



BUZZ POINTS



Assembly Elections 2026: High-Decibel Campaigning Intensifies Across Key States

PAGE 08



Royals Edge Titans in Thrilling High-Scoring IPL Encounter

PAGE 11



AP JAC Amaravati Welcomes Legal Status for Capital, Seeks Employee Welfare Measures

PAGE 02

We Must Always Stand By Him: Minister Nara Lokesh Calls for Unity

Vijayawada, April 4, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Lokesh has emphasized the importance of unwavering support and unity, stating that "we must always stand by him," in a strong message directed towards party cadres and supporters.

Speaking at a recent public gathering, Lokesh recalled the challenging phases faced by his family and party, particularly during the arrest of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu in the past. He highlighted how the support extended by people, especially Telugu communities, provided immense strength and encouragement during difficult times.



The minister underscored that loyalty and unity are the backbone of any political movement. He urged party workers to remain committed and stand together, regardless of circumstances. According to Lokesh, collective strength not only helps overcome challenges but also ensures the party's long-term vision and development goals are achieved.

government's resolve to move forward with renewed confidence.

Highlighting the sacrifices made by farmers and supporters in the Amaravati movement, Lokesh said that standing by leadership during crucial moments has played a significant role in achieving key victories.

The minister concluded by calling upon party members and citizens to continue their support with the same spirit. He stressed that challenges are inevitable in politics, but consistent backing and belief in leadership can turn adversity into success.

Lokesh's statement is being seen as both a message of gratitude and a call for continued unity, reinforcing the importance of standing together in shaping Andhra Pradesh's political and developmental journey.



Officials Take Charge in Villages; Question Remains - When Are Elections?

Vijayawada, April 4, 2026 | TPN Bureau

A crucial phase in rural governance has begun in Andhra Pradesh as officials take charge of village administrations across the state. With the completion of the five-year tenure of Sarpanches and ward members in nearly 13,100 Gram Panchayats, governance at the grassroots level has temporarily shifted into the hands of special officers.

The situation arose primarily due to the delay in conducting elections on time, with nearly 250 Panchayats reportedly not going to polls. To avoid any administrative vacuum and ensure uninterrupted governance, the state government has invoked legal provisions to appoint special officers. This move is being seen as a necessary and urgent step to maintain continuity in village-level administration and development works.

The appointed officials come from various departments and have been entrusted with specific responsibilities. Tahsildars will oversee financial matters of Panchayats, including fund utilization, land-related issues, maintenance of records, and protection of government lands. Ensuring transparency in development projects is also a key part of their role.

Meanwhile, MPDOs (Mandal Parishad Development Officers) will play a central role in planning and implementing rural development programs. They will coordinate infrastructure development, execution of welfare schemes, and employment guarantee programs. MEOs (Mandal Education Officers) will supervise the education sector in villages, focusing on government school man-

agement, student attendance, quality of education, and the implementation of the mid-day meal scheme.

Panchayat Raj officials will act as a direct link between the administration and the people. They will conduct meetings, address public grievances, and ensure quick resolution of local issues. Their role is crucial in maintaining accessibility and responsiveness in governance during this interim period.

This temporary administrative arrangement has been implemented under Section 143(3) of the Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj Act, 1994, which allows the government to appoint officials when elections are not conducted or local bodies are dissolved. The provision ensures that governance does not come to a standstill.

The government has assured that essential services such as drinking water, sanitation, and street lighting will continue without disruption. Welfare schemes will also be implemented seamlessly, and farmers' issues—including irrigation, crop losses, and land disputes—will be addressed promptly.

However, the absence of elected representatives has raised concerns. Experts point out that officials may lack the emotional connection and grassroots understanding that elected leaders bring. The temporary gap in democratic representation is also being debated.

While the government maintains that this is only a short-term measure, the pressing question among the public remains: when will elections be held? Officials indicate that preparations are underway, and elections are expected soon. Until then, the special officers' administration will remain a key pillar of rural governance in the state.

CM Chandrababu Naidu Serious on Macherla Incident, Orders Strict Action

Vijayawada, April 4, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has taken a serious view of the shocking incident reported from Macherla in Palnadu district and has directed officials to take stringent action against the accused. The Chief Minister has instructed the police department to ensure the immediate arrest of the suspect and to pursue the case with utmost urgency.



According to reports, the incident involves a brutal assault on a woman government employee at her residence. The accused allegedly entered the house under the pretext of asking for water and later attacked the victim, causing severe injuries. The woman was rushed to a hospital in Guntur, where she is currently undergoing treatment and is reported to be in stable condition.

Reacting strongly, the Chief Minister emphasized that crimes against women will not be tolerated under any circumstances. He directed officials to ensure that the accused is brought to justice swiftly and faces the harshest possible punishment as per the law. Naidu also stressed the need for strict enforcement of law and order to prevent such incidents in the future.

Police authorities have already formed special teams to trace and apprehend the accused, who is currently absconding. Investigators are ex-

amining all possible angles in the case, including whether the accused had any prior acquaintance with the victim.

The incident has sparked outrage among the public and drawn sharp reactions from various quarters. The State Women's Commission has condemned the attack and assured full support to the victim, including medical, legal, and psychological assistance. Officials reiterated that ensuring the safety and security of women remains a top priority for the government. This development comes at a time when the state government is under pressure to maintain strict law and order. The Chief Minister's swift response is being seen as a clear message that the administration will act firmly against offenders and uphold justice without delay. The case continues to be under investigation, and further updates are expected as police intensify efforts to nab the accused.

A New Face of Andhra Pradesh: 28-District Map Unveiled with Amaravati at the Core

Vijayawada, April 4, 2026 | TPN Bureau

In a significant administrative and symbolic move, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has officially unveiled a new state map comprising 28 districts, marking a transformative moment in the state's history. The newly released map not only reflects the reorganization of district boundaries but also prominently designates Amaravati as the capital, reinforcing its central role in the state's governance and future development. The highlight of this map is the strategic positioning of Amaravati, which is uniquely spread across the boundaries of three key districts—Guntur, Krishna, and NTR. Rather than being confined to a single district, the capital region has been envisioned as a unified administrative and developmental hub, symbolizing inclusivity and balanced regional growth. This tri-district integration positions Amaravati as the geographical and political nucleus of Andhra Pradesh.



Officials describe this restructured map as more than a mere territorial division. It is designed with the objective of improving administrative efficiency, ensuring better governance, and accelerating regional development. By reorganizing districts, the gov-

ernment aims to bring administration closer to the people while enabling faster implementation of welfare and infrastructure projects. Amaravati's location also provides strategic proximity to several neighboring districts, including Palnadu, Prakasam, Bapatla, Eluru, and West Godavari. This connectivity is expected to boost economic activity, enhance transport networks, and create new opportunities for trade and investment. The capital region is being envisioned as a growth engine that will benefit multiple regions simultaneously.

Drawing cultural and historical parallels, leaders have compared Amaravati's rise to the legendary Indrakeeladri, where Arjuna is believed to have attained the powerful Pasupatastra. In a similar vein, Amaravati is being projected

as a powerful symbol of Andhra Pradesh's aspirations and resilience. The imagery of a "rainbow of seven districts" surrounding the capital further reinforces the idea of unity in diversity and collective progress. From the lush coastal belt to the mineral-rich Rayalaseema region and the tribal areas of North Andhra, the 28 districts together form the backbone of a progressive Andhra Pradesh. The new map is being seen as a blueprint for the state's future—one that aligns governance with growth and vision with execution. As the state steps into this new phase, the government expresses confidence that the reimagined administrative structure will act as a catalyst for inclusive development, turning the hopes of five crore people into a tangible reality.

Survey Signals Shifting Political Trends Across Key Indian States - Chanakya Strategies

Vijayawada, April 5, 2026 | TPN Bureau

A recent political survey conducted by Chanakya Strategies has provided fresh insights into the electoral landscape of four crucial Indian states—Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Assam, and West Bengal—highlighting evolving voter sentiments, alliance dynamics, and the impact of welfare politics ahead of upcoming assembly elections.

In Kerala, the survey indicates a strong wave of anti-incumbency against the ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF), which has been in power for the past decade. Around 70 percent of respondents expressed a desire for a change in government, citing dissatisfaction with governance and unmet promises. The United Demo-

Table with 4 columns: S.No, Alliance, Exp Vote Share, Chance to Win. Rows for Assam, West Bengal, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu.

cratic Front (UDF) appears to have gained momentum, especially among youth and women voters, driven by targeted welfare schemes and campaign promises. The survey projects UDF securing a higher vote share and a significant number of seats compared to LDF.

Tamil Nadu presents a contrasting picture, where the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK)-led alliance is likely to retain power despite some anti-incumbency. Welfare ini-

tiatives, strong alliance coordination, and a favorable perception of leadership have contributed to its advantage. However, opposition vote fragmentation, particularly due to emerging players like Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), could further strengthen DMK's position. The survey suggests that while AIADMK retains influence in certain regions, internal divisions may weaken its overall performance.

In Assam, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is projected to maintain its dominance with a significant vote share lead over the opposition alliance. The state's complex social composition and fragmented voting patterns among minority groups appear to favor the NDA. Welfare schemes and identity-driven politics continue to shape voter behavior, particularly in rural and tribal regions.

West Bengal's political scenario remains competitive, but the Trinamool Congress (TMC) is expected to hold an edge despite facing anti-incumbency. Strong support from women and minority voters, along with leadership appeal, plays a crucial role in sustaining its advantage. The BJP continues to expand its base, especially among youth and certain social groups, but may fall short in terms of seat conversion.

Overall, the survey underscores the growing importance of welfare schemes, leadership perception, and alliance strategies in determining electoral outcomes. While anti-incumbency remains a common factor, its impact varies significantly across states, shaping a diverse and dynamic political landscape ahead of the elections.

Andhra Pradesh Targets 10 Lakh PNG Connections in Six Months to Boost Clean Energy Use

Vijayawada, April 4, 2026 | TPN Bureau

In a major push towards clean and affordable energy, the Andhra Pradesh government has set an ambitious target to provide 10 lakh Piped Natural Gas (PNG) connections across the state within the next six months. The initiative aims to reduce dependency on LPG cylinders and promote a more efficient, continuous, and eco-friendly fuel supply system.



The decision was taken during a recent cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, where officials emphasized the need to accelerate the transition from LPG to PNG. Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar stated that the government is focusing on expanding city gas infrastructure in key urban centers such as Vijayawada, Guntur, Visakhapatnam, Nellore, and Kakinada.

Unlike traditional LPG cylinders, PNG offers uninterrupted gas supply through pipelines directly to households, eliminating the need for cylinder refills. The government believes this shift will not only improve convenience but also reduce household fuel costs by nearly 30 percent.

To encourage adoption, the state is integrating existing welfare schemes with PNG usage. Under the Deepam scheme, beneficiaries who switch to PNG will continue to receive financial support through direct benefit transfer (DBT), with an estimated subsidy of 2,400—equivalent to three LPG cylinders.

The government is also simplifying the process for obtain-

ing connections. Approvals for pipeline installations will be granted within 24 hours through a single-window system, ensuring faster rollout. Priority is being given to apartments, commercial establishments, industries, and even major temples to adopt PNG facilities.

Officials have also outlined district-wise targets, aiming to provide at least 10,000 new connections in each district as part of the broader expansion strategy. This initiative is part of Andhra Pradesh's larger vision to strengthen its clean energy ecosystem and modernize urban infrastructure. By expanding PNG connectivity, the government hopes to create a sustainable energy model that reduces environmental impact while ensuring affordability and efficiency for citizens. With aggressive targets and policy support in place, the state is positioning itself as a leader in promoting alternative energy solutions. If implemented successfully, the rollout of 10 lakh PNG connections could significantly transform domestic fuel consumption patterns and mark a major milestone in Andhra Pradesh's energy transition journey.

AP JAC Amaravati Welcomes Legal Status for Capital, Seeks Employee Welfare Measures

Vijayawada, April 4, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The AP JAC Amaravati has expressed strong happiness over the Parliament's approval granting legal status to Amaravati as the capital of Andhra Pradesh, calling it a historic achievement and a major step toward stable governance in the state.

Addressing a press conference held at the Revenue Bhavan in Vijayawada, AP JAC Amaravati Chairman Boppiraju Venkateswarlu and General Secretary Palishetty Damodar Rao welcomed the development and credited Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for fulfilling his promise of establishing Amaravati as the state capital. They also

thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for supporting the bill in Parliament.

The leaders described the decision as the culmination of a decade-long struggle by employees, farmers, women, and various public organizations. They said Amaravati's recognition as the official capital reflects the will of the people and marks a new era of development for Andhra Pradesh.

Highlighting the role of AP JAC Amaravati, the leaders noted that it was the first employees' joint action committee formed with Amaravati in its name and logo, symbolizing its long-standing commitment to the capital cause. They expressed pride that the capital they supported has now received legal

backing.

However, the JAC also placed several demands before the government. They urged authorities to immediately allocate house sites in Amaravati for Secretariat and Head of Department (HOD) employees, similar to the provisions made in Hyderabad during the state bifurcation. They stressed that such steps would boost confidence among employees and strengthen administrative functioning in the capital region.

The leaders further demanded the announcement of Interim Relief (IR) and the constitution of the 12th Pay Revision Commission (PRC) at the earliest. They pointed out that nearly 16 lakh employees and over four lakh

pensioners in the state are awaiting wage revisions and financial relief.

Raising concerns over pending dues, the JAC stated that arrears amounting to nearly 40,000 crore are yet to be cleared, including retirement benefits of employees. They expressed concern that some retired employees have passed away without receiving their dues and urged the government to immediately release pending payments to employees and their families.

The meeting concluded with JAC leaders reiterating their support for Amaravati's development while urging the government to prioritize employee welfare measures alongside capital development.



Andhra Pradesh Must Harness Future AI

Opportunities for Youth: Minister Kollu Ravindra

Amaravati, April 4, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Mines, Groundwater Resources, and Excise, Kollu Ravindra, emphasized the need for Andhra Pradesh's youth to fully embrace emerging opportunities in Artificial Intelligence (AI) during the inaugural AI Fusion Summit held at Vijayawada Convention Centre, the first AI-focused event in the Amaravati region. Addressing the gathering, Minister Ravindra recalled that around fifteen years ago, the state's leadership had recognized the potential of the IT revolution. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu had attracted multiple IT companies to Hyderabad, opening global opportunities for Telugu professionals. "Today, we stand at the threshold of the AI era," Ravindra said. "It is imperative that we leverage these opportunities and equip our youth with the necessary technological skills to shape the future."

