



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



Satellite Crop Mapping to Transform Farm Planning: Minister Tummala

PAGE 02

Change Inevitable in Kerala, UDF Set for Victory: Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy

Hyderabad, April 04, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy expressed confidence that political change in Kerala is inevitable and predicted a decisive victory for the United Democratic Front (UDF) in the upcoming Assembly elections.

Addressing the gathering, the minister said people in Kerala are eagerly looking for an alternative, and there is a strong desire for change across the state. He stated that if given an opportunity, the Congress-led UDF government would implement welfare and development models similar to those introduced in Telangana.



He also accused both the CPM and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of diverting public attention from pressing concerns such as unemployment and rising prices. According to him, instead of focusing on governance, the ruling establishment is engaging in political confrontations.

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.

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.

TRUE POINT

PRGI REGISTRATION NO. "TGENG/25/A2485"

HYDERABAD | VOL-1 | ISSUE-75 | SUNDAY | APRIL 5 | 2026 | PAGES 12 | PRICE ₹ 5 | PUBLISHED FROM : VIJAYAWADA • HYDERABAD

Basara Temple Set for Tirumala-Style Revamp

Hyderabad, April 04, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Revanth Reddy reviewed an ambitious master plan aimed at transforming the revered Gnaana Saraswati Temple on the lines of Tirumala Tirupati Temple, emphasizing that development must strictly adhere to Agama Shastra principles while preserving devotees' sentiments.

Located on the banks of the Godavari River in Nirmal district, the Basara temple is one of the most prominent spiritual centers in Telangana. The state government has earmarked 225 crore for its comprehensive development. Officials presented the detailed master plan during the review meeting, following which the Chief Minister issued a series of directives to ensure the project balances modernization with tradition.

Revanth Reddy underlined the importance of safeguarding the sanctity of the temple, in-



structing authorities to ensure that no aspect of development disturbs its spiritual essence. He stressed that all works must align with established religious practices and architectural norms prescribed in temple traditions.

Taking into account the growing influx of devotees, the

Chief Minister called for the development of wide and well-planned roads to facilitate smoother movement. He also directed officials to design infrastructure that meets future needs, ensuring a comfortable and organized pilgrimage experience for visitors. In a significant move, Revanth Reddy pro-

posed strict regulations in temple surroundings, similar to those enforced in Tirumala. He stated that no political or non-religious activities should be permitted in and around temple premises. Additionally, he suggested promoting eco-friendly initiatives by allowing only electric vehicles within the temple vicinity to maintain a clean and serene environment. The Chief Minister is scheduled to lay the foundation stone for the development works on April 6, marking the formal commencement of the project. The review meeting was attended by Minister Konda Surekha, government advisor Sudarshan Reddy, MP Vem Narender Reddy, Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao, and other senior officials. The planned transformation is expected to elevate Basara into a major spiritual destination comparable to Tirumala, while retaining its unique religious identity and heritage.



Revanth Reddy Pays Tribute to Babu Jagjivan Ram

Hyderabad, April 04, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy paid rich tributes to freedom fighter and former Deputy Prime Minister Babu Jagjivan Ram, stating that his life remains an inspiration to the nation.

On the eve of Babuji's 119th birth anniversary, the Chief Minister remembered his immense contributions to the country and highlighted his lifelong struggle for the rights of marginalized communities, especially Dalits. He described Jagjivan Ram's services as unforgettable and significant in shaping modern India.

Revanth Reddy noted that despite being born into poverty, Babu Jagjivan Ram rose to great heights through determination and hard work. He actively participated in the freedom struggle and later served as a key member in the cabinet of India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

The Chief Minister said Jagjivan Ram dedicated his life to the welfare of oppressed sections and workers. He also fought strongly against caste discrimination and untouchability, becoming a symbol of social justice and equality. Highlighting the influence of his ideals, Revanth Reddy stated that the Telangana government is following Babuji's principles in governance. He said the state is committed to ensur-



ing social justice and the welfare of all sections of society. He further mentioned that initiatives such as caste-based surveys, enhancement of Backward Classes (BC) reservations, and steps towards Scheduled Castes (SC) categorization reflect the government's commitment to inclusive development.

The Chief Minister emphasized that Babu Jagjivan Ram's vision continues to guide the state's policies and governance approach. He reiterated that the government is working towards building a society based on equality, justice, and empowerment for all.

Revanth Reddy concluded by stating that Babuji's ideals will always serve as a guiding force for the government in its efforts to achieve holistic development and social harmony in Telangana.

Bhatti Vikramarka Campaigns for UDF in Kerala, Slams LDF Governance

Pathanamthitta, April 05, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu campaigned in Kerala, urging voters to support candidates of the United Democratic Front (UDF) in the upcoming Assembly elections scheduled for April 9. Addressing rallies in Pathanamthitta and nearby constituencies, he called for a decisive mandate for change, improved welfare, and better governance. Criticizing the ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF), Bhatti Vikramarka alleged that it had failed to fulfill its election promises and that governance standards in the state had deteriorated. He claimed unemployment has risen sharply, forcing many young people from Kerala to migrate abroad in search of livelihood, while senior citizens are left without adequate support. He expressed concern that Kerala, once known for its secular values, high literacy, and human development, is witnessing a decline in governance and humanitarian standards. He also accused the ruling establishment of moving away from its ideological roots. Highlighting the governance model in Telangana, the Deputy Chief Minister said his government has implemented most of its election promises within two years. He invited people to visit Telangana to



verify the implementation of welfare schemes.

He outlined several initiatives, including free bus travel for women, subsidized rice distribution to over one crore families, free electricity up to 200 units for 53 lakh households, and affordable LPG cylinders. He also mentioned large-scale housing schemes for the and loan waivers for farmers.

On employment, he stated that around 70,000 government jobs have been filled in the last two years. He emphasized that Telangana is giving top priority to education and healthcare, including the establishment of integrated residential schools with international standards.

Promising welfare measures in Kerala if UDF comes to pow-

er, Bhatti Vikramarka said monthly financial assistance of 1,000 would be provided to female college students, and interest-free loans up to 5 lakh would be offered to youth for self-employment. He also promised to increase social pensions from 2,000 to 3,000.

Additionally, he announced plans to introduce a 25 lakh insurance scheme for senior citizens in the name of late Congress leader Oommen Chandy. He further stated that a dedicated ministry for senior citizens would be established to ensure their welfare. The campaign saw participation from senior Congress leaders, including CWC member Rudraraju, along with local party workers and supporters.



Sixty Women Delegates Participate in Heritage Walk from Charminar to Chowmahalla Palace

Hyderabad, April 5, 2026

Around 60 women delegates took part in a heritage walk from Charminar to Chowmahalla Palace on Saturday, celebrating Hyderabad's rich cultural and historical legacy. The event aimed to connect participants with the city's iconic landmarks and foster awareness of its architectural heritage.

