

BUZZ POINTS



Asha Bhosle Passes Away at 92, Nation Mourns End of a Musical Era

PAGE 08



RCB Outclass Mumbai Indians by 18 Runs in Wankhede Thriller

PAGE 11



DGP Warns of Strict Action Against Betting, Gambling

PAGE 02

BJP Leaders Hail Modi's Women's Reservation Bill as Historic Step for Empowerment

PAGE 02

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CPM Slams 400 Crore Property Tax Burden on Urban Residents in AP

Vijayawada, April 13 | TPN Bureau

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) has strongly criticized the coalition government in Andhra Pradesh, alleging that it has imposed an additional 400 crore burden on urban residents through increased property tax under the capital value-based taxation system.

Speaking at a press conference held at the CPM district office in Vijayawada, CPM State Secretariat member CH Babu Rao and State Committee member D. Kashinath accused the government of "breaking promises" made during elections regarding taxation reforms. They alleged that the ruling coalition had assured voters that it would review the property tax system and prevent annual hikes, but instead continued with increases similar to the previous YSRCP government.

Babu Rao claimed that property taxes in urban areas have risen by nearly 130% since 2020-21, with incremental hikes beginning at 15% and now reaching around 30%, and projected to go up to 45% in the coming years. He said the gov-



ernment's reliance on capital value-based assessment has resulted in continuous annual tax escalation, placing a heavy financial burden on middle-class families and home owners. He further alleged that while civic infrastructure in towns and cities remains underdeveloped, the government is focusing mainly on revenue generation through taxation. He pointed out issues such as irregular drinking water supply, poor road conditions, inadequate sanitation, and dysfunctional drainage systems in several urban areas.

The CPM leaders also criticized the penalty system linked to property tax payments, stating that residents who fail to pay taxes on time are charged 24% annual interest, while a 5% discount is offered for early payment, which they termed "unbalanced and exploitative." They argued that multiple additional charges, including water taxes, sewerage fees, and trade license fees, are further increasing the financial strain on urban households. The leaders claimed that approximately 1.5 crore urban residents and over 38 lakh property owners

are directly or indirectly affected by these tax hikes. Calling for a statewide movement, CPM urged civic associations and the public to oppose the capital value-based tax system and demand its withdrawal. The party also announced its support for upcoming protests related to housing and civic issues, including demonstrations scheduled at district collectorates. The CPM leaders said they would intensify their agitation against what they described as "anti-people taxation policies" ahead of upcoming municipal elections.



Chittoor MP Daggumalla Prasad Rao Welcomes Minister Nara Lokesh in Delhi

Chittoor (Delhi), April 12 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh received a warm welcome in New Delhi from Chittoor Member of Parliament Daggumalla Prasad Rao, along with a delegation of NDA alliance MPs, on Saturday.

Minister Nara Lokesh arrived in the national capital as part of a visit to express gratitude to President Droupadi Murmu for giving assent to the Andhra Pradesh Capital Amaravati-related bill, marking a significant development in the state's capital city framework.

Upon his arrival, MP Daggumalla Prasad Rao, along with other alliance MPs, extended a cordial reception to the minister. The leaders greeted Lokesh at the airport and accompanied him during the initial part of his Delhi visit.

Party leaders stated that the approval of the Amaravati bill is a crucial step forward for the development of Andhra Pradesh's capital region and reflects the Cen-

tre's continued support for the state's administrative and infrastructural progress.

They further noted that the delegation's visit to Delhi aims to convey formal thanks to the President and central leadership for their role in facilitating the legislative process related to Amaravati.

Minister Nara Lokesh is expected to hold meetings with key central ministers and senior officials during his stay in the capital, focusing on pending developmental projects, education reforms, and IT sector investments in Andhra Pradesh.

TDP and alliance leaders described the approval as a "historic moment" for the state and expressed confidence that Amaravati will soon emerge as a strong administrative and economic hub.

The warm reception in Delhi highlighted the coordination within the ruling alliance and its efforts to strengthen ties with the central government for accelerating Andhra Pradesh's development agenda.

Naidu Pushes Fast-Track Amaravati Development

Amaravati, April 12 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has intensified efforts to fast-track the development of Amaravati as the state capital, aiming to transform it into a world-class city with an estimated asset value of 1 lakh crore. The government is focusing on accelerating pending infrastructure works while attracting fresh investments to boost economic growth. During a high-level review meeting with officials, the Chief Minister emphasized the importance of completing key capital city projects within strict timelines. He directed departments to ensure coordination and avoid delays in execution. Priority is being given to core infrastructure such as roads, government buildings, drainage systems, and residential complexes.

Naidu highlighted that Amaravati is not just an administrative hub but a symbol of Andhra Pradesh's aspirations. He stressed the need to create a sustainable and modern urban ecosystem that can generate employment opportunities and attract global investors. Officials were instructed to adopt innova-

tive construction practices and ensure transparency in project implementation.

The Chief Minister also reviewed financial strategies to mobilize resources for the capital development. He discussed leveraging land assets, public-private partnerships, and institutional funding to meet the massive investment requirements. The goal is to build long-term economic value while minimizing the burden on the state exchequer.

In addition, the government is planning to enhance connectivity and urban amenities to make Amaravati more livable and investor-friendly. Special focus is being placed on green spaces, digital infrastructure, and efficient public services.

Naidu reiterated that the development of Amaravati would play a crucial role in driving the overall growth of Andhra Pradesh. He called upon officials to work with commitment and accountability to realize the vision of a vibrant and self-sustaining capital city. With renewed momentum, the state government is pushing ahead to position Amaravati as a major economic and administrative center in the coming years.

CM Chandrababu Meets Godavari River Management Board Chairman

Amaravati, 12 April 2026 | TPN Bureau:

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu held a courtesy meeting with P. Dorje Gyamba, Chairman of the Godavari River Management Board, at the CM Camp Office on Sunday. The meeting focused on water conservation strategies, efficient water management practices, and inter-state river issues. During the discussion, the Chief Minister explained various initiatives undertaken by the state government to strengthen water resource management. He highlighted the use of advanced technology through the AWARE (Andhra Pradesh Water Resources Information & Management System) platform, which enables real-time monitoring and recording of water resources across river basins in the state. This system is helping authorities make informed decisions regarding irrigation, flood control, and water distribution. Naidu also elaborated on the state's efforts to optimally utilize floodwaters and prevent wastage by channeling surplus water to drought-prone regions. He discussed the government's long-term vision of river interlinking projects aimed at ensuring water security and balanced regional development. These initiatives, he noted, are crucial for sustaining agriculture



and supporting the livelihoods of farmers.

A key issue discussed during the meeting was the Pedda Vagu project located on the border of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, in Bhadradi Kothagudem district. The Chief Minister pointed out that during the previous monsoon season, the project bund was breached due to heavy flooding, causing widespread damage and hardship to people in both states. He emphasized the need for coordinated efforts between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana to strengthen the

project structure and prevent future disasters. Naidu assured that the state government is ready to work collaboratively with Telangana authorities to reinforce the bund and implement necessary safety measures.

The meeting underscored the importance of inter-state cooperation in managing shared water resources and addressing flood-related challenges. Both sides acknowledged the need for sustainable and technology-driven approaches to water management in the Godavari basin.

Jyothi Surekha Vennam Clinches 12th World Cup Gold as India Makes Archery History

Vijayawada, April 12 | TPN Bureau

India created a historic moment in international archery as star compound archer Jyothi Surekha Vennam secured her 12th World Cup gold medal, reinforcing her status as one of the most successful athletes in the sport's global circuit. The landmark achievement came in the Compound Women's Team final, where the Indian trio comprising Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Pragati, and Madhura delivered a sensational performance to edge past the United States with a narrow 233-232 victory. The closely contested match kept fans on edge until the final arrows, showcasing the high level of competition between the two teams. India's archers displayed exceptional accuracy, consistency, and composure under pressure throughout the final. Each round saw both teams matching each other shot for shot, but the Indian team maintained its nerve in the crucial moments to clinch the gold medal. This victory also marks a significant milestone for India in compound archery, as the country achieved its highest-ever gold medal tally in the Archery World Cup series. The win further strengthens India's growing reputation as a dominant force in international compound archery events.



Jyothi Surekha Vennam's 12th World Cup gold is a testament to her remarkable consistency and long-standing excellence at the elite level. Over the years, she has emerged as a key figure in Indian archery, known for her precision, calmness under pressure, and ability to deliver in high-stakes finals. Her latest achievement adds another chapter to her illustrious career and continues to inspire young archers across the country. Sports experts have praised her dedication and contribution to India's rise in global archery rankings.

The victory is expected to boost confidence within the Indian archery contingent as they prepare for upcoming international tournaments, including major championship events and qualification rounds for future global competitions. With this triumph, India has not only added another prestigious gold medal to its tally but also reaffirmed its growing dominance in the compound archery discipline on the world stage.

Amaravati to Host India's First Quantum Test Beds on World Quantum Day

Vijayawada, April 13 | TPN Bureau

In a major technological breakthrough, Andhra Pradesh is set to achieve a historic milestone with the launch of India's first quantum computing test beds on April 14, marking World Quantum Day. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu will inaugurate two advanced quantum test systems "1S" and "1Q" at SRM University in the Amaravati capital region and Medha Towers in Gannavaram, respectively.

The event is expected to witness participation from leading scientists, IIT professors, repre-

sentatives of the National Quantum Mission, startup founders, and research scholars. In a significant outreach effort, arrangements have been made for over 1.5 lakh students across the state to attend the event virtually, reflecting the government's focus on promoting scientific awareness among youth.

This initiative is part of the ambitious Amaravati Quantum Valley programme, positioning Andhra Pradesh as the first state in India to establish a dedicated quantum testing and certification ecosystem. The facilities are expected to play a crucial role in advancing In-

dia's capabilities in quantum technologies while placing Amaravati on the global innovation map.

The two test beds have been developed using indigenous technology. The "1Q" system, set up by Qubitech at Medha Towers, and the "1S" system at SRM University use superconducting technology to enable high-precision testing of quantum hardware. These systems operate at extremely low temperatures close to minus 273°C, which are essential for conducting sensitive quantum experiments.

A key highlight is the open-access research facility at SRM

University, which will allow students, researchers, startups, and industry players to experiment, validate, and develop next-generation quantum solutions. The project has received technical support from premier institutions such as the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Indian Institute of Science, and Defence Research and Development Organisation.

The initiative underscores India's commitment to self-reliance in deep-tech innovation and is expected to boost research, foster collaboration, and drive the growth of a robust quantum ecosystem in the country.



BJP Leaders Hail Modi's Women's Reservation Bill as Historic Step for Empowerment

Vijayawada, April 12 | TPN Bureau

At a press conference organized by the BJP Mahila Morcha, leaders from BJP, TDP, and Janasena strongly praised the Central Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for introducing the Women's Reservation Bill, describing it as a historic step toward women's empowerment and political equality.

BJP district president Samanchi Srinivas, former TDP MLA Mannuru Sugunamma, and Janasena state spokesperson Keerthana jointly addressed the media, stating that the Modi government is actively working to eliminate gender inequality and ensure greater representation for women in political and public life.

The leaders said that the "Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam" is not just a legislation but a transformative initiative that fulfills the long-standing aspiration of Indian women for political participation. They emphasized that the bill provides 33 percent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies, which they termed a landmark reform in



India's democratic history.

They alleged that previous governments only made promises regarding women's reservation but failed to implement them, while the Modi government has taken concrete steps to turn it into reality. Accord-

ing to them, the bill will significantly increase women's participation in governance and bring qualitative improvements in decision-making processes.

The leaders highlighted that women currently hold only a

limited share in Parliament, and the new legislation aims to correct this imbalance by ensuring structured representation. They added that the reform would allow women from rural and ordinary backgrounds to enter politics and

play leadership roles.

They also noted that the reservation framework includes provisions for SC and ST women and is expected to be implemented in a phased manner after delimitation and census-related processes, with a timeline targeting the 2029 elections. Alongside political empowerment, the leaders also praised various central government welfare schemes such as Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Ujjwala Yojana, and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, claiming that these initiatives have significantly improved women's health, safety, and economic independence across the country. They stated that over the past decade, millions of women have benefited from LPG connections, housing schemes, and financial inclusion programs, enabling them to become self-reliant and active contributors to the economy.

The leaders concluded that empowering women politically, socially, and economically is essential for achieving the vision of a "Viksit Bharat," and urged all stakeholders to support the Women's Reservation Bill as a historic step toward national development and gender equality.



DGP Warns of Strict Action Against Betting, Gambling

AMARAVATI | APRIL 12, 2026 | TPN BUREAU

State Director General of Police Harish Kumar Gupta has issued a strong warning against all forms of betting and gambling activities, stating that such practices—especially those operating under the guise of online gaming—are strictly prohibited.

Reviewing enforcement measures during the ongoing Indian Premier League season, the DGP held a comprehensive meeting with district Superintendents of Police on Sunday. He directed officials to adopt a zero-tolerance approach and intensify crackdowns on illegal cricket betting and gambling networks across the state.

Police teams have already stepped up raids targeting betting syndicates. Clubs and other venues facilitating gambling have been shut down, while illegal betting centers are being identified and dismantled. Authorities are also working to block online betting websites and mobile applications in coordination with relevant agencies.

The DGP emphasized that

bookmakers, agents, and participants involved in betting are being treated under organized crime provisions, with cases registered under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Bank accounts linked to betting transactions are being identified and frozen as part of the crackdown.

He further instructed officials to initiate preventive detention and externment proceedings against repeat offenders. Properties acquired through illegal betting activities will also be traced and attached as per law.

Special enforcement drives are underway statewide, with inspections at lodges, hotels, and public places. Continuous surveillance on social media and online platforms is being maintained. Awareness campaigns are also being conducted, particularly targeting youth, to highlight the legal consequences and harmful effects of betting.

The DGP urged the public to stay away from such activities and report any instances to the nearest police station, warning of strict and uncompromising action against violators.

Pawan Kalyan Pays Tribute to Asha Bhosle

Amaravati, April 12 | TPN Bureau

Pawan Kalyan expressed deep grief over the demise of legendary playback singer Asha Bhosle, describing her as a timeless icon of Indian music.

In a condolence message released on Sunday, Pawan Kalyan said that the passing of Asha Bhosle was a great loss to the music world. He stated that her remarkable contribution to Indian cinema over several decades had left an everlasting impact on generations of music lovers. He conveyed his heartfelt condolences to her family and admirers, and prayed for her soul to rest in peace.

