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## CONGRESS "DANGEROUS" Vote For Viksit Assam: PM's Big Pitch Ahead Of Polls



**Guwahati:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi came down heavily on the Congress today pointing to their attempt to pass a "communal violence law" before the 2014 general elections. The party has become "dangerous" for the people of Assam, he said in his first election rally in Assam, due on April 9. The party has already intensified its campaign across the state. Addressing the rally at Gogamukh in Assam's Dhemaji, PM Modi criticised the Congress for trying to bring

the anti-Communal Violence bill 2014. "Before the 2014 elections, the Congress-led central government tried to enact a Communal Violence Law to appease its fixed vote bank. The majority community was held responsible for riots, and religious minorities were presumed victims. This Bill was communal in itself. So the BJP-NDA did not allow it to pass. Now, 12 years later, the Assam Congress is announcing a similar law. It is crystal clear that Congress will do anything to gain power," PM Modi said.

## At Cabinet Meet, PM Orders Steps To Safeguard Citizens From Impact Of Iran War

**New Delhi:** All efforts must be made to safeguard the citizens from the impact of the Middle East conflict, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has directed. The directive came at a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), the second such meeting chaired by the PM to review the measures being taken in the country amid the ongoing Iran war.

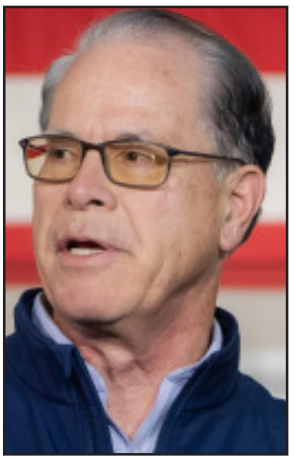


## India presses tariff relief in U.S. talks

**New Delhi** has put forward what officials describe as a revised "final" trade offer to Washington, but the sharper priority appears to be securing the clean removal, or firm closure, of the additional 25% U.S. tariff tied to purchases of Russian oil, according to two people familiar with the matter. That focus underlines how energy security and geopolitics continue to shape the commercial relationship between the two countries, even as both sides try to present the negotiations as a wider market-access bargain.

Any such push from India comes against a complicated backdrop. Washington imposed the extra 25% tariff in August 2025, arguing that continued imports of Russian crude were undermining its pressure campaign on Moscow. The move stacked on top of other duties and drove tariffs on some Indian exports to punishing levels, straining one of the world's most strategically important bilateral relationships at a time when both governments were also trying to deepen defence, technology and supply-chain cooperation.

The chronology matters because the U.S. announced in early February 2026 that it would cut tariffs on Indian goods to 18% from 50% under a trade arrangement that was presented as part of a broader reset. Reuters reported at the time that a White House official said the punitive 25% duty linked to Russian oil would be rescinded, and a later executive action was reported to have removed that levy effective February 7. If Indian negotiators are still pressing the issue now, it suggests New Delhi wants certainty over implementation, scope or durability rather than merely a headline commitment.



That would not be surprising. Trade officials and exporters tend to look beyond political announcements to the fine print of customs enforcement, tariff schedules and the risk of policy reversal. For India, the difference between a tariff being politically waived and being fully settled in administrative practice can shape planning for sectors ranging from engineering goods and textiles to pharmaceuticals and auto components.

## US To Be Out Of Iran "Pretty Quickly", Could Return For "Spot Hits": Trump



**Washington:** US President Donald Trump said on Wednesday that the US will be "out of Iran pretty quickly" and could return for "spot hits" if needed. He also reiterated that he is "absolutely" considering an attempt to withdraw the US from NATO. Answering when the US would consider the Iran war over, Trump told Reuters, "I can't tell you exactly ... we're going to be out pretty quickly." Trump said that US action in the region has ensured that Iran will not have a nuclear weapon. "They won't have a nuclear weapon because they are incapable of that now, and then I'll leave, and I'll take everybody with me, and if we have to we'll come back to spot hits," Trump said. The Republican leader's comments come hours before his address to Americans on the state of war.

## Lok Sabha approves Amaravati Legality Bill



**From Our Staff Reporter New Delhi, April 1:** The Lok Sabha has approved the Amaravati Legality Bill. The bill received unanimous approval in the Lok Sabha. All parties, except YSR Congress Party, supported the bill.

During the discussion on the Amaravati Bill, 18 Members of Parliament from 11 parties participated. The bill is set to be presented in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday. Earlier today (Wednesday), Union Minister of State for Home Affairs

Nityanand Rai introduced the Amaravati Legality Bill in the House. MPs participated in the discussion that followed. After the debate, the Speaker announced that the Lok Sabha had passed the bill.

