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Macherla Politics in Turmoil as Cadre Alleges Betrayal by MLA

RAVI PODILI

A legislator who once rose against the odds to secure a surprise electoral victory in Macherla is now facing mounting criticism from within his own party ranks, with allegations of neglecting grassroots workers and shifting priorities after coming to power.

The MLA, who had earlier lost two consecutive elections and stayed away from three others, reportedly expressed reluctance to contest in the latest polls, citing poor financial standing and unfavorable conditions. However, with encouragement and backing from party leadership, along with financial support from sympathizers and NRIs, he entered the fray. Local party workers, many of whom contributed funds from their own pockets, campaigned tirelessly against a strong incumbent and ultimately ensured a win for the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) in the constituency.

Macherla, located in the Palnadu region, has long been known for its intense factional politics, caste dominance, and rivalry-driven electoral battles. Historically, the constituency



has seen limited success for TDP, with the party securing victory only four times since 1955. In contrast, leaders from the Reddy community have largely dominated the political landscape.

In the 2024 elections, the TDP fielded Julakanti Brahmananda Reddy for the third time, banking on anti-incumbency against YSRCP strongman Pinelli Ramakrishna Reddy, who had won four consecutive terms. Despite initial hesitation, Julakanti eventually contested and won, aided by strong cadre support and a wave of anti-incumbency.

However, within just two years of assuming office, the MLA's conduct has reportedly changed significantly. Party workers allege that the same leader who once referred to them as "gods" during the campaign now ignores them and treats them with disrespect. Several grassroots activists claim they are being sidelined despite risking their finances and safety during the elections. Social media platforms are abuzz with criticism from disgruntled supporters. Some allege that benefits and opportunities are being concentrated among a select few loyalists,

while long-time party workers who faced legal cases and financial losses during the campaign are being overlooked. There are also claims that those raising concerns are being threatened with disciplinary action. Adding to the controversy, an NRI supporter from Chilakaluripet publicly stated that he had contributed 10 lakh towards the MLA's campaign and later expressed regret over his support. He further alleged encroachment of his business properties by another TDP leader, claiming the MLA failed to intervene.

Party insiders have reportedly escalated complaints to senior leadership, warning that if the situation continues, the party's prospects in Macherla could suffer for years. Critics also argue that the MLA has failed to effectively counter opposition influence in the constituency, allowing rival leaders to retain their grip despite legal setbacks.

As dissatisfaction grows, the situation in Macherla is emerging as a test case for party leadership to address internal dissent and restore cadre confidence ahead of future political battles.



AP Govt Fixes 'Amaravati' Spelling

Amaravati, April 15 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh government has issued an order directing all departments to uniformly use the spelling "Amaravati" for the state capital in official records and communications, putting an end to variations such as "Amaravathi."

The directive was released by the General Administration Department after authorities noticed inconsistent usage of the capital's name across government files, correspondence, and digital platforms. Officials said multiple spellings were creating confusion and affecting administrative clarity.

As per the order, all government offices, including district administrations and subordinate departments, must strictly follow the standardized spelling "Amaravati" in letters, reports, websites, and all official documentation. Departments have been instructed to ensure immediate implementation of the directive without exception.

The government emphasized that maintaining uniformity in official nomenclature is essential for accuracy, transparency, and smooth functioning of governance. It has also asked departments to review

existing records and correct any alternate spellings currently in use.

Officials noted that the move is aimed at streamlining administrative processes and eliminating discrepancies in both internal and external communication. The decision is also seen as part of broader efforts to reinforce the identity of Amaravati as the state capital.

Senior officials have been tasked with monitoring compliance, and any deviation from the prescribed spelling may lead to corrective action. The government has made it clear that consistency in official terminology is necessary to maintain administrative discipline.

Experts believe that while the change may appear minor, it plays a crucial role in ensuring uniformity across government systems and public records. The order is expected to bring greater clarity and consistency in official documentation.

With this directive, the Andhra Pradesh government has reinforced the use of "Amaravati" as the sole official spelling, ensuring uniformity in all forms of governance and communication.

TDP Announces Major Organizational Overhaul Under Lokesh Leadership

AMARAVATI, April 15, 2026 | TPN BUREAU

In a significant restructuring, the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) has announced its new Politburo, National, and State Committees, marking a generational shift in the party's leadership structure with Nara Lokesh taking a central role in organisational affairs.

Lokesh has been appointed as the National Working President, reflecting a strategic leadership transition within the party. MLA Palla Srinivas has been named State President, aligning the party structure for upcoming political challenges and the 2029 electoral roadmap.

In a notable move towards gender inclusion, MP Dr. Byreddy Shabari has been appointed as the first woman National General Secretary, alongside other senior leaders, sending a strong message on

women's empowerment.

The new structure includes a 29-member Politburo, 31-member National Committee, and 185-member State Committee, with a strong emphasis on social justice. Representation includes 40% BCs, 25% SCs, 3.8% STs, and 7% minorities, reflecting a balanced social composition.

Party leaders said 50 women have been included in the State Committee, reinforcing alignment with broader women's reservation goals. The restructuring also elevates grassroots leaders into top decision-making bodies, marking a shift toward merit and cadre recognition.

Officials stated the overhaul reflects Lokesh's leadership vision of strengthening the organisation through inclusivity, cadre empowerment, and long-term political strategy.

Inter Results Surge in Government Colleges Under Lokesh Reforms

AMARAVATI, April 15, 2026 | TPN BUREAU

Government junior colleges have recorded a significant improvement in Intermediate examination results, marking what officials describe as the best performance in over a decade. First-year pass percentage in government colleges rose to 66 percent, an eight percent increase compared to last year, while overall first-year results across the state touched 77 percent, the highest in 12 years. Second-year students also posted 81 percent pass rate, the second-best in the same period. The improvements are being linked to reforms initiated by Education Minister Nara Lokesh, focusing on structured academic planning, continuous monitoring, and welfare measures. Key initiatives included extension of mid-day meal support to intermediate students, distribution

of study kits under the Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Vidyarthi Mitra scheme, and filling teaching vacancies through guest faculty and promotions.

The department introduced centralized examinations, performance dashboards, and monthly reviews of teaching outcomes. Special programs like "Sankalpam 2026" provided targeted coaching for students based on performance categories. Parent-teacher engagement and digital communication channels further strengthened academic tracking.

Officials said the coordinated reforms and field-level monitoring played a crucial role in achieving the improved results across government institutions. Authorities expressed confidence that sustained reforms will further enhance student outcomes in coming academic years statewide education system.

Lokesh Inaugurates Major Sports Development Projects in Tirupati, Chandragiri

Tirupati, April 15, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh inaugurated multiple sports development projects in Tirupati and Chandragiri, reaffirming the government's commitment to transforming the region into a major sports hub.

In Tirupati, the minister formally opened the newly constructed NTR Sports Complex and NTR Cricket Pavilion at Gollavanigunta, developed with 10.10 crore under the support of SAAF and TUDA. The complex includes facilities for

cricket, kabaddi, kho-kho, volleyball, ball badminton, and archery academies. Lokesh interacted with athletes, participated in sports activities, and encouraged students during his visit. He also played volleyball and briefly joined cricket practice sessions with players, including former Indian women's cricket captain Mithali Raj, energizing young athletes. Earlier, Lokesh laid the foundation stone for the Karanam Malleswari Weightlifting Academy at Sri Srinivasa Sports Complex, with an outlay of 5.35 crore, along with hostel facilities for 200 athletes.

He also inaugurated a junior boxing rink built at 30 lakh.

In Chandragiri and surrounding constituencies, he laid foundation stones for multiple NTR sports development centres worth several crores, including projects in Kota, Sullurupeta, and Renigunta.

Lokesh stated that over 35 crore has been allocated for sports infrastructure in Tirupati and Chittoor districts in the past year, aiming to promote rural talent and strengthen sports culture. The events were attended by several ministers, MPs, and national-level sportspersons.



Water Security Action Plan: Chandrababu Reviews Major Irrigation Projects

AMARAVATI, April 15, 2026 | TPN BUREAU

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has directed officials to prepare a comprehensive action plan for effective utilisation of Godavari waters after the completion of the Polavaram project. He emphasized linking reservoirs and tanks connected to the right and left main canals to ensure maximum irrigation benefits across the state.

During a detailed review of the Water Resources Department at the camp office, the Chief Minister examined the progress of key projects including Polavaram, Veligonda, Handri-Neeva Sujala Sravanthi, Chintalapudi lift irrigation, and the Polavaram-Nallamala Sagar link. He



instructed officials to speed up tenders for Neradi barrage and Chintalapudi main canal works. Naidu also stressed completing Veligonda Stage-1 works by June-end and fast-tracking North Andhra irrigation projects, including Vamsadhara and Nagavali interlinking. He asked officials to develop Polavaram as a tourism hub with boating facilities, hotels, and eco-

friendly attractions.

Officials informed that major works under Polavaram are nearing completion with significant progress in tunnels, dam construction, and rehabilitation works. The Chief Minister reiterated that water security and efficient resource management remain key priorities for sustainable agricultural growth and regional development.



NDA Leaders Discuss Nari Shakti Bill and Action Plan in Amaravati

AMARAVATI, April 15, 2026 | TPN BUREAU

A key meeting of NDA alliance leaders was held at the Chief Minister's camp office in Amaravati to discuss the proposed Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinyam amendment bill being introduced in Parliament.

The meeting was attended by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, BJP State President P. V. N. Madhav, and TDP State President Palla Srinivasa Rao.

During the discussions, leaders reviewed the significance of the women's reservation bill and deliberated on strategies

to celebrate its passage, including proposed "Nari Shakti Vijayotsav" programmes across the state.

The Chief Minister has already written letters to leaders of various political parties and Members of Parliament, urging their support for the legislation. NDA leaders also discussed coordinated action plans to strengthen awareness and public outreach on women empowerment initiatives once the bill is passed.

Party leaders emphasized that the legislation represents a historic step toward enhancing women's representation in governance and decision-making bodies.

YSRCP Leader Pudi Srihari Arrest Sparks Row

Amaravati, April 16 | TPN Bureau

The arrest of YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) state general secretary (media wing) Pudi Srihari has triggered a political storm in Andhra Pradesh, with party leaders alleging illegal detention and political vendetta. According to YSRCP sources, Srihari was taken into custody by police while returning from Tadepalli after

meeting party president Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. Party leaders claim he was detained midway without being informed of the reasons or his location, raising concerns over due process. The arrest is reportedly linked to a case registered in Chittoor district over alleged objectionable social media posts targeting Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. Police stated that Srihari had shared controversial content, including animated visuals, which led to the case



being filed. Reacting strongly, YSRCP leaders condemned the arrest, calling it illegal and politically motivated. They accused the ruling government of misusing law enforcement agencies to target opposition

voices and suppress dissent. Senior leaders also alleged violation of civil liberties. The party announced that it would approach the High Court by filing a habeas corpus petition, seeking clarity on Srihari's detention and immediate production before the court. They demanded that authorities follow proper legal procedures. Police reportedly seized Srihari's mobile phone and laptop during the arrest and later conducted searches at his residence as part of the investigation. The

incident has further intensified political tensions in the state, with opposition leaders rallying against what they describe as arbitrary action by the authorities. Meanwhile, the government maintains that the arrest was carried out as per law based on complaints received. As the issue moves toward legal scrutiny, the episode is expected to escalate the political confrontation between the ruling coalition and the opposition in Andhra Pradesh.

“Real Development Means Filling the Stomachs of the Poor”: Chandrababu Naidu

Amaravati, April 15, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has said that true development is achieved only when the poor do not go hungry, emphasizing that welfare initiatives like Anna Canteens reflect people-centric governance. He made these remarks while inaugurating new Anna Canteens as part of the government’s ex-

panded food security programme across the state. The initiative includes the launch of 62 new rural canteens, increasing the total number of centres to 269. The canteens provide hygienic meals at a subsidised cost of 5, aimed at benefiting daily wage workers, auto drivers, and economically weaker sections. During the event, the Chief Minister interacted with beneficiaries and personally shared a meal, highlighting the

importance of dignity in access to food. He stated that the revival and expansion of Anna Canteens is designed to ensure that no one in the state goes hungry. The programme is part of a broader effort to strengthen social welfare delivery in both urban and rural areas. Officials said the initiative has already served crores of meals and continues to expand rapidly across Andhra Pradesh.



Atchannaidu Congratulates Lokesh on New TDP National Working President Role

Amaravati, April 15, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) National Working President appointment of IT and Education Minister Nara Lokesh has received warm appreciation from senior party leader Kinjarapu Atchannaidu, who extended his heartfelt congratulations and hailed the decision as a boost for the party’s organizational strength. Atchannaidu stated that Lokesh has effectively carried forward the visionary legacy of his father and TDP chief N. Chandrababu Naidu, combining administrative discipline

with a modern governance approach. He said Lokesh’s rise reflects his dedication, discipline, and continuous engagement with party workers at all levels. Praising his performance in the education sector, Atchannaidu noted that Lokesh has been instrumental in modernizing Andhra Pradesh’s education system. Initiatives such as strengthening government schools, introducing digital classrooms, and improving learning outcomes have brought visible changes across the state. He further highlighted Loke-

sh’s contributions in the IT portfolio, particularly efforts to attract investments, encourage innovation, and expand employment opportunities for the youth. These initiatives, he said, are helping position Andhra Pradesh as an emerging technology destination. Atchannaidu expressed confidence that Lokesh’s leadership as National Working President will further energize the party cadre and strengthen the TDP’s presence from the grassroots level to the state leadership, giving it renewed direction and momentum.

Gottipati Welcomes Lokesh as TDP Working President

Amaravati, April 15, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar has welcomed the appointment of IT and Education Minister Nara Lokesh as the National Working President of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), extending his congratulations and describing the move as recognition of strong leadership within the party. He said Lokesh’s elevation reflects his growing role and effective leadership skills. According to him, youth across Andhra Pradesh are showing increased enthusiasm to work under Lokesh’s leadership, which is strengthening the party at the grassroots level.