Praising her illustrious career, he noted that Asha Bhosle's musical journey spanned more than eight decades, during which she rendered thousands of songs in multiple languages. He highlighted her exceptional versatility, stating that she effortlessly blended

classical, folk, and modern musical styles, earning admiration across the globe.

Pawan Kalyan also mentioned that although her songs in Telugu cinema were limited, her popularity among Telugu audiences remained immense due to her vast body of work in other Indian languages. He recalled that her melodious voice and unique singing style made her one of the most celebrated artists in the history of Indian music.

Describing her demise as an irreplaceable loss, he said that her legacy would continue to inspire aspiring singers and entertain audiences for generations to come. He added that her timeless songs would forever remain etched in the hearts of millions.

Asha Bhosle's passing has drawn tributes from leaders, artists, and fans across the country, all remembering her as a legendary voice who shaped the golden era of Indian music.

Asha Bhosle's Demise an Irreparable Loss to Music World: Minister Kandula Durgesh

Amaravati, April 12, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh expressed profound grief and shock over the demise of legendary playback singer Asha Bhosle, stating that her passing marks an irreparable loss to the music world.

In a statement issued on Sunday, the Minister described Asha Bhosle as an iconic figure in Indian cinema whose remarkable journey as a singer will remain etched in history forever. He said that her contribution to the Indian film industry spans several decades, during which she mesmerized audiences with her versatile voice and unmatched talent. Her ability to effortlessly blend classical and modern styles made her one of the most celebrated and respected artists in the country.

Highlighting her extraordinary achievements, the Minister noted that Asha Bhosle earned numerous prestigious awards and accolades at both national and international levels. Her songs, rendered in multiple languages and across diverse genres, continue to inspire generations of music lovers and aspiring artists alike.

He further stated that her dedication and passion for music set a benchmark in the industry.

The Minister also mentioned that although Asha Bhosle sang relatively few songs in Telugu, each of them remains memorable and holds a special place among Telugu audiences. Her voice, he said, carried a unique charm that resonated deeply with listeners, transcending linguistic and cultural boundaries.

"Asha Bhosle garu's demise is a great loss to the music fraternity. Her legacy, however, will live on through her timeless melodies that continue to echo in the hearts of millions," Kandula Durgesh said. He added that her life and work would remain a source of inspiration for future generations.

Expressing his condolences, the Minister prayed for the departed soul to rest in peace and extended his heartfelt sympathies to her family members, friends, and admirers across the globe. He stated that the void created by her passing can never truly be filled.

The statement was issued by the PRO, Department of Tourism, Culture, and Cinematography, Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Governor Abdul Nazeer Condoles Demise of Asha Bhosle

Vijayawada, April 12 | TPN Bureau

Governor of Andhra Pradesh S Abdul Nazeer expressed profound grief and sadness over the demise of legendary playback singer Asha Bhosle, who passed away in Mumbai on Sunday.

In his condolence message, the Governor recalled Asha Bhosle's unparalleled contribution to Indian music, stating that she mesmerized generations of listeners with her timeless voice for nearly eight decades. He noted that she earned global recognition as the "Queen of Versatility" for her unique ability to blend classical melodies with modern



musical styles, creating an extraordinary legacy in the film industry.

The Governor also highlighted that Asha Bhosle holds a place in the Guinness World Records as one of the most recorded artists in music history, a testament to her prolific and enduring career. Her songs, spanning multiple languages

and genres, continue to inspire both audiences and aspiring musicians across the world.

Describing her passing as an irreparable loss to the music fraternity and the nation, the Governor said that her melodious voice would remain immortal in the hearts of millions. He further stated that her remarkable journey and artistic excellence would serve as a guiding light for future generations.

Sri Abdul Nazeer conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family members, friends, and countless admirers of the iconic singer. He prayed for the departed soul to rest in peace and for the family to find strength during this time of grief.

AP Govt Urges Public Cooperation for 2027 Census

Amaravati, April 12, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh government has called upon citizens to extend full cooperation for the upcoming national census scheduled to be conducted in 2027, stressing that public participation is vital for the successful completion of the exercise. As per official plans, the census will be carried out in multiple phases. The first phase, which includes house listing and housing census activities, is expected to take place between April and September this year. Prior to this, citizens will be given an opportunity to complete self-enumeration within a specified period, enabling smoother and more

accurate data collection. The government, in line with directions issued by the Centre, has outlined the responsibilities of citizens under the Census Act, 1948. It has clearly stated that every individual must cooperate with census officials and provide correct and complete information when approached. Enumerators are authorized to ask relevant questions, and residents are expected to respond truthfully. Authorities have also warned that non-cooperation or providing false information may lead to legal action. As per the law, those who fail to comply with census procedures could face penalties, including fines and other punitive measures. The govern-

ment assured that all personal information collected during the census process will remain strictly confidential and will be used only for statistical and administrative purposes. This assurance aims to build trust among citizens and encourage them to share accurate details without hesitation. Residents have also been advised not to tamper with house markings or identification numbers placed by census officials, as such actions are considered violations of the law. Officials emphasized that assisting enumerators and correctly filling out census forms is not only a legal obligation but also a civic responsibility.

Minister BC Janardhan Reddy Invited to Kovelakuntla Brahmotsavams

Banaganapalle, April 12, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Temple committee members of Sri Panduranga Vittaleswara Swamy Temple at Kovelakuntla in Banaganapalle constituency formally invited Andhra Pradesh Minister BC Janardhan Reddy to attend the upcoming grand Brahmotsavams.

The temple, dedicated to Sri Devi and Bhudevi along with Lord Panduranga Vittaleswara Swamy, is set to host the annual Brahmotsavams celebrations with great religious fervor and devotion. The festival will commence on April 24 and continue until May 7, attracting a large number of devotees from across the region.

As part of the Brahmotsa-

vams, key rituals and traditional events including the Kalyanotsavam (celestial wedding ceremony) and Rathotsavam (chariot festival) will be conducted in a grand manner. The temple authorities stated that elaborate arrangements are being made to ensure smooth conduct of the festivities and to provide all necessary facilities for devotees.

During the invitation, the temple committee briefed the Minister about the schedule of events and the significance of the Brahmotsavams. They expressed hope that his presence would add spiritual significance and encouragement to the celebrations.

Minister BC Janardhan Red-

dy appreciated the efforts of the temple committee in organizing the festival on a large scale and assured his support for the successful conduct of the event. He also conveyed his best wishes to the organizers and devotees participating in the auspicious occasion.

The Brahmotsavams are considered one of the most important annual religious events in the region, symbolizing devotion, tradition, and community participation. Devotees are expected to take part in large numbers, seeking the blessings of Lord Panduranga Vittaleswara Swamy during the sacred festivities.



Minister BC Janardhan Reddy Receives Public Grievances in Banaganapalle

Banaganapalle, April 12, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Minister for Roads & Buildings, Investments, and Infrastructure BC Janardhan Reddy received several petitions from the public at his camp office in Banaganapalle on Sunday and directed officials to resolve issues at the earliest. The grievance redressal program was conducted from afternoon till evening, during which people from various sections of society approached the Minister with their concerns and requests. The Minister personally interacted with the petitioners and assured them that their issues would be addressed promptly. Speaking on the occasion, BC Janardhan Reddy emphasized that the government is committed to delivering welfare-oriented governance along with development. He stated that taking governance to the grassroots and ensuring timely resolution of public grievances is a key objective of the coalition government.

The Minister assured the applicants that all genuine issues would be taken up with the concerned departments and resolved swiftly. In several cases, he immediately contacted officials over the phone and issued

directions for on-the-spot resolution of problems. His proactive approach and responsiveness brought relief and satisfaction among the petitioners. A large number of people from across the district, including representatives from various communities, coalition leaders, and party workers, attended the program. Many expressed appreciation for the Minister's accessibility and prompt response to their issues. Officials from different departments were also present during the program to facilitate quick processing of petitions and ensure proper follow-up. The initiative reflects the government's focus on transparent and people-centric administration.

The event witnessed active participation and coordination, highlighting the importance of direct interaction between public representatives and citizens. Such grievance redressal programs are expected to strengthen public trust in governance and ensure that people's concerns are effectively addressed.

The statement was issued by the Department of Roads & Buildings, Investments, and Infrastructure, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Amaravati.

Women's Reservation Bill a Historic Milestone: MLA Prasanthi Reddy

NELLORE | APRIL 13, 2026 | TPN BUREAU

Kovur MLA Vemireddy Prasanthi Reddy described the proposed Women's Reservation Bill as a historic milestone in India's democratic journey, lauding the NDA government's decision to introduce the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam in Parliament.

Addressing a press conference in Nellore, she expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, and alliance partners for prioritizing women's representation in legislatures. She said the move to provide 33 percent reservation for women would strengthen governance and accelerate national development.

Recalling past reforms, she noted that N. T. Rama Rao had pioneered property rights for women, while Chandrababu Naidu further promoted women's economic empowerment. She emphasized that reservations in local bodies, jobs, and education have already enabled women to excel across sectors.

The MLA highlighted that women representatives in local institutions have demonstrated strong administrative capabilities and effective problem-solving skills. She said increasing their presence in legislative bodies would ensure quicker resolution of grassroots issues, particularly for marginalized communities.

Prasanthi Reddy urged women to rise beyond being voters and emerge as leaders shaping the nation's future, calling the bill a transformative step toward inclusive growth.



Deputy Mayor Slams YSRCP, Dares MLC to Prove Charges

NELLORE | APRIL 13, 2026 | TPN BUREAU

Nellore Deputy Mayor Roop Kumar Yadav launched a sharp attack on YSRCP leaders, accusing them of obstructing development and making baseless allegations against the ruling alliance.

Addressing a press conference in the city, he criticized MLC Chandrashekar Reddy for his remarks on plantation works, saying his "15-day study yielded nothing significant." He alleged that while the government is focusing on development, the opposition is attempting to create hurdles with "irresponsible statements."

Defending Minister P. Narayana, Yadav said the ongoing plantation drive of 50,000 saplings in Nellore aims to promote greenery and improve public health. He clarified that nearly 14,900 saplings are being planted in the first phase along 409 km of roads at a cost of 8.2 crore, with no funds drawn from the municipal corporation.



He refuted allegations that 12,000 was spent per sapling, stating the actual cost is significantly lower, including planting and maintenance. He challenged the MLC to prove corruption charges, offering to resign from his post and quit politics if proven.

Yadav also questioned claims about large-scale nominated works and warned against "cheap political allegations," asserting readiness for a public debate on development anytime.

Krishna Balija State Conference Held Grandly

Ongole, April 12 | TPN Bureau: The 14th State Conference of the Andhra Pradesh Krishna Balija Association was held in a grand manner in Ongole on Sunday.

Chirala MLA Maddururi Malakondayya attended the event as the chief guest. Addressing the gathering, the MLA emphasized that unity within the Krishna Balija community is essential for achieving political and economic empowerment. He stated that educated youth are the backbone of society and called upon the association to focus on youth empowerment as a key objective.



Malakondayya urged leaders to take proactive steps in creating more opportunities for youth in education and employment sectors. He also highlighted the responsibility of association leaders to ensure that government welfare schemes reach every eligible Krishna Balija family.

He further advised the association to act as a bridge between the government and the

people by understanding public issues and working towards social development.

The conference witnessed participation from Krishna Balija Association State Honorary President Battula Venkateswarlu, State President Tirluka Vasu, and several state and district-level leaders, along with members of the community.



Allegations Against Alliance Govt Will Not Be Tolerated: MP Kaliseti

Vizianagaram, April 13 |

TPN Bureau: Political tensions escalated in Vizianagaram as leaders of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) strongly countered allegations made against the alliance government. Flex banners highlighting past statements of opposition leaders were installed at the party office, drawing significant public and political attention.

The banners prominently displayed earlier remarks and allegations made by former ministers Botsa Satyanarayana and Dharmana Prasada Rao against Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. In addition to the flex displays, video clips of their past comments were screened, reinforcing the party's narrative against the opposition.

Vizianagaram Member of Parliament Kaliseti Appala Naidu, along with MLA Aditi Vijayalakshmi Gajapathi Raju, visited the TDP office and reviewed the banners and video presentations alongside party cadres. They interacted with workers and discussed the current political developments in the state.

Addressing the media, MP Kaliseti issued a stern warning, stating that any allegations against the alliance government and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu would not be tolerated. He accused opposition leaders of making baseless statements merely to safeguard their political existence. He further alleged that the opposition is attempting to mislead the public by ignoring its own past remarks and contradictions. By showcasing previous statements made by their leaders, the TDP aimed to expose what it termed as "double standards" in opposition politics.

MLA Aditi Vijayalakshmi Gajapathi Raju echoed similar views, stating that the alliance government remains committed to development and welfare. She emphasized that any attempts to create confusion among the public would be firmly countered and urged opposition leaders to engage in constructive politics.

The event witnessed active participation from TDP leaders and party workers, further intensifying the ongoing political war of words in Andhra Pradesh. The BJP would launch extensive awareness campaigns across Andhra Pradesh to popularise the legislation among the public. As part of this initiative, large public meetings, women's rallies, and scooter processions will be organised in key cities such as Visakhapatnam, Rajahmundry, Vijayawada, and Pradesh.

Jagan's Politics Worse Than Terrorism: Nimmala

Amaravati, 12 April 2026 | TPN Bureau:

Andhra Pradesh Minister Nimmala Rama Naidu launched a sharp attack on Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, alleging that his style of politics reflects "madness worse than terrorism."

Speaking to the media, the minister criticized what he described as provocative and violent rhetoric from Jagan, claiming statements like "we will kill, we will attack, we will finish opponents" are being used in political discourse. He said such language is dangerous and harmful to democratic values.



Nimmala further alleged that Jagan has been making

statements about demolishing existing systems and halting development works if brought back to power. He questioned the pattern of incidents related to high-profile cases, referring to the Paritala Ravi murder and the killing of Y. S. Vivekananda Reddy, raising concerns about witness safety.

He also mentioned the Vangaveeti Ranga murder case, questioning the whereabouts of key individuals connected to it. The minister accused the opposition of failing to ensure justice and accountability in such matters.

In a strong remark, Nimmala alleged that promoting drugs among youth has become a "policy," and warned that such practices would damage the future of the state. He called on the public to reject what he termed as "violent politics" and ensure that such forces are permanently removed from Andhra Pradesh's political landscape.