**"Farmers' sacrifice will be remembered in history: MP Appalanaidu"**

MP Appalanaidu stated that the sacrifice of Amaravati farmers is immense. Speaking in the Lok Sabha, he said that their sacrifice will be remembered in world history.

He emphasized that land is not just property for a farmer—it is equal to their life. He explained that the bond between a farmer and

land is like that between a father and child.

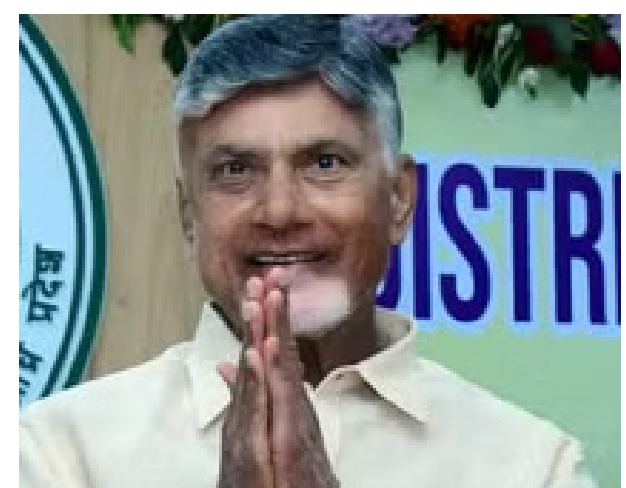
For the construction of a new Andhra Pradesh and the future of coming generations, farmers voluntarily gave around 33,000 acres of land for building the capital, setting aside their personal interests. He said this sacrifice will remain permanent in history. He criticized leaders of the YSR Congress Party for speaking negatively about Amaravati. He also expressed disappointment that YSRCP members staged a walkout during the parliamentary discussion on Amaravati, calling it an insult to the sentiments of the people of the state.

## Amaravati is now invincible... eternal: CM

**From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, April 1:** Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu responded to the approval of the Amaravati legality bill in the Lok Sabha. He said that the uncertainty over Amaravati's future has come to an end. He described the bill's approval in the Lok Sabha as an honor for the people of Andhra Pradesh. The CM posted on social media platform X that this is a key milestone in building a "Golden Andhra."

**Chandrababu's Tweet...** The Chief Minister said that the people's capital Amaravati is a symbol of the self-respect of the

people of Andhra Pradesh. He stated that the approval of the bill granting legal status to Amaravati in the Lok Sabha is a matter of pride for the people. He mentioned that the darkness faced during the previous government has been cleared, and the uncertainty regarding Amaravati's future has been permanently resolved. He added that this is recognition of the sacrifices made by farmers and the aspirations of the people, and that it is a crucial milestone in building a prosperous Andhra Pradesh. The CM declared that Amaravati is now invincible and eternal. He affirmed that the capital will



be developed into a global city and placed on the world map. He expressed heartfelt thanks to the central government, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and Home

Minister Amit Shah for their support. He also thanked all the parties that supported the bill in the Lok Sabha on behalf of the people of Andhra Pradesh.

## TDP high command serious... MLA responds

**From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, April 1:** The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) high command has taken a serious view of the conduct of Narasaraopet MLA Dr. Chadalavada Aravinda Babu at the Palnadu SP office.

On this issue, AP TDP President and MLA Palla Srinivasa Rao instructed Aravinda Babu to submit a written explanation. Accordingly, Palla Srinivasa Rao spoke to the MLA over the phone on Wednesday and conveyed these directions. The party high command expressed strong dissatisfaction over the MLA's behavior at the Narasaraopet SP office in Palnadu district on Tuesday.



It is reported that the high command was upset, stating that if officials did not approve a recommendation for a legal advisor post, the matter should have been

brought to the party leadership's notice instead of acting in such a manner.

Aravinda Babu reportedly told Palla that he would provide a written explanation on the matter. Meanwhile, party national president N. Chandrababu Naidu is said to have instructed that the MLA be called to Amaravati within two to three days.

**What exactly happened..?**

The issue arose when MLA Aravinda Babu questioned Palnadu District SP B. Krishna Rao about why the name of Ramineni Prasad, whom he had recommended as a legal advisor for the district police cell, had not been approved.

On Tuesday after-

noon, the MLA visited the SP office and said that despite sending a letter eight months ago recommending the appointment, no action had been taken. The SP responded that he would review the matter and then sign it.

However, the MLA did not accept this explanation and insisted that he would not leave the SP office until he was given the order copy appointing Ramineni Prasad. He reportedly remained in the SP's chamber for nearly 10 hours.