The walk began at Charminar, one of Hyderabad's most recognized monuments, known for its majestic arches and historical importance. Participants moved through historic lanes and bustling markets, with guides explaining the significance of landmarks, heritage structures, and the city's evolution over centuries.

The journey ended at Chowmahalla Palace, the former residence of the Nizams, famous for its grand architecture and intricate design. Delegates explored the palace grounds, learning about its historical importance and the legacy of Hyderabad's erstwhile

rulers. Organizers emphasized that the initiative was designed to promote cultural pride, especially among women, and encourage community participation in preserving historical sites. Participants appreciated the opportunity, noting that the walk enriched their understanding of Hyderabad's history and fostered a sense of connection with its heritage.

The event also included brief talks at key points along the route, offering deeper insights into the monuments' historical context. Organizers plan to conduct more heritage walks in the future to engage wider community groups, including students and youth, to further promote cultural awareness and tourism.

The heritage walk received widespread appreciation, highlighting the importance of such initiatives in preserving the city's cultural identity and inspiring people to value and protect historical landmarks.

# Satellite Crop Mapping to Transform Farm Planning: Minister Tummala

Hyderabad, April 04, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Agriculture Minister Tummala Nagawara Rao has emphasized the need to adopt satellite-based crop mapping as a guiding tool for scientific agricultural planning in the state. He stated that modern technology must play a key role in improving efficiency, transparency, and decision-making in the agriculture sector.

The Minister chaired a high-level review meeting at the Secretariat with officials from the Agriculture Department and experts from Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University. The meeting focused on the implementation

and future scope of satellite crop mapping across Telangana.

During the session, agricultural scientist Dr. Neelima presented findings based on satellite data collected during the previous Kharif season. The data highlighted variations between satellite estimates and crop booking records at district, mandal, and village levels. Officials informed that efforts are ongoing to validate the accuracy of satellite data through ground-level verification during the current Rabi season using digital crop surveys conducted by field volunteers.

Minister Tummala stated that satellite imaging should act as a "directional tool" for

integrated crop planning. He explained that accurate data on crop area, production trends, and seasonal patterns would help the government make informed decisions regarding marketing, demand forecasting, supply chain management, and warehouse infrastructure.

He noted that satellite mapping would also provide timely inputs on crop damage caused by droughts, floods, or other natural calamities. This would enable faster response from the government and improve transparency in crop insurance implementation and compensation assessment.

The Minister further highlighted that having precise information on what crops

are being cultivated, where, and in what extent would help align agricultural production with market demand. This, in turn, would ensure better price realization for farmers and reduce risks of overproduction or shortages. He also directed officials to coordinate with Revenue and Forest Departments to address challenges in mapping crop areas based on survey numbers. Special focus was laid on identifying cultivation patterns in forest lands, including eucalyptus and subabul plantations, as well as other crops grown by farmers. Tummala stressed that increased use of technology in agriculture could significantly reduce costs and improve productivity. Satellite data can



also help assess soil health, water availability, and crop conditions, enabling better advisory services to farmers. Agriculture Secretary Surendra Mohan, senior officials, and university representatives attended the meeting.

# Heli Tourism to Somashila and Srisailem from April 9

Kollapur, April 04, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao has announced the launch of heli tourism services connecting Somashila and Srisailem, offering a unique aerial travel experience for tourists starting from April 9.

Addressing a press conference at his camp office in Kollapur, the minister said the initiative aims to promote tourism by providing visitors an opportunity to enjoy the scenic beauty of the Krishna River and the dense Nallamala forests from the sky. He described the project as a step towards introducing innovative tourism experiences in Telangana.

According to the plan, the helicopter service will operate from Hyderabad and pass through Somashila before reaching Srisailem. Tourists will first land at Somashila, where they can explore the serene surroundings and enjoy boating in the Krishna River. The location, known for its peaceful environment and nat-



ural beauty, is expected to attract nature lovers and pilgrims alike.

After spending time at Somashila, visitors will proceed to Srisailem, one of the most important pilgrimage destinations in South India. There, they can visit the famous Mallikarjuna Swamy Temple and offer prayers. The temple is a significant spiritual center and attracts thousands of devotees every year.

Following the temple visit,

tourists will return to Hyderabad, making it a convenient one-day tour package that combines spirituality, nature, and adventure. Officials stated that the services are being introduced in collaboration with private operators to ensure quality and efficiency.

The minister emphasized that heli tourism will not only enhance tourist experiences but also contribute to local economic development by generating employment opportunities for youth in nearby regions. He said improved tourism infrastructure will bring more visitors and boost small businesses.

Jupally Krishna Rao also revealed plans to expand heli tourism services to other prominent destinations such as Nagarjuna Sagar, Ramappa Temple, and Nizam Sagar in the future.

Reiterating the government's commitment, he said Telangana is being developed as a leading tourism hub with modern facilities and unique travel experiences for visitors.

# KTR Hails BRS Victory in Municipal Polls as 'Triumph of Democracy'

Hyderabad, April 04, 2026 | TPN Bureau

K. T. Rama Rao (KTR), Working President of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), expressed happiness over the party's victory in the municipal elections in Kyathanpalli of Mancherla district and Ibrahimpatnam of Ranga Reddy district, calling it a "triumph of democracy."

KTR said the people have strongly rejected what he described as the "undemocratic practices" of the Congress government and stood firmly in support of BRS. He termed the victory in both municipalities as a significant political development and congratulated the newly elected municipal chairpersons and vice-chairpersons.

He also extended special appreciation to party leaders who played a key role in securing the victory. Among them were Mancherla district president Balka Suman, Ranga Reddy district president Manchireddy Kishan Reddy, and youth



leader Manchireddy Prashanth Kumar (Banti). KTR praised the dedication and hard work of party cadres who worked tirelessly to ensure the win.

According to KTR, despite alleged attempts by the Congress party to influence the elections through inducements and pressure tactics, BRS councillors stood united and resisted all such efforts. He commended their courage and commit-

ment, stating that their determination played a crucial role in securing the victories.

He also acknowledged the support of alliance partner Communist Party of India (CPI) in the Kyathanpalli municipality, noting that their contribution was inspiring and instrumental in achieving the result.

Criticizing the ruling government, KTR said the election

results send a clear message that people in Telangana will not tolerate intimidation, corruption, or undemocratic governance. He claimed that within a short span of governance, the Congress party has already faced significant public dissatisfaction.

He further stated that the results of both panchayat and municipal elections indicate the beginning of a political shift in the state, adding that the countdown for the Congress government has begun in the public arena.

Reassuring party workers, KTR said BRS would always stand by its cadre and continue to protect their interests. He urged party members to take inspiration from these victories and move forward with renewed confidence.