The minister noted that Lokesh gained strong public support through the “Yuva-galam Padayatra,” where he effectively countered criticism and connected with people directly. He also highlighted Lokesh’s contributions as Education and IT Minister in improving the state’s education system and attracting investments. Gottipati said these initiatives have helped Andhra Pradesh gain recognition comparable to developed states. He expressed confidence that the new party committees, along with Lokesh’s leadership, will further strengthen the TDP organization and improve its future performance across the state.

Home Minister Anitha Reappointed to TDP Politburo

Visakhapatnam, April 15, 2026 | TPN Bureau

State Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha has expressed happiness over her reappointment to the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) Politburo. She thanked Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and IT Minister Nara Lokesh for once again entrusting her with the responsibility, stating that it reflects the party’s confidence in her dedication and loyalty. Anitha said she would continue to work with full commitment to strengthen the party

and meet the expectations placed on her leadership. She assured that she would strive tirelessly for the organizational growth of TDP and the welfare of the people. She further noted that the newly constituted committees, which prioritize loyalty and social balance, are bringing renewed enthusiasm among party cadres. The minister reaffirmed her commitment to supporting the party’s future goals and contributing actively to its strengthening at all levels across Andhra Pradesh.

TDP Reappoints BV Venkata Ramudu as State Media Coordinator

Amaravati, April 15, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) has reappointed B.V. Venkata Ramudu as its State Media Coordinator, reaffirming its focus on experienced leadership and strong communication strategy. The decision has been widely viewed as part of the party’s efforts to strengthen its media outreach ahead of key political engagements. A long-time associate of party president N. Chandrababu Naidu and National Working President Nara Lokesh, Venkata Ramudu is known for his disciplined execution and low-profile working style. Party leaders, including State President Palla Srinivasa Rao, reportedly backed his reappointment, citing his proven reliability in managing large-scale communication operations. Venkata Ramudu’s political journey spans nearly three decades, beginning in 1996 in Anantapur. Over the years, he has held several organizational roles, including Town Secretary and Rayalaseema Media Coordinator, steadily rising within the party’s communication structure through consistent performance.



He gained significant recognition for his role in managing media coordination during Nara Lokesh’s “Yuva-galam” padayatra, which covered 3,132 kilometers over 228 days across 97 constituencies. His coordination ensured extensive statewide media coverage throughout the campaign.

He also contributed to major TDP outreach programs such as “Shankharavam,” “Meekosam,” and “Vastunna Meekosam.” Following his reappointment, Venkata Ramudu expressed gratitude to the party leadership and reaffirmed his commitment to strengthening TDP’s media presence across Andhra Pradesh.

Kollu Ravindra Congratulates Lokesh on Appointment as TDP National Working President

Vijayawada, April 15, 2026 | TPN Bureau

State Minister Kollu Ravindra has extended heartfelt congratulations to IT and Education Minister Nara Lokesh on his appointment as the National Working President of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), describing it as a proud moment for the party. Ravindra said Lokesh is a leader with a clear vision for Andhra Pradesh’s development and a strong commitment to addressing the concerns of party workers. He noted that Lokesh has brought significant reforms in the education sector, transforming government schools and improving quality standards across the state. He highlighted ini-

tiatives such as curriculum reforms, emphasis on holistic learning, and the introduction of Parent-Teacher Meetings, which have strengthened communication between parents and schools. In the IT sector, Lokesh’s efforts in attracting global companies like Google and ArcelorMittal were praised as historic. Ravindra also lauded the establishment of the Quantum Computing Centre in Amaravati as a major achievement. He said Lokesh’s “Yuva-galam” padayatra and grassroots engagement strengthened the party, and his leadership will further energize the TDP and ensure justice for party workers at all levels.

Heatwave Alert Issued Across Andhra Pradesh

AMARAVATI, April 15, 2026 | TPN BUREAU

The Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) has issued a heatwave alert as severe summer conditions continue to intensify across the state. APSDMA Managing Director Prakhar Jain said that temperatures crossed 40°C in 275 mandals on Wednesday, indicating a significant rise in heat levels. He warned that on Thursday, several districts including Manyam, West Godavari, Eluru, NTR, Palnadu, Prakasam, Nellore, Kurnool, Nandyal and Kadapa may record maximum temperatures between 43°C and 44°C. Out of 67 mandals ex-

pected to experience heatwave conditions, 34 mandals are likely to face severe heatwave impact. Officials also stated that coastal and interior regions will continue to witness heat stress over the next two days, with strong chances of severe heatwave conditions in multiple mandals on Friday as well. Authorities have urged people to avoid direct exposure to sunlight, especially between peak afternoon hours. Citizens with health conditions such as diabetes, blood pressure, and heart ailments have been advised to take extra precautions and stay hydrated with water, coconut water, buttermilk, and lemon water.

BJP Releases Posters for 3K Samarasata Marathon and Sports Events

VIJAYAWADA, April 15, 2026 | TPN BUREAU

Bharatiya Janata Party Andhra Pradesh State President P. V. N. Madhav on Wednesday released wall posters announcing the upcoming 3K Samarasata Marathon to be held in Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam, along with Kabaddi and Volleyball competitions scheduled in Tirupati. The event materials were unveiled at the BJP state office. On the occasion, Madhav appreciated the efforts of SC Morcha leaders for actively conducting statewide programmes. He said the “Samarasata Run” aims to promote unity and national integration, highlighting the message

that all citizens are equal irrespective of caste or religion. He called upon people to participate in the 3K run, emphasizing that each step represents unity and social harmony. Madhav noted that such sports initiatives also promote physical fitness and mental strength among youth, while helping identify and encourage talent at the grassroots level. Party leaders, including representatives from Kisan Morcha, Minority Morcha, and SC Morcha, participated in the programme. The organisers said the events are being planned to strengthen community participation and foster inclusivity through sports and public engagement.



PVN Madhav Invited to Sri Venkateswara Brahmotsavams in Delhi

AMARAVATI, April 15, 2026 | TPN BUREAU

BJP Andhra Pradesh State President P. V. N. Madhav has been formally invited to participate in the upcoming Sri Venkateswara Swamy Brahmotsavams scheduled in New Delhi. The invitation was extended by TTD Delhi Local Advisory Committee (LAC) Chairman Y. Sumanth Reddy along with Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) officials. The religious festivities will be held from April 30 to May 10 at the Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple

in the national capital. Officials said elaborate arrangements are being made to conduct the Brahmotsavams on a grand and devotional scale, reflecting the cultural and spiritual significance of the event. The invitation was handed over at the BJP state office in Vijayawada. Local party leaders were also present during the meeting. Organisers expressed confidence that the celebrations will attract large participation from devotees across the country and strengthen devotional traditions in Delhi.

Atchannaidu Slams YSRCP, Credits Coalition Govt for Fishermen Welfare

Amaravati, April 15, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Agriculture and Fisheries Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu has launched a sharp attack on the previous YSRCP regime, stating that the present coalition government is genuinely working for the welfare of fishermen communities while the earlier government misled them with false promises. Addressing a media interaction, Atchannaidu alleged that former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy failed to protect fishermen interests and misused central assistance meant for harbour development. He claimed that 128 crore in central funds was not properly utilised earlier and was later cleared by the current government to ensure transparency and continuity of projects. The minister highlighted that the coalition government has increased fishing ban relief from 10,000 to 20,000, directly benefiting lakhs of families. He also noted enhanced diesel subsidy support of 9 per



litre and improved social pension from 3,000 to 4,000 for fishermen households. Atchannaidu further said that pending compensation claims worth crores were cleared, ensuring justice to affected families. He added that

initiatives such as transponders for safety, artificial reefs, fish stocking, and distribution of deep-sea fishing boats are strengthening the sector. He asserted that harbour and fish landing centre projects are progressing rapidly

under central schemes like PMMSY, with large-scale investments aimed at boosting coastal livelihoods and infrastructure development across the state.

Devineni Avinash Slams TDP-JSP-BJP Coalition, Predicts YSRCP Victory in Tiruvuru

NTR District, April 15, 2026 | TPN Bureau

YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) NTR District President Devineni Avinash launched a sharp attack on the ruling TDP-JSP-BJP coalition during a booth committee-level meeting held at Konijerla village, Gampalagudem mandal. Avinash said that despite challenges in the coalition rule, YSRCP leaders and local representatives continue to work with dedication at the grassroots level. He praised party cadre for standing firm in local bodies such as sarpanch, MPCTC, and ZPTC positions. He alleged that the coalition government has failed to fulfill major promises, including "Super Six" assurances, and accused it of diversion politics and misleading the public on issues such as Amaravati development. He further alleged irregularities and internal conflicts within the ruling alliance over resources and contracts. Avinash claimed that leaders in Tiruvuru constituency have weakened the



region's reputation and asserted that YSRCP is gaining strong momentum. He expressed confidence that YSRCP will register its first major victory in Tiruvuru in the upcoming elections. He also criticized the coal-

ition government over financial management, alleging inability to pay salaries on time. Reaffirming party strength, he said YSRCP cadre would not back down and would continue to stand with workers at every level.



Keshineni Chinni Slams YSRCP Over Amaravati Remarks, Defends Development Works

Vijayawada, April 15, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Vijayawada MP Keshineni Shrivnath (Chinni) strongly criticized YSRCP leaders and former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, accusing them of making derogatory remarks against Amaravati and engaging in diversion politics. He said comparing Amaravati with misleading narratives reflects an attempt to insult the state's capital development. Chinni also alleged that YSRCP leaders are spreading misinformation instead of focusing on constructive opposition. He claimed that even leaders who failed to win local elections are now making baseless criticisms.

Speaking on Tiruvuru constituency development, the MP said several infrastructure works worth hundreds of crores are progressing under the TDP-led government and new projects will be launched soon. He clarified that allegations regarding financial dealings are completely false and politically motivated. Chinni also criticized certain media reports, alleging false propaganda against him, and said legal action has been initiated. He reaffirmed that under the leadership of Narendra Modi, N. Chandrababu Naidu, and Pawan Kalyan, Andhra Pradesh will continue on a development path toward "Viksit Bharat 2047."



Jagan Slams Govt Over Juvaladinne Fishing Harbour Delay

SPSR NELLORE, April 15, 2026 | TPN BUREAU

Former Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party president Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Monday strongly criticized the coalition government during his visit to Juvaladinne fishing harbour in Bogole mandal of Kavali constituency. He alleged that the government has failed to make the fully constructed harbour operational even after two years.

Speaking to fishermen after inspecting the facility, Jagan said the harbour was completed during the YSRCP regime and virtually inaugurated in March 2024. He questioned why it has still not been handed over for public use. He accused Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu of neglecting fishermen's welfare and favouring private interests by allocating the harbour site. Jagan claimed that his government had planned 26,000

crore worth of ports, fishing harbours, and landing centres to strengthen the blue economy and improve livelihoods of fishermen. He said projects were already progressing under the previous government with significant completion levels. He assured fishermen that if YSRCP returns to power, the defence company would be relocated and all fishing harbours would be handed over to fishing communities as their rightful asset.

YSRCP Slams Arrest of Party Leader Srihari

TADEPALLI, April 15, 2026 | TPN BUREAU

The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) has strongly condemned the alleged arrest of its State General Secretary (Media) Pudi Srihari, terming it an "illegal and undemocratic" act. Party MLC Lella Appi Reddy alleged that the coalition government is targeting opposition leaders through vindictive actions. He said Srihari, who also serves as the CPRO to former Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, was detained by police in plain clothes without proper identification or explanation. According to the party, he was stopped while returning home after meet-

ing Jagan Mohan Reddy and taken away without notice, with his mobile phone also seized. The YSRCP leader further alleged that police later searched Srihari's residence without permission and restricted entry to party members, calling the entire sequence of events unlawful. Demanding immediate release, Appi Reddy urged the government to stop what he described as suppression of democratic rights and intimidation of opposition voices. He warned that such actions undermine civil liberties and called for accountability from the authorities involved in the incident.



YS Jagan Expresses Shock Over Kadiri Blast

TADEPALLI, April 15, 2026 | TPN BUREAU

Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party president Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has expressed deep shock and sorrow over the tragic explosion incident reported in Sri Sathya Sai district. A powerful blast occurred at Kummara Vandlapalli village in Kadiri mandal, where gelatin sticks and gas cylinders reportedly exploded, leading to multiple fatalities and serious injuries. Several injured victims are said to be in critical condition, raising concerns among medical teams and local authorities. The intensity of the explosion also caused extensive damage to nearby

houses. In a statement issued from Tadepalli on April 15, Jagan Mohan Reddy conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased and expressed grief over the loss of lives. He wished a speedy recovery for those injured in the incident. Describing the accident as deeply unfortunate, he said such recurring tragedies highlight the urgent need for strict regulation and monitoring of explosive materials storage and handling. He also demanded strong action against those responsible and urged the government to provide adequate and immediate support to the affected families during this difficult time.

Sharmila Writes Open Letter to Chandrababu on Delimitation Issue

Amaravati, April 15, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee president Y.S. Sharmila has written an open letter to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu urging him to strongly oppose the proposed delimitation process based on population. In her letter, Sharmila warned that the exercise could significantly reduce the political representation of southern states, including Andhra Pradesh, and lead to an imbalance in Parliament. She stated that the South would face "irreparable loss" if seat allocation is changed purely on population basis. She appealed for a special one-day Assembly session to discuss the issue and pass a resolution opposing the proposal. Sharmila also called for a united stand by all political parties, irrespective of differences, to safeguard the interests of the state. She emphasized that Andhra Pradesh contributes significantly to national revenue and

should not be politically weakened. The letter has sparked renewed discussion on federal representation and regional equity.



Raghurama Krishnam Raju Announces 1 Crore Donation for Akiveedu Ramalayam

Akiveedu, April 15, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Speaker Raghurama Krishnam Raju has stated that around 1 crore has been collected through public donations for the reconstruction of the Ramalayam in Akiveedu village of West Godavari district. Speaking on the ongoing temple development initiative, he said the project aims to rebuild the ancient Ramalayam with proper permissions and in a grand manner, reflecting traditional architecture and spiritual significance. Raghurama noted that devotees have voluntarily contributed funds ranging from small amounts to larger donations, showing strong public participation in the initiative. He added



ed that the construction process will be taken up in compliance with legal and administrative approvals. He also emphasized that the temple development would preserve cultural heritage while

promoting community participation. The issue is currently under judicial review, with authorities advising adherence to procedural norms before starting major construction activities.

