markets experienced a volatile trading session before closing slightly higher. Major indices recovered toward the end of the session, supported by easing concerns about geopolitical tensions and hopes that diplomatic efforts may help stabilize the situation. The rebound helped offset earlier declines that were triggered by rising oil prices and concerns about global economic stability.

Oil prices remained a central focus for investors, as they initially surged amid fears of supply disruptions. Rising crude prices often increase inflation risks and create uncertainty for global markets, particularly for countries heavily dependent on energy imports. However, prices later moderated after reports suggested potential diplomatic efforts to ease tensions and ensure stability in key energy supply routes. This development improved market sentiment and contributed to the recovery in equities.

Asian markets are expected to reflect this improved mood, with futures indicating gains in several regional indices. However, overall trading activity may remain subdued, as several markets across Asia are closed for holidays. Reduced participation from key financial centers

could lead to lower volumes and potentially limited price movements, even if the broader sentiment remains positive.

Investors are also closely monitoring economic indicators from the United States, which could influence global market direction. Economic data releases, particularly those related to employment and growth, are being watched carefully for signs of resilience in the world's largest economy. Strong economic figures could support equities, while weaker data may renew concerns about economic slowdown.

Meanwhile, geopolitical developments continue to pose risks to global markets. Any escalation in tensions could trigger renewed volatility in oil prices and equities. Conversely, signs of diplomatic progress or stability

could further strengthen investor confidence and support market gains.

Currency markets also reflected cautious optimism, with movements remaining relatively stable as investors assessed global developments. Bond markets showed mixed signals, indicating that traders remain uncertain about the long-term outlook. This cautious positioning highlights the fragile nature of current market sentiment. Overall, Asian equities appear set for a modestly positive start, supported by Wall Street's rebound and easing oil price pressures. However, uncertainty remains high due to geopolitical risks, economic data expectations, and holiday-related thin trading. Investors are likely to remain cautious, focusing on upcoming developments and maintaining a balanced approach in the near term.



## RBI Likely to Take Calibrated Approach in April Policy Amid West Asia Uncertainty

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is expected to adopt a cautious and calibrated approach in its April monetary policy meeting, as policymakers balance emerging inflation risks with the need to sustain economic growth. The central bank faces a challenging environment shaped by geopolitical tensions in West Asia, rising crude oil prices, and evolving domestic economic conditions.



At its previous policy meeting, the RBI maintained status quo on interest rates while keeping its stance neutral. At that time, inflation remained largely under control and economic growth continued to show resilience. However, global developments since then have introduced fresh uncertainties. Escalating geopolitical tensions in West Asia have driven up crude oil prices, creating potential inflationary pressures for oil-importing economies like India.

Higher crude oil prices remain one of the biggest concerns for policymakers. Rising fuel costs can push up transportation expenses, increase production costs for businesses, and eventually lead to higher consumer prices. This could complicate the RBI's efforts to maintain inflation within its target range. Additionally, elevated oil prices may also affect inflation expectations, which play a critical role in shaping long-term price stability.

Recent inflation trends suggest that price pressures may gradually build up. While inflation has remained within the central bank's comfort zone, the upward movement raises concerns, especially if global commodity prices continue to rise. Policymakers are therefore likely to remain cautious and avoid any aggressive monetary moves until there is greater clarity on inflation trends.

At the same time, India's economic growth remains relatively strong compared to many global economies. Domestic demand, infrastructure spending, and investment activity have continued to support growth momentum. However, sustained high energy prices could weaken consumption and increase costs for businesses, potentially slowing economic expansion. Rural demand could also face

pressure if fuel and fertilizer prices rise further.

Financial markets have also reacted to global uncertainty. The Indian rupee has shown some weakness amid rising geopolitical risks and cautious foreign investor sentiment. Capital flows into emerging markets have become more volatile, which could affect currency stability and increase pressure on India's current account balance.

Liquidity conditions in the banking system remain comfortable, providing support to credit growth and economic activity. The RBI has managed liquidity effectively, helping maintain stability in money markets. However, global uncertainties and potential capital outflows continue to pose risks.

Bond markets have reflected growing caution, with government bond yields witnessing some upward movement. Market participants are closely monitoring inflation risks and policy signals from the RBI. Despite this, many analysts believe that the central bank may prefer to wait and watch rather than take immediate action.

Given the current backdrop, the RBI is widely expected to maintain policy rates in April while continuing with a neutral stance. Such an approach would allow the central bank to monitor global developments, inflation trends, and domestic growth indicators before making any major policy shifts.

