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Trump warns of 50% tariffs if China supplies weapons to Iran

Washington: The US president said his threat to impose 50% tariffs on goods from countries that sold weapons to Iran was aimed at China. Trump told Fox News' "Sunday Morning Futures" that he has heard reports of China giving anti-aircraft "shoulder missiles" to Iran. He played down the possibility of China supplying weapons to Iran, but said their goods would be taxed if they did.

CMC speeds up pre monsoon drain desilting works

Hyderabad: The Cyberabad Municipal Corporation (CMC) undertook desilting works across its jurisdiction to enhance storm water drainage capacity and prevent water-logging during the upcoming monsoon season.

A press release stated that a total of 72 desilting works were sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs 18.00 crore, covering a total length of 217.41 kilometres this year. Of this, 126.68 kilometres were executed through mechanical means, while 90.72 kilometres were carried out manually. All sanctioned works were in progress. As of now, 98.69 kilometres of drains were d



PM Modi took a life lesson from Gujarat's women: What was it

New Delhi, April 13

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday spoke of a 'life lesson' he took from rural women in Gujarat when he had just assumed office as Chief Minister in the state after the exit of Keshubhai Patel.

PM Modi, while addressing the Nari Shakti Vandan seminar in Delhi ahead of the parliamentary debate this week on the 33 per cent women's reservation, said he was still learning the ropes of the new job as Chief Minister when a request came to him that some panchayat members of Anand village wanted to see him.

"I first said let them meet the panchayati affairs minister but then I learnt that this was an all-women panchayat where no male candidate had contested. So naturally when I heard that this was a panchayat dominated by women, I became interested. The delegation, quite strangely, came without a memorandum unlike many who always come to ask for something or the other," recalled PM Modi.

He went on to narrate the lesson he drew from the meeting and

one which he continues to cherish to date.

"When I asked them what they planned to do for the village over the next five years of their tenure, their answer was such as not even the most celebrated of global economists can think of let alone give. They said their pledge and mission was to ensure that no one in the village remains poor once they sign off as panchayat members. Anyone else would have given stock answers—about building a hospital or a road or a bridge but these rural women from a panchayat in Gujarat had an answer which resonates deeply with me even today," he said while making a case for 33 per cent women's reservation in Lok Sabha and state assemblies.

In the same breath Modi also said that as CM he had refused to transfer the money earned by women of Gujarat mil cooperatives in the names of their husbands. "This took me a while but I clearly said that the money will go to the women only," Modi said to loud applause as he declared that women should be ready to bridge the gap between panchayats and Parliament now.

AP CM's Call For Easing Norms For Starting Industries

Vijayawada: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has called for simplifying the procedures to help set up industries without any delay in Andhra Pradesh. He

speeding up the procedures to set up industrial units.

AP officials gave a presentation on how the state government introduced a series of procedures to bring down the time for permission to set up industrial units.

Naidu inquired about the implementation of Deregulation Phases-I and the current status of Phase-II. The officials said that in Deregulation Phase-I, involving seven departments, implementation of 23 priority matters was completed. In Phase-II, 28 priority matters were listed. In total, 18 out of 47 recommendations were implemented while the remaining are to be implemented by March 31.

The chief minister underlined the importance of reducing the complexities in getting permits for setting up industrial units. He called for accelerating the process and stressed that the officials must work towards withdrawal of British era

set up industrial units. However, the government, he said, cannot compromise on people's safety and environmental protection while giving permission for industrial units.

The chief minister recommended priority for third party inspections at the industrial units for compliance with safety norms and to avoid the double licensing system. "Once a registration is done, it should be lasting till the lifetime for the entity to continue the business," he said.

On fire safety, Naidu asked the officials to implement AP's convenient and simplified norms in the place of national building code and stated that, from the stage of application to getting permission, all the procedures should be available online.

He called for an action plan to ensure that the time needed to set up industrial units should be reduced to 40 per cent after implementation of Deregulation Phase-II.

Moreover, Naidu directed the officials to bring in all the requisite ordinances for implementation of Deregulation Phase-II. He noted that 82 types of permissions were needed to set up industrial units or to take up business. This, he said, must be reduced to 57. The number of permission like building plan approvals, occupancy certificates totaling 30, should be brought down to 18.

Officials, he said, must strengthen land allotment procedures related to the investors, and this must be taken up in an expeditious manner. They must also simplify the procedures for usage of the land in the industrial parks and in the clusters.

The chief minister called for working out on a proposal of entrusting the task of giving all requisite permissions to a single nodal agency. He asked officials to ac-

cord priority to simplifying the procedures to get permissions in sectors like fire services, environment, power, tourism, education and health.

Naidu also asked the officials to work out modalities to facilitate starting a business venture based on submission of an affidavit. "We must bring in reforms to reduce the practice of periodical inspection. The aim is to create a congenial atmosphere for investors.

The CM called for digitalisation of the whose exercise relating to grant of permissions -- from the stage of application to sanction of permission. Facilities like Mee Seva, Single Desk Portal, WhatsApp Governance (Mana Mitra) etc must be of help to the people and the businessmen or traders by enabling easy access.

Meanwhile, Union steel secretary Sandeep Poundrik lauded the AP government for working in a better way to implement Deregulation Phase-II.

Naidu explained to the central delegation that the state government had transformed the initiative of 'Ease of Doing Business' to 'Speed of Doing Business' and suggested to the delegation to simplify old laws.

When Naidu asked whether the central government started implementing 'Deregulation Phase-III', the Union steel secretary replied that they would start it from June. The CM suggested to him to take the help of new technology like AI. They replied to him that they were already using the high-end technology like Data Lake, Real Time Data, CFMS, Aware 2.0 and WhatsApp Governance.

Governor calls for greater youth participation in policy-making



"Hyderabad, April 13, 2026: The Hon'ble Governor of Telangana, Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla, on Monday said that youth are not merely the future but active changemakers of the present, and their ideas and participation are crucial for shaping a strong and inclusive India. He was speaking as the chief guest at the grand finale of "My Bharat Budget Quest-2026 - National Youth Dialogue (Telangana and Tamil Nadu)" held at Kanha Shanti Vanam, Chegur, in Ranga Reddy district. "The Governor expressed happiness over the enthusiastic participation of youth from

across the country and noted that the initiative served as an effective platform to connect young people with the policy-making process. Such programmes, he said, strengthen participatory governance and reflect the true spirit of democracy. Recalling his tenure as Minister of State for Finance in the Government of India, the Governor emphasised the importance of incorporating youth perspectives in budgetary and developmental priorities. "Referring to the deliberations, he observed that the suggestions made by participants on education, skills, innovation and the digital economy would help

shape the country's future. He emphasised that the energy, innovation and commitment of youth would be instrumental in realising the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047. "Highlighting the theme "Nari Shakti: Voice of Viksit Bharat," the Governor said women's participation and leadership were essential for inclusive development. He noted that initiatives such as youth parliaments provide young women an opportunity to express their ideas and develop leadership skills. The simulation of parliamentary proceedings during the programme, he said, would enhance participants' confidence, communica-

tion abilities and understanding of public issues. "The Governor also appreciated the inclusion of environmental awareness activities, stating that sustainable development is a shared responsibility. He called upon the youth to play a proactive role in nation-building and contribute constructively to the country's development journey. "On the occasion, the Governor presented an award to Shri Kotla Raghuveer Reddy of Suryapet district for his innovation in the agriculture sector, which was appreciated by the Prime Minister in Mann Ki Baat. "About 550 participants from Tamil Nadu and 350 participants from Telangana attended the grand finale of Budget Quest-2026. "Shri Chandra Reddy, Additional Collector; Shri Anvesh Chintal, State Director, My Bharat, Telangana; Shri Rama Krishna Rao, Regional Director, National Service Scheme (NSS), Telangana and Andhra Pradesh; Shri Senthil Kumar, State Director, My Bharat, Tamil Nadu; distinguished guests, officials and youth participants were present."

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Talks fail as both sides stick to their guns

THE collapse of the US-Iran peace talks in Islamabad had an air of inevitability about it. After 21 hours of marathon negotiations, delegations led by US Vice President JD Vance and Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf left Islamabad without an agreement, casting a long shadow over an already fragile ceasefire. Iran has rightly observed that a deal should not have been expected after just one round of talks. This indicates that the window for further deliberations remains open. However, mutual mistrust continues to outweigh the urgency of ending the war which has destabilised global energy markets and aggravated regional tensions. The impasse is rooted in a deeply entrenched divide. The US, under President Donald Trump, wants Iran to abandon its nuclear ambitions. For Washington, any deal must include verifiable guarantees that Tehran will not develop nuclear weapons. Iran, however, views such demands as excessive and politically coercive, especially amid a devastating conflict and crippling sanctions. The Iranian leadership's insistence on sovereignty, waiver of curbs and control over strategic assets like the Strait of Hormuz reflects geopolitical assertiveness. And then there is an intransigent Israel, which continues to bombard Lebanon and ride roughshod over the truce. Despite the Islamabad fiasco, Pakistan's role as a mediator has highlighted the growing importance of regional powers in bringing warring sides to the negotiating table. Countries like India need to take a cue from these developments. It's apparent that alternative diplomatic channels remain viable — if not yet effective. The path forward demands not just new proposals but also a recalibration of expectations, prioritising gradual rebuilding of trust over maximalist positions.

Full Support to Electricity Workers' Strike: BJP District President Nelluri Koteswara Rao

"Avnreddy Khammam Town Reporter April 13, (Indian Chronicle): "The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has expressed complete solidarity with the ongoing indefinite strike by electricity workers, which has entered its sixth day as they fight for their legitimate demands." On Monday, BJP District President Nelluri Koteswara Rao visited the protest camp in Khammam city and assured the workers of the party's full support. Speaking on the occasion, he praised the dedication of electricity workers, stating that they risk their lives day and night to provide light to society. "He highlighted that many workers have lost their lives or suffered permanent disabilities while carrying out repairs by climbing electric poles even during midnight hours and in severe weather conditions such as thunderstorms and heavy rains. "Koteswara Rao criticized the state government for its negligent attitude towards these workers, despite their life-threatening duties. He expressed concern that since the formation of Telangana, the government has failed to address the problems of field-level workers who have been working with commitment. "He also pointed out that outdated rules from the British era are still being implemented, causing hardship to workers. He demanded that the Chief Minister and state ministers respond immediately and resolve the workers' genuine issues. "He emphasized that it is the responsibility of the government to ensure justice for hardworking people, adding that governments earn respect only when they take care of those in need. "Koteswara Rao reiterated that the BJP will continue to support the workers and stand with them until their issues are resolved. "Senior BJP leaders Subba Rao, District General Secretary Gutta Venkateswarlu, Khammam Urban President Vakadani Ramakrishna, Venkanna, and others were also present at the event.



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Om Sri Lucky Tiffins & Snacks Inaugurated in Navarang Guda Colony



"KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, April 13 (Indian Chronicle): "A new food outlet, "Om Sri Lucky Tiffins & Snacks," was inaugurated on Monday in Navarang Guda Colony of Venkat Reddy Nagar Division by Uppal Constituency Youth Congress President Aakarapu Arun Patel. "Speaking on the occasion, Arun Patel expressed his desire that the hotel should provide people with quality, tasty, and hygienic food. He conveyed his heartfelt wishes to the management for the success of the venture. "Several local leaders and residents attended the inauguration, including Lingam, Medchal District General Secretary Kishore, Bal Reddy, Ramu, Anil, Ramesh, Lingamayya, Rajesh, Chota, Sumi Nagam, and others.

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Tragic road accident in Vikarabad district Three killed in incident where lorry hit a scooty



"Indian Chronicle Babar Vikarabad (April 13) "A horrific road accident occurred in Vikarabad district. Three members of the same family lost their lives, casting a pall of grief over the area. Police have registered a case and launched an investigation into the incident. "What happened: "According to details given by the police, a major tragedy took place in Peddemul mandal of Vikarabad district. A speeding lorry hit a scooty, killing three people on the spot, while a child is in critical condition. The accident occurred between Siddannamadugu Thanda and Thattapally villages in Peddemul mandal. Kaviraj, from Zaheerabad, was traveling on a scooty with his family when a lorry coming

from the opposite direction hit them head-on. "Details of the deceased: "In this accident, three members of the same family tragically died. They include Kaviraj (father), Pavani (mother), and Keerthana (daughter). All three died at the scene, while Kaviraj's son Karthik sustained serious injuries. Locals responded immediately and shifted the injured boy to a nearby hospital for treatment. "Causes of the accident: "It appears the lorry lost control due to excessive speed and hit the scooty. Police believe the narrow roads in the thanda areas also contributed to the accident. They also noted that four people traveling on the scooty may have affected vehicle control. "Police action: "Immediately after the accident, locals expressed anger over the lorry driver's negligence. On receiving information, police reached the spot and shifted the bodies to the hospital for post-mortem. A case has been registered and investigation is underway. Locals prayed for peace to the souls of the deceased and for the speedy recovery of the injured boy. "Road safety suggestions: "To prevent such tragic accidents, police advised travelers to follow certain precautions. They said helmets act as life-saving protection when riding two-wheelers. They warned that traveling with more than two people on a scooty or bike is dangerous. Police added that maintaining adequate distance at turns and when heavy vehicles are approaching is important."

Closed Adilabad unit of Cement Corporation of India to soon turn into scrap



"S. Harpal Singh, Adilabad, April 13** The huge cement factory in Adilabad town will soon be converted to scrap as all the hurdles in the way of closing the unit permanently were removed a few days back. A New Delhi based private company specialising in dismantling and scraping industrial assets and factories has been awarded a Rs. 50 crore contract to dismantle the cement factory. "The company is setting up a base in town at present before start of work in a few days. According to company sources all the structures including the iconic twin silos, processing and packing plant and the around 400 living quarters of all description will be flattened in about one year's time. "The latest development marks culmination of a long drawn out struggle by the CCI employees who were demanding re-start of the unit which went non operational in 1998. The factory actually ran for only a short period, having started



commercial production on April 1, 1984. "The CCI unit had a manufacturing capacity of four lakh tonnes of cement per year using the Dry process. That was the period towards the end of 'control' on sale of cement. Relaxation of control spelt doom for the cement producing public sector units. "At the time of establishment of the CCI, the mineable reserves of raw material were estimated to be over 48 million tonnes. Of this about 6 million tonnes was used. "The CCI, which was built at a cost of around Rs 35 crore, has freehold land assets extending to 772.95 aCRR's and a leased area extending up to 1,516. 90 acres. The total area of operations therefore came up to 2,289. 85 acres. "According to sources, the Union government has plans to establish a new modernised unit either in public private ownership or in the private sector. Either way it could open opportunities for employment locally, hoped the sources.

Public Awareness on Road Safety Must Increase: Inspector Mohan Babu



"Arvapalli Nagesh Khammam Bureau April 13, (Indian Chronicle): "Khammam Three Town Inspector Mohan Babu emphasized the need for greater public awareness to control road accidents. "With road accidents increasing day by day not only across the country but also within the state, an awareness program titled "Arrive Alive" was conducted from

the 13th to the 18th of this month as part of the 99-day Praja Palana-Pragati action plan. Under the supervision of Town ACP Ramanamurthy, the program was organized at the city's Mirchi Market to educate farmers and trolley drivers about road safety. "Speaking on the occasion, the Inspector said that the Arrive Alive campaign aims to instill the importance of road safety in every citizen's mind. He urged people to remember their families waiting for them at home while traveling on roads. "He further stated that the goal of this campaign is to promote a culture of safe driving and strengthen road safety systems. He highlighted common dangerous practices such as not wearing helmets, not using seat belts, using mobile phones while driving, driving under the influence of alcohol, jumping signals, crossing stop lines, overloading autos on highways, and overtaking from the left side. "He added that everyone shares the responsibility of making the Arrive Alive program a success. On this occasion, people were also made to take a pledge to follow road safety measures and help prevent accidents.

Public Urged to Stay Alert Amid Rising Heatwave Conditions Carry drinking water while stepping out



??District Collector Adarsh Surabhi" Dyrapogu Srinath wanaparthi correspondent April 13, (Indian Chronicle): " " In view of the severe heatwave conditions expected over the next week, District Collector Adarsh Surabhi has directed people to remain cautious and take preventive measures to avoid heatstroke. On Monday, the Collector conducted a review meeting with officials of various district departments at the Collectorate conference hall to assess preparedness for the summer heat. He issued necessary instructions to officials to ensure public safety. The Collector stated that temperatures in the district are likely to reach up to 45 degrees Celsius, accompanied by intense heatwaves. He instructed authorities to establish cooling centers (chalivendras) across all municipalities and mandal headquarters, and to make adequate arrangements for drinking water at various locations. Officials were also directed to create awareness among the public regarding heatwave precautions. The Collector advised people to always carry a water bottle while stepping out. "He further



instructed that: " " All government offices must provide safe drinking water facilities. Government hospitals, schools, colleges, and welfare hostels should keep ORS (Oral Rehydration Solution) readily available. Workers under the employment guarantee scheme must be provided with cool drinking water and shaded shelters at worksites. Strict action will be taken if basic amenities are not provided at worksites. Farmers were advised to avoid working in fields during peak afternoon hours to prevent heat-related illnesses. Officials of Mission Bhagiratha were directed to ensure uninterrupted supply of drinking water so that people receive water on time during the summer. On this occasion, the Collector, along with senior officials, also released a poster prepared by the District Medical and Health Department highlighting precautions against heatwaves. The meeting was attended by Additional Collector (Revenue) Vinod Kumar, ZP CEO Yadaiah, DSP Balaji Naik, DTO Manasa, DRDO Umadevi, CPO Harikrishna, and other district officials."

Constable dies in road accident

Indian Chronicle srinivas Vikarabad "A tragic incident cast gloom over Reddy Ganapur in Basheerabad mandal when a police constable died after falling into a bridge pit on the under-construction Kodangal-Tandur National Highway. He was returning home after performing duties at



the Sri Bavagi Bhadrashwara Jathara festivities being held in Tandur, Vikarabad district. "Details: " V. Narsimlu (30), a native of Reddy Ganapur village, was working as a police constable. Though posted in Hyderabad, he was serving as security for Chief Whip Patnam Mahender Reddy. On Sunday, he performed duties at the Bhadrashwara Jathara festivities in Tandur. "While returning to his village from Tandur, he accidentally fell

into a bridge pit on the National Highway near Laxminarayanpur village in Yalal mandal, along with his bike. As no one noticed, Narsimlu died in the water due to suffocation. "After learning about the incident, Yalal police reached the spot. SI Vithal Reddy entered the water in the bridge pit and recovered Narsimlu's body. "Narsimlu's death plunged Reddy Ganapur village into grief. He is survived by his wife. A few months ago, their daughter was born but passed away. With Narsimlu's death now, the family members are devastated and weeping inconsolably. "Narsimlu's body was shifted to the District Government Hospital in Tandur for post-mortem.

Free Medical Camp Inaugurated by State Warehousing Corporation Chairman Rayala Nageswara Rao



"Avnreddy Khammam Town Reporter April 13, (Indian Chronicle): "State Warehousing Corporation Chairman Rayala Nageswara Rao inaugurated a free medical camp organized by the Khammam Granite Markers Union at Guralapadu village in Paleru constituency of Khammam district. "Speaking on the occasion, he emphasized that health is the most important asset for people and urged everyone to make good use of such free medical camps. He appreciated the organizers for coming forward to conduct the camp and provide quality healthcare services, especially in an area where many economically weaker sections reside. "He further noted that initiatives like these play a crucial role in improving public health and ensuring access to medical services for the underprivileged.

Resolve Prajavani Applications at the Earliest



District Collector Adarsh Surabhi" Dyrapogu Srinath wanaparthi correspondent April 13, (Indian Chronicle): " District Collector Adarsh Surabhi has instructed officials to expedite the resolution of complaints and petitions received from the public under the Prajavani program. The Prajavani session was held on Monday at the meeting hall of the Integrated District Offices Complex. The Collector, along with Additional Collector (Revenue) Vinod Kumar, Zilla Parishad CEO Yadayya, and DRDO official Umadevi, attended the program and received grievances and representations from citizens. Addressing the gathering, the Collector said that it is the responsibility of officials to provide timely solutions to public issues. He stated that a total of 30 applications were received during the session. He directed concerned district-level officials to examine the petitions thoroughly and take prompt action for their disposal. He further instructed officials to review pending applications and resolve them immediately. He also emphasized that petitions received through Prajavani, including those pending at the Chief Minister and District Minister levels, should be cleared within a week. Housing PD Vitoba, DSP Balaji Naik, and officials from various departments were present at the program"

Services of Sripada Rao are unforgettable...MLA Sanjay pays tribute with CM



*** Jagtial Correspondent, April 13 (Indian Chronicle) - Jagtial MLA Dr. Sanjay Kumar said that the services rendered by the late Sripada Rao to the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh state are unforgettable. On the occasion of Sripada Rao's 27th death anniversary, MLA Sanjay Kumar, along with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, and Rajyasabha member Vem Narendar Reddy, paid floral tributes to Sripada Rao's portrait. ***MLA Sanjay Kumar spoke on the occasion, saying that Sripada Rao, born in the remote village of Dhanwada in Manthani, served as a sarpanch, Manthani Samiti president, and Manthani MLA. He praised Sripada Rao as a great leader who brought glory to the Speaker's post while serving as the Speaker of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly. Sanjay Kumar noted that Sripada Rao was known for his friendly nature and earned the title of "Ajatashatru" (one without enemies)"

Potholes Filled, Traffic Awareness Drive Conducted under "Arrive Alive" Programme



NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR) Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, April 13 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):Jawahar Nagar: As part of the 4th phase of the "Arrive Alive" programme, potholes on the road near Chennapuram were filled today under the joint supervision of GHMC officials and Jawahar Nagar Police. In addition, a traffic awareness campaign was conducted to educate the

public on road safety. Citizens were sensitized about traffic rules and encouraged to follow them, followed by a public pledge for safe driving practices. Jawahar Nagar Inspector Saidulu, Admin SI Ramu Naik, GHMC staff members Sandeep and Naveen Goud, along with local residents including Biru Eka Swami, Saritha, Supriya, and others, participated in the programme.

Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy Attends Sai Kiran's Housewarming Ceremony in Kapra Division



NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR) Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, April 13 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):Kapra Division: Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy attended the housewarming ceremony of BJP Telangana State Executive Member Sai Kiran at

Chandrapuri Extension, along with Union Minister Bandi Sanjay, and extended his heartfelt wishes. BRS Division President Baire Naveen Goud, along with party leaders, colony residents, and party workers, also participated in the event.

Illegal Constructions on Government Land in Chilkanagar: BRS Leader Praveen Mudiraj Submits Petition to MRO, Seeks Immediate Demolition



illegal alteration and removal of sewage pipelines have created serious hardships for the local population, as the drainage system has been disrupted without proper outlets. "Additionally, he pointed out that some private landowners are extending their constructions beyond their legally owned land and occupying adjacent government land. He requested the authorities to demolish such illegal structures without delay and to install official government signboards to prevent further encroachments. "Responding to the petition, the MRO assured that an immediate inspection would be conducted by the Revenue Inspector (RI). He also promised that a survey would be carried out at the earliest, government signboards would be installed, and strict action would be taken against encroachers and land grabbers. "Others present at the program included Kondal Reddy, Jalli Mohan, Mallikarjun Nagar President Ashok Chary, Madhu, Moula Ali, Bharat, Sai, and others.

Minor Boy Missing After Exam Disappointment

NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR) Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, April 13 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):A 17-year-old student, Challa Balaji, son of Chella Subbalakshmi, went missing on April 12, 2026, at around 7:00 PM after leaving home without informing anyone. According to neighbors, he was last seen at around 8:00 PM near the AS Rao Nagar bus stop. Family members stated that Balaji was upset after scoring around 300 marks in his Intermediate examinations, despite expecting more than 400 marks, which may have led to his distress. On April 13, 2026, at about 8:00 AM, he called his mother from mobile number 7383680566. When she asked him to return home, he refused and disconnected the call. Upon calling back, it was learned that he was at Kacheguda Railway Station. Based on a complaint filed by his mother, a missing case has been registered, and an investigation is underway.



KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, April 13 (Indian Chronicle):BRS State leader Bannala Praveen Mudiraj, along with residents of Chilkanagar division, submitted a petition on Monday to Uppal Tahsildar Pool Singh Chauhan, requesting immediate removal of illegal constructions on government lands. "The issue pertains to areas behind Bodrai in Mallikarjun Nagar of Chilkanagar division, where private individuals have reportedly encroached upon government land and carried out unauthorized constructions. Due to these encroachments, sewage outlets have been blocked, causing significant inconvenience to residents. It was also alleged that the encroachers have diverted sewage and stormwater drainage pipelines arbitrarily, leading to severe problems for the public. "Speaking to the MRO, Praveen Mudiraj stated that some individuals have constructed buildings on government land and are even renting them out. He urged the authorities to immediately reclaim the encroached land. He further explained that the

Do not keep public hearing petitions pending District Collector Garima Agrawal



***Rajanna Siricilla, April 13: District Collector Garima Agrawal has ordered that public hearing petitions should not be kept pending. A public hearing was held on Monday in the auditorium of the district integrated offices complex, and the District Collector received petitions from the public. Prajavani received a total of 270 applications, and the Collector ordered them to be handed over to the officials of the relevant departments and resolved. District Planning Officer, CDE Section, Tehsil Office Rudrangi, Tehsil Office

Siricilla, Forest Department, District Excise Officer, Vemulawada Sri Rajarajeshwara Temple EO, R&B, GGH Siricilla, Municipal Commissioner Vemulawada, District SC Welfare Officer, District Animal Husbandry Officer, District Mining Officer, Sub-Registrar Siricilla, DPRO, District Agriculture Officer, one each for the Cooperative Officer, District Civil Supplies Officer, Irrigation Department, District Medical Officer, Tehsil Office Chandurthi, 2 each for the Special Deputy Collector, District Education Officer, Tehsil Office Vemulawada, 3 each for Boynapalli, Employment Generation Officer, Tehsil Office Gambhiraopet, RDO Vemulawada received 4 each, Electricity Department, SP Office, Tehsil Office Yellareddypet, Mustabad received 5 each, District Welfare Officer, Tehsil Office Vemulawada Rural, Konaraopet, RDO Siricilla received 6 each, Tehsil Office Tangallapalli, Illantakunta received -7 each, Municipal Commissioner Siricilla received 8, District Panchayat Officer received 13, Housing Department received 68, District Rural Development Officer received 73. Additional Collector Gaddam Nagesh, RDOs Venkateshwarlu, Radhabhai, Housing PD Venkata Madhava Rao and others participated in this public meeting.

Collector Congratulates Minority Students for Outstanding Intermediate Results

***Rajanna Siricilla, April 13: District Collector Garima Agrawal on Monday congratulated students from minority welfare residential institutions in the district for their outstanding performance in the Intermediate Public Examinations. Following the announcement of first and second-year results, students from minority gurukul institutions in Thangallapalli and Vemulawada secured top marks across various streams. The students met the Collector at the Integrated District Offices Complex, where she appreciated their achievements and encouraged them to continue striving for excellence. Addressing the students, the Collector emphasized the importance of discipline, clear goal-setting, and perseverance in achieving success. In the second-year BiPC stream, M. Nandini scored 977 out of 1000, while Subiya Tabassum secured 969 marks. In the MPC stream, Busra Kausar achieved 985 marks, and K. Namita scored 979 marks. In the first-year MLT stream, C.H. Manoj and K. Niranjan scored 488 out of 500, securing the district first rank, while B. Sukumar scored 481 marks. In the LM&D (Lab Medicine & Diagnostic Technology) stream, S. Pranay scored 491 marks, securing State First Rank, followed by E. Rahul with 490 marks (State Second Rank) and D. Ram Charan with 488 marks (State Third Rank). In the second-year MLT stream, U. Hemanth scored 982 marks, M.D. Shadul secured 973 marks, and



L. Muninder scored 967 marks. In the LM&D stream, S.K. Adil achieved 977 marks, J. Abhishek scored 959 marks, and P. Raju secured 924 marks, reflecting commendable performance. District Minority Welfare Officer M.A. Bharati, Principals Urus Fatima and Lakshminarayana, along with others, were present on the occasion.

Job Drive at Uppal Government Degree College Successful; 10 Students Selected Through Entrance Test, Appointment Letters Issued



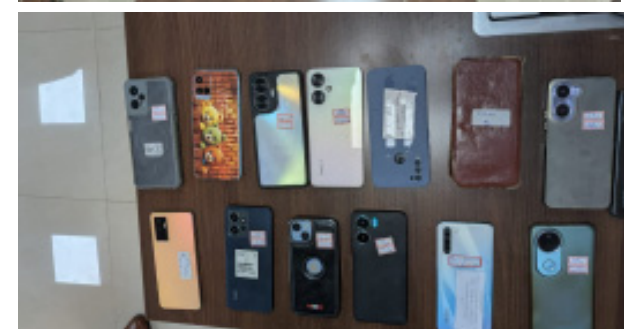
KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, April 13 (Indian Chronicle):***A job drive conducted at Uppal Government Degree College was successfully completed, said College Principal Dr. K. Vijay Kumar. The job mela was organized under the aegis of Sinu Qule Research Labs Private Limited, based in Nacharam, Hyderabad, with support from Aravind Pharma, Dabar Pharma, and Reliance Life Sciences Limited. "Speaking on the occasion, Principal Dr. K. Vijay Kumar stated that the Life Sciences sector offers vast opportunities in the future and pursuing these courses would greatly benefit students. He added that studying at the college is a fortunate opportunity for students. "The chief guest, Dr. Naveen Kumar Podili, Founder and Managing Director of Sinu Qule Research Labs Pvt. Ltd., said that biosciences and pharmaceutical sectors provide stable and long-term career opportunities. He emphasized that there will always be demand in the medicine manufacturing sector. He also noted that Hyderabad has gained global recognition in the pharma industry and played a key role in the development

of COVID-19 medicines. Career Guidance and Placement Cell Convener Dr. Tirupathiah said that while the software sector is currently facing a slowdown, the Life Sciences field continues to offer wide opportunities. He pointed out that with nearly a thousand pharma companies in Hyderabad, chemistry students have strong job prospects and can secure high-paying jobs based on their talent. Head of the Chemistry Department, Geetha, described Chemistry as an evergreen subject with abundant opportunities and advised students to pursue it with interest. A total of 43 students participated in the job drive, out of which 10 were selected through an entrance test, informed Dr. Naveen Kumar Podili. The selected candidates were offered a monthly salary of ₹20,000 and were handed over their appointment letters. Faculty members including Dr. Vishwanath Kumar, Dr. Rani, Dr. Chandrasagar, Dr. Vijay Kumar, Dr. Srinivas, Dr. Venkateshwarlu, as well as staff members Shraavanthi, Anuradha, and Anusha, were present at the event.

32 Complaints Registered, 20 Stolen Mobile Phones Recovered in Shamirpet PS Limits



NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR) Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, April 13 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):Shamirpet: Within the limits of Shamirpet Police Station, a total of 32 complaints were received over the past two months regarding stolen or lost mobile phones. All complaints were registered through the CEIR online portal. Out of these, police successfully recovered 20 mobile phones. The recovered devices were handed over to the respective complainants on Monday. The recovery and dis-



tribution were carried out under the supervision of ACP K. Chakrapani, Jawahar Nagar Division, Malkajgiri Zone, along with Inspector S. Srinath, SHO Shamirpet, and Admin SI G. Somi Reddy. The complainants expressed happiness and appreciation for the quick identification and return of their mobile phones.

Collector directs immediate clearance of Prajavani petitions; 229 submissions received.



Monday directed officials to accord top priority to petitions submitted under the Prajavani public grievance programme, emphasising that complaints must be examined at the field level and resolved expeditiously.

Speaking at the Prajavani session held in the Collectorate auditorium, Ms. Mishra said that timely field verification and coordination with ground staff were essential to ensure speedy redressal. "Each application should be taken up on merit, verified at the local level and disposed of without unnecessary delay," she said. A total of 229 applicants presented their grievances during the programme. Several matters were settled on the spot, while others were referred to the relevant departments for further action. The Collector instructed department heads to clear pending cases at the earliest and to submit progress reports to the Collectorate.

The programme was attended by Additional Collectors Ashwini Tanaji Wakade, Lakshmi Kiran, R. D. Volu Maheshwar and Ramesh Babu, who accompanied field verification teams and coordinated follow-up measures. Officials said the Prajavani initiative aims to bring administration closer to citizens by providing a platform for direct interaction with senior officials and ensuring quicker resolution of local issues. The Collectorate has asked district officers to compile a consolidated status update within a week.

GNS News Agency, April 13

Khaja Sikander Mohiuddin Staff Reporter, Indian Chronicle Karimnagar, April 13: Collector Chitra Mishra on

Ensure Prompt Disposal of Public Grievances, Says Additional Collector Vijender Reddy



"NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR) Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, April 13 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): "Medchal-Malkajgiri District: Additional Collector Vijender Reddy instructed officials to ensure that applications received during the Prajavani programme are promptly forwarded to the concerned departments and resolved without delay. The Prajavani programme was held on Monday at the District Collectorate meeting hall. The Additional Collector, along with ZP CEO Kanthamma, received a total of 181 applications from petitioners who arrived from various parts of the district. Speaking on the occasion, the Additional Collector said that people come with hope and trust, often after spending time and resources,

expecting solutions to their problems. He stated that it is the responsibility of the administration to uphold that trust by addressing grievances efficiently. He directed officials to process all applications without delay and ensure there is no negligence in their scrutiny. In cases where applications are rejected, officials were instructed to clearly explain the reasons for rejection to the applicants. The Additional Collector also emphasized that details of the action taken on each application must be updated online without delay. District officials from various departments and others participated in the programme.

Grievance Day Aims at Speedy Redressal of Public Complaints SP Mahesh B. Gite.



"Rajanna Sircilla, April 13: Superintendent of Police Mahesh B. Gite stated that the Grievance Day programme is being conducted every Monday at the District police Headquarters with the objective of ensuring prompt resolution of

public complaints and delivering speedy justice to victims. During the Grievance Day held on Monday, the police received 33 petitions from complainants across various parts of the district. The SP personally reviewed the grievances and instructed concerned police station officials over the phone to address the issues promptly in accordance with the law. Speaking on the occasion, the SP emphasized that the initiative aims to make police services more accessible to the public. He directed officers and staff to interact courteously with complainants visiting police stations, receive their petitions with due attention, and, if necessary, conduct field-level inquiries to ensure justice is delivered. He further noted that all complaints received during Grievance Day are being recorded online and regularly monitored to track their resolution status. This system, he said, would enhance efficiency and strengthen public trust in the police department. The SP added that the platform enables citizens to directly present their grievances before senior officials, facilitating quicker and more effective redressal of issues.

Arrive Alive Programme Launched at Aliabad Municipal Office



Law & Order Shamshabad, and CI Traffic Medchal. Addressing the gathering, speakers emphasized that the success of the programme depends on coordinated efforts between municipal authorities, the police department, and citizens. The initiative focuses on promoting awareness, encouraging responsible civic behavior, and ensuring active public involvement in local governance. The Municipal Chairperson expressed gratitude to the officials and all participants. Residents of Aliabad were urged to actively take part in the Arrive Alive Programme to help build a safer and more informed community.

Another inter student dies by suicide in erstwhile Adilabad

Nirmal: A 17-year-old student died allegedly by suicide by hanging after he failed in Intermediate first year at Gollamada village on Monday. It was the second such incident reported in erstwhile Adilabad district in a gap of 24 hours.

Narsapur (G) Sub-Inspector K Ganesh said that Gundla Manivardhan hanged himself from a tree near a hill-ock after he failed in the inter exams. Manivardhan was distressed when he learned the results of Intermediate first year. He left home saying he would go to the farm and hanged himself there.

On Sunday, Jilapelli Soujanya killed herself by hanging from a ceiling fan as she was disheartened by her failure in Intermediate first year soon after the release of the results at Danthenpalli village in Utanoor mandal of Adilabad district.

"NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR) Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, April 13 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): "The Arrive Alive Programme was formally launched today at the Aliabad Municipal Office with the objective of enhancing public awareness and strengthening citizen participation in municipal initiatives. The inauguration was attended by the Municipal Chairperson of Aliabad, municipal councillors, the DTO Medchal, DEE (R&B), CI

All Congress leaders are united Working under the leadership of CMDCC President Gajangi Nandaya clarifies



Jagithyal Correspondent, April 13 (Indian Chronicle) : Jagithyal District Congress Committee President Gajangi Nandaya stated that all Congress senior leaders and workers in Jagithyal district are working under one leadership and on a single platform. "Speaking to the media on the occasion of the postponement of the meeting with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, led by State Welfare Minister Adhuri Lakshman Kumar, Nandaya dismissed social media rumors that Jagithyal MLA had gone to Hyderabad and cancelled the CM's meeting with Minister Lakshman Kumar and senior Congress workers. "Nandaya said it's not true that the minister's word isn't being followed and advised workers not to believe such rumors. He explained that the program was postponed due to the Chief Minister's meeting regarding the reorganization of constituencies. "Nandaya stated that the Congress party cadres in Jagithyal district are working under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and will inform when the postponed program will take place.

Caste Annihilation Cultural Festival Held in Kamalanagar



NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR) Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, April 13 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): "Under the aegis of Telangana Praja Samskrutika Kendram - Spoorthi Group, song competitions on the theme of "Caste Annihilation" were organized at the Kamalanagar office premises as part of cultural events marking the birth anniversaries of social reformers. The programme was coordinated by Spoorthi Group organizer Godugu Yadagiri Rao. The event began with a patriotic song written by Gurajada Apparao, rendered energetically by Bommagani Rukkayya. A brief condolence was observed in memory of renowned singer Asha Bhosle. Addressing the gathering, Yadagiri Rao said that the caste system has oppressed working people for centuries and continues to survive in different forms. He stated that social progress is not possible unless caste is completely eradicated and called for building a society based on equality and human dignity. Chief guest Srimannarayana described caste as a feudal and exploitative system that created hierarchical divisions in Indian society. He said many reformers have fought against it in the past and emphasized that ending caste discrimination is a collective responsibility. Earlier, Ganji Eshwara Lingam, associated with Amma Foundation and an organ donation campaigner, highlighted the importance of organ and body donation after death. As part of the

programme, participants including Bommagani Somayya, Pandu, Koteswara Rao, Narasimha Rao, Rukkayya, CH Leelavathi, Kumari Duva Kirti, Nava Telangana Ravi, Shanmukham, and M Bhaskar Rao presented songs and poems strongly opposing caste discrimination. Uday Kumar delivered a message emphasizing social awareness and unity. Later, the participants were honored with handloom shawls and books titled "Naade Kulam" and "Prapanchikaran," written by Rami Shetty Roshaiha. The awards were presented by Srimannarayana, Sharada, Shobha, and Mallesham. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Spoorthi Group youth leader Girish. Several others, including B Venkat, Lakshmaiah, RSR Prasad, Venkateswara Rao, Satya Koteswara Rao, Shobha, Narasimha Rao, Pandu, Rukkayya, Leelavathi, Duva Kirti, Nava Telangana Ravi, Uday Kumar, M Bhaskar Rao, Shanmukham, Eshwara Lingam, and Sharada, were present.

"Arrive — Alive" drive launched in Timmampur

Collector calls for strict adherence to road-safety norms; focus on golden hour care.



strict adherence to road-safety norms and urged parents not to allow minors to drive vehicles. He also called for discouraging drunken driving and highlighted the social and economic impact of road accidents on families.



Officials from Panchayat Raj, Roads & Buildings and the Transport department emphasised the need for installing speed breakers at accident-prone locations. A village-level road-safety committee will be constituted under the sarpanch to sustain awareness efforts and monitor implementation of safety norms. The programme featured a rally, administration of a road-safety pledge and distribution of helmets to villagers. A medical camp and strengthened trauma-care services at the district general hospital were also announced. Two women who lost family members in road accidents shared their experiences and appealed to the public to follow safety norms. Among those present were Additional Collector (Revenue) Lakshmi Kiran, District Transport Officer Srikant Chakravarthy, sarpanch Gujjula Shweta Reddy, up-sarpanch Mallesh Yadav, panchayat members and officials from various departments. The district administration stated that the campaign will include village-level awareness drives, first-aid demonstrations and identification of accident-prone locations for remedial measures during the week."

Khaja Sikander Mohiuddin Staff Reporter, Indian Chronicle Karimnagar, April 13: District Collector Chitra Mishra on Monday launched the second phase of the "Arrive — Alive" road-safety campaign at Ramakrishna Colony in Timmampur mandal, stressing that over speeding and negligence continue to be the leading causes of road fatalities. The week-long programme (April 13-18), taken up under the Prajapalana-Pragati Pranalika 99-day action plan, seeks to promote awareness on traffic rules, encourage safe driving practices and strengthen local response to accidents. The launch was held during a gram sabha at the panchayat office.

Addressing the gathering, Ms. Mishra, who is also chairperson of the district road-safety committee, urged residents to follow basic safety measures such as wearing helmets and seat belts, adhering to speed limits and exercising caution while crossing roads. She said sustained awareness at the village level was key to reducing accidents. Commissioner of Police Gautham highlighted accident-prone stretches, particularly between Alugunoor Chowrasta and Renigunta tollgate, noting that two-wheeler riders and pedestrians account for a majority of victims. He called upon the public to assist accident victims within the "golden hour," stating that timely medical intervention can save lives.

Under the Rahaveer Singh scheme, those helping victims reach hospitals and informing police are eligible for a reward of ₹25,000. He said accident victims are also entitled to cashless treatment of up to ₹1.5 lakh for seven days across 33 empanelled hospitals in the district. Manakondur MLA Kavvampalli Satyanarayana stressed the need for



Telangana Civil Supplies Dept has seized 5,079 domestic cylinders, property worth ₹1.5 CR, & 2,089 cases have been filed to ensure public safety and stop black marketing.

Farmers' hardships are exposed.. Harish Rao criticizes Chief Minister and ministers' outings in Gali motorbikes



Sangareddy, April 13. Indian Chronicle Correspondent Sunil... Former Minister and BRS Deputy Floor Leader Harish Rao visited the peanut purchasing center at Sadashivapet Rythu Seva Kendra in Sangareddy constituency. He personally inquired about the problems of the farmers who have been stranded there for a week after purchases were stopped due to the quota being exhausted. He questioned the officials as to why they were not purchasing. Sangareddy MLA Chintna Prabhakar, Zaheerabad MLA Manik Rao, local brush leaders and farmers participated along with Harish Rao. "Speaking to the media on this occasion, former Minister Harish Rao said, "We came to the DCMS center here after farmers from Atigadda Sangam and other villages brought it to our attention that they were not buying their peanuts. When we asked the farmers and the managers, they said that the quota was exhausted. Harish Rao criticized that this Congress government is not able to provide seeds and fertilizers to the farmers... "Not only is Rythu Bandhu not provided on time, but it is not even in a position to buy the harvested crop at the support price, this is a completely anti-farmer government."... "The Chief Minister and ministers have become like they say less for the village and more for Delhi"... "They are busy traveling in air motors and are not aware of the difficulties of the farmers"... "The rotation on the ground has decreased and the rotation of air motors has increased, Harish Rao criticized.

Grand tributes paid to former Speaker D. Sripada Rao; annadanam held in Karimnagar.