The Minister criticized the past five years of governance, citing significant losses for the state, including the exit of



nearly 800 companies and a climate of uncertainty that discouraged investments. He highlighted that the coalition government has restored investor confidence by implementing 27 new policies, resulting in 25% of new national investments flowing into Andhra Pradesh over the last two years. Ravindra also pointed out the growing importance of renewable energy and data infrastructure in the state. "While India has one gigawatt of data capacity, Andhra Pradesh already hosts three gigawatts of data centers, with another three gigawatts coming soon—all thanks to the foresight of our former Chief Minister," he said. On development projects, the Minister reaffirmed the coalition government's commitment to completing critical infrastructure initiatives, including Pola-

varam and the accelerated construction of Amaravati with central government support. He emphasized protection of key industries like the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant and the ArcelorMittal Steel project, which are expected to provide indirect employment to over 100,000 people. Looking ahead, Ravindra outlined plans to promote electronics and automobile sectors in Rayalaseema and develop eight ports across the state, stressing a vision of holistic development. He reiterated that technological foresight, such as the adoption of AI and blockchain, must be leveraged for Andhra Pradesh's prosperity. "By following the vision set by Chandrababu Naidu, we can secure success for our state and ensure that our youth lead the AI-driven future," the Minister concluded.

Objectionable Remarks by Former CM Jagan on Media!

Indian Journalists Union Condemns Comments Made by Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy

Amaravati, April 4 | TPN Bureau

The Indian Journalists Union has strongly condemned the recent remarks made by former Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party President Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy against media organizations, stating that his comments are objectionable. Leaders of journalists' unions criticized that it is ironic for Jagan Mohan Reddy to speak about alleged bias in the media.

In a statement released on Saturday, IJU Secretary General D. Somasundar, Andhra Pradesh Union of Working Journalists President I. V. Subba Rao, and AP Electronic Media Journalists Association President Yechuri Shiva condemned the remarks made by the former Chief Minister.

They stated that Jagan Mohan Reddy's comments, alleging that

certain national media organizations have become corrupt, were shocking and inappropriate. They further noted that his remarks once again reflect his long-standing disregard for the media.

The union leaders pointed out that, while serving as Chief Minister and now as the president of a political party, and also being the head of a media organization himself, it is unacceptable for him to repeatedly make defamatory and disparaging comments about the media.

They added that his allegations of media bias are reminiscent of the proverb about hypocrisy, and criticized the fact that even while in opposition, Jagan Mohan Reddy has not changed his tone. They described this as unfortunate, recalling that during his tenure in power, he had frequently targeted certain media organizations with repeated verbal attacks.



Chandrababu's Leadership Secures Amaravati as Andhra Pradesh Capital, Counters Jagan's Disruptions



Guntur JanaSena Leaders Meet Minister Kandula Durgesh to Strengthen Party Initiatives

Guntur, April 4, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Guntur district JanaSena leaders met with Kandula Durgesh, Minister for Tourism, Culture, and Cinematography, during his visit to the district on Saturday, in a gesture of courtesy and coordination. The meeting took place at the local inspection bungalow, where the Minister was welcomed by the district JanaSena leadership, led by Gade Venkateswara Rao, who personally extended a warm reception.

The gathering focused on discussing strategies for strengthening the JanaSena Party's presence in the Guntur district and enhancing its organizational structure. Leaders briefed Minister Durgesh on various initiatives undertaken to consolidate the party's influence at the grassroots level and improve coordination among party cadres. They emphasized the importance of addressing public concerns efficiently while ensuring smooth execution of programs aimed at community welfare.

During the meeting, Kandula Durgesh praised the JanaSena Party for adhering to the principles and vision set forth by its national president, Pawan Kalyan. He encouraged party members to maintain commitment to these ideals while actively engaging with the public in a transparent and accountable manner. The Minister highlighted the need for

every cadre to work cohesively to strengthen the party's local network and ensure that citizen-centric initiatives remain the highest priority.

The interaction underscored the synergy between the state government and regional political leaders in promoting constructive civic engagement. Minister Durgesh advised that party activities should align with public interest, emphasizing transparency and integrity as essential components of governance and social outreach. He urged leaders to coordinate effectively at the field level, ensuring that the JanaSena Party not only consolidates its organizational strength but also addresses local issues with urgency and efficiency.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to community-focused action, reflecting the party's dedication to public welfare and principled political conduct. Leaders expressed their appreciation for the Minister's guidance and pledged to uphold JanaSena's values while expanding its reach in Guntur district.

The session was organized under the supervision of the district leadership, with participants acknowledging the importance of collaboration between the party and government representatives to achieve sustainable development and political engagement at the grassroots level.

Mangalagiri, April 4, 2026 | TPN Bureau

In a significant political development, Andhra Pradesh Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu praised former Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu for restoring Amaravati as the state capital, asserting that the city's legal and financial framework has been strengthened under his leadership, effectively checking the disruptive policies of YSRCP chief Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy.

Speaking at a media briefing at the TDP central office, Minister Atchannaidu criticized Jaganmohan Reddy for repeatedly changing his stance on Amaravati and described his tenure as a period of destruction for the capital's development. He highlighted that, while Amaravati's legal status was passed in Parliament with support from over 50 political



parties, the YSRCP staged a walkout, opposing the historic decision and creating confusion.

The Minister lauded Chandrababu Naidu's efforts during the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, noting that the former

CM ensured no damage was done to either Telangana or Andhra Pradesh and safeguarded the interests of the people. He emphasized that Naidu worked tirelessly to consolidate regional harmony, engaging with legislators for

hours before officially declaring Amaravati the capital, earning widespread public trust.

Atchannaidu pointed out that under the self-financed Amaravati project, 29,000 farmers voluntarily contributed 34,000 acres of land, eliminating the need for government expenditure while facilitating the development of a robust capital. He also criticized YSRCP for failing to implement irrigation and infrastructure projects effectively between 2019 and 2024, leaving the state financially strained and halting growth.

Since the formation of the coalition government in 2024, Atchannaidu stated, Amaravati's development has accelerated. Projects like Bhogapuram Airport, Moolapeta Port, and the Polavaram diaphragm wall are progressing swiftly, along-

side major investments in Vizag Steel Plant and Rayalaseema lift irrigation initiatives. These developments, he added, demonstrate the coalition's commitment to balanced regional growth and economic progress.

Minister Atchannaidu further warned that attempts to derail Amaravati's progress using diversionary politics, including the so-called "Mavi Gan" narrative, would fail, emphasizing that Amaravati remains the undisputed capital and a symbol of Andhra Pradesh's collective aspirations.

The briefing was attended by Ministers BC Janardhan Reddy and Anagani Satya Prasad, who echoed support for the accelerated development of Amaravati and the restoration of public confidence in the state's governance.

Minister S. Savitha Slams Jagan Over Capital Confusion, Launches Development Initiatives in Penukonda

Sri Sathya Sai, April 4, 2026 | TPN Bureau

State BC Welfare Minister S. Savitha criticized Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for his inconsistent statements on the Andhra Pradesh capital, calling it a "confusing and contradictory narrative" that has eroded public trust. Addressing the media during the inauguration of development projects in Penukonda town on Saturday, Minister Savitha highlighted Jagan's shifting statements—referring at different times to Amaravati as the capital, then suggesting three capitals, and finally proposing the controversial "MAVIGAN" plan.

Minister Savitha said, "The entire country recognizes Am-



aravati as Andhra Pradesh's capital, yet Jagan changes his stance every hour. At one moment, he claims Amaravati is the capital; the next, three capitals; then MAVIGAN. Even the Lotus Pond Palace, where he resides, is reportedly called the capital. It is ironic that even

his party leaders themselves express concern for his well-being." She further asserted that the public has lost patience with such contradictory statements, noting that this inconsistency has fueled voter dissatisfaction. "Due to the hardships faced by Amarava-

ti's farmers and women, the YSRCP risks losing even the 11 constituencies it previously won," the Minister added.

Apart from political criticism, Minister Savitha inaugurated a Rs. 40 lakh development project in Penukonda, including a grand flower market at the Anjaneya Swamy temple, constructed at a cost of Rs. 6 lakh. She emphasized that these initiatives aim to boost local trade and improve sanitation facilities, announcing the construction of Rs. 50 lakh sanitation centers and street lighting from NTR Circle to Madakashira Road. She assured that the ongoing Rs. 5 crore projects in the area would be completed soon to enhance civic amenities for the residents.

The Minister also reiterated the state government's commitment to maintaining transparency and ensuring development projects directly benefit the local population. She urged citizens and local representatives to actively participate in these initiatives to foster inclusive growth. The event witnessed participation from local officials, community leaders, and a large gathering of residents, reflecting broad public engagement in the district's ongoing development efforts.

Minister Savitha concluded by stressing the need for responsible leadership and consistent policies, emphasizing that only stable governance can ensure Amaravati's growth as a key regional and economic hub.

Roja, Bhumana Demand Removal of TTD Chairman B.R. Naidu

A political controversy has erupted over the functioning of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), with YSR Congress Party leaders demanding the removal of TTD Chairman B. R. Naidu. Senior leaders R. K. Roja and Bhumana Karunakar Reddy have strongly criticized his leadership, alleging irregularities and raising concerns over temple administration.

Speaking to the media, Roja alleged that several controversies have surfaced during Naidu's tenure, questioning his ability to continue in such a sensitive and prestigious position. She asserted that the sanctity and reputation of Tirumala must be protected at all costs and demanded that the state government take immediate action to remove him. Roja further stated that any lapses in the administration of a globally revered temple like Tirumala would hurt the sentiments of millions of devotees.

Echoing similar views, Bhumana Karunakar Reddy intensified the criticism by accusing the current TTD leadership of failing to uphold proper stand-



ards in governance. He demanded that Naidu step down voluntarily or face public protests. Bhumana announced that he would lead agitations

in Tirupati, emphasizing that the protests would be conducted in a peaceful and democratic manner. He also alleged that attempts were being made to

suppress dissent and restrict opposition voices, but maintained that such efforts would not deter them from raising issues concerning temple man-

agement. He called upon party cadre and devotees to support the movement to "protect the sanctity of Tirumala."

The issue has quickly gained political traction, with the opposition targeting the ruling establishment over the appointment and functioning of the TTD Chairman. Leaders argue that transparency and accountability are essential in managing religious institutions of such national importance.

Meanwhile, no official response has been issued yet from Chairman B.R. Naidu regarding the allegations. The developments have sparked widespread debate across Andhra Pradesh, especially among devotees and political circles. As tensions rise, all eyes are now on the state government's next move, with increasing pressure to address the concerns raised by opposition leaders. The controversy is expected to further intensify in the coming days, potentially leading to protests and a broader political confrontation over temple administration in Tirupati.



Nagababu Criticizes YSRCP Leaders, Claims They Have 'Lost Common Sense'

Amaravati, April 4 | TPN Bureau

Jana Sena MLC Konidela Nagababu has openly criticized the leadership of the YSR Congress Party, alleging that its leaders have "lost common sense" and are acting without rational judgment. Speaking publicly, Nagababu stated that in a well-functioning political party, when top leaders make mistakes, the second-tier leadership usually intervenes to correct the course and ensure proper decision-making. However, he claimed that within YSRCP, not only the top leadership but also the lower-level leaders and party workers are failing to exercise independent thinking. Instead, they are blindly following instructions, which he described as dangerous for a democratic political system. He expressed concern that this lack of internal checks and independent judgment is evident in the party's recent decisions and statements. According to Nagababu, such behavior undermines accountability and reflects a breakdown in rational political discourse. He emphasized that political organizations must allow diverse opinions and constructive feedback to function effectively.

Nagababu described the current state of the YSRCP as an "insanity zone," highlighting that the party's approach to

governance and decision-making appears irrational. He warned that continuing in this manner could harm both the party's credibility and public trust.

These remarks come amid ongoing political tensions in Andhra Pradesh, with leaders from various parties exchanging criticisms over governance, policies, and public statements. While YSRCP has not officially responded to Nagababu's comments, his statements have already sparked widespread discussion and debate on social media.

Nagababu also urged citizens to closely observe the party's actions, implying that voters should hold leaders accountable for their decisions. He stressed that independent thinking and internal accountability are essential for a political party to maintain credibility and serve the public effectively.

As political discourse intensifies in Andhra Pradesh, Nagababu's comments are likely to influence public perception and may add pressure on YSRCP to address concerns regarding internal decision-making and leadership accountability.

This statement underscores the growing scrutiny of YSRCP's leadership and highlights the role of opposition leaders in challenging party practices in the state.



Kollu Ravindra Conducts Surprise Inspection of Midday Meal Scheme

Vijayawada, April 04 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Agriculture Minister Kollu Ravindra on Friday carried out a surprise inspection of the Midday Meal Scheme at government schools in the city, underlining the government's commitment to ensuring nutrition standards and food safety for students.

The Minister visited several schools unannounced to check the quality, quantity, hygiene, and overall management of the midday meals provided to students. During his inspection, officials were directed to pay close attention to cleanliness in kitchen areas, storage conditions for food grains, and the quality of ingredients being used. He also interacted with students and school staff to gather firsthand feedback.

Addressing the officials, Ravindra emphasized that the Midday Meal Scheme is a vital programme for the health and educational well-being of children, especially those from economically weaker sections. He instructed that meals should be prepared with proper nutritional balance and served in a clean environment. Any compromise on quality or hygiene, he warned, would not be tolerated. The Minister also spoke to kitchen staff and asked them to maintain temperature checks, regularly clean cooking utensils, and follow food safety protocols. He stressed that every child should receive

meals that contribute positively to their physical development and learning capabilities. During the inspection, some schools were found lacking in certain areas, including clean serving areas and storage practices. The Minister issued immediate directives to improve these aspects, stating that corrective action should be taken without delay. He assured that monitoring teams would revisit the schools to ensure compliance. Commenting on the purpose of the surprise audit, Kollu Ravindra said the government is committed to transparency and efficiency in welfare programmes. "Midday Meals are not just food; they are a lifeline for many children who depend on this nutrition daily," he said. "It is our duty to ensure they receive healthy and hygienic meals every day."