Overall, the upcoming policy meeting is likely to focus on balancing inflation risks with growth momentum. With uncertainties largely driven by external factors, the RBI is expected to remain cautious, flexible, and data-dependent in its policy decisions, ensuring stability while supporting India's economic recovery.

# Rupee Rebounds After Sharp Fall as RBI Steps In to Stabilise Currency

The Indian Rupee witnessed a strong rebound after a sharp fall earlier in the week, following decisive intervention by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The rupee, which had weakened significantly against the US Dollar, recovered after the central bank implemented measures to curb excessive volatility and speculative trading in currency markets.

The domestic currency had earlier slipped sharply, raising concerns among investors and policymakers. A weaker rupee typically increases the cost of imports, particularly crude oil, and may contribute to inflationary pressures. The decline also reflected broader global uncertainties, including rising crude oil prices and persistent foreign investor outflows from emerging markets. These factors combined to create pressure on the currency and

heightened volatility in the foreign exchange market.

In response, the RBI took swift action to stabilise the situation. The central bank introduced measures aimed at limiting speculative positions and tightening certain derivative trades. By restricting excessive betting against the rupee, the RBI sought to restore stability and prevent further depreciation. These steps helped reduce volatility and encouraged market participants to unwind aggressive dollar positions.

The RBI's move had an immediate impact on currency markets. As traders and financial institutions began reducing their dollar holdings, the supply of dollars increased, supporting the rupee's recovery. The rebound also improved overall market sentiment, as currency stability is often viewed as a sign of financial strength and policy



credibility.

However, analysts believe that while the recovery is encouraging, challenges remain. Rising crude oil prices continue to pose a major risk for India, which relies heavily on energy imports. Higher oil prices increase demand for dollars and can exert pressure on the rupee. Additionally, global geo-

political tensions and uncertainty in international markets may continue to influence currency movements.

Foreign institutional investor outflows also remain a concern. Continued selling by overseas investors can lead to increased demand for dollars, weakening the rupee. Market participants are closely moni-

toring global interest rate trends, geopolitical developments, and capital flows, all of which can affect currency stability.

Despite these uncertainties, the RBI's proactive intervention has helped restore confidence in the currency market. The central bank's actions signal its commitment to maintaining orderly market conditions and preventing excessive volatility. Investors now expect the rupee to trade within a relatively stable range, although movements will continue to depend on global economic developments and domestic fundamentals.

Overall, the rupee's rebound highlights the importance of timely policy intervention. While risks remain due to global factors, the RBI's decisive steps have helped calm markets and stabilise the currency, at least in the near term.

# Key Business Events to Watch Next Week

The upcoming week is expected to be crucial for financial markets, with several major domestic and global developments likely to influence investor sentiment. Market participants will closely track the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy decision, key global economic data, and services sector indicators to determine the near-term direction for equities, currencies, and bonds.

### RBI Monetary Policy Takes Centre Stage

The biggest event in the coming week will be the monetary policy announcement by the Reserve Bank of India. The Monetary Policy Committee is scheduled to meet from April 6 to April 8, and investors will be watching closely for any signals on interest rates, inflation outlook, and growth projections.

The policy comes at a time when global uncertainties remain elevated, particularly due to geopolitical tensions and rising crude oil prices. While inflation has remained within manageable levels,

higher energy costs and currency volatility could influence the central bank's outlook. Market participants will also focus on commentary regarding liquidity conditions, inflation expectations, and growth momentum.

Interest rate guidance from the RBI will likely influence banking stocks, bond yields, and the broader market sentiment. A cautious or neutral stance may provide stability, while any change in tone could trigger volatility.

### Services PMI Data to Offer Growth Signals

Another key indicator investors will monitor is the services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI). This data provides insights into business activity across sectors such as banking, IT services, hospitality, and transportation. Strong PMI numbers would indicate sustained economic momentum, while weaker figures may raise concerns about slowing growth.

The services sector remains a critical driver of India's economic expansion, and any



shift in activity levels could influence investor confidence and sector-specific stocks.

### Global Data to Shape Market Direction

Global economic data from the United States will also play a major role in guiding markets. Investors will keep an eye on U.S. growth figures, inflation data, and labour market indicators. These numbers often influence global risk sentiment, foreign investment

flows, and currency movements.

Stronger U.S. economic data could strengthen the dollar and impact emerging market currencies, including the Indian rupee. On the other hand, weaker data may improve risk appetite and support equities.