Congress president Vaidyula Anjan Kumar and several senior party functionaries. The delegation then proceeded to the statue of Sripada Rao at the bus-stand junction, where leaders and party workers offered garlands and observed a two-minute silence. Addressing the gathering, Mr. Komatireddy recalled Sripada Rao's decades-long public service and described him as an exemplar of value-based politics whose tenure as Assembly Speaker left a lasting imprint on state political life. He said Sripada Rao had earned wide admiration across remote villages in the erstwhile united Andhra Pradesh for his accessibility and commitment to people's causes.

Former MLA Katakam Mrityunjayam and other speakers paid tribute to Sripada Rao's lifelong focus on the upliftment of the economically and socially disadvantaged. They highlighted the continuity of that mission in the work of Sripada Rao's son, Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu, whose efforts, they said, reflect a sustained endeavour to realise his father's aspirations for the weaker sections. "The path shown by Sripada Rao will guide our work. Realising his vision for the uplift of the underprivileged is our foremost goal," Mr. Komatireddy said, announcing that party workers would continue to follow the late leader's ideals. The annadanam organised as part of the commemoration served free meals to hundreds of residents and nearby workers. Party leaders, workers and volunteers participated in preparing and distributing food, reinforcing the social welfare emphasis of the day's programmes. Local leaders who attended included Mallikarjun Rajender, M.D. Taj, Karra Rajashekhar, Banothu Shraavan Naik, Varala Narasingam, Velpula Venkatesh and many others from Karimnagar's Congress cadre. The event drew a steady stream of citizens who paid respects and recalled Sripada Rao's contributions to district and state politics. The DCC said the anniversary observance aimed both to honour Sripada Rao's memory and to signal continued commitment to inclusive development and social justice in Karimnagar district.

Khaja Sikander Mohiuddin Staff Reporter, Indian Chronicle Karimnagar, April 13: Leaders of the Congress party and local public representatives paid rich tributes on Tuesday to the late former Andhra Pradesh Assembly Speaker Duddilla Sripada Rao on his anniversary, underscoring his service to weaker sections and values-driven politics. The principal commemoration took place at the District Congress Committee (DCC) office and later at the city bus-stand junction, where a community meal (Annadanam) was organised for the poor.

SUDA Chairman Komatireddy Narendra Reddy, who led the programmes, laid a floral garland on Sripada Rao's portrait at the DCC office in the presence of former MLAs Katakam Mrityunjayam and Arepalli Mohan, Corporation

District Collector has the first priority for Prajavani applications. 63 requests received for Prajavani.



"Sangareddy, April 13. indian chronicle Correspondent Sunil." District Collector P Praveenya has instructed the

officials to examine the total 63 applications received through the Prajavani program with utmost priority and resolve them as soon as possible. In the Prajavani program organized on Monday, various problems and requests from the people were received and sent to the officials of the relevant departments. "Speaking on the occasion, the Collector clarified that people from all over the district are confidently bringing their problems to the attention of the government through Prajavani and there should be no delay in resolving them."... "He instructed the officials to examine each application thoroughly and resolve it within the stipulated time."... "He instructed the officials to pay special attention to the requests related to welfare, revenue, agriculture, housing, marketing, employment and other departments and take immediate action."... "He advised them to act responsibly and not to show negligence on Prajavani applications."... "Additional Collector of Local Bodies Pandu, Narayankhed Sub-Collector Uma Aarti, district officers of various departments, revenue divisional officers and staff participated in this program.

Complaints Against Accreditation Committee Members Are Unjustified: Journalists' Unions Appeal to Collector

"Dyrapogu Srinath Wanaparthy correspondent, April 13, (Indian Chronicle):... Leaders of various journalists' unions have expressed strong objection to the complaints being made against members of the Accreditation Committee, stating that such allegations are inappropriate. On Monday, representatives of TUWJ-H143 and the Suravaram Pratap Reddy Press Committee Union met District Collector Adarsh Surabhi during the Prajavani grievance programme at the district collectorate and submitted a memorandum. They stated that while giving due importance to unions, senior journalists from small and medium-scale publications have been included as committee members. They also pointed out that selecting individuals who have consistently worked as photojournalists reflects transparency in the process. The union leaders alleged that some individuals, under the guise of unions, are exerting pressure on the Collector and the District Public Relations Officer (DPRO) through higher officials and political leaders, which they termed inappropriate. The journalists warned that



they would launch protests if anyone other than the committee members announced by the Collector and the DPRO is included. Among those present at the meeting were Sakshi Ramesh, Srinivas Yadav, Bhanu Prakash, Gandham Dinesh, Khalil, Mallikarjun, Tarun, Ashok Reddy, and others."

Rao's Junior College Shines with State Ranks in Intermediate Results



"Dyrapogu Srinath wanaparthy correspondent April 13 (Indian Chronicle):... Rao's Junior College, located in the district headquarters, has delivered an impressive performance in the Intermediate examinations, with its students securing top ranks at the state level. Addressing the media, Principal Ram Kumar, Correspondent Srinivas, and Direc-

tors A. Srinivasulu, P. Amarendra Reddy, and B. Ramesh Kumar Reddy said that the college has been consistently achieving excellent results since its inception. They noted that the institution has been competing with corporate colleges by producing state-level rankers year after year. In a remarkable achievement, M. Hasitha Sri of MPC second year secured the State First Rank by scoring 996 marks — a first in the college's history. In the BiPC stream, second-year student M. Geethanjali scored 990 marks, emerging as the district topper. Other high achievers include M. Akshaya (994), Rimsha Begum (994), and B. Santosh Naidu (993) in MPC; P. Keerthana (979) and Ayesha Begum (975) in MEC; and Md. Farooq Khan (995) in CEC. The management emphasized that the college provides quality education at affordable fees, enabling students to achieve outstanding academic success. The rank holders were felicitated by the Principal and the college management in recognition of their accomplishments.

Review Meeting on Paddy Procurement for Rabi 2025-26 NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR) Medchal



Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, April 13 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):... Medchal-Malkajgiri District: A review meeting on paddy procurement for the Rabi 2025-26 season was held at the Collectorate under the chairmanship of Additional District Collector (Civil Supplies) D. Vijayender Reddy. The meeting was attended by District Manager (Civil Supplies) L. Suguna Bai, Agricultural Extension Officer Chandrakala, District Civil Supplies Officer Srinivas Reddy, District Cooperative Officer Nagalinga Chari, District Marketing Officer Riyaz, and in-charges of procurement centres. The Additional District Collector directed officials to open 15 procurement centres across the district from April 25. He stated that sufficient stocks of gunny bags are available to support procurement operations. Officials were instructed to create awareness among farmers to bring clean and well-dried paddy, free from moisture, impurities, and dust, to the procurement centres. Coordination with paddy harvesting machine operators was also emphasized to ensure smooth and timely transportation of produce to the centres. Procurement centre in-charges and Agricultural Extension Officers were asked to carry out their responsibilities efficiently and ensure smooth conduct of procure-



ment operations. Special emphasis was laid on timely data entry through tablets, as delays were affecting payments to farmers. Officials were directed to complete all entries on the same day. The Additional District Collector stated that continuous monitoring at the district level will be carried out to address farmers' issues promptly. Payments to farmers will be credited directly into their bank accounts within 48 hours of procurement. All officials were advised to work in coordination to ensure a transparent and efficient procurement process, bringing a good reputation to the district and the government.

Road accident control is everyone's responsibility: District Collector Praveenya



"Working to prevent accidents with coordination of all departments: District SP Paratosh Pankaj... Sangareddy, April 13:--Indian chronological correspondent Sunil... "District Collector Praveenya said that road accident control in the district is everyone's responsibility."... "As part of the 99-day activity of the Public Governance - Progress Plan, the Collector attended the "Arrive - Alive" awareness program organized by the Police and Municipal Departments in 24.26, wards of Sangareddy Municipality on Monday as the chief guest."... "Speaking on the occasion, the Collector expressed his concern that many people are losing their lives due to road accidents. He said that the state government is implementing the "Arrive - Alive" program with the aim of creating awareness among the people and making them participants."... "He said that accidents are happening more and more due to vehicles driving at high speed on highways."... "He said that two-wheeler riders should wear a helmet, as it is a life-saving helmet. It was suggested that those traveling in cars should wear seat belts. He warned against using a mobile phone while driving and against drinking and driving. He advised that minors should not be given vehicles and that they should drive vehicles only after obtaining a license. He asked the heads of the household to set a good



example for children by following traffic rules. He called on everyone to cooperate in making the entire district an accident-free district."... "District SP Paratosh Pankaj said that steps are being taken in coordination with all departments to prevent road accidents. He said that accidents are happening more on highways, especially, and more than 400 people are losing their lives every year. He warned that two-wheeler accidents are happening more often, and that it is dangerous to ride three or four people on one bike. He expressed concern that accidents are increasing due to minors driving in Sangareddy town."... "He said that traveling without a helmet leads to more loss of life during accidents. Everyone is advised to follow safety rules and travel safely."... "Additional Collector Pandu said that adults should take precautions not to give vehicle keys to minors and should make it a habit to wear helmets while going out. He said that accidents can be significantly reduced if every family follows road safety rules."

"The people who participated in this program took a pledge to work towards preventing road accidents. Later, helmets were distributed."... "Municipal Chairperson Vanitha Santosh, Sub-Collector Uma Aarti, ward councilors, police officers, people, youth and others participated in this program.

Children protesting on the road over school issues.. We want justice, we want a teacher.

"Mulugu/Venkatapuram. Indian Chronicle . April 13... Vinkatapuram Mandal's Bodhapuram Village Primary School students staged a sit-in dharna on Monday demanding that their school problems be resolved. During the Minister's visit to Sitakka on 10th of this month, the students, parents and villagers stopped the minister's convoy and asked for the problems. However, as the orders were not implemented, the angry students again came on the road and protested.

They demanded that regular teachers should be appointed for this school, where students are studying from class one to five, and buildings should be removed and new buildings should be constructed in Sidi Lavastha. Due to the dharna, the traffic on both sides of the road was completely blocked and the vehicles were heavily stuck. While the villagers demanded that the authorities should immedi-



ately respond to the protest raised by the children in Mandutenda and solve the problems, the students raised slogans saying we want justice and we want a teacher. Officials promised to take the issue to the attention of the government.

Ludhiana bank manager booked for 3.90 crore fraud by 'misusing Centre's PM Mudra Yojana'



GNS News Agency, April 13

Cops arrest suspects who shot businessman dead in a Fortuner SUVA former IOB bank manager in Ludhiana has been booked for a ₹3.90 crore fraud involving 22 fake Mudra loans generated using colleagues' login IDs. The Ludhiana Rural Police booked a bank manager Thursday for the alleged fraud of Rs 3.90 crore executed by misusing Centre's scheme Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)

The scheme provides loans to small businesses without any guarantee. The case has been registered against Pankaj, a resident of Jind, Haryana on the complaint of Uma Kanta Samal, posted as senior regional manager, Indian Overseas Bank, Civil Lines, Ludhiana. Samal in his complaint to the police said that Pankaj was earlier posted as manager at the bank's Baddawal village branch in Ludhiana district. During an internal audit by the bank, it was found that Pankaj allegedly misused his position.

The complaint states that Pankaj allegedly misused the login IDs of his two colleagues – Archana Gupta (assistant manager) and Karamjit Singh (clerk) – to generate 22 fake loans and under PMMY scheme and transferred Rs 3.90 crore into his own account. These 22 fake loans were sanctioned without any legal documents, says the FIR. The bank in its complaint has claimed that Pankaj has confessed to the crime. The FIR against the accused has been registered under the sections 318 (4) (cheating) and 316 (5) (breach of trust by any public servant, banker etc) of BNS at Mullanpur Dakha police station.

Delhi Assembly breach accused admitted to mental health institute for treatment

GNS News Agency, April 13

Sources said that Sarabjit Singh displayed violent and non-cooperative behaviour during interrogation, following which he was admitted to the IHBAS hospital. Sources said that Sarabjit Singh displayed violent and non-cooperative behaviour during interrogation, following which he was admitted to the IHBAS hospital. The Uttar Pradesh man arrested for allegedly breaching the Delhi Assembly has been admitted to the Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences (IHBAS) for mental health treatment while in the Delhi Police custody, The Indian Express has learnt.

Sarabjit Singh, a native of Uttar Pradesh's Pilibhit, drove his white car into the Delhi Assembly on the afternoon of April 6 after breaking through the VIP gate and boom barrier. Sources said that Singh displayed violent and non-cooperative behaviour during interrogation, following which he was admitted to the IHBAS located in Trans-Yamuna on Thursday. During the probe, the police found that Sarabjit had been undergoing treatment for depression for the past few years and was on medication. "Singh is undergoing treatment and is being kept under the observation of doctors at IHBAS while being in the police custody," an official source said. His family members have claimed that he had stopped taking his depression medication a few days before the



Assembly breach. He was tracked down by the Delhi Police two hours later in Roop Nagar, located around five kilometres from the Delhi Vidhan Sabha. After his arrest, he was produced before a city court, which remanded him to eight days of police custody. While taking his remand, the Delhi Police had told the court that the "angle" of a terrorist act can't be ruled out without the proper investigations. Maintaining that they needed to know the "purpose" behind his entering the Assembly premises, the police said that the alleged involvement of other persons in the incident also needed to be investigated.

'Kaam aadhaa ho gaya hai...we barely get to eat with what we earn': Firozabad's bangle furnaces are burning dim as war squeezes gas supply



GNS News Agency, April 13

All beautiful chooris begin with the melting of raw glass. Once the glass reaches the consistency of honey, a worker uses a metal rod to extract a glob and, as the molten substance cools, winds it around a rotating metal cylinder inside a kiln – creating a continuous spiral that is later cut into individual rings. Glass bangles are born of meltdowns – forged in the intense heat of furnaces fired by gas. With the war in the Middle East approaching the six-week mark, the two-day-old ceasefire, limited and unreliable, has eased no worries in Firozabad.

The tradition of glassmaking in this town about 50 km to the east of Agra in UP is centuries old. The restriction of gas supply as a result of the blocking of the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow shipping lane through which the bulk of energy exports from the Gulf pass, has put pressure on the industry. All beautiful chooris begin with the melting of raw glass. Once the glass reaches the consistency of honey, a worker uses a metal rod to extract a glob and, as the molten substance cools. Express Photo by Gajendra Yadav All beautiful chooris begin with the melting of raw glass. Once the glass reaches the consistency of honey, a worker uses a metal rod to extract a glob and, as the molten substance cools. Express Photo by Gajendra Yadav The heat chambers that must run at temperatures of more than 1,000 degrees Celsius to keep the glass molten depend heavily on gas. In some glass and bangle factories in Firozabad's Makkhanpur, the hub of the trade, volumes of work are down by half since the war began at the end of February. It's hot inside the bangle-making factories. The furnaces are fired up, the ground is littered with shards of broken glass. Workers in vests and track bottoms are carrying long metal rods with glowing tips that illuminate their sweaty faces.

But the volume of work is down to half of what it used to be before the crisis hit, said Pankaj Kumar (25). And he is being squeezed in other ways as well. For workers like Pankaj, less work means less income. And the increase in the prices of petroleum products means increased costs of living. "It has become so difficult to earn money. We are barely able to manage two square meals a day with what we make now," Pankaj said. He uses a kerosene stove to cook, and the price of mitti ka tel has doubled from Rs 75 to Rs 150 per litre. And at the factory, limits have been imposed on the use of gas, which workers like him use to join together the bangles before they are sent for designing. These days I am barely able to earn Rs 200 a day," Pankaj said. At the factory where Pankaj works, only eight of the 15 kilns are operational due to the shortage of gas and the curbs on their use. And only about 150 of the 250 workers are on the job. Pankaj Kumar (pictured), a glass bangle artisan from Firozabad, is facing a crushing economic "squeeze" as the ongoing conflict in the Middle East chokes critical gas supplies to his factory. Express Photo by Gajendra Yadav Pankaj Kumar (pictured), a glass bangle artisan from Firozabad, is facing a crushing economic

"squeeze" as the ongoing conflict in the Middle East chokes critical gas supplies to his factory. The "glass city" of Firozabad is the traditional nerve centre of India's bangle-making industry, producing an estimated 70-80 per cent of all bangles in the country. There are more than 200 bangle-making factories and more than 400 registered glass businesses in the city.

According to some estimates, the workforce in Firozabad's glassware industry numbers upwards of 2 lakh. But this is not an organised sector, and the workers are vulnerable to the impact of shocks such as the ongoing war. "Most of the work is done on contract basis. The daily wage depends on the production. A war thousands of miles away has led to a sharp reduction in the wages of our workers here in Firozabad," a supervisor of a large factory said. Eating his lunch at a kachori stall outside the factory, 33-year-old Pramod Kumar specified exactly how much workers were suffering. "I used to earn Rs 12,000 a month. Now I'm barely getting Rs 8,000. If this situation continues for another month, these factories may not survive at all, and we will all be out of work," he said. Pramod was sharing his lunch with three friends – two plates of kachoris split among four men. Ram Naresh (35), who said he lives in Salimpur village 12 km outside the town, echoed Pramod's fears. "I am afraid that everything will shut down in the coming days and we will all become unemployed. I earned Rs 10,000 a month earlier. Now I am getting just Rs 7,000. Kaam to yoon maan lo ki aadha hi ho gaya hai. (You could say work has halved.) Bas khaane bhar ke paise bachte hain aur kuchh nahi (What we earn is spent only on food)," Ram Naresh said.

Pappu, who was sitting with Ram Naresh and Pramod, said he would work for roughly 26 days a month earlier, taking a day off every week. "But today we're working for just 18-20 days. Incomes have fallen sharply," Pappu (36) said. "If things don't get back to normal soon, we may have to stop sending our children to school," he said. Through all the difficulties and reduced income, their work remains extremely hazardous. Ram Naresh extended his left hand to show a deep scar from an accident that had occurred years earlier. aa Ram Naresh (pictured) says workers are now seeing their incomes slashed by 30-50% due to the West Asia energy crisis. his is very risky work. My hand got burnt and I had to spend Rs 80,000 on treatment. That was seven months' salary for me. The molten glass can burn through flesh as though it is nothing. If it falls on your head, it'll pierce through your whole body," he said.

The bangle-makers are perhaps the worst hit among all glassware industries in the Firozabad area. "Half the cost in the bangle-making industry is the cost of energy. That is why they are the worst hit by the impact of the war shortages. Half of the workforce in some factories is no longer working full time. They have been told to come to work by rotation," Nitin Bansal, director of Okay Glass Industries, which makes glass bottles, said. Bansal's office is close to a clutch of factories that make glass bangles. Factories making other kinds of glassware are impacted too, he said. "All industries are facing indirect crises as the price of raw materials is rising. The suppliers of raw materials themselves need fuel," he said. In his own business for example, the cost of glass bottles has increased because the amount of gas available every day has been cut by 20%, Bansal said. "We have had to increase our prices a bit. Since we are relatively more capital intensive, our workforce hasn't reduced yet," he said. aa Nitin Bansal (pictured), Director of Okay Glass Industries, states that energy accounts for half of bangle-making costs, making the sector the most vulnerable to current gas shortages.

Asaduddin Owaisi's AIMIM breaks off alliance with Humayun Kabir's AJUP weeks before Bengal polls



GNS News Agency, April 13

The All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) announced on Friday that it was breaking its alliance with suspended Trinamool Congress (TMC) MLA Humayun Kabir's Aam Janata Unnayan Party (AJUP) and would contest the upcoming Assembly elections in West Bengal independently. The announcement came a day after the TMC held a press conference alleging that Kabir had demanded Rs 1,000 crore from the BJP to topple the Mamata Banerjee government in the state, citing a video. Just nine days earlier, AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi and Kabir had held a joint rally in Murshidabad, where the AIMIM chief had declared that his party's alliance with AJUP would continue beyond the Assembly polls and into the Lok Sabha elections in 2026.

The video, purportedly featuring Kabir, that surfaced on social media has sparked a political row in West Bengal. In the clip, he is allegedly heard saying he is working to defeat Banerjee with the support of the BJP. "Humayun Kabir's revelations have shown how vulnerable Bengal's

Muslims are... AIMIM cannot associate with any statements where integrity of Muslims is brought into question," AIMIM stated on its X handle on Friday morning. "As of today, AIMIM has withdrawn its alliance with Kabir's party. Bengal's Muslims are one of the poorest, neglected and oppressed communities. Despite decades of secular rule, nothing has been done for them. AIMIM's policy in contesting elections in any state is so that the marginalised communities have an independent political voice," the post added. "We will be contesting the Bengal elections INDEPENDENTLY and will have no alliance with any party going forward," the AIMIM further stated. Humayun Kabir's reaction to the allegations reacting to the allegations, Kabir said: "Is the Prime Minister of India really such a weak figure that he would hand over Rs 1,000 crore to Humayun Kabir? Do you take everyone for a fool?" He further said Mamata Banerjee and Abhishek Banerjee "may have lost their minds, but Humayun Kabir certainly won't".

Speaking to The Indian Express, Imran Solanki, AIMIM Bengal president, said, "Our party has taken a decision to break off the alliance with Humayun Kabir's AJUP. Now we will fight alone in Bengal and win. We have given candidates in nine seats in the first phase and two seats in the second phase." A scheduled joint public meeting of the two parties in Bhagabangola in Murshidabad on Saturday has now been cancelled. "There is no question of a joint rally now. We will campaign on our own and win seats. Our chief Asaduddin Owaisi will visit Bengal and campaign for our party," said Solanki. The AIMIM has named candidates in Raghunathganj, Kandi, Lalgola, Suti, Nalhati, Muraroi, Sujapur, Mothabari and Asansol Uttar, which will go for polls in the first phase on April 23. It has also named candidates for the Bashirhat Uttar and Habra Assembly seats, which will go to polls in the second phase on April 29.