During this time, it is said that he did not respond to calls even from ministers' offices. It is also reported that he behaved similarly at the RDO office earlier. The party leadership has expressed anger over the MLA's conduct.

## Jagan's 'games' on the capital issue have been checked: MLA Somireddy

**From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, April 1:** Sarvepalli MLA Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy said that it is a welcome development that the Lok Sabha has approved the bill granting legal status to Amaravati as the capital of Andhra Pradesh.

He stated that the construction of Amaravati is progressing in a way that makes the entire state proud. He expressed confidence that with the development of a world-class capital, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu will once again prove his brand of leadership.

He said the state will never forget the sacrifice of farmers who gave around 34,000 acres of land for

Amaravati. He criticized Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, saying that his "three capitals" idea was like a divisive game, and that it has now been put to an end.

**"A positive development..."**

Speaking on the occasion, Somireddy said that it is a good sign that the Lok Sabha has approved the Andhra Pradesh Assembly's resolution declaring Amaravati as the capital.

He noted that Amaravati farmers, who voluntarily gave 34,000 acres under the land pooling system (a first in the country), will always be remembered. With legal status now granted, land values are expected to rise, investments will flow in,



and the real estate sector will gain momentum. He added that the confusion created by Jagan Mohan Reddy has now come to an end. He alleged that before the 2019 elections, Jagan promised to build a house in Amaravati, but after coming to power, introduced the idea of three capitals.

**"Wherever the CM stays—is that the capital?"** Somireddy criticized Jagan's remarks that "wherever the Chief Minister stays becomes the capital," questioning whether that would mean places like Yelahanka in Karnataka or Lotus Pond in Hyderabad would be considered the capital if he stayed there.

## EDITORIAL

A ray of hope in the lives  
of the hardworking

Gig workers who come to the city to earn a living are facing hardships every day. No matter how much they grow up, they are still a sheep, but no matter how hard they work, the meager wages and stressful work environment are holding them back. Although the gig economy plays a key role in the growth of the sector, both employers and governments look down on workers in that sector. It is no exaggeration to say that their condition has become worse and more miserable than that of daily wage earners. To bring about a change in this situation, the Telangana government has framed the Gig Workers Registration, Social Security and Welfare Bill, which aims to provide welfare to the four lakh gig workers working in the state. If this bill, which will be enacted into law soon, comes into force, registered workers will now get ID cards along with pension, insurance and maternity benefits. The Hyderabad-based welfare board stands as a pillar of support for gig workers. It cracks down on aggregators who do not pay wages to workers. It is gratifying that the government is preparing to appoint an appellate authority in addition to assisting workers in resolving their problems. Gig workers are often described as 'invisible wheels' for the Indian economy. But their lives are like a boat without a rudder. Lack of job security, health insurance, paid leave, working hours, discrimination and stress in the workplace are crippling gig workers. They are forced to go hungry on days off. A large percentage of those working in this sector are unmarried. Moreover, as they migrate to cities from other regions, they do not even have access to ration cards. Women workers working as gig workers lack security. It is noteworthy that the latest Economic Survey also drew attention to the fact that the situation of gig workers in our country is not improving. Expressing concern that forty percent of online delivery workers earn Rs 15,000 or less per month, it made several suggestions and recommendations for them to be paid fair wages, compensation during the waiting period, and a minimum income per hour or per job.

The gig economy has been growing day by day for the last ten years. Last year, the size of the global gig economy was estimated to be Rs 47 lakh crore. However, the sincerity shown by the rulers towards the welfare of the gig workers, who are the root cause of this, is very low. The credit for opening the eyes in this direction goes to the Rajasthan government. It has already formulated and implemented a strict law for gig workers three years ago. After that, laws were also formulated in the states of Karnataka and Jharkhand. Telangana is the latest to join this list. Although the central government once defined gig workers as those who earn their own income, regardless of the employee-employer relationship, in the organized and unorganized sectors, it must be said that the steps being taken for their welfare are far from sufficient.

Meanwhile, after the lightning strike by gig workers, the Centre, which bit its tongue and drafted the draft rules, is moving at a snail's pace in implementing them, which is inexcusable. A study conducted by the VV Giri Karmika Kendra has shown that by 2047, there will be six crore gig workers working in our country. Gig workers will play a key role in the coming period of economic development in India, which has the largest population in the world. In this context, the remaining states should follow the path shown by states like Rajasthan and Telangana and formulate and implement strict laws for the welfare of gig workers. Moreover, the central government should provide guidance to the state governments for the betterment of gig workers. Workers entering this sector with intermediate education alone should be provided with social security, skill training and digital literacy. It is the responsibility of the governments to eliminate regulations like delivery within ten minutes and provide protection to the workers.