KTR concluded by warning that the BRS would strongly oppose what he termed as destructive governance by the Congress government and would hold it accountable in the coming days



# Koushik Reddy Appears Before CID Over Incident

Hyderabad, April 05, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Padi Kaushik Reddy appeared before the Crime Investigation Department (CID) in connection with an ongoing probe into a recent incident that has drawn political attention in the state.

According to officials, Kaushik Reddy presented himself before the CID authorities as part of the investigation process and cooperated with the inquiry. The questioning reportedly focused on the sequence of events related to the incident and his alleged role.

Sources indicated that the CID has been collecting evidence and statements from multiple individuals associated with the case. As part of standard procedure, the agency is examining all angles to establish the facts and determine accountability.

Kaushik Reddy, speaking to the media after the inquiry, stated that he is fully cooperating with the investigation and has confidence in the legal process. He maintained that he has not committed any wrongdoing and expressed hope that the truth would come out

through a fair probe.

The case has gained political significance, with leaders from various parties reacting to the developments. While some have demanded strict action based on the findings of the investigation, others have alleged that the case is being politicized.

Officials, however, clarified that the investigation is being carried out strictly on legal grounds and without any bias. They emphasized that the CID will continue its inquiry based on evidence and due process.

Legal experts note that such appearances before investigative agencies are a routine part of the process and do not imply guilt. The outcome will depend on the findings of the investigation and subsequent legal proceedings.

Authorities have not disclosed further details, stating that the probe is still underway. More clarity on the case is expected in the coming days as the investigation progresses.

The CID reiterated its commitment to conducting a transparent and impartial inquiry, ensuring that justice is served in accordance with the law.

# HRDA Calls for Reforms in Medical Recruitment Process.

Hyderabad, April 05, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Hyderabad Resident Doctors Association (HRDA) has urged the government to introduce comprehensive reforms in the medical recruitment system, citing concerns over delays, transparency, and fairness in the existing process.

In a statement, HRDA representatives highlighted that the current recruitment procedures for doctors are often prolonged, leading to vacancies in hospitals and increased workload on existing medical staff. They emphasized that delays in appointments are directly affecting the efficiency of healthcare services, especially in government hospitals where patient inflow remains high.

The association pointed out that the lack of a structured and time-bound recruitment



calendar has created uncertainty among aspiring medical professionals. Many qualified candidates are left waiting for long periods without clarity on

job notifications, examinations, or appointment timelines.

HRDA members also raised concerns about transparency

in the recruitment process. They stressed the need for a more streamlined and accountable system that ensures merit-based selection without any ambiguity. According to them, adopting digital platforms and standardized procedures could significantly improve fairness and efficiency.

Another key issue highlighted by the association is the shortage of doctors in various departments, particularly in rural and underserved areas. HRDA stated that delays in recruitment only worsen the situation, putting additional pressure on the existing workforce and impacting patient care.

The association recommended that the government establish a fixed recruitment schedule, conduct regular notifications, and ensure timely completion of the selection process. They also suggested creating a centralized system

for managing medical recruitments to avoid inconsistencies.

HRDA further emphasized the importance of addressing grievances of candidates promptly. A transparent mechanism for resolving complaints would help build trust among aspiring doctors and ensure credibility in the system.

Medical professionals have welcomed the move, stating that timely recruitment and transparent processes are essential for strengthening the healthcare sector. They believe that reforms in this area will not only benefit doctors but also improve overall patient care and hospital functioning.

The HRDA concluded by urging the authorities to take immediate steps to reform the recruitment system and ensure that healthcare institutions are adequately staffed to meet growing public needs.

# GHMC Clarifies No Action Against Houses or Vacant Plots in Old ULC Layouts

Hyderabad, April 05, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has issued a clarification stating that no action will be taken against existing houses or vacant plots within old Unified Layout Committee (ULC) layouts. This statement aims to reassure residents amid concerns over possible demolition or removal operations.

GHMC officials explained that there is a common misunderstanding regarding proposed action in older ULC layouts, where several properties had been developed without formal approvals in past years. While authorities have been working on regularizing layouts and clearing encroach-

ments on public land, they emphasized that properties with legitimate rights will not be affected.

According to the clarification, the recent statements regarding enforcement measures were related only to unauthorized constructions on public pathways and reserved areas that interfere with civic infrastructure — not to existing private houses or empty plots within legally formed ULC layouts.

Officials highlighted that GHMC's priority remains to protect lawful ownership and ensure residents' rights are upheld. They said that neither houses nor plots that are properly recorded in official records will be targeted or disrupted.

The corporation also called on citizens not to panic or spread unverified information. Residents who have legitimate ownership documents and verified layouts can be assured of protection under existing rules. GHMC reiterated that awareness campaigns and public consultations will be conducted to clarify regulations and address any doubts.

Authorities also pointed out that steps taken to manage encroachments and preserve public land are aimed at improving civic services such as road widening, drainage work, and other infrastructure projects that benefit the broader community.

GHMC officials stated that any enforcement action will strictly follow due process and



relevant laws, with proper notices and opportunities for clarification provided to affected parties. The clarification is expected to bring relief to homeowners and plot holders who were anxious about potential action against their properties.

Residents and civic groups have welcomed the reassur-

ance, noting that clear communication from authorities helps reduce confusion and anxiety over urban development policies. Officials confirmed that GHMC will continue to work with residents and community representatives to ensure transparent implementation of urban planning and regularization procedures.

# BRSV Launches Intensified Agitation Over Musi River Project

Hyderabad, April 05, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The student wing of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRSV) has launched a large-scale agitation against the Musi River development project, beginning today, with an extensive public outreach campaign scheduled to continue until April 14.

The protest movement was officially flagged off at Telangana Bhavan by former minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav, who strongly criticized the government's approach towards the project and expressed concerns over its potential impact on people living along the riverbanks.

As part of the agitation, nearly 50 BRSV teams will tour various areas along the Musi River, directly engaging with residents. These teams will interact with local communities, explain the party's position, and raise awareness about what they describe as the negative consequences of the proposed project.

Addressing the gathering, Talasani Srinivas Yadav stated that the party is not opposed to



the beautification or development of the Musi River. However, he made it clear that any attempt to carry out demolition, displacement, or destruction in the name of develop-

ment would be strongly resisted.

He pointed out that many families living along the Musi riverbanks are currently in a state of fear and uncertainty,

unsure about their future due to the proposed plans. He criticized the government for allegedly failing to properly communicate with affected communities and for moving

forward without adequate consultation. The former minister further stated that having power does not give the government the right to act arbitrarily or ignore the concerns of the people. He emphasized that public welfare must be the top priority and that development projects should not come at the cost of people's livelihoods.

Talasani Srinivas Yadav said that BRSV teams will work at the grassroots level to inform citizens about the ground realities and mobilize support against what he termed as unjust actions. He added that the agitation would be intensified in the coming days with the support of the public. He also warned that the protest would continue until the government reconsiders its approach. If necessary, the party is prepared to organize massive demonstrations involving lakhs of people to oppose the project. The campaign is expected to gather momentum across Hyderabad as BRSV teams continue their outreach efforts along the Musi River, potentially turning the issue into a major political debate in the state.