The inspection also included brief interactions with parents who praised the government's efforts but urged continuous monitoring to keep standards high. Officials from the school education department accompanied the Minister during the inspection. They were instructed to submit a detailed report on the meal scheme's current status, improvements made, and future action plans.

The surprise inspection is seen as a move to reinforce accountability among field staff and ensure that welfare schemes like the Midday Meal reach their intended beneficiaries in the best possible manner.

YSRCP Leader Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy Responds on Amaravati Controversy

Amaravati, April 4 | TPN Bureau

Senior YSR Congress Party leader Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy has strongly responded to recent criticisms surrounding the Amaravati capital issue, asserting his party's clear stance while hitting back at political opponents.

Speaking at a media briefing, Sajjala addressed debates around capital development and the so-called "MAVIGUN" corridor proposal put forward by the YSRCP leadership. He reiterated that the party has a well-defined position on Amaravati and its future, even as rival parties attempt to shape the narrative to their advantage. Sajjala sharply criticized the opposition, particularly the ruling coalition led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, accusing them of creating false celebrations over the capital issue despite unresolved concerns held by large sections of the public. He

said factual realities about Amaravati are being overshadowed by political rhetoric aimed at distracting people.

Highlighting his party's perspective, he emphasized that when discussions shifted toward alternative capital region options like the MAVIGUN corridor, detractors reacted not on the basis of policy but sentiment, suggesting underlying resistance to change and rational debate. Sajjala stressed that YSRCP's approach is rooted in addressing financial feasibility and balanced development, even if those ideas are unpopular with some political circles. Sajjala also took aim at how certain remarks about Amaravati have been handled by rival leaders in the capital region debate, arguing that comments made by TDP MPs — such as referring to Amaravati with derogatory labels — were not adequately challenged by the ruling camp, thus enabling caste-based narratives to gain traction. On the broader issue

of Andhra Pradesh's capital development, he asserted that the party remains committed to exploring viable and financially sound alternatives to accelerate growth without burdening the state exchequer. Sajjala reiterated that public interest and sustainable planning must remain at the core of decisions, not short-term political gains. The debate has intensified following the passage of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2026, in Parliament, which legally recognizes Amaravati as the sole capital of the state. While the ruling alliance welcomed this move, the YSRCP has continued to voice its criticism, alleging procedural and developmental concerns even as leaders like Sajjala defend the party's stand in public forums. As political tensions around Amaravati remain high, Sajjala's remarks are expected to further fuel discussions among supporters and critics alike ahead of future policy deliberations.



Vijayasai Reddy Urges Chandrababu Naidu to Protect Amaravati Amid Ongoing Debate

Amaravati, April 4, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Former Member of Parliament Vijayasai Reddy has once again sparked political debate over the future of Amaravati by offering pointed suggestions to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu regarding the implementation and protection of the capital city project. His remarks come amid heightened political attention after the passage of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2026, which grants Amaravati statutory capital status.

Reddy's recent commentary has stirred controversy, highlighting concerns about how the region's development narrative is being framed by various political parties. In a widely shared statement, he emphasized that Amaravati's future must be safeguarded from ongoing policy shifts and political rhetoric that could hamper its growth trajectory. While his wording was critical of certain aspects of the capital debate, his focus remained on urging constructive engagement between leading political figures, including Chandrababu Naidu.

Over the past week, Amaravati has been thrust into national headlines as Parliament cleared the way for the city to be recognized legally as the

sole capital of Andhra Pradesh. Supporters of the move — including farmers who contributed land under the Land Pooling Scheme — celebrated the legislation as a long-awaited affirmation of the region's status.

However, not all political voices have aligned behind a single narrative. Critics of the current capital policy have repeatedly expressed concerns over financial viability and broader regional development, particularly those aligned with the former YSRCP government's three-capital policy. Former party leaders have argued alternatives such as the MAVIGUN corridor could provide balanced growth for the state.

In his comments, Reddy called upon Chandrababu Naidu to continue bolstering Amaravati's growth through clear planning, transparent governance, and inclusive decision-making that reflects the aspirations of all stakeholders. He stressed that any future discourse on the capital must prioritize people's interests over competitive politics.

The dialogue over Amaravati's future continues to evolve, with state leaders across parties weighing in as development progresses and infrastructure projects move forward.

Amaravati Gains Legal Status: Historic Victory for Coalition Government – Minister Kandula Durgesh

Guntur, April 4, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Tourism, Culture, and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh expressed his delight over the historic legal recognition of Amaravati as the state capital, following approval in both Houses of Parliament. He described this achievement as a rightful honor to the aspirations of the people of Andhra Pradesh and noted that Pawan Kalyan also conveyed special happiness over this milestone.

Addressing media representatives in Guntur, Minister Durgesh sharply criticized leaders of the ruling YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), stating



that many, including former minister Ambati Rambabu, lack rational thinking and repeatedly confuse the public regarding the state capital issue. He claimed that YSRCP presi-

dent Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy is misleading citizens with proposals like 'MaaVigan' and other "unrealistic and bizarre" plans. Durgesh urged YSRCP leaders to recognize the reality and heed the online criticism as a reflection of their ignorance.

The Minister emphasized Amaravati's strategic location at the center of the state, ensuring balanced connectivity to all regions. He highlighted that during the last five years, the YSRCP government attempted to undermine Amaravati, but the persistence of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu ensured its legal recognition through proper legislative measures. Durgesh

praised the efforts of CM Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan for their tireless work toward state development, conveying special gratitude on behalf of the people of Andhra Pradesh. Minister Durgesh warned YSRCP leaders that their shouting and empty rhetoric cannot replace knowledge or leadership. He urged them to adopt a consistent and responsible stance on the Amaravati issue to prevent further public confusion. The Minister reaffirmed that Amaravati's legal status secures its position as the capital and serves as a foundation for balanced growth and development across Andhra Pradesh.

praised the efforts of CM Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan for their tireless work toward state development, conveying special gratitude on behalf of the people of Andhra Pradesh.

Minister Durgesh warned YSRCP leaders that their shouting and empty rhetoric cannot replace knowledge or leadership. He urged them to adopt a consistent and responsible stance on the Amaravati issue to prevent further public confusion. The Minister reaffirmed that Amaravati's legal status secures its position as the capital and serves as a foundation for balanced growth and development across Andhra Pradesh.

Krishna Teja Visits Srikalahasteeswara Temple

Srikalahasti, April 4 | TPN Bureau

Krishna Teja, IAS and Panchayat Raj Commissioner, visited the renowned Srikalahasteeswara Temple, popularly known as "Dakshina Kashi," on Saturday along with his family and offered prayers. During the visit, he had darshan of Lord Vayulinga (Srikalahasteeswara) and Goddess Jnana Prasunamba. The temple authorities made special arrangements for Antaralaya darshan, ensuring a smooth and peaceful visit for the Commissioner and his family.

Temple Trust Board Chairman Kotte Sai Prasad extended a warm welcome to Krishna Teja and facilitated all arrangements. He also ensured that Vedic blessings were offered to the visiting dignitary in accordance with temple traditions.

The visit was conducted in an orderly manner with the support of temple officials and staff. Several key officials were present on the occasion, adding significance to the visit.

Those who participated in the programme included Temple Trust Board Chairman Kotte Sai Prasad,

Srikalahasti Market Yard Chairman Chenchayya Naidu, Temple Assistant Executive Officer Vidyasagar Reddy, Protocol Assistant Executive Officer Mohan, and Public Relations Officer Ravi.

The visit of the senior official attracted the attention of devotees present at the temple, with many gathering to see the Commissioner during his spiritual visit. The Srikalahasteeswara Temple, one of the most prominent Shiva temples in South India, continues to attract devotees and dignitaries from across the country throughout the year.



MLA Arani Srinivas Urges Students to Focus on Studies, Stay Away from Social Media

Tirupati, April 4, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Tirupati MLA Arani Srinivas conducted an inspection of Sathanarayanaapuram ZP High School in Jivakona on Saturday morning, emphasizing the importance of education and proper nourishment for students. The MLA personally checked student attendance, the number of enrolled students, and the overall functioning of the school to ensure smooth academic operations.

During his visit, Srinivas inspected the mid-day meal program, assessing the quality and quantity of food being provided to students. He also shared a meal with the students and expressed satisfaction with the preparation. The students had a special treat of bellam pongal that day, which they appreciated and enjoyed.

The MLA listened to students' concerns, particularly regarding the school laboratory, which lacked sufficient equipment. In response, he assured that necessary lab instruments would be provided



at the earliest to enhance practical learning opportunities. Additionally, several students requested improvements in the school building, including a grand infrastructure upgrade, which the MLA promised to review.

Addressing the students directly, Arani Srinivas urged them to study diligently and bring pride to their parents and society through their achievements. He strongly advised students to limit their use of mobile phones and stay

away from social media distractions, stressing that academic focus was essential for their personal and professional growth. The inspection also included discussions with school authorities regarding daily operations, nutrition standards, and overall student welfare. Officials accompanying the MLA included DEO N.V. Kumar and MEO Balaji, among others.

The visit underscores the government's commitment to improving educational infra-

structure and providing students with an environment conducive to learning. By prioritizing academic focus and balanced nutrition, the initiative aims to cultivate responsible, well-rounded students capable of contributing positively to society in the future. MLA Arani Srinivas concluded the visit by reiterating that the school and its students would continue to receive support from local authorities to ensure high-quality education and holistic development.

APSPDCL Launches 'Suryaghar Utsav' to Promote Rooftop Solar Systems

Tirupati, April 4, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (APSPDCL) announced the launch of the 'Suryaghar Utsav' initiative, aimed at promoting rooftop solar systems across its service areas. The program is scheduled to commence on April 5, coinciding with Babu Jagjivan Ram Jayanti, and will continue until April 14, which marks Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Jayanti, according to APSPDCL Chairman & Managing Director Shivashankar Loteeti.

The announcement was made during a video conference held at the APSPDCL corporate office on Saturday, where officials from the company and representatives of solar installation agencies discussed the implementation strategy. The initiative targets households belonging to SC and ST communities across nine districts, including Nellore, Tirupati, Chittoor, Anantapur, Kadapa, Kurnool, Nandyal, Anantapur, and Sri Sathya Sai.

The objective of the program is ambitious: to install rooftop



solar systems on 25,000 homes within the 10-day period. CMD Shivashankar Loteeti emphasized that all corporate and field staff, along with agency partners, must work efficiently and in a coordinated manner to achieve the target. He added that all necessary equipment for installations is already available and urged agencies to deploy sufficient manpower to complete the work "with a sense of urgency akin to a mission." Highlighting accountability, Loteeti cautioned that any negligence or delays from officials, staff, or agencies would not be tolerated. He called for strict supervision and monitoring to ensure time-

ly completion of the installations, underlining the company's commitment to clean energy and sustainable development.

The program aims not only to increase the adoption of renewable energy but also to make solar power more accessible to marginalized households, contributing to energy independence and reducing electricity costs for participating families. APSPDCL officials will regularly track progress and provide support to ensure that installations meet quality standards and deadlines. The event saw participation from key APSPDCL directors, including P. Ayub Khan (Projects & IT), K. Guravaiah (Technical & HRD), Chief General Managers J. Ramana Devi, M. Umapathi, K. Adishesiah, R. Padma, C.H. Ramachandra Rao, K. Sampath Kumar, S. Ramana, as well as representatives from rooftop solar system installation agencies.

With 'Suryaghar Utsav', APSPDCL aims to accelerate the adoption of renewable energy in Andhra Pradesh and empower households to become part of the green energy transition.



CPI Warns Against Targeting Common People for Tax Collection

Kadapa, April 4, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The CPI district secretary, Gali Chandra, has issued a stern warning against municipal authorities and ruling party leaders allegedly harassing ordinary citizens for tax collection while wealthy defaulters remain untouched. Addressing a press meet at the local CPI office on Saturday, Chandra condemned the misuse of the general fund, collected from taxes, as a revenue source for party leaders instead of being spent on public welfare. Chandra called upon all CPI units to organize district-wide protests on April 7 in front of municipal and urban local body offices as part of a campaign against these practices. He emphasized that it is unacceptable for the tax system to burden common citizens while the affluent evade their responsibilities. The CPI aims to ensure that public funds are used for developmental initiatives rather than serving political or personal interests. Highlighting broader issues in the region, Chandra criticized the state government led by Chandrababu Naidu, claiming that despite legislating Amravati as the permanent capital, the government neglected critical issues in the Rayalaseema region, including fund allocations, irrigation projects,

healthcare, educational institutions, employment, migration, and suicide prevention. He alleged that Naidu's administration failed to safeguard regional rights and benefits, leaving local development plans incomplete. Chandra further accused the state and central authorities of enabling mafia-style practices in the region, including illegal sand mining and revenue from DKTi and other unauthorized sources. He claimed that municipal and local officials were given targets to collect funds, and those who failed to meet them were unfairly transferred or penalized. These measures, he said, are being used as political tools rather than for public welfare.

The CPI secretary urged the public and party activists to prepare for proactive resistance against what he described as anti-people government actions. He stressed the need to safeguard citizens' rights and ensure that government resources serve the public rather than partisan interests. The press meeting was attended by CPI district executive members G. Venugopal, K.C. Badulla, U. Maddileti Linganna, and other party representatives, who supported the call for a coordinated protest to demand accountability and justice for the citizens of Rayalaseema and Kadapa.

Unexpected Response at Tirumala Education Awareness Seminar

East Godavari, April 4, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The awareness seminar organized by Tirumala Educational Institutions at their campus in Katera village, Rajamahendravaram rural area, received an overwhelming response from students and parents on Saturday. According to the institution's Chairman, Nunna Tirumalarau, around 13,000 students and parents attended the seminar, highlighting the high interest in academic guidance and career planning among the community.

During the session, Chairman Tirumalarau explained to parents the preparation strategies for national-level entrance examinations such as JEE



Main, JEE Advanced, and NEET. He emphasized the level of dedication and practice required for students to secure seats in prestigious institu-

tions like IITs, NITs, BITS Pilani, and other reputed universities. He also encouraged parents to instill competitiveness and discipline in children

from an early age to prepare them for future challenges.

Highlighting the intensity of competition, Tirumalarau pointed out that for engineering entrance exams like JEE Main and Advanced, only one out of every thirty candidates typically secures a seat. For NEET examinations at the state level, only one out of twenty-five candidates earns admission, while at the national level, roughly one in three students secures a medical seat. This was explained to provide realistic expectations and motivate students to work hard consistently. Director of Tirumala Institutions, Nunna Sarojini Devi, stressed the importance of teaching values and discipline to children from an

early age. She said that foundational education with strong ethical and academic principles ensures that students can face future challenges confidently and grow into responsible, capable individuals.