Trump's Iran War Is About To Become  
Someone Else's Problem Soon

Iran's stubborn resistance and its ability to withstand the US and Israel's relentless military campaign for over a month have disrupted Donald Trump's calculations. The war's increasing economic and political costs have pushed him to seek a quick exit. He now wants to leave Iran in two to three weeks, whether or not there is a deal. His comment, ahead of a national address on Wednesday evening, underlines a stark reality: even after losing its leadership and suffering significant damage to its military and economic infrastructure, Tehran has shown no signs of being as desperate as Trump to end the war. In his latest comment at the Oval Office on Tuesday, Trump insisted again that Iran was "begging" for a deal, adding that whether it happens is irrelevant to America's timetable. Iran strongly denied that it was engaged in negotiations with the US to reach a deal, while admitting that messages had been exchanged between the two sides. Iran's president, Masoud Peshkian, has said his country has the "necessary will" to end the war with the United States and Israel as long as certain conditions are met. Trump's comment came amid a growing buildup of US forces in the Gulf. Thousands of US Marines have already reached the region and many more are on their way. The US military also began flying B-52 bomber missions over Iran on Tuesday for the first time in the war, a sign that Trump is keeping the option open of escalating in the belief that it would help end the conflict swiftly.

**Trump's Ever-Changing Wishlist**

Trump has maintained that the US has achieved its goal of addressing Iran's nuclear programme, despite roughly 450 kg of enriched uranium still being present in Iran, believed to be hidden in Isfahan. His previous objective of regime change also remains unfulfilled, although he says the regime has already changed. He claims that Iran's new regime is reasonable, disregarding the fact that more headline elements now appear to be in control of the country. Some of his Gulf allies, including the UAE and

Saudi Arabia, want him to carry on the military operation for that reason. The most important strategic card Tehran has played in the war has been to block the Strait of Hormuz, through which about a fifth of the world's oil and gas passes. The near-closure of Hormuz, along with attacks on US bases and energy targets in Gulf countries, has driven global crude oil prices to \$117 per barrel on Tuesday and the average petrol price in the US to exceed \$4 per gallon for the first time in nearly four years. Now, Trump claims Hormuz is a problem for other countries to handle. Oil prices fell after Trump's comments about leaving Iran.

**Allies No More?**

Donald Trump has been angry with America's European allies for their refusal to get more involved in the Iran war, particularly for not sending their warships to protect ships at Hormuz. "Go get your own oil," from the Strait of Hormuz, Trump said on Tuesday, lashing out at his allies. But his anger at US partners in Europe is not limited to Hormuz. He wants them to join the American and Israeli military in fighting Iran, a war he started with Israel, without any consultation with his allies. "You'll have to start learning how to fight for yourself, the USA won't be there to help you anymore, just like you weren't there for us," Trump told his European allies in a post on Truth Social on Tuesday. Two weeks ago, he had angrily declared, "We don't need anybody; we're the strongest nation in the world", adding that his request for assistance in reopening the Strait of Hormuz instead amounted to a "loyalty test of America's allies". What Trump forgets is that unlike previous US Presidents, he went to war with Iran without building any support at home or abroad. President George HW Bush in 1991 formed a coalition of more than 40 countries when he launched Operation Desert Shield to free Kuwait from Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein. Two decades later, his son, President George W Bush, also received support from his allies for launching another war against Iraq,

though it was based on the false premise of getting rid of weapons of mass destruction. Europe was part of both coalitions, though the second time, France and Germany didn't join America's war.

**Not Europe's War To Lose**

NATO members in Europe have made clear that the current conflict in the Gulf is not their war. They do not feel obliged to join it because no NATO country has been attacked. On the other hand, Iran has been hit by the US and Israel. They have reminded Trump that the only time NATO's Article 5, which states that an attack on one member is an attack on all, was invoked was when the US suffered terror attacks on September 11, 2001, by al-Qaeda. Back then, NATO had joined America in a coalition to invade Afghanistan. However much they loathe Iran's Islamic regime, the priority for Europeans is not the Middle East. It's the threat from Russia they want to guard themselves against. The Europeans have sent some defence equipment to protect their Gulf allies from Iran's missiles and drones, but they don't want to fight alongside the US and Israel. The war is also widely unpopular with the public, as reflected in the decisions of European governments. Spain has openly defied Trump from the beginning, calling the US and Israeli actions illegal. Although Britain has permitted American fighter planes to use its bases, after initial hesitation, it has refused to send any warships to the Gulf. On Tuesday, France angered Trump by denying the US access to its air space for American planes carrying ammunition to Israel. Even Italy, governed by a right-wing administration, refused to allow US military planes to land at one of its bases en route to the Middle East.