The comments have intensified the political heat in the state, with sharp exchanges expected between ruling and opposition parties in the coming days.

BJP Hails Women's Reservation Bill, Slams Kharge Remarks

Vijayawada, April 12 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh BJP president P. V. N. Madhav on Sunday described the passage of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam as a historic milestone in India's parliamentary democracy. Addressing a press conference, he said the landmark legislation received overwhelming support in both Houses of Parliament under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with only a negligible number of members opposing it. Madhav stated that the bill reflects the Centre's commitment to empowering women by ensuring greater representation in legislative bodies. He added that the BJP would launch extensive awareness campaigns across Andhra Pradesh to popularise the legislation among the public. As part of this initiative, large public meetings, women's rallies, and scooter processions will be organised in key cities such as Visakhapatnam, Rajahmundry, Vijayawada, and Pradesh.



He further said that signature campaigns and missed-call initiatives have already been rolled out to mobilise support from all sections of society, including men. Madhav emphasized that the party would also coordinate with its allies, including the Telugu Desam Party, to expand outreach efforts. The BJP leader expressed confidence that the reservation for women would

be fully implemented by the 2029 general elections after the completion of the census and delimitation processes. He noted that necessary amendments related to the implementation would be taken up during the upcoming special sessions of Parliament scheduled from April 16 to April 18. Launching a sharp attack on Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Madhav termed his recent remarks as "dangerous" and alleged that they could incite violence and disturb communal harmony. He criticized Kharge for comparing BJP and RSS members to snakes and said such statements pose a threat to democratic values.

Madhav demanded an unconditional public apology from Kharge and also sought responses from senior Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi on the issue.

Several BJP leaders, including Saligrama Lakshmi Prasanna, Nishida Raju, and Boddunagalakshmi, were present at the press conference.

Lokesh Pays Tribute to Asha Bhosle

Amaravati, April 12 | TPN Bureau:

Nara Lokesh expressed deep grief over the demise of legendary playback singer Asha Bhosle, calling her passing an irreparable loss to the music world. In his message, Lokesh said he was deeply saddened by the news of Asha Bhosle's demise. He described her as a legendary singer whose melodious voice enthralled audiences for nearly eight decades and left a lasting impression on Indian music. He noted that Asha Bhosle was not just a playback singer but a musical icon who captivated listeners across generations with her versatility and emotional depth. Her contribution to Indian cinema music across multiple languages earned her immense respect and admiration.



Lokesh further stated that her songs continue to remain evergreen and will keep inspiring music lovers and upcoming singers for years to come. He said that although she is no longer physically present, her voice will continue to live on through her timeless melodies. He added that Asha Bhosle's unique singing style and ability to adapt to different musical genres made her one of the most celebrated and versatile singers in Indian film history. Her work has left an indelible mark on the cultural and musical heritage of the country.

Conveying his condolences, Lokesh expressed his heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved family members and prayed for the departed soul to rest in peace.

Tributes have been pouring in from various sections of society, with leaders, artists, and fans remembering Asha Bhosle as a legendary voice whose contribution to Indian music remains unmatched.

Grand Rally for World Peace in Vijayawada

Vijayawada, April 12 | TPN Bureau:

Amid rising global conflicts and increasing tensions between nations, a major peace initiative titled "No War... Rally for World Peace" is set to be held in Vijayawada. The rally aims to spread a strong message of harmony and unity at a time when the world is witnessing growing unrest and loss of innocent lives. The rally will be held on April 14 at 4 PM, starting from the Ambedkar Statue on Bandar Road and culminating at the Indira Gar-

dhi Municipal Stadium. Organizers expect large participation from citizens, students, activists, and representatives of various organizations. As part of the lead-up to the event, a poster launch program was conducted in the city on Sunday. The event saw participation from prominent personalities belonging to different religions and social groups, all emphasizing the urgent need for global peace. Speakers highlighted that initiatives like this help strengthen values such as tolerance, mutual respect, and social harmony. Several

organizations, including the Federation of Telugu Christian Churches, Buddhist Monks Union, and Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, extended their support to the rally. Representatives from these groups stressed that unity across religions for a common cause like peace sends a powerful and positive message to society. Speaking at the event, Golla Narayan Rao said that the impact of war affects humanity as a whole, regardless of geographical boundaries. Dr. Velaga Joshi noted that sustainable development is impossible without peace

and urged the youth to embrace a culture of non-violence. Other speakers, including Muvvala Prasad, Venjoy Sara, Swaroopa Rani, and Dr. Rehman, called for unity beyond caste, religion, and regional differences. Organizers stated that the rally aims to raise awareness with the message "No War... Peace is Our Future" and inspire collective responsibility toward building a safer world. With widespread participation expected, the event is likely to emerge as a significant movement promoting peace and social change.



Tiruvuru Politics Rocked by Alleged Ticket Scam

TIRUVURU | APRIL 13, 2026 | TPN BUREAU

A major political controversy has erupted in Tiruvuru constituency following serious allegations of financial misconduct involving Kesineni Chinni. Supporters of businessman Shavala Devadatt have alleged that large sums of money were collected on the promise of securing an MLA ticket ahead of elections.

According to sources, Devadatt was reportedly assured a party ticket, which led to financial transactions amounting to several crores. Allegations further claim that even after the party finalized Kollikapudi Srinivasa Rao as the candidate, additional funds—reportedly around 5 crore—were collected under similar assurances.

The issue has reportedly triggered a financial crisis

linked to Amaravati Hospital, which is said to have collapsed under mounting debts incurred during political lobbying. Hospital staff have allegedly not received salaries for nearly two years, while dues to medical suppliers have significantly increased. There are also claims that business partners have taken control of Devadatt's assets.

In addition, several non-resident Indians from the constituency have reportedly alleged that they too were misled and financially exploited. Devadatt is also facing accusations of approaching local businessmen seeking funds to manage debts.

With tensions rising, affected individuals are preparing for a large-scale protest in Tiruvuru within the next few days, potentially intensifying the political situation.

NTR District Shines at Water Sports Meet

Vijayawada, April 12 | TPN Bureau

The recently concluded state-level water sports meet witnessed an impressive performance by athletes from NTR district, who emerged as top contenders by securing multiple medals across various categories. The event, held with great enthusiasm and competitive spirit, brought together participants from several districts, showcasing talent in aquatic sports. NTR district athletes displayed exceptional skill, determination, and teamwork throughout the competition. Their dominance was evident in events such as rowing, kayaking, and canoeing, where they consistently outperformed their counterparts. The district's strong preparation and disciplined training played a crucial role in achieving this success. Officials and coaches attributed this achievement to the continuous support from the state government and the growing focus on promoting sports infrastructure. Special training camps, improved facilities, and encouragement to young athletes have significantly contributed to raising the standards of

performance. The athletes' success has brought pride to the district, with several participants earning recognition for their outstanding individual performances. Their achievements are expected to inspire more youth to take up water sports and pursue excellence at both state and national levels. District officials congratulated the winners and appreciated their hard work and dedication. They also emphasized the importance of sustaining this momentum by providing further opportunities and exposure to budding athletes. Plans are being discussed to strengthen coaching systems and enhance infrastructure to maintain the district's leading position in water sports. The event concluded on a high note, with a grand closing ceremony celebrating the achievements of all participants. NTR district's remarkable performance stood out as a highlight of the meet, reaffirming its growing prominence in the field of water sports. With such consistent performances, NTR district is steadily establishing itself as a powerhouse in aquatic sports, setting a benchmark for others to follow in future competitions.



Indrakeeladri Temple Launches Buttermilk and Drinking Water Distribution for Devotees

Vijayawada, April 12 | TPN Bureau:

Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam at Indrakeeladri has announced special arrangements for the convenience of devotees visiting the temple during the intense summer season.

The Executive Officer and Special Grade Deputy Collector V.K. Sheena Nayak stated that the temple administration has initiated a large-scale free drinking water and buttermilk distribution programme to provide relief from the scorching heat. The initiative will continue until the end of the summer season.

As part of the arrangements, continuous supply of chilled drinking water has been en-

sured for devotees climbing the hill temple, helping them stay hydrated throughout their pilgrimage. Additionally, buttermilk packets are being distributed daily to provide relief from heat-related discomfort.

The programme officially commenced on Ugadi and will continue till June 15. On regular days, around 2,000 buttermilk packets will be distributed to devotees visiting the temple. On weekends, due to higher pilgrim turnout, the distribution will be increased significantly to around 5,000 packets or more per day, depending on crowd levels.

Special arrangements have also been made for children, including the distribution of biscuits to ensure comfort for young devotees visiting the

temple along with their families.

The temple administration has appealed to donors to come forward and participate in this noble service activity. Interested donors can contribute by donating 650 per day and receive an official receipt towards supporting the distribution programme.

The EO has urged media representatives to widely publicize these arrangements so that devotees are aware of the facilities provided on Indrakeeladri. He also appealed to philanthropists and devotees to extend their support and actively participate in this service-oriented initiative aimed at ensuring a comfortable darshan experience for pilgrims during summer.

Indrakeeladri Witnesses Heavy Devotee Rush at Durga Temple

Vijayawada, April 12 | TPN Bureau:

Indrakeeladri temple witnessed an unprecedented rush of devotees on Sunday due to consecutive holidays, wedding season, and the ongoing summer pilgrimage flow.

From early dawn, all darshan queue lines at Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy temple were heavily crowded with devotees arriving in large numbers. Major Arjitha Sevas including Devi Khadgamala Archana, Sri Chakra Navavarna Archana, Chandni Homam, and Laksha Kumkumarchana saw significant participation from devotees.

In view of the heavy rush, temple authorities implemented strict queue regulation and crowd management measures to ensure smooth darshan for all visitors. The sale of 500 special darshan tickets was

stopped from 10 a.m., and VIP/Antaralaya darshan was completely suspended for the day due to crowd pressure.

Executive Officer V.K. Sheena Nayak personally supervised the situation and reviewed crowd movement outside the inner temple premises. Special arrangements were made for senior citizens, differently-abled persons, and mothers with infants, allowing them darshan through a separate priority line irrespective of ticket status.

To support devotees in the scorching heat, temple staff distributed drinking water, buttermilk, and biscuit packets at multiple points. Temporary shade shelters were also arranged around the temple premises, where devotees were seen resting and recovering from the heat.

The EO remained stationed at the protocol office from 8

a.m., monitoring darshan requests and coordinating crowd regulation. Due to heavy rush, protocol-based darshan was temporarily suspended, and devotees were informed accordingly.

Following the noon naivedyam, the crowd intensity increased further, prompting authorities to restrict vehicle movement on the ghat road. Temple buses and battery vehicles were deployed to transport devotees efficiently.

Additional staff duties were assigned at key points such as Om Turning, Protocol Office, Small Gopuram, ticket scanning counters, and Ravi Chettu area. Temple trust board members, One Town police, and temple volunteers actively participated in crowd control operations, ensuring safety and orderly darshan for thousands of devotees visiting the sacred shrine.

Lawyer Hariprasad Murder Case Cracked, Accused Arrested

Painadu, April 12 | TPN Bureau:

Painadu police have successfully cracked the sensational murder case of advocate Sriram Hariprasad, bringing the accused into custody and revealing the mystery behind the brutal killing.

The case, which had created widespread shock in the region after the advocate's body was found near Yadavalli village in Chilakaluripet mandal, was initially suspected to be a road accident. However, a detailed investigation revealed that it was a pre-planned murder.

According to police, the accused turned out to be close relatives of the victim, including his brother-in-law, who is serving as a police constable in Narasaraopet. The motive behind the crime is believed to be rooted in long-standing family disputes and personal conflicts.

Investigators stated that the accused lured the victim under the pretext of a meeting and

consumed alcohol together before taking him to a secluded area. There, the victim was brutally attacked and killed. To mislead investigators, the crime scene was staged to appear like a road accident by placing the victim's vehicle near the body.

Police officials said crucial evidence, including phone records and financial transactions, helped in identifying and tracing the accused. A second accused, who allegedly supported the conspiracy, has also been arrested.

The authorities confirmed that the investigation has been completed swiftly and the accused have been produced before the court. Further legal proceedings are underway.

Police officials appreciated the investigation team for their quick and coordinated effort in solving the case within a short span of time.

The incident has once again highlighted concerns over rising family-related crimes and misuse of trust leading to violent outcomes in society.



Allegations Against Police Personnel Spark Concern in Palnadu District

Palnadu, April 12 | TPN Bureau

Serious allegations against a few police personnel in Palnadu district have triggered widespread discussion and concern over the image of the police department. Within a span of just 15 days, multiple incidents involving misconduct charges have reportedly led to criticism from the public as well as internal dissatisfaction among some police staff.

According to sources, a Circle Inspector was recently transferred following allegations of maintaining an inappropriate relationship with a woman who had come to the police station. In another case, a CI was suspended over charges of alleged negligence and accepting bribes in a sensitive honour killing case, prompting swift action from senior officials.

While these disciplinary measures were being processed, reports of an Assistant



Sub-Inspector allegedly being linked to a viral video involving misconduct further added to the controversy. The series of incidents has reportedly caused concern within the department, with some personnel expressing that such cases are damaging the reputation

of the police force.

Public criticism has also intensified, with residents questioning accountability and discipline within the department. Officials, however, have stated that strict action is being taken wherever wrongdoing is established and that no one will be

spared if found guilty of misconduct.

Senior police authorities are said to be closely monitoring the situation and have initiated internal reviews to ensure that such incidents do not affect the credibility of the department as a whole. They reiterated

that maintaining public trust remains a top priority and disciplinary action will continue against those violating service rules. The incidents have sparked debate on the need for stronger internal vigilance and ethical standards within the police force in the district.



Godavari Pushkaralu 2027 Works Launched in East Godavari

RAJAHMUNDRY, EAST GODAVARI | APRIL 13, 2026 | TPN BUREAU

State Endowments and Dharma Department Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy on Sunday formally launched the preparatory works for the Godavari Pushkaralu 2027 in East Godavari district. He participated in the foundation stone laying and Bhoomi Pooja for Phase-1 development works worth 9.55 crore in Rajahmundry, along with MP Daggubati Purandeswari, MLA Adireddy Srinivas, and MLC Somu Veerajulu. The minister stated that extensive arrangements are being made ahead of the mega religious event scheduled from June 26 to July 7, 2027. He said temple reconstruction and infrastructure development works have already begun under a phased

plan. So far, three high-level review meetings have been conducted at the state level to ensure smooth planning and execution. As part of the Phase-1 works, development will be taken up in six temples and endowment institutions in Rajahmundry. The government has also sanctioned 51.79 crore for the development of 43 temples across East Godavari, West Godavari, and Konaseema districts. Officials said the objective is to provide improved facilities to nearly 10 crore pilgrims expected to attend the Pushkaralu. The minister emphasized that infrastructure along 212 km of the Godavari stretch is being upgraded with central and state coordination. Leaders present said the works will strengthen temple tourism and ensure successful conduct of the festival.