The seminar also featured parents of successful students sharing their experiences. Among them were Dr. Yarlagadda Tanuj, mother of Yarlagadda Devesh Ruvik, who secured a seat at IIT Madras in 2025, and D. Arun Kumar, father of D. Ram Kireeti, who ranked 19th All-India in NEET and secured a seat at AIIMS New Delhi. They discussed preparation strategies, challenges, and how parents can support students in achieving their goals.

MLA Gurajala Jagan Mohan Pays Tribute to Babu Jagjivan Ram, Calls Him Finest Parliamentarian

Chittoor, April 4, 2026 | TPN Bureau

MLA Gurajala Jagan Mohan paid rich tributes to Babu Jagjivan Ram on the occasion of his birth anniversary, describing him as one of the finest parliamentarians in independent India. In a statement released on Sunday, the MLA highlighted Jagjivan Ram's immense contributions to the nation and his enduring legacy in Indian politics.

Gurajala Jagan Mohan said that Babu Jagjivan Ram, a prominent freedom fighter, played a crucial role in shaping modern India through his commitment to social justice and equality. He noted that

Jagjivan Ram served as India's first Labour Minister and went on to hold key positions in the Union Cabinet for more than three decades, making him one of the most experienced and respected leaders in the country's parliamentary history.

The MLA emphasized that Jagjivan Ram dedicated his life to uplifting marginalized and underprivileged sections of society. His efforts in advocating for the rights of weaker sections and ensuring inclusive development continue to inspire generations, he said. "His life is a guiding force for today's youth, reminding them of the importance of service, integrity, and commitment to society,"

the MLA added.

Recalling Jagjivan Ram's leadership qualities, Gurajala Jagan Mohan stated that his vision and perseverance helped strengthen democratic values and promote equality across various sections of society. He urged the youth to follow the path shown by the veteran leader and contribute positively to the nation's progress.

The MLA further said that remembering great leaders like Jagjivan Ram is essential to preserve the ideals of justice, equality, and dedication to public service. He called upon people to draw inspiration from his life and work towards building a more inclusive and equitable society.



Chittoor SP Warns Public Against Rising Online Financial Frauds

Chittoor, April 4, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Chittoor District Superintendent of Police Tushar Dudi has urged citizens to remain highly vigilant against the increasing number of online financial frauds targeting unsuspecting individuals. In a press statement issued on Saturday, the SP highlighted the growing misuse of digital payment systems such as UPI, debit and credit cards, and net banking by cybercriminals.

According to the SP, fraudsters are using fake payment links, QR codes, and OTP scams to gain access to victims' bank accounts and siphon off money within minutes. He warned that criminals often pose as bank officials or customer care representatives, claiming that a customer's account has been blocked, KYC needs updating, or that they are eligible for cashback offers. These deceptive tactics are used to trick people into sharing sensitive information or clicking malicious links.



"While digital advancements have made transactions easier, they have also increased the risks. Awareness and caution are the only ways to prevent such frauds," said SP Tushar Dudi. He clearly stated that

banks never ask for confidential details like OTP, PIN, or CVV over phone calls, and citizens must never share such information with anyone under any circumstances. The SP also pointed out that

QR code scams are becoming increasingly common. He explained that QR codes are meant only for sending money and not for receiving it, and scanning unknown QR codes could result in unauthorized

transactions. Similarly, clicking on fake payment links can expose personal and banking details to fraudsters.

To safeguard themselves, citizens have been advised to avoid trusting unknown calls, messages, or links, and to verify any suspicious communication directly with their bank. They should also download mobile applications only from official platforms such as the Play Store or App Store.

In case of fraud, the SP urged victims to immediately contact the national cybercrime helpline 1930 and report the incident at the nearest police station. Prompt reporting can help minimize financial losses and increase the chances of recovery.

Reiterating the importance of awareness, the SP said, "Technology brings convenience, but without caution, it can become a threat. Vigilance is the best protection." He also appealed to the public to spread awareness among family and friends to collectively prevent cybercrime in the district.



MLA Arani Srinivas Conducts 'Janavani' in Tirupati, Receives 52 Public Grievances

Tirupati, April 4, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Tirupati MLA Arani Srinivas conducted the 'Janavani' grievance redressal program at his office on Saturday, receiving a total of 52 petitions from the public. The initiative, aimed at addressing citizens' concerns directly, was held from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the presence of officials and party representatives.

The program saw participation from State Handicrafts Development Corporation Chairman Dr. Hariprasad, JanaSena city president Raja, along with party cadre and government officials. The MLA personally received grievances from citizens and assured them of prompt action.

According to officials, the petitions covered a wide range of civic and administrative issues. Out of the total, 11 grievances were related to the municipal engineering department, 13 to revenue matters, and 11 to the municipal commissioner's office. Additionally, eight petitions were submitted to the assistant commissioner, two each related to TTD and health department, three to the police department, and two to skill development, while one petition each was directed to the collector and municipal planning department.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Arani Srinivas stated that the Janavani program was initiated by JanaSena Party chief Pawan Kalyan with the objective of resolving public issues effectively. He emphasized the importance of grassroots engagement and urged party leaders and NDA alliance members to actively visit local areas, identify problems, and bring them to Janavani for resolution.

The MLA reiterated his commitment to ensuring that every grievance is reviewed and addressed through proper coordination with respective departments. He added that such initiatives strengthen the connection between the public and administration, ensuring transparency and accountability in governance.

The event witnessed the participation of JanaSena leaders, corporators, women representatives, and party workers. Key officials present included Health Officer Yuva Anvesh, RVO Ravi, Deputy Tahsildar Ramachandraiah, Electricity Department AD Anjaneyulu, and AE Umapathi, among others. The Janavani program continues to serve as a crucial platform for citizens to voice their concerns and seek timely solutions from elected representatives and officials.



Tirupati to Increase Wards from 50 to 66, Public Objections Invited from April 10

Tirupati, April 4, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Tirupati Municipal Corporation has initiated the process of reorganization and expansion of electoral wards, following directives from the state government. Municipal Commissioner N. Mourya has instructed officials to carry out the process carefully and transparently, ensuring accuracy in all aspects.

During a review meeting held on Saturday with revenue, town planning officials, and ward secretaries, the Commissioner emphasized that the ward division must strictly follow population-based criteria. He noted that the state government had issued a Government Order (GO) on April 1, directing all municipal corporations to increase the number of wards in proportion to population growth.

As part of this initiative, the number of wards in Tirupati will be increased from 50 to 66, marking a significant administrative change aimed at better governance and representation. Officials were directed to conduct detailed field-level verification, including survey numbers, population data, and geographical considerations, before finalizing the ward boundaries.

The Commissioner set a clear timeline for the process.

He instructed that the draft proposal for ward division must be prepared by April 9. Following this, the proposals will be made available to the public from April 10 to April 16, inviting objections and suggestions. The draft will be displayed on the municipal notice board and other public platforms as per Form-1 guidelines. After reviewing public feedback, the Municipal Corporation will finalize the ward division proposals by April 25 and submit them to the Commissioner and Director of Municipal Administration for approval. The final decision will take into account public representations and the corporation's recommendations, with approvals expected by May 2.

Subsequently, the final notification will be published in the Andhra Pradesh Gazette by May 5 under Form-6, officially implementing the new ward structure. Senior officials, including Additional Commissioner Sharada Devi, Deputy Commissioner Amarayya, DCPs Khan and Devi Kumari, and other revenue and planning, attended the meeting.

The reorganization is expected to improve administrative efficiency and ensure better delivery of civic services, while also enhancing democratic representation in the rapidly growing Tirupati city.

Special Festivities Scheduled at Sri Govindaraja Swamy Temple in April

Tirupati, April 4, 2026 | TPN Bureau

A series of special religious festivities are set to take place during the month of April at the revered Sri Govindaraja Swamy Temple, offering devotees an opportunity to participate in various traditional rituals and processions. Temple authorities have released the detailed schedule of events, which includes several significant utsavams and celestial celebrations. As part of the festivities, on April 10 and April 24, special processions of Goddess Andal will be held at 6:00 PM, where the deity will be taken around the four Mada streets surrounding the temple. These processions are expected to draw large numbers of devotees seeking divine blessings. On April 12, coinciding with the auspicious Shravana Nakshatra, Sri Kalyana Venkateswara Swamy along with Sri Bhudevi will be taken in a grand procession through the Mada streets at 6:00 PM, blessing devotees with his divine presence.



The temple will also host the Sri Bhashyakara Utsavam from April 13 to April 22, marking an important spiritual observance in the Vaishnavite tradition. Following this, on April 20, on the occasion of Rohini Nakshatra, Sri Parthasarathy Swamy along with Rukmini and Satyabhama will be taken out in a ceremonial procession.

The month-long festivities will conclude with the Buggotsavam from April 28 to April 30, one of the prominent temple events that attract devotees from across the region. Temple authorities have made necessary arrangements to ensure smooth conduct of the events and have appealed to devotees to participate in large numbers while following guidelines. The temple continues to uphold its rich spiritual heritage through these vibrant celebrations, reinforcing faith and devotion among pilgrims.

Sunil Kumar Praises Kotamreddy's Development Drive

Nellore, April 4 | TPN Bureau

Gudur MLA Pasham Sunil Kumar praised Nellore Rural MLA Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy, stating that his approach to politics and development is worth learning. He said it is remarkable how Sridhar Reddy has been consistently bringing funds for the rapid development of the constituency.

The remarks were made during the inauguration of development works worth Rs. 1.05 crore at Hanuman Junction in the 20th Division, covering divisions 20, 21, 22, and 23. The programme was attended by several party leaders and workers. Speaking on the occasion, Sunil Kumar described Sridhar Reddy as the number one MLA in the district. He appreciated



his efficiency in executing development works and highlighted that such large-scale progress within a short time is rare. Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy said that Nellore Rural constituency is witnessing rapid growth and credited the people for electing him with a strong mandate. He stated that key infrastructure projects like the Kodayapalem Gate and BV Nagar under bridges will soon be taken up. Sunil Kumar also claimed that Sridhar Reddy is the only MLA in the state

who has initiated as many as 339 development works and completed them within 60 days. He praised him as a leader who gives priority to party workers and remains closely connected with the public. He further added that despite entering the Telugu Desam Party later, Sridhar Reddy has quickly established himself as a strong and active leader. Several cluster in-charges, corporators, division presidents, party leaders, and workers participated in the programme.



Development of Panchayats Key to Constituency Growth: MLA Pulivarthi Nani

Chandragiri (Tirupati District), April 4, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Chandragiri MLA Pulivarthi Nani emphasized that the overall development of a constituency is achievable only through the progress of its panchayats. He made these remarks during an interaction meeting held on Saturday at Pulivarthivaripalli village in Pakala mandal with senior leaders, booth, cluster, and unit in-charges of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP).

Addressing party members, the MLA stated that despite the financial setbacks faced by the state during the previous YSR-CP regime, the current leadership is striving to put Andhra Pradesh back on the path of development. He credited Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, and IT Minister Nara Lokesh for accelerating the state's growth and governance reforms.

Pulivarthi Nani assured that every panchayat in Pakala mandal would witness significant development under his leadership. "Transforming my own mandal into a model of development is my long-cher-

ished goal," he said, adding that he is committed to working tirelessly for the welfare of the people, even at the cost of personal time with his family.

Earlier, the MLA paid floral tributes to the portrait of TDP founder N. T. Rama Rao, recalling his vision and contributions to the party and the state.

Highlighting the importance of Amaravati as the state capital, he remarked that the approval of the Amaravati Bill has brought renewed hope and happiness among the people of Andhra Pradesh. He noted that Minister Nara Lokesh played a significant role by personally attending the Rajya Sabha during the bill's passage. The MLA called upon party leaders at the grassroots level to actively engage with the public, understand local issues, and contribute to the development agenda. He stressed that coordinated efforts between party cadre and government leadership are essential to achieve sustainable growth in rural areas. The meeting witnessed participation from several senior TDP leaders, cluster and co-cluster in-charges, booth and unit leaders, reflecting strong organizational involvement at the grassroots level.

Police Seize Ganja Worth 10 Lakh in Vizianagaram, Three Arrested

Vizianagaram, April 4, 2026 | TPN Bureau

In a major crackdown on illegal drug trafficking, police in Vizianagaram district seized 55 kilograms of ganja worth approximately 10 lakh and arrested three persons during a vehicle inspection on Saturday. The operation was carried out at Rangarayapuram Junction in L. Kota mandal.

According to District Superintendent of Police A.R. Damodar, the accused were transporting the contraband from Odisha to Visakhapatnam in a car when they were intercepted by police. Acting on suspi-



cion during routine vehicle checks, officials searched the

vehicle and discovered the ganja packed in 25 packets. The arrested individuals have been identified as Sonai Rajababu (34) from Bosubedda village in Araku mandal of Aluri Sitarama Raju district, Nanjay Hantal (46) from Hattaguda village in Koraput district of Odisha, and Sanjeeb Kumar Mahanti (40) from Madhubanabalia village in Puri district of Odisha.

Police also seized a car used for transportation, three mobile phones, and a scooter from the accused. During preliminary investigation, it was found that the ganja had been procured from Odisha and was

being smuggled into Andhra Pradesh for distribution.

The SP revealed that the prime accused, Rajababu, has a criminal history with multiple ganja-related cases registered against him in Pendurthi, Gajuwaka, and Araku police stations. Authorities are now intensifying the investigation to trace the larger network behind the smuggling operation. Further, police have identified two additional suspects from Odisha, known as "Pinku" and "Dada," who are believed to be involved in the supply chain. Efforts are underway to apprehend them soon.

Amaravati Gets Legal Status as State Capital; Celebrations Held in Tirupati

Tirupati, April 4, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Marking a significant political and administrative development, celebrations were held in Tirupati after Parliament approved the bill granting legal status to Amaravati as the capital of Andhra Pradesh. The decision is being seen as the end of years of uncertainty surrounding the state's capital. Special prayers and celebrations were organized at the Ganguamma Temple, where Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leaders, activists, and supporters gathered to express their joy.