# BRS Leader Condemns Attack on KCR Camp Office in Gajwel

Gajwel, April 04, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Senior leader of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) and Rajya Sabha MP Vaddiraju Ravichandra strongly condemned the alleged attack on the camp office of former Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao in Gajwel constituency.

In a statement, Ravichandra accused workers of the ruling Indian National Congress of carrying out the attack on the camp office, which also serves as the office of the sitting MLA. He termed the incident as a serious act of vandalism against government property.

He stated that an MLA camp office is considered a public asset, and any attack on such premises amounts to damage to government property. He alleged that the incident reflects a breakdown of law and order

and criticized the ruling party for allegedly encouraging such actions to divert public attention from unfulfilled election promises.

Ravichandra questioned how such an attack could take place in broad daylight in the presence of several people, raising concerns about the safety of common citizens. He further expressed disappointment over what he described as the inaction of police during the incident.

The BRS leader demanded immediate action against those responsible for the attack and called upon Shivadhar Reddy to ensure that the accused are identified, arrested, and punished as per law.

He emphasized that strict legal action is necessary to prevent such incidents in the future and to uphold the rule of law in the state.

# Srinivas Goud Condemns Attack on KCR Camp Office, Targets Congress

Hyderabad, April 04, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Former minister V. Srinivas Goud strongly condemned the alleged attack on the camp office of former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) in Gajwel, stating that such incidents reflect a growing trend of lawlessness under the ruling government.

Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan, Srinivas Goud criticized the Indian National Congress, alleging that its leaders and workers are increasingly indulging in violent and undemocratic activities. He described the attack not merely as an assault on KCR's office but as an attack on the sentiments of the people of Telangana.

He said KCR is not just an individual but a symbol of Telangana's identity and pride, and warned that any attempt to tar-

get him would not be tolerated by society. He demanded that the attack be treated as a serious offence, even suggesting it should be viewed as an attempt to cause harm, and called for strict legal action against those responsible.

Srinivas Goud pointed out that KCR, as Leader of the Opposition, holds constitutional rights and dignity, and questioned whether such respect is being upheld. He also remarked that KCR has the freedom to decide what to display in his office, dismissing criticisms over such issues.

Referring to past statements, he said even leaders across political lines had acknowledged KCR's role in the formation of Telangana. He questioned the current leadership, stating that without KCR's contribution, present political positions would not exist.

The former minister accused the ruling government of at-

tempting diversionary politics by creating unrest and shifting focus away from unfulfilled promises. He alleged that such incidents are being used to avoid public discussion on governance and welfare schemes.

He further warned that if opposition parties resorted to similar methods, the state could face serious instability. He urged the government to focus on development and maintaining law and order instead of encouraging confrontation.

Srinivas Goud also called upon senior Congress leaders, including ministers and the state party chief, to condemn the attack, stating that failure to do so would be seen as tacit approval.

He concluded by expressing concern over the deteriorating law and order situation in the state and urged the authorities to restore peace and uphold democratic values.



# Metuku Anand Condemns Attack on KCR Camp Office, Targets Congress

Hyderabad, April 04, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Metuku Anand, Vikarabad district president of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), has strongly condemned the alleged attack on the camp office of former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR), accusing Congress workers of carrying out the incident.

In a statement, Anand said Congress leaders in the state are behaving irresponsibly and questioned the need to attack a camp office and damage furniture. He described the incident as politically motivated and unacceptable.

He alleged that similar attacks had taken place earlier on the camp offices of BRS Working President K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) and former minister T. Harish Rao, suggesting a pattern of repeated incidents targeting BRS leaders.

Anand accused the ruling Indian National Congress government of encouraging such actions to divert public attention from its governance failures. He alleged that Chief

Minister A. Revanth Reddy is attempting to shift focus by bringing new issues into public discussion.

He further stated that creating unnecessary controversies and unrest is not in the interest of the state and reflects poor governance. Despite these developments, Anand asserted that the BRS party and the people of Telangana will not be intimidated.

Referring to the previous BRS government, he said no such incidents of attacks on opposition camp offices took place during their tenure, and accused the current government of misusing power and acting in an undemocratic manner.

He warned that the public is closely observing the actions of the ruling leadership and will respond at the appropriate time. Anand said the government should focus on governance and public welfare rather than political conflicts.

He concluded by urging the leadership to avoid divisive politics and work towards the development and welfare of the people.



# KCR Pays Tribute to Babu Jagjivan Ram on His Birth Anniversary

Hyderabad, April 05, 2026 | TPN Bureau

K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR), President of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), paid tributes to freedom fighter and former Deputy Prime Minister Babu Jagjivan Ram on the occasion of his birth anniversary.

In a press statement, KCR remembered the immense contributions of Babu Jagjivan Ram to the nation and said his life continues to inspire generations. He highlighted that Jagjivan Ram dedicated his life to the fight for social justice and strongly opposed caste discrimination.

KCR noted that Babu Jagjivan Ram played a significant role in India's governance after independence by serving in key positions at the national level. He held important portfolios such as Defence, Agriculture, and Labour as a Union Minister and contributed greatly to the country's development during the early years of self-governance.

The BRS chief emphasized that Jagjivan Ram's efforts towards the upliftment of marginalized communities, especially Dalits, remain a guiding force even today. He said the struggle against social inequal-

ity and untouchability led by Babujii holds great relevance in present times.

Referring to the decade-long BRS rule in Telangana, KCR stated that the government made significant efforts to ensure social justice for Dalit communities. He recalled that leadership opportunities were extended to Scheduled Caste representatives, including key positions such as Deputy Chief Minister, reflecting the party's commitment to inclusive governance.

KCR also mentioned that flagship initiatives like the Dalit Bandhu scheme were inspired by the ideals of Babu Jagjivan Ram. He said the scheme aims at empowering Dalit families economically and socially, in line with Babujii's vision of equality and dignity.

He further stated that true tribute to Babu Jagjivan Ram would be achieved only when Dalit and Bahujan communities receive justice in political, economic, and social spheres.

KCR concluded by reaffirming that the ideals and vision of Babu Jagjivan Ram will continue to guide policies aimed at achieving social justice and empowerment for all sections of society.

# Owaisi Alleges Centre Violating Religious Freedom

Hyderabad, April 05, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Asaduddin Owaisi, President of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimin (AIMIM), has accused the Central government of undermining religious freedom through its recent policies and actions.

Addressing the media, Owaisi alleged that certain decisions taken by the Centre are infringing upon the constitutional rights of minority communities. He stated that the right to practice and propagate religion is guaranteed under the Constitution, and any attempt to curtail these freedoms raises serious concerns.