Collector's Swift Action Saves Accident Victim

VIZIANAGARAM | APRIL 13, 2026 | TPN BUREAU

In an inspiring act of humanity, Parvathipuram Manyam District Collector Dr. N. Prabhakar Reddy extended timely help to a road accident victim, setting aside official protocol and demonstrating rare compassion.

The incident took place on Sunday near Chinahogili village in Seethanagaram mandal while the Collector was returning after completing his official tour. He noticed a lying critically injured on the roadside after reportedly falling from his bike. The victim was identified as Ajar Srinivasa Rao from Krishnarayapuram village in Bobbili mandal.

Reacting without delay, the Collector ordered his convoy to stop and personally approached the injured man. Seeing his critical condition, he immediately arranged to shift him into his own vehicle and rushed him to the nearby Primary Health Centre at Seethanagaram. He ensured that doctors provided immediate first aid.

As the victim remained unconscious and required advanced care, Dr. Prabhakar Reddy took the initiative to transport him to a government hospital and stayed there until he was admitted.

The Collector's gesture has been widely appreciated, with locals praising his empathy and calling it a shining example of public service and leadership.



KORUKONDA STUDENTS SHINE IN STATE SCIENTIFIC APTITUDE TEST OLYMPIAD

KORUKONDA, EAST GODAVARI | APRIL 13, 2026 | TPN BUREAU

Students from Korukonda delivered an outstanding performance in the recently held Scientific Aptitude Test (SAT) Olympiad, bringing laurels to their schools at the state level. Galla Chervin Lawrence, a Class 6 student of Sheeladhi Global School, secured the State First Rank in the competition. In another notable achievement, Gontina Satya Prakash, a Class 7 student of Sri Shiridi Sai School, bagged

the State Third Rank. Both students were felicitated at the state-level award ceremony held in Guntur on Sunday, where they received mementos and certificates of appreciation from prominent guests. The achievements have brought immense pride to the educational institutions of Korukonda. School Director G. Lakshmi Padmavathi congratulated Chervin Lawrence and appreciated his dedication and academic excellence. Similarly, Correspondent S. Shyamala Srinivas, along with

the teaching staff of Sri Shiridi Sai School, lauded Satya Prakash for his remarkable performance and encouraged him to continue excelling in future competitions.

Teachers and management teams from both schools expressed happiness over the results, stating that consistent training and student-focused learning methods contributed to the success. The students' performance in the Olympiad is being seen as an inspiration for other aspirants in the region.



5.03 Crore Allocated for Nellore Rural Division Development

NELLORE RURAL | APRIL 12, 2026 | TPN BUREAU

TDP leader Kotamreddy Girdhar Reddy visited the 22nd Division of Old Vedayapalem in Nellore Rural constituency to assess local issues along with alliance leaders and residents.

During the visit, he stated that funds amounting to 5.03 crore have been allocated for the development of the division since the formation of the coalition government. He emphasized that several development works worth hundreds of crores are being undertaken in the constituency under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Nellore Rural MLA Kotamred-

dy Sridhar Reddy.

Girdhar Reddy assured residents that plans would be prepared to provide a permanent solution to the drinking water issues in the Old Vedayapalem area. He sought continued public support for the coalition government and the local MLA in driving development initiatives forward.

He also expressed gratitude to Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and Minister Nara Lokesh for their support towards the development of Nellore Rural.

Local leaders, including corporator Mule Vijay Bhaskar Reddy and several TDP representatives, participated in the programme along with residents.

Ambedkar Jayanti Marked with Service Initiatives in Nellore

NELLORE | APRIL 12, 2026 | TPN BUREAU

On the occasion of the 135th birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution, the Union Bank of India SC Employees Welfare Association organized a series of service activities in Nellore.

As part of the initiative, four 32-inch LED televisions were distributed to girl students residing in various hostels across the city, including North-2 Girls Hostel, Anand Nilayam, College Girls Hostel No.1, and Girls Hostel No.3. The effort aimed to support students by enhancing access to educational and informational content.

Deputy Regional Head of Union

Bank of India, Shivashankar, along with Nagarjuna, representative of the All India Union Bank SC Welfare Association, attended the program. M. Rajasekhar, State General Secretary of the UBI SC Employees Welfare Association, senior leader D. Roop Prakash, and Treasurer Ravindra were also present as key participants.

District Social Welfare Officer K. Shobharani appreciated the initiative, stating that such contributions would greatly benefit the students and improve their learning environment.

The organizers emphasized that the program reflects Dr. Ambedkar's vision of empowering marginalized communities through education and social support.



Coastal Patrol Intensified to Check Illegal Fishing Boats

NELLORE | APRIL 12, 2026 | TPN BUREAU

A Special Boat Patrolling Task Force has intensified coastal surveillance in Andhra Pradesh waters to prevent illegal entry of mechanized fishing boats from Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. The initiative is being carried out under the directions of District Collector Himanshu Shukla and SP Dr Ajitha Vejendla.

The joint task force, comprising officials from Fisheries, Coastal Security Police, Forest Department, and local fishermen, has

been conducting daily patrols from Juvvaladinne Fishing Harbour. On Sunday, three patrol boats were deployed to monitor different coastal stretches.

The first patrol covered areas from Juvvaladinne to Tummalapenta and Taticherlapalem, while the second team monitored nearly 25 km between Krishnapatnam Port and Koduru. The third patrol operated from Krishnapatnam Port up to White Kuppam near SDSC SHAR.

Each patrol team included police personnel, fisheries officials, and trained boat crew members, ensuring strict vigilance across vulnerable zones. Authorities said these measures are aimed at protecting local fishermen from net damage, illegal fishing, and potential attacks by intruding vessels.

Officials confirmed that no unauthorized boats from neighboring states were detected during the patrol. Continuous monitoring is being maintained to ensure maritime security. The task force has urged fishermen and coastal residents to report any suspicious movements immediately by dialing 112, assuring strict action against violators and safeguarding livelihoods.



Balakrishna Attends NUDA Chairman's Son's Wedding

TIRUPATI | APRIL 13, 2026 | TPN BUREAU

Hindupur MLA and actor Nandamuri Balakrishna attended the wedding ceremony of NUDA Chairman Kotamreddy Srinivasulu Reddy's son, Prajayasena Reddy, held at Taj Hotel in Tirupati on Sunday morning. The groom, Prajayasena Reddy, tied the knot with

Jahnvi in a grand ceremony attended by several prominent leaders and well-wishers. Among the dignitaries present were Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy, MLA of Sarvepalli, and Pulivarthi Nani, MLA of Chandragiri, along with other coalition leaders. The wedding witnessed a large gathering of political figures, family mem-

bers, and invitees, reflecting the significance of the occasion. Leaders extended their heartfelt wishes to the couple and blessed them for a happy and prosperous married life. The event also served as a platform for interaction among key political leaders, highlighting unity and cordial relations within the alliance.



Grievance Forum at Tirupati Collectorate on April 13

TIRUPATI | APRIL 12, 2026 | TPN BUREAU

District Collector Dr S. Venkateshwar announced that the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) programme will be held at the Tirupati Collectorate on April 13, urging citizens to make use of the opportunity to resolve their issues.

The programme will be conducted from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, with officials from all departments present to receive and address public complaints. Similar grievance forums will also be organized at division and mandal levels for wider reach. The Collector advised applicants to carry complete details and relevant documents related to their grievances. Those who have already submitted petitions should bring their acknowledgment slips for reference. Citizens can also check the status of their complaints by calling the helpline number 1100 or by registering



petitions online through the Meekosam portal.

He stated that updates regarding grievance redressal will be communicated through

SMS and WhatsApp, while official notices will be sent via registered post.

Emphasizing transparency and efficiency, the Collector ap-

pealed to the public to utilize the PGRS platform effectively to ensure timely resolution of their problems.



Gangamma Jatar Poster Unveiled in Tirupati

TIRUPATI | APRIL 13, 2026 | TPN BUREAU

Tirupati MLA Arani Srinivasulu on Sunday unveiled the poster, invitation, and publicity material for the upcoming Tatayyagunta Gangamma Jatar, scheduled to be held from May 5 to May 13.

Speaking on the occasion, the MLA said the festival will commence on the night of May 5 with traditional rituals and conclude on May 13 with the Viswaroopa Darshan. He added that the main celebrations will be held in a grand manner on May 12, attracting large numbers of devotees from across Rayalaseema and neighboring states like Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

Temple governing body chairman Mahesh Yadav stat-

ed that elaborate arrangements are being made to ensure smooth conduct of the jatar. He emphasized that all efforts are being taken to provide hassle-free darshan to devotees, giving priority to common pilgrims.

The MLA said various government departments will work in coordination to ensure that devotees face no inconvenience during the festival. He also stressed that the event will be conducted beyond political lines, focusing on tradition and public participation.

Several leaders from TDP, Jana Sena, and BJP attended the programme, along with temple committee members and local representatives, marking a strong start to the preparations for the annual religious festival.

BJP BLA-2 Workshop Held with Enthusiasm in Jaggampeta

KAKINADA | APRIL 13, 2026 | TPN BUREAU

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) organized a grand BLA-2 (Booth Level Agents) workshop in Jaggampeta constituency of Kakinada district, witnessing enthusiastic participation from party cadres.

The event, held at Parinaya AC Function Hall, saw the of key leaders including MLC Somu Veeraj, district president Bikkina Visweswara Rao, and BLA-1 leader Kambala Srinivasa Rao. Around 240 booth agents, along with leaders and workers from Rajanagaram, Gokavaram, and Polavaram areas, attended the



programme.

Addressing the gathering, Visweswara Rao emphasized that booth-level workers are

the backbone of the party and called upon them to reach every voter with information about central government

schemes. Somu Veeraj highlighted the importance of strengthening voter enrollment and ensuring accuracy in

electoral rolls, stating that BJP's growth depends on grassroots efforts.

Kambala Srinivasa Rao underlined the crucial role of BLA-2 agents in election management and voter list monitoring. Notably, within a week of taking charge as BLA-1, he facilitated the appointment of nearly 240 booth agents, earning praise from party leadership.

Leaders described him as a "war room warrior" for his dedication and coordination. The workshop energized party cadres, with leaders asserting that BJP is gearing up strongly for the upcoming electoral battle.

"Punish My Son Legally, Not Otherwise," Pleads Accused's Mother

KADAPA | APRIL 13, 2026 | TPN BUREAU

In a deeply emotional appeal, Sujatha, mother of murder accused Avula Venkatesh, urged authorities to ensure that her son is punished strictly as per law and not subjected to any extrajudicial action. She made this statement while addressing the media at the Kadapa Press Club.

The case relates to the sensational murder of a student, Keerthana, from Kazipet K Agraharam, which has sparked widespread outrage across the state. Sujatha said she was unaware of any relationship between her son and the victim. However, she mentioned that a letter found in his possession indicated a possible love affair.

According to her, on the day of the incident, Venkatesh returned home shortly after going out and appeared distressed. She claimed he told her that he had gone to question Keerthana over personal issues, during which a confrontation took place. She added that her son alleged the girl threatened self-harm, and in the ensuing struggle, the fatal incident occurred.

Maintaining that her son is innocent, Sujatha said she could not believe he committed such a grave act. However, she stated that if he is found guilty, he should face legal punishment. She appealed that no other form of punishment be inflicted and said if otherwise, she too should be held accountable along with her son.



Keerthana Murder Sparks Outrage, Leaders Demand Strict Action

KADAPA | APRIL 13, 2026 | TPN BUREAU

The brutal murder of Keerthana in Khajipet Agraharam has drawn strong condemnation from political leaders, with Kadapa MP Y. S. Avinash Reddy and former Mydukur MLA Raghuram Reddy expressing deep anguish over the incident.

The leaders visited the victim's family and offered condolences, interacting with family members who narrated the tragic sequence of events with grief. As a gesture of support, they handed over financial assistance of 2 lakh to the bereaved family and assured continued backing from the YSR Congress Party.

Speaking to the me-

dia, Raghuram Reddy criticized the current administration, alleging that governance systems have weakened, leading to inadequate safety for women. He said such incidents reflect a serious lapse in law and order.

MP Avinash Reddy emphasized the need for stringent measures to prevent recurrence of such crimes. He urged the government to ensure that harsh punishments are imposed on offenders to create a strong deterrent against such heinous acts.

Both leaders called for swift justice and stressed that strict action against the accused is essential to restore public confidence and ensure the safety and security of women in the state.



Strict Punishment Assured in Keerthana Murder Case

KADAPA | APRIL 13, 2026 | TPN BUREAU

Mydukur MLA Putta Sudhakar Yadav has assured that the accused in the murder of Keerthana will face strict legal punishment, while extending full support to the victim's family.

The MLA visited Khajipet Agraharam village in Kadapa district and consoled the bereaved family. After paying tributes to the deceased student, he described the incident as "brutal and deeply disturbing," stating that such a crime has shaken him personally.

He said incidents of this nature had not occurred earlier in his constituency and emphasized that firm measures would be taken to prevent recurrence.

He added that steps are being initiated to ensure such crimes are not repeated in the future.

Referring to directions from Nara Lokesh, the MLA stated that strict legal action would be taken against all those involved in the case. He assured that the police have been instructed to act swiftly and ensure the accused is punished at the earliest through due legal process.

Putta Sudhakar Yadav also reiterated that the government stands firmly with the victim's family and will extend all eligible assistance and welfare support. He emphasized that justice will be delivered and confidence restored among the public through decisive action in the case.