Allegations of Irregularities in Electricity Department

PRASANNA DURGAM

Dark Shadows Over Movva Power Office
Movva (Krishna District): Serious allegations of negligence, corruption, and misuse of authority have surfaced against electricity department officials in Movva mandal of Pamarru constituency, triggering widespread anger among local residents. Consumers have accused officials of ignoring government norms and failing to address public grievances. Field staff, who are expected to be available in villages, are reportedly absent, leading to prolonged delays in resolving electricity-related issues. Villagers say they are left helpless as complaints remain unattended for days.
Private Individuals Running the Show
In a shocking development, locals allege that instead of attending to faults themselves, department staff are sending private individuals to carry out repairs and maintenance. When questioned, officials allegedly retaliate by filing false cases of “power theft” against complainants. Residents claim this reflects an alarming level of high-handedness and lack of accountability.
There are also accusations



of large-scale corruption in the installation of new electricity lines and poles. Officials are suspected of colluding with contractors to siphon off public funds, further deepening public distrust.
Officials Unreachable
Another major concern is the unavailability of officials. Residents say that office visits

often prove futile as officials are rarely at their desks, and phone calls go unanswered. Even directives from the local MLA regarding public issues are allegedly being ignored, raising serious questions about administrative discipline.
PM Surya Ghar Scheme Turns Problematic

Beneficiaries of the PM Surya Ghar Yojana have also voiced frustration. Consumers who opted for solar connections under the scheme claim they are being issued cheques instead of direct payments. However, when they approach banks, they find insufficient funds in the accounts, causing financial distress.

Adding to the concerns, locals allege that officials have been intimidating both consumers and journalists who question irregularities, reportedly boasting of union backing and dismissing criticism.
Illegal Connections and Revenue Loss
Further allegations suggest that some employees are facilitating unauthorized electricity connections in exchange for money. Several households and commercial establishments are reportedly operating without proper approvals, leading to significant revenue losses for the government. Meanwhile, genuine consumers struggle to receive timely services.
Public Warning
Frustrated residents have issued a stern warning, urging higher authorities to initiate a thorough inquiry into the functioning of the electricity department in Movva mandal. They have demanded strict action against negligent and corrupt officials. Failing this, locals caution that they may resort to protests and even lay siege to department offices.
The growing unrest highlights an urgent need for accountability and transparent governance in the region's power sector.



Veterinary Assistant Attempts

Suicide in NTR District

NTR District, Nandigama, April 15, 2026 | TPN Bureau
A shocking incident was reported in Veerulapadu mandal's Jammavaram village where a veterinary assistant, Banavath Manasa, allegedly attempted suicide. According to sources, she consumed medication used for animals, reportedly due to harassment by higher officials.
Family members immediately rushed her to a private hospital in Kanchikacherla for

emergency treatment. After preliminary medical care, doctors advised shifting her to Vijayawada for advanced treatment, where she is currently undergoing further medical attention.
The incident has caused concern in the local area, with residents demanding a detailed inquiry into the alleged harassment. Further details are awaited as police begin preliminary investigation into the case and statements from officials are expected.

Anti-Drug Drive 2.0 at Gandhi Women's College Today

VIJAYAWADA, April 15, 2026 | TPN BUREAU
A special awareness and enforcement programme titled “Drugs on Strike 2.0” is being conducted today at Gandhi Women's College grounds under the limits of One Town Police Station. The programme began at 10:30 a.m. under the supervision of senior police officials. The initiative is being carried out under the guidance of ADCP G. Ramakrishna and ACP West Durgarao, with One Town Inspector Guna Ram overseeing the arrangements.
Police officials said the drive

includes screening of suspected individuals using drug detection kits as part of intensified anti-narcotics enforcement measures.
City Police Commissioner S. V. Rajasekhar Babu, District Collector Lakshmi Shah, and West MLA Sujana Chowdary are attending the programme as chief guests.
Authorities have invited media representatives to cover the event, which aims to raise awareness among youth about the dangers of drug abuse and strengthen preventive policing in educational institutions.

Jana Sena Spokespersons Training Workshop Concludes in Vijayawada

Vijayawada, April 15, 2026 | TPN Bureau
The two-day Jana Sena Party official spokespersons training workshop concluded on Wednesday evening in Vijayawada. Party representatives and aspiring leaders from both Telugu states actively participated in discussions on various political and public issues. The programme was organised to strengthen the party's presence in media debates and ensure responsible articulation of public issues, in line with the directions of party chief and Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. Held under the leadership of Party General Secre-

tary Talluri Ram, the workshop focused on enhancing communication skills, understanding contemporary issues, and effectively representing the party in media discussions. Senior leaders including MSME Development Corporation Chairman Tammireddy Sivasankar and MLC Pidugu Hariprasad, along with intellectuals and senior journalists, guided the participants. The party announced that selected participants will be appointed as official spokespersons, expected to present Jana Sena's ideology and developmental initiatives in a responsible and impactful manner.

Three-Day Fest Planned at Kondapalli Fort for World Heritage Day

NTR District, Kondapalli, April 15, 2026 | TPN Bureau
On the occasion of World Heritage Day, a three-day district festival will be conducted to highlight the historical significance of Kondapalli Fort, said Mylavaram MLA Vasanth Krishna Prasad. He stated that tourism officials have planned various programmes from April 18 to promote the heritage value of the fort. Tourism Minister Kandula Durgesh is expected to attend the celebrations as the chief guest along with officials and public representatives. The MLA said the state govern-

ment is committed to preserving Kondapalli Fort and promoting the world-famous Kondapalli toys craft. As part of the celebrations, trekking on the fort steps will be organized, along with the inauguration of the Kondapalli Toys Festival at 10 AM on April 18.
The three-day event will feature toy exhibitions, cultural programmes, rangoli competitions, children's fashion shows, puppet shows, and traditional displays. Leaders urged public participation from Kondapalli, Ibrahimpatnam, and Mylavaram constituencies.

Collector Conducts Surprise Inspection on Midday Meal Scheme in NTR District

NTR District, April 15, 2026 | TPN Bureau
District Collector G. Lakshmi IAS conducted a surprise inspection of the Midday Meal Scheme at Sri Puchchalapalli Sundaarayana Municipal High School in LBS Nagar, Vijayawada, on Wednesday.

During the visit, the Collector closely examined the food prepared for students, focusing on quality, kitchen hygiene, water usage, and storage practices. He verified whether the meals were being served as per the government-prescribed menu and ensured that nutritional standards were strictly maintained.
Lakshmi interacted with students, shared lunch with them, and gathered feedback on the taste and quality of the food. He expressed satisfaction with the overall standards but also received suggestions from students and immediately di-



rected officials to address minor issues.
The Collector emphasized that the Midday Meal Scheme plays a crucial role in improving students' health, attendance, and academic performance. He stated that there

should be no compromise in providing nutritious food and maintaining hygiene standards. He further warned that continuous inspections would be conducted and any lapses would not be tolerated in schools across the district.

AP Signs Pact to Reduce Lightning Deaths

AMARAVATI, April 15, 2026 | TPN BUREAU

The Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) has entered into a strategic agreement with the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) to reduce lightning-related deaths in rural areas. The Memorandum of Understanding was signed at the APSDMA office on Wednesday in the presence of senior officials from both organisations.
APSDMA Managing Director Prakhar Jain said the initiative, taken as per the directions of the Chief Minister, aims to strengthen early warning systems, preparedness, and



response mechanisms across the state. He noted that the collaboration will help identify lightning-prone hotspots, assess risk zones, and develop effective mitigation strategies to minimise loss of life and property. The MoU also focuses on improving community awareness and enhancing real-time

data-based forecasting using satellite technology.
Officials said the partner-7,904 students passed, recordship will support evidence-ing an 84% pass percentage. based disaster planning and This reflects a significant 15% strengthen safety measures in improvement compared to last vulnerable regions. Senior sci-year's 69% and is higher than entists from NRSC and offi-the state average of 77%. cials from APSDMA partici- In the Second Year results, 8,073 students appeared and

Anna Canteen Inaugurated at APCRDA Office in Rayapudi

Amaravati, April 15, 2026 | TPN Bureau
The Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) has inaugurated an Anna Canteen at its headquarters in Rayapudi, Thullur mandal, Amaravati. APCRDA Commissioner V. Vijayaramaraju IAS formally opened the facility by cutting the ribbon, along with Additional Commissioner A. Bhargavateja IAS. After the inauguration, the officials, including APCRDA Engineer-in-Chief R. Gopalakrishna Reddy and ADCL Chief Engineer Ch.

Dhanunjaya, shared a meal at the newly launched canteen. The initiative aims to provide affordable and accessible food services to employees working in various government offices located in the APCRDA complex and nearby municipal departments. Officials said the Anna Canteen will significantly benefit staff working in the capital region by offering convenient meal facilities within the office premises. The launch reflects efforts to improve employee welfare and basic amenities in the developing Amara-

KGBVs Register Strong Performance in Intermediate Results: Samagra Shiksha

Amaravati, April 15, 2026 | TPN Bureau
Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV) have delivered an impressive performance in the Intermediate Public Examinations, March 2026, according to State Project Director, Samagra Shiksha, B. Srinivasa Rao IAS. A total of 9,367 students appeared for the Intermediate First Year exams across 352 KGBVs, of whom 7,904 students passed, recording an 84% pass percentage. This reflects a significant 15% improvement compared to last year's 69% and is higher than the state average of 77%. In the Second Year results, 8,073 students appeared and

7,022 passed, achieving an 87% pass rate, up from 84% last year and above the state average of 81%. With this performance, KGBVs have moved from 6th position last year to 5th position statewide among different educational management categories.
Srinivasa Rao congratulated KGBV Secretary D. Devananda Reddy, APCs, GCDs, DEOs, principals, teachers, and students for their efforts. He credited the success to the “Vijayapatham” initiative and consistent academic monitoring, which significantly improved learning outcomes across institutions.

Youth Ends Life in Chirala; Suicide Note Names Alleged Harasser

Chirala, April 15, 2026 | TPN Bureau
A 25-year-old man died by suicide in Kothapalem village of Chirala mandal on Wednesday, triggering shock in the local area. Police said the victim allegedly took the extreme step due to harassment and financial disputes.
The deceased, identified as Bala Durga Mahesh Reddy, a former volunteer working in agriculture, was found hanging in a cattle shed near his house around 6 pm.

Before his death, he reportedly left a suicide note alleging that a person named Asadi Pawan Teja Reddy from Old Chirala was responsible for his decision. The note, along with a photograph, has gone viral and created tension in the village.
Police have shifted the body to Chirala Area Hospital for postmortem and registered a case. Investigation is underway, and efforts are on to trace the accused, who is currently absconding.

NRI College Students Emerge as Rayalaseema Toppers in Inter Results

Anantapur, April 15, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Students of NRI College, Sarada Nagar in Anantapur, have secured top ranks in the Intermediate Public Examinations, emerging as Rayalaseema toppers, said Chairman Vennapusa Viswanath Reddy.

Addressing an appreciation programme, he stated that NRI Educational Institutions have consistently delivered outstanding results for the past eight years, maintaining a leading position in Rayalaseema. He credited the achievement to the institution's structured academic pro-

gramme and dedicated faculty.

In MPC, students scored up to 466 out of 470 marks, with several others scoring above 450. In BiPC, students secured up to 444 marks out of 455. In MEC and CEC streams, students achieved up to 483 out of 500 marks, setting new performance records. The management highlighted that the results were achieved through a three-tier teaching system involving IPE faculty, revision teams, and JEE coaching staff. Faculty and non-teaching staff were also appreciated for their contribution to the institution's success.



Collector Reviews PGRS Grievances, Orders Faster Resolution

KURNOOL, April 15, 2026 | TPN BUREAU

District Collector Dr. A. Siri has directed officials of the registration department to resolve Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) applications swiftly and ensure improved public satisfaction levels through efficient service delivery. Chairing a review meeting at the Collectorate on Wednesday, the Collector instructed officials to regularly monitor the PGRS login system every morning and respond promptly to all incoming complaints with quality resolution. She emphasized that transparent and timely services are essential to build public trust and strengthen positive public perception. The Collector appreciated the registration department for achieving 104 percent revenue growth in the district, calling it commendable performance. However, she expressed concern over lower revenue generation in Kodumur, Kallur,



and Kurnool mandals and asked officials to focus on improving performance in these areas. She also issued strict instructions to safeguard Wakf Board lands, Endowment properties, and government lands, warning against encroachments and urging strict preven-

tion measures. The Collector criticized the functioning of the Kurnool Sub-Registrar Office for delays in grievance redressal and warned officials to avoid negligence in handling public complaints. Senior registration officials attended the review meeting.

Collector Pushes Revenue Reforms, Water Conservation

Kurnool, April 15, 2026 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Dr. A. Siri reviewed revenue and irrigation works after a video conference chaired by Chief Secretary Sai Prasad from the AP Secretariat. She directed officials to complete Pattadar passbook distribution

by March 2027 and speed up correction of Section 22A records. She asked for fast digitisation of revenue records and completion of re-survey works without delay. Pending mutations and sub-divisions must be cleared by June 2026, she said, warning strict action for errors as the Chief Minister will review progress. She

also instructed rainwater harvesting measures, desilting of tanks and canals, and filling all irrigation tanks to improve groundwater levels. A tank-wise action plan, interlinking system, village meetings, master trainers identification, and training schedules were ordered for implementation.

Girls Excel in Inter Results in Kadapa

Kadapa, April 16, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Girls outshined boys in the Intermediate Public Examination results in Kadapa district, showing strong performance across government, private, and residential institutions. In the first year, 15,286 students appeared and 10,150 passed, re-

cording 66% pass. In the second year, 13,896 students appeared and 9,870 passed, achieving around 74-77% success rate. Gurukula institutions topped the district with 86% pass percentage, followed by KGBVs with 79%. Private unaided colleges recorded 74%, Model Schools 66%, government colleges 56%, and aid-

ed colleges 25%. Vocational results also reflected girls' dominance, with 58% pass rate compared to boys' 49% in the second year. Meanwhile, a student from Porumamilla attempted suicide after failing two subjects and was shifted to RIMS Kadapa in critical condition, officials said.