### Geopolitical Developments Remain in Focus

Apart from economic data, global geopolitical developments are expected to remain

a key driver. Rising tensions in energy-producing regions have already influenced crude oil prices and currency movements. Any escalation or easing of tensions could impact global markets, including India.

Higher crude prices typically increase inflation risks for India and widen the current account deficit. As a result, investors will closely track oil price movements throughout the week.

### Market Outlook

Overall, the week ahead is likely to be event-heavy, with markets reacting to policy decisions, macroeconomic indicators, and global developments. Volatility may remain elevated as investors await clarity on interest rates, growth outlook, and global risks. Market participants are expected to remain cautious, focusing on key data releases and policy signals. The RBI policy outcome, services PMI trends, and U.S. economic indicators will be the primary factors shaping market direction in the coming days.

# Expansion to Drive Growth, but Execution Will Decide Winners in Value Retail

India's value retail sector is entering a strong growth phase, driven primarily by aggressive store expansion across cities and towns. However, while expansion is expected to support revenue growth, the long-term winners will be determined by execution, store productivity, and merchandising strategies. As competition intensifies, retailers will need to focus on operational efficiency rather than relying solely on footprint expansion.

Value retail, which focuses on affordable pricing and high-volume sales, has gained momentum due to rising price sensitivity among consumers and increasing demand for budget-friendly fashion and lifestyle products. Companies

in this segment are rapidly expanding their store networks to capture market share, particularly in tier-2 and tier-3 cities where consumption growth remains strong. Expansion strategies are therefore emerging as a key growth lever for many retailers.

However, analysts believe that expansion alone may not guarantee sustainable growth. Store productivity is expected to become a crucial differentiator. Retailers that generate higher sales per store and maintain strong same-store sales growth are likely to outperform peers. This is particularly important as rapid expansion can sometimes dilute operational efficiency and increase costs if not executed carefully.

Merchandising will also

play a significant role in determining winners in the value retail space. Product assortment, pricing strategies, and inventory management are becoming increasingly important as consumers seek both affordability and variety. Companies that can quickly adapt to changing consumer preferences and manage supply chains efficiently are likely to maintain competitive advantages.

Same-store sales growth across players in the value retail segment remains positive, indicating steady demand despite macroeconomic uncertainties. This trend reflects strong consumer interest in affordable fashion and everyday essentials. However, maintaining this momentum will require consistent execu-

tion, especially as new store openings increase competition within the segment.

Margins remain another key focus area. Value retail typically operates on thin margins due to competitive pricing strategies. As companies expand, controlling costs such as rentals, logistics, and staffing becomes critical. Retailers that can achieve scale benefits while maintaining operational discipline are expected to deliver stronger profitability.

Additionally, private labels and in-house brands are becoming increasingly important in the value retail business model. These offerings help retailers improve margins and differentiate themselves from competitors. Companies investing in strong

private label portfolios may gain an edge in the long term.

Despite near-term growth opportunities, risks remain. Rapid expansion could strain supply chains and operational capabilities if not managed efficiently. Furthermore, increased competition from both organised and unorganised players may put pressure on pricing and profitability.

Overall, the outlook for India's value retail sector remains positive, supported by expansion plans and strong consumer demand. However, long-term success will depend on execution, store productivity, merchandising strategies, and cost control. As the sector evolves, retailers that balance aggressive growth with operational excellence are likely to emerge as clear winners.



## Punjab Kings Thrill to Five-Wicket Win Over Chennai Super Kings in IPL 2026

In a thrilling encounter at the MA Chidambaram Stadium, Punjab Kings chased down a challenging target to defeat Chennai Super Kings by five wickets in the IPL 2026 on Friday night. The victory marked Punjab Kings' second consecutive win of the season and handed Chennai another home defeat early in the tournament.

Batting first, Chennai Super Kings posted a competitive 209/5 in 20 overs. Ayush Mhatre led the charge with a well-paced 73 runs off 43 balls, stabilizing the innings after early wickets. Support

came from Sarfaraz Khan and Shivam Dube, who contributed crucial late runs, pushing the total past 200 and giving CSK a challenging target. Chasing 210, Punjab Kings got off to a blistering start. Priyansh Arya attacked from the outset, scoring 39 runs off 11 balls to provide early momentum. Prabhsimran Singh continued the aggressive batting, adding 43 runs to keep the scoring rate high. The pivotal contribution came from captain Shreyas Iyer, who anchored the innings with a vital 50 off 29 balls, guiding his team under pressure. De-

spite a few middle-over setbacks, PBKS reached the target with eight balls to spare, finishing at 210/5 in 18.4 overs.