Tirupati TDP in-charge Sugunamma and Yadav Corporation Chairman Narasimha Yadav, along with other leaders, offered prayers seeking prosperity and development for the state. Speaking on the occasion, the leaders said that the long-pending demand of the people for a clear and legally recognized capital has finally been fulfilled. "The granting of legal status to Amaravati reflects the aspirations of the people and marks a new beginning for Andhra Pradesh's growth and development," they stated. They further empha-

sized that the decision brings relief and happiness to millions of people across the state. The leaders noted that the struggle of farmers, women, youth, and various public organizations who fought for Amaravati over the years has finally borne fruit. The leaders expressed gratitude to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, and IT Minister Nara Lokesh for their efforts in achieving this milestone. They also thanked the Central Government and all public representatives who supported the move in Parliament.



Panchayat Raj Commissioner Krishna Teja Visits Srikalahasteeswara Temple

Srikalahasti, April 4, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Panchayat Raj Commissioner Krishna Teja visited the Srikalahasteeswara Temple on Saturday along with his family and offered prayers. The temple, widely revered as "Dakshina Kashi," is one of the most significant pilgrimage centers in South India. During the visit, the Commissioner had darshan of Lord Vayulinga, also known as Srikalahasteeswara Swamy, along with Goddess Jnana Prasunamba. Special arrangements were made to facilitate his visit, ensuring a smooth and devotional experience. Temple Trust Board Chairman Kotte Sai Prasad extended a warm welcome to the Commissioner and his family upon their arrival. He also arranged for Antaralaya darshan and Vedic blessings by temple priests, marking the significance of the visit.



temple authorities highlighted the spiritual importance of the temple, which attracts thousands of devotees daily, especially those seeking relief from doshas and performing Rahu-Ketu poojas. The visit of senior officials like Krishna Teja reflects the temple's prominence and continued patronage from dignitaries. Several key officials and representatives were present during the visit, including Srikalahasti Market Yard Chairman Chenchayya

Naidu, Temple Assistant Executive Officer Vidyasagar Reddy, Protocol AEO Mohan, and Public Relations Officer Ravi. The visit concluded with the Commissioner receiving blessings from the temple priests and spending time in prayer with his family. Such visits by officials not only underscore their personal faith but also bring attention to the cultural and spiritual heritage of prominent temples in the region.

Sarpanches Key to Grassroots Democracy: Ravindranath Reddy

Kadapa, April 5 | TPN Bureau

YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) Kadapa district president and former Kamalapuram MLA P. Ravindranath Reddy emphasised that sarpanches play a crucial role in strengthening democracy at the grassroots level. He said that honouring those who have served as sarpanches for five years is a collective responsibility of society.

He was speaking at a felicitation programme organised for sarpanches in the constituency under his leadership, along with Kamalapuram YSRCP in-charge Naren Ramamjula Reddy. During the event, sarpanches were honoured with shawls, garlands, and mementos in recognition of their services to the people.

Ravindranath Reddy praised the dedication of sarpanches, stating that their efforts in addressing local issues and en-



surging development in villages are invaluable. He expressed satisfaction over recognising their service after the completion of their tenure and described their contributions during the YSRCP government as commendable.

He urged former sarpanches to continue serving the people even after their term and remain accessible to address public concerns. Calling upon party leaders and workers, he appealed for united efforts to ensure the party's success in the upcoming local body elec-

tions. He noted that the sarpanch position carries significant responsibility as it directly deals with issues such as water supply, sanitation, and village infrastructure.

Highlighting the initiatives of the previous YSRCP government led by Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, he said the village secretariat system brought governance closer to the people. He also cited improvements in school infrastructure under the Nadu-Nedu programme and support to farmers through Rythu Bharosa Kendras.

Criticising the current government, he alleged a lack of development and welfare in rural areas. He claimed that farmers are yet to receive crop insurance benefits and accused the ruling coalition of failing to fulfil its promises.

Several party leaders, public representatives, and supporters attended the programme.

Speed Up Thumakunta Solar Plant Works: Collector

Galiveedu, April 4 | TPN Bureau

Annamayya District Collector Nishant Kumar has directed officials to accelerate the construction works of the Thumakunta Solar Power Plant in Galiveedu mandal. The project, being developed by HPCL Renewable and Green Energy Limited, is spread across nearly 500 acres with a total planned capacity of 500 MW.

During a surprise inspection on Saturday, the Collector reviewed the progress of the 100 MW unit currently under construction. He toured the project site extensively and interacted with officials and site engineers to assess the status of completed and pending works.

Officials informed the Collector that nearly 80 percent of the construction has been completed and that efforts are underway to expedite the remaining work. They expressed confidence that the entire project would be completed within the next four to five months. The site engineer also

brought to the Collector's notice certain land-related issues affecting parts of the project and sought administrative support for their resolution. In response, Nishant Kumar instructed the officials to submit a detailed report outlining the issues so that appropriate action can be taken at the earliest.

Highlighting the importance of the project, the Collector stated that once completed, the solar power plant would significantly contribute to meeting regional power demands while also promoting environmental sustainability through clean energy generation.

He stressed the need for all departments to work in coordination to ensure timely completion of the project. The Collector also directed officials to maintain high-quality standards in construction and strictly adhere to safety protocols at the site.

Project PD Purushottam, along with officials from various departments and project staff, were present during the inspection.

Inter-Departmental Sports Mela Begins in Waltair

Waltair, April 4 | TPN Bureau

The month-long Inter-Departmental Sports Mela (IDSM-2026) of Waltair Division commenced on Friday at the Waltair Railway Cricket Stadium with great enthusiasm and participation. The event is being organised by the East Coast Railway Sports Association (ECoRSA), with employees from 14 departments taking part in various competitions.

Divisional Railway Manager Shri Lalit Bohra, along with ECoRWWO President Smt. Jyotsna Bohra, inaugurated the event. The ceremony began on an energetic note as Lalit Bohra lit the Olympic Torch, marking the official start of the Mela. A group of international sportspersons carried the torch around the stadium before handing it over to the DRM, who ignited the main flame.

The inauguration was attended by several dignitaries, including Additional Divisional Railway Manager (Infrastructure) Shri E. Santharam, Sports Officer Shri Haranath Mopuri, Assistant Sports Officer Shri Ketan Patil, branch



officers, executive members of ECoRWWO and ECoRSA, and a large number of railway staff. In his address, Lalit Bohra praised the Waltair Division for its achievements in freight loading and revenue generation, as well as its strong sporting culture. He said the division continues to perform well in both professional duties and sports activities. He added that the Sports Mela promotes team spirit, unity, and motivation among employees.

He also highlighted the active participation of women employees, calling it a positive and encouraging sign. Bohra noted that such large-scale sporting events are rare across Indian Railways divisions and extended his best wishes to all participants. He also thanked the media for its continued support.

On the opening day, the DRM officiated the toss for the first football match, marking the beginning of the competitions.



Patrolling Intensified to Prevent Illegal Boat Entry

Tirupati, April 4 | TPN Bureau

Tirupati District Collector Dr. S. Venkateshwar conducted a teleconference with officials of various departments to address the issue of illegal entry of boats from neighboring regions into Andhra Pradesh coastal waters.

Officials from the Marine Police, Fisheries Department, and Revenue Department participated in the meeting. During the review, the Collector discussed concerns regarding unauthorized entry of boats from Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, and Cuddalore into the state's maritime boundaries. He directed officials to take strict measures to prevent such intrusions and ensure effective coastal surveillance.

The Collector instructed the departments to deploy a dedicated patrolling boat and assign sufficient personnel to monitor coastal areas regularly. He emphasised that coordinated efforts among departments are essential to curb illegal fishing activities and protect the interests of local

fishermen.

Following these directions, the Fisheries Department made arrangements for a patrolling boat, bearing registration number IND-AP-NM-MM-793, at Krishnapatnam Port near Muthukur. The boat was readied to carry out surveillance operations along the coastline. On Saturday afternoon, the patrolling team, comprising a Fisheries Department village assistant, Marine Police Sub-Inspector Sriharikota, and two constables, set out from Krishnapatnam Port. The team conducted patrol operations in the sea stretch up to Vatikuppam in Vakadu mandal.

Officials stated that such patrolling activities will be continued regularly to prevent unauthorized entry of boats into Andhra Pradesh waters and to ensure the safety and security of coastal resources.

The district administration reiterated its commitment to safeguarding marine boundaries and supporting local fishing communities through strict monitoring and enforcement measures.

Preparations Reviewed for Narasimha Swamy Brahmotsavams

Nellore, April 4 | TPN Bureau

In view of the upcoming annual Brahmotsavams of Sri Vedagiri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple at Narasimhakonda, officials have been directed to ensure that all arrangements are made without causing any inconvenience to devotees. The festival is scheduled to be held from April 26 to May 6.

Revenue Divisional Officer Anusha conducted a coordination review meeting with officials from various departments on Saturday at the meeting hall in Narasimhakonda. She instructed all de-



partments to work in coordination and ensure smooth conduct of the festival.

Referring to last year's arrangements, the RDO said that the shortcomings observed ear-

lier should not be repeated and necessary improvements must be made. Keeping in mind the summer season, she directed officials to arrange shaded shelters, drinking water, ORS packets, and buttermilk for devotees to prevent heat-related issues.

She also stressed that queue lines should be arranged in an orderly manner so that devotees can have quick and smooth darshan. Officials were instructed to ensure uninterrupted power supply by keeping transformers and generators ready wherever required.

Health department officials were directed to set up first aid

centres, keep emergency medicines available, and arrange ambulances for any medical needs. Sanitation officials were asked to maintain cleanliness by clearing waste regularly and ensuring hygienic conditions.

Temple Chairman Achyuta Shankar Reddy emphasised coordination among temple staff and trustees for the successful conduct of the festival. State leader Giridhar Reddy suggested preparing a duty chart for staff to ensure clear responsibilities. Temple Executive Officer Gopi explained the arrangements being made. Officials, temple trustees, and staff attended the meeting.

Assembly Elections 2026: High-Decibel Campaigning Intensifies Across Key States

The 2026 Assembly elections across West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Assam, and Puducherry have entered a crucial phase, with political activity intensifying and major parties stepping up their campaigns. With polling dates approaching, leaders across party lines are aggressively reaching out to voters, raising key issues and sharpening their attacks on opponents.

As per the election schedule, Assam, Kerala, and Puducherry will go to polls in a single phase on April 9, while Tamil Nadu will vote on April 23. West Bengal will witness a two-phase election on April 23 and April 29. The counting of votes for all states is scheduled for May 4.

In Kerala, the political battle has gained momentum with top leaders intensifying their campaigns. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has targeted the state government, alleging links between the ruling leadership and forces that harm minority interests. At the same time, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to campaign in



the state, addressing rallies and participating in roadshows to strengthen the NDA's presence.

Tamil Nadu is witnessing a heated contest as well. Chief Minister M. K. Stalin has launched strong attacks on the Centre, raising concerns over issues such as attacks on Indian fishermen and policy decisions affecting the state. He has accused the Union government of neglecting key concerns and expressed confidence in his

party's growing support among voters.

Meanwhile, election preparations in Tamil Nadu have picked up pace with the BJP announcing its first list of candidates. Prominent leaders, including Tamilisai Soundararajan and L. Murugan, have been fielded from key constituencies, indicating the party's intent to expand its presence in the state.

In West Bengal, political tensions remain high with sharp

exchanges between parties. The ruling All India Trinamool Congress has raised concerns over the neutrality of election officials, while the Bharatiya Janata Party has expressed confidence in forming the government, focusing its campaign on governance and security issues.

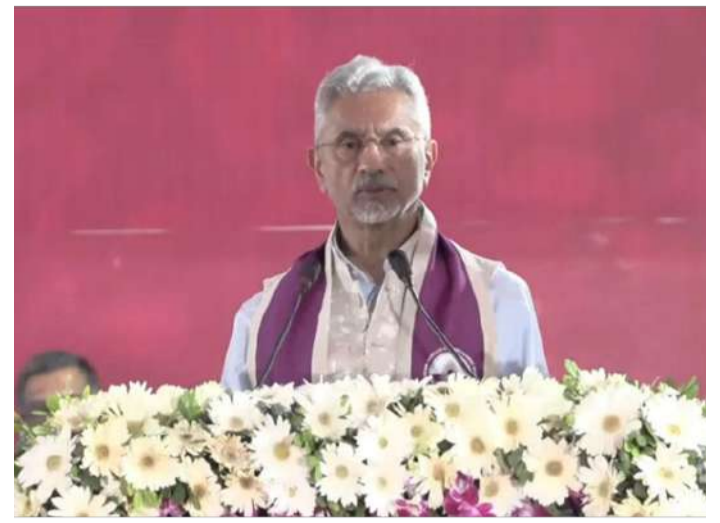
Security and administrative measures are also being strengthened. The Election Commission of India has approved additional polling sta-

tions to ensure smoother voting and improved accessibility for voters across states.

In Assam, political rhetoric is intensifying, with opposition leaders accusing the ruling government of corruption and misgovernance. The ruling side, however, continues to highlight its welfare schemes, infrastructure development, and progress in key sectors as part of its campaign narrative.

Apart from political rallies, isolated incidents have also added to the charged atmosphere. In Kerala, an attack on Congress MP Shashi Tharoor's convoy has raised concerns over campaign security, prompting swift action from authorities.

Overall, the 2026 Assembly elections are shaping up to be a high-stakes political battle, with multiple states witnessing intense contests. As campaigning gathers pace, the focus remains on governance, welfare, regional concerns, and voter sentiment, all of which are expected to play a decisive role in shaping the electoral outcome.



India Weathered Global Shocks Strongly: Jaishankar Highlights Resilience at IIM Raipur

India has successfully navigated a series of global crises and emerged stronger, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said while addressing the convocation ceremony at Indian Institute of Management Raipur. His remarks come at a time when the world is facing increasing geopolitical tensions and economic uncertainty.

Speaking to graduating students, Jaishankar emphasised that India has managed both domestic and external challenges "fairly successfully" despite facing multiple global shocks in recent years. These include disruptions such as the COVID-19 pandemic, ongoing global conflicts, and climate-related challenges that have significantly impacted economies worldwide.

He noted that the current global environment is undergoing structural changes, with shifting power dynamics among nations. According to him, developments in areas such as technology, energy, military capability, and connectivity have intensified global competition. Countries are increasingly using these domains strategically, and in some cases even "weaponising" them to gain an advantage. Highlighting the broader global scenario, Jaishankar pointed out that the world today is more volatile and unpredictable than before. Conflicts in one region are now having far-reaching consequences across continents, underlining the deep interconnection cre-

ated by globalisation. This evolving landscape, he said, has forced nations to rethink their strategies and prioritise securing their interests.