**Lessons From Gallipoli**

For Europeans, a disastrous campaign during the First World War serves as an important reminder to exercise caution before getting militarily involved in Hormuz. Britain's late leader Winston Churchill devised a plan to force passage through the narrow strait of the Dardanelles in Turkey, which



connected the Aegean Sea to the Sea of Marmara and beyond to the Black Sea, then controlled by the Ottoman Empire. The plan, known as the Gallipoli campaign, turned out to be one of the worst disasters, resulting in the deaths of 1.3 lakh men - 44,000 from Britain and its allies, and 86,000 Ottomans. The fact remains that even US warships have not challenged Iran directly to lift its chokehold. So, why should Europeans do so and risk their soldiers' lives? They are open to joining a multinational mission in the Strait of Hormuz, but the US must be involved. Another concern for Europeans is that Trump keeps changing his narrative and objectives. Since he began the current conflict, Trump has claimed multiple times that either the war has already been won or is about to end soon. They have observed Iran's response and are also watching US troops gathering in the Gulf for a potential ground campaign. Even if they are inclined to join the US, they would prefer not to get involved in a conflict clouded by strategic confusion. The Deal With Those Who Want War

Trump's decision to pull out of the Iran conflict soon will be welcomed by most people in the US, as opinion polls have shown the war is not backed by a majority of Americans. Even members of his own Republican party and MAGA supporters are opposed to a ground invasion. But it will disapprove the Iran hawks. One of them, Senator Lindsey Graham, boasted last week: "We've got two Marine expeditionary area units sailing to this island. We did Iwo Jima, we can do this.

What Graham didn't say was that 7,000 US soldiers died in the Battle of Iwo Jima (in Japan), one of the bloodiest military campaigns of the Pacific theatre in the Second World War. Graham was sharply criticised by fellow Conservatives. The strongest response came from Congresswoman Nancy Mace, a military veteran. "Graham has one foreign policy: send someone else's kids to war," she posted on X. "He was wrong about Iraq. He was wrong about Afghanistan. Now he's wrong about Iran."

**Desperate Calls**

All the evidence from the past five weeks of the war had indicated that Iran was unlikely to capitulate to US threats or even a ground invasion. Iran's proxy, the Houthis in Yemen, had already joined the military effort with missile attacks on Israel. The US ground invasion could lead them to obstruct shipping through the Bab al-Mandeb Strait, the Red Sea choke point equivalent to the Strait of Hormuz. That would wreak havoc on the world economy. Trump's decision to end the war without achieving any of his previously stated objectives will be viewed by many as a cut-and-run move. Some will interpret this as an admission of defeat. Israel would be unhappy with Trump's decision, as Iran's military capabilities and its ability to make a nuclear weapon have not been destroyed. For Europe, the challenge is even bigger, as Trump told the British newspaper, The Telegraph, that he is considering pulling the US out of the NATO alliance.

## Why A 'Defeat' Is Now Essential For The Disoriented Left In Kerala

An expression attributed to King Louis XV of France is "Après moi, le deluge" (After me, the deluge). Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's desperate attempts to cling to power with a public relations overdrive might be reminiscent of the nihilistic statement. For, the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M), which the octogenarian has been leading since 1998 in Kerala, is showing clear signs of decay. The undivided Communist Party, which came to power democratically in the first election held to the state Assembly in 1957, has been an integral part of Kerala politics ever since. However, unlike its uninterrupted 34-year stint in West Bengal, the Left had never managed to win a successive term in Kerala until 2021, when Vijayan managed to buck that trend. The initial euphoria notwithstanding, a section of the Left base in Kerala has been increasingly vocal about leaders getting drunk on power and using all means to perpetuate it.

**Bengal Redux?**

In Gangster State: The Rise And Fall of the CPI-M in West Bengal, author Sourjya Bhowmick uses the iconic lines "it was the best of times, it was the worst of times" from Charles Dickens to describe the final term of the party in Bengal. He recalls how the party went from its peak to getting decimated in 2011, wondering if the youth were drawn to it due to ideology or were driven merely by power. Such a situa-

tion has also been brewing in Kerala for a while now, shaped by the trappings of power and visible loss of Communist values.