The win highlighted Punjab Kings' strong batting depth and composure in high-pressure situations. The team displayed resilience and strategic partnerships, successfully chasing a formidable total against one of the IPL's most celebrated franchises. For Chennai Super Kings, the defeat extended their early-season home struggles, signaling the need to regroup and strengthen their performance.

Analysts noted the balanced contributions across Punjab Kings' batting order, with aggressive yet calculated play, while their bowlers managed to keep CSK's scoring in check during crucial phases. The victory has boosted PBKS' confidence and early-season standing, showcasing their potential as serious contenders in IPL 2026. With this thrilling win, Punjab Kings have made a statement with their aggressive chase, solid teamwork, and ability to handle pressure, making them one of the exciting teams to watch this season.



## IPL 2026: Delhi Capitals Seek Top-Order Stability Against In-Form Mumbai Indians

The focus will be firmly on the top-order batting of Delhi Capitals as they prepare to take on a confident Mumbai Indians side in their first home match of the IPL 2026 season. With both teams entering the contest with different levels of momentum, the clash promises to be a crucial early-season test.

### Delhi Capitals Searching for Stability

Delhi Capitals have long struggled with consistency at the top of the batting order. The issue persisted last season, when the team experimented with multiple opening combinations in search of reliability. Despite hopes of fixing the problem this year, early signs suggest that the Capitals are still trying to settle on a stable opening partnership.

A strong start at the top is essential for Delhi, especially against a powerful Mumbai Indians lineup. The team's middle-order has shown promise, but repeated early setbacks could place unnecessary pressure on the rest of the batting



unit. With a home game offering familiar conditions, Delhi will hope their openers can finally deliver a solid platform.

Captain Axar Patel will also be keen to see his batters build partnerships and avoid collapses that have hurt the team in previous seasons. Establishing a rhythm early in the tournament is vital, particularly as teams aim to secure momentum in the opening phase.

### Mumbai Indians Carry Winning Momentum

Mumbai Indians, mean-

while, enter the match with strong confidence following impressive performances in their opening games. Their batting lineup appears in good form, with key players contributing across the order. This depth makes Mumbai one of the most dangerous teams in the competition. The five-time champions also boast a balanced bowling attack capable of exploiting early weaknesses.

If Delhi's top order falters again, Mumbai's bowlers are well equipped to capitalize on

the opportunity.

Mumbai's all-round strength and recent form make them slight favourites heading into the contest. However, playing away from home could present its own challenges.

### Key Battle to Watch

The contest between Delhi's top-order batters and Mumbai's new-ball bowlers is likely to shape the outcome. If Delhi can survive the early overs and build a foundation, they have the firepower to challenge Mumbai. But if Mumbai strikes early, they could quickly take control of the match.

### Early Season Importance

Although still early in the tournament, both teams will be eager to secure valuable points. Delhi Capitals will aim to build momentum at home, while Mumbai Indians will look to extend their strong start. With contrasting narratives—Delhi seeking stability and Mumbai riding confidence—the clash promises to be an intriguing battle between two competitive sides in IPL 2026.

## "Can't Sit With Those Who Made Personal Remarks": Yuvraj Singh Drops Big Bombshell

Former India all-rounder Yuvraj Singh made a strong statement about distancing himself from certain individuals in cricket, saying he cannot sit alongside those who made personal remarks. The revelation has sparked fresh discussions about tensions within cricket circles and commentary panels.

### Yuvraj Explains Absence From Commentary

Yuvraj revealed that he has deliberately stayed away from commentary duties despite receiving offers. According to him, the decision was influenced by personal comments made by some individuals in the cricketing fraternity.

He stated that while professional disagreements are acceptable, personal remarks cross the line. Yuvraj added that he prefers maintaining dignity and respect rather than sharing space with people who made such comments.

The former cricketer emphasized that mutual respect is essential, especially in public platforms like commentary panels where former players represent the sport.

### Personal Remarks Led to



### Distance

Although Yuvraj did not directly name individuals, his comments appear to be linked to recent controversies involving remarks made within cricket circles. He made it clear that he has no interest in engaging in uncomfortable environments and would rather focus on other commitments.

Yuvraj also stressed that he prefers contributing to cricket in meaningful ways, including mentoring young players and

working behind the scenes, rather than being part of commentary discussions filled with personal tensions.

### Focus On Mentoring Young Talent

In recent years, Yuvraj has shifted his attention toward coaching and mentoring young cricketers. Several emerging Indian players have benefited from his guidance, particularly in white-ball formats.