In this context, he stressed the importance of adopting approaches such as "hedging, de-risking, and diversifying" — both in economic decisions and foreign policy. These strategies, he explained, are essential for countries to reduce vulnerabilities and build resilience in an increasingly uncertain world.

Jaishankar also highlighted India's progress over the past decade, noting improvements in connectivity, access to technology, and economic growth. He pointed out that India is now among the world's leading economies, and that a sense of optimism prevails within the country — something he said is not as visible in many other parts of the world. Addressing the students, he underlined that they are stepping into a world shaped by constant disruption and rapid change. He encouraged them to be adaptable, skilled, and forward-looking, as their contributions will play a crucial role in shaping India's future growth trajectory. He concluded by stressing that building strong national capabilities remains key to sustaining growth and navigating global uncertainties. As the international order continues to evolve, India's ability to remain resilient and strategically agile will be critical in maintaining its position on the global stage.

'Will Not Allow Love Jihad, Land Jihad': Yogi Adityanath Targets Rivals in Assam Poll Campaign

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath intensified the political pitch in poll-bound Assam, launching a sharp attack on opposition parties while raising concerns over "love jihad," "land jihad," and illegal infiltration during campaign rallies.

Addressing public meetings in key constituencies, Adityanath asserted that only the BJP-led NDA can safeguard Assam's cultural identity and prevent demographic changes. He accused the Indian National Congress and the All India United Democratic Front of encouraging infiltration and compromising the state's heritage for political gains.

The BJP leader claimed that past governments had failed to protect Assam's interests, alleging that years of Congress rule led to instability and threats to local culture. He further stated that any alliance between Congress and AIUDF poses a risk to the state's identity and social balance.

Highlighting the NDA's agenda, Adityanath said strict action would be taken against illegal infiltrators if the alliance

returns to power. He emphasised that every infiltrator would be identified and removed, and reiterated that the state would not be allowed to become a hub of "love jihad" or "land jihad."

He also underlined the BJP's broader narrative of "Virasat aur Vikas" (heritage and development), asserting that both can progress together under NDA governance. According to him, Assam has witnessed significant transformation in recent years, particularly in infrastructure, connectivity, and welfare delivery.

Drawing comparisons with Uttar Pradesh, Adityanath claimed that his government has ensured strong law and order, stating that incidents of riots and curfews have significantly reduced. He presented this as a governance model that could be replicated in Assam. In a political swipe, he remarked that the Congress had weakened its position in certain constituencies even before the elections, using it to question the party's commitment and preparedness for the contest. The rallies are part of the BJP's aggressive campaign



strategy ahead of the Assam Assembly elections, where the party is seeking to retain power. With issues such as identity, security, and development tak-

ing centre stage, the campaign has turned increasingly intense, with both sides trading sharp allegations. As polling approaches, such statements

are expected to further heighten political discourse in Assam, making the elections a closely watched and high-stakes contest.

Amid LPG Concerns, Himanta Biswa Sarma Promises Two Free Cylinders if Re-elected

Amid concerns over LPG supply and rising political heat ahead of the Assam Assembly elections, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has announced a major welfare promise—two free LPG cylinders annually for eligible households if the BJP returns to power.

Addressing election rallies, Sarma said that the government plans to provide one free LPG cylinder before Bihu and another before Durga Puja each year. He assured voters that beneficiaries would not have to bear any cost for these cylinders, positioning the move as direct financial relief for households struggling with rising fuel expenses.

The announcement comes at a time when concerns over LPG availability and pricing have become a key public issue in Assam. Reports of supply disruptions and allegations of black marketing in some areas have triggered anxiety among consumers, even though the state government has maintained that there is no actual shortage of domestic LPG.

The Chief Minister has urged citizens not to panic or resort to hoarding, stating that supply chains remain stable



and adequate arrangements are in place. At the same time, authorities have intensified inspections and warned of strict action against those involved in illegal stockpiling or black marketing.

Sarma's promise of free LPG cylinders is being seen as a po-

litically significant move aimed at addressing both economic concerns and voter sentiment. Cooking gas remains an essential household commodity, and fluctuations in supply or price often have a direct impact on daily life, especially for low- and middle-in-

come families. The announcement also reflects a broader trend in election campaigning, where welfare measures and direct benefits are becoming central to political strategies. By linking the scheme to major festivals like Bihu and Durga Puja,

Shashi Tharoor's Convoy Attacked in Kerala Amid Poll Campaign, Security Staff Injured

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor's convoy came under attack in Kerala's Malappuram district during an election campaign, triggering concerns over security and rising tensions ahead of the Assembly polls.

The incident occurred on Friday evening when Tharoor was travelling to attend a political event in Wandoor. His convoy was reportedly blocked near a narrow stretch at the Chelithode bridge, leading to a confrontation with a group of individuals.

According to police reports, a group of five people travelling in two vehicles obstructed the MP's convoy. When Tharoor's security personnel attempted to clear the path to allow the convoy to proceed, an argument broke out. The situation quickly escalated, and the attackers allegedly assaulted Tharoor's gunman and driver.

The attack took place in the evening and caused a brief disruption in the campaign schedule. However, Tharoor himself was not injured in the incident. He later stated that he was safe and expressed concern for his security personnel, while also thanking supporters for their concern.

Despite the incident, Tharoor continued with his campaign engagements, completing scheduled events later that day. His response reflected an effort to maintain political momentum amid heightened tensions.

Following a complaint filed by the injured security personnel, the police registered a case and launched an investigation. Authorities have taken one person into custody, while oth-



ers involved in the attack have been identified and are being traced.

Police officials indicated that the confrontation may have been triggered by a traffic-related issue, as the road where the incident occurred was narrow. The gunman had reportedly asked the vehicle ahead to move aside to ensure smooth passage for the convoy, which led to the altercation.

The incident comes at a sensitive time, with Kerala preparing for Assembly elections. Campaigning has intensified across the state, and political activity is at its peak. Episodes like this highlight the increasingly charged atmosphere, where even minor disputes can quickly escalate.

Security arrangements for political leaders are now likely to come under closer scrutiny, especially as polling day approaches. Authorities are expected to strengthen measures to prevent similar incidents and ensure the safety of candidates and their teams.

Overall, the attack underscores the volatile nature of election campaigning and the need for heightened vigilance. As political stakes rise, maintaining order and ensuring peaceful conduct of campaigns remain key challenges for law enforcement agencies.

Iran's Air Defence Strikes Back: Two US Warplanes Downed Within 48 Hours

In a dramatic escalation of the ongoing US-Iran conflict, two American military aircraft — an F-15 fighter jet and an A-10 attack plane — were brought down within a span of just 48 hours, raising serious questions about US claims of air superiority over Iran. The incidents came shortly after former US President Donald Trump declared that Iran's air defence systems had been "neutralised" and that American forces had achieved near-total control of Iranian airspace. However, the downing of these aircraft suggests a far more complex and resilient defence network still in operation.

Reports indicate that the F-15E Strike Eagle was shot down over Iranian territory during a combat mission. The aircraft's two crew members ejected before impact; while one was rescued, the other remains missing, prompting an extensive search-and-rescue operation in hostile terrain. In a separate incident around the same time, an A-10 Warthog aircraft also went down after being struck during operations near the Gulf region. The pilot managed to eject safely and was later recovered, but the loss further underscored the growing risks faced by US forces in the region.

These incidents mark the first confirmed loss of US manned combat aircraft in Iranian airspace in the current phase of the conflict. Until now, despite numerous missions, American forces had managed to avoid such losses, making these developments particularly significant. Military experts attribute these shootdowns to Iran's layered and adaptive air defence system. Rather than relying solely on fixed installations, Iran employs a mix of mobile surface-to-air missile systems, radar networks, and portable air defence weapons. These systems can be rapidly repositioned, making them

difficult to track and neutralise. There are also indications that Iran retains a considerable portion of its missile launchers and drone capabilities despite sustained airstrikes. This suggests that its defence infrastructure remains largely intact and continues to pose a credible threat to advanced military aircraft. The incidents have exposed vulnerabilities in US air operations, particularly in contested airspace where even technologically superior platforms are not immune to attacks from mobile and low-cost defence systems. Rescue missions launched to recover downed crew members have also

faced significant threats, highlighting the complexity and danger of operating in such environments. Beyond the battlefield, these developments carry wider implications. They challenge earlier claims of decisive US dominance and may influence both domestic opinion and global perceptions of the conflict. As tensions continue to rise, the downing of these aircraft serves as a stark reminder that modern warfare remains unpredictable. Even the most advanced military forces can face serious setbacks when confronted with a well-prepared and adaptive defence strategy.



'Safer in Iran than with Trump': Tehran's Sharp Response on Missing US Pilot

Amid rising tensions in the ongoing US-Iran conflict, a controversial social media post by Iran's diplomatic mission has added a new dimension to the crisis surrounding a missing American fighter pilot. The remarks, widely shared online, came in response to growing concern expressed by families of US military personnel after a warplane was shot down over Iranian territory. The Iranian Embassy in Pakistan reacted to an emotional post by a worried mother seeking prayers for US pilots, including her son, who had not been heard from following recent aerial combat. Responding on social media, the embassy made a striking claim, suggesting that American servicemen were "more in danger" under former US President Donald Trump's leadership than if they were in Iranian custody.

The statement went further, asserting that if captured, the pilot would be treated with "dignity and respect," emphasising what it described as Iran's moral and civilised approach to handling prisoners. The remarks quickly drew global attention, both for their tone and their timing. They come as US forces continue an intense search operation for a missing crew member after an F-15E fighter jet was shot down over Iran. One crew member has already been rescued, while the other remains unaccounted for, raising fears that he could be captured or injured. The downing of the aircraft marks a significant escalation in the conflict, representing one of the first confirmed instances of a US manned combat jet being hit inside Iranian territory during the ongoing war. The incident has also exposed the risks faced by Ameri-



can pilots operating in contested airspace. Complicating matters further, Iranian authorities have reportedly encouraged civilians to assist in locating the missing pilot, even offering incentives for information leading to his capture. This has intensified concerns about the pilot's safety and the possibility of him becoming a bargaining tool in the broader geopolitical confrontation. The embassy's comments have been interpreted by some analysts as part of a wider information and psychological strategy, aimed at shaping global perception and undermining US leadership. By projecting an image of humane treatment, Tehran appears to be countering longstanding Western narratives about its handling of detainees. However, the situation remains highly uncertain. Previous incidents involving detained US personnel have shown that such cases can quickly escalate into diplomatic flashpoints, with significant implications for both sides. Meanwhile, efforts to locate the missing pilot continue under challenging conditions, with US forces conducting search-and-rescue missions in hostile territory. The outcome of these operations could have a major impact on the trajectory of the conflict. As the war intensifies, the episode highlights not only the human cost of the conflict but also the role of messaging and perception in modern warfare—where battles are fought not just on the ground, but also across digital platforms and global opinion.

Iran Accused of Recruiting Children for War Duties, Amnesty Calls It a 'War Crime'

Iran is facing serious international criticism after rights groups reported that children as young as 12 are being recruited into military-linked roles amid the ongoing conflict in the region. The allegations, highlighted by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, have raised alarm over potential violations of international law and the safety of minors caught in war. According to the report, Iranian authorities have launched a campaign encouraging young boys and girls to join units associated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and its Basij paramilitary force. The initiative, promoted as a way to "defend the homeland," comes at a time when Iran is under sustained military pressure. While officials present the campaign as voluntary, rights groups say children are being drawn into roles that go far beyond harmless support tasks. These include patrolling streets, manning checkpoints, gathering intelligence, and in some cases, handling weapons alongside trained personnel. Verified images and eyewitness accounts cited in the report show minors carrying rifles and participating in security operations in several cities. The risks of such involvement were underscored by the death of an 11-year-old boy, Alireza Jafari, who was killed in a drone strike while at a checkpoint in Tehran. Reports indicate he had accompanied his father, a Basij member, due to a shortage of personnel. His death has become a stark example of the dangers children face when placed in conflict zones. Amnesty International has strongly condemned the recruitment drive, stating that involving children under the

age of 15 in military activities constitutes a war crime under international humanitarian law. The organisation said Iranian authorities are exposing minors to grave danger by placing them in operational environments that are legitimate military targets. The campaign, titled "Homeland Defending Combatants for Iran," reportedly allows children to sign up through local Basij centres, including those operating in mosques. Witnesses described seeing teenagers — some appearing very young — struggling to handle weapons and being deployed in active security roles, raising concerns about both their safety and the risk of accidental harm. Human Rights Watch has also criticised the move, warning that it reflects increasing pressure on Iran's domestic security apparatus. The reliance on children, analysts say, may point to manpower shortages or an attempt to mobilise broader sections of society during wartime. International law clearly prohibits the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict, particularly those under 15. Rights groups have urged Iran to immediately halt the practice, release any minors currently involved, and ensure accountability for those responsible. They have also called on global organisations, including the United Nations and UNICEF, to step in and increase pressure on Tehran to comply with international standards. As the conflict intensifies, the controversy highlights the growing humanitarian concerns surrounding the war — with children increasingly finding themselves on the frontlines, not as victims alone, but as participants in a dangerous and unlawful system.