Lost and found: a stolen scooter, thanks to a traffic challan and a Twitter post

GNS News Agency, April 13

Hyderabad stolen scooter was recovered after the owner identified his vehicle in a traffic challan image and alerted police via social media, triggering swift action. (Express Photo) Hyderabad stolen scooter was recovered after the owner identified his vehicle in a traffic challan image and alerted police via social media, triggering swift action. The Hyderabad Police was tracked down a two-wheeler stolen three months ago after its original owner alerted them on X (formerly Twitter) that he had received a traffic violation fine notification – which clearly showed his vehicle and the person riding it.

The vehicle owner had lodged a complaint with the Habeeb Nagar police station after his two-wheeler was stolen from outside his house. He said that although he regularly followed up with the police station, they were unable to find his vehicle. Last week, he received a notification on his phone about a traffic violation bearing his vehicle's registration number. He said that when he clicked the link, he saw not only his vehicle but also a clear photo of the man riding it without a helmet. He alerted the Hyderabad Police by posting the challan and photo and tagging their social media handles. As the post went viral, police swung into action. Inspector T Purushottam Rao of Habeeb Nagar police station said that using traffic and security cameras, they



tracked down the vehicle parked outside an eatery in Attapur. "The person seen in the challan photo riding the vehicle did not steal that vehicle. It was his younger brother, an alcoholic, who stole the vehicle. That brother was recently admitted to the rehabilitation centre. As the vehicle was lying idle at their home, the brother, a veterinary assistant, started using it. Although he did not steal it, it is still an offence because he knew it was a stolen vehicle and still decided to use it. Both brothers are seen as offenders. We have not released the names because they appear to be first-time offenders," the inspector said.

Karnataka KSEAB 2nd PUC Result 2026: Record 86.48% pass rate; girls dominate again



GNS News Agency, April 13

Karnataka recorded an overall pass percentage of 81.58 per cent in the Second Pre-University (II PU) examinations of the Karnataka Secondary Education Examination Board (KSEAB), marking a 12.42 per cent improvement over last year's results, with girls outperforming boys across all streams. The pass percentage among freshers reached a historic high of 86.48 per cent, up from 73.45 per cent the previous year, an increase of 13 per cent. While the state has seen higher overall pass percentages in the past, this fresher pass rate is unprecedented. In the Arts stream, Archana D M and Sangeeta from Indu PU College, Kottur, and Shruti from Smt VG PU College for Women,

Kalaburagi, each scored 598 out of 600 marks.

In Commerce, Adithi A Bapu from S B Mahaveer Jain PU College, V V Puram, Bengaluru, and Disha from Alva's PU College, Dakshina Kannada, secured perfect scores of 600. In Science, Princilla Cardoza from The Learning Centre PU College, Mangalore, scored 599 marks. In a press meet on Thursday, Karnataka School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa credited several targeted interventions for the improved performance, including timely completion of the syllabus, early appointment of guest lecturers, and the introduction of subject-wise blueprints and model question papers. In a significant policy decision, the department has scrapped the third examination, a practice followed last year. Bangarappa said while the second exam improved pass percentages by 8 per cent last year, the third exam yielded only a 1.8 per cent improvement, making it redundant given this year's strong results. A revision in the passing threshold — from 35 per cent to 33 per cent — benefitted 5,577 students this year. Among districts, Udipi led the state with an impressive 96.39 per cent pass rate, followed by Uttara Kannada, Kalaburagi, and Kodagu. For the first time, mark sheets will be available on DigiLocker. While physical copies will also be distributed this year, the department plans to discontinue them in subsequent years.

Punjab govt faces Rs 15,000-cr burden as high court tells it to clear DA Government preparing to file an appeal before double bench of High Court



Punjab is staring at a Rs 15,000-crore burden, days after it secured a Rs 1,500 crore loan and released the salary for March after a week's delay, as Punjab and Haryana High Court has directed the state administration to clear pending dearness allowance (DA) of the employees and pensioners by June 30. Already scraping the barrel to pay Rs 1,000 per month financial assistance to women voters, the fund-starved Punjab government has decided to file an appeal before a division bench of the high court. "We are

preparing a review petition. It will be done soon. Otherwise, the state does not have resources to pay such a huge amount," a Punjab government official told The Indian Express.

2-year-old boy falls into open shaft in MP's Ujjain, rescue operation underway

A two-and-a-half-year-old boy fell into an uncovered borewell while playing in a field in the Ujjain district of Madhya Pradesh on Thursday evening. A rescue operation is now underway, news agency PTI reported. The event occurred at approximately 8 PM in Jhalariya village within Badnagar tehsil. The boy, Bhagirath, is the son of Praveen Devasi, a shepherd who had arrived in the region with his family three days earlier from Pali in Rajasthan.

'Invalid work slips, fake certifications': CAG flagged flaws in Haryana scheme in 2023-24

GNS News Agency, April 13

The Haryana government may have initiated a probe into a scam pertaining to fake work slips — Labour Minister Anil Vij has pegged it at Rs 1,500 crore — it was, however, made aware of the irregularities in 2023-24 too.

A performance audit had uncovered systemic irregularities in the registration and benefit disbursement process for construction workers, with invalid, missing, and fraudulently certified work slips emerging as a central failure point — leading to wrongful payments and exposing the government to losses worth crores. The findings formed part of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report, which scrutinised the functioning of the Building and Other Construction Workers (BOCW) Welfare Board and flagged serious lapses in verification, financial controls, and governance mechanisms. At the core of the audit was the misuse of "work slips", the primary document used to certify that a worker has completed the mandatory 90 days of construction work required for registration. The CAG found that the system for verifying these work slips was deeply flawed and inconsistently applied.

"With over Rs 1,000 crore disbursed under welfare schemes, the findings highlighted an urgent need for stricter verification mechanisms, digital authentication safeguards, and accountability at all administrative levels to prevent further misuse, but apparently it was not pursued with the seriousness that it deserved then. The scandal not only exposed financial leakages but also undermined the very purpose of welfare schemes intended to support genuine construction workers in the state," a senior official said. The Labour Board of Haryana had then acknowledged the findings, stating that recovery notices will be issued and action taken against officials and beneficiaries involved. However, as of December 2024, "final action was yet awaited." The CAG report underscored systemic lapses in verification, oversight, and data integrity within Haryana's labour welfare framework. The large-scale misuse of public funds through forged work slips and fake documentation had raised serious concerns about governance and accountability. In a telling observation (Para 4.10.2), even cases where work slips were submitted and accepted were later flagged with objections such as: "upload valid work slips (ws)". This contradiction, the audit noted, "indicates lack of due diligence by the Department in scrutinising the applications".

According to the CAG report (Paragraph 4.16), a review of welfare schemes implemented by the state's Labour Department revealed that between 2017-18 and 2022-23, as many as 6,56,497 benefits worth Rs 1,007.56 crore were disbursed to 2,18,901 beneficiaries across 4,053 registered establishments. "However, deeper scrutiny exposed alarm-



ing discrepancies in the system. Mismatch between registered establishments and benefits. The audit highlighted a glaring lack of correlation between the number of registered establishments and benefits disbursed. For instance, in Gurugram, with "2,786 registered establishments," 3,408 beneficiaries availed "8,814 benefits amounting to Rs 9.94 crore." In stark contrast, Hisar reported only "42 registered establishments," yet "1,68,004 benefits worth Rs 243.52 crore were disbursed to 49,148 beneficiaries." The report noted that "no attempt was made by the Board to analyse the reasons for such glaring differences." While officials attributed the disparity to migrant worker mobility, the CAG rejected this explanation, stating that "no such study/data was available with the Board which could be used to sustain this fact." Nearly half the benefits went to ineligible recipients. In six test-checked districts (Faridabad, Gurugram, Hisar, Jind, Karnal and Panipat), the audit examined 1,267 benefits worth Rs 5.34 crore and found that "577 benefits (45.54 per cent) amounting to Rs 2.20 crore (41.22 per cent) were disbursed to ineligible beneficiaries." Reasons included missing work slips, unsigned or improperly signed documents, fake certificates, and other discrepancies. Unauthorized Signatories: In "43 cases," work slips were signed by non-competent authorities such as Sarpanchs, councillors, and clerks, leading to "211.74 lakh" in wrongful payouts. Forgery and Fake Certifications: Of 136 officials contacted for verification of 306 work slips, only nine responded. Alarmingly, six denied signing "25 work slips," exposing clear forgery; in one case from Narnaud (Hisar), "76.04 lakh" was disbursed based on 16 work slips signed by a person who was "never a Secretary in that office; and in Barwala (Hisar), forged signatures on six work slips resulted in "Rs 8.03 lakh" being disbursed. Bogus death certificate used to claim benefits. The audit also uncovered a case in Gurugram where a beneficiary claimed "Rs 2.15 lakh" using a fraudulent death certificate. Upon scanning the QR code, auditors were redirected to a fake website. The issuing authority later confirmed that "the death certificate was not issued by their office."

Royale Empire' case: RERA Punjab pulls up builder, orders compensation



GNS News Agency, April 13

In a significant order, the RERA (Real Estate Regulatory Authority), Punjab, granted relief to homebuyer Anupama Dandora in her case against Royale Empire and its partner. The authority held that the promoters failed to deliver possession within the agreed timeline and did not obtain the mandatory occupation/completion certificate. The authority ruled that the complainant is entitled to interest for delayed possession starting from July 1, 2012, and directed that possession of flat no. 403, block I, be handed over only after securing the required certificates.

Advocate Mohammad Sartaj Khan said the case relates to a flat booked in 2010 in the "Royale Empire" project at Peermuchhalla, Zirakpur, for a total cost of ₹34.15 lakh. Possession was promised within 18-21 months. The complainant had already paid ₹21.10 lakh by September 30, 2011, but possession was never offered and the project remained unregistered under RERA. The respondents argued that the complaint was not maintainable due to a pend-

ing civil suit at Derabassi. However, the authority rejected this objection, observing that the civil case was unrelated to the issues raised before it. On merits, RERA found the promoters in clear violation of the Agreement to Sell and provisions of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016. The order emphasised that "interest for delayed possession is a statutory entitlement" and that buyers cannot be denied relief merely because a project remains incomplete. The authority calculated delayed possession interest at ₹31,33,350 up to March 31, 2026, and further directed monthly interest of ₹18,990 from April 1, 2026, until possession is lawfully handed over. It also ordered that the amount be recoverable as land revenue under Section 40(1) of the Act, with a Recovery Certificate to be issued after 90 days.

Additionally, the order clarified that any outstanding dues between the parties at the time of possession may be mutually adjusted. It also stated that the allottee will not be liable to pay maintenance charges until the awarded amount, along with accrued interest, is fully settled — subject to exceptions involving third-party or RWA maintenance arrangements. Advocate Mohammad Sartaj Khan said, "The ruling reinforces that delayed possession is not just a contractual breach but a statutory violation, making it clear that builders cannot retain buyers' money without either timely delivery or lawful compensation."



Talking about the Mission Samarth, he said, "This phase focuses on enhancing teaching quality and accountability through attendance tracking. Our goal is to ensure that every child achieves strong foundational learning," he said. Explaining the core focus of Mission Samarth 4.0, he said, "The programme ensures that children in grades 3 to 8 master reading, writing and mathematics." The results, he said, are now visible in national data. "Punjab has surpassed the national average in foundational learning by 18% in grade 3 and 26-28% in grade 6. That is our real medal," he added.

Sisodia released the Mission Samarth Compendium, documenting 38 proven classroom practices developed by Punjab's teachers, which will now be implemented across schools to accelerate learning outcomes, particularly for students requiring additional support. "Punjab has proven that government schools can lead the nation. Being ranked number one in PARAKH 2024 is testament to that. With Mission Samarth 4.0, the state ensures every child is in school every day and learning well. Every child cannot be sent to IIT, but the government's duty is to ensure that no child falls below the bottom line. Because if a system allows any child to remain beneath that line, the government has failed. A child is not a statistic.

Electricity bills of up to Rs 9 lakh: Phase 11 residents express outrage over inflated power charges

Massive public outrage has erupted in Phase 11 and adjoining areas of Mohali after residents of low income groups houses — mostly one- and two-room units — received exorbitant electricity bills of up to as high as Rs 9 lakh. Among the affected is Kailash Kaur, a cancer patient, who received a bill of Rs 149,090. Her son, Mandeep Singh, who works as a private driver, said, "There are only two of us in the house, and a major portion of our income goes towards my mother's cancer treatment. These bills have pushed us into distress." He also alleged that officials from the electricity department disconnected their connection.

Similarly, Natthu Ram from Amb Sahib Colony, who lives in a two-room house with five family members, received a bill of Rs 8,88,330. He claimed that his electricity connection was also cut off. "Our meter has been removed, while those running illegal 'kundi' connections by paying Rs 500 are enjoying uninterrupted electricity," he said. Other residents, including Paramjit Kaur — who received a bill of Rs 60,000 — and Kamaljit Kaur, also reported inflated bills and repeated visits to electricity offices without any resolution. Kamaljit Kaur said that despite depositing amounts of Rs 15,000, Rs 10,000, and Rs 5,000 in instalments, "no one is explaining why such high bills have been issued". She added that after approaching several officials, her issue was eventually resolved after intervention at Balbir Singh Sidhu's office, where her connection was restored through a meter, though pending dues remain. Addressing the issue, senior Congress leader and former Health Minister Balbir Singh Sidhu held a press conference, where he stated that around 25-30 complaints from Phase 11 have already been formally recorded at his office.

"The policies of the Punjab government have pushed



common people into a severe financial crisis. This is not just a mistake but a well-planned loot," he said. The Congress leader accused the authorities of deliberately withholding electricity bills for 4-5 months and then issuing inflated amounts at once. "This is not a 'zero bill' scheme but a 'hero to zero' failure of the government," he said. Sidhu further claimed that in several cases, electricity meters are being removed without valid reasons, calling it a reflection of "authoritarian and high-handed governance." He warned, "if these illegal bills are not immediately withdrawn and relief is not provided, the Congress will take to the streets and launch large-scale protests." In response to the issue, when XEN Amandeep Singh was contacted, he denied any large-scale billing error. "There is no such matter in our knowledge that mass billing has gone wrong. These could be rare cases where a meter may have malfunctioned or there could have been an error in the reading." "Whenever any such bill comes to our notice, it is corrected by the department. Therefore, if anyone is facing such a problem, they should contact the office and get it rectified," the official added.

As Punjab sees 471% surplus rain in a week, concerns crop around wheat harvest



GNS News Agency, April 13

Punjab rainfall surplus has surged to 471% in early April, with unseasonal showers and strong winds damaging standing wheat crops and raising concerns over yield and quality. (File Photo) Punjab rainfall surplus has surged to 471% in early April, with unseasonal showers and strong winds damaging standing wheat crops and raising concerns over yield and quality. Unseasonal and intense rainfall activity during the first week of April has led to a significant surplus in precipitation across both Punjab and Haryana, raising fresh concerns for the standing wheat crop nearing harvest.

According to official data, Punjab recorded an average weekly rainfall of 21.7 mm against a normal of just 3.8 mm, marking a staggering 471% excess rainfall during the period from April 3 to April 9. Similarly, Haryana received 11.1 mm rainfall against a normal of 2.9 mm, registering a 281% surplus in the same period. In Punjab, several districts witnessed exceptionally high rainfall. Fazilka topped the chart with 50.8 mm rainfall, a massive 2018% surplus, followed by Moga (40 mm, 1639% excess) and Mohali (31.4 mm, 1208% excess). Sangrur (53 mm, 742% excess) and Barnala (22.8 mm, 743% excess) also recorded unusually high precipitation. These figures indicate one of the most intense early April rain spells in recent years. A few districts, however, saw relatively lower rainfall. Hoshiarpur recorded 4.4 mm, slightly below normal (-9%), while Ludhiana (8.7 mm, 108% excess) and Jalandhar (13.2 mm, 170% excess) received moderate rain compared to other districts but still remained above normal levels. In Haryana, Chandigarh recorded the highest rainfall at 47.4 mm, an astonishing 1430% above normal, followed by Kurukshetra

(35.9 mm, 1279% excess) and Gurgaon (16.8 mm, 949% excess). Other districts like Mahendragarh (17.1 mm, 972% excess) and Kaithal (1.1 mm 770% excess) also saw heavy rainfall activity.

Relatively lower rainfall was recorded in districts such as Sonapat, which saw a deficit (-35%), and Ambala (-13%), while areas like Rohtak (4.4 mm, 37% excess) and Bhiwani (3.9 mm, 22% excess) received comparatively light showers. Widespread rain, accompanied by strong winds and occasional hailstorms, has had a direct impact on wheat crop across both states. Agricultural experts note that crop lodging — where the standing crop bends or falls due to wind and rain — has been reported in several districts of Punjab, including Moga, Fazilka, and Sangrur, as well as parts of Haryana. Farmers fear that excess moisture at this stage could affect grain quality, leading to high moisture content, discoloration, and reduced market value. Waterlogging in low-lying fields has further aggravated the situation, especially in districts that recorded heavy rainfall. With harvesting season approaching, the untimely rains have once again highlighted the vulnerability of wheat crops to changing weather patterns. Authorities are closely monitoring the situation, while farmers remain anxious about potential yield and quality losses.

After recent rainfall activity, weather conditions across the region are expected to turn dry over the next few days, with a significant rise in temperatures forecast. According to meteorological observations, a western disturbance currently lies over Jammu and adjoining areas in the form of a cyclonic circulation, influencing weather at higher altitudes. Another fresh western disturbance is also active in the mid-level westerlies, though its immediate impact on the plains is expected to be limited. An upper-air cyclonic circulation persists over northwest Uttar Pradesh and adjoining Uttarakhand, while strong subtropical westerly jet streams — with wind speeds reaching up to 130 knots — continue to prevail over northwest India. Despite the presence of these systems, the state is likely to witness dry weather conditions for the next seven days, providing relief after recent unseasonal rains. Meteorological experts have predicted a sharp rise in maximum temperatures by 6-8°C over the next five days, which could accelerate the ripening of standing wheat crops and aid harvesting activities. However, another western disturbance is likely to affect the Western Himalayan region from April 15, which may again influence weather patterns in the region.

Inside 'godman' Kharat's network: 130 bank accounts opened with spurious documents, Rs 63 crore moved

GNS News Agency, April 13

It was when he received a call from Ahilyanagar police earlier this month, says a Mumbai-based hotelier, that he came to know that more than Rs 2.43 crore had been routed through four bank accounts in his and his wife's names — accounts he says he never opened, in a credit society he and his family had never seen or visited. He believes documents he had shared for "darshan booking" with arrested 'godman' Ashokkumar Eknath Kharat had been misused to open these accounts. "We visited Kharat as we thought he was a spiritual healer," says the hotelier.

Investigators believe he is just one of many people whose accounts were similarly used to "route" money, with the probe into Kharat — which began with charges of sexual assault, cheating, extortion and under the anti-superstition Act — expanding to his finances. Apart from 13 police cases, he faces a case of money laundering registered by the Enforcement Directorate. Complaints along with bank records accessed by The Indian Express suggest that documents collected from followers, visitors and even victims may have been used to open more than 130 such bank accounts. Transactions in these exceeded Rs 63 crore between 2021 and 2024, with Kharat listed as a nominee in at least a hundred accounts and his mobile number appearing across many of them. The pattern is the same across cases — people got in touch with Kharat, to visit him or "consult" him for "predictions"; were told to hand over documentation such as Aadhaar and PAN cards and photographs; bank accounts were opened using these documents; and funds deposited into them. Incidentally, a majority of the accounts into which the money was received were opened in the name of the Jagdamba Cooperative Credit Society and Samata Nagari Sahakari Pat Sanstha, Rahata, both linked to Kharat. While Kharat served as chairman of the Jagdamba society till 2024 as per records, the Samata society is linked to his associate and co-accused Arvind Pandurang Bawke. A bulk of the money transactions happened during their tenure. While more than a hundred suspect accounts have allegedly been traced to the Samata society, the number is

around 32 in the case of Jagdamba. Bawke is also under arrest over a cheating case in which Kharat and his wife are accused. In some cases, multiple accounts were opened in the name of the same individuals, and several appear to have been opened within a short period. Ahilyanagar SP Somnath Gharge said: "So far statements of 20 account holders have been recorded and they have said that accounts were opened without their knowledge and consent. Now we are doing a forensic examination of these accounts." A woman who has alleged sexual assault and forced miscarriage by Kharat is believed to have told investigators that her papers, along with those of her family members, were used for documentation linked to a credit society. She said she was made to sign documents related to the society despite resistance. Another complainant has filed a case linked to a land dispute. Corporate filings show that Kharat is a director in Shree Vyankatesh Farmers Producer Company Limited, incorporated in December 2021. In March 2024, the company was empanelled as a State Level Agency for the procurement of agricultural produce under the MSP system through agencies such as NAFED. A farmer in Shiridi has alleged non-payment following procurement carried out through the company. Investigators are examining whether financial flows reflected in some of the bank accounts are linked to transactions connected to the company. Another firm, Bright Sparks Infra Private Limited, was incorporated in 2024 with the same individuals as appearing across the alleged network, including Bawke. Asked about this, Bawke told The Indian Express before his arrest that the company hoped to get government contracts, and that documentation and investment were handled by Kharat. "He took our papers and said we would start getting contracts after two years," he said. Vallabh Ozarkar is a Senior Correspondent with The Indian Express' Mumbai bureau, recognized as an authoritative and deeply knowledgeable voice on the politics, governance, and infrastructure of Maharashtra. With more than nine years of experience in major news organizations, his reporting delivers high standards of Expertise and Trustworthiness. Expertise & Authority

The Vijay math: How TVK could upend Tamil Nadu's bipolar politics



Given the party's traction among the youth, the TVK could garner anywhere between 10-20% of the votes, according to some estimates, even if it cannot emerge a winner or runner-up in its debut. In Tamil Nadu, where electoral politics has often been a game of relatively small margins, such a vote share, if it materialises, could significantly alter the political landscape of the state. An analysis of the 2021 Assembly poll data shows that of the 234 constituencies, just over 200 seats are arithmetically vulnerable to shifts in the "third-front" vote — that is, seats where the combined votes polled by smaller parties were at least half the victory margin.