Owaisi expressed apprehension that policies being implemented in the name of regulation are, in effect, targeting specific communities. He argued that such measures could create an atmosphere of fear and insecurity among minorities, which goes against the spirit of secularism enshrined in the Constitution.



strength lies in its diversity and pluralism, and any move that weakens these principles would harm the nation's social fabric. Emphasizing the need to protect democratic values, Owaisi called on the government to ensure that all communities are treated equally and fairly.

The AIMIM leader also questioned the intent behind certain administrative actions, alleging that they may be politically motivated. He urged the Centre to uphold constitutional safeguards and avoid policies that could be perceived as discriminatory.

Owaisi reiterated that safeguarding religious freedom is not just a legal obligation but also a moral responsibility of any democratic government. He called for greater transparency and dialogue to address concerns raised by various sections of society. The remarks come amid ongoing debates over policy decisions affecting

religious practices, with opposition leaders increasingly voicing criticism and seeking clarity from the government. Owaisi concluded by stating that his party would continue to raise its voice on issues concerning minority rights and ensure that constitutional principles are protected.

# Illegal Infiltration Allegations Stir Dundigal

Quthbullapur, April 04, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Tension gripped parts of Dundigal municipality in Quthbullapur after local leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) lodged a formal complaint with the police, alleging the presence of illegal infiltrators, including suspected Bangladeshi nationals and Rohingya Muslims, in the area.

According to BJP representatives, individuals without valid identification documents are reportedly residing in localities such as Gandhi Maisamma, Gagillapur, and Mallampet. The leaders claimed they had received credible information re-

garding the presence of such individuals, raising concerns over potential law and order issues.

Expressing apprehension about public safety, the BJP leaders urged the police to take immediate action by conducting special cordon and search operations in the identified areas. They demanded strict action against those found without proper documentation, stating that the situation has led to anxiety among local residents.

Police officials have acknowledged the complaint and are said to be reviewing the situation. Sources indicate that necessary steps will be taken based on preliminary findings,

though no official confirmation of illegal infiltration has been made so far.

The complaint was submitted in the presence of several BJP leaders, including municipal president Pisari Krishna Reddy, district general secretary Dundigal Vigneshwar Chary, district Kisan Morcha president Gona Malla Reddy, and other senior functionaries. A large number of party members and local leaders also participated, highlighting the seriousness with which the issue is being viewed by the party cadre.

Authorities are expected to intensify vigilance in the coming days to verify the claims and ensure that law and order is maintained in the region.



## Illegal LPG Refilling Racket Busted in Kompally

Quthbullapur, April 04, 2026 | TPN Bureau

An illegal LPG refilling racket operating from a grocery store in Kompally has been exposed by Civil Supplies officials under the jurisdiction of Pet Basheerabad police limits. The operation revealed unauthorized storage and refilling of domestic gas cylinders, which were allegedly being sold at higher-than-approved prices. Based on credible information, a special team from the Medchal Civil Supplies Department carried out a surprise inspection at Aruna Kirana Store in Kompally. The raid was led by Deputy Tahsildar B. Sripal, who uncovered large-scale illegal activities involving the transfer of LPG from domestic cylinders into smaller commercial cylinders.

During the inspection, officials seized a substantial quantity of gas cylinders and equipment used for refilling. The confiscated stock included six 14-kg domestic HP gas cylinders, four 5-kg Bharat Gas cylinders, twenty-two 5-kg HP gas



cylinders, and two 5-kg Indane gas cylinders. In addition, refilling devices and related tools used for the illegal operation were also taken into custody.

Officials stated that refilling domestic LPG cylinders for resale is a serious violation of law and poses significant safety risks, including fire hazards and potential explosions. Such unauthorized handling of gas cylinders in residential or commercial areas can endanger lives and property.

Authorities warned that strict action will be taken against individuals involved in such illegal practices. They also urged the public to remain

vigilant and report any suspicious activities related to gas storage or refilling in their neighborhoods. Considering the seriousness of the offence, the shop owner, identified as Omkar, was detained and handed over to the Pet Basheerabad Police Station. A case has been registered, and police have launched a detailed investigation to identify whether a larger network is involved. Officials from the Civil Supplies Department, along with revenue staff, participated in the raid, which is seen as part of ongoing efforts to curb black-market LPG trade and ensure public safety.

## Fake Cotton Seed Racket Busted on Medchal ORR

Quthbullapur, April 04, 2026 | TPN Bureau

A major fake cotton seed smuggling racket was uncovered by police on the Outer Ring Road near Medchal, with officials seizing a huge consignment being illegally transported from Kurnool to Maharashtra via Hyderabad.

Speaking at a press conference held at the DCP office in Pet Basheerabad, Quthbullapur Zone DCP Koti Reddy disclosed key details of the operation. The raid was jointly carried out by the Quthbullapur Special Operations Team (SOT) and Medchal Law and Order police. Based on credible information, police intercepted a Bolero vehicle on the Outer Ring Road near Medchal. During the inspection, officers found around 3,000 kilograms of fake cotton seeds being transported illegally.

Police revealed that the consignment was being moved from Kurnool and routed through Hyderabad to be supplied in Maharashtra. The seized seeds are estimated to be worth nearly 30 lakh, while the vehicle used in the transport is valued at about 8 lakh.

Two accused persons involved in the case have been ar-



rested, while the main supplier is currently absconding. Efforts are underway to trace and arrest the prime suspect behind the operation. DCP Koti Reddy warned that strict action would be taken against those involved in fake seed trade, as such activities directly cheat farmers and affect agricultural productivity. He advised farmers to purchase seeds only from authorized dealers and verify their authenticity before use. The operation was conducted with the participation of Additional DCP Purushottam Rao, SOT Additional DCP Vishwapras-



ad, Medchal ACP Shankar Reddy, CI Satyanarayana, SOT SI Rajesh, along with Agriculture Department officials including Assistant Director Venkat Ram Reddy and Agriculture Officer

Madhav Reddy. Police stated that further investigation is ongoing to identify the full network involved in the illegal supply chain and prevent such incidents in the future.



## Water Supply Restored in Shapur Nagar After 5 Months

Quthbullapur, April 04, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Residents of Shapur Nagar division finally received relief as a long-pending drinking water issue near SV Model School was resolved after nearly five months, following urgent intervention and repair works.

The problem, caused by a blocked pipeline, had severely affected daily life in the locality. Residents were forced to struggle for potable water and had repeatedly approached Water Works officials, but the issue remained unresolved for months.

The matter was later brought to the attention of BRS leader Puppala Bhaskar, who promptly responded and escalated the issue to the local MLA. Acting on the MLA's instructions, officials coordinated with the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) General Manager to initiate immediate repair works.

Following the directions, Water Works staff carried out repairs on the damaged pipeline and successfully cleared the

blockage. To ensure uninterrupted supply, the repaired line was also connected to an alternative pipeline system.