SP Orders Crackdown on Rowdyism and Illegal Activities

Kadapa, April 15, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Kadapa District SP Shelke Nachiket Vishwanath has directed police officials to eliminate rowdyism and maintain strict law and order in the district. He warned that no criminal activity will be tolerated and strict punishment will be ensured for crimes against women and girls, sending a strong message to the public.

At a crime review meeting of the Proddatur police sub-division, the SP ordered intensive action against illegal liquor (belt shops), public

drinking, matka, cricket betting, and gambling. He instructed special surveillance on rowdy sheeters, habitual offenders, and anti-social elements, especially during the IPL season.

He also emphasized strengthening patrolling near schools, colleges, and public places, conducting awareness on women's safety, and using drone surveillance against narcotics and violations. Public grievance redressal, road safety enforcement, CCTV installation, and speedy case investigation were also reviewed in the meeting.



Anna Canteen Inaugurated in Rajanagaram for Rural Poor

East Godavari, April 15, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Rajanagaram MLA Battula Balaramakrishna inaugurated an Anna Canteen in Rajanagaram constituency on Wednesday, marking a key welfare initiative aimed at providing affordable meals to the poor in rural areas.

The inauguration was held in a grand manner with the presence of RUDACHairman Boddur Venkata Ramana Chowdary, RDO R. Sriramudu, local public representatives, and officials. The MLA formally opened the canteen by cutting the ribbon and inspected the food services provided to

beneficiaries.

Speaking on the occasion, Balaramakrishna expressed gratitude to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan for reviving the Anna Canteen scheme. He said the initiative is a major step toward ensuring food security for labourers, daily wage workers, and economically weaker sections. He noted that the programme reflects the government's commitment to public welfare and social responsibility. Local residents welcomed the reopening of the canteen, stating it would greatly benefit low and middle-income families in the region.

VRO Caught Red-Handed by ACB in Bribery Case

Eluru, April 15, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (Andhra Pradesh Anti-Corruption Bureau) officials caught a Village Revenue Officer red-handed while allegedly accepting a bribe of ₹5,000 at Gunampalli Grama Sachivalayam in Dwaraka Tirumala mandal of Eluru district on Wednesday.

The accused officer, identified as Kothapalli Chandraleela, was trapped following a complaint filed by Smt. Dola Durga of Gundugolanukunta village. According to officials, she had initially demanded ₹3,500 for issuing a Family Members Certificate related to land mutation and later reduced the demand to ₹5,000.



The complainant approached ACB officials after repeated delays and alleged harassment in processing her application. Acting on the complaint, ACB officials laid a trap and arrested the VRO while she was accepting the bribe amount.

Officials stated that searches are being conducted at the accused officer's residence and workplace. She will be produced before the ACB Court in Rajahmundry. The ACB reiterated its appeal to the public to report corruption through its toll-free number 1064 and assured confidentiality to informants.



Four More Anna Canteens Open in Kurnool District

KURNOOL, April 15, 2026 | TPN BUREAU

The Kurnool district administration has inaugurated four additional Anna Canteens, aimed at providing quality meals to the public at just ₹5. District Collector Dr. A. Siri said the initiative is focused on ensuring affordable and nutritious food for the poor and needy.

A new canteen was inaugurated at Nandyal Check Post in Kallur mandal of Panyam constituency by the Collector along with local MLA Gauru Charitha Reddy and Kuda Chairman S. Somishetti Venkateswarlu. The officials also served meals and interacted

with beneficiaries. The Collector said the canteens provide breakfast, lunch, and dinner, with the government bearing the actual cost while citizens pay only ₹5 per meal. She noted that each meal costs around ₹4 and breakfast ₹2, fully subsidized by the state. Officials stated that 11 canteens are already functioning in the district, serving hundreds of people daily. With the new additions, coverage has expanded further across key locations. The MLA said the programme reflects the government's commitment to food security and praised the expansion of the initiative across urban and semi-urban areas.

Minister Lays Foundation for Nellore-Krishnapatnam Road

Nellore, April 15, 2026 | TPN Bureau

R&B Minister B.C. Janardhan Reddy participated in the foundation stone laying ceremony for the new Nellore-Krishnapatnam road being taken up at a cost of ₹ crore in the Nellore Rural constituency on Wednesday. The programme witnessed a warm reception for the Minister by MLA Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy and Kotamreddy Giridhar Reddy. TDP leaders and supporters from the rural constituency welcomed the

B.C. Janardhan Reddy Reviews

Krishnapatnam Port Expansion Plans

Nellore, April 15, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Investments and Infrastructure B.C. Janardhan Reddy visited the Adani Krishnapatnam Port in Nellore district on Wednesday and carried out a detailed on-site inspection of port operations. He was accompanied by Nellore MP Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy, Sarvepalli MLA Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy, MLC Beeda Ravichandra, Maritime Board Chairman Damacharla Satyam, CEO Raghava Rao and port representatives.

The Minister travelled by

ship within the port area and reviewed operational facilities. Officials explained various activities and ongoing infrastructure systems. He discussed key issues related to expansion of cargo handling capacity, revival of the container terminal, and strengthening of supporting infrastructure.

He instructed authorities to accelerate expansion works to boost import and export capacity. The Minister expressed confidence that enhanced port activity would generate significant employment and livelihood opportunities for local youth in the region.

Minister with grand garlands. After the ceremony, the Minister addressed a public meeting and reviewed the proposed road works.

Officials stated that the project aims to improve connectivity between Nellore and Krishnapatnam port region, boosting transport efficiency and local development. The Minister assured timely completion of the works and emphasized quality infrastructure development for regional growth.

Tirumala Institutions Shine in Intermediate Results

East Godavari, April 16, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Tirumala Educational Institutions have recorded a spectacular performance in the first and second year Intermediate examinations announced by the state government, said Chairman Nunna Tirumal Rao. He stated that student Gangeyula Krishna Chandana secured 993 out of 1000 marks in Senior Intermediate and emerged as the state topper in the JPC stream. In MPC and BiPC groups, 106 students scored above 990 marks, 1,047

students above 985, 3,659 students above 970, and 5,323 students above 950 marks, he added. In Junior Intermediate MPC, three students secured 467 out of 470 marks, while 656 students scored above 464, 2,143 above 460, and 4,370 above 450 marks. In TPC group, 10 students scored 451 out of 455, 370 students above 445, 690 above 430, and 876 students above 400 marks. The management congratulated the students and faculty for the outstanding academic achievement.

Jana Sena Extends A Lakh Aid to Injured Party Worker

Nellore, April 15, 2026 | TPN Bureau

A Jana Sena party worker from Anantavaram village in Dagadarthi mandal, Kavali constituency, Kunapa Reddy Vinay, who sustained serious injuries in a recent road accident, is currently undergoing treatment at Medicover Hospital.

Responding to his condition, Jana Sena leaders extended financial assistance of ₹1,00,000 to support his medical expenses. The aid was provided in the spirit of party chief Pawan Kalyan's service-oriented approach.

The support was mobilised through party coordination in Nellore district, with contributions from local leaders, party workers, and supporters, including crowd-funding efforts from the village community. Additional assistance also came from party members and supporters abroad.

Jana Sena leaders visited the hospital, enquired about Vinay's health, and handed over the financial assistance to his family. Party leaders said the initiative reflects the collective responsibility and unity of the Jana Sena family in times of crisis.



CS Holds Review on Revenue Reforms and Development Programmes

Tirupati, April 15, 2026 | TPN Bureau

A review meeting on key state development programmes was conducted through a video conference from the Andhra Pradesh Secretariat conference hall under the leadership of Chief Secretary G. Sai Prasad.

The meeting focused on major initiatives including land administration reforms such as Section 22A, Webland, patadar passbook distribution, re-survey works, digital revenue records, and the Jaladhara-Jalaharathi programme. The Chief Secretary reviewed progress with district collec-

tors and joint collectors and issued necessary directions for speedy implementation.

From Tirupati district, Collector Dr. S. Venkateshwar participated along with revenue officials. District Revenue Officer G. Narasimhalu, RDOs of Tirupati, Srikalahasti and Sullurupeta divisions, land survey officials, irrigation engineers, and other departmental staff attended the video conference.

Officials were instructed to ensure timely completion of land records digitisation and re-survey activities while maintaining accuracy and transparency in all revenue-related works across the state.



Delhi CM Visits Integrated Command Control Centre in Tirumala

Tirumala, April 15, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Honourable Chief Minister of New Delhi, Smt. Rekha Gupta, visited the Integrated Command Control Centre located at the Vaikuntham Queue Complex in Tirumala on Wednesday after having darshan of Sri Venkateswara Swamy.

TTD Additional EO Ch. Venkaiah Chowdary explained the functioning of the centre, including its use of predictive analytics for effective monitor-

ing and management of pilgrim movement. He also briefed her on operational systems related to laddu production, traffic regulation, and accommodation management for devotees.

The Delhi Chief Minister appreciated the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) for ensuring smooth pilgrim safety and efficient crowd management through advanced technology. TTD Trust Board member Bhanu Prakash Reddy was also present during the visit.



Kapilesvara Swamy Darshan Brings Divine Bliss: Chaganti Koteswara Rao

Tirupati, April 15, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Renowned spiritual speaker Brahmasri Chaganti Koteswara Rao offered special prayers at the Sri Kapilesvara Swamy Temple, located in the sacred Tirupati Saptagiri region, on Wednesday.

Speaking to the media, he said that taking a holy dip at Kapila Theertham is considered highly auspicious and is believed in scriptures to bring joy to both deities and ancestors. He described the temple as one of the most spiritually significant places in the

region. He advised devotees to first seek blessings of Lord Ganesha, followed by darshan of Sri Kamakshi Sametha Kapilesvara Swamy, which is believed to bring prosperity, family well-being, and happiness. He further added that visiting Kalabhairava Swamy, the Kotilingas, and the sacred Bilva tree completes the spiritual journey and enhances positive results.

Former TTD EO L.V. Subrahmanyam, Superintendent K.P. Chandrasekhar, temple priests, officials, and staff participated in the programme.

Collector Launches 'Palle Vekshanam' Programme in Nellore District

Nellore, April 15, 2026 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Himanshu Shukla has launched a new initiative titled "Palle Vekshanam" aimed at directly monitoring the implementation of welfare and development schemes at the village level in Nellore district. The programme was formally inaugurated in Nabbi Nagar and Boyila Chiruvella villages of Atmakur mandal. The Collector, along with district officials, extensively toured the villages and inspected key facilities including the Rythu Seva Kendra, Village Health Clinic, Anganwadi Centre, housing colonies, and mini Gokulam units.

He interacted directly with MGNREGA workers and villagers, listening to their griev-



ances and instructing officials to resolve issues on the spot. The Collector also reviewed welfare scheme implementation by visiting households.

He stated that every week

one village would be selected for field inspection to ensure transparency and effective service delivery. Officials from various departments participated in the programme.

Commissioner Inspects 'Eat Street', Inauguration on April 16

Tirupati, April 15, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Municipal Commissioner N. Mourya inspected the newly developed Eat Street set up in front of the municipal corporation office on Wednesday evening along with officials. He stated that the Eat Street, developed with all modern amenities, will be formally inaugurated on Thursday evening. He informed that shop allotments were completed through a lucky dip system and keys have already been handed over to the selected vendors. He directed officials to enhance the area with flower pots and greenery. The Commissioner said that all vendors can commence operations from April 16 and assured that hygienic and quality food would be made available to the public. Facilities such as a children's play



area, "I Love Tirupati" selfie point, and a water fountain have also been arranged to attract visitors.

He added that the space is de-

signed for families to enjoy food in a clean and pleasant environment. Senior municipal and engineering officials participated in the inspection.



Awareness Key to Beat Breast Cancer: Apollo Experts

Chittoor, April 15, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Experts at the Apollo Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (AIMSR), Chittoor, have stressed that early awareness and regular screening are crucial in preventing breast cancer, which is rapidly increasing among women. At a clinical meeting held on campus, PG stu-

dent Dr. Padmini presented data highlighting the severity of breast cancer and discussed its symptoms, risk factors, and screening methods. Chittoor District Government Hospital Superintendent Dr. B.G. Ranganath noted that breast cancer accounts for a major share of cancer cases in women, with nearly two lakh new cases reported annually in India. He expressed

concern that nearly 60% of patients report in advanced stages due to lack of awareness and negligence. AIMSR Associate Dean Dr. Ramya Ramakrishnan emphasized the importance of self-breast examination and wider awareness campaigns in local languages. Experts also presented case studies and urged early medical consultation for abnormal symptoms.

Collector Orders Daily Review of Village Development Works

Chittoor, April 15, 2026 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Sumit Kumar directed MPDOs to conduct daily reviews with field assistants on village development works. He issued the instructions during a video conference held from the Collectorate.

The review focused on the "Wage Earners Mobilisation" programme aimed at providing employment opportunities and creating awareness on government welfare schemes. He instructed officials to closely monitor ongoing works in vil-

lages and resolve issues without delay.

The Collector also reviewed the "Jaladhara-Jalaharathi" programme and asked officials to identify water conservation structures, repair tanks, construct check dams, and strengthen groundwater recharge systems. He directed that all works be updated on the official app.

MPDOs from several mandals participated. He warned of strict action against negligence and said regular monitoring will continue through further video conferences.



Celebrations Mark Prashanthi Reddy's Elevation to TDP Politburo

Nellore, April 16, 2026 | TPN Bureau

A festive atmosphere prevailed in Nellore district as Kovur MLA Vemireddy Prashanthi Reddy was appointed as a member of the Telugu Desam Party's Politburo, the party's highest decision-making body.

Huge celebrations were held at the VPR office in Nellore, where leaders, cadre, and supporters from across the district gathered to congratulate her. The premises echoed with slogans praising TDP leadership, while fireworks were burst and

cakes were cut in celebration.

Speaking on the occasion, Prashanthi Reddy said TDP workers are her true strength and support system. She expressed gratitude to the party leadership and assured that she would work tirelessly for strengthening the organisation and stand by the cadre at all times. The event witnessed large participation of women leaders and local party workers, who extended warm wishes and felicitations to the newly appointed Politburo member.