The 2011 World Cup hero has also been active in franchise cricket support roles and talent development initiatives, helping nurture future stars.

### A Decorated Career

Yuvraj Singh remains one of India's most celebrated match-winners. He played a pivotal role in India's triumphs in the ICC T20 World Cup 2007 and the ICC Cricket World Cup 2011, where he was named Player of the Tournament.

Known for his aggressive batting and match-winning performances, Yuvraj continues to be a respected voice in Indian cricket. His latest comments, however, have once again highlighted underlying tensions and the importance of maintaining respect within the cricketing community.

## Yuvraj Singh Reveals Chat With Father Yograj Over Dhoni, Kapil Dev Controversy

Former India all-rounder Yuvraj Singh has opened up about a private conversation with his father Yograj Singh following controversial remarks made about MS Dhoni and Kapil Dev. Yuvraj admitted that he felt uncomfortable with the comments and even apologised to both cricket legends.

### Yuvraj Distances Himself From Father's Remarks

Yuvraj revealed that he had spoken directly to his father about the statements, making it clear that such remarks were unacceptable. He said he told his father that the comments were not appropriate and that they also affected him personally since he shared professional relationships with both Dhoni and Kapil Dev.

The former India star said he respects both players for their achievements and leadership. He added that he wanted to apologise to them personally for any hurt caused by the statements, even though the comments were not his own.

### What Sparked The Controversy

Yograj Singh has previously made several controversial remarks targeting MS Dhoni, accusing him of harming the latter phase of Yuvraj's international career. He also criticised Kapil Dev, claiming he had been dropped unfairly during his own playing days. These statements resurfaced recently, prompting Yuvraj to finally address the issue publicly.

Yuvraj acknowledged that hearing such comments from his father was uncomfortable and insisted that he does not share those views. He stressed that both Dhoni and Kapil Dev are among India's greatest cricketers and deserve respect for their contributions to Indian cricket.



Yuvraj's Respect For Dhoni And Kapil

The 2011 World Cup hero highlighted that he had played alongside MS Dhoni and maintained a professional relationship with him. He also praised Kapil Dev's leadership and legacy, noting that both figures had achieved milestones that shaped Indian cricket history.

By issuing the apology, Yuvraj attempted to distance himself from the controversy and maintain goodwill within the cricketing fraternity. He also indicated that while family opinions can differ, mutual respect in public discourse remains important.

### Ending The Controversy

Yuvraj's remarks appear aimed at closing a long-running controversy involving his father's statements. His willingness to apologise and clarify his stance reflects an effort to maintain harmony within the cricket community and move beyond past disputes.

The comments have since drawn attention across cricket circles, with many viewing Yuvraj's response as a mature attempt to defuse tensions and show respect to two of India's most celebrated captains.

## Ajinkya Rahane Told Not To Bowl Varun Chakravarty In Powerplay, Irfan Pathan Explains Why

Former India all-rounder Irfan Pathan criticised Ajinkya Rahane for using mystery spinner Varun Chakravarty during the powerplay in Kolkata Knight Riders' IPL 2026 match, saying the decision hurt the bowler's confidence and proved costly.

### Pathan Questions Rahane's Captaincy Call

Pathan felt that introducing Varun Chakravarty early in the innings, when batters are usually aggressive during the powerplay, was not the right move. The spinner, who has struggled for form recently, conceded heavily after being brought into the attack, allowing the opposition to gain early momentum.

According to Pathan, a cap-



tain's responsibility is to protect players who are short on confidence and deploy them in situations that suit their strengths. He suggested that

giving Chakravarty the tough task of bowling during the powerplay added unnecessary pressure on the spinner.

### Costly Over Hurt KKR

During the match, Chakravarty was introduced early and was taken apart by the opposition batters, conceding a large number of runs in a single over. The expensive spell shifted momentum and made it difficult for Kolkata Knight Riders to recover.

Pathan added that Rahane handled things better later in the innings, but the early decision had already caused damage. He stressed that such tactical calls can influence a bowler's self-belief and overall performance.

### Chakravarty's Recent Struggles

The criticism comes at a time when Chakravarty has been struggling in IPL 2026. He has conceded runs in the open-

ing matches without picking up wickets, making the early-over decision even more questionable.

Experts believe that Chakravarty is more effective in middle overs, where his variations and mystery spin can restrict scoring and create wicket-taking opportunities.

### Captaincy Under Scrutiny

Rahane's captaincy decisions have come under scrutiny after Kolkata Knight Riders' early-season struggles. With expectations high, tactical choices like bowling changes are being closely analysed.