According to data from the Election Commission (EC), in the 2021 polls there were 127 seats (about 54%) where the cumulative votes polled by smaller parties such as Naam Tamilar Katchi (NTK), Makkal Needhi Maiam (MNM), and T T V Dhinakaran-led Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AMMK) were greater than the victory margin. The NTK alone polled more votes than the victory margin in 83 constituencies. There were another 76 constituencies where the NTK, MNM, and AMMK together polled between 50-100% of the victory margin, making these seats potentially close contests even if the main fronts repeat their 2021 vote shares. The three parties had a cumulative vote share of 11.5%; the NTK 6.6%, the MNM 2.6%, and the AMMK about 2.3%. Presuming that the votes polled by these parties are either traditional non-DMK, non-AIADMK votes or belong to voters disenchanted with them, this exposes the opportunity for a party such as the TVK. The TVK is explicitly pitching 2026 as a "generational election", aiming its manifesto at first-time voters and the 20-40 age group through promises of unemployment support, internships, interest-free loans, and youth advisory councils.

Tamil Nadu has about 12.5 lakh first-time voters and roughly 2.28 crore voters in the 20-40 bracket, around 40% of the electorate: exactly the demographic TVK is targeting. The TVK is already a third major force in these polls. Even though it still lacks the organisational strength to decisively convert popularity into votes, given its traction among the youth, we are speculating it could get anywhere between 10-20% votes. This is going to damage both the DMK and the AIADMK," a senior Congress leader from Tamil Nadu told The Indian Express. Crucially, the impact of the Third Front was not one-sided. In the 127 seats where the NTK-MNM-AMMK together polled more votes than the margin, the DMK-led alliance — Congress, Left parties, VCK and smaller allies — won 82 seats, while the AIADMK-led alliance — BJP and PMK — took 45. In the 83 seats where

the NTK alone outpolled the margin, the DMK alliance won 56, and the AIADMK coalition 27. In the 76 near-spoiler seats where the combined NTK-MNM-AMMK vote was between 50-100% of the margin, DMK and its allies won 53 while AIADMK and its partners won 23.

The constituency-level stories make this more concrete. In Ponneri (SC-reserved), the Congress candidate backed by DMK won by 9,689 votes while NTK alone polled over 19,000, and the MNM and the AMMK together added more than 8,000 — almost three times the margin. In Thiyagarayanagar, DMK's margin over the AIADMK was a wafer-thin 137 votes; the NTK polled over 8,000 and the MNM more than 7,000. In Thirupurur and Cheyyur, the VCK candidates scraped through against the PMK and the AIADMK while the NTK's vote share was several times the winning margin. Elsewhere, in Rasipuram, Jolarpet and Ariyalur, all high-profile races highlighted in 2021 post-poll analysis, the NTK's vote was again multiple times the DMK-AIADMK margin, with former AIADMK ministers losing seats in part because a chunk of the anti-DMK vote peeled away to Seeman's party. These are the very constituencies where a TVK that gets into the 10-15% range could turn a bipolar Dravidian contest into a genuine three-cornered fight.

Unlike the NTK's sharper Tamil-nationalist and caste-balanced project or the MNM's niche urban technocrat pitch, the TVK is front-loading a youth-and-welfare agenda with relatively soft ideological edges. Its manifesto speaks the language of jobs and mobility more than that of classical Dravidianism or ethnic nationalism, and Vijay's decades-long film career has given him name recognition that earlier third-front leaders lacked outside their core pockets.

Sources say the TVK's appeal is broad-based among younger voters: first-generation graduates frustrated with joblessness, young women sceptical of both Dravidian majors, and sections in regions that feel left out of the growth narrative. For the two Dravidian majors, that makes the TVK harder to play than the NTK or MNM. If most of TVK's votes merely consolidate existing NTK/MNM/AMMK and habitual NOTA supporters, it will reorganise the protest vote without dramatically altering the DMK-AIADMK balance. But if it starts biting into the urban educated DMK vote in Chennai and Coimbatore or the anti-DMK AIADMK vote in Kongu and the south, it could redraw the map in ways current seat projections cannot fully capture. The 2021 numbers already hint at these diverging regional risks. Many of the 83 "NTK margin" seats cluster in Chennai and its suburbs, northern Tamil Nadu and parts of the west — areas where DMK currently dominates but where a charismatic non-ideological third option could tempt younger DMK-leaning voters. At the same time, the Congress and AIADMK bastions where MNM and AMMK undercut narrow leads are exactly the kind of constituencies that become vulnerable if TVK hoovers up disillusioned NDA voters. What the 2021 data underline, above all, is that even without crossing 20%, a TVK that sits in the 10-15% band and is geographically broad enough can decisively shape who forms the next government in Tamil Nadu. Whether it ends up as a kingmaker, a spoiler, or the nucleus of a durable third pole will depend less on its statewide percentage and more on how many of those 200-odd "exposed" constituencies it can turn from bipolar to truly multi-polar.

Four states, four CMs: Elections 2026 show face still matters the most



A striking feature of the ongoing Assembly elections is that they are more about the Chief Ministers of Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal than about the parties making a bid for power. Good or bad, like them or not, the four CMs are tall leaders in their own right. Some of them have become larger than their parties and votes are being sought in their names. This is not to say that they are not facing anti-incumbency or serious allegations of corruption. Before Assam went to the polls on Thursday, the Congress launched a blistering attack on Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma and his wife, accusing him of being the "most corrupt and communal CM" in the country.

Some pre-poll surveys have suggested that all the CMs except Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan could make it back to power. Having said that, even for Pinarayi Vijayan to go for a third straight term in Kerala is unusual. The state has been known for changing governments after one term, and he defeated the Congress in 2021. But more significantly, the tough — and mostly unsmiling — Pinarayi, who started as a party apparatchik, became a pragmatic CM ready to be flexible in his dealings with the market forces, the RSS, and the BJP-ruled Centre when necessary to govern his state and deliver. Though sometimes criticised for choosing power over ideology, Pinarayi faces an ascendant Congress and an assertive BJP, and it is an open secret that the BJP prefers him over a Congress government. It is also true that his party is fighting the election as a referendum on his name. The stakes are high for the 81-year-old and a loss will further weaken Left parties in the country. It was not easy for Tamil Nadu CM M K Stalin to follow in the footsteps of his father and five-time CM M Karunanidhi when he took charge in 2021. For all the corruption accusations against the DMK, Stalin's personal standing has grown. Even his opponents talk about his "graciousness" and "accommodation" towards his opponents. But the DMK's fate may be decided by how good or poor a showing actor Vijay's TVK has. Though immensely popular among the youth and women, and all those who want "change", Vijay is expected to cut into the anti-incumbency votes and thereby help the DMK return to power. But if Vijay mops a large percentage of votes — say, way above 15% — and it leads to a hung Assembly, the DMK could be in trouble.

Regional parties such as the DMK and the TMC are individual-driven entities, shaped by the leader who controls the levers of power, as Stalin and Mamata Banerjee do. That does not apply to Assam CM Sarma, who has functioned in the ecosystem of the mainline BJP. Popularly referred to as "mama (uncle)", Sarma is one of the few leaders to have successfully transitioned from the Congress to the BJP and exercises influence in the highly diverse North-east. The BJP has given him autonomy of functioning that is not accorded to CMs in the Hindi heartland states. The only other BJP CMs who are leaders in their own right are Yogi Adityanath in UP and Devendra Fadnis in Maharashtra. Sarma converted the BJP's thinking — about undocumented immigrants, Hindutva, and the National Register of Citizens — into potent slogans and programmes and has moved in step with the top leadership of the party. Even the RSS has been watching him with interest. For the Congress, Assam was a state for the taking, given a decade of anti-incumbency against the BJP. But thanks essentially to Sarma, it is the BJP that is looking at storming back to power. The BJP is looking at the 103 constituencies (of a total of 126), mostly Hindu-dominated, and appears to have written off the 23 Muslim-dominated seats, labelling the Congress as a party of the minorities and directing fire at the "miyas (a pejorative term for Bengali Muslims)". Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi put up a valiant fight, but had to contend with the lack of an organisation needed to convert goodwill into votes. Experience shows that three straight defeats make recovery difficult. So another state may go off the Congress's radar if it loses Assam.

While the stakes are high for all the CMs, they are the highest for Mamata Banerjee. While her supporters describe West Bengal as a "Mamata versus EC" election — and 91 lakh names have been deleted from the electoral rolls — there is uncertainty about the impact it will have on the outcome. When she appeared in the Supreme Court in February to personally argue the case for her state, she knew the impact it could have. It reinforced her image as the feisty fighter who replaced the Congress in the state, defeated the Left Front that had been in power for 34 years, and kept the BJP at bay in five (Assembly and Lok Sabha) elections. If Mamata comes back to power, she will make a strong bid for a national role. Before the elections, her name was being flagged for the leadership of the Opposition INDIA bloc. The BJP is getting ready to pass the Women's Reservation (Amendment) Bill at the April 16-18 special session of Parliament. It hopes that the Bill will be the arrow that gets the better of Mamata — she has the support of the "mahila", the minorities, as well as a huge number of Hindus. If Mamata proves herself in the state once again, will the Opposition consider fielding her in 2029 to counter the BJP's women-oriented electoral offensive? The elections have underlined this one thing yet again: chehra (clear leader) carries more weight than ideology or narrative in Indian politics more often than not.

A post-Iran war West Asia order can open strategic space for India



A US-led security architecture in the region, including Israel as a key pillar, has diminishing prospects. India inserting itself into such arrangements had some rationale in the past, but may have lost its relevance now

A post-Iran war West Asia order can open strategic space for India. India must contribute substantially to an enduring security architecture on its western flank, then it will need to recalibrate its relations with Israel and Iran.

The declaration of a two-week pause in the Iran war has been greeted with a collective sigh of relief across a deeply anxious world. There will be endless analysis and speculation about who may have won and who may have lost the six-week war between Iran on one side and the US and Israel on the other. But that would be premature since this is not an end to the war, only the prospect of its end. US President Donald Trump has agreed to negotiate a more durable peace based on a set of 10 Iranian demands — all takes, no gives — conveyed through the good offices of Pakistan. There is no mention of the 15 points put forward by the US earlier. This one-sidedness is unusual in any negotiating exercise and puts Iran in an advantageous position. It suggests a certain urgency on Trump's part to call a halt to the war, perhaps because of its mounting cost, its fuelling inflation in a year when crucial mid-term elections are due, and a recognition of Iran proving to be more resilient under fire than anticipated. One should expect the US to seek to extend the pause into a longer suspension of hostilities, always with the caveat that Trump's unpredictability and impulsiveness could upend any rational calculation. Just a few hours before the ceasefire, he was threatening to "extinguish" Iranian civilisation if his demands were not met.

Pakistan has undeniably emerged as a key intermediary in the proposed negotiations to be hosted by it in Islamabad on April 10. It is reported that the powerful Speaker of the Majlis, Iran's parliament, M B Ghalibaf, will lead the Iranian delegation. The US side may be led by Vice President JD Vance. China will be an unseen but influential presence. Trump publicly gave it credit for having contributed to the ceasefire. Pakistan will bask in the limelight, celebrating its return to geopolitical prominence, not as a spoiler but as a trusted intermediary, harking back to 1971, when it enabled Henry Kissinger's secret visit to China. That India will merely watch from the sidelines, even though it is a major stakeholder in the Gulf and West Asia, will be savoured by Islamabad. It may be tempted into provocative behaviour towards India, feeling shielded, once again, by Washington and Beijing alike.

In dealing with this new situation, the temptation to engage in sharpened rhetoric and assertive diplomacy may be counterproductive. It may be prudent to monitor progress in the negotiations, convey goodwill and support to our Gulf and West Asian partners. They will value strong and reliable partners as they deal with the aftermath of the destructive war. The region will be reassessing its security architecture, which has hitherto been based on a string of US military bases hosted by them. But these failed to protect them from relentless Iranian missile and drone attacks. It also became obvious to them that for the Americans, the defence of Israel would always have priority over their security needs. There is no immediate alternative to reliance on the US, but a process of diversification will inevitably take place. India should get into pole position in this process by enhancing its defence collaboration with these countries. This should take place within a high-level dialogue on the transformed security landscape in a region of vital interest to India. The reconstruction and rehabilitation of infrastructure damaged in the war will also offer opportunities for a constructive role by Indian companies, which are already well entrenched in the region and have developed benign partnerships.

If India must contribute substantially to an enduring security architecture on its western flank, then it will need to recalibrate its relations with Israel and Iran. Israel will remain a valued security partner, but it should not inhibit the pursuit of our relations with other countries in the region in line with our interests. We should acknowledge that we let our relations with Iran slide while pursuing initiatives like I2U2 (Israel, India, the UAE and the US) and IMEC (India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor), which excluded Iran and Turkey. In the wake of the Iran war, the US role in the region has become problematic, as has the prospect of a collaborative network of relationships between Israel and the Gulf countries. A US-led security architecture in the region, including Israel as a key pillar, has diminishing prospects. India inserting itself into such arrangements had some rationale in the past, but may have lost its relevance now. Irrespective of what happens in the coming negotiations, these broader trends unleashed by the war should be carefully assessed and acted upon. It is always better to stay ahead of the curve.

What about the larger geopolitical equations? The US has suffered grievous reputational damage both for its indulgence in unrestrained violence and its inability to pursue a well-crafted strategy with credible outcomes. It won on tactics but may have lost the war. This is the first time in the post-World War II period that the US was unable to mobilise support from its NATO and European allies. This confirms the perception of there no longer being a West with a coherent identity and shared values. China has gained in stature by default, and to a lesser extent, Russia. One should expect diminished US attention to the Indo-Pacific. It's been stripped of military assets because of the Iran war. These will take time to be replenished. Its allies and partners in the region are already questioning the wisdom of outsourcing their security to the US. Japan and South Korea find themselves especially vulnerable.

One should also note the visit of the Taiwan Opposition leader, the head of the KMT party, to Beijing at the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping. China senses an opportunity to unify Taiwan with the mainland by convincing Taiwanese leaders and its people that they can no longer rely on the US for their defence. Trump's forthcoming visit to China next month may provide a better sense of how far the US-China equation has now tilted towards the latter. These changes on our eastern flank, just as we must cope with the turmoil on our western flank, will throw up additional challenges for Indian diplomacy.

Behind Maharashtra's 'illegal' statues — a lucrative business, fly-by-night operations



For three long months, Balraje Aware-Patil and his team were creatures of the night. They would slip into empty plots of land as the world slept, quickly installing pre-built, allegedly unauthorised statues of revered historical figures before disappearing. By the time authorities woke up, the statues had taken on a life of their own, drawing crowds, sparking protests against their removal — and, police allege, helping Aware-Patil build a lucrative business.

That is, until the Solapur Police in Maharashtra caught up with him. On Sunday, the 45-year-old Aware-Patil was arrested on charges of attempted murder, rioting, unlawful assembly and illegally installing statues at government places without permission, under relevant sections of the

Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. At least three cases were registered against Aware-Patil at Solapur's Madha police station, where he is currently in judicial custody.

"There are a total of 14 cases registered related to illegal statues on government land in Solapur district, and Patil has been named in five cases," Atul Kulkarni, Solapur SP, said. "The Madha Police registered seven cases, and Patil is booked in 3 of them. A team from the Madha police station reached Patil's home in Jalna Sunday and arrested him. Police are verifying his involvement in each case." A senior police officer said: "The exercise [of installing statues] may have been a bid to encroach land and mobilise local support". A GR of May 2017 mandates prior permission from the district collector for any such installation, including on private land. Each proposal must be cleared by a committee and the land must be dispute-free. Violations invite legal action and removal of the structure. A series of cases have been registered across Maharashtra over such installations. It was the installation of a statue within a temple premises in Solapur's Anjangaon on March 31 that appears to have proved too costly for Aware-Patil. A confrontation between two caste groups followed, leading to stone-pelting and injuries to police personnel. The eventual crack-down led to the arrest of Aware-Patil. The Jalna district administration has now ordered shut his manufacturing unit, with police investigating if he was part of a broader statewide operation.

Ram Kapoor reveals he 'was a full player' before dating Gautami, admits being an 'absent' father after career success; expert on the impact

Ram Kapoor and his wife Gautami Kapoor Supported by his wife Gautami's unwavering presence, Ram's journey reflects the complexities of balancing fame with family. (Source: Instagram/Ram Kapoor) During a recent interview, actor Ram Kapoor admitted that the peak years of his career came with a personal cost. He was, by his own words, an "absent father" for nearly a decade. Speaking alongside his wife, Gautami Kapoor, on a YouTube episode of Love Unscripted season 2, the couple reflected on parenting and partnership. The two share two children, and, as Gautami revealed, they weren't actively planning to have a baby when they conceived their eldest daughter, Sia. Ram recalled the moment, stating, "Everything new scares her. But I was thrilled." Gautami added, "I was like, 'Are we going to have a baby? What are we going to do?' He was like, 'You leave it to me.' I was like, 'What do I leave to you?'" Gautami shared that her pregnancy coincided with a dramatic surge in Ram's career. "Ram wasn't there. When I was pregnant with Sia, Ram had his biggest career surge. It felt like (goddess) Lakshmi had arrived. My pregnancy announcement changed Ram's fate forever." Around the same time, Ram landed Kasamh Se, a show that went on to become a massive hit. Yet the success came with distance. Ram revealed, "The reason I am who I am is solely because of her. She took over the children and the house so amazingly that I didn't have to worry about it for a single day. That's why I could focus on my career for 15 long years and become who I am today. She is Mother India. She literally needs

nobody. She does it all and won't allow anyone to come close. Any successful man is successful because he has a very strong woman who has allowed him to be successful. Otherwise, it's impossible. I never had to worry about my child. That's why I was absent. My children didn't really know me for 10 years."

During the conversation, the couple also revisited the early days of their relationship. Ram admitted, "We were friends actually, and that's the coolest part. When you want to date someone, you always put your best foot forward. You try to impress the person. In our case, it was the opposite because we did not want to date each other. She was with somebody else, and I was with many people. I was a full player those days. I was not serious with anyone. I was just happy-go-lucky, and I was with my best friend, and she was my very good friend." Gautami responded with understanding rather than judgment: "See the kind of person he is, whoever he was in a relationship or whatever he was back then, he was very upfront and open about it." She added, "When I met him, I saw him as his own person. He was my friend first, and then I fell in love with him. I have never stopped believing in love or the idea of falling in love. That's just who I am. Even today, love comes first for me. So for me, it was never difficult." Counselling psychologist Athul Raj tells indianexpress.com, "Children don't think in terms of absence. They experience what is. If a parent isn't around emotionally or physically, children adjust.

How psychometric evaluation can help students

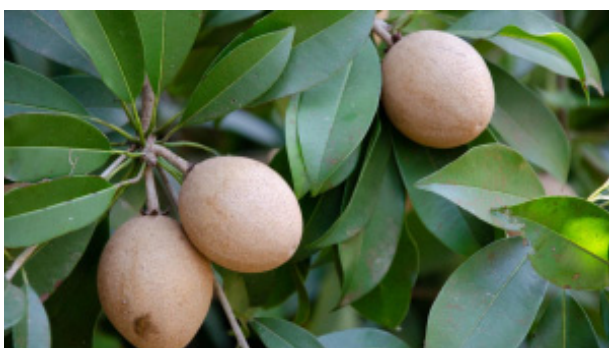


work can compensate for any mismatch. While effort is important, alignment matters more. Research shows that students who select subjects aligned with their aptitude and interests are up to twice as likely to remain engaged throughout their course. Engaged students learn with curiosity, persist longer, recover faster from setbacks, and show stronger intrinsic motivation. Psychometric assessments are often misunderstood as rigid tools that box students into predefined outcomes. In reality, their power lies in reflection, not prediction. Psychometrics evaluates learning styles, cognitive strengths, personality traits, emotional intelligence, and interests, translating intuition into insight. Psychometrics are not used as a one-time verdict. Their real value emerges when assessments are repeated, interpreted with counselling support, and framed as evolving self-knowledge. Psychometrics illuminates tendencies, preferences, and strengths, allowing students to make informed choices rather than reactive ones and widens opportunity. While traditional career guidance funnels students toward a narrow set of visible job titles, psychometric insights encourage exploration of career clusters and groups of roles with similar cognitive and personality demands. Understanding underlying strengths helps students resist peer pressure and short-term trends, reducing early disengagement and repeated course changes. Students who make informed decisions early are less likely to face mid-career dissatisfaction. Self-awareness becomes a lifelong asset, enabling adaptability across industries rather than dependence on linear paths. The future of career guidance is not about predicting which jobs will exist tomorrow but about equipping students with the self-awareness to navigate change confidently. Psychometrics shift career decisions from guesswork to evidence-based understanding. For parents, it means moving from control to collaboration. For students, it means replacing pressure with proof. When decisions are grounded in data, anxiety gives way to confidence. Choices feel owned, not imposed. Psychometrics do not promise certainty but offer clarity.

Millions of students in Class 10 and Class 12 are asked to choose a stream that will not only shape the next few years of education but also the trajectory of their working life. But this choice is seldom made in isolation. Parents worry about security, relatives offer comparisons, society amplifies prestige, and the market promotes trends. What is largely missing is the fundamental factor of having reliable insights into the students themselves. External pressure while students today are capable, informed, and motivated, career decisions continue to be guided by external pressure than internal clarity. Psychometrics challenges this outdated approach by introducing evidence-based self-understanding and shifts the question from "What should I become?" to "Who am I and where am I most likely to thrive?"