Wear Helmet, Save Life: SP Umamaheshwar Appeals to Riders

Bapatla, April 15, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Bapatla District SP Umamaheshwar has urged two-wheeler riders to mandatorily wear helmets and ensure their own safety. He made the appeal during the "Shiro Raksha - Prana Raksha" awareness campaign being implemented by the district police. As part of the initiative, the SP conducted surprise inspections at key junctions in Bapatla town on Wednesday and personally reviewed vehicle checking operations. He appreciated riders who were following traffic

rules and wearing helmets, encouraging them to serve as role models for others.

He also counseled violators found riding without helmets, stressing that helmets are not meant to avoid fines but to save lives. He noted that most fatalities in road accidents occur due to head injuries and emphasized the importance of safety precautions.

The SP warned that strict action, including fines and legal measures, will be taken against traffic rule violators as part of efforts to reduce road accidents in the district.



Bojjala Gopalakrishna Reddy 78th Birth Anniversary Observed in Srikalahasti

Srikalahasti, April 15, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The 78th birth anniversary of former minister Bojjala Gopalakrishna Reddy was observed with reverence in Srikalahasti under the leadership of Bheemala Munikrishna and Vankayala Siddhulal. The event highlighted his contributions to the development of the constituency. As part of the programme, Annadanam and a Chalivendram (free drinking water facility) were organized at Rajagopuram. MLA Bojjala Venkata Sudheer Reddy attended as the chief guest and

formally inaugurated the services.

Speakers recalled Bojjala Gopalakrishna Reddy's efforts for public welfare, including initiatives in education and temple-based development activities. They noted his role in bringing institutions and promoting industrial growth in the region.

Participants stated that MLA Bojjala Venkata Sudheer Reddy continues to carry forward his father's development legacy. Party leaders, local representatives, and a large number of followers participated in the programme.

Sri Venkateswara Swamy Brahmotsavams from May 1 to 9

Tirupati, April 15, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The annual Brahmotsavams of Sri Venkateswara Swamy will be held in a grand manner from May 1 to May 9 at the temple, with Ankurarpanam scheduled on April 30.

As part of the pre-festival rituals, Koil Alwar Tirumanjanam (temple cleansing) will be performed on April 28. The Dhvajorahanam will be held on May 1 between 9.00 pm and 10.30 pm in Mithuna Lagnam.

During the nine-day festival, Vahana Sevass will be conducted daily from 8.00 to 9.00 am and 7.30 to 8.30 pm. The festival will conclude with Pushpayagam on May 10 from 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm.

The schedule includes various vahanams such as Pedda Sesha, Garuda, Hanumantha, Ratha and Chakrasnanam rituals. Devotees are invited to participate in the divine celebrations and seek the blessings of Lord Venkateswara.

38% vs 18%: Bengal Highlights The Paradox At The Heart Of Women’s Reservation Debate

The debate over women’s reservation in India has re-surfaced with renewed intensity, particularly after the passage of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, which aims to reserve 33% of seats for women in Parliament and state assemblies. While the law is widely viewed as a landmark reform to improve gender representation in politics, recent developments in West Bengal have highlighted a striking contradiction. The state presents a compelling example of how political commitment to women’s representation can vary significantly between rhetoric and reality — a paradox captured in the contrasting figures of 38% women representation in Parliament versus just 18% in state election candidates.

A Long Journey For Women’s Reservation

The push for women’s reservation in India has been decades in the making. The idea was first introduced in 1996, but political disagreements, procedural delays, and lack of consensus prevented its implementation for nearly three decades. Finally, in September 2023, Parliament passed the 128th Constitutional Amendment Bill, reserving one-third of seats for women in the Lok Sabha, state assemblies, and the Delhi Assembly.

However, the law came with an important condition: its implementation would occur only after a new census and delimitation exercise. This effectively delayed the rollout until at least 2034. Critics argue that this delay undermines the urgency of improving gender representation, while supporters say it ensures fair redistribution of constituencies.

In recent months, the Union government has explored ways to accelerate implementation. One proposal involves using 2011 census data and expanding Lok Sabha seats from 543 to 816, with 273 seats reserved for women. This move, however, has sparked political controversy, with op-

position leaders warning that such changes could alter the balance of political power among states.

Delimitation Debate And Political Tensions

The proposal to expand parliamentary seats has triggered concerns, especially from southern states. Under the new structure, northern states would gain a significantly larger number of seats compared to southern counterparts. This could shift political influence toward the Hindi-belt states, raising fears about regional imbalance in national decision-making. (

Another point of contention is the reliance on 2011 census data. Critics argue that outdated data fails to reflect demographic changes such as migration, urbanisation, and population shifts over the past decade. Additionally, the absence of comprehensive caste enumeration in the 2011 census has revived demands for a quota within the women’s reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

These debates have turned women’s reservation from a purely gender-focused issue into a broader political and regional contest.

West Bengal: A Political Battleground

West Bengal has emerged as a key battleground in the women’s reservation debate. With elections underway, political parties are using the issue to appeal to women voters — a demographic that has increasingly influenced electoral outcomes.

The ruling Trinamool Congress has historically enjoyed strong support from women voters, aided by welfare schemes and visible female leadership. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee remains one of the few women leaders at the helm of a major Indian state, further strengthening the party’s image as pro-women.

At the same time, the Bharatiya Janata Party has launched a women-focused



campaign, promising enhanced representation and security measures. The competition for women voters has turned the reservation debate into a central election theme.

Strong Parliamentary Representation

Ironically, West Bengal already exceeds the proposed 33% benchmark in parliamentary representation. In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, 11 out of 29 Trinamool Congress MPs were women, accounting for roughly 38% representation — one of the highest among major parties.

The representation also reflects diversity. Women MPs from the state include professionals, grassroots workers, and leaders from various communities, including tribal, minority, and urban back-

grounds. This diversity demonstrates that increased representation can broaden participation across social groups.

Additionally, women hold significant portfolios in the state government, further strengthening the perception that West Bengal has made meaningful progress in gender representation.

The 18% Reality In Assembly Elections

Despite these achievements, the upcoming West Bengal Assembly elections reveal a stark contrast. The Trinamool Congress has fielded only 52 women candidates out of 291 — roughly 18%. This figure is significantly lower than the 33% reservation threshold and far below the party’s parliamentary representation.

The BJP has performed even worse in terms of women’s representation, fielding only about 11% women candidates. These numbers highlight a broader issue: while parties support women’s reservation in principle, they often hesitate to nominate women candidates when electoral stakes are high.

Political analysts suggest that parties often prioritise “winnability” over gender representation. Established male leaders with strong organisational backing are frequently preferred over newer female candidates, especially in competitive elections.

The Political Calculation

The discrepancy between parliamentary representation and assembly nominations reflects the structural challenges facing women in

politics. While leadership may promote women’s empowerment, ground-level electoral calculations often favour male candidates.

The Trinamool Congress reportedly dropped several sitting legislators while introducing new faces. However, the pressure to retain power may have influenced candidate selection, resulting in fewer women nominees.

This highlights the central paradox: political parties often support women’s reservation laws while failing to voluntarily increase representation within their own ranks.

Why Reservation Still Matters

The West Bengal example strengthens the argument for women’s reservation. Without a mandatory quota, politi-

cal parties may not consistently prioritise gender representation. Even states considered progressive on women’s empowerment struggle to maintain balanced representation.

At the same time, the Bengal case also demonstrates that reservation alone is not enough. Political will, leadership commitment, and structural reforms are equally important for meaningful change.

The contrast between 38% representation in Parliament and 18% in assembly candidates illustrates the gap between policy goals and political realities.

A Broader National Question

The debate triggered by West Bengal raises important national questions:

- Can political parties rely on voluntary measures to improve women’s representation?
- Will reservation laws ensure lasting change?
- How should representation balance regional and demographic factors?

These questions will shape the future of women’s political participation in India. Conclusion

West Bengal’s contrasting figures — 38% women MPs versus 18% women candidates in assembly elections — capture the paradox at the heart of India’s women’s reservation debate. While political parties champion gender equality at the national level, electoral realities often produce different outcomes on the ground.

The case underscores why institutional reforms like reservation remain necessary. At the same time, it also highlights that representation is not just about numbers — it requires sustained political commitment, inclusive leadership, and structural change.

As India moves closer to implementing women’s reservation, West Bengal’s example serves both as a model of progress and a reminder of the challenges ahead

Delimitation & Democracy: A Fair Deal for South By CM Revanth

Today, the issue of delimitation is being discussed across the country. But this is not just a technical or political matter. It is about fairness, equal representation, and the balance of power in India. Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has raised a strong and important voice on this issue. He is speaking not just for Telangana, but for the entire South India. His message is simple-any decision on delimitation must be fair to all regions. The Indian National Congress has also made its stand very clear. The party supports the Women’s Reservation Bill and believes in strengthening democracy. But it strongly opposes any attempt to use delimitation for political advantage or to weaken certain states. One major concern is that the Centre is trying to handle delimitation and the Women’s Reservation Bill together. These are two different issues. They should be discussed separately. Each one needs time, debate, and consultation with all states. Rushing both together creates confusion and raises doubts.

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has rightly demanded a full debate in Parliament and also in all State As-

semblies. He has also asked for an expert committee to study the issue and consult all political parties. This is how a democracy should work. Big decisions should not be taken in a hurry. The biggest fear in South India is about how seats will be increased. If seats are increased only based on population, southern states will lose their political strength. States like Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Kerala have controlled population growth and focused on development. But now, this success may turn into a disadvantage. This leads to a serious question-should states be punished for doing better? South Indian states contribute a large share to India’s economy. They generate income, create jobs, and support national growth. But if delimitation is based only on population, their voice in Parliament will reduce. At the same time, states with higher population growth will gain more power. This creates an imbalance. It sends the wrong message that development and population control do not matter. To solve this, Revanth Reddy has suggested a “Hybrid Model.” This is a balanced idea. According to this model, half of the seats should be given



en based on population, and the other half based on economic contribution like GSDP. This method gives importance to both people and performance. It ensures that states contributing more to the economy also get fair representation. This idea reflects the Congress party’s belief in balanced and inclusive growth. The Congress party has always supported women’s empower-

ment. It has given many opportunities to women in politics. Even now, it supports the Women’s Reservation Bill. But the party says it should be implemented properly, based on the 2026 Census, not old data. This will ensure fair representation. Another concern is the growing gap between North and South India. If delimitation is done without balance, this gap will increase. South-

ern states may feel ignored, even though they contribute more to the economy. This is dangerous for the unity of the country. India is a union of states. Every state is important. No region should feel that its voice is being reduced. Smaller states like Delhi and Punjab may also lose importance if this process is not handled carefully. There is also a larger issue. Over the years,

southern states have followed population control seriously. This has helped the country by reducing pressure on resources. But now, if seats are given only based on population, these states will lose representation. This is unfair. Even in the past, leaders understood this problem. During the time of Indira Gandhi, the number of Lok Sabha seats was frozen to ensure that states controlling population were not punished. Later, under Atal Bihari Vajpayee, this approach continued with some changes, keeping fairness in mind. Today, India’s population has grown a lot. There is a need to increase seats in Parliament. But this must be done carefully. It should not create new inequalities. The principle of “one person, one vote” is important. But it cannot be applied blindly. Even today, smaller states and northeastern regions are given representation beyond strict population numbers to ensure balance. The same fairness should apply to South India. There is also a feeling that southern states are not getting a fair share in national projects and investments. Many believe that political power is shifting in a way that may ignore their contribution. This is

creating concern and dissatisfaction. Revanth Reddy has said that he will work with other southern states and smaller states to raise a united voice. This shows leadership and commitment to protecting federal values. The message is clear—India must grow together. Delimitation is not just about increasing seats. It is about who gets a voice and who gets power. If done without fairness, it can create division between regions. The solution is simple. The Centre must slow down, hold discussions, listen to all states, and build consensus. In the end, democracy is not just about numbers. It is about fairness, balance, and respect for every region. South India is not asking for special treatment. It is only asking for justice.



Aadhi Srinivas, Telangana Government Whip.

PratibhaPatil Calls Women’s Quota Bill a “Transformative Step” in Letter to Narendra Modi

India’s first woman President, PratibhaPatil, has praised the Women’s Reservation Bill — officially known as the Nari Shakti VandanAdhiniyam — describing it as a “transformative step” for strengthening democracy and empowering women. In a letter addressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Patil expressed appreciation for the initiative and highlighted its potential to increase women’s participation in governance and policymaking.

Landmark Reform for Women’s Representation

The Nari Shakti VandanAdhiniyam provides for one-third reservation for women in legislative bodies, including Parliament and state assemblies. The legislation was passed in 2023 and is now moving toward implementation, with discussions underway to ensure it comes into force before the 2029 general elections. A special session of Parliament has also been scheduled to discuss the next steps re-



garding the rollout of the policy.

In her letter, PratibhaPatil described the amendment as a historic milestone that would strengthen India’s democratic structure by ensuring greater representation of women in decision-making roles. She said the move reflects a collective commitment to advancing

gender equality and building a more inclusive governance system.

“Powerful Affirmation” of Gender Equality

Patil emphasized that the legislation is not just a legal reform but a broader step toward inclusive growth. She stated that the reservation would allow more women to participate

in legislative processes and contribute to policymaking from diverse perspectives. According to her, this greater inclusion would result in more empathetic and balanced policy outcomes. She also highlighted that women’s increased presence in political institutions would inspire future generations and encourage more women to step into leadership roles. Patil particularly stressed the importance of empowering women from rural and marginalized communities, saying the reform would motivate them to participate actively in nation-building.

A Long-Cherished Dream

In her message, the former President commended leaders and stakeholders who worked over the years to bring the legislation to reality. She described the bill as a long-awaited reform aimed at correcting historical inequalities and ensuring equal opportunities for women in governance.

Patil also expressed confidence that the measure would

play a key role in building a stronger, more progressive India by promoting inclusive leadership and equitable development. She extended her best wishes for continued efforts toward women’s empowerment and national progress.