Ceasefire Talks Collapse: Iran Rejects US Demands, Pakistan's Mediation Fails

Efforts to broker a ceasefire between the United States and Iran have suffered a major setback, with Tehran rejecting Washington's proposals and refusing to participate in talks planned in Pakistan. The development marks a significant diplomatic failure at a time when regional tensions continue to escalate. The mediation initiative, led by Pakistan with support from other regional players, aimed to bring both sides to the negotiating table and create a pathway toward de-escalation. However, the effort has now stalled, with Iran formally informing mediators that it will not send officials to Islamabad for discussions. Iran has also made it clear that it considers the United States' conditions for a ceasefire to be "unacceptable," effectively shutting down the current framework for negotiations. The rejection highlights the deep divide between the two sides and underscores the challenges of achieving even a temporary pause in hostilities. At the heart of the disagreement are competing demands. The United States is reportedly seeking key concessions, including the reopening of the

strategically crucial Strait of Hormuz, a vital route for global oil shipments. Iran, however, has consistently pushed back against what it describes as one-sided and excessive conditions. Tehran's stance reflects a broader strategy of resisting external pressure while asserting its own terms for any potential agreement. Iranian officials have indicated that negotiations can only move forward if their concerns are addressed, including security guarantees and recognition of their strategic interests. The collapse of Pakistan-led mediation has also prompted other countries to reassess their diplomatic efforts. Nations such as Turkey and Egypt are exploring alternative venues like Doha and Istanbul in an attempt to revive dialogue and prevent further escalation. Adding to the complexity, political messaging from both sides continues to heighten tensions. Former US President Donald Trump has publicly suggested that a ceasefire would depend on specific conditions being met, while Iranian authorities have dismissed such claims outright. The breakdown in talks



comes at a critical moment in the conflict, with both countries engaged in sustained military operations and no clear path toward resolution. The inability to even initiate formal discussions highlights the deep mistrust between the two sides. As the situation stands, the failure of mediation efforts not only prolongs the conflict but also raises concerns about wider regional stability. With no immediate diplomatic breakthrough in sight, the focus may now shift to alternative channels, though achieving consensus remains a difficult challenge in an increasingly volatile geopolitical environment.

Amid Hormuz Tensions, India Emerges as Key Maritime Player with Eight Ships Crossing Safely

Even as the Strait of Hormuz remains at the centre of global geopolitical tensions, India has managed to maintain a steady maritime presence, with at least eight Indian-linked vessels successfully navigating the strategic waterway since the conflict began. The Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most critical oil transit routes, has been under heightened security following the escalation of conflict in the region. The disruption has impacted global energy supply chains, with many ships delayed or rerouted. Nearly 20% of the world's oil passes

through this narrow corridor, making any instability here a matter of global concern. Despite these challenges, India has emerged as one of the countries with the highest number of vessels successfully crossing the strait. Maritime data indicates that at least eight Indian vessels — including LPG carriers and oil tankers — have safely transited the high-risk zone, ensuring continuity in critical energy supplies. Among the vessels that completed the journey are Shivalik, Nanda Devi, Jag Laadki, Pine Gas, Jag Vasant, BW Tyr, BW Elm, and Green Sanvi.



These ships carried large quantities of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and crude oil, both crucial for meeting India's growing energy demands.

Several of these vessels reached major Indian ports such as Mundra and Kandla, delivering essential fuel supplies. LPG carriers transported significant volumes of fuel, while oil tankers brought crude from Gulf nations like the UAE and Oman. Their successful passage highlights India's operational capability in navigating complex and high-risk maritime environments. A key factor enabling this movement has been Iran's selective approach to allowing "non-hostile" vessels to pass through the strait. Countries seen as neutral or maintaining balanced diplomatic ties, in-

cluding India, have been permitted transit under strict monitoring, while restrictions have been tighter on vessels linked to adversarial nations. India's diplomatic engagement has also played an important role. Authorities have been in continuous coordination to ensure safe passage for Indian ships, while the Indian Navy has remained on alert to assist and provide security support if required. However, the situation remains fragile. A number of Indian-flagged vessels are still positioned in and around the Persian Gulf, awaiting clearance to move. This reflects the

ongoing uncertainty and the scale of disruption caused by the conflict. The successful transit of these eight vessels is therefore not just a logistical achievement but also a strategic one. It underscores India's dependence on Gulf energy supplies and highlights the importance of maintaining secure maritime routes during times of geopolitical tension. As the situation continues to evolve, India's ability to sustain this flow of energy shipments will be critical—not only for domestic stability but also for contributing to balance in an already volatile global energy market.

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

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

U.S. markets experienced a volatile trading session before closing slightly higher. Major indices recovered toward the end of the session, supported by easing concerns about geopolitical tensions and hopes that diplomatic efforts may help stabilize the situation. The rebound

helped offset earlier declines that were triggered by rising oil prices and concerns about global economic stability.

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

Asian markets are expected to reflect this improved mood, with futures indicating gains in several regional indices. However, overall trading activity may remain subdued, as several markets across Asia are closed for holidays. Reduced participation from key financial centers could lead to lower volumes and potentially limited price movements, even if the broader sentiment remains positive.

Investors are also closely monitoring economic indicators from the United States, which could influence global market direction. Economic data releases, particularly those related to employment and growth, are being watched carefully for signs of

resilience in the world's largest economy. Strong economic figures could support equities, while weaker data may renew concerns about economic slowdown.

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

Currency markets also reflected cautious optimism, with movements remaining relatively stable as investors assessed global developments. Bond markets showed



mixed signals, indicating that traders remain uncertain about the long-term outlook. This cautious positioning highlights the fragile nature of current market sentiment.

Overall, Asian equities appear set for a modestly positive start, supported by Wall Street's rebound and easing oil price pressures. However, uncertainty remains high due to geopolitical risks, economic data expectations, and holiday-related thin trading.

Investors are likely to remain cautious, focusing on upcoming developments and maintaining a balanced approach in the near term.

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

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



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

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

stability.

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

At the same time, India's economic growth remains relatively strong compared to many global economies. Domestic demand, infrastruc-

ture spending, and investment activity have continued to support growth momentum. However, sustained high energy prices could weaken consumption and increase costs for businesses, potentially slowing economic expansion. Rural demand could also face pressure if fuel and fertilizer prices rise further.

Financial markets have also reacted to global uncertainty. The Indian rupee has shown some weakness amid rising geopolitical risks and cautious foreign investor sentiment. Capital flows into emerging markets have become more volatile, which could affect

currency stability and increase pressure on India's current account balance.

Liquidity conditions in the banking system remain comfortable, providing support to credit growth and economic activity. The RBI has managed liquidity effectively, helping maintain stability in money markets. However, global uncertainties and potential capital outflows continue to pose risks. Bond markets have reflected growing caution, with government bond yields witnessing some upward movement. Market participants are closely monitoring inflation risks and policy signals from the RBI. Despite this, many analysts believe that the central bank may prefer to wait and watch rather than take immediate action. Given the current backdrop, the RBI is widely expected to maintain policy rates in April while continuing with a neutral stance. Such an approach would allow the central bank to monitor global developments, inflation trends, and domestic growth indicators before making any major policy shifts. Overall, the upcoming policy meeting is likely to focus on balancing inflation risks with growth momentum. With uncertainties largely driven by external factors, the RBI is expected to remain cautious, flexible, and data-dependent in its policy decisions, ensuring stability while supporting India's economic recovery.

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

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

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

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

The RBI's move had an immediate impact on currency



markets. As traders and financial institutions began reducing their dollar holdings, the supply of dollars increased, supporting the rupee's recovery. The rebound also improved overall market sentiment, as currency stability is often viewed as a sign of financial strength and policy credibility. However, analysts believe that while the recovery is encouraging, challenges remain. Rising crude oil prices continue to pose a major risk for India, which relies heavily on energy imports. Higher oil prices increase demand for dollars and can exert pressure on the rupee. Additionally, global geopolitical tensions and uncertainty in international markets may continue to influence currency movements.

Foreign institutional investor outflows also remain a concern. Continued selling by overseas investors can lead to increased demand for dollars,

weakening the rupee. Market participants are closely monitoring global interest rate trends, geopolitical developments, and capital flows, all of which can affect currency stability. Despite these uncertainties, the RBI's proactive intervention has helped restore confidence in the currency market. The central bank's actions signal its commitment to maintaining orderly market conditions and preventing excessive volatility. Investors now expect the rupee to trade within a relatively stable range, although movements will continue to depend on global economic developments and domestic fundamentals. Overall, the rupee's rebound highlights the importance of timely policy intervention. While risks remain due to global factors, the RBI's decisive steps have helped calm markets and stabilise the currency, at least in the near term.

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

India's value retail sector is entering a strong growth phase, driven primarily by aggressive store expansion across cities and towns. However, while expansion is expected to support revenue growth, the long-term winners will be determined by execution, store productivity, and merchandising strategies. As competition intensifies, retailers will need to focus on operational efficiency rather than relying solely on footprint expansion. Value retail, which focuses on affordable pricing and high-volume sales, has gained momentum due to rising price sensitivity among consumers and increasing demand for budget-friendly fashion and lifestyle products. Companies in this segment are rapidly expanding their store networks to capture market share, particularly in tier-2 and tier-3 cities where consumption growth remains strong. Expansion strategies are therefore emerging as a key growth lever for many retailers. However, analysts believe that expansion alone may not guarantee sustainable growth. Store productivity is expected to become a crucial differentiator. Retailers that generate higher sales per store and maintain strong same-store sales growth are likely to outperform peers. This is particularly important as rapid expansion can sometimes dilute operational efficiency and increase costs if not executed carefully.



pricing strategies, and inventory management are becoming increasingly important as consumers seek both affordability and variety. Companies that can quickly adapt to changing consumer preferences and manage supply chains efficiently are likely to maintain competitive advantages.

Same-store sales growth across players in the value retail segment remains positive, indicating steady demand despite macroeconomic uncertainties. This trend reflects strong consumer interest in affordable fashion and everyday essentials. However, maintaining this momentum will require consistent execution, especially as new store openings increase competition within the segment. Margins remain another key focus area. Value retail typically operates on thin margins due to competitive pricing strategies. As companies expand, controlling costs such as rentals, logistics, and staffing becomes critical. Retailers that can achieve scale benefits while maintaining operational discipline are expected

to deliver stronger profitability. Additionally, private labels and in-house brands are becoming increasingly important in the value retail business model. These offerings help retailers improve margins and differentiate themselves from competitors. Companies investing in strong private label portfolios may gain an edge in the long term. Despite near-term growth opportunities, risks remain. Rapid expansion could strain supply chains and operational capabilities if not managed efficiently. Furthermore, increased competition from both organized and unorganized players may put pressure on pricing and profitability. Overall, the outlook for India's value retail sector remains positive, supported by expansion plans and strong consumer demand. However, long-term success will depend on execution, store productivity, merchandising strategies, and cost control. As the sector evolves, retailers that balance aggressive growth with operational excellence are likely to emerge as clear winners.

Key Business Events to Watch Next Week

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

RBI Monetary Policy Takes Centre Stage

The biggest event in the coming week will be the monetary policy announcement by the Reserve Bank of India. The Monetary Policy Committee is scheduled to meet from April 6 to April 8, and investors will be watching closely for any signals on interest rates, inflation outlook, and growth projections. The policy comes at a time when global uncertainties remain elevated, particularly due to geopolitical tensions and rising crude oil prices. While inflation has remained within manageable levels, higher energy costs and currency volatility could influence the central bank's outlook. Market participants will also focus on commentary regarding liquidity conditions, inflation expectations, and growth momentum. Interest rate guidance from the RBI will likely influence banking stocks, bond yields, and the broader market sentiment. A cautious or neutral stance may provide stability, while any change in tone could trigger volatility.

Services PMI Data to Offer Growth Signals

Another key indicator inves-



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

The services sector remains a critical driver of India's economic expansion, and any shift in activity levels could influence investor confidence and sector-specific stocks.

Global Data to Shape Market Direction

Global economic data from the United States will also play a major role in guiding markets. Investors will keep an eye on U.S. growth figures, inflation data, and labour market

indicators. These numbers often influence global risk sentiment, foreign investment flows, and currency movements.

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

Geopolitical Developments Remain in Focus

Apart from economic data, global geopolitical developments are expected to remain a key driver. Rising tensions in energy-producing regions have already influenced crude oil prices and currency movements. Any escalation or easing of tensions could impact global markets, including India.

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

Market Outlook

Overall, the week ahead is likely to be event-heavy, with markets reacting to policy decisions, macroeconomic indicators, and global developments. Volatility may remain elevated as investors await clarity on interest rates, growth outlook, and global risks.

Market participants are expected to remain cautious, focusing on key data releases and policy signals. The RBI policy outcome, services PMI trends, and U.S. economic indicators will be the primary factors shaping market direction in the coming days.

Royals Edge Titans in Thrilling High-Scoring IPL Encounter

In a thrilling Indian Premier League (IPL) contest that lived up to its billing, the Rajasthan Royals secured a narrow victory over the Gujarat Titans in a high-scoring match that kept fans on the edge of their seats until the final ball. The match, played under lights and packed with explosive batting, saw both teams post formidable totals on the board, with momentum swinging back and forth throughout the contest. The Royals ultimately emerged victorious by a slim margin, thanks to a collective batting effort and disciplined bowling in the closing stages.

Winning the toss and electing to bat first, Rajasthan

Royals got off to a blazing start. Their top and middle order fired with intent, punishing anything short and loose, and regularly clearing the ropes. The Royals' batters were in free-flowing mode, finding boundaries with ease and rotating the strike effectively. Their aggressive approach paid dividends as they posted one of their highest totals of the season.

In reply, the Gujarat Titans got off to a strong start, with their openers laying a solid foundation. The partnership kept the required run rate well within reach, and it seemed as though the Titans would overhaul the target comfortably. However, the Royals' bowlers struck at crucial

moments, breaking key partnerships and applying pressure when it mattered most. A late cameo from the lower middle order kept the Rajasthan bowling unit on their toes, but they managed to hold their nerve. The final few overs were nail-biting, with the Titans needing a boundary off the last delivery to win, only for the Royals' bowler to execute his yorkers perfectly and deny the target on the penultimate delivery.

Standout performers included the Royals' power hitters, who amassed valuable runs at crucial junctures, and the bowlers who delivered under pressure. For the Titans, their top order deserved praise for keeping them in

the hunt, while one or two late contributions kept the game alive till the very end.

With this win, the Rajasthan Royals have strengthened their position in the IPL standings, while the Gujarat Titans will be left to rue missed opportunities as they look to bounce back in their upcoming fixtures. The match will be remembered as one of the season's most entertaining encounters, showcasing the unpredictable and dramatic nature of T20 cricket.

Fans are already looking forward to the next chapter in this competitive IPL season, where every match promises high-octane action and thrilling finishes.



IPL 2026: Delhi Capitals Face Mumbai Indians in High-Stakes Clash

The much-anticipated Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 encounter between Delhi Capitals and Mumbai Indians has generated significant buzz among cricket fans, with both teams eager to strengthen their position in the tournament. The match, set to take place at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in Delhi, promises to be an exciting contest given the quality of players on both sides.