Studies show that 60-70% of students choose their streams based on parental or societal expectations rather than aptitude. While this doesn't always lead to failure, it frequently leads to dissatisfaction. Around 40% consider changing their stream in the first two years of college, citing poor fit rather than academic difficulty. Many can cope with misaligned courses, but coping is not engagement. Over time, this gap manifests as loss of motivation, anxiety, declining performance, or quiet acceptance of careers that never fit. There is a persistent belief that ambition and hard

The sapota plant in the backyard



septuagenarian father-in-law during his visits to our house would add further color to our discussion, sharing stories about his childhood days when every house hold in Kerala had many fruit trees.

Time slowly passed, and all in the family became busy in their own world. Our children became busy with their studies and moved to colleges to pursue higher studies. My own office work kept me engaged most of the time and all I did was to glance the poor tree once in a while with a guilty feeling. No one really bothered about the plant, but somehow it seemed to survive the lack of attention. Even in neglect it slowly grew into a healthy strong tree with many branches and soon it started to flower. It bore lots of fruits and once again our attention to the tree was rekindled. Every morning I started to inspect it and even give water though unnecessary. The fruits attracted several birds that chirped and added freshness to the morning hours. Soon our dear sapota tree became a regular discussion topic in the family and our sons were curious to know when they called us from faraway places. In our conversations, I took a special interest in explaining my efforts to ripen them naturally by keeping in paper bags, and describing how sweet the fruits were. Sometimes I wonder why we humans can't be like trees. Trees share their precious wealth without discrimination or expecting anything in return. They teach us the value of patience and resilience, and importance of sharing.

Some 15 years ago we moved to an independent house after living in an apartment for over a decade. Our new house was located far away from the city center, in a quiet area with a village-like charm. It was a small house, with some open area around. All of us were excited, and the first thing we did was to plant several fruit trees, though the space was small. One such tree was a sapota that was planted in a corner behind the house. Our boys were young children, and each day as soon as they got up in the morning would run to inspect and water the plant. Often the sapota plant was a topic of discussion during family time, and everyone was eager to see it flower and produce fruits. My

Pen pictures of ageing

Ageing has been represented in literature in all its complexity and subtle niceties. Its nuances and dynamics have attracted writers down the ages. Decrepitude, disease and death have fired their imagination. The philosophical musings on death and the poetic meditations on illness seek to define the absurdity of the human condition. The loneliness of the aged and their lived experience often constitute the emotional substratum of the literary text. Gerontology, the science of ageing, is a multidisciplinary field that deals with the biological, psychological and social aspects of ageing. The empathy that literature evokes and the subtle shades of human experience it unfolds would give a new dimension to gerontological science and geriatric medicine. Ageing is a social and cultural construct. The venerable old man of a particular historical period or cultural context may degrade into a "paltry thing, a tattered coat upon a stick" in another.

In Shakespeare's King Lear (1605), Lear, the senile, narcissistic, volatile and choleric tragic hero, is stripped of his power and authority by his ungrateful daughters. Forlorn and forsaken, he is buffeted by the fury of nature and inner turbulence, which inevitably unhinge him. Suffering transforms him into a humane and compassionate person who can identify himself with the "poor naked wretches" of the world. Finally, chastened and subdued, he feels excited to be sent to prison with Cordelia, where they would "sing like birds in the cage". But fate has something else in store for them.

Santiago, the old unlucky fisherman in Ernest Hemingway's The Old Man and the Sea (1952), is the quintessential existential hero. He has been unable to catch a fish for 84 days. On the 85th day, he hooks a huge marlin and struggles with it for hours before harpooning it. Then, he has to face a new challenge as sharks attack and devour his prized catch. He taps into his reserve energy. The unequal fight goes on until the fish is reduced to a skeleton. Ultimately, the story highlights the themes of perseverance, resilience, pride and the complex relationship between man and an indifferent nature. Santiago is trying to find meaning in a meaningless and absurd universe. He takes the responsibility for his existential choices. "Man is not made for defeat. A man can be destroyed, but not defeated" - These iconic words of Santiago are redolent of his indomitable spirit. In Thomas Mann's 'Death in Venice' (1912), ageing is central to the physical, moral and psychological collapse of the protagonist, Gustav Aschenbach, a disciplined and famous German writer. Confronted with a mid-life crisis in creativity precipitated by a structured and rigid life, he leaves for Venice, the city of passion, ecstasy and chaos, hoping to revive his youth and rediscover his creativity. Undeterred by the raging epidemic, he gets entangled in a homo-erotic relationship with a 15-year-old boy, Tadzio. At last, he falls a victim to cholera and dies.

Gabriel Garcia Marquez's 'Love in the Time of Cholera' (1985) tells how roses bloom again in the life of two aged lovers, Florentino Ariza and Fermina Daza. Love had sprouted in their young hearts decades ago, but fate sepa-



Santiago, the old unlucky fisherman in Ernest Hemingway's The Old Man and the Sea (1952), is the quintessential existential hero. He has been unable to catch a fish for 84 days. On the 85th day, he hooks a huge marlin and struggles with it for hours before harpooning it.

rated them until they were re-united in their old age, when cholera was stalking the streets of the city. Running out of time, they re-dedicate themselves to each other.

Dr. Gaustine, the geriatric psychiatrist of Time Shelter (2023), the Man Booker Prize winning novel by the Bulgarian novelist Georgi Gospodinov, builds a "clinic of the past" for his ageing Alzheimer's patients, considering their predilection for happy yesterdays. It is a sort of reminiscence therapy, involving psychosocial intervention, based on the recall of the past. There are countless literary texts which are woven around the theme of ageing. There are also immortal characters like Ursula Buendia of Marquez's One Hundred Years of Solitude (1967), Pampa Kampana of Salman Rushdie's Victory City (2023) and the unnamed Caribbean dictator in Marquez's Autumn of the Patriarch (1975) who are resilient and indefatigable even in the twilight of their life. Like Tennyson's archetypal ageing hero, Ulysses, they "strive, to seek, to find and not to yield". The insights received from literature would provide new ways of looking at the sunset years and would be instrumental in widening the scope of gerontology. Writers with their imaginative reaches and intuitive powers can unravel the subtle and inscrutable facets of human experience. Literary narratives on ageing are non-linear and multi-layered. They contest the biomedical model of ageing that considers ageing as a universal and irreversible process, brought about by cellular damage which is sought to be managed by clinical intervention.

Slovenians vote in tight race between liberals and populist right



northwest of the capital Ljubljana.

Analysts say Mr. Jansa, who is seeking a fourth term as premier of the European Union and NATO member state of 2 million people, has a devoted voter base and the lower the turnout, the higher the chances of him winning the election. At stake is Slovenia's domestic and foreign agenda, where the outgoing government had focused on social and health reforms but delivered mixed results. Mr. Jansa has promised to introduce tax breaks for businesses and cut funding for civil society, welfare and media. Pro-Israeli Mr. Jansa, who is an ally of Hungary's veteran nationalist leader Viktor Orban, would also likely change Golob's foreign policy under which Slovenia was one of the few European countries that recognised an independent Palestinian state and last year imposed an arms embargo on Israel.

Polls opened on Sunday (March 22, 2026) in Slovenia's election pitting incumbent liberal Prime Minister Robert Golob against right-wing populist Janez Jansa, with neither looking set to win a parliamentary majority in the vote that could be decided by smaller coalition partners. Nearly 1.7 million Slovenians will be able to cast votes at polling stations that opened at 7 a.m. (0600 GMT) across the Alpine country and will close at 7 p.m. The election commission is expected to announce the preliminary results after 8:30 p.m. The latest opinion polls indicated pro-Donald Trump Mr. Jansa's Slovenian Democratic Party (SDS) and Golob's Freedom Movement (GS) were set for a close race after an eleventh-hour campaign drama involving allegations of foreign meddling and graft.

Mr. Jansa said the vote is one of the most important in Slovenia's 35 years of independence and will decide the future direction of the country. "I hope that Slovenia will get rid of the organised criminal organisation," he told reporters after casting his vote in the village of Arnace, 85 km

If Trump attacks Iran's power plants, how region, oil prices will be affected



eastern Iran (1,910 MW), and the Ramin steam power plant in Khuzestan province (1,890 MW), according to industry and energy databases. War in West Asia: Decoding deadline, red line in Trump's new threat to Iran. These large, very visible plants can be vulnerable targets in a conflict, as opposed to underground or more modular and dispersed facilities.

Without electricity, Iran cannot process or export oil and natural gas. A disruption to Iran's energy stability might create panic in global markets. A serious attack on Iranian energy facilities, or a disruption of the Strait of Hormuz, would likely cause global oil and gas prices to soar, causing severe market volatility. However, it is believed that Iran has a particularly good power grid and gas distribution network, not very easy to destroy. In fact, since 2017, Iran has been exporting electricity to Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iraq. Iraq relies heavily on Iranian electricity. A collapse of the Iranian power grid could potentially trigger a blackout and subsequent political unrest in Iraq.

Iran has vowed "zero restraint" if its energy facilities are targeted. Tehran has threatened to attack energy infrastructure across West Asia, including assets belonging to US allies in the region. This could draw in neighbouring countries, escalating into a full-scale regional conflict. Iran has de facto closed the Strait of Hormuz — which is the key choke point for about 20% of global daily oil supplies — for what it calls "enemy-linked ships". Omaid Anas, who teaches international relations at the Ankara Yildirim Beyazid University, Turkey, told The Indian Express, "Trump's warning that Iran's energy infrastructure would be obliterated looks more like aggressive posturing for a ceasefire. Though the US has the capability to destroy Iran's critical energy infrastructure, it is Trump's allies in the region, including Israel, who will face the brunt of Iranian retaliation." Earlier this month, Trump had raised the idea of destroying Iran's power grid but also downplayed it. "We could take apart their electric capacity within one hour, and it would take them 25 years to rebuild," Trump had told reporters on March 11. "So ideally, we're not going to be doing that."

Any such action by the US on Iran's civilian infrastructure could lead this war to a point of no return, as the assassinated Iranian leader, Ali Larijani, had earlier indicated. Responding to Trump's threat, he had posted a day later on X, "Well, if they do that, the whole region will go dark in less than half an hour and darkness provides ample opportunity to hunt down US servicemen running for safety." Thus, many see the latest threat as a tactic to bring Tehran to the negotiating table again, by giving it a 48-hour deadline. By creating disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, Iran aims to make the aggression against it extremely expensive for the US and Israel. Iran has indicated it wants the war to stop, but not at the cost of its sovereignty or security, and it has not sought a simple ceasefire. While the US has given a 48-hour deadline to Iran before its energy infra is targeted, reports indicate that should this gambit fail, the Trump administration is making preparations for a ground invasion, possibly to occupy the South Pars gas field on the Kharg island and open up the Strait of Hormuz by force. Anas said the Iran-Israel war is the most serious test of any American administration since the Islamic revolution in 1979. "Even though the US President has declared success in many of his actions and air strikes on Iran, with Iran's increasingly intense retaliation, the rhetoric of early success has come into question," he noted. Most of Trump's allies in the region and in NATO are uncertain about Trump's war plans. The more aggressively Trump goes against Iran, the more pressure he might face from his allies at home and abroad, added Anas.

US President Donald Trump on Sunday threatened to "hit and obliterate" Iran's power plants if Tehran didn't fully open the Strait of Hormuz within 48 hours. In a post on Truth Social, Trump said, "If Iran doesn't fully open, without threat, the Strait of Hormuz, within 48 hours from this exact point in time, the United States of America will hit and obliterate their various power plants, starting with the biggest one first!" Iran responded to Trump's warning, saying it will retaliate by targeting US and Israel-linked energy and IT infrastructure, along with desalination plants in the region, if its power plants are hit.

In a recent attack, Iran fired missiles towards Israel's Dimona, which has a nuclear research centre, and hit a building, causing significant damage. Iran said this attack comes in response to Israel's earlier attack on Natanz, the site of an Iranian nuclear facility. Both sides have also attacked oil facilities. With civilian infrastructure coming directly in the line of fire, as clearly spelt out by both sides this time, the US-Israel-Iran war has entered its most crucial and possibly the most precarious phase. Consequences of 'obliteration'

Trump said the US would start by striking "the biggest" power plant. One of the most significant is Bushehr, a nuclear power plant around 750 km from Tehran that is also home to an Iranian navy base and a dual-use, civilian-military airport. Though it is said to contribute merely 1-2% of Iran's power requirements, it is a key strategic site. Just three days ago, Tehran had claimed that a projectile struck the grounds of the Bushehr plant — in close proximity to the operating power unit — also raising the spectre of a radiological incident. Although no release of nuclear material was reported following the incident, it underlines a longtime worry of Iran's neighbours — that if the power plant on the shores of the Persian Gulf is hit, it could spell disaster for the entire region.

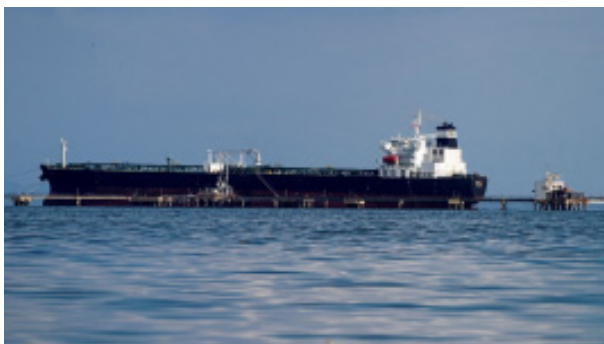
In fact, an attack on Bushehr is the primary concern for the international community. Most Gulf nations (the UAE, Qatar, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia) rely on desalination for nearly all their drinking water. If a strike on Bushehr causes a radiation leak into the Persian Gulf, it could contaminate the water supply for millions across the region. Iran's electricity capacity (over 90,000 MW) makes it one of the largest power producers in West Asia. Iran mostly relies on natural gas for its energy needs — up to 80% as per estimates. The country is heavily dependent on thermal power for its electricity. These plants are primarily fuelled by natural gas, with fuel oil used as a backup during the winter. Iran's big thermal power plants include the Damavand power plant near Tehran (2,868 MW), the Kerman plant in south-

Coal gasification key to India's energy security, says Kishan Reddy

New Delhi: Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy on Sunday highlighted that coal gasification will be pivotal in strengthening India's energy security, reducing import dependence, and supporting industrial growth. Addressing the Bharat Electricity Summit 2026, the minister, describing coal gasification as a key transformative technology, said that it converts coal into syngas, which can be further used to produce cleaner fuels, chemicals, fertilisers, and hydrogen. This approach enables more efficient and sustainable use of domestic resources while enhancing economic resilience. The minister said to promote adoption, the government has launched the National Coal Gasification Mission with a target of 100 million tonnes of gasification by 2030. An incentive framework of Rs 8,500 crore has been introduced to support public and private sector projects, with several large-scale initiatives already underway and investments exceeding Rs 64,000 crore in the pipeline. Advanced technologies such as Underground Coal

Gasification (UCG) were also highlighted for their potential to tap previously inaccessible reserves while reducing environmental impact. He said that India's rapidly expanding economy requires a balanced energy approach that aligns development with sustainability. The minister underlined India's robust coal reserves, estimated at nearly 400 billion tonnes — among the largest globally — where coal accounts for about 55 per cent of the energy mix and nearly 74 per cent of electricity generation. With annual coal demand currently around one billion tonnes and expected to rise significantly by 2047, he emphasised the continued importance of coal even as India remains committed to achieving Net Zero emissions by 2070. He also pointed out India's dependence on imports — approximately 83 per cent of crude oil, 50 per cent of natural gas, and over 90 per cent of methanol and fertilisers — making energy security a strategic priority. The minister called for a collaborative ecosystem involving industry, academia, start-ups.

Amid speculation on Iran's toll for Strait of Hormuz, India sticks to its stance of 'free, safe' navigation through the waterway



Amid reports that Iran wants to impose tolls or transit fees on merchant vessels crossing the Strait of Hormuz, India continues to press for free and safe navigation through the narrow waterway between Iran and Oman, which connects the Persian Gulf with the Arabian Sea, and is a critical maritime chokepoint for shipments of oil, gas, and some other commodities. In response to reports regarding the potential formalisation of a toll by Iran for passage through the Strait, a senior Foreign Ministry official said that there has been "absolutely no discussion" on the issue between India and Iran, adding that India maintains its long-held stance on the matter and will evaluate future scenarios if and when they arise.

"Yes, we have also seen some reports...we continue to call for free and safe navigation through the Strait of Hormuz. We made this point in our statement yesterday as well and continue to do so now as well," Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on Thursday at the inter-ministerial press briefing on the West Asia crisis. There had been reports that Iran was already charging a "toll" from some vessels before allowing them to cross the Strait of Hormuz. The Indian government has been categorically denying the payment of any toll or charge to the Iranians for the passage of India-flagged ships through the waterway. Since the war began, eight India-flagged vessels—all LPG tankers—have returned from the Persian Gulf. India has high dependence on West Asia for its oil and gas supplies, most of which come to the country via the Strait of Hormuz. The Strait is also important for India's supplies of other commodities, including fertilisers and petrochemicals.

"On the question of toll...there has been no discussion on this point between us and Iran. So that is where we

are. As to what will be the scenario if a certain situation arises or happens in future, we'll see when the time comes. But our point of view at this point in time is that we continue to call for free and safe navigation through the Strait of Hormuz," Jaiswal added. Unlike man-made shipping waterways like the Suez Canal and the Panama Canal, straits are natural waterways there is generally no transit charge for crossing them. Turkey's Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits are exceptions, where tolls are charged by Ankara under a special international treaty. Like most other natural waterways that are shipping chokepoints, the Strait of Hormuz is an international strait, and no tolls are charged just for crossing them, as per the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Although neither Iran nor the US have ratified the convention, it is widely accepted as international law, and Washington and Tehran have mostly abided by it. Sources indicated that changing the status of the Strait of Hormuz is a question of international law and would be required to be done through the UN.

According to international media reports, Iran's 10-point proposal for the West Asia war to end includes formalisation of Tehran's de facto control over the Strait of Hormuz. Citing details shared by unnamed Iranian officials with state media, The New York Times reported that as part of the plan, Tehran would impose a toll of up to \$2 million on merchant ships passing through the Strait, through which about a fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) flows transit. US President Donald Trump's comments also added to the speculation and confusion over the proposal of a toll being charged by Iran. "We're thinking of doing it as a joint venture. It's a way of securing it—also securing it from lots of other people," Trump told ABC News said when asked whether he would allow Tehran to charge tolls for shipping to transit the strategic waterway. "It's a beautiful thing," the US president added. Earlier, Trump had set a deadline for Iran to fully open the Strait or face heavy destruction. Just hours before the deadline expired, the temporary two-week ceasefire was agreed upon on Wednesday. Trump said that it was subject to Iran agreeing to "complete, immediate, and safe opening" of the Strait of Hormuz. Iran's Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi said on Wednesday that safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz will be possible for two weeks but "via coordination with Iran's Armed Forces and with due consideration of technical limitations". The situation, however, remains tense with vessel movements through the Strait still highly constricted on Thursday.

Protect jobs, invest strategically amid global volatility: Shaktikanta Das to Indian companies

At a time of "unprecedented volatility" in the world, it would be "appropriate" for Indian industry and businesses to protect jobs, strengthen balance sheets, and invest strategically for "future readiness and for capitalising on new opportunities", Shaktikanta Das, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, said on Thursday. In his address, titled "Turning Turbulence into Triumph: India's Journey Through Crises", at the All-India Management Association National Leadership Conclave in New Delhi — where he was given the Public Service Excellence Award — Das also asked Indian companies to build organisational resilience and new supply chains, reskill the available manpower, and diversify into new markets, especially exporters.

"These measures, I feel, will go a long way in building sustainability and future growth of Indian business and industry," Das said. Das' comments come at a time when the war in West Asia is increasingly taking a toll on various sectors of the Indian economy due to raw material shortages and higher fuel prices, with the price of India's crude oil basket having surged 64% in March from February. According to S&P Global's Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) survey, costs for manufacturers rose the most in 43 months in March, with new orders also rising at the slowest pace since mid-2022. The West Asia crisis, Das said on Thursday, highlights the importance of energy security and self-reliance.

While the world has encountered a series of supply-side shocks — Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the US' trade war, and now the West Asia conflict — following the Covid pandemic, India has emerged "remarkably and measurably stronger", Das said, adding that the country also transformed through these periods of turbulence, witnessing deep digitalisation across sectors, efficiency gains in government systems, and unprecedented infrastructure expansion. "What was unique about India throughout this period of multiple crises was that fiscal and monetary expansion were followed by timely roll back of such expansion. Thus, froth was not allowed to accumulate or overrun the system." Observing that geoeconomic fragmentation and supply-chain disruptions had resulted in reliance on one



dominant partner creating vulnerabilities, Das said 'resilience maximisation' is replacing 'cost minimisation' as the priority. In this context, the PM's Principal Secretary said India's self-reliance approach was shaped by realism, not isolation, with initiatives started under it beginning to yield results across several strategic sectors: electronics manufacturing, semiconductors, pharmaceuticals, global capability centres, and digital technologies, among others. These, he said, are "fast emerging as powerful engines of job creation, investment and innovation".

Das, the former governor of the Reserve Bank of India, also defended his time at the helm of the central bank, listing monetary policy credibility as one of the key factors behind India's growth story. "The GDP growth of 7.1% in 2024-25 bears testimony to this and, in fact, completely demolishes the narrative in certain quarters at that time that RBI's monetary policy had resulted in growth slowdown. Continuity in this flexible monetary policy framework for the next 5 years till 2031 reaffirms the commitment to price stability while keeping in mind the objective of growth," Das, who exited the RBI in December 2024 after six years at the central bank, said. Some of the other factors that Das listed to explain India's growth story include macroeconomic and policy stability, infrastructure-led development, strong domestic demand, the digital public infrastructure, a resilient financial system, a young and enterprising demography, the country's geopolitical positioning, and fiscal discipline.