Significance of the Nari Shakti VandanAdhiniyam

The Women’s Reservation Bill has been widely viewed as a major political reform that could reshape India’s governance structure. By reserving one-third of seats for women, the law aims to enhance gender balance in legislative bodies and ensure that women have a stronger voice in policymaking.

With growing political momentum and endorsements from prominent leaders, the focus is now shifting to implementation. PratibhaPatil’s support adds further weight to the initiative, reinforcing its importance in advancing gender equality and strengthening India’s democratic institutions.



Why Delimitation Has Become Flashpoint Between Centre And Southern States

A fresh political confrontation is brewing between the Centre and several southern states over the proposed delimitation exercise, which is expected to redraw parliamentary constituencies and increase the number of Lok Sabha seats. The issue has sparked intense debate, with southern leaders warning that the move could shift political power toward northern states and reduce their influence in national decision-making.

What Is Delimitation?

Delimitation refers to the process of redrawing the boundaries of parliamentary and assembly constituencies based on population changes. This exercise is typically conducted after a census to ensure fair representation in legislatures. The next delimitation is expected after the upcoming census, which could significantly alter the number of seats allocated to each state.

Why The Issue Has Escalated Now

The debate has intensified after the Centre proposed increasing the number of Lok Sabha seats from 543 to around 850. The move is aimed at implementing the Women’s Reservation law and expanding representation in Parliament ahead of the 2029 general elections.

However, the proposed seat redistribution is expected to be based largely on population. This has raised concerns in southern states, where population growth has slowed due to better family planning and development indicators. Leaders from these states argue that they are being penalised for successfully controlling population growth.

Why Southern States Are Concerned

Southern states such as Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh fear that population-based seat allocation will benefit northern states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Madhya Pradesh, where population growth has been higher.

If this happens, northern states could gain more parliamentary seats, while southern states may see a smaller increase or reduced share in

overall representation. This could shift political influence toward the north and weaken the voice of southern states in national policymaking.

Experts warn that strict population-based delimitation could result in a handful of large northern states gaining a permanent majority in Parliament, allowing them to shape national policies more decisively.

The Population Freeze Factor

The current seat distribution is based largely on population data from the 1971 census due to a freeze imposed decades ago to encourage states to control population growth. That freeze is set to end, meaning future delimitation could be based on more recent population data, potentially altering representation significantly.

Southern states argue that they followed population control policies successfully, and changing the formula now would disadvantage them compared to states where population grew faster.

Political Tensions Rising

The issue has triggered strong political reactions. Several southern leaders have called for consultations and safeguards before implementing delimitation. Some have demanded a fair formula that balances population with development performance and governance indicators.

The Centre, meanwhile, has indicated that the exercise will be carried out in a fair and transparent manner, but discussions are expected to intensify as legislative proposals move forward.

What Happens Next

The delimitation process will likely be one of the most significant political developments ahead of the 2029 elections. With representation, federal balance, and regional influence at stake, the debate between the Centre and southern states is expected to grow sharper in the coming months.

As India prepares for a possible expansion of Parliament and new electoral boundaries, the delimitation issue is shaping up to be a major political flashpoint with long-term implications for the country’s democratic structure.

Bulldozer Action Taken Against Maharashtra Man Accused of Assaulting 180 Minors

Authorities in Maharashtra carried out bulldozer action against the house of a 19-year-old man accused of sexually assaulting and exploiting nearly 180 minor girls. The accused, identified as Mohammad Ayaz, also known as Tanveer, is a resident of Paratwada in Amravati district. The action came shortly after his arrest in a case that has sparked widespread outrage.

Illegal Structure Demolished

A JCB machine was used to demolish alleged illegal portions of the accused’s one-storey house. Visuals showed the demolition of an iron staircase built outside the residence to access the first floor. The operation was conducted by officials from the Achalpur Municipal Council, while a heavy police presence was deployed to maintain law and order during the action. Authorities said notices regarding encroachment had already been issued before the demolition took place. Local BJP MLA Pravin Tayade was also present during the demolition, which took place amid heightened security and public attention. The action followed growing outrage over the seriousness of the allegations and the scale of the case.

Arrest and Serious Allegations

Police arrested Mohammad Ayaz on April 11 after allegations surfaced that he lured minor girls into relationships using what investigators described as a “love trap.” He allegedly took victims to cities



such as Mumbai and Pune, where he recorded obscene videos.

Investigators believe that the accused recorded around 350 explicit videos involving minors. These videos were allegedly used to blackmail victims, and in some cases, force them into prostitution. Several images and videos linked to the accused reportedly surfaced on social media, which led to further police action.

Social Media Targeting According to officials, the accused allegedly targeted victims systematically through WhatsApp and Snapchat groups. Authorities are now examining digital evidence, including mobile phones and online data, to identify additional victims and determine whether others were involved.

Investigation Continues

The case is still under investigation, and authorities are working to identify more victims and possible accomplices. Police have urged families to come forward and assured confidentiality and support for victims.

The incident has triggered widespread outrage and calls for strict action, with officials indicating that more developments could follow as the investigation progresses.

Opposition Backs Women’s Quota But Will Oppose Delimitation Bill, Says MallikarjunKharge

Congress President MallikarjunKharge has said that opposition parties support the Women’s Reservation initiative but will oppose the proposed delimitation exercise, warning that it could alter the federal balance and affect fair political representation across states.

Support For Women’s Reservation, But With Conditions

Kharge made it clear that opposition parties are not against the Women’s Reservation law — commonly referred to as Nari Shakti VandanAdhiniyam — which aims to reserve one-third of seats for women in Parliament and state assemblies. However, he expressed concerns about linking the implementation of the quota with delimitation and census exercises.

Opposition leaders believe the government is pushing delimitation alongside women’s reservation without sufficient consultation. They argue that the two issues should be treated separately to ensure that the reservation for women is implemented without delays or political complications.

Opposition Meeting Ahead Of Parliament Session

Kharge convened a meeting of opposition leaders to chalk out a joint strategy before a special Parliament session expected to discuss amendments related to women’s reservation and delimitation. Several parties from the INDIA bloc participated in discussions, reflecting growing concern over the government’s proposed changes.

According to opposition



leaders, the proposed amendments could significantly increase the number of Lok Sabha seats, potentially up to around 850, after a fresh delimitation exercise based on the latest census data. The move is intended to operationalise women’s reservation before the 2029 general elections.

Concerns Over Federal Balance

Kharge and other opposition leaders warned that delimitation based purely on population could benefit states with higher population growth, while reducing the relative representation of states that have successfully controlled population growth.

Some leaders described the proposed delimitation approach as potentially “mischievous” or “devious,” arguing that it could weaken parliamentary democracy if implemented without broad consensus.

The opposition has also raised concerns that linking women’s reservation to delimi-

tation could delay the implementation of the quota, defeating the purpose of empowering women in politics.

Political Debate Intensifies

The issue has quickly become a major political flashpoint ahead of the special Parliament session. While the ruling government is pushing for quick implementation of women’s reservation, opposition parties insist that delimitation must be debated separately and carefully.

Kharge emphasised that the opposition supports women’s empowerment but would resist any move that alters electoral representation without proper consultation and consensus among states and political parties.

With Parliament set to take up the matter soon, the debate over women’s reservation and delimitation is expected to intensify, shaping one of the most significant political discussions ahead of the next general elections.

AmarnathYatra Registration Opens In Jammu, Pilgrimage To Begin From July 3

Registration for the annual AmarnathYatra has officially begun in Jammu, with large numbers of devotees gathering at designated counters to secure their permits. The pilgrimage to the sacred Amarnath cave shrine in Jammu and Kashmir is scheduled to start on July 3 and will continue for 57 days, concluding on August 28, coinciding with the festival of RakshaBandhan.

Heavy Rush At Registration Counters

Devotees lined up early in the morning at various registration centres in Jammu. Offline branches of banks, including Punjab National Bank and Jammu & Kashmir Bank, witnessed long queues as pilgrims arrived even before counters opened. Officials confirmed that advance registration has been made available in both online and offline modes to make the process

more accessible for devotees across the country.

According to officials, six registration counters were set up in Jammu to handle the rush. Many devotees expressed eagerness to be part of the first batch of pilgrims, with some travelling from nearby states specifically to complete registration early.

556 Bank Branches Across India

Authorities said that registration for the pilgrimage is being conducted through 556 bank branches across India. These include 310 branches of Punjab National Bank, along with branches of Jammu & Kashmir Bank, State Bank of India, Yes Bank and others. The large network of branches aims to ensure that devotees from different parts of the country can easily register for the yatra.

Officials also indicated that Punjab National Bank is act-

ing as the nodal bank for the registration process. With improving law and order conditions in Jammu and Kashmir, authorities expect a higher number of pilgrims to participate this year.

Two Routes For Pilgrimage

The AmarnathYatra will begin simultaneously from two routes:

- The traditional 48-kilometre Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag district
- The shorter but steeper 14-kilometre Baltal route in Ganderbal district

Both routes lead to the holy cave shrine located in the Himalayas, where devotees offer prayers to the naturally formed ice Shivaling.

Devotees Express Enthusiasm

Many pilgrims said they were eager to take part in the yatra and sought blessings at the shrine. Some participants

who have undertaken the journey multiple times described the pilgrimage as an annual spiritual tradition. Others also noted improvements in facilities and security arrangements, encouraging more devotees to participate.

Growing Preparations

Authorities are also assessing ways to simplify the registration process further as the number of applicants increases. Security, logistics and infrastructure arrangements are being reviewed to ensure the smooth conduct of the pilgrimage.

The AmarnathYatra is one of the most significant religious pilgrimages in India, attracting thousands of devotees every year. With registrations now open and preparations underway, authorities expect strong participation in the 2026 pilgrimage beginning July 3.



Oil Tanker Blacklisted By US Crossed Hormuz With Tracker On, Claims Iran

A major geopolitical development unfolded after Iran claimed that an oil tanker blacklisted by the United States successfully crossed the strategic Strait of Hormuz despite an ongoing US-led blockade. The incident has added fresh tension to the already volatile situation in the Middle East and raised concerns over global oil supply routes.

Sanctioned Tanker Crosses Despite US Blockade

According to Iranian officials, a very large crude carrier (VLCC) that had been blacklisted by the United States sailed through the Strait of Hormuz and reached Iranian waters without any interference. The claim was made by Iran's Consulate General in Mumbai, which stated that the vessel completed its journey openly with its tracking system switched on, challenging



US sanctions and restrictions. The supertanker, capable of carrying up to two million barrels of crude oil, reportedly crossed international waters and arrived at Iranian shores without attempting to conceal its movement. Iranian authorities highlighted that the vessel

kept its tracking system active throughout the journey, signaling transparency and defiance of the US-imposed restrictions.

US Blockade and Rising Tensions

The development comes after the United States announced a naval blockade aimed at preventing ships from traveling to or from Iranian ports. US officials had earlier stated that they would intercept any vessel attempting to move from international waters toward Iran's coastline or dock at its ports. The blockade was introduced following escalating tensions and stalled diplomatic efforts between the United States and Iran.

US Central Command reportedly said that the blockade was fully operational and that maritime trade linked to Iran had been significantly disrupted. The move is part of broader

efforts to pressure Iran economically, as a large portion of the country's economy relies on sea-based trade.

Other Ships Also Passed Through

Tracking data also indicated that at least two additional vessels had crossed the Strait of Hormuz shortly after the blockade came into effect. One of them, a Liberia-flagged bulk carrier named Christianna, transited the strait after unloading cargo at an Iranian port. Another vessel, the tanker Elpis, carrying methanol, also passed through the strategic waterway after departing from Iran.

Strategic Importance of Strait of Hormuz

The Strait of Hormuz is one of the world's most critical oil transit routes, through which a significant portion of global crude oil supply flows. Any disruption or escalation in this

region typically leads to volatility in oil prices and global financial markets.

The latest development highlights growing geopolitical tensions and the challenges involved in enforcing maritime restrictions. If more vessels continue to cross despite the blockade, it could weaken US efforts and increase uncertainty in global energy markets.

Market and Global Impact

The incident is likely to keep oil markets on edge, as traders closely monitor developments in the Middle East. Any escalation or further defiance of the blockade could impact crude oil prices and global trade flows. Overall, the crossing of a US-blacklisted tanker through the Strait of Hormuz underscores the fragile geopolitical environment and signals that tensions between the United States and Iran remain far from resolved.

Trump Wants To Restart Iran Talks – But Sets Two Key Conditions

U.S. President Donald Trump has indicated that Washington is open to restarting peace talks with Iran, but only if two key conditions are met. The proposed negotiations could take place in Islamabad, where earlier talks between the two sides ended without a breakthrough.

Two Key Conditions Set by the US

According to reports, the United States has outlined two major demands before returning to negotiations:

- 1. Full Reopening of the Strait of Hormuz**

Washington has demanded that Iran ensure the complete reopening of the Strait of Hormuz before talks resume. The US has insisted on reciprocal arrangements — meaning if Iran restricts shipping routes, Iranian vessels could also face restrictions. This condition highlights the importance of



maritime security and global oil supply routes in the negotiations.

- 2. Full Authority for Iranian Negotiators**

The second condition re-

quires that Iran's delegation must have full authority from the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps to finalise any agreement. The US wants assurance that any deal reached during negotiations will be backed by all senior Iranian leadership and not blocked later.

Internal Differences Within Iran

Reports suggest there may be growing divisions within Iran's leadership between political officials and the Revolutionary Guard. These disagreements reportedly slowed progress during earlier negotiations and prevented Iranian representatives from making final commitments.

The US is now seeking clarity and stronger decision-making authority from Iran's delegation before agreeing to return to the negotiating table.

Talks May Resume Soon

Despite the conditions, both sides appear open to resuming dialogue. Diplomatic sources indicate that delegations from the United States and Iran may

return to Islamabad later this week, although no final date has been confirmed.

The earlier round of talks, held after a temporary ceasefire, marked the first direct engagement between the two countries in more than a decade. However, negotiations ended without any major breakthrough, leaving several issues unresolved.

High Stakes for Global Markets

The outcome of these negotiations is being closely watched worldwide. The Strait of Hormuz is a crucial global oil route, and any disruption in the region can significantly impact energy prices and financial markets. If talks resume and progress is made, it could ease geopolitical tensions and stabilise global markets. However, failure to meet the conditions could prolong uncertainty in the region.