With the completion of the repair works, drinking water supply has now been fully restored in the affected area, bringing much-needed relief to residents who had been facing acute shortages for months.

Locals expressed their happiness over the resolution of the issue and thanked Puppala Bhaskar for his timely intervention and support in addressing their concerns.

Residents said the restoration of water supply has significantly improved their daily routine, as they no longer have to depend on water tankers or travel long distances to fetch water. Local representatives, including Narsing Goud and Tati Ravikummar, along with residents, were present during the restoration works and appreciated the efforts of the authorities. Officials assured that measures would be taken to prevent such issues in the future and to ensure a consistent and reliable water supply in the area.

# Methamphetamine Racket Busted in Chintal, Two Arrested

Quthbullapur, April 04, 2026 | TPN Bureau

In a major crackdown on drug trafficking, police have busted a methamphetamine racket near Chintal under the limits of Jeedimetla police station. Two accused persons were arrested, and a large quantity of banned narcotics was seized during the operation.

At a press conference held at the DCP office in Pet Basheerabad, Quthbullapur Zone DCP Koti Reddy shared details of the case. The operation was jointly conducted by the Quthbullapur Special Operations Team (SOT) and Jeedimetla Law and Order police.



Acting on credible intelligence, the SOT team maintained close surveillance in the Chintal area and carried out a

targeted raid, leading to the arrest of the two suspects involved in drug distribution. During the search, police re-

covered approximately 316 grams of methamphetamine, with an estimated market value of 63 lakh.

In addition to the narcotics, officers seized two weighing machines and two mobile phones believed to have been used in the illegal trade. Preliminary investigation revealed that the accused were supplying methamphetamine to various parts of the city.

Police confirmed that the arrested individuals are being produced before the court and will be remanded to judicial custody. Efforts are underway to identify and apprehend other members of the network.

DCP Koti Reddy issued a stern warning against drug-

related crimes, stating that strict action would be taken against anyone involved in the illegal transport or sale of narcotic substances. He also appealed to the public to cooperate with law enforcement agencies by reporting any suspicious activities.

The press meet was attended by Additional DCP Purushottam Rao, SOT Additional DCP Vishwaprasad, Quthbullapur ACP Bala Gangireddy, Jeedimetla CI Gaddam Mallesham, SOT SI Rammarayana, and other police personnel.

Officials reiterated their commitment to intensifying anti-drug operations to ensure safety and security in the city.

# GHMC Intensifies Encroachment Removal Drive Across City

Hyderabad, April 04, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has intensified its encroachment removal drive across several parts of the city as part of its ongoing efforts to ensure smooth traffic flow and protect public spaces.

GHMC Commissioner R. V. Karnan inspected the drive at Jambagh and Goshamahal on April 4, reviewing the operations and directing officials to carry out the drive in a systematic and effective manner.

During the inspection, the Commissioner stressed the need to remove unauthorized structures and roadside encroachments that obstruct traffic movement and create incon-

venience for pedestrians. He instructed officials to strictly follow rules while ensuring that the process is carried out smoothly.

The drive was also conducted in other areas including Atapur and Rikabgunj, where encroachments on roads and footpaths were cleared.

Officials said that removing encroachments is essential to improve traffic conditions, reduce congestion, and enhance road safety for the public. They added that such illegal structures often create bottlenecks and pose risks, especially in busy localities.

GHMC reiterated its commitment to maintaining encroachment-free roads and improving urban mobility across Hyderabad. Authorities also



stated that similar drives will continue in other parts of the

city in the coming days as part of ongoing efforts to ensure

better infrastructure and public convenience.

# Mahesh Kumar Goud Confident of Congress Surge in Adilabad

Adilabad, April 04, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president Mahesh Kumar Goud expressed strong confidence in the party's prospects during a District Congress Committee (DCC) executive meeting held at the district headquarters in Adilabad. Addressing party leaders and workers, Mahesh Kumar Goud said a strong "Congress wave" is building across the state and predicted that BJP MLAs such as Payal Shankar and T. Harish Rao would be swept away in the upcoming elections. He criticized the central government led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), stating that rural de-

velopment has been neglected despite its importance for national progress. He emphasized that the development of villages is the foundation for the country's growth and accused the Centre of ignoring this crucial aspect. Highlighting the performance of the state government, Mahesh Kumar Goud claimed that Telangana is witnessing remarkable development under the current administration, unmatched by any other state. He expressed confidence that in the upcoming elections, BJP candidates in the united Adilabad district would struggle to secure victories, as public support is increasingly shifting towards Congress. The TPCC chief also targeted the previous government, alleging ir-

regularities in the distribution of rice and claiming that coarse rice was misused for personal gains. In contrast, he said the current Congress government is ensuring that fine rice reaches poor households without diversion. He reiterated that the state government is implementing a wide range of welfare schemes benefiting all sections of society. According to him, these initiatives have strengthened public trust and are contributing to the growing support for Congress. Mahesh Kumar Goud concluded by asserting that the political momentum is clearly in favor of Congress and that opposition leaders would face significant challenges in the elections due to the changing public mood.



## Adilabad Congress Announces New District Executive Committee

Adilabad, April 04, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The District Congress Committee (DCC) in Adilabad announced its newly formed executive body during a meeting held at Panchavati Hotel in the district headquarters on Saturday. The meeting was chaired by Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president Mahesh Kumar Goud. On the occasion, Bhagunure Madhav Rao Patel from Ponn village in Sirikonda mandal was appointed as the DCC Vice-President. He was handed over the official appointment letter in the presence of senior party leaders. Additionally, Dr. Naresh Jadhav was appointed as the District Congress Committee President. Addressing the gathering, Mahesh Kumar Goud stated that the party is committed to strengthening its structure from the grassroots level by recognizing dedicated leaders and assigning them appropriate responsibilities. He urged party leaders to ensure that the welfare schemes implemented by the state government reach every eligible



beneficiary. He emphasized that organizational strengthening at the village level is crucial for the party's growth and future electoral success. The TPCC chief also called upon party workers to actively engage with the public and address their concerns. Speaking at the event, Dr. Naresh Jadhav said that the appointment of Bhagunure Madhav Rao Patel is a matter of pride for the party, noting his nearly 40 years of loyal service. He described Patel as a leader who remains closely connected

with the people and understands grassroots issues. Several senior leaders and party members attended the meeting, including former MP Soyam Bapurao, former MLA Rathod Bapurao, Both constituency Congress in-charge Ade Gajender, Adilabad in-charge Kandi Srinivas Reddy, and former DCC president Sajid Khan. Party leaders expressed confidence that the new executive committee would strengthen the Congress party in the district and work towards achieving organizational goals effectively.