TCS profit jumps 12% on-year in Q4FY26, 28% sequentially

On a quarter-on-quarter basis, net profit increased by 28.58% from Rs 10,720 crore in the December quarter. On a quarter-on-quarter basis, net profit increased by 28.58% from Rs 10,720 crore in the December quarter. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on Thursday reported a 12.12% on-year jump in its consolidated net profit for the fourth quarter of the financial year 2026 (Q4FY26), fuelled by macro-economic headwinds and the global developments relating to artificial intelligence (AI).

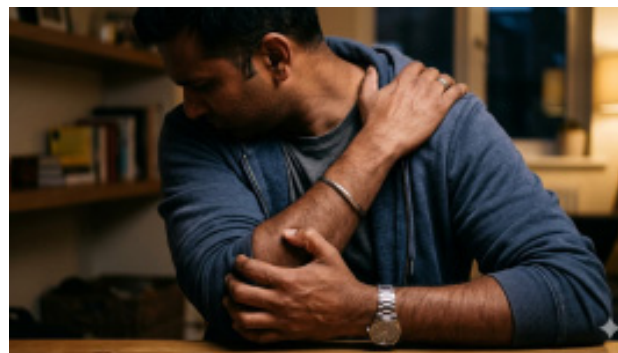
The Indian tech giant's net profit rose to Rs 13,784 crore in Q4FY26, up from Rs 12,293 crore reported during the same quarter of the previous financial year. On a quarter-on-quarter basis, net profit increased by 28.58% from Rs 10,720 crore in the December quarter. Revenue from operations rose by 9% to Rs 71,455 crore in the March quarter as against Rs 65,507 crore a year ago. The board of the company also recommended a final dividend of Rs 31 per share for FY26. While the company's FY26 shareholder payout was Rs 39,571 crore in the form of dividend, as much as 71% of the payout has gone to the promoters Tata Sons due to its equity stake. In Q4, the company's annualised AI revenues surpassed \$2.3 billion, driven by the accelerated deployment of AI solutions.

However, the company's shares are down by 28.7% from the 52-week high of Rs 3,630, resulting in a sizeable wealth erosion for shareholders. K. Krithivasan, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, said the third con-

secutive quarter of sequential growth was supported by three mega deals and a \$12 billion TCV, underscoring the strength of our five-pillar strategy and AI-led positioning across services.

"It is equally encouraging that this momentum was broad based across major markets and most industries. While the macro-economic headwinds continue, we see sustained customer conviction in technology investments, which positions us well for the opportunities ahead," Krithivasan said. TCS said FY26 operating margin was at 25%, up 70 basis points on a year-on-year basis, its highest operating margin in the last 4 years. "FY26 marked a pivotal year for enterprise AI adoption. In Q4, our annualised AI revenues surpassed \$2.3 billion, driven by the accelerated deployment of AI solutions," said Aarthi Subramanian, Executive Director — President and Chief Operating Officer. Even as TCS scaled our investments in AI-led growth opportunities, margins expanded by 70 basis points, reflecting the strong operational rigor, Samir Sekaria, Chief Financial Officer, said. The company also implemented annual salary increases across all grades effective April 1. "In Q4, we continued to invest in a future-ready workforce with strong additions across experienced talent and campus hires," TCS said. "Building an AI-first culture and equipping our people with AI-ready skills remained a key priority in FY26 and will continue into FY27, as we align closely with customers' evolving needs," it said.

The red flags of nerve pain you should never ignore



New Delhi, tells indianexpress.com, "Nerve pain is typically sharp, burning, electric, or shooting in nature, often radiating along a specific nerve pathway (e.g., down the arm or leg). It may be associated with tingling, numbness, "pins and needles," or weakness. Symptoms often worsen with certain positions (e.g., spinal movement)." He continues, "Muscle pain, in contrast, is usually dull, aching, or cramp-like, localised to a specific area, and aggravated by movement or palpation. It may be associated with stiffness or soreness, especially after activity or strain." A key distinguishing feature, he says, is radiation and neurological symptoms in nerve pain versus localised tenderness in muscle pain.

Pain can often feel similar on the surface, but its underlying cause can vary significantly. One of the most common areas of confusion is distinguishing between nerve pain and muscle pain, two conditions that may overlap in sensation but require very different approaches to treatment and care. Understanding this difference is crucial, as misinterpreting the source of pain can delay recovery or even worsen the condition. While muscle pain is often linked to strain, overuse, or injury, nerve pain may stem from compression, irritation, or damage to the nerves themselves. The way these pains present, whether through sharp, radiating sensations or dull, localised aches, can offer important clues, but they are not always easy to decode without proper guidance. For individuals dealing with persistent discomfort, recognising these subtle differences can be the first step toward effective treatment. It also raises important questions about when to seek medical attention, how to manage symptoms safely, and what signs should not be ignored. To better understand the differences, we spoke with an orthopaedic surgeon.

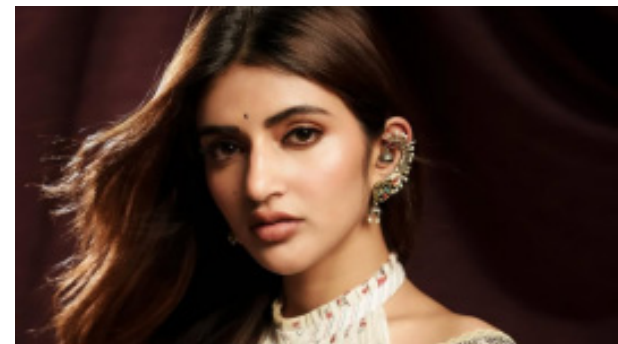
What are the key differences in how nerve pain and muscle pain feel?

Dr Raju Vaishya, senior consultant orthopaedic and joint replacement surgeon at Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals,

'All of this is not an excuse': After actor-doctor Sreeleela's take on periods sparks social media outrage, a gynaecologist explains how symptoms vary from person to person

Actor-doctor Sreeleela has sparked a heated conversation after her recent remarks about working through periods drew sharp reactions online. Speaking during the success meet of Ustaad Bhagat Singh held in March after the film's release, she reflected on her own experiences of pushing through physically demanding situations and said, "All of my songs, I can say, most of them at least have been appreciated. I have shot while I have been on my period, so that is not an excuse anywhere. When we want things in power, when we say we want things equally. I feel we have to push beyond physiological barriers. So psychological, physiological, all of this is not an excuse." While her statement may have been rooted in personal resilience, many felt it overlooked the wide range of experiences people have during menstruation. The backlash has been particularly strong given her medical background, with several women pointing out that period pain, fatigue, and conditions like PCOS can vary significantly from person to person, sometimes making even routine tasks difficult. One user wrote, "Good for her, but one person's experience doesn't define everyone's reality. Periods affect women differently for some it's manageable, for others, it's extremely painful. Calling it 'no excuse' ignores that difference." Another highlighted, "No... She is wrong... Bleeding and pain differ from one individual to another, and within the same individual, they differ across periods. Don't need to push beyond. Ask for what u need. Depression and periods should be taken care of (sic)."

Earlier, actor Ayesha Khan, who appeared in the Dhurandhar song 'Shararat', had also opened up about working during her period, but from a slightly different perspective. Addressing the reactions she received, she said, "It's unfortunate that whatever you do or say these days, everything is a joke, dark humour, and fun. It's a good thing that you can laugh about everything. But to laugh at anything and everything isn't exactly fun." She added, "I probably didn't even realise it because it's so normal for me. Every month, we go through this cycle. We do so many things when we're on our period (sic)." She maintained a sense of pride in her experience, saying, "I'm a proud woman. I was really, really proud of whatever I did while being on my period. You wouldn't be able to do that without being on periods. I did that during my periods (sic)." She also pointed out how common it is for women to carry on with daily life during menstruation: "I'm sure if there were 100 women in this room. There would be at least two or five women who'd be on their periods right now. We just don't realise because we don't make a big deal about it. So, if we don't make a big deal out of it, you can chill." At the same time, she acknowledged she's fortunate not to have to endure a lot of pain when she's on her period, noting, "Of



course, I felt I wasn't looking my best because I was bloated. It's THE song, so you want to look your best. You're just so excited you want to look your best."

How much can period symptoms vary from person to person?

Dr Gaana Sreenivas, obstetrician and gynaecologist at Bone and Birth Clinic and Rainbow Hospital, Bannerghatta Road, tells indianexpress.com, "Menstrual experiences vary widely across individuals, both in intensity and impact. While some may have minimal discomfort, others experience significant pain, fatigue, or even conditions like dysmenorrhea and endometriosis that can interfere with daily functioning." From a medical standpoint, Dr Sreenivas states, it is not accurate to generalise that menstruation should never be seen as a limitation. For many, pushing through severe symptoms without acknowledgement can delay diagnosis or worsen underlying conditions. Common physical and hormonal changes during periods that can affect a person's ability to work, exercise, or function normally. During menstruation, Dr Sreenivas notes that there is a drop in oestrogen and progesterone levels, which can influence energy, mood, and pain perception. Physically, individuals may experience abdominal cramps, lower back pain, headaches, and gastrointestinal discomfort.

"Hormonal shifts can also lead to fatigue, irritability, and reduced concentration. These combined effects can impact productivity, physical performance, and overall daily functioning, particularly in the first one to two days of the cycle," explains the expert. Balance between staying active during periods and recognising when the body needs rest or medical attention "The key lies in listening to the body rather than adhering to a fixed expectation. Light to moderate activity, such as walking or stretching, can help alleviate symptoms for some, but persistent or severe pain, dizziness, or excessive bleeding should not be ignored," stresses Dr Sreenivas.

ISRO successfully conducts second integrated air drop test for Gaganyaan mission

New Delhi: Space agency ISRO has successfully conducted the second integrated air drop test (IADT-02) for the upcoming Gaganyaan mission at the space station in Andhra Pradesh's Sriharikota. The system is essential to ensure safe recovery of the crew module — the capsule in which astronauts sit during a human flight — during re-entry and landing. Union Minister Jitendra Singh congratulated the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for successfully conducting the test. "Congratulations #ISRO for the successful accomplishment of Second Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-02) for #Gaganyaan, India's first Human Space flight scheduled next year. The second Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-02) was successfully conducted at Satish Dhawan Space Station Sriharikota," Singh said in a post on X.

The IADT-02 follows the successful completion of the first IADT, which took place on August 24, 2025 at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. Air drop tests recreate the last leg of a spacecraft's return to the Earth. An aircraft or helicopter drops the spacecraft from a height to test various systems under different scenarios.



These are the deployment of the parachute system in case the mission is aborted mid-flight, system performance when one parachute fails to open, and the spacecraft's orientation and safety during splashdown, etc. In the first IADT, a 4.8-tonne dummy crew module was dropped from a height of three km by a Chinook helicopter. After the module's release, a parachute system, comprising 10 parachutes, was deployed, helping the capsule decelerate to a safe splash-down speed.

With strike rate being 137.93, Prabhsimran dreams big: 'Scoring 250 runs is not that difficult anymore'



Punjab Having first been picked by the Punjab franchise in 2019, Singh has so far amassed a total of 1776 runs in 71 matches in IPL at a strike rate of 149.37. With his tally of 549 runs in 17 matches in last year's Indian Premier League, Punjab Kings opener Prabhsimran Singh had a prolific season in the tournament last season. This IPL season, the Patiala cricketer has so far scored a total of 80 runs in three matches during Punjab King's campaign which has seen the team score two wins with one match being washed out due to rain. With scores close to 200 or more coming in T20 format often nowadays, the opener has been playing attacking game with his strike rate this season being 137.93 and 160.53 in last year's IPL.

When asked about the approach to play fearless cricket with the T20 format demands in the present scenario, Singh said, "Absolutely, the game has become so fast now. Earlier, targets of 170-180 runs used to get defended. Such targets also get defended at present but if we look at the percentage in cricket, it has moved to 200-plus. And to score 200-plus runs, I feel one has to come in and play with an attacking approach right from the power play. One also gets clarity from the team management, coach to go all out and play freely as one sees clearly. If you have to hit, then you have to go for it. Obviously, cricket has definitely become faster, so scoring 250 runs is not that difficult anymore," said Singh, replying to a question by The Indian Express in a media roundtable organised by Punjab Kings. Having first been picked by the Punjab franchise in 2019, Singh has so far amassed a total of 1776 runs in 71 matches in IPL at a strike rate of 149.37. Prior to this year's IPL, Singh has scored in excess of 300 runs in three consecutive seasons of IPL starting with his tally of 358 runs in the 2023 edition of the tournament. In 2024, Singh amassed 334 runs at a strike rate of 156.81 in 14 matches before he scored 549 runs in 17 matches at a strike rate of 160.53. Last year in IPL, Singh was the eighth in the list of most runs scored with his tally of 549 runs and had also hit fifty in five consecutive matches for Punjab Kings. Punjab Kings

reached the final of the IPL last year before they lost to Royal Challengers Bengaluru by six runs in the final played at Ahmedabad. Singh had also made it to India A side and had hit a hundred against Australia A during the three-match series. When asked about him eyeing a spot in the Indian team, Singh was of the view that he still needs to do more with the kind of competition the opening slot sees in the Indian T20 team. "Given how much competition there is, I will definitely have to do more. Less effort won't get it because the competition is very high, so I have to perform well. But if you take all these things in the spirit of healthy competition, I feel you will grow positively. When you get into the India A setup, you feel that your main goal — to play for the senior Indian team, to represent the country well and play for a long time — is one step closer. You feel like, 'Yes, I am in India A now, and if I do well, maybe I will get a chance ahead soon.' So that confidence stays inside you, knowing that you are going to play for India A and if you do well, the ultimate goal of playing for the senior India team is not too far away. So the confidence definitely remains," Singh said. In 2024, Punjab Kings had retained Prabhsimran Singh and Shashank Singh prior to the mega auction and Singh spoke about how head coach Ricky Ponting had a talk with him and how captain Shreyas Iyer and coach Ponting have backed him. "It has actually been eight years for me with Punjab Kings now. Obviously, when I first arrived, I didn't get many opportunities to play. But over the last three to four years, I've been getting chances to play, and my effort is always to do better every time I get an opportunity. Sometimes things go well, sometimes they don't. I also want to thank Punjab Kings for this; I always say this in every interview, that if they have backed me, then it is my duty to pay them back. Regarding leadership, yes, Shreyas Iyer has backed me and in the first meeting also, he told me to play according to my strength and freely and take the team forward. Same with coach Ricky Ponting. When I was retained ahead of the mega auction, he had a talk with me and it showed how he had faith in me and that's why the team retained me," said Singh. Singh also shared his views about the "impact player" rule in the IPL. "As a youngster, I see the Impact Player rule as a great opportunity for young players, and I have said this several times. Many don't like it because, obviously, a team can take more high-risk decisions when a player — be it a batter or bowler — is added to the side. But for young players, it's invaluable. When I joined the Punjab Kings franchise, I spent eight years with them, and for four of those years, I didn't get many chances to play. Sitting on the sidelines, I always hoped for a shot, and now, because of the Impact Sub rule, I feel the opportunities for youngsters have increased significantly," said Singh, whose mother had bought homemade food for Punjab Kings team earlier this week at the team hotel with Ponting too enjoying the food.

Who really runs CSK now? The Dhoni-Fleming question deepens

GNS News Agency, April 13

The IPL has never really traded in the kind of public needling that defines football management. Opposition coaches do not usually take sly digs at their peers the way Premier League managers do. Which is why Hemang Badani's assessment of Stephen Fleming landed so sharply — and why, with Chennai Super Kings in visible decline, it now feels less like provocation than a challenge. Badani's claim was blunt: CSK were not really being run by Fleming at all, but by MS Dhoni. Fleming, he suggested, was celebrated for a success he had not replicated elsewhere, while Dhoni remained Chennai's true cricketing brain, its "kingpin" and "maharaja".

At the time, it was easy to dismiss that as incendiary. Now it sits more uncomfortably. Because the question around Chennai is no longer simply why they are losing. It is who this failure belongs to. For years, CSK existed in a structure where everything — tactically, emotionally, symbolically — began and ended with Dhoni. That was both strength and ambiguity. If Chennai were calm and precise, Dhoni absorbed the credit. If they looked stale, blame drifted elsewhere.

Even those inside the CSK ecosystem have acknowledged this balance. In an ESPNcricinfo conversation, Ambati Rayudu said plainly: "It is MS Dhoni who calls the shots," later describing CSK as "MS Dhoni's team." That matters now, because the buffer is thinner than before. Around the franchise, Fleming has become more central to decision-making — selection, direction, identity. Even when Dhoni returned as stand-in captain after Rituraj Gaikwad's injury, this season has felt less like his last stand and more like Fleming's test. That is what makes the slide so damaging. Not just because CSK are losing, but because the losses read as an indictment of the ideas behind them. Missing the playoffs once can be explained away. Missing them again raises larger doubts. Finishing bottom while looking tactically dated makes it more serious: a rupture in identity.

CSK no longer look like a team in transition, but one struggling to recognise the competition they are in. With Dhoni around, perception was always his hardest battle. The captain's shadow was too vast; every good decision could be attributed to him, every bad one displaced. But this feels, more than before, like Fleming's CSK — and therefore Fleming's reckoning. The criticism has grown because it strikes deeper than results. It questions whether Fleming has kept pace with the modern IPL. That charge is uncomfortable, but not baseless. And yet context matters. Fleming is not a defensive relic. Since 2009, he has been one of the IPL's defining thinkers, building a sustained method with Dhoni: squeeze the middle overs with spin, exploit matchups, turn Chepauk into a fortress, trust experience under pressure. This was not luck stretched over years. It was an operating system.

Those who played under him describe a coach who did not need theatre to exert control. As Rayudu put it, "it's a captain's team" — an understanding that allowed the partnership to function without friction. His authority was expressed through clarity and restraint. But the modern IPL has shifted in a way that tests that model. Since the Impact Player rule, the league has accelerated into something harsher: bigger scores, deeper batting, and caution punished more brutally. Fleming himself has acknowledged as much: "Everyone is going at a rate of knots... I don't think there is a thing called finishers anymore." This is a coach watching the ground move. The issue is not misunderstanding T20. It is trusting an older grammar for too long while the league learned a new language. CSK have not simply failed to keep pace — at times, they have misread it.



As Chennai Super Kings lose their edge, scrutiny falls on Stephen Fleming and whether his long-proven system has been outpaced.

While others embraced depth and aggression, Chennai kept trying to restore order: not to stretch the game but to manage it, not to raise the ceiling but to lower the temperature. In an older IPL, that was intelligence. In this one, it has looked like denial. Fleming's recent remarks reflect that tension. He has spoken about the league's pace, the distorted market, the challenge of staying relevant. All true. But it can sound like a coach explaining the game rather than shaping it. And the IPL is not kind to those who arrive half a beat late. Even when Dhoni returned as stand-in captain after Rituraj Gaikwad's injury, this season has felt less like his last stand and more like Fleming's test. Even when Dhoni returned as stand-in captain after Rituraj Gaikwad's injury, this season has felt less like his last stand and more like Fleming's test. What has preserved Fleming is trust — a luxury few coaches enjoy. CSK's ownership does not panic; it solves. That patience helped build the franchise. But in sport, patience is not immunity. There are signs of a pivot — younger players, more attacking options, a search for energy. It would be premature to write him off. Coaches of his calibre adapt. But the questions remain until CSK stop looking like a team caught between identities: too loyal to an old method to leave it behind, too aware of the new game to ignore it.

That is why the scrutiny around Chennai feels different now. It is no longer the familiar noise that follows defeats, but doubt about ideas, authority, and relevance. The IPL has never granted much patience to delayed adaptation, and for years Fleming was insulated by two stabilisers: trophies in the bank and Dhoni in the room. The first still carries weight. The second no longer protects in quite the same way. So the question at Chennai is no longer whether Stephen Fleming deserves respect. He has earned that beyond argument. It is whether, despite Dhoni's lingering shadow over how this franchise is understood, responsibility for what CSK become next now rests with him — and whether a coach who once helped define the rhythm of the IPL can still keep time with it in a league that has moved on from waiting.

When coach Vimal Kumar caught an Ayush-Jojo match in badminton-crazy Indonesia: 'Christie is like Kohli there; the taxi driver spoke of...'



GNS News Agency, April 13

It wasn't just that Indonesian coach Irwansyah was in the Indian corner when Ayush Shetty defeated his ace former protege Jonatan Christie. Vimal Kumar, the lead coach at Ayush's badminton academy also found himself in badminton-mad Indonesia, on the morning of their face-off. The win sets up a semis face-off with World No 1 Kunlavut Vitidsarn.

Unlike India where the second biggest broadcaster refused to renew TV rights for the Badminton Asia Championships which meant Indian's were left scrambling for stray streams to catch the match — only from one angle! — the Ayush-Jojo match was the highlight of the Indonesian sporting day. India's lead broadcaster was left showing the European championships. Vimal Kumar, in Indonesia for a private wedding, flew into the country and caught the excitement akin to cricket in India. "Jonatan is their No 1 player, like Virat Kohli. Every channel was showing the Asian Cham-

ampionship. Their other players Alwi Farhan and Ubaidullah had lost, but this was the big one," he said. On the long ride from the airport, Vimal only had to mention badminton, and his entire journey was filled with plenty of chatter, with players from past and present. "The following is huge in Indonesia. My taxi driver, an old fellow, recalled matches of Liem Swi King, Rudi Hartono and Prakash (Padukone). The match was yet to begin and I saw it in my hotel room only. But we had a long chat. He seemed to be very upset that Indonesia hadn't produced a women's great after Susi Susanti. And wasn't particularly impressed with the current lot," Vimal said.