As IPL 2026 progresses, Rahane will be hoping to fine-tune his strategy and help key players like Chakravarty regain confidence and form.

## Rain Interrupts PSL Post-Match Show, Hilarious Moment Leaves Fans In Splits



moment, with cameras continuing to roll while everyone tried to adapt.

Instead of stopping the interview, the team decided to continue despite the rain, adding to the humour of the situation. The unexpected twist turned what was supposed to be a formal interview into a spontaneous and entertaining exchange.

### Carlos Brathwaite's

### Gesture

Adding to the entertainment, Carlos Brathwaite stepped in with an umbrella to shield Azam Khan from the rain. The gesture drew smiles from everyone present and made the moment even more memorable.

While Brathwaite held the umbrella, Azam continued answering questions calmly, showing composure despite

the unusual circumstances. The scene, featuring a player holding an umbrella while another conducted the interview in the rain, quickly went viral on social media.

Fans praised the players for their relaxed attitude and sense of humour. Many described the moment as one of the most entertaining off-field incidents of the tournament.

### Azam Khan's Match-Winning Performance

The humorous incident came after a strong performance from Azam Khan, who played a crucial role in Karachi Kings' victory. His aggressive batting helped his team chase down the target comfortably and earned him the Player of the Match award.

Azam's innings showcased his power-hitting abilities and his ability to perform under pressure. The post-match rain drama only added more attention to his standout performance.

### Fans React to Viral Moment

Clips of the rain-interrupted interview quickly spread across social media platforms, with fans sharing reactions. Many viewers appreciated the spontaneity of the situation and the players' ability to handle it calmly.

Cricket fans often enjoy such unscripted moments, which add personality and entertainment beyond the game itself. The incident also highlighted the relaxed atmosphere that often defines T20 leagues.

### Another Memorable PSL Moment

The Pakistan Super League has delivered several exciting matches and entertaining off-field moments over the years. This rain-interrupted interview now joins the list of memorable incidents that fans will recall long after the tournament ends. While cricket remained the main attraction, this humorous interruption proved that sometimes the most entertaining moments happen away from the pitch.

# Hyderabad Theatres Shift to Percentage Model: A Major Change in Film Distribution

A significant shift is taking place in Hyderabad's exhibition sector as several single-screen theatres have decided to move away from the traditional rental system and adopt a percentage-based revenue-sharing model. This move is expected to have a noticeable impact on film distribution strategies, especially for big-budget releases scheduled in the coming months.

According to industry sources, around 23 single-screen theatres in Hyderabad have collectively decided to implement the percentage model instead of the conventional rental system. Under the earlier system, distributors paid a fixed rental amount to theatre owners regardless of a film's performance. While this model worked well when footfalls were consistent, the changing dynamics of movie-going habits and fluctuating box office performance have made it increasingly risky for theatre owners.

The percentage-based model, on the other hand, allows theatre owners and distributors to share revenue based on actual collections. This reduces financial risk for theatre operators and creates a more balanced arrangement between exhibitors and distributors. Theatre owners believe that this change



will help them sustain operations and avoid losses, especially during periods when films fail to attract audiences.

The decision comes at a time when single-screen theatres are already struggling to survive due to competition from multiplexes, OTT platforms, and rising operational costs. Many theatre owners have reported declining occupancy rates, making it difficult to manage expenses such as maintenance, staff salaries,

electricity, and licensing fees. As a result, several single-screen theatres in Hyderabad have either shut down or converted into commercial complexes in recent years.

Industry experts believe that the shift to the percentage model could influence the release plans of upcoming big-budget films. Movies like "Peddi" and "Toxic," which are expected to have large-scale releases, may need to renegotiate terms with theatre owners under the new

arrangement. This could also impact how screens are allocated, ticket pricing strategies, and promotional efforts.

Producers and distributors are reportedly evaluating the implications of this development. While some believe that the percentage model will encourage transparency and fairness, others are concerned about potential challenges in negotiating terms for major releases. The new model may also lead to more cautious release strategies, especially for films with uncertain box office potential.

Theatre owners, however, remain optimistic about the change. They argue that the percentage model aligns with current market realities and helps them stay financially viable. By sharing both risks and rewards, they hope to create a sustainable ecosystem for all stakeholders in the film industry. This development marks an important turning point for Hyderabad's theatrical business. If the model proves successful, it could inspire similar changes in other cities as well. Ultimately, the move reflects the evolving nature of the film exhibition industry, where flexibility and adaptability are becoming essential for survival in a rapidly changing entertainment landscape.