So much so that poet and Kerala Sahitya Akademi president K Satchidanandan himself came out publicly demanding that the Left should stay out of power for a term to regenerate itself. This was reminiscent of poetess Mahasweta Devi publicly questioning the Buddhadeb regime in West Bengal in 2007. Satchidanandan's exhortation has since come to vertically split Kerala's literary and cultural space. Noted litterateurs Sarah Joseph, Kalpetta Narayanan, and MN Karassery have all reiterated his prophecy that the Left will be beyond salvation in the state if it gets another term.

**A String Of Desertions**

Satchidanandan was particularly critical of Vijayan's appeasement of community leaders like Vellappally Natesan, despite the latter making several sectarian statements against the Muslim community. The rot the CPI-M is seeing in Kerala has been visible even in the electoral arena, with several veteran leaders across the state deserting the party ahead of the polls. These include G Sudhakaran, the seniormost leader of the party outside Malabar, and the duo of TK Govindan and P Kunhikrishnan

in Kannur. Those who quit have referred to ideological issues, such as an alleged right turn of the party under Vijayan's stewardship, along with nepotism and corruption. It was inconceivable even a decade ago



that there would be desertions (likened to apostasy in the past) in the CPI-M's Kannur unit, where tribal kinship to the party trumped every other societal connection. G Sudhakaran's quitting, who had served as minister under Vijayan during the first term, came as a jolt to the party in its cradle in Travancore. If P Kunhikrishnan's rebellion in Kannur was sparked by corruption perpetuated by Payyannur MLA PI Madhusoodanan, his candidature as an independent (supported by the Congress) was prompted by the CPI-M's

refusal to act against the erring leader. Veteran TK Govindan's exit was a reaction to the candidature of PK Shyamala - wife of namesake MV Govindan, the CPI-M state secretary - thrust down the Kannur district committee by the party. In fact, this is a repetition of the 2021 arrangement when the CPI-M-nominated R Bindu - wife of then state secretary A Vijayaraghavan in Irinjilakkuda - was elevated as minister, along with PA Mohammed Riyas, son-in-law of Vijayan.

**Vijayan's Right Turn**

Many feel that Vijayan's right turn was evident in his first term itself from, for instance, the way he shielded police excesses, such as in the alleged fake encounters of Maoists. There are echoes of Bengal in it; Sourjya Bhowmick recounts how the term "urban-Naxal" owed its coinage to the Bengal Marxists. The working-class character of the CPI-M in Kerala has undergone a significant transformation, and this has been exacerbated by Vijayan's brand of appeasement of community outfits under the garb of 'social engineering'. This has ultimately resulted in Left cadres gradually identifying more with religion and less with their identity as Communists. No wonder then that a section of Marx-

ist cadres was swayed by the Sabarimala agitation, and the party adopted a more flexible position in its wake.

**The Number-One Man**

The principle of democratic centralism has also invariably led to the concentration of power with Vijayan, without any line of succession. In Murali Gopy's Left Right Left (2013), Kaitheri Sahadevan - the character modelled on Pinarayi Vijayan - states, "to beat the bourgeoisie, you have to be a bigger bourgeoisie". Vijayan's tenures as Chief Minister have come to define that famous dialogue, with the Marxist party acquiring bourgeois characteristics, beating even the Congress's record. When the CPI-M adopted Vijayan's controversial 'Nava Kerala document' at its Ernakulam conference in 2022 and got it stamped by the Politburo, Vijayan basically overrode general secretary Sitaram Yechury, the party's numero uno. It can be argued that, like 'Mao Thought' in China, 'Pinarayism' has come to replace Marxism in Kerala. It was once predicted that capitalism would not survive due to its own contradictions; in this case, however, the CPI-M seems to be suffering from an identity crisis of sorts. British political scientist Archie Brown writes of three kinds of Communists in his seminal work, The Rise and the Fall of Communism. According to Brown, people who enlist themselves in a Communist party that rules perpetually are opportunists, unlike those who fight their way through hostile systems.

## Ensure No Drinking Water Issues During Summer: District Collector Rajababu

**Ongole, April 1 (Pen Power):** District Collector P. Rajababu has directed officials to take proactive measures to prevent any drinking water shortages in the Addanki Revenue Division during the summer season. On Wednesday, the Collector conducted a special review meeting at the Addanki RDO office with officials from the Revenue, Rural Water Supply (RWS), Irrigation, and Municipal departments. He emphasized the need to focus on providing safe drinking water to the public. The Collector instructed officials to implement the "Jala Suraksha" program in mission mode. This includes cleaning water tanks, testing water quality, and carrying out necessary repairs to hand pumps and pipelines. He warned that any negligence in these works or in efforts to improve groundwater levels would not be tolerated. He also directed that compensation payments to displaced families of the Korisapadu Reservoir be completed at the earliest. In view of the upcoming monsoon, the Collector stressed the importance of water conservation measures to prevent wastage of rainwater. He instructed irrigation officials to complete desilting of tanks and canals, clearing of link canals, and jungle clearance works. Further, he asked officials to en-