The win over the World No 4 had made his day, but the match had a few nervy moments for him. "First set was crucial and I thought Ayush was a little sluggish. But when it matters over last 3 matches at Ningbo, Ayush played good positive badminton which was impressive. It was a fantastic effort from 18-20 down. Even end of 2nd set, he kept good length and kept shuttle deep which Christie wasn't expecting since many shuttles were floating out. But Ayush controlled it well," he said. When the 20 year old was tiring he also took a good break at 17-18 which shows he is in the big league. Top players tend to know these things, Vimal added. "Asians are as good as the World's," he would say, adding these were good results with wins over Christie and Li Shifeng, in a week. More than Christie, one look behind from Ayush towards Irwansyah, pointed to a possible crisis. Ayush had broken strings of over 7-8 racquets and ran the risk of running out of racquets. Irwansyah, an experienced ace coach, not just on court coach, will need to manage the stringing issues, going ahead.

'Good captains use secondary bowlers when it's going well': Former stars slam Rituraj Gaikwad's tactics and CSK's IPL 2026 auction picks

GNS News Agency, April 13

A defeat to the Royal Challengers Bengaluru last Sunday has deepened the Chennai Super Kings' woes in the IPL 2026 season, with former CSK stars now coming out to slam captain Rituraj Gaikwad and the team management for their tactics. The 43-run loss to RCB meant that CSK had failed to notch up a win in three consecutive games this season, as well as seven in succession under Gaikwad, who has now lost 14 of his 22 matches in charge of the side. Former CSK bowler and coach Lakshmi Prasad Balaji slammed Gaikwad's tactics with the ball against RCB. Batting first at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, RCB posted a record 250-run total against CSK when Gaikwad's sloppy usage of England pacer Jamie Overton in two halves backfired for the visitors. While he started his spell with two economical overs for 12 runs, Gaikwad brought in the Englishman later at the death, where he was blown away by a Tim David carnage. The towering Aussie smashed Overton for 30 runs in the 19th over with four sixes and a four, rubbishing his figures to 1/42 in three overs.

"A good captain will finish his secondary bowlers when it's going well. That will save 20 runs in the end. Like Overton, when you give just 13 off 2 overs, what's the use of coming back later and giving 40 in the other two? He should have finished his four when he was bowling well. Is Overton going to win you a game with four or five wickets in the death overs?" Balaji said in a conversation with former CSK batter S Badrinath on his YouTube channel. Balaji also declared that CSK must amp up their spin bowling stock by drafting in West Indies left-arm Akeal Hosein and dropping their Rs 14.5 crore buy Prashant Veer, who has had a limited



role with the ball thus far. "Akeal Hosein must play instead of Prashant Veer. It's about him. This is the place for him in the 11. Just don't bowl Overton in the death. The match will be over there itself. But at the moment, it feels like CSK have issues in every department from top to middle order to spin and pace bowling, along with captaincy," Balaji said. Badrinath also hammered CSK's poor auction strategy to buy two uncapped stars in Veer and Rajasthan wicket-keeper Kartik Sharma. The duo became the joint-most expensive uncapped buys in IPL history, with CSK shelling out Rs 14.5 crore each for the players in the December 2025 auction. "Picking Kartik Sharma and Prashant Veer for 14 crore isn't the players' fault. It is the franchise's mistake. You don't need some big coach or analyst to pick these two at 14 crore. It's when you pick these players at 50 lakhs that you showcase your skill in this. So this is the management's fault, not the players'," said Badrinath.

Ayush Shetty scores his biggest win over World No 4 Jonatan Christie — an all-round 23-21, 21-17 brilliance



The 20-year-old Mangalorean signals the start of a new era in Indian men's singles, with his 6-ft-4 attack complemented with dextrous point construction and closing out smarts.

GNS News Agency, April 13

Jonatan Christie just couldn't shake off Ayush Shetty. It's one thing to have an annoying little bee buzzing in your ear, but quite another for an elephant to be stomping his feet all around you, like the 6-foot-4 Ayush with the persistence of a pecking bird did. The World No 4 from Indonesia was brought down, one rally at a time, as the 25th ranked Indian reached the semifinals of his first Badminton Asia Championship 23-21, 21-17 at Ningbo, China.

Ayush trailed Jojo Christie right until 18-18 in the opening set. But every time, the 28-year-old former Asian Games champion compiled a 3-point lead, Ayush would start snapping at his heels and never stop pursuing. What makes the tall Mangalorean, still only 20 the biggest talent for the future — and the future is here clearly — is how he easily erased three set points, to sneak in a 23-21 first set lead. His bulking smashes nearly saw him through the second — in much the 'here comes the cavalry' fashion. But winning that first set, needed painstaking effort which Ayush was ready to put in. It's a fairly simple thing to thwack a smash from a 6-ft-7 vantage with outstretched limbs and racquet. But the first set was about drawing out trap-plans and ambushes. This Ayush achieved with pin-pricks — lobs going over and

behind Jojo, smashes into the Indonesian's body that even an agile defender like him couldn't evade and they sailed wide. That's how Ayush arrived at 18-all; the series — 7-10, 11-11, 11-14, 13-14, 13-16, 15-16. Jojo was prevailing in fast parallel exchanges and drawing out smashing errors into the net by pushing the Indian back.

Perhaps the canniest of Ayush's plans, thanks to Jojo's former coach and father figure Irwansyah, was baiting the Indonesian to go for the lines and corners where he is strong. But when you tunnel him into exchanges that are skimming that airspace over the line, the 4th effort after three accurate ones, is bound to sail wide. Ayush lured Jojo to that thin red line, and teased out wide errors. Jojo still led 19-18 counter-baiting Ayush into wildly swinging racquet evasively on body shots. And the Indonesian had the set point after Ayush was left with no choice but to send his backhand lift to the backline — it went long. But here's where the powergame, that's been the staple of a PV Sindhu or HS Prannoy came into play. Ayush sent a scorching cross court smash to get to 19-20. Under pressure now, Jojo netted the next one, 20-all. Jojo was chasing now, as he levelled at 21-21 with a straight smash. But the quaking racquet grip sent the next into the net giving Ayush his second set point.

For a power-player with a sledgehammer, gritting out these points is like threading a needle. But the Mangalorean wasn't averse to the hard work. The first set came not from an expansive smash, but a pointed attack on the body, that Jojo ended up parrying clumsily as the shuttle went wide. With the first set pocketed, Ayush was riding the confidence wave, and then rolled in the heavy materials. Half a dozen big statement smashes. He entertained resistance from Jojo till 9-9 and then hah had enough of it. At 13-9 came the soft-conceding by Christie. Like all ageing, slightly jaded players (he won Asian Games in 2018 at age 20), he allowed a shuttle on the backline to drop — not because it was going out, but he hoped it would. Bang on the line. At 15-12, Ayush prevailed in a long rally. And though Jojo came within 16-17 of the Indian's advantage, Ayush always had the A-Smash to nose ahead. A terribly poor lift from Jojo — his shuttle and length control is considered amongst best in men's singles — saw Ayush swatting at it for 19-17. And two errors — long and wide followed, as the great Indonesian was overcome in 54 prophetic minutes.

Dacoit movie review: Adivi Sesh returns with a raw, emotional punch that's hard to shake off



Dacoit movie review: There is a specific kind of Telugu film that Adivi Sesh has made his own. It is not the loudest film in the room, nor does it rely on star power alone. It builds slowly, plants an emotional hook early, and then pulls on it hard when you least expect it. In recent years, Sesh has consistently delivered films marked by a distinct style and strong box office performance. After a four-year gap, he is back with Dacoit, and the wait feels mostly worth it. Hari, played by Adivi Sesh, is not a complicated man when we first meet him in the mid-2000s. He falls in love with Juliet, played by Mrunal Thakur, with the kind of openness that only becomes dangerous when the world around it refuses to cooperate. Their relationship is forbidden not by circumstance but by the deeper, older logic of caste.

That makes Juliet's betrayal hit harder than it otherwise would. When she turns on him and Hari ends up convicted for a crime he never committed, it is not simply a man losing his freedom. It is a man who trusted someone across every boundary the world had drawn between them, and paid for it with years of his life. He breaks out, and he comes back with one thing on his mind. Not survival. Not a second chance. Juliet. This is where Dacoit really holds its ground. Adivi Sesh delivers a nuanced performance as an actor and a very engaging script as a writer. His commanding screen presence and the dialect shift work brilliantly for his character. He plays Hari across two very different emotional states and makes the shift between them feel real. His work in the quieter first half is particularly good because it is doing the harder job of making you care before the chaos begins. But Mrunal Thakur outdoes him.

Mrunal's Juliet is the kind of female character that Telugu cinema has not always been comfortable writing. She is not a moral fixed point. She makes a choice that destroys someone she loves, and the film does not immediately ask you to forgive her or condemn her. It asks you to understand her, which is a more difficult thing to ask. She is the emotional centre of the film in a way that sneaks

up on you, and after the interval, her performance gives the story a depth that it would struggle to carry without her. Anurag Kashyap plays Inspector Swamy, the investigator tracking the escalating crime wave set in motion by Hari. Casting a filmmaker of Kashyap's calibre adds a welcome unpredictability to his scenes as he resists playing to type. Prakash Raj also features in the cast, bringing a dependable screen presence to every frame he occupies.

The first half of Dacoit works because it earns its emotion rather than demanding it. The love story between Hari and Juliet feels grounded, the kind of relationship that makes sense before the world intervenes. When the world does intervene, the manipulation and the social pressure that surrounds them, it does not feel manufactured. It feels like the logical consequence of who these people are and where they live. The second half shifts gear but does not abandon the human core. The chase sequences are sharp and the action is constructed with visible craft and scale. But what keeps the film from becoming another technical exercise is that director Shaneil Deo never lets you forget what started all of this. The momentum in the back half is driven by plot mechanics, yes, but the emotional engine underneath it is still the same story that began in the mid-2000s in Hindupuram. That is a harder balance to strike than it appears, and Dacoit largely manages it. The movie is not flawless. The narrative can feel overcrowded, juggling multiple emotions, sequences, and plot threads that create some confusion around the storyline. There are stretches, particularly in the second half, where the film piles on one more twist when you were already processing the last one. It is the kind of overcorrection that comes from a team that has a lot to say and is not entirely sure which things to cut. At first glance, Dacoit does not promise anything you have not seen before. Love, betrayal, a man stripped of everything trying to claw it back. Writers Shaneil Deo and Adivi Sesh know this, and they do not waste time pretending otherwise. What they do instead is use that familiar skeleton to carry a story with genuine weight. It uses the framework of forbidden love and personal vengeance to examine things that are worth examining: what caste still costs people, what the pandemic revealed about whose lives institutions are designed to protect, how a medical system can punish people simply for being poor, and what it looks like when the legal system fails someone completely and without accountability. By the end, Dacoit leaves you with a love story told in a grand and commercial way, supported by strong storytelling and excellent technical quality. Adivi Sesh has built his career on choosing stories with something to say, and Dacoit fits that pattern. If you are willing to sit with a film that earns its emotional punches slowly rather than announcing them early, and has the ability to take you by surprise, Dacoit will give you what you came for. It is the kind of film that stays with you a little longer than you expected it to.

'It disturbed my performance': Aamir Khan reveals why seeing son Junaid's version of Laal Singh Chaddha made him doubt himself

Aamir Khan has often spoken about the disappointing box office performance of his 2022 film Laal Singh Chaddha, a remake of Tom Hanks-starrer Forrest Gump. The film, which was particularly close to his heart, failed to connect with audiences, leaving the actor deeply affected. He later took a break from films before returning with Sitaare Zameen Par in 2025. Now, in a recent conversation with JioHotstar, Aamir revealed that he initially wanted his son Junaid Khan to play the titular role. Aamir recalled that when Junaid returned to India after completing his acting training in Los Angeles, he was curious to see how his son had evolved as an actor. Aamir decided to test him as a filmmaker, so he could evaluate his talent. Recalling the early stages of the film, Aamir said, "I loved the script of Forrest Gump, we were very excited

about it. At that time, Junaid had just completed his acting course in LA. He came back quite experienced and I thought, let me see what he has learned."

He asked director Advait Chandan to film select scenes with Junaid, not only to assess his son, but also to gauge the director's ability to handle a project of that scale. "So I told Advait, take 7-8 scenes of Laal Singh and give it to Junaid. I want to see what he has learnt, but the test really is for you because I want to see whether you can helm a film like this because before that, he made Secret Superstar and this was a different scale altogether. So I said, I want to see how you direct this film. You don't direct me, you direct Junaid. I want to see how you do that."

"He shot about 20 minutes of film, two-three difficult scenes that we picked.

Sandeep Reddy Vanga slams those calling Dhurandhar 2 propaganda, warns Aditya Dhar and Ranveer Singh against 'kaala drishti'



Earlier in the day, it was reported that filmmaker Sandeep Reddy Vanga, currently busy shooting his next, Spirit, with Prabhas, took time out to watch Aditya Dhar's recent blockbuster Dhurandhar 2. Images of the two watching the film in a theatre in Hyderabad quickly went viral. Now, Vanga has once again grabbed attention after taking to X to share his thoughts on Dhurandhar The Revenge, the discourse surrounding the movie since its release last month, and a word of caution for both Dhar and Ranveer Singh. "When truth started getting labelled as propaganda"

Vanga began his note by slamming those who claim that Dhurandhar 2 is propaganda. He wrote, "Writers & actors built careers on propaganda, and the industry stayed quiet like cats. Now the same clan mock Dhurandhar. You don't get to call yourself liberal if your first instinct is to Mock. Don't know when truth started getting labelled as propaganda..... strange times." He then warned Aditya Dhar and

Ranveer Singh against the "evil eye," writing, "COMING TO THE POINT.....I want to tell @AdityaDharFilms & @RanveerOfficial yeh kaala drishti aise nahi jaayega... Muthi bhar ke laal mirch se kaam nahi chalega.... poor kheth jalana padega (This evil eye cannot be removed easily. A handful of red chillies won't be sufficient, you'll have to burn down a crop). Watched #Dhurandhar2? The Revenge last night.... Outstanding film." Writers & actors built careers on propaganda, and the industry stayed quiet like cats. Now the same clan mock Dhurandhar. You don't get to call yourself liberal if your first instinct is to Mock.

Aditya Dhar was quick to respond to Sandeep Reddy Vanga's praise. Replying on X, he wrote, "Mere Pyare Sandeep, (My dearest Sandeep) I genuinely love the way you stand your ground and give it back when it matters. There's a real honesty and belief in that and it's something I truly respect. I've always looked up to how you back your cinema without any doubt or noise. That kind of conviction reminds all of us to trust our voice and just go for it." In the same tweet, he further wished Vanga the best for Spirit, adding, "Give my love to the Legend Prabhas sir! Big love and all the best for Spirit. Really looking forward to it. And if there's ever anything I can do, I'd genuinely love to help a brother. Thanks again." I genuinely love the way you stand your ground and give it back when it matters. There's a real honesty and belief in that and it's something I truly respect. This is not the first time Sandeep Reddy Vanga has praised the franchise. Last year, he had also watched the prequel and shared his review on X, lauding Dhurandhar for having a "masculine spine." He wrote, "Dhurandhar is built like a man who doesn't talk much & carries a masculine spine. Dhurandhar - The title fits because the film moves with dominance & fierce. The depiction is very clear with zero chaos."

Wanaparthy Students Shine in Intermediate Results

"Dyarpoggu Srinath, wanaparthy Correspondent | April 12 (Indian Chronicle):" Students from wanaparthy district have delivered outstanding performance in the Intermediate examination results released on Sunday, securing top ranks at the state level and creating a wave of success. Local residents praised the junior colleges in wanaparthy for transforming the district into an educational hub. Over the past few years, CV Raman Junior College and Jagruthi Junior College have consistently achieved state-level ranks in both BiPC and MPC streams, earning a distinguished reputation across the erstwhile district. In the 2026 results, students of CV Raman Junior College excelled remarkably. In the second-year MPC stream, V. Meghana secured 993 marks, while K. Akshaya, Hansika, M. Swathi, and Saniya scored 992 marks each. In the BiPC stream, Sri Lakshminarayana scored 991, and P. Surya Varshini secured 986 marks. In the first year MPC stream, K. Navya Sudha and E. Kavya scored 468 marks, while Manaswini, Jayasurya, and Narasimha, and Suman secured 467 marks. In the BiPC stream, Muralikrishna scored 433 and Abhilash secured 427 marks. The college reported that 133 students scored above 900 marks in the second year, while 131 students scored above 400 marks in the first year. Students of Jagruthi Junior College also delivered impressive results. In the second-year BiPC stream, H. Anusha secured 994 marks, and M. Archana scored 993. In the MPC stream, K. Apoorva and Tyagaraju scored 992, while Hindu secured 991 marks. In the first year BiPC stream, M. Harish and S. Swapna scored 437 marks. Additionally, the management stated that their students performed exceptionally well in the recent JEE Mains results, securing a leading position in the combined district. Residents of wanaparthy district are encouraging parents to choose these local colleges for their children's bright future.



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జాగ్రత్త జూనియర్ కళాశాల

College Code: 54206

9491387769, 9440264037, 9985070353, 9491485004

IPE 2026 ఇంటర్ ద్వితీయ ప్రథమ సంవత్సర ఫలితాలలో MPC, BiPC, CEC, MEC అన్ని గ్రూపులలో రాష్ట్రస్థాయి మార్కులతో పరీక్షలలో ప్రథమస్థానం సాధించిన జాగ్రత్త

Sr. BiPC 994 H. ANUSHNA / H.T.No. 2654204533 Makthal	Jr. BiPC 438 UZMA HAJRA / H.T.No. 2654103566 Wanaparthy
993 Sr.MPC N. ARCHANA 992 Sr.MPC K. APOORVA 992 Sr.MPC THYAGARAJU 991 Sr.MPC B. HINDU 990 Sr.MPC P. LAVANYA	437 Sr.MPC M. HARISHA 437 Sr.MPC S. SWAPNA 435 Sr.MPC M. ASHWINI
989 Sr.BiPC N. SURESH 989 Sr.BiPC P. SWARNI 988 Sr.BiPC CH. ARJUN 988 Sr.BiPC N. VENU PRASAD 986 Sr.BiPC D. NAGACHAITANYA	434 Sr.MPC P. DEEPIKA 434 Sr.MPC D. DINESH KUMAR 433 Sr.MPC S. BHARATHI 431 Sr.MPC K. VIJAY KUMAR
984 Sr.BiPC K. BHALLANURTHI 984 Sr.BiPC B. HEMACHANDR 983 Sr.BiPC A. DALUJIBHARATHI 982 Sr.BiPC P. SURESH 982 Sr.BiPC P. NEELABEN BRUNO	Jr.MPC 466 K. HEMALATHA 466 Sr.MPC S. GAYATHRI
981 Sr.MPC K. NAREEN SAKHITHI 981 Sr.MPC D. SHALEJA 980 Sr.MPC K. ANIL 980 Sr.MPC P. SRIKANTHARAO 980 Sr.MPC BHANU PRASAD	465 Sr.MPC A. SAI CHANDRAN 464 Sr.MPC M. INDHU 464 Sr.MPC E. ANIL KUMAR
Sr.MPC 965 P. YASHWANTH Sr.MPC 954 M. SREELATHA	463 Sr.MPC K. NEELABEN 463 Sr.MPC K. ANIL 463 Sr.MPC K. BHARATHI 462 Sr.MPC P. SURESH 461 Sr.MPC C. LAKSHMI 460 Sr.MPC K. SRIKANTHARAO
900 పైన మార్కులు సాధించిన మా విద్యార్థులు - 96 400 పైన మార్కులు సాధించిన విద్యార్థులు - 128 పాస్ చేసిన విద్యార్థుల శాతం - 98% నోట్: ప్రతి విద్యార్థులలో ఒక్కరికి 400 పైనా మార్కులు	Jr.MPC 491 D. PRANTHA Jr.MPC 482 K. SRAVANI Jr.MPC 460 S. SRIVANI

ఇంతటి విజయానికి సహకరించిన విద్యార్థులకు, అధ్యాపకులకు, తల్లిదండ్రులకు, శ్రేయోభిలాషులకు వ్యవస్థాపక కృతజ్ఞతలు

C.V. రామన్ జూనియర్ కళాశాల

నందిహిల్స్, వనపర్తి
9010657875, 7075698222

Groups: MPC, BPC, CEC & MEC, T/M & E/M INTENSIVE IIT, JEE MAINS, EAPCET & NEET BATCHES

IPE - 2026 ఫలితాలలో రాష్ట్ర స్థాయి మార్కులు సాధించిన మా విద్యార్థులకు శుభాకాంక్షలు

FIRST YEAR RESULTS						SECOND YEAR RESULTS					
MPC 468	MPC 468	MPC 468	MPC 468	MPC 468	MPC 468	MPC 993	MPC 993	MPC 993	MPC 993	MPC 991	MPC 991
K. Navya Sudha	A. Kavya					V. Meghana					
467	467	467	467	466	465	992	992	992	992	991	991
Manaswini	Jayasurya	Narasimha	Suman	Sasani	Ashwini	K. Ashwini	Hansika	Saniya	M. Swathi	E. Sreerani	
BPC 433	BPC 427	BPC 423	BPC 423	BPC 423	BPC 423	BPC 991	BPC 991	BPC 986	BPC 986	BPC 986	BPC 986
Muralikrishna	Abhilash	Harika				C. Laxmi Narayana		Suryavarshini			
979	979	979	979	979	979						
MPC 489	MPC 489	MPC 489	MPC 489	MPC 489	MPC 489	MPC 983	MPC 983	MPC 967	MPC 967	MPC 884	MPC 828
Rakesh Naidu						V. Nandini		Gnaneshwari		R. Vaishnavi	Ramanjaneyulu
475	475	475	475	475	475						
Guru Prasad											

400 పైనా మార్కులు సాధించిన మా విద్యార్థులు 131 900 పైనా మార్కులు సాధించిన మా విద్యార్థులు 133