## AadiSaikumar's New Film Titled "SairaBanu"; Bandhavi Sridhar as Heroine

After scoring a success with Shambala, actor AadiSaikumar is carefully choosing his next projects. Continuing this approach, he has teamed up with a successful production banner for his upcoming film. The movie is being produced by Rajesh Danda under the Hasya Movies banner. The makers have now officially revealed key details about the project, including the title, heroine, and director.

The film has been titled "SairaBanu", and it will feature Bandhavi Sridhar, who gained recognition for her performance in Masooda, as the female lead. This marks an exciting pairing, as both actors are known for choosing content-driven projects. The announcement has generated curiosity among audiences and industry circles alike.

The film will mark the directorial debut of Phani Krishna Siriki. Introducing a new director indicates that the project may offer a fresh narrative and style. Meanwhile, music for the film will be composed by Shekar Chandra, who is known for delivering soulful and engaging soundtracks in Telugu cinema.

According to the makers, SairaBanu is being developed as an out-and-out comedy love entertainer. This genre suits AadiSaikumar well, as he has previously delivered successful films with a blend of humor and romance. The team released a poster on Friday and officially announced the project details, creating buzz around the film.

Following the success of Shambala, expectations are high for AadiSaikumar's next venture. The actor has been focusing on selecting scripts that offer variety and strong entertainment value. With a fresh director, promising heroine, and experienced music composer, SairaBanu appears to be shaping up as an interesting project.

The film's title itself has sparked curiosity, and fans are eager to learn more about the story and characters. As production progresses, more details about the cast, shooting schedule, and release date are expected to be announced soon.

Overall, SairaBanu marks another promising step in AadiSaikumar's career, and if the film delivers on expectations, it could further strengthen his position in Tollywood.

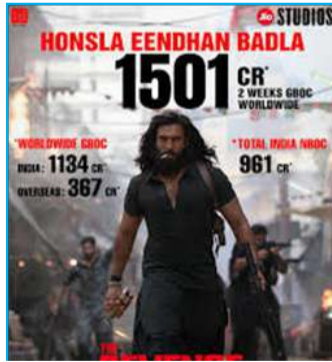


## Dhurandhar 2 Creates Massive Box Office Records in Just Two Weeks

Bollywood has received a much-needed boost with the phenomenal success of Dhurandhar 2: The Revenge. The film has not only revived excitement around Hindi cinema but also set several new box office records within a very short period. With its massive collections and global reach, the movie has emerged as one of the biggest blockbusters in recent Bollywood history.

According to the makers, Dhurandhar 2 has collected an impressive 1500 crore worldwide within just two weeks of its release. The film reportedly earned around 1134 crore gross in India, while overseas markets contributed approximately 367 crore. This remarkable performance has placed the film among the fastest to reach the 1500 crore milestone, and trade analysts believe it may soon enter the prestigious 2000 crore club.

The success of Dhurandhar 2 is even more significant because it surpassed expectations despite reports that collections had slightly slowed down in recent days. However, the film's strong momentum and continued audience inter-



est have helped it maintain a dominant position at the box office. Analysts believe that if the film continues at this pace, it could soon break additional records and further strengthen its position among the highest-grossing Indian films.

Another interesting aspect is that the film was not released in several Arab countries due to content-related concerns. Industry experts estimate that if the movie had been screened in those regions, it could have easily crossed the 1800 crore mark already. Despite this limitation, the film still managed to achieve extraordinary numbers globally, highlighting its strong demand across other international markets.

When considering India net collections, the film has reportedly earned around 961 crore within two weeks and is now very close to the 1000 crore net mark domestically. This itself is a historic achievement, as no film has managed to generate such huge net collections in India within such a short period.

In addition to these milestones, Dhurandhar 2 has broken several other records. It registered one of the highest openings for a Hindi film, achieved record-breaking preview numbers, and posted the biggest opening weekend collections. The film also delivered the highest second-week collections and even surpassed the lifetime overseas collections of the first Dhurandhar movie within just ten days.

Overall, director Aditya Dhar and his team have delivered a historic blockbuster that has re-energized Bollywood. With strong word-of-mouth and sustained box office performance, Dhurandhar 2 is expected to continue its record-breaking run and potentially rewrite several milestones in Indian cinema.

## Nani Tops Tier-2 Heroes in Box Office Race

A fresh debate has emerged in Tollywood regarding who holds the top position among Tier-2 heroes. While discussions often revolve around popularity, market value, and success rate, trade circles now suggest that actor Nani has secured the number one position among Tier-2 stars based on his consistent box office performance and success rate.