sure positive public feedback in the IVRS survey conducted by the government regarding drinking water supply and sanitation services. He also directed the Municipal Commissioner to focus more on sanitation in Addanki town and to immediately submit proposals for the construction of public toilets. Addanki RDO Johnson, RWS SE Nageswara Rao, SDC Vijaya Jyothi, and other departmental officials attended the meeting.

## Modern Technology Should Be Utilized Effectively: NTR District Collector

**Vijayawada, April 1:** NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha emphasized that farmers can achieve sustainable income in all weather conditions by combining traditional practices with innovative farming methods. He highlighted that promoting natural farming helps preserve soil fertility and ensures better health for people. Speaking at a district-level training program on Pre-Monsoon Dry Sowing (PMDS), natural farming, and El Niño mitigation held at the APAOS Association building in Vijayawada, the Collector stated that PMDS can lead to higher yields. He advised officials to focus on reducing cultivation costs and promoting systems like traceability and Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) certification among farmers. He also noted that fodder produced through PMDS can improve milk quality by increasing fat content. Officials were instructed to create awareness about El Niño conditions



and guide farmers with suitable agricultural practices. The Collector urged authorities to take it as a challenge and work towards making the district number one in implementing innovative farming methods. District agriculture and horticulture officials, along with other department representatives, participated in the program.

## Special Focus on Black Spots to Prevent Road Accidents: Collector Keerthi Chekuri



**Rajamahendravaram, April 1:** District Collector Keerthi Chekuri directed officials to work in close coordination to prevent road accidents, with a special focus on identified black spots. Chairing a District Road Safety Committee meeting, the Collector reviewed accident data, vulnerable

areas, and safety measures. Officials identified 31 accident-prone black spots and 12 high-risk zones across the district. The Collector instructed departments to analyze causes and implement corrective measures within a fixed timeline. Steps such as installation of rumble strips, blinkers, and improved lighting on approach roads were emphasized. Superintendent of Police D. Narasimha Kishore noted that accidents are frequent in areas like Bommaru, Rajanagaram, Devarapalli, Kadiyam, Nallajerla, and Rangampeta, mainly due to poor lighting, lack of signage, and traffic violations. Regular drunk-and-drive checks and awareness campaigns are being conducted. Officials were also asked to ensure proper data entry in the iRAD app and enhance coordination among transport, police, and civic departments to improve road safety across the district.

## Collector Vinod Kumar Inspects Moparru Village, Focuses on Education & Welfare

**Bapatla, April 1:** District Collector Dr. Vinod Kumar visited Moparru village in Amarthaluru mandal on Wednesday and reviewed various welfare and development activities. During his visit for the pension distribution program, the Collector interacted with beneficiaries living in huts and directed officials to immediately sanction houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. He also ordered the construction of pipelines using ?????? funds to resolve drinking water issues and ensure supply to every household. The Collector inspected the primary school and Anganwadi centre, interacted with students about their studies and mid-day meals, and emphasized quality education for a better future. He also reviewed nutrition provided to children.



He examined ongoing development works under the Adarsh Gram Yojana, including drainage, roads, and streetlights, and instructed officials to maintain quality standards. Responding to villagers' concerns over stalled drainage works, he directed allocation of 15th Finance Commission funds. The Collector also inspected cattle sheds built under MGNREGS and interacted with benefi-

ciaries. He visited a ????? tailor supported through DWCR and assured further assistance under PMSGP. Additionally, he conducted a surprise inspection of the Primary Health Centre and reviewed medical services, equipment, and medicine availability. Officials including RDO Sridevi and DRDA PD Singaiah accompanied him.