Delhi Capitals, led by Axar Patel, will be looking to capitalize on their home advantage. The team has shown flashes of brilliance this season but has struggled with consistency. Axar Patel's all-round abilities will be crucial, both in stabilizing the batting order and providing breakthroughs with the ball. The Capitals' batting lineup, featuring a mix of experienced players and young talent, will need to fire collectively to post a competitive total or chase down targets effectively.

On the other hand, Mumbai Indians, one of the most successful franchises in IPL history, will rely heavily on the experience of their senior players. Rohit Sharma remains a key figure for the team, bringing



leadership and explosive batting at the top of the order. Mumbai's strength lies in its balanced squad, which includes powerful hitters, dependable middle-order batsmen, and a formidable bowling attack capable of turning matches around.

The contest between Delhi's bowlers and Mumbai's strong batting lineup could be a defining factor in the outcome of the match. If Delhi manages to pick early wickets, they could put pressure on Mumbai's middle order. Conversely, if Mumbai's top order gets going, they can dominate the game and set a challenging target.

Pitch conditions at the Arun

Jaitley Stadium are expected to favor batsmen initially, with some assistance for spinners as the game progresses. This could make Axar Patel's role even more significant, as his spin bowling might come into play during crucial middle overs.

Both teams are aware of the importance of this match in the context of the league standings. A win here could provide much-needed momentum and boost their chances of qualifying for the playoffs. With star players, tactical battles, and high expectations, fans can expect a thrilling showdown between Delhi Capitals and Mumbai Indians.

Shreyas Iyer Faces Criticism Despite Victory Over CSK

Even in victory, scrutiny of ten follows leadership decisions in the high-pressure environment of the Indian Premier League. That was evident after Shreyas Iyer led his side to a win against the Chennai Super Kings, only to face criticism from a former India cricketer over one of his tactical calls.

The match itself was a competitive encounter, with Iyer's team putting up a disciplined performance to secure an important victory. Contributions came from both the batting and bowling departments, reflecting a balanced team effort. However, despite the positive result, attention quickly shifted to a specific decision made by the captain during a crucial phase of the game.

The criticism revolved around Iyer's bowling changes and field placements, particularly at a moment when the opposition seemed to be gaining momentum. The former India player questioned the logic behind delaying the introduction of a key bowler, suggesting that an earlier move could have put additional pressure on the Chennai batting lineup.

While the decision did not



ultimately cost the team the match, it sparked debate among experts and fans alike. In a tournament as competitive as the IPL, even minor tactical calls are closely analyzed, especially when they involve high-stakes situations.

Iyer, known for his calm de-

subject to intense scrutiny.

On the field, the bowlers managed to hold their nerve in the final overs, restricting Chennai's chase effectively. The batters had earlier laid a solid foundation, ensuring the team had enough runs on the board to defend. The win added valuable points to their campaign and strengthened their position in the standings.

For Chennai, it was a missed opportunity. Despite having experienced players capable of chasing down targets, they fell short due to lack of acceleration in the middle overs and inability to capitalize on key moments. The debate surrounding Iyer's decision underlines a broader reality in cricket — leadership is often judged not just by results, but by the process. A win may ease immediate pressure, but it does not shield captains from analysis or criticism. As the tournament progresses, Iyer will aim to fine-tune his strategies while maintaining the team's winning momentum. With several crucial matches ahead, his decision-making will continue to play a pivotal role in determining how far his side can go this season.

Ponting's Magic Touch: How PBKS Became a Six-Hitting Powerhouse

Former India cricketer Ambati Rayudu has revealed the key reason behind the explosive batting transformation of the Punjab Kings in IPL 2026, crediting head coach Ricky Ponting for introducing a unique training method that has significantly boosted the team's six-hitting ability.

According to Rayudu, Ponting's innovative approach focuses on improving bat speed and freeing up a batter's hands — a crucial factor in modern T20 cricket. One of the most interesting techniques involves placing a squash ball inside the bottom hand glove of a batter. This simple adjustment prevents players from gripping the bat too tightly with their lower hand, allowing the top hand to dominate and generate a smoother, faster swing.

Rayudu explained that this method not only enhances bat speed but also builds confidence among players — something he believes is even more important than raw strength or ability. With better bat flow and timing, batters can strike the ball more cleanly, leading to a higher number of sixes.

The impact of Ponting's coaching is clearly visible in Punjab Kings' performances this season. The team has emerged as one of the most aggressive batting units in the league, smashing a remarkable number of sixes in just the opening matches. Their fearless approach and intent-driven batting have made them one of the most dangerous sides in IPL 2026.

Players like Shreyas Iyer and Prabhsimran Singh have thrived under this system, combining confidence with clean ball-striking. The team's strategy is not just about hitting big shots but doing so with clarity and consistency. This



structured approach has helped Punjab Kings maintain pressure on opposition bowlers throughout their innings.

Rayudu, who has previously worked with Ponting during their time at Mumbai Indians, emphasized that the Australian legend has always been exceptional at helping batters develop six-hitting skills. His coaching style blends technical adjustments with mental conditioning, ensuring players remain confident while executing aggressive shots.

Punjab Kings' recent performances, including a successful high-pressure chase against Chennai Super Kings, highlight how well this strategy is working. The team chased down a massive total with ease, maintaining a strong run rate and showcasing their improved power-hitting capabilities.

Overall, Ponting's influence has transformed Punjab Kings into a fearless and dynamic batting unit. With a mix of innovative training techniques and confidence-building methods, the franchise has redefined its approach and emerged as a serious contender in IPL 2026.

IPL 2026: Why Hardik Pandya Missed MI's Clash Against Delhi Capitals

Mumbai Indians suffered a significant setback ahead of their IPL 2026 match against Delhi Capitals as captain Hardik Pandya was ruled out at the last moment. The development came as a surprise to fans, especially given Pandya's importance as both a leader and a key all-rounder in the squad.

The decision was confirmed just before the toss at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in Delhi. Instead of Hardik Pandya, Suryakumar Yadav walked out to lead the side, indicating a late change in Mumbai Indians' plans. During the toss, Suryakumar clarified the situation, stating that Pandya was unwell and therefore unable to take part in the match.

Reports suggest that Pandya's absence was not due to



any serious injury but rather a sudden illness. As a precautionary measure, the team management decided not to risk their captain's fitness, especially considering the long

and demanding IPL season ahead. The exact nature of the illness was not disclosed, but the move reflects a cautious approach by the franchise. Pandya's absence forced

Pandya's absence forced

Mumbai Indians to reshuffle their playing XI. The team made multiple changes to balance the squad, bringing in fresh players to fill the gap left by their captain. This not only affected the team's leadership structure but also its overall balance, as Pandya plays a crucial role with both bat and ball.

Suryakumar Yadav stepping in as captain added an interesting dimension to the contest. Known for his aggressive batting and calm demeanor, Suryakumar had the responsibility of guiding the team in a high-pressure match. His leadership ensured continuity, but the absence of Pandya's all-round capabilities was still a major blow.

From a tactical perspective, losing a player like Hardik Pandya impacts multiple aspects of the game. He often

contributes in crucial middle overs with the bat and provides valuable overs with the ball. Additionally, his on-field decision-making and experience are vital in tight situations.

For Mumbai Indians, the focus will now be on ensuring Pandya recovers quickly and returns to action in upcoming matches. With the IPL being a long tournament, player fitness and workload management become critical factors in determining a team's success.

In conclusion, Hardik Pandya's absence against Delhi Capitals was due to illness, and while it was a precautionary decision, it highlighted how dependent Mumbai Indians are on their captain. Fans will be hoping to see him back soon, leading the team as they aim for a strong campaign in IPL 2026.

PCB Eyes Younis Khan for Key Domestic Cricket Role

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is reportedly considering appointing former Pakistan captain Younis Khan as the Director of Domestic Cricket, in a move aimed at strengthening the country's grassroots structure.

According to reports, the PCB leadership is keen to bring in experienced former players to oversee and revamp domestic cricket operations. The proposed role would give Younis Khan significant responsibility in managing and improving the domestic circuit, which is considered the backbone of Pakistan's cricketing future.

The board, under chairman Mohsin Naqvi, is exploring ways to decentralize cricket administration by assigning specialized roles to former

cricketers. This approach is intended to ensure that cricket-related decisions are handled by individuals with deep understanding of the game rather than purely administrative figures.

If appointed, Younis Khan would likely focus on talent development, improving domestic competitions, and bridging the gap between domestic and international cricket. His vast experience as one of Pakistan's most successful Test batters and a former captain is expected to play a crucial role in shaping young players.

Younis has previously worked with the PCB in various capacities, including as batting coach of the national team. He has also expressed interest in contributing to do-

mestic cricket by mentoring players and helping them refine their skills. However, discussions are still at a preliminary stage, and no official confirmation has been made regarding his appointment. The PCB is reportedly evaluating multiple options before finalizing the role. The move comes at a time when Pakistan cricket is looking to rebuild and improve consistency, with greater emphasis on strengthening its domestic structure. Bringing in a figure like Younis Khan could provide both credibility and direction to these efforts.

Overall, the potential appointment signals PCB's intent to rely more on experienced former players to drive long-term development and stability in Pakistan cricket.



Project Approved by
AP RERA
P07 110055679

A Project by:
SREE FORTUNE
INFRA AND DEVELOPERS

READY TO MOVE-IN SHORTLY.

OWN YOUR DREAM **VILLA**
4.5 ACRES | 45 VILLAS | 12 VILLAMENTS
@KLU Road, Tadepalli, Guntur.

E-BROCHURE - QR | WhatsApp Video | LOCATION - QR

EAST VILLA 240 SQ.YDS

CLUB HOUSE

contact : 9581052313

Amaravati Real Estate Sees Renewed Growth; Kunchanapalli Gains Spotlight as Investment Destination

The real estate sector in the capital region of Amaravati is once again witnessing a steady revival, signaling renewed confidence among investors and homebuyers. After experiencing a surge following the change in government, the market had shown signs of slowing down for a brief period. However, recent developments indicate that the sector is regaining momentum, with increased activity in both residential and commercial segments across the region.

Among the emerging hotspots, Kunchanapalli has positioned itself as one of the most promising and strategically located areas in the Amaravati capital zone. Its proximity to major urban centers such as Vijayawada and Guntur, along with its closeness to Amaravati, has made it a preferred destination for both in-

vestors and end-users.

Real estate experts point out that while Amaravati continues to hold long-term potential as the state's capital city, the development of complete infrastructure and urban facilities may still take another three to four years. In contrast, Kunchanapalli offers immediate advantages due to its location near Vijayawada, a well-developed city with access to established amenities such as educational institutions, hospitals, shopping centers, and transportation networks. This makes it an ideal choice for buyers who are looking for both convenience and future appreciation.

Adding to its appeal is the rapid commercial growth along the stretch between Prakasam Barrage and Mangalagiri. Over the past few

years, this corridor has transformed into a bustling commercial hub, with numerous showrooms, retail outlets, and business establishments setting up operations. The once relatively quiet highway has now become vibrant and economically active, significantly enhancing the value of nearby residential areas.

This growing demand has encouraged reputed developers to launch premium housing projects in the region. One such project that is drawing considerable attention is "Sri Fortune Green Field Villas," being developed by the well-known Fortune Group. The developer has already established a strong reputation for delivering quality residential ventures, which has contributed to the increasing interest among buyers in this new project.

Located strategically near KL University, the project enjoys excellent connectivity and accessibility. Spread across approximately 4.5 acres, the development comprises 45 well-designed villas that cater to modern lifestyle needs. The villas feature contemporary architectural designs, aesthetically pleasing elevations, and carefully planned layouts that maximize space and comfort.

A model villa has already been completed, allowing prospective buyers to experience the quality and design firsthand. The remaining construction work is progressing rapidly, and developers are confident that the entire project could be completed within the next three months. Such a fast-paced execution has further strengthened trust among buyers, particularly in a market where time-

ly delivery is often a concern.

Industry observers note that the project stands out not only for its design and quality but also for its competitive pricing. In a market where affordability plays a crucial role, offering premium villas at reasonable prices has made the project accessible to a wider range of buyers. This has attracted both individuals looking for a comfortable living space and investors seeking long-term returns.

Experts believe that Kunchanapalli's growth story is closely linked to the overall development trajectory of Amaravati. As the capital city gradually develops its infrastructure, administrative buildings, and civic amenities, surrounding regions are expected to benefit significantly. Kunchanapalli, due to

its strategic location, is likely to experience consistent appreciation in property values over the coming years.

Furthermore, the locality offers a balanced combination of present-day livability and future growth potential. Buyers are increasingly prioritizing locations that provide immediate access to essential services while also promising capital appreciation. Kunchanapalli meets both these criteria, making it an attractive proposition for a wide range of stakeholders.

The presence of educational institutions like KL University, coupled with expanding commercial activity and improved connectivity, has further strengthened the area's appeal. Infrastructure developments such as better road networks and transport facilities are also contributing to

the region's rising prominence in the real estate market.

Overall, the resurgence of real estate activity in Amaravati reflects a broader trend of renewed optimism in the region. With increasing demand, ongoing infrastructure development, and the entry of credible developers, the market appears to be on a stable growth path.

As Kunchanapalli continues to gain traction as a key residential and investment destination, projects like Sri Fortune Green Field Villas highlight the evolving dynamics of the market. If current trends persist, the Amaravati capital region is poised to emerge as one of the most promising real estate hubs in Andhra Pradesh in the coming years.

Sree Fortune Green Field Villas

- Near KL University | Main Road Facing | Pollution-Free Zone
- A Gated Community Spread Across 4.5 Acres | 45 Exclusive Villas Only
- Premium Gated Layout
- Modern Elevation with Quality Construction
- Peaceful Green Surroundings & Superb Connectivity

Available Villa Options & Pricing

240 Sq.Yards - 4115 Sq.Ft
204 Sq.Yards - 3411 Sq.Ft
164 Sq.Yards - 2513 Sq.Ft
171 Sq.Yards - 2700 Sq.Ft (West Facing)
Offer Price (East & West Villas Only): 7,899/Sq.Ft - Limited Time Deal!



- Project Amenities Include:
- Rooftop Swimming Pool
 - Basket Ball Court
 - Box Cricket Ground
 - Avenue Plantation & Beautiful Lawns
 - Walking & Sitting Areas
 - Open-Air Gym
 - Children's Play Area
 - Multiple Sit-out Zones
 - Premium Villaments

Main Road Facing
| Near KL University | Fast-Developing Zone.
Contact:
+91-9603482345,
+91-9603582345