Iranian Delegation Switched Planes, Took Bus and Train After Security Threat During Pakistan Visit

An Iranian delegation returning from high-level talks with the United States in Pakistan reportedly altered its travel plans after receiving serious security threats. The delegation switched aircraft mid-journey and completed the rest of their return to Tehran using land transportation, including train, bus, and car, according to reports.

Security Threat Forced Sudden Change in Travel Plans



The incident occurred after ceasefire negotiations between the United States and Iran in Islamabad ended without a breakthrough. Iranian political analyst Mohammad Marandi, who accompanied the delegation, said the team received direct threats suggesting their plane could be attacked. This prompted officials to take additional precautions while returning to Iran.

Marandi stated that the delegation feared their aircraft could be shot down or targeted with missiles. Due to these concerns, the group secretly boarded a different aircraft instead of their original flight. The alternative plane later made an unexpected landing in Mashhad, a city in northeastern Iran.

After landing in Mashhad, the delegation avoided further air travel and completed their journey to Tehran using multiple modes of transport, including train, bus, and car. The unusual travel arrangements highlighted the level of concern surrounding their safety following the failed talks.

High-Level Officials Were Part of Delegation

The delegation reportedly included senior Iranian leaders such as Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and Parliamentary Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf. Their presence increased the sensitivity of the visit and may have contributed to heightened security concerns.

Marandi also said the Iranian side remains cautious about negotiations and expressed distrust toward the United States. He noted that while Iran continues to engage in diplomatic efforts, the country is also preparing for possible escalation if talks fail.

Talks May Resume Soon

Despite the tense developments, reports indicate that US and Iranian negotiating teams may return to Islamabad for another round of discussions. Officials from both sides have suggested that talks could resume later this week, although no final date has been confirmed.

The previous meeting in Pakistan marked one of the highest-level engagements between the United States and Iran in more than a decade. However, negotiations ended without a breakthrough, leaving key issues unresolved.

Rising Tensions Continue

The incident underscores the fragile nature of ongoing diplomatic efforts between the United States and Iran. While both sides appear open to further negotiations, security concerns and deep mistrust continue to complicate the peace process.

The delegation's unusual return journey highlights the tense geopolitical environment and the risks surrounding diplomatic engagements during ongoing conflict.

Bulldozed Villages, New Outposts: Inside Israel's 'Gaza Playbook' in Lebanon

Israel is reportedly expanding its military operations in southern Lebanon by demolishing villages and constructing new outposts near the border, a strategy analysts say mirrors tactics previously used in Gaza. The development comes amid the ongoing conflict involving Israel, Iran-backed Hezbollah, and broader Middle East tensions.

Villages Demolished Near Border

According to reports citing Israeli soldiers, bulldozers have been used to raze villages near the Israel-Lebanon border fence. The cleared land is being used to build new military outposts, which some soldiers believe are intended to be permanent structures. One official reportedly described the approach as similar to operations previously carried out in



Gaza. A combat soldier quoted in the report said there was even a list of homes marked for demolition, and progress was being measured based on the number of buildings destroyed each day. The comments suggest a systematic ap-

proach to clearing areas along the border.

Push To Move Hezbollah North

Reports indicate Israeli forces have advanced deeper into southern Lebanon, reaching the third line of villages from the border — roughly 20 kilometres south of the Litani River. The objective appears to be pushing Hezbollah fighters further north and creating a buffer zone along Israel's northern frontier. The construction of additional military outposts in southern Lebanon is part of this broader strategy. These installations are believed to help maintain Israeli control in cleared areas and prevent Hezbollah from re-establishing positions near the border.

Gaza-Style Strategy

Israeli officials and soldiers reportedly acknowledged similarities between the operations in Lebanon and earlier tactics used in Gaza. The approach includes clearing civilian infrastructure, expanding military presence, and creating buffer zones to reduce security

threats. The strategy is controversial, with critics arguing that such operations could lead to long-term instability and humanitarian concerns, particularly if civilians are unable to return to their homes.

Rising Regional Tensions

The development comes as diplomatic efforts continue between the United States and Iran to end broader hostilities in the region. However, the ongoing Israeli operations in Lebanon suggest that tensions remain high, especially with Hezbollah continuing to play a major role in the conflict. The situation in southern Lebanon remains fluid, with further military developments likely as Israel continues to pursue its security objectives while negotiations unfold elsewhere in the region.

Pakistani Journalist Blames “Not-So-Educated Pehalwan” For PM Sharif’s ‘Draft’ X Gaffe

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif faced embarrassment after a “draft” message was mistakenly posted from his official X (formerly Twitter) account. The incident sparked criticism, with a Pakistani journalist blaming a staff member nicknamed “Pehalwan” for the blunder.

What Happened

The controversy began when a “draft” message related to ceasefire discussions between the United States and Iran was accidentally posted from the Prime Minister's official account. The post reportedly included internal instructions and appeared unfinished, quickly going viral and

drawing widespread criticism. The error raised concerns over professionalism and communication protocols at the highest level of Pakistan's government.

The incident occurred during a sensitive diplomatic period, as Pakistan was attempting to act as a mediator in talks between the United States and Iran. The timing of the mistake made the situation more embarrassing for Islamabad, especially given the international attention on the negotiations.

Journalist Points To ‘Pehalwan’

Pakistani journalist Absar Alam alleged that the mistake was made by

a person known as “Pehalwan,” who reportedly handled the Prime Minister's social media account. According to Alam, the individual was “not very educated” and had been given responsibility despite lacking professional qualifications.

Alam further claimed that the previous person managing the account was more qualified, but the new handler allegedly enjoyed protection from a senior federal minister. He said the mistake occurred when the message was copied and pasted directly from WhatsApp without proper review.

Mild Action Taken

Following the blunder,

the individual reportedly received only a mild reprimand. According to Alam, the person was instructed not to appear before the Prime Minister for a few days, which drew further criticism about accountability within the administration.

Pakistan's Role in US-Iran Talks

The incident came at a time when Pakistan was trying to broker peace between the United States and Iran. Islamabad had positioned itself as a mediator, relaying proposals and hosting negotiations aimed at reducing tensions in the Gulf region. Negotiating teams from both countries were also

expected to return for further discussions after earlier talks ended without a breakthrough.

Diplomatic Embarrassment

The social media gaffe has raised broader concerns about communication management and professionalism in official government messaging. Given the high-stakes geopolitical environment, even minor communication errors can have diplomatic consequences.

The incident quickly became viral online, with critics pointing to lapses in governance and digital oversight within the Prime Minister's office.



Nifty Ends Above 24,200; Sensex Surges 1,264 Points as Broad-Based Rally Lifts All Sectors

Indian equity benchmarks ended Wednesday's trading session on a strong note, with the Nifty 50 closing above the crucial 24,200 level and the BSE Sensex surging more than 1,200 points. The rally was broad-based, with buying seen across sectors, while midcap and small-cap stocks outperformed the benchmark indices. Strong global cues, easing geopolitical tensions, and falling crude oil prices boosted investor sentiment, driving markets higher throughout the day. The BSE Sensex jumped 1,264 points, or around 1.6 percent, to close near 78,100, while the NSE Nifty gained nearly 390 points to settle above the 24,200 mark. The market maintained its positive momentum throughout the trading session, ending near the day's high, indicating sustained buying interest across segments.

All Sectors Rally; Midcaps and Smallcaps Outperform

The rally was supported by widespread buying across all sectoral indices, with most sectors ending firmly in the green. Midcap and smallcap stocks delivered stronger gains compared to frontline indices, reflecting improving risk appetite among investors. Market breadth also remained highly positive, with advancing stocks significantly outnumbering declining shares. Over 150 stocks touched their 52-week highs during the session, highlighting the strength of the rally. RailTel Corporation emerged as one of the standout performers, surging sharply after securing new orders, while several capital goods, infrastructure, and industrial stocks also witnessed strong buying interest.

Key Gainers and Losers

Among the top gainers on the Nifty were InterGlobe Aviation, Max Healthcare, Power Grid Corporation, Wipro, and

Eternal, which saw strong buying interest during the session. These stocks helped push the indices higher and contributed significantly to the market's positive closing. On the other hand, a few stocks such as Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, Bharti Airtel, and ICICI Bank witnessed mild selling pressure and ended the day in the red. However, losses in these counters were limited and did not significantly impact the overall market trend.

Global Cues Boost Investor Sentiment

Positive global developments played a crucial role in lifting domestic markets. Reports of easing geopolitical tensions and declining crude oil prices improved investor confidence. Lower oil prices are generally considered beneficial for India, as they help reduce inflationary pressure and improve corporate margins, encouraging investors to increase exposure to

equities. Additionally, strong performance in global markets and sustained institutional buying also supported the rally. The broader market witnessed healthy participation from domestic institutional investors and foreign funds, further strengthening the bullish sentiment.

Market Outlook

Despite the strong rally, analysts remain cautiously optimistic about the near-term outlook. While the broad-based participation and positive global cues indicate continued strength, market experts advise investors to remain selective and focus on fundamentally strong stocks. The strong closing above 24,200 is considered technically positive for the Nifty, with further upside likely if the index sustains above key support levels. However, global developments, crude oil prices, and institutional flows will remain important trig-



gers for the next leg of market movement. Overall, Wednesday's session reflected strong bullish sentiment in Indian markets, with

broad-based buying, sectoral participation, and improved global cues pushing benchmark indices sharply higher. If momentum continues,

markets may attempt higher levels in the coming sessions, although investors are advised to remain cautious at elevated levels.

Paras Defence Shares Jump 7% After 10-Year Strategic Deal with US-Based NorthStar

Shares of Paras Defence and Space Technologies surged nearly 7 percent in Wednesday's trading session after the company announced a long-term strategic agreement with US-based NorthStar. The development boosted investor sentiment, driving strong buying interest in the stock during the day. The stock climbed to around Rs 757 on the NSE, gaining over Rs 50, after the company disclosed the agreement through a regulatory filing. The sharp move reflects market optimism about the company's growth prospects following the announcement of the long-term partnership.

Details of the Agreement

Paras Defence signed a 10-year agreement with Bandak Aviation Inc., which operates under the NorthStar brand in the United States. Under this partnership, Paras Defence will supply and support NorthStar products for the Indian armed forces. The deal is expected to strengthen the company's position in the defence and aerospace segment while expanding its global partnerships.

The collaboration will primarily focus on air-to-air refuelling systems and related accessories. In addition to supplying equipment, the agreement also includes associated services and long-term support, which could help generate recurring revenue for Paras Defence over the next decade.

Strategic Importance of the Deal

The partnership is significant as it enhances Paras Defence's footprint in advanced



defence technologies. Air-to-air refuelling systems are critical for modern military operations, enabling aircraft to extend operational range and improve mission efficiency. By entering this segment through a global collaboration, Paras Defence aims to strengthen its technological capabilities and expand its offerings to defence customers. This agreement also aligns with India's push toward defence indigenisation and self-reliance. Partnerships with global defence technology companies allow domestic firms to access advanced systems and develop local manufacturing capabilities. Over time, this could help Paras Defence secure more contracts from Indian defence forces.

Positive Sentiment in Defence Stocks

The defence sector has been attracting investor interest due to strong order books, government support, and rising geopolitical uncertainties. Companies operating in defence manufacturing and technology have witnessed increased attention from investors looking for long-term growth opportunities.

Paras Defence has been actively expanding its presence through strategic collaborations and new product offerings. The latest agreement with NorthStar is seen as another step toward strengthening its order pipeline and enhancing long-term growth visibility.

Outlook

The 10-year deal provides strong visibility for future revenues and supports the company's growth strategy in defence and aerospace technologies. Analysts believe that long-term contracts such as these can improve earnings stability and strengthen investor confidence.

With growing defence spending, increasing localisation efforts, and strategic global partnerships, Paras Defence appears well-positioned to benefit from sectoral tailwinds. The strong market reaction to the announcement reflects optimism about the company's long-term growth prospects and expanding role in India's defence ecosystem.

Pakistan Stock Exchange Rises 3% as US-Iran Peace Talks May Resume in Islamabad

Pakistan's stock market rallied sharply on Wednesday, with the benchmark KSE-100 index gaining more than 3 percent amid renewed optimism over possible peace talks between the United States and Iran. Improved geopolitical sentiment boosted investor confidence, leading to strong buying across sectors.

The benchmark KSE-100 index surged more than 5,000 points during intraday trade, reaching a high of 170,640.27. The rally marked the second consecutive day of gains for the Pakistan Stock Exchange, following a strong rebound in the previous session.

Optimism Over Peace Talks Lifts Sentiment

Investor sentiment improved after reports suggested that US-Iran peace negotiations could resume in Islamabad. The possibility of diplomatic progress helped ease concerns about escalating geopolitical tensions in the Middle East. As tensions appeared to soften, global markets responded positively, and Pakistan's stock market joined the broader rally.

The improved outlook also contributed to a decline in crude oil prices, which further supported investor confidence. Lower oil prices generally reduce economic uncertainty and improve the outlook for emerging markets, including Pakistan.

Second Day of Strong Gains

The rally extended gains from the previous trading session when the Pakistan Stock Exchange had already surged



sharply. On Tuesday, the KSE-100 index gained nearly 5,000 points amid similar optimism over renewed diplomatic efforts. The continuation of positive news encouraged investors to maintain buying momentum. The broader market also witnessed strong participation, with multiple sectors ending in positive territory. Financial stocks, energy companies, and industrial shares were among the key contributors to the rally. Improved market breadth reflected strong investor participation across the board.

Global Factors Driving Markets

Geopolitical developments remained the primary driver of the market movement. Rising tensions in recent weeks had created volatility across global markets, particularly due to concerns about oil supply disruptions. However, hopes of resumed negotiations reduced fears of prolonged conflict.

The easing of oil supply concerns and improved diplomatic

prospects helped stabilize markets. Investors typically respond positively to signs of geopolitical stability, which was evident in the strong rally across Pakistan's equities.

Outlook for Pakistan Market

Analysts believe that further developments in US-Iran negotiations will continue to influence market direction. If talks resume and progress toward de-escalation, markets could see continued positive momentum. However, uncertainty around geopolitical developments may still lead to volatility in the near term.