Serial Murder-for-Gain Cases Cracked in Tirupati

Tirupati, April 12, 2026 | TPN Bureau:

In a major breakthrough, Tirupati district police have solved a series of sensational "murder-for-gain" cases targeting lone women. District SP L. Subbarayudu, IPS, revealed that a special investigation team, led by Additional SP (Crimes) A. Srinivasulu, successfully cracked four major cases, including two murders in Tiruchanur, one robbery in Tirupati Crime PS limits, and another murder in Pichatur police station limits. The accused, initially identified as P. Viswanath alias Prashanth, was later confirmed to be an inter-state most wanted criminal, A.M. Azeez alias Abdul Azeez, also known as "Karnataka Azeez." He had escaped from Kerala police custody in 2018 and had been evading arrest since then. Police con-

firmed his involvement in at least 21 cases across Karnataka, Kerala, and Andhra Pradesh.

During interrogation, shocking details emerged about his modus operandi. Using a fake identity, he worked in hotels and built local contacts. With the help of an accomplice, Rajamma from Vedurukuppam, he carried out crimes using an autorickshaw. Police arrested Rajamma and recovered stolen property worth approximately 21.5 lakh, including 127.5 grams of gold and 48 grams of silver ornaments, along with the vehicle used in the crimes.

The SP appreciated the efforts of the investigation team and awarded them cash rewards and commendation certificates. He reiterated that strict action would continue against such criminals to ensure public safety in the district.

IBM Opens Office in Vizag, Lokesh Welcomes Move

Visakhapatnam, April 12 | TPN Bureau

Global technology giant IBM has established a new office in Visakhapatnam, marking another significant step in the city's emergence as a major IT destination. The company has set up its operations in a leased facility at Lansum Square building near Isukathota Junction, in collaboration with co-working space provider Sprout.

Popularly known as the "City of Destiny," Visakhapatnam is steadily transforming into a global IT hub. The entry of IBM adds to the growing list of multinational companies already operating in the city, in-

cluding Google, Infosys, and Cognizant. This expansion reflects the increasing attractiveness of Vizag as a preferred destination for technology investments.

According to company representatives, the newly launched facility is expected to accommodate around 502 employees. The office will initially function from the rented space, but IBM has already approached the state government with plans to establish a permanent campus spread across 30 acres in the future. This move is likely to generate more employment opportunities and further boost the local economy.

Welcoming IBM's entry into Visakhapatnam, Andhra

Pradesh IT and Human Resources Development Minister Nara Lokesh expressed his support through a post on the social media platform X. He highlighted that the arrival of global firms like IBM reinforces the state government's vision of developing Vizag into a world-class IT hub.

Industry experts believe that such investments will not only strengthen the city's IT ecosystem but also enhance infrastructure, skill development, and overall economic growth in the region. With more global companies showing interest, Visakhapatnam is poised to become one of India's leading technology corridors in the coming years.

Jana Sena Flag Hoisted Amid Enthusiasm in Tirupati

TIRUPATI | APRIL 13, 2026 | TPN BUREAU

Tirupati MLA Arani Srinivasulu on Sunday ceremonially hoisted the Jana Sena party flag in Parvathi Nagar of Jeevakona, drawing a large gathering of party workers and supporters. The programme was organized under the leadership of local leader Sudhakar, with enthusiastic participation from cadre, turning the area into a sea of supporters. Addressing the gathering, the MLA emphasized that strengthening the Jana Sena Party should be the primary goal of every leader and worker. He stated that efforts are underway to hoist the party flag in every division under the municipal corporation limits and to further strengthen the party ahead of the upcoming corporation elections. He added that the party is committed to coalition principles while



expanding its grassroots presence. Highlighting membership growth, the MLA said the active membership enrollment drive is receiving an overwhelming response. He urged those who have not yet enrolled to immediately take membership and actively contribute to the party's growth.

Jana Sena district president Pasupuleti Hariprasad called upon party workers to take the vision of Pawan Kalyan to the people. Several party leaders and workers participated in the programme, expressing confidence that Jana Sena will emerge stronger in all divisions in the coming days.

Temple Committee Role is a Blessing: MLA Prasanthi Reddy

Nellore, 12 April 2026 | TPN Bureau:

The oath-taking ceremony of the Sri Kanakadurga Ammavari Temple Committee was held in a grand manner at Durga Nagar, located on the outskirts of Buchireddypalem town. Kovur MLA Vemireddy Prasanthi Reddy attended the event along with MLC and Nellore Parliamentary Constituency TDP President Beeda Ravichandra.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Prasanthi Reddy stated that getting an opportunity to serve in a temple committee is a result of good deeds from pre-

vious births. She emphasized that temple administration should strictly follow traditions and Agama Shastra principles.

She congratulated the newly appointed committee members and advised them to work with dedication for the development of the temple. The MLA urged the members to uphold spiritual values and ensure smooth functioning of temple activities.

The event witnessed participation from local leaders of the Telugu Desam Party and alliance parties, along with a large number of devotees and residents of Durga Nagar.

Utilize Public Grievance Redressal Platform: Commissioner

Tirupati, April 12 | TPN Bureau:

Tirupati Municipal Corporation Commissioner N. Mourya, IAS, has urged citizens to make effective use of the public grievance redressal platform conducted every Monday at the municipal office. According to an official statement, the Public Grievance Redressal Forum will be held on April 13 (Monday) from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Tirupati Municipal Corporation office. In addition, the "Dial Your Commissioner" program will be organized from 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM, providing an opportunity for citizens to directly communicate their



concerns. Residents can also register their complaints by calling 0877-2227208 during the

specified time. The Commissioner stated that these initiatives are designed to ensure

quick resolution of public issues and improve civic administration. Citizens attending the program are advised to submit their petitions along with a copy of their Aadhaar card and provide a valid contact number for further communication. Proper details in the application will help officials process grievances efficiently. The Commissioner appealed to the people of Tirupati to actively participate and take advantage of this platform to get their issues resolved promptly. She assured that all grievances received through these channels will be reviewed carefully and necessary action will be taken without delay.

MLA Arani Srinivasulu Distributes Buttermilk to Walkers

Tirupati, 12 April 2026 | TPN Bureau:

Tirupati MLA Arani Srinivasulu distributed free buttermilk to walkers at Vinayaka Sagar on Sunday morning at 7 AM. The program was organized by Walkers International as part of a summer relief initiative.

Around 500 walkers were provided with buttermilk during the event. Speaking on the occasion, the MLA highlighted that buttermilk is highly beneficial in protecting people from the scorching summer heat. He encouraged everyone to adopt walking as a daily habit to maintain good health and fitness.

During the interaction, members of the Walkers Association informed the MLA about damaged play equipment for children in Vinayaka



Sagar Park. Responding immediately, Arani Srinivasulu directed officials to take up repairs without delay.

The MLA also felicitated the organizers of the program for their efforts in promoting public health and community welfare. The event was attended by Walkers International repre-

sentatives including Arcot Krishna Prasad, Sambasiva Reddy, Balaji, Krishnamurthy, C.S. Ramaswamy, Shanthi, Someshwar, Yoga Master Venkateswarlu, Sai Baba Reddy, Venkateswara Raju, Shankar Naidu, along with alliance leaders Ratnam, Alwar Murali, Dudi Ramesh, Yuvraju Reddy and others.

Asha Bhosle Passes Away at 92, Nation Mourns End of a Musical Era



Legendary playback singer Asha Bhosle passed away at the age of 92 in Mumbai, bringing to a close an extraordinary musical journey that spanned more than eight decades. One of India's most celebrated and versatile voices, her demise has left the film and music industries in deep sorrow. She reportedly breathed her last at a private hospital in Mumbai after suffering from age-related health complications. Family members confirmed that her final rites will be performed on Monday at Shivaji Park, where close relatives,

members of the film fraternity, and admirers are expected to gather to pay their last respects. Asha Bhosle was widely regarded as one of the greatest playback singers in Indian cinema history. Known for her remarkable range and adaptability, she sang in multiple genres including classical, folk, pop, ghazals, and cabaret numbers. Over her illustrious career, she recorded thousands of songs in several Indian languages, earning her a unique place in the world of music. Born into the famous Mangeshkar family, she began her

singing career at a very young age and gradually carved her own identity in the industry, separate from her equally legendary sister Lata Mangeshkar. Her collaboration with leading music directors across generations produced countless evergreen hits that remain popular even today. Her voice became synonymous with innovation in Bollywood music, often bringing freshness and modernity to film songs. From soulful melodies to peppy dance numbers, she mastered every style with effortless brilliance, making her one of the most

sought-after singers for decades. The news of her passing has triggered an outpouring of grief from across the country. Film personalities, musicians, and political leaders have expressed their condolences, describing her as a towering figure whose contribution to Indian culture is irreplaceable. With her passing, an iconic chapter in Indian music comes to an end. However, Asha Bhosle's timeless songs and unmatched legacy will continue to inspire generations of artists and music lovers for years to come.

ED in Overdrive: Fresh Raids and Probes Trigger Political Heat in West Bengal

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has intensified its operations in West Bengal, launching a series of fresh raids and investigations across multiple cases, marking what officials describe as an "overdrive" phase in the state. The central agency's renewed action has triggered sharp political reactions, further escalating tensions between investigative bodies and state leadership. According to official sources and ongoing probe updates, the ED has been conducting coordinated searches and summons in cases linked to alleged recruitment irregularities, land-related frauds, illegal coal mining, PDS diversion, and suspected hawala transactions. The agency has reportedly widened its scrutiny to include senior officials, political figures, and corporate entities as part of money laundering investigations under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).



and financial linkages being examined. Officials suggest that digital records, property documents, and financial transactions are being closely analysed to trace the flow of alleged proceeds of crime. The ED's actions have also included issuing fresh summons to individuals connected to ongoing cases, while some properties have been temporarily attached as part of preventive enforcement measures. The agency is also investigating alleged hawala networks that are believed to have facilitated the movement of unaccounted funds across states. Political reactions have been swift, with opposition parties alleging targeted action, while central agencies maintain that all steps are being taken strictly under legal provisions. The situation has further intensified the already strained political atmosphere in West Bengal,

where disputes between state authorities and central investigative agencies have repeatedly surfaced in recent years. Sources indicate that the ED's current phase of operations is focused on consolidating evidence gathered from multiple cases into a unified financial trail analysis. This includes linking recruitment scams, mining irregularities, and land fraud cases to potential organized financial wrongdoing. Officials emphasize that investigations are still at various stages and no final conclusions have been drawn. However, the scale and frequency of recent actions suggest a significant escalation in enforcement activity. As probes continue, West Bengal remains a key focus area for central agencies, with further developments expected as the ED expands its investigations in the coming weeks.

In recent weeks, multiple high-profile locations across Kolkata and other districts have witnessed search operations. These actions are part of a broader crackdown that began earlier this year and has now accelerated with new evidence trails

Shivraj Chouhan Appointed BJP Observer for Bihar Leadership Poll

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has appointed Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan as the central observer for the election of the party's legislative leader in Bihar, setting in motion the process of selecting the state's next chief minister.



According to party sources, the decision was taken by the BJP Parliamentary Board as part of its organisational procedure to oversee the selection of the BJP legislative party leader in the state. With this appointment, Chouhan will supervise consultations with newly elected BJP MLAs and coordinate the internal election process that will decide the next leadership in Bihar.

The move comes at a crucial political juncture, as the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) prepares for a leadership transition in the state. Senior leaders from the BJP and its alliance partners are expected to participate in discussions, following established coalition practices. The observer's role is to ensure a smooth, transparent, and consensus-driven selection of the legislative party leader.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan, a senior BJP leader and Union Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, has earlier served multiple terms as the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh. Known for his organisational experience and administrative background, he has been frequently entrusted with key party responsibilities, especially during government formation exercises in

various states. Party insiders indicate that the Bihar leadership selection process is expected to move quickly, with meetings of BJP MLAs likely to be held shortly. Once the legislature party leader is chosen, he or she will be formally invited to stake a claim to form the government in the state. The appointment also highlights the BJP's strategy of deploying senior and experienced leaders as observers during crucial state-level

transitions. This ensures coordination between central leadership, state units, and alliance partners within the NDA framework. Political observers say the development signals the beginning of an important phase in Bihar politics, as the ruling alliance prepares for a new government formation process. Further announcements regarding the legislative party meeting and leadership selection are expected in the coming days.



Vijay Skips Poll Rallies, DMK Jabs 'Work-From-Home' Campaign

Actor-turned-politician and Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) chief Vijay has cancelled several scheduled election rallies during the peak campaign phase of the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, triggering sharp political reactions from rival parties, particularly the ruling DMK. According to reports, multiple campaign events planned across key constituencies, including Chennai, Cuddalore, Villivakkam, Tiruchirappalli and Pudukcherry, were either postponed or called off in recent days. While TVK has not issued detailed official reasons, party sources cite security concerns, logistical difficulties, and crowd management issues following earlier incidents as contributing factors.

what they described as "intermittent appearances" by the TVK chief. The remarks have added further heat to an already intense electoral battle in the state. Meanwhile, TVK candidates are reportedly adjusting their local strategies, relying on party symbols, cut-outs, and cadred outreach programs in Vijay's absence. In several constituencies, cadres have intensified door-to-door campaigns to maintain momentum.

Party insiders, however, maintain that Vijay is expected to return to active campaigning in the final stretch before polling, and that the current strategy is aimed at ensuring safety and better coordination. The Tamil Nadu election campaign is witnessing high-voltage political exchanges among major parties including DMK, AIADMK, BJP and TVK, with star power and grassroots mobilisation both playing a crucial role. With just days left for polling, all eyes remain on how TVK balances its campaign visibility challenges against Vijay's mass appeal, which continues to be a major factor in the electoral narrative.

Modi Seeks Opposition Support for Women's Reservation Bill; Kharge Raises Concerns

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has written to leaders of all political parties, seeking their support for the passage of the Women's Reservation Bill, also known as the Nari Shakti Vandana Adhiniyam, which proposes to reserve one-third of seats in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies for women. The Bill is expected to be taken up in the upcoming special session of Parliament ahead of its proposed implementation timeline linked to the 2029 general elections. The Prime Minister emphasized that the legislation represents a historic step towards strengthening women's partic-



ipation in India's democratic system and urged parties to rise above political differences to ensure its smooth passage. He noted that the unanimous

support received during the earlier passage of the Bill in Parliament reflects a shared national commitment towards gender equality in politics.

However, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge responded to the Prime Minister's outreach, questioning the lack of detailed information on the implementation process and the government's approach to delimitation. He stated that meaningful discussion requires clarity and transparency, and urged the Centre to engage in broader consultations with all stakeholders before moving forward.

The exchange has further intensified the political debate surrounding the Bill, with both the ruling alliance and opposition parties staking strong positions on the issue of women's representation in legislatures.