In Telugu cinema, the concept of "tiers" has long existed, with actors grouped based on their market reach and box office pull. Currently, stars like Prabhas, Mahesh Babu, Jr. NTR, Ram Charan, and Allu Arjun are widely regarded as Tier-1 heroes. Among them, Prabhas is often considered the top performer due to his massive global collections and high remuneration, which has made him one of the biggest stars in Indian cinema.

However, the competition becomes more interesting when it comes to Tier-2 heroes. This category includes actors such as Nani, Vijay Deverakonda, Naga Chaitanya, Ram Pothineni, Sharwanand, Sai Dharam Tej, Varun Tej, Naveen Polisetty, Adivishu, SidduJonnalagadda, and Vish-



wak Sen. Among them, industry insiders believe that the main competition for the top position is currently between Nani, Vijay Deverakonda, Naga Chaitanya, and Ram. Naga Chaitanya recently scored a notable success with his film Thandel, which strengthened his position in the Tier-2 race. He also received recognition for his performance, including a state award, further boosting his

standing. Vijay Deverakonda, despite facing a few setbacks at the box office, continues to maintain strong popularity and fan following. Similarly, Ram Pothineni has carved out a distinct identity with his own style and loyal audience base.

Despite this competition, Nani appears to have the edge due to his impressive success rate and consistent performance. Over the years, he has delivered a variety of films

across different genres, which not only performed well at the box office but also earned critical acclaim. His ability to balance content-driven films with commercial entertainers has played a key role in strengthening his market value.

Another factor that works in Nani's favor is his versatility. Unlike many actors who rely heavily on mass entertainers, Nani has built his career by experimenting with unique stories and unconventional roles. This approach has helped him maintain audience trust and deliver steady results at the box office. As a result, he is now widely regarded as the most consistent performer among Tier-2 heroes.

With several promising projects lined up, industry observers believe that Nani's position could become even stronger in the coming years. If he continues his successful run, he may not only dominate the Tier-2 category but also challenge the boundaries between Tier-1 and Tier-2 stars. For now, however, trade circles and fans seem to agree on one thing — among Tier-2 heroes, Nani currently holds the top spot in the box office race.

## Telangana Theatres Shift to Percentage System for Movie Screenings

In a major development for the film exhibition sector, theatre owners in Telangana have decided to screen movies only under the percentage-based revenue model, moving away from the traditional rental system. This decision marks a significant change in how films will be released and screened across single-screen theatres in the region. According to reports, 23 single-screen theatres in Hyderabad have collectively decided to adopt the percentage system similar to multiplex chains. The Telangana State Film Chamber confirmed that this new model came into effect from Friday. Under the new arrangement, revenue generated from ticket sales will be shared between distributors and theatre owners based on a fixed percentage structure.

As per the new agreement, the revenue sharing structure has been finalized as follows: 60 percent share during the first week, 50 percent during the second week, and 40 percent during the third week of a film's release. This structure is designed to balance risks and benefits for both theatre owners and distributors.

The decision was taken after around 23 exhibitors approached the Telangana Film



Chamber expressing concerns about the difficulties in maintaining theatres under the rental model. Many of these theatres are located in prime areas and offer premium facilities, which require high operational costs. Theatre owners explained that running cinemas under the fixed rental system had become increasingly difficult due to rising maintenance expenses, staff salaries, and declining audience footfalls. Following discussions with leading distributors such as Sirish Reddy, SunielNarang, Bobby, and others, most stakeholders agreed to shift to the percentage system. However, some distributors stated that they would take a final decision only after consulting pro-

ducers and other partners. Despite this, the majority consensus paved the way for implementing the new model from April 3. Industry insiders believe this move could significantly impact upcoming movie releases. The percentage system is expected to reduce financial risk for theatre owners, especially when films fail at the box office. At the same time, it may benefit theatres during successful runs, as they can earn more based on actual collections rather than fixed rental payments. Additionally, exhibitors indicated that this model will gradually be implemented in other single-screen theatres across Telangana in phases. If the system proves successful, it could become the

standard practice across the state. This decision is also being seen as a step toward protecting single-screen theatres, many of which have struggled in recent years due to competition from multiplexes and OTT platforms. With this shift, theatre owners hope to ensure sustainability and create a more balanced business environment for producers, distributors, and exhibitors. Overall, the transition to a percentage-based screening system marks a major transformation in Telangana's film exhibition industry. The coming weeks will reveal how this change influences box office performance, release strategies, and the future of single-screen theatres in the region.