Overall, the Pakistan Stock Exchange's sharp rise highlights how global geopolitical developments can significantly impact regional markets. The renewed optimism surrounding potential peace talks between the United States and Iran provided a strong boost to investor sentiment, pushing the KSE-100 index higher for the second consecutive session.

Private vs PSU Bank Stocks: Where Can Investors Find Alpha?

Indian banking stocks have delivered mixed performance in recent months, with public sector banks (PSU banks) significantly outperforming private sector lenders. However, analysts now believe that the trend may be shifting as valuations in PSU banks appear stretched while private banks are becoming more attractive for investors seeking better returns.

PSU Banks Lead the Rally

Over the past year, PSU banks have witnessed a strong rally driven by improving fundamentals, better asset quality, and steady earnings growth. After years of underperformance, public sector banks have regained investor confidence due to disciplined lending practices and reduced non-performing assets. These improvements have helped PSU banks narrow the gap with private sector banks in terms of profitability and operational efficiency.

Loan growth has also been

a key driver for PSU banks. In recent quarters, public sector lenders recorded stronger credit growth compared to private banks, allowing them to regain market share. This shift boosted investor sentiment and supported stock price performance across several PSU banks. Another factor contributing to the rally has been the improvement in asset quality. Declining bad loans and lower credit costs have enhanced profitability for public sector banks. Additionally, recoveries from previously written-off loans and treasury gains have further supported earnings growth. Profitability levels have improved significantly as well. Many PSU banks have reported return on assets above 1 percent, which marks a notable turnaround compared to earlier years when profitability remained under pressure. These improvements have led to a re-rating of PSU bank stocks in the market.

Valuation Concerns Emerging

Despite strong performance, analysts caution that much of the positive momentum in PSU banks may already be priced into current valuations. Several public sector bank stocks are now trading above their historical averages, leaving limited room for further upside.

There are also concerns about the sustainability of loan growth. PSU banks have utilized liquidity buffers to support credit expansion, but these buffers are gradually declining. As liquidity tightens, growth rates may moderate in the coming quarters.

Moreover, a portion of recent earnings growth has come from non-core income such as recoveries and treasury gains. If these factors weaken, profitability could face pressure, raising questions about the sustainability of current valuations.

Private Banks Offer Attractive Opportunities

While PSU banks have rallied strongly, private banks have lagged behind, resulting

in more attractive valuations. Many private lenders are currently trading below their historical averages, offering better risk-reward opportunities for long-term investors.

Private banks continue to maintain strong fundamentals, including stable asset quality, better capital adequacy, and consistent earnings growth. Analysts expect return on equity for private banks to remain healthy, supported by improving credit demand and operational efficiency.

The valuation correction in private banks has created potential buying opportunities. Investors seeking long-term growth may find private lenders appealing, especially those with strong balance sheets and stable earnings outlooks.

Investment Outlook

The banking sector continues to remain attractive, but investors may need to be selective. While PSU banks have delivered impressive returns, the scope for further



gains may be limited due to stretched valuations. On the other hand, private banks appear better positioned for future growth as they offer attractive valuations combined with strong fundamentals. Experts suggest that inves-

tors consider gradually shifting focus toward high-quality private banks while maintaining selective exposure to PSU banks. Stock-specific opportunities may exist in both segments, but private banks currently offer a more favora-

ble risk-reward balance. In conclusion, while PSU banks have led the rally, private banks may provide the next wave of alpha for investors looking for long-term opportunities in the banking sector.

RCB Cruise Past LSG by Five Wickets in IPL 2026 Clash

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) registered a comfortable five-wicket victory over Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) in an IPL 2026 encounter, continuing their strong run in the tournament and strengthening their position on the points table. Chasing a modest target set by LSG, RCB displayed a composed batting performance, anchored by opener Virat Kohli's fluent knock of 49 runs. Kohli set the tone early, rotating strike efficiently and punishing loose deliveries, ensuring RCB stayed ahead in the chase.

Captain Rajat Patidar provided stability in the middle order with a useful contribution, while wicketkeeper-batter Jitesh Sharma added quick runs to keep the required rate under control. RCB's batting depth once again proved decisive as they comfortably absorbed pressure phases during the chase. Earlier in the match, RCB's bowling unit delivered a



disciplined performance to restrict LSG to a below-par total. The Lucknow batting lineup struggled to build momentum after early setbacks, with only a few middle-order batters offering resistance. The RCB bowlers maintained tight lines and effectively used variations

to prevent LSG from accelerating in the death overs. Lucknow's innings never fully recovered from early breakthroughs, as regular wickets halted their scoring rhythm. Despite brief contributions from a couple of batters, they were unable to post a challenging total on the board.

With this win, RCB further solidified their reputation as one of the most balanced teams of IPL 2026. Their consistent performances with both bat and ball have placed them among the top contenders this season. LSG, on the other hand, will need to regroup quickly as they look to bounce back in upcoming fixtures. Their inconsistent batting form remains a concern, especially against top-quality bowling attacks. RCB's clinical performance in both departments highlighted their growing confidence and team coordination, making them one of the standout sides in the current IPL season.



Kolkata Knight Riders Captain Ajinkya Rahane Reprimanded by BCCI Amid Winless Run in Indian Premier League 2026

The struggles of Kolkata Knight Riders in IPL 2026 deepened as captain Ajinkya Rahane was officially reprimanded by the Board of Control for Cricket in India for breaching the league's Code of Conduct. The disciplinary action came at a time when the franchise is already battling poor form and mounting pressure after a winless start to the season.

Rahane was found guilty of a Level 1 offence under the IPL Code of Conduct during KKR's recent match. While the exact details of the incident were not extensively disclosed, reports indicated that the breach involved showing dissent toward an umpiring decision during the game. The experienced batter accepted the sanction imposed by the match referee, which meant no formal hearing was required.

The reprimand adds to Rahane's growing challenges as captain of Kolkata Knight Riders. The team has struggled to find momentum this season, failing to secure a win in their opening matches. The lack of consistency in both batting and bowling has left KKR near the bottom of the points table, increasing scrutiny on leadership and team strategy.

Rahane, who took over captaincy responsibilities with expectations of bringing stability and experience, has yet to turn things around. Despite his calm demeanor and vast experience in international and domestic cricket, results have not gone in KKR's favor. The team's

top order has been inconsistent, while the bowling unit has struggled to contain opposition batters during crucial phases of matches.

The reprimand also highlights the intense pressure faced by captains in high-stakes tournaments like the Indian Premier League. With large fan bases, franchise expectations, and competitive teams, even minor incidents can quickly draw attention. For Rahane, the disciplinary action only adds to the pressure of delivering results and guiding the team back to winning ways.

KKR supporters remain hopeful that the team can recover as the tournament progresses. The IPL format allows teams to bounce back quickly with a few strong performances. However, time is running out for Kolkata Knight Riders to regain momentum and stay in contention for playoff qualification.

Rahane's immediate focus will likely be on regrouping the squad, improving on-field decision-making, and ensuring discipline within the team. A turnaround in performance could not only improve KKR's standings but also ease the pressure surrounding the captain.

As IPL 2026 continues, all eyes will remain on Rahane and Kolkata Knight Riders to see whether they can overcome their early struggles and revive their campaign.

Kolkata Knight Riders Still Part of Indian Premier League 2026 Despite Winless Start – Here's Why

The Kolkata Knight Riders' disastrous start to IPL 2026 has sparked conversations about whether the struggling franchise risks elimination from the tournament. However, despite their poor run, KKR will remain part of the competition because the Indian Premier League does not have a relegation system.

KKR's campaign has gone from bad to worse in IPL 2026, with the team failing to register a single victory in their opening matches. Their latest defeat left them rooted at the bottom of the points table, intensifying criticism of both team strategy and leadership. The only point they have earned so far came from a rain-affected match, rather than a competitive performance on the field.

No Relegation Clause in IPL
Unlike many football leagues around the world, the IPL operates on a franchise-based sys-



tem rather than promotion and relegation. This means that even if a team finishes last in the standings, they remain part of the league the following season.

For Kolkata Knight Riders, this structure is currently the

only relief during a difficult season. Despite being three-time champions, their performances this year have raised concerns about team balance, auction decisions, and player form.

Big-Money Signings

Underperform

One of the major issues affecting KKR's performance has been the failure of high-profile signings to deliver. Australian all-rounder Cameron Green, who was bought for 25.20 crore, has struggled to make an impact. Reports suggest he has failed to contribute significantly with both bat and ball, leaving a major gap in the squad.

The underperformance of key players has exposed weaknesses in the team's batting depth and bowling attack. As a result, Kolkata has repeatedly failed to defend totals or chase targets successfully.

Leadership Under Pressure
Captain Ajinkya Rahane is also under pressure as the team searches for its first win. Questions have been raised about tactics, team combinations, and overall approach as losses continue to pile up.

KKR's struggles have also been compounded by inconsis-

ent batting performances, lack of momentum, and an inability to finish matches strongly. With each defeat, their chances of making the playoffs become slimmer.

Time Running Out For Comeback

While the absence of relegation ensures KKR will remain in the IPL, the team still faces a race against time to revive its campaign. The IPL format allows teams to bounce back with a few wins, but continued losses could effectively end their playoff hopes early.

For now, Kolkata Knight Riders remain in IPL 2026 — not because of performance, but because the league structure guarantees every franchise a place regardless of results. However, if the team fails to turn things around soon, this season could go down as one of the most disappointing campaigns in the franchise's history.

MS Dhoni Behind Noor Ahmad's Match-Winning Spell Against KKR, Reveals CSK Coach

Chennai Super Kings spinner Noor Ahmad delivered a match-winning performance against Kolkata Knight Riders in IPL 2026, but behind his brilliant spell stood the experience and guidance of MS Dhoni. The Afghan wrist-spinner returned to form at a crucial time, picking up three key wickets and playing a major role in Chennai Super Kings' convincing victory.

Noor Ahmad, who had struggled in the early part of the tournament, produced figures of 3 for 21 in four overs. His spell proved decisive as Chennai Super Kings restricted Kolkata Knight Riders comfortably. The left-arm wrist spinner removed key batters including Ajinkya Rahane, Rinku Singh and Cameron Green, shifting momentum firmly in CSK's favour during the middle overs.

After the match, Chennai Super Kings' bowling coach Sridharan Sriram revealed that Noor Ahmad's turnaround was influenced by a detailed conversation with veteran MS Dhoni during a practice session. According to Sriram, Dhoni advised Noor to work on his leg-break and improve the amount of side spin and drop on the ball. Sriram explained that Noor had been working on generating more turn and slowing the ball through the air, which proved effective on the day. He added that Dhoni's long chat with the spinner helped him regain confidence and execute his plans better during the match. The coach



also mentioned that the pitch offered some assistance, allowing Noor to exploit conditions effectively. Interestingly, Noor Ahmad had managed only one wicket in his first four matches of IPL 2026 before this game. However, following the guidance from Dhoni and technical adjustments in training, the spinner found rhythm and delivered his best performance of the season. His improved control, variation and confidence were evident as KKR's batting lineup struggled against his

spin attack. Despite not playing, Dhoni's influence on the team continues to remain significant. The veteran's mentoring role has been crucial in nurturing young players and helping them perform under pressure. Noor Ahmad's performance once again highlighted Dhoni's sharp cricketing mind and his ability to guide bowlers effectively.

The victory also helped Chennai Super Kings strengthen their campaign, while Kol-

kata Knight Riders continued to face challenges in the tournament. Noor Ahmad's match-winning spell, combined with Dhoni's guidance, proved to be the turning point in the contest. With this performance, Noor Ahmad has not only regained form but also demonstrated his importance in CSK's bowling lineup. If he continues to build on this momentum, Chennai Super Kings could benefit greatly in the remainder of the IPL 2026 season.

“Retired Andre Russell Still Better Than 25 Crore Cameron Green”: Mohammad Kaif Slams Kolkata Knight Riders Strategy

Former India cricketer Mohammad Kaif has criticized Kolkata Knight Riders' team strategy in IPL 2026, claiming that even a retired Andre Russell would still be a better all-rounder than the franchise's 25.20 crore signing Cameron Green. The comments came as KKR continue to struggle in the ongoing Indian Premier League 2026 season.

KKR's Poor Start Raises Questions

Kolkata Knight Riders have endured a disappointing start to IPL 2026, losing most of their opening matches and sitting near the bottom of the points table. The team has managed only one point so far, which came from a washed-out match, intensifying criticism of the squad composition and auction strategy.

One of the major talking points has been the performance of Cameron Green, who was bought by KKR for a record 25.20 crore. Despite the hefty price tag, the Australian all-rounder has struggled to make an impact, particularly with the ball. Reports indicate that Green has bowled only limited overs and picked up just one wicket so far in the campaign.

Kaif's Strong Criticism

Mohammad Kaif questioned KKR's decision to move Andre Russell into a coaching role instead of retaining him as a player. He suggested that



Russell's experience and match-winning abilities would still make him more valuable than Green. Kaif wrote that one of KKR's biggest mistakes this season was keeping Russell in the dugout rather than using him as an all-rounder. He also hinted that the franchise's strategy of keeping Russell away from the auction to prevent other teams from signing him had not worked as expected.

Russell's Legacy at KKR

Andre Russell has been one of KKR's most influential players over the years, known for his explosive batting and crucial wickets. His ability to turn matches single-handedly made him a key figure in the franchise's success. Replacing such a player has proven difficult, and KKR's current struggles have only amplified that challenge. Kaif also emphasized that Russell's absence has left a significant gap

in the team's balance, especially in the finishing role and bowling depth.

Pressure Mounting on Green

Cameron Green, meanwhile, continues to face scrutiny due to his high price tag and underwhelming performances. Expectations were high after he became one of the most expensive overseas signings in IPL history, but his limited contributions have drawn criticism from fans and experts alike.

KKR's Road Ahead

With IPL 2026 still underway, Kolkata Knight Riders have time to recover. However, the team must quickly address its performance issues if it hopes to remain competitive. For now, Kaif's remarks have added to the growing debate around KKR's decisions and whether replacing Andre Russell with Cameron Green was the right move.