While the government is pushing for early consensus, the opposition has demanded procedural clarity and structured dialogue.

The Women's Reservation Bill, which was passed in 2023, remains one of the most significant constitutional reforms aimed at enhancing gender balance in political representation. The current political discourse highlights both its importance and the challenges involved in its implementation.

As Parliament prepares for a crucial session, the issue is expected to remain at the centre of national political attention in the coming days.

Karnataka Congress Minority Wing Chief Resigns Amid Internal Discontent

Bengaluru, Karnataka | TPN Bureau

The Karnataka unit of the Indian National Congress is facing renewed internal turbulence after senior minority leader K. Abdul Jabbar resigned from his post as the head of the party's minority wing, citing "deep disappointment" and growing dissatisfaction within the organisation. The development comes in the aftermath of the Davanagere South by-election, which has triggered a series of internal disputes and leadership concerns within the state unit.

According to party insiders, the resignation reflects longstanding frustration among minority leaders over decisions taken during the electoral process, particularly the re-

ported denial of a ticket to a minority candidate in the Davanagere South constituency. The issue is believed to have created unrest not only at the local level but also across several minority-focused party structures in Karnataka.

In his resignation communication, Jabbar expressed that minority leaders felt increasingly sidelined in organisational decision-making and election strategy. He also pointed to a lack of adequate consultation with the minority wing during key political discussions, which, according to him, weakened coordination during the by-election campaign.

The Davanagere South by-poll has emerged as a politically sensitive contest, exposing fault lines within the

Congress party's internal structure in Karnataka. Several leaders have reportedly raised concerns about coordination gaps, factional differences, and inconsistent campaign planning. The internal assessment submitted to the party high command is also said to have flagged these issues, intensifying scrutiny on state-level leadership. Political observers note that the resignation adds to a series of challenges for the Congress in Karnataka, where balancing community representation and internal unity remains a recurring concern. The minority wing has traditionally played a significant role in shaping electoral outcomes in several constituencies, making this development particularly

significant for the party's or-



ganisational stability. Party leaders, however, maintain that the situation is being reviewed at the highest levels and that corrective steps will be taken to address concerns raised by different groups.

They have also emphasized that internal differences will not impact the overall functioning of the party in the state. The resignation of Jabbar is expected to trigger further discussions within the Karnataka Congress leader-

US-Iran Peace Talks Collapse in Islamabad, No Breakthrough: JD Vance

United States Vice President JD Vance announced that high-level peace talks between the US and Iran held in Islamabad have ended without any breakthrough after marathon negotiations lasting nearly 21 hours. He stated that Iran "chose not to accept our terms," leading to the collapse of the latest diplomatic effort aimed at easing tensions between the two nations.

The discussions, hosted in Pakistan, were the most significant direct engagement between Washington and Tehran in years and were focused on resolving disputes related to Iran's nuclear programme and broader regional security concerns. Despite extended negotiations involving senior officials from both sides, key differences remained unresolved. According to JD Vance, the US delegation presented what he described as a "final



and best offer," seeking a firm commitment from Iran not to pursue nuclear weapons development. However, Iranian representatives reportedly refused to provide binding assurances, resulting in a deadlock.

Following the breakdown, both delegations returned without agreeing on a roadmap for further dialogue. The

US side maintained that it had negotiated in good faith, while expressing disappointment over the outcome. Officials also indicated that future steps will depend on Iran's willingness to reconsider its position. The talks were seen as a crucial attempt to stabilize escalating tensions in the region, especially amid ongoing geopolitical instability and concerns over energy security routes such as the Strait of Hormuz. JD Vance emphasized that the United States remains open to diplomacy, but only on terms that ensure long-term security guarantees. He added that the failure of the talks places responsibility on Iran for rejecting the proposed framework. While both sides have not completely ruled out future negotiations, the current stalemate underscores the deep mistrust and strategic differences that continue to dominate US-Iran relations.



US-Iran Talks Collapse in Islamabad After Marathon Negotiations

The United States and Iran have failed to reach an agreement after 21 hours of high-level negotiations held in Islamabad, Pakistan, marking a significant setback in ongoing efforts to resolve tensions over Iran's nuclear programme and regional security issues.

US Vice President JD Vance, who led the American delegation, announced that Tehran had "chosen not to accept our terms" and confirmed that Washington was leaving with its "final and best offer." He said the US had clearly outlined its red lines, particularly demanding a firm commitment from Iran not to pursue nuclear weapons capabilities.

Iranian officials, meanwhile, maintained that they had not expected a breakthrough in a single round of talks and accused the US of making "unreasonable demands." They insisted that several proposals were presented during what were described as "substantive discussions," but key differences could not be bridged.

The talks, hosted in Islamabad with Pakistani mediation, were seen as a rare direct diplomatic engagement between

the two nations after years of strained relations. Despite intensive back-and-forth discussions involving senior officials from both sides, no agreement or framework for future negotiations was announced.

JD Vance stated that the outcome was "bad news for Iran more than the United States," adding that Washington remains open to further dialogue if Iran is willing to meet core conditions. The breakdown raises concern over the fragile ceasefire environment and broader regional stability, as both sides continue to exchange strong political statements. Analysts say the failure highlights deep divisions over Iran's nuclear ambitions, sanctions relief, and strategic control of key regional waterways. Pakistan, which facilitated the talks, has not yet commented on the outcome, but diplomatic sources indicated that indirect communication channels between the two sides may still remain active.

The situation remains fluid, with international observers watching closely for any renewed diplomatic engagement or escalation in tensions.



"We Leave With Our Final, Best Offer": JD Vance on Failed US-Iran Talks

US Vice President JD Vance has said that Washington is returning home with its "final and best offer" after marathon negotiations with Iran ended without a breakthrough in Islamabad. The high-level diplomatic talks lasted nearly 21 hours and concluded with both sides failing to reach any agreement on key issues, particularly Iran's nuclear programme and broader security commitments. Addressing the media after the talks, Vance stated that the United States had clearly laid out its position and negotiating limits, including what he described as "red lines" that could not be crossed. He emphasized that Washington had made maximum efforts to present a workable framework for peace, but Iran had chosen not to accept the terms offered. "The bad news is that we have not reached an agreement, and I think that's bad news for Iran much more than it's bad news for the United States of America," Vance said, underlining the US position that the responsibility for the breakdown lay with Tehran. He further added that the US delegation had been consistent in its demands, particularly regarding Iran's commitment not to pursue nuclear weapons capability. According to Vance, this remains a core objective of US foreign policy and a non-negotiable condition for any future agreement. Despite long hours of discussions and multiple rounds of negotiations facili-

tated in Islamabad, no consensus could be reached. Diplomatic sources indicated that both sides remained firm on their respective positions, with little movement on critical sticking points. Vance described the American proposal as a "final and best offer," suggesting that the US was not planning to revise its current position further. He said it would now be up to Iran to decide whether it is willing to accept the framework or allow the diplomatic process to stall further. The talks, hosted in Pakistan, were considered one of the most significant direct engagements between the two countries in recent years. International observers had viewed them as a potential turning point in easing long-standing tensions, but the outcome has instead reinforced uncertainty over the future of US-Iran relations. Iranian representatives, meanwhile, reportedly maintained that Washington's demands were excessive and lacked sufficient guarantees on economic relief and sanctions easing. The differing interpretations of the negotiations have further deepened mistrust between the two sides.

With the talks ending in deadlock, attention now shifts to whether backchannel diplomacy or renewed negotiations can revive the process. For now, however, both nations appear to be preparing for continued strategic and political standoff rather than immediate compromise.



US-Iran Peace Talks Collapse After Marathon Negotiations in Islamabad

A high-stakes round of peace negotiations between the United States and Iran has collapsed after nearly 21 hours of continuous talks held in Islamabad, marking another setback in long-running efforts to reduce tensions between the two nations. Both sides have blamed each other for the failure, with sharp disagreements over key conditions preventing any breakthrough.

According to diplomatic sources, the discussions were described as intense but ultimately unproductive, as negotiators failed to bridge gaps on core issues related to sanctions relief, regional security commitments, and compliance verification mechanisms. The talks were expected to lay the groundwork for a phased de-escalation framework, but instead ended without any agreement or joint statement.

US representatives maintained that they had placed what they called a "final and balanced offer" on the table, aimed at ensuring stability while addressing longstanding security concerns. However, officials indicated that Iran declined to accept the proposed

terms, leading to the breakdown of negotiations.

On the other hand, Iranian officials strongly rejected this characterization, stating that the US demands were "unreasonable and one-sided." They argued that the proposals failed to guarantee economic relief in a meaningful way and placed excessive restrictions on Iran's strategic autonomy. Iranian media sources also described the talks as heavily tilted and lacking mutual respect.

US political figure JD Vance commented on the outcome, calling it "bad news" and stating that Iran had chosen not to accept the conditions presented. His remarks quickly drew international attention, adding political weight to the already sensitive diplomatic failure.

The negotiations, held under tight security in Islamabad, were seen as one of the most significant attempts in recent months to revive dialogue between the two adversaries. However, deep mistrust, competing regional interests, and unresolved nuclear-related concerns continued to dominate the

discussions.

Analysts say the collapse of the talks could further strain already fragile geopolitical stability in West Asia. The absence of a diplomatic channel may also increase the risk of escalation, particularly in regions where both countries maintain strategic influence.

Efforts had reportedly been underway for weeks to organize the Islamabad meeting, with intermediaries hoping that neutral ground could help facilitate compromise. Despite initial optimism, negotiators ultimately found themselves locked in familiar positions, leading to the breakdown.

With the talks ending in failure, uncertainty now surrounds the next possible step. Diplomatic observers suggest that while backchannel communications may continue, a formal restart of negotiations could take time unless one side shifts its stance significantly.

For now, the collapse of the Islamabad talks underscores the continuing complexity of US-Iran relations and the challenges facing international mediation efforts aimed at restoring dialogue between the two long-standing rivals.

"US Navy Warships Transit Strait of Hormuz Amid Rising Regional Tensions"

In a significant naval development, two United States warships have crossed the Strait of Hormuz, marking the first such transit since the escalation of hostilities involving Iran, according to official reports. The strategic passage, one of the world's most critical oil shipping routes, has once again drawn global attention amid heightened geopolitical tensions in the Middle East.

The transit is being viewed as a carefully monitored military movement, reflecting the US Navy's continued operational presence in the region. The Strait of Hormuz, located between Oman and Iran, serves as a vital maritime chokepoint through which a large share of global crude oil shipments pass daily. Any escalation in this region is closely



watched by international markets and defense analysts.

Military sources indicated that the US warships moved through the strait under standard naval protocols, maintaining communication and coordination with regional maritime authorities. While no immediate confrontations

or incidents were reported, the move is seen as a signal of strategic positioning by Washington amid ongoing tensions with Tehran.

The transit comes at a time when relations between the United States and Iran remain strained due to disagreements over nuclear negotiations,

sanctions, and broader security concerns in the Gulf region. Analysts suggest that such naval movements are intended to ensure freedom of navigation while also demonstrating deterrence capabilities.

Iran has previously expressed opposition to in-

creased Western military presence in the Gulf waters, often describing it as destabilizing. However, the United States maintains that its naval operations in the region are aimed at protecting international shipping lanes and ensuring uninterrupted global energy flow. Defense experts note that the Strait of Hormuz remains one of the most sensitive maritime corridors in the world, with nearly a fifth of global oil consumption passing through it. Any military activity in the area carries the potential to impact global oil prices and investor sentiment.

The latest transit is expected to be followed closely by both regional powers and international observers, as it comes during a period of fragile diplomacy and ongoing strategic rivalry in West Asia.



Swami Vivekananda Statue Unveiled in Seattle Marks Historic Cultural Milestone

In a landmark moment symbolising growing India-US cultural ties, the first life-size statue of Swami Vivekananda was unveiled at Westlake Square in downtown Seattle on Saturday. The bronze statue marks the first instance of a US city government hosting a monument dedicated to the revered Indian philosopher and spiritual leader.

The statue was jointly unveiled by Seattle Mayor Katie Wilson and India's Consul General in Seattle, Prakash Gupta, in the presence of community leaders and members of the Indian diaspora. Located in one of the city's busiest public spaces, which attracts over 400,000 visitors daily, the installation is expected to become a major cultural landmark.

Crafted by Indian sculptor Naresh Kumar Kumawat, the statue has been gifted by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) as part of its global cultural diplomacy initiative. It reflects Vivekananda's message of universal brotherhood, harmony among religions, and spiritual enlightenment.

Speaking on the occasion, dignitaries highlighted Seattle's inclusive character and its

significance as a global technology and cultural hub, making it an ideal location for the installation. The event also featured cultural performances by Indian artists, showcasing traditional dance and music.

The unveiling ceremony also underlined Vivekananda's historic connection with the United States, recalling his iconic address at the 1893 World Parliament of Religions in Chicago, where he introduced Indian spiritual philosophy to the Western world.

Local authorities noted that the statue will serve as a symbol of peace, interfaith dialogue, and shared values between nations. Members of the Indian-American community expressed pride over the installation, calling it a moment of recognition for India's spiritual heritage on global soil.

The installation is being seen as part of broader efforts to strengthen people-to-people ties and deepen cultural cooperation between India and the United States.

With its prominent location and powerful symbolism, the Swami Vivekananda statue is expected to stand as a lasting reminder of his enduring global legacy.

Markets Snap 6-Week Slump with Strong Rally

Indian equity markets witnessed a sharp turnaround, ending a prolonged six-week losing streak and registering their best weekly performance in over five years. The strong rebound reflects renewed investor confidence amid improving global cues and stabilizing macroeconomic conditions. The benchmark BSE Sensex surged by over 4,000 points during the week, while the Nifty 50 climbed decisively past the 24,000 mark. The nearly 6 percent weekly gain marked the biggest rise since early 2021, signaling a broad-based recovery across sectors after weeks of sustained decline. A key trigger for the rally was easing global uncertainty, particularly a cooling of geopolitical tensions that had earlier weighed heavily on investor sentiment. The softening of crude oil prices played a crucial role, as

it reduced inflationary pressures and improved India's macroeconomic outlook. Lower oil prices are generally positive for the domestic economy, given the country's dependence on imports. Another major factor behind the rebound was a slowdown in selling by foreign institutional investors. After weeks of continuous outflows, the pace of withdrawals eased significantly, while domestic institutional investors stepped in with strong buying support. This shift helped stabilize the markets and encouraged retail participation.