## 'Police Akka' Initiative Promotes Safety Awareness Among Girls

Ichoda, April 04, 2026 | TPN Bureau

In a significant step towards ensuring the safety and well-being of schoolgirls, the Ichoda Police organized a "Police Akka" awareness program at Sri Saraswati Shishu Mandir School on Saturday. The initiative is part of a broader effort to educate young students about personal safety and empower them to respond effectively to inappropriate situations. The session was led by woman police constable Pooja, who explained in detail the concepts of "good touch" and "bad touch." She guided the students on how to recognize unsafe or uncomfortable behavior and encouraged them to trust their instincts. She also emphasized the importance of speaking up and reporting such incidents to parents, teachers, or the police without fear. Constable Pooja highlighted that awareness at an early age plays a crucial role in preventing abuse and building confidence among children. She explained various real-life scenarios to help students bet-



ter understand how to react in difficult situations and how to seek help immediately. The program also focused on raising awareness about child marriage and harassment, stressing the need for legal knowledge among students. She pointed out that both teachers and parents have a vital role in safeguarding children and ensuring that they grow up in a secure and supportive environment. Police officials stated that

the "Police Akka" program is being conducted across schools in the district under the guidance of the Adilabad Superintendent of Police. The objective is to create awareness, build trust between the police and the public, and ensure that children feel safe approaching authorities. Students actively participated in the session, asking questions and sharing their thoughts. The interactive nature of the program helped

them understand the subject in a clear and practical manner. The event was attended by police constable Rathod Aveen Kumar, headmaster Santosh Kumar, teachers Usharani, Sujatha, Shankar, Bharathi, Manjula, and several students. Officials reaffirmed that such initiatives will continue in the future to promote awareness, strengthen child protection measures, and create a safer environment for girls in schools and society.

## Hyderabad Weather Forecast and Prayer Timings for April 5, 2026

Hyderabad, 04 April 2026 | TPN Bureau

Hyderabad is expected to experience warm and partly cloudy weather on Sunday, April 5, 2026. The day will start with some morning haze, gradually giving way to clearer skies as the sun rises higher. Temperatures are expected to reach a maximum of around 36°C, while the minimum temperature in the early morning will be approximately 23°C. The relative humidity will remain moderate throughout the day, providing some relief from the dry heat typical of this pre-summer period. Rainfall is not expected, and overall conditions will be suitable for outdoor activities with proper precautions. The morning haze may slightly limit visibility during the early hours, but it is expected to clear as the day progresses. The partly cloudy skies will dominate, with occasional sunlight filtering through the clouds. Residents are advised to stay hydrated and wear light clothing to remain comfortable in the warm conditions. Afternoon hours will be particularly hot, so exposure to direct sunlight should be minimized. This weather is typical for Hyderabad in early April, signaling the gradual transition toward the hotter months. In addition to weather updates, the prayer timings for the city are important for many residents. The Fajar prayer will begin at 5:06 a.m., marking the start of the day

The Zohar prayer is scheduled for 12:29 p.m., providing a mid-day moment for reflection. The Asar prayer will be observed at 4:40 p.m., followed by Magrib at 6:35 p.m. The Isha prayer will take place at 7:44 p.m., marking the final major prayer of the day. Sunrise will occur at 6:07 a.m., and sunset is expected at 6:30 p.m. These timings follow standard astronomical calculations and help residents structure their day according to both religious and daily routines. Given the warm temperatures and partly cloudy skies, people planning outdoor activities should take precautions such as applying sunscreen, wearing hats or sunglasses, and drinking adequate water. The moderate humidity will provide some relief, but the heat during the afternoon can still be intense. Early morning and late evening are ideal times for exercise, walks, or outdoor errands. Overall, Hyderabad will experience a typical early summer day with pleasant morning conditions, increasing warmth through midday, and mild cooling in the evening. Residents should enjoy the day while remaining cautious about the heat, and following the prayer schedule can help maintain daily rhythm and spiritual routine. This forecast provides a complete picture of the weather and prayer timings for the day, enabling residents to plan their schedules effectively, stay safe in the heat, and observe religious practices without interruption.

## Congress Holds 'Sangathan Srujan Abhiyan' Meeting in Nirmal

Nirmal, April 04, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Congress party organized a grand meeting in Nirmal district as part of its "Sangathan Srujan Abhiyan" initiative, aimed at strengthening the party's organizational structure at the grassroots level. The event also featured the oath-taking ceremony of the District Congress Committee (DCC) executive members. The meeting was held under the leadership of District Congress Committee President and MLA Vedma Boju. Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud at-



tended the program as the chief guest. Addressing the gathering, Mahesh Kumar Goud emphasized the need to build a strong and active party structure from the village level to the district level. He stated that a well-

organized party is essential for effectively addressing public issues and ensuring the successful implementation of welfare programs. He urged party leaders and workers to stay connected with people and work diligently to deliver gov-

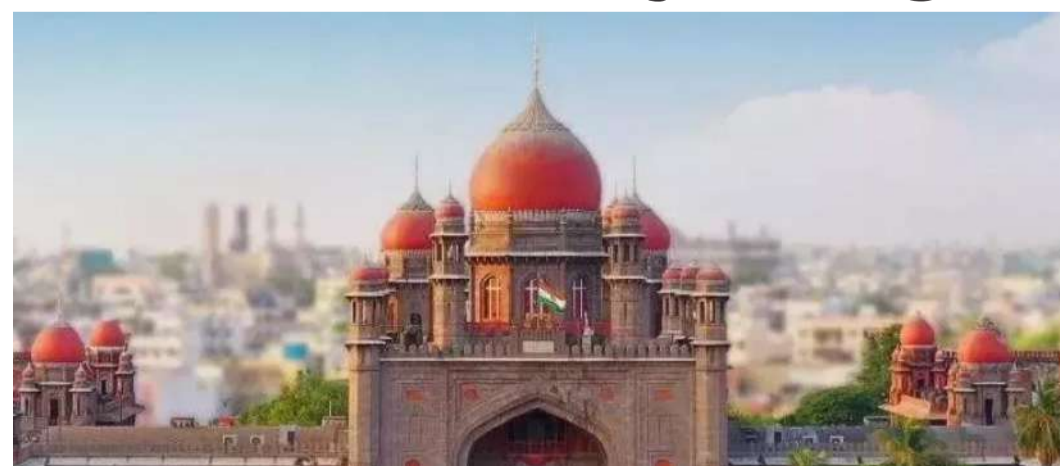
ernment schemes to every eligible beneficiary. As part of the program, Mahesh Kumar Goud administered the oath of office to the newly appointed DCC executive members. He encouraged them to carry out their responsibilities with dedication, discipline, and a strong commitment to public service. He also highlighted that the "Sangathan Srujan Abhiyan" is designed to identify capable leaders and strengthen the party by assigning them key roles. The meeting witnessed participation from several senior leaders, including AICC Secretary Sachin Sawant, former Union Minister Venu Gopal

Chary, and former Minister Indrakaran Reddy. Along with them, many local leaders, party workers, and supporters attended the event in large numbers. Speakers at the meeting expressed confidence that the newly formed DCC executive committee would play a vital role in strengthening the Congress party in Nirmal district. They stated that such initiatives would improve coordination within the party and enhance its outreach among the public. The program concluded with party leaders and workers pledging to work unitedly for organizational growth, public welfare, and the overall development of the region.