The rally extended beyond large-cap stocks, with broader markets showing even stronger momentum. Midcap and smallcap indices recorded notable gains, indicating widespread participation across segments. Several stocks in these categories delivered

double-digit returns, highlighting the return of risk appetite among investors.

Sector-wise, gains were seen across the board. Realty stocks emerged as top performers, driven by strong demand expectations and improving liquidity conditions. Capital goods and automobile sectors also posted impressive gains, supported by optimism around economic growth and consumption trends. Additionally, consumer durables and infrastructure-related stocks attracted buying interest during the week. The Indian rupee also strengthened against the US dollar, adding to the positive sentiment. A firmer currency often reflects stable capital flows and confidence in the domestic economy, further supporting equity markets. Despite the strong recovery, market experts remain cautiously optimistic. They

believe the sustainability of the rally will depend on global developments, including geopolitical stability and commodity price trends. Upcoming corporate earnings and economic data releases are also expected to influence investor sentiment in the near term.

While the recent surge has helped markets recover a significant portion of earlier losses, benchmark indices are still below their recent peaks. This suggests that volatility may persist, and investors are likely to remain watchful.

Overall, the week marked a decisive shift in market direction, with equities bouncing back strongly after a period of weakness. The focus now turns to whether this momentum can be sustained, as markets navigate a complex mix of global and domestic factors in the weeks ahead.



Forex Reserves Rebound to \$697 Billion

India's foreign exchange reserves have staged a strong recovery, rising sharply to \$697 billion after weeks of sustained pressure, signaling improved stability in the country's external financial position. According to the Reserve Bank of India, the reserves jumped by over \$9 billion for the week ending April 3, reversing a steep decline seen in the previous week. The rebound comes as a relief amid recent global uncertainties and currency pressures that had weighed on the reserve position. The recovery follows a significant drop in late March, when reserves had fallen to around \$688 billion. The decline was largely attributed to central bank interventions aimed at stabilizing the rupee during a period of heightened volatility triggered by global geopolitical tensions. The RBI had been actively selling dollars in the foreign exchange market to curb excessive depreciation of the currency.

A major contributor to the latest rise was a sharp increase in gold reserves, which surged

by more than \$7 billion during the week. Gold continues to play a crucial role as a safe-haven asset, especially during uncertain global conditions. In addition, foreign currency assets — the largest component of forex reserves — also registered a healthy increase, reflecting gains in major global currencies and improved valuation. India's forex reserves had earlier touched an all-time high of over \$728 billion in February 2026. However, the onset of global tensions, particularly in West Asia, led to a phase of depletion as the central bank stepped in to manage currency volatility and maintain financial stability. Despite the recent fluctuations, India's reserve position remains robust by global standards. Forex reserves act as a critical buffer against external shocks, helping the country manage import bills, stabilize the currency, and maintain investor confidence. They also provide the RBI with the flexibility to intervene in currency markets when required.

The latest rebound indicates that underlying macroeconomic

fundamentals remain strong. It also reflects the resilience of India's external sector, even in the face of global headwinds such as rising oil prices and capital outflows.

Economists believe that maintaining a healthy level of reserves is essential for ensuring economic stability, especially for an import-dependent country like India. Adequate reserves not only support the rupee but also enhance the country's ability to withstand sudden global financial disruptions. Looking ahead, the trajectory of forex reserves will depend on multiple factors, including global commodity prices, capital flows, and the RBI's currency management strategy. While short-term fluctuations are expected, the overall outlook remains positive, supported by stable economic growth and strong financial fundamentals.

The sharp rebound in reserves thus marks a positive development, reinforcing confidence in India's ability to navigate global uncertainties while maintaining macroeconomic stability.



Rupee Ends Lower, Extends Weekly Gains

The Indian rupee ended marginally weaker at 92.68 against the US dollar, but still managed to post its second consecutive weekly gain — a trend seen for the first time in nearly six months, signaling improving currency stability amid volatile global conditions.

The domestic currency declined by 17 paise on the final trading day of the week after giving up early gains. It opened stronger and even touched an intra-day high of around 92.41 before slipping due to profit-taking and persistent market uncertainty. Despite the dip, the broader weekly trend remained positive, reflecting a gradual recovery in sentiment.

Forex traders attributed the rupee's movement to a mix of domestic policy actions and global developments. The Reserve Bank of India played a key role in supporting the currency through recent measures aimed at curbing volatility. The central bank had imposed limits on banks' foreign exchange positions, which resulted in increased dollar selling in the domestic market and provided support to the rupee. Another important factor aiding the currency was the unwinding of speculative positions in the forex market. Traders reduced arbitrage trades following regulatory tightening, which helped stabilize demand-supply dynamics for the dollar. This easing of speculative pressure contributed to the rupee's recovery over the past two weeks.

Global cues also influenced



currency movements. A decline in crude oil prices offered some relief to the rupee, as lower oil costs reduce India's import bill and ease pressure on the current account. However, uncertainty surrounding geopolitical developments, particularly in West Asia, continued to keep markets cautious and limited the rupee's gains.

The dollar index, which measures the strength of the US currency against a basket of major currencies, remained relatively firm during the week. This capped further appreciation in the rupee, as a stronger dollar typically weighs on emerging market

currencies. On the domestic front, positive momentum in equity markets provided additional support. Benchmark indices like the BSE Sensex and Nifty 50 recorded strong gains during the week, attracting investor interest and boosting overall sentiment.

Market experts noted that while the rupee's short-term outlook has improved, volatility is likely to persist. Factors such as global oil price trends, capital flows, and geopolitical developments will continue to influence currency movements in the near term.

The recent back-to-back

weekly gains mark a significant shift after a period of sustained pressure on the rupee. Analysts believe that continued policy support from the central bank, along with easing global risks, could help the currency stabilize further.

Overall, the rupee's performance reflects a delicate balance between supportive domestic measures and challenging external factors. While the marginal decline on the day highlights ongoing uncertainty, the broader recovery trend suggests that the currency is gradually regaining strength.

Neomile Cuts Stake in Ratnaveer Engineering

In a significant market transaction, Neomile Growth Fund has trimmed its holding in Ratnaveer Precision Engineering, reflecting ongoing portfolio reshuffling among institutional investors amid evolving market conditions.

The fund offloaded over 7 lakh shares, representing more than a 1 percent stake in the company, through a bulk deal on the stock exchanges. The shares were sold at an average price of around 145 per share, taking the total transaction value to over 10 crore. Following the sale, Neomile's stake in the company has reduced, indicating a partial exit rather than a complete withdrawal.

Despite the fund's stake reduction, the deal saw strong buying interest from other investors. Market participant

Anant Jain acquired a sizable portion of shares in the same session at a slightly higher price, suggesting continued confidence in the company's long-term prospects. Such counter-buying often reflects differing investment strategies among market participants.

Shares of Ratnaveer Precision Engineering witnessed volatility during the trading session after the bulk deal announcement. However, the stock managed to close higher, supported by strong volumes and sustained investor interest. The price action indicates that the market absorbed the supply without significant downward pressure, which is generally seen as a positive sign.

Ratnaveer Precision Engineering operates in the stainless steel products segment and caters to diverse industries

through its range of offerings, including washers, sheets, pipes, and solar mounting components. The company has been gaining traction in the midcap space, supported by steady business growth and increasing demand from both domestic and international markets.

The stake sale highlights a broader trend in the equity markets, where institutional investors are actively rebalancing their portfolios. Funds often reduce exposure in certain stocks either to book profits or to reallocate capital into other opportunities. Such moves do not necessarily indicate a negative outlook on the company but rather reflect strategic investment decisions.

At the same time, the entry of new or existing investors at competitive prices reinforces

confidence in the company's fundamentals. Bulk deals involving both selling and buying typically signal liquidity in the stock and can attract further market participation.

Market experts note that increased institutional activity, including stake sales and acquisitions, is a sign of a dynamic market environment. As investors reassess valuations and sectoral opportunities, such transactions are likely to remain a key feature in the coming weeks.

Overall, Neomile Growth Fund's partial stake sale in Ratnaveer Precision Engineering underscores the ongoing churn in the market. While one investor reduces exposure, another steps in with confidence, reflecting the balanced and evolving nature of investment strategies in the current economic landscape.



RCB Outclass Mumbai Indians by 18 Runs in Wankhede Thriller

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) produced a commanding all-round performance to defeat Mumbai Indians (MI) by 18 runs in a high-scoring encounter at the Wankhede Stadium, strengthening their position in the early phase of the IPL 2026 season.

Batting first after losing the toss, RCB posted a massive total of 240/4 in 20 overs, powered by explosive contributions from their top and middle order. The innings saw aggressive stroke play from Phil Salt and Virat Kohli at the top, followed by a blazing cameo from skipper Rajat Patidar, who accelerated the scoring rate with a quickfire knock. Tim David added the finishing touches in the death overs to push RCB beyond the 240-run mark.

Chasing a daunting target of 241, Mumbai Indians got off to a steady start but soon lost momentum as RCB's bowling at-



tack struck at regular intervals. Despite resistance from

Suryakumar Yadav and Hardik Pandya in the middle order, MI

struggled to maintain the required run rate.

Sherfane Rutherford provided late fireworks with a powerful unbeaten knock, but his efforts went in vain as Mumbai finished at 222/5 in 20 overs, falling short by 18 runs.

RCB's bowlers held their nerve in crucial phases, especially during the middle overs, where they restricted MI's scoring opportunities and picked up key wickets to break partnerships.

The match was played on a batting-friendly pitch that witnessed a run-fest, but RCB's superior execution in both batting and bowling proved decisive. With this victory, RCB continue their strong start to the season, while Mumbai Indians will look to regroup after suffering another setback at home. Cricket fans were treated to a thrilling contest featuring big hits, fast scoring, and late drama, but it was RCB who ultimately walked away with a well-earned win.



Prasidh Krishna's Four-Wicket Burst Powers Gujarat Titans to Commanding Win Over LSG

Lucknow, April 12: Gujarat Titans continued their strong run in IPL 2026 with a dominant seven-wicket victory over Lucknow Super Giants at the Ekana Stadium, powered by a clinical bowling performance from Prasidh Krishna and a composed batting display from the top order.

Batting first, LSG struggled to build momentum against disciplined Gujarat bowling. Despite a few starts from their top and middle order, the hosts failed to convert them into big partnerships. The Titans' pace attack, led by Prasidh Krishna, kept applying pressure through tight lines and sharp variations. Prasidh was the standout performer, finishing with impressive figures of 4/28, breaking the backbone of LSG's batting lineup and restricting them to 164/8 in 20 overs.

His wickets came at crucial stages, ensuring LSG never got the chance to accelerate in the death overs. The spell also earned him widespread praise and the Player of the Match recognition for his match-defining impact.

Chasing 165, Gujarat Titans got off to a steady start before their senior batters took control of the game. Skipper Shubman Gill anchored the innings with a fluent half-century,

while England star Jos Buttler provided aggressive support at the other end. The duo stitched together a crucial partnership that effectively took the game away from LSG.

Their 84-run stand set the foundation for an easy chase, as both batters rotated strike smartly while also punishing loose deliveries. Even as LSG tried to introduce variations in their bowling attack, the Titans remained composed and in control of the required run rate.

The finishing touches were applied calmly by the middle order, guiding Gujarat to 165/3 in 18.4 overs with eight balls to spare, sealing a comprehensive victory.

The result highlighted Gujarat Titans' balanced squad strength, with both their bowling and batting units firing in unison. While Prasidh Krishna's fiery spell dismantled LSG's innings, the batting unit ensured a smooth finish without unnecessary pressure.

With this win, Gujarat Titans strengthened their position in the IPL 2026 standings, while LSG were left to reflect on missed opportunities with the bat. The match once again underlined the importance of early breakthroughs and controlled chasing in high-pressure T20 encounters.



Gaikwad Urged to Increase Strike Rate After Slow Start in IPL 2026

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) captain Ruturaj Gaikwad has come under scrutiny after a sluggish start to his IPL 2026 campaign, with experts and team analysts urging the right-handed opener to take more risks and improve his scoring tempo at the top of the order. Gaikwad, who has been a key figure in CSK's batting lineup since taking over leadership duties, has struggled to provide the explosive starts expected in modern T20 cricket. His recent outings have reflected a cautious approach, with his strike rate falling below the team's desired powerplay benchmark. As a result, CSK's top order has failed to build strong early momentum in several matches this season. According to reports, the team management has emphasized the need for a more aggressive mindset, especially during the powerplay overs when fielding restrictions offer scoring opportunities. The message to Gaikwad has been clear—while stability is important, the modern T20 format demands higher intent and quicker acceleration from openers. Cricket experts have echoed similar views, pointing out that Gaikwad's natural game is based on timing and

placement rather than high-risk hitting. However, in the current IPL setup, analysts believe he must adapt his approach to balance consistency with aggression. Former players have suggested that he is currently "caught in a tactical dilemma," where he neither accelerates early nor anchors deep enough to control the innings effectively. Despite the criticism, CSK continues to back their skipper, acknowledging his ability and past performances. Gaikwad has previously delivered match-winning knocks and has been one of the franchise's most reliable batters in recent seasons. However, the team's inconsistent start in IPL 2026 has put additional pressure on the top order to perform. The coaching staff is reportedly working with Gaikwad to refine his shot selection and encourage a more attacking mindset during the first six overs. With CSK aiming to bounce back strongly in the tournament, his role at the top remains crucial. As the season progresses, all eyes will be on whether Gaikwad can strike the right balance between caution and aggression, and lead CSK's batting unit with a more dynamic approach in upcoming matches.

Shreyas Iyer's Calm Command Draws MS Dhoni Comparisons After SRH Clash



In a high-voltage IPL 2026 encounter that once again highlighted his growing stature as a leader, Punjab Kings skipper Shreyas Iyer delivered a composed and tactically sharp performance against Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH), earning widespread praise from fans and cricket experts alike. The match not only strengthened PBKS's strong run in the tournament but also reignited comparisons between Iyer and former India captain MS Dhoni, particularly for his calm decision-making under pressure.

Facing a dangerous SRH lineup known for its explosive batting at the top, Iyer's leadership stood out as he rotated bowlers smartly and kept a tight grip on the game during crucial phases. His field placements and timely bowling changes helped PBKS restrict SRH's momentum, eventually paving the way for a comfortable victory.

What caught the most attention, however, was the growing narrative around Iyer's leadership style. Several cricket observers noted that his on-field composure, strategic clarity, and ability to trust his players in crunch situations resemble the hallmark traits of MS Dhoni, one of the most successful captains in IPL history.

Adding weight to the discussion, Indian cricket stalwart Rohit Sharma had earlier remarked that he "sees a glimpse of MS Dhoni in Shreyas Iyer the way he leads his team," highlighting the young captain's maturity and instinctive understanding of the game. The statement has since gone viral again following PBKS's strong showing against SRH.

Batting-wise, Iyer also played a stabilizing role in the chase, ensuring that Punjab Kings maintained control even when SRH bowlers attempted to stage a comeback. His ability

to absorb pressure and guide the innings calmly was widely appreciated.

Former players and commentators also pointed out that Iyer's leadership evolution has been consistent over the years—from his early days with Delhi Capitals to his current commanding role at Punjab Kings. His experience across franchises appears to have shaped him into a more rounded captain capable of handling diverse match situations.

With PBKS continuing their strong campaign this season, Shreyas Iyer's leadership is becoming one of the defining narratives of IPL 2026. If his current form and tactical maturity are any indication, Punjab Kings could well emerge as serious contenders for the title, guided by a captain increasingly being spoken of in the same breath as MS Dhoni.



"BCCI Warns of Strict Action After Anti-Corruption Protocol Breach in IPL Match"

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has taken a serious note of an alleged anti-corruption protocol breach during the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 match between Rajasthan Royals and Royal Challengers Bengaluru, stating that "there has to be action" following the incident.

According to reports, Rajasthan Royals' team manager Romi Bhinder was spotted using a mobile phone while seated in the dugout during the high-voltage contest. The incident was captured on television cameras and quickly went viral on social media, triggering concerns over a possible violation of the Players and Match Officials Area (PMOA) protocol.

As per IPL regulations, mobile phone usage is strictly prohibited inside the dugout during matches to maintain the integrity of the game and prevent any possibility of unauthorized communication. While team managers are permitted to carry phones in the dressing room, the dugout is considered a restricted zone under anti-corruption guidelines. Reacting to the development, officials of the Board of

Control for Cricket in India confirmed that the matter will be thoroughly examined by the Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU). The board emphasized that any breach of protocol, intentional or otherwise, cannot be ignored and will be dealt with strictly after a detailed investigation.

Preliminary inputs suggest that Bhinder may face disciplinary action ranging from a formal warning to a possible suspension, depending on the findings of the match referee and the ACU report. The IPL Governing Council is also expected to review the case before announcing a final decision.

The incident has sparked widespread debate within cricketing circles regarding enforcement of anti-corruption measures in high-pressure environments like the IPL. Officials have reiterated that the league maintains a zero-tolerance policy towards any violation that could compromise the fairness or transparency of the competition. Further action will be decided after the completion of the investigation and submission of the official report.

"BCCI Launches Probe After Anti-Corruption Protocol Breach in RR vs RCB Clash"

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has reacted strongly to an alleged breach of anti-corruption protocol during the IPL 2026 match between Rajasthan Royals (RR) and Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB), stating that strict action will follow once the investigation is completed. The incident has once again brought the spotlight on the league's stringent integrity rules and monitoring systems.

According to reports, Rajasthan Royals' team manager Romi Bhinder was seen using a mobile phone while sitting inside the dugout during the high-profile encounter. The visuals, captured during the live broadcast, quickly went viral on social media, triggering



concerns over a potential violation of the Players and Match Officials Area (PMOA) regulations. The PMOA zone is a highly restricted area under IPL anti-corruption guidelines, where electronic communication devices are tightly controlled to prevent any unau-

thorized contact or information exchange.

As per IPL rules, while team officials are allowed to carry mobile phones inside the dressing room for operational purposes, the dugout and on-field team benches fall under restricted surveillance zones

during match hours. Any usage of communication devices in these areas is considered a serious breach and is subject to scrutiny by the Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU).

BCCI officials have confirmed that the matter has been formally escalated to the ACU for detailed examination. A senior board source stated that "there has to be action" if any violation is established, underlining the seriousness with which the governing body is treating the incident. The ACU is expected to review CCTV footage, broadcast visuals, and match-day logs before submitting its findings.

Preliminary indications suggest that disciplinary measures could range from a warning to suspension, depending on whether the breach is found to be intentional or accidental.

The IPL Governing Council will also study the report before issuing a final verdict.

The incident has sparked widespread discussion among cricket experts and fans regarding the enforcement of anti-corruption protocols in high-pressure tournaments like the IPL. Many have emphasized the importance of maintaining strict discipline, given the league's global visibility and commercial scale.

Officials reiterated that the IPL operates under a zero-tolerance policy when it comes to integrity violations. The final decision will be announced only after the completion of the investigation, but the message from the BCCI is clear—no compromise will be accepted when it comes to protecting the spirit and fairness of the game.

Harish Shankar Unveils 'Gods and Soldiers' TRAI SER: A Mass Action Entertainer Set for Big Impact

The much-anticipated Tamil-Telugu bilingual film "Gods and Soldiers", produced under the banner of Rough Note Production, has completed its shooting and is now moving swiftly into post-production. Directed by acclaimed filmmaker and cinematographer Vijay Milton, the film is shaping up as a high-voltage commercial entertainer blending action, emotion, and social relevance.

In a major promotional boost, the team released a special video titled "TRAISER," which was unveiled by sensational director Harish Shankar through his social media platforms. The release has already created strong buzz among audiences, with the teaser receiving

attention for its powerful mass appeal, intense action blocks, and emotional depth. Director Vijay Milton expressed his gratitude for the support received from Harish Shankar, stating that the encouragement has added great value to the film's promotion. He highlighted that "Gods and Soldiers" is crafted on a grand scale with a strong emotional backdrop while maintaining a commercial storytelling style designed to engage both Tamil and Telugu audiences.

Speaking about the film, Vijay Milton said the project features talented actors in fresh and unique roles. Actor Aari Arujunan will be seen playing a police officer for the first time in his career, marking a

significant transformation in his on-screen image. Popular actor Raj Tarun is making his Tamil debut with this bilingual venture, further adding cross-industry appeal to the film.

Actor Bharath plays a crucial emotional role that is expected to be one of the film's highlights. Meanwhile, Amu Abhirami and Kishore are also part of important supporting characters that strengthen the narrative. The director added that every cast member has delivered strong performances, contributing to the film's overall impact.

A special attraction of the film is the inclusion of independent music artist Vedan, known for his distinctive voice and socially conscious songs.

His presence is expected to bring a unique cultural and musical layer to the film, enhancing its emotional resonance.

The film has been shot extensively across multiple locations, capturing a wide range of visual landscapes to support its storytelling. With post-production work progressing at a fast pace, the makers are preparing for a grand release soon.

Produced by Rough Note Production, "Gods and Soldiers" is designed as a complete entertainer combining action, emotion, and socially relevant themes, aiming to appeal strongly to audiences across Tamil and Telugu cinema markets.



Karmastalam Poster Unveils Arvind Krishna's Fierce Mythic Warrior Avatar

The makers of the upcoming multilingual film Karmastalam have unveiled a powerful new poster and behind-the-scenes making video, offering a glimpse into a visually rich mythological action spectacle starring Arvind Krishna. The reveal has generated strong buzz among film enthusiasts for its striking imagery and grand scale storytelling approach.

The newly released poster presents Arvind Krishna in a fierce warrior avatar, set against a dense, mystical forest backdrop. His rugged, blood-streaked appearance and intense expression highlight a character forged through struggle and destiny. He is seen holding a glowing divine staff in one hand while gripping a thick vine with the other, symbolizing a blend of supernatural power and raw human survival instinct. Behind him stands a massive stone-like creature with glowing emerald eyes, adding a mythical and supernatural layer to the composition. The surrounding visuals of swirling leaves, flowing water, and deep jungle terrain suggest an epic narrative rooted in ancient lore and elemental forces.

casing Arvind Krishna's rigorous physical preparation, action rehearsals, and horse-riding sequences. The behind-the-scenes footage emphasizes the scale of production and the commitment of the cast and crew in bringing this ambitious vision to life.

Producer Roy Films is backing the project on a grand scale, while music is composed by Sai Karthik, promising a powerful auditory experience to complement the film's visual grandeur. The film also features a notable ensemble cast including Chunky Panday, Archana Shastri, Prince, Divi, Kalakeya Prabhakar, Venkatesh Mummidi, Vinod Alwa, Balagam Sanjay, Dil Ramesh, Naga Mahesh, Killi Kranthi, and Mitali Chauhan, among others.

The film is being made as a multilingual release in Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam, aiming to reach a wide pan-Indian audience. With every promotional update, Karmastalam continues to build anticipation as a visually immersive and emotionally charged cinematic experience.

Currently in its final stages of production, the team is gearing up for a grand theatrical release soon, positioning Karmastalam as one of the most awaited mythological action films in the pipeline.

Directed by Rocky Sherman and presented by Roy Films, Karmastalam is shaping up as a high-intensity myth-adventure drama. The recently released making video further amplifies expectations, showing



Aamir Khan-Shraddha Kapoor Comedy Drama Rumours Spark Buzz in Bollywood

Bollywood is once again abuzz with fresh casting speculation as reports suggest that superstar Aamir Khan and actress Shraddha Kapoor may be coming together for an upcoming comedy-drama film. Though there is no official confirmation yet, the rumoured project has already generated strong interest among fans and industry circles.

According to recent reports, the film is said to revolve around the life of a prominent businessman and will be made as a light-hearted comedy-drama with emotional undertones. In this speculated storyline, Shraddha Kapoor is expected to play the role of Aamir Khan's wife, marking a fresh and unexpected on-screen pairing for the two popular actors. The project

is reportedly being developed by filmmaker and producer Rahul Mody, though the makers have remained tight-lipped about the casting.

The rumours have been circulating widely on social media and entertainment portals over the past few days, adding to the curiosity around the potential collaboration. Fans have expressed excitement over the possibility of seeing two contrasting acting styles come together—Aamir Khan known for his intense, performance-driven roles, and Shraddha Kapoor admired for her emotional and romantic portrayals.

Shraddha Kapoor, who was recently seen working on multiple projects, continues to be one of the most sought-after actresses in Bollywood. Meanwhile, Aamir Khan has been selective with his film choices in recent years, focusing more on meaningful and content-driven cinema.

Industry sources, however, emphasize that the project is still in the discussion stage and no official announcement has been made by either actor or the production team. As a result, the film remains firmly in the "rumour" category for now.

Interestingly, this is not the first time both stars have been linked to major projects together. Over the years, Shraddha Kapoor has been considered for several big-banner films, while Aamir Khan continues to be associated with high-profile, experimental storytelling ventures.

Until an official confirmation arrives, the Aamir Khan-Shraddha Kapoor pairing remains one of Bollywood's most talked-about speculative collaborations, keeping fans eagerly waiting for clarity on what could be a surprising cinematic combination.



Harish Shankar's "9 vs 19" Comment Goes Viral, Sparks Industry Buzz

Sensational filmmaker Harish Shankar has once again grabbed attention with his candid remarks at a recent film event, where he opened up about the struggles behind his directorial journey. Known for delivering mass entertainers like Gabbar Singh, the director shared an emotional insight into how many projects in his career never reached the finishing line, despite extensive pre-production work. During the event, Harish Shankar revealed that while only nine of his films have made it to the big screen, nearly nineteen projects were halted at different stages due to various reasons. His statement—highlighting the "9 completed vs 19 stopped" reality—quickly went viral on social media, sparking discussions among film circles about the unpredictable nature of the industry.

The director explained that



filmmaking involves far more than what audiences see on screen. Many projects, he said, move forward with scripts finalized, actors locked, and even schedules prepared, only to be stalled due to production challenges, financial con-

straints, or changes in circumstances. He emphasized that such setbacks are an inseparable part of a filmmaker's journey.

Harish Shankar also reflected on the emotional toll of these stalled projects, noting

that every unfinished film carries its own story and effort. Despite setbacks, he maintained that each experience has contributed to his growth as a filmmaker, making him stronger and more resilient.

His remarks have triggered

widespread conversation in the Telugu film industry, with many acknowledging the unseen struggles behind commercial cinema. Fans also expressed support, appreciating his honesty in speaking openly about failures in an industry often dominated by success narratives.

The discussion further gained traction as Harish Shankar continues to be a prominent name in Telugu cinema, especially after his successful collaborations and high-profile projects. His upcoming film with major stars is already generating expectations, and this latest statement has only added to public curiosity about his creative journey. By highlighting the "9 vs 19" contrast, Harish Shankar has unintentionally shed light on the uncertain nature of filmmaking, where success is visible but setbacks often remain hidden.

Allu Aravind's Light-Hearted Comment on Mrunal Thakur's Marriage Creates Buzz

Veteran producer Allu Aravind has sparked fresh discussion in the Telugu film industry with his humorous remarks about actress Mrunal Thakur during a recent film promotional event. His comments, made in a light-hearted tone, quickly went viral on social media and became a trending topic among fans.

At the success meet of the film Dacoit, starring Adivi Sesh and Mrunal Thakur, Allu Aravind praised the actress for her performance and growing popularity in Telugu cinema. While appreciating her work, he jokingly expressed a wish that she should marry someone from the Telugu film industry and settle in

Hyderabad. His intention, he said humorously, was to ensure that she continues to work more frequently in Telugu films.

The producer also recalled a similar "blessing" he had given earlier to actress Lavanya Tripathi, who later married actor Varun Tej, adding a playful reference that drew

laughter from the audience. He further remarked that such blessings often turn into reality, making his comment even more widely discussed online.

The video clip of his statement has since gone viral, with fans and social media users reacting with mixed humor and curiosity. While many treated it as a casual,

fun moment at a celebratory event, others began speculating about Mrunal Thakur's personal life and future plans, fueling unnecessary rumours across platforms.

Mrunal Thakur, who has been gaining strong recognition in Telugu cinema with films like Sita Ramam and Hi Nanna, has not re-

sponded to the speculation, as the comment was clearly made in a non-serious, jovial context.

Industry observers note that such remarks are common during film promotional events in the Telugu industry, often intended to entertain audiences rather than make serious statements.

Meanwhile,

Mrunal continues to focus on her upcoming projects, including her growing lineup of films in both Telugu and Hindi cinema. The episode has once again highlighted how quickly light-hearted comments from public events can turn into viral discussions in the age of social media.