## High Court Takes Up Petition Over Alleged Wrongful Detention of Family During COVID 19

Hyderabad, April 5, 2026

The Telangana High Court has admitted a writ petition alleging the unlawful detention of an entire family, including an infant, by police during the COVID 19 lockdown period and has sought a response from the State government. Justice N. Tukaramji heard the petition filed by Palli Suman, who claimed that personnel of the Chennai Police Station in the erstwhile Adilabad district detained him and several of his family members in April 2020 in violation of legal safeguards and constitutional protections. According to the petitioner, Suman was held from April 16 to April 25, 2020, without being produced before a magistrate within the mandatory 24 hour period required under law. Other family members, including elderly parents, a sibling, a relative, and an eight month old infant, were also allegedly detained between April 16 and April 20 by



the same police officials. The petitioner further alleged that the detainees were coerced into admitting guilt in connection with a criminal case that had been registered against them. He argued that such actions, undertaken during the strict national lockdown imposed to control the spread of COVID 19, amounted to a breach of legal procedures and guidelines governing ar-

rest and detention. The writ plea claimed that fundamental rights were violated when the family was held without due process and proper judicial oversight. Seeking redress, Suman urged the High Court to order an independent inquiry into the conduct of the police officers involved in the alleged wrongful detention. He also requested that appropriate de-

partmental action be taken against those officials if the allegations are found to be substantiated. The High Court's decision to admit the petition marks an important stage in the legal scrutiny of alleged excesses during the pandemic period. The court has asked the State Government to respond to the petition and provide details of any action taken or contem-

plated regarding the allegations. The case highlights ongoing concerns about law enforcement procedures during emergency situations such as the COVID 19 lockdown, when normal checks and balances may be under strain. The court's involvement reflects the judiciary's role in upholding constitutional protections even in exceptional circumstances. As the matter moves forward, the High Court will examine the legal aspects of the detention, including whether proper procedures were followed and whether the rights of the detainees were upheld. A fair and impartial resolution may clarify standards for law enforcement conduct during public health emergencies in the future. This development underscores the importance of protecting citizens' rights during crises and reinforces accountability mechanisms for government officials tasked with enforcing law and order.



# 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. Hari Prasad, 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 Ramachandriah, 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-



dicion 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.

# 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'

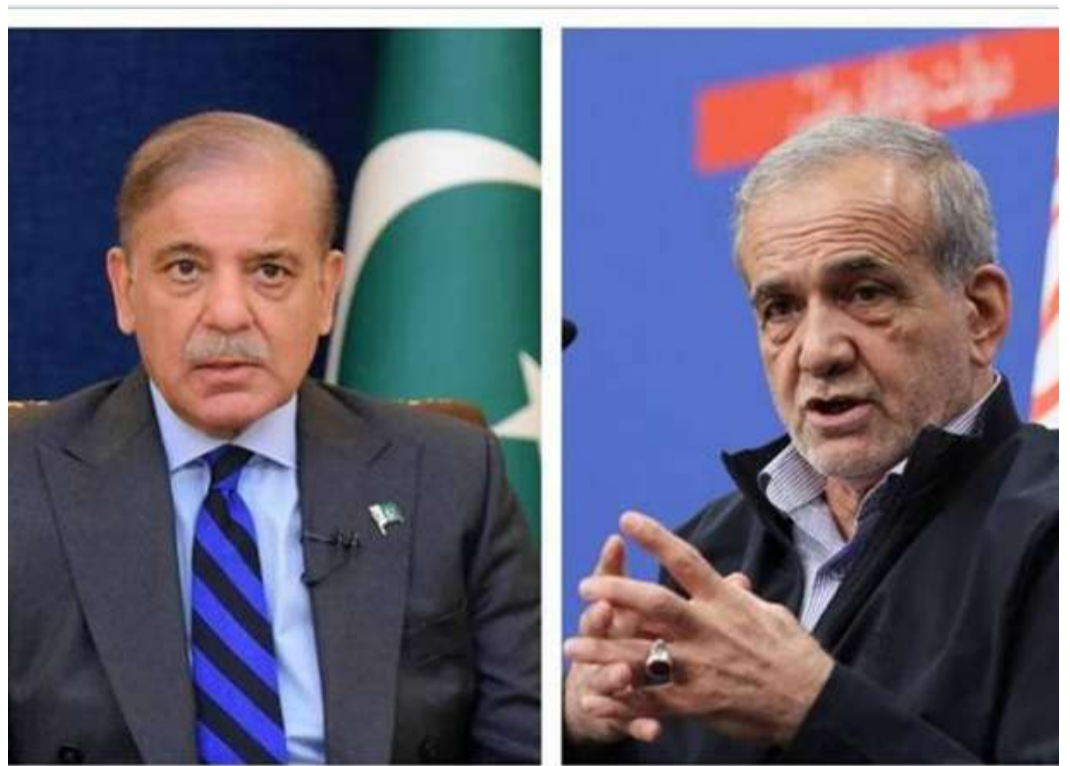
Iran is facing serious international criticism after rights groups reported that children as young as 12 are being recruited into military-linked roles amid the ongoing conflict in the region. The allegations, highlighted by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, have raised alarm over potential 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, infrastructure spending, and investment activity have continued to support growth momentum. However, sustained high energy prices could weaken consumption and increase costs for businesses, potentially slowing economic expansion. Rural demand could also face pressure if fuel and fertilizer prices rise further.

## 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.

## Key Business Events to Watch Next Week

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



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

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

**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

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

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



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

Same-store sales growth across players in the value retail segment remains positive, indicating steady demand despite macroeconomic uncertainties. This trend reflects strong consumer interest in affordable fashion and everyday essentials. However, maintaining this momentum will require consistent 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 organised and unorganised players may put pressure on pricing and profitability. Overall, the outlook for India's value retail sector remains positive, supported by expansion plans and strong consumer demand. However, long-term success will depend on execution, store productivity, merchandising strategies, and cost control. As the sector evolves, retailers that balance aggressive growth with operational excellence are likely to emerge as clear winners.

## 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

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.



**EAST VILLA**  
240 SQ.YDS

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 | VILLA #PREVIEW VIDEO | LOCATION - QR

**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 - <b>4115</b> Sq.Ft
204 Sq.Yards - <b>3411</b> Sq.Ft
164 Sq.Yards - <b>2513</b> Sq.Ft
171 Sq.Yards - <b>2700</b> 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