## Pensions Distributed on Time in Rampachodavaram

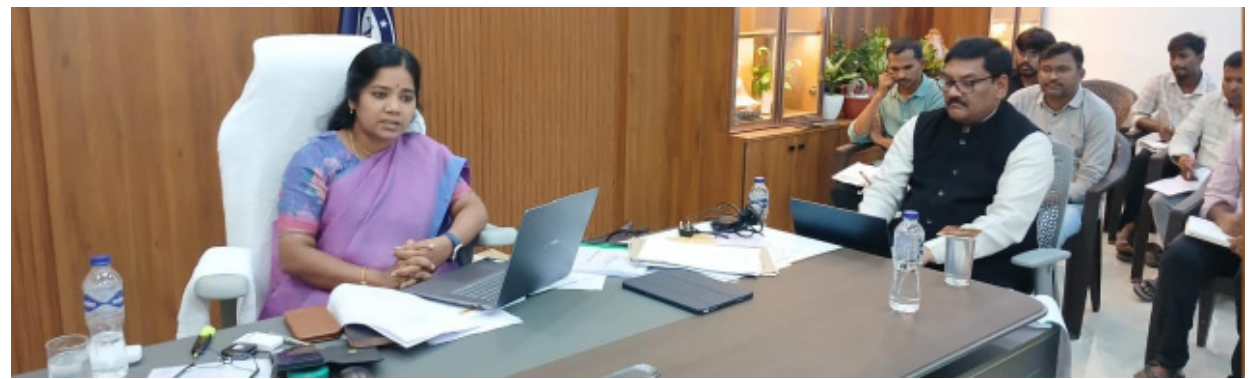
**Rampachodavaram, April 1:** Polavaram District Collector K.



Dinesh Kumar stated that necessary arrangements have been made to ensure timely distribution of social pensions to beneficiaries on the first day of every month. The Collector, along with Joint Collector Bachu Smaran Raj, participated in pension distri-

bution programs in I. Polavaram and Sirigindalapadu villages on Wednesday and handed over pensions to beneficiaries. During the visit, the Collector interacted with villagers to verify whether pensions were being delivered on time and without any irregularities. He also reviewed the implementation of welfare schemes, including financial support to farmers and availability of ration supplies. Villagers raised issues related to irrigation and requested repairs to lift irrigation motors, to which the Collector assured necessary action. He also inspected drinking water facilities and Anganwadi services in the villages. Officials from various departments and local representatives were present at the program.

## Focus on Resolving Revenue Issues: Collector Vijaya Sunitha



**Markapuram, April 1:** District Collector M. Vijaya Sunitha has directed officials to give special focus to resolving key revenue issues in the district. During a conference held at the Markapuram Collectorate with tahsildars and survey officials, she stated that the next six months will be dedicated to addressing revenue-related problems. The Collector instructed tahsildars to regularly visit villages where re-surveys are underway and ensure transparency in matters like mutations, assigned lands (22A), and land disputes. She warned that any violation of revenue laws by officials will not be

tolerated. Expressing concern that the district is lagging in revenue administration, she urged officials to work towards improving its reputation. She also cautioned VROs against negligence in resolving public grievances and emphasized prompt disposal of petitions received through grievance redressal platforms. Officials were asked to personally meet repeated petitioners, conduct field inspections, and submit daily reports on PGRS. The Collector called on all departments to reduce pending issues and bring a good name to the district.

## Ensure Students' Health, Safety and Quality Education in Welfare Hostels: Collector

**Chittoor, April 1:** District Collector Sumit Kumar directed officials to ensure proper care for students' health and education in welfare hostels. During a review meeting, he emphasized providing quality food as per the prescribed menu and conducting monthly medical check-ups.



He instructed officials to maintain clean drinking water, coordinate with health departments for regular inspections, and ensure strict security measures in hostels, especially during night hours. Wardens' presence at night must be monitored to avoid negligence.

The Collector also announced inspections of hostels in Bangarupalem, Palamaner, and Karvetinagaram, and ordered immediate repairs where needed. Officials were directed to arrange better accommodation for the govern-

ment boys' hostel in Kuppam and ensure uninterrupted LPG supply to all hostels.

He stressed that welfare hostel staff must perform their duties responsibly without any lapses.

## NTR Bharosa Ensures Social Security for the Poor: Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha



**Vijayawada, April 1:** District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha stated that the NTR Bharosa pension scheme is providing

social security to the poor. He said that pensions worth around ₹98.45 crore are being distributed to 2,26,775 beneficiaries in the district. On Wednesday, the Collector participated in the pension distribution program at Seethannapeta in Vijayawada Urban and reviewed the doorstep delivery of pensions. He interacted warmly with the elderly beneficiaries and enquired about their well-being and any issues they faced. He noted that the pension distribution process in the district is being carried out transparently and efficiently. The government is continuously ensuring that all eligible beneficiaries receive welfare schemes. He added that social security pensions are helping the elderly, differently-abled, and others by providing financial stability, dignity, and access to healthcare.

## NTR Bharosa Pension Scheme a Strong Support for the Poor: Collector Dr. Vinod Kumar

**Bapatla, April 1:** District Collector Dr. Vinod Kumar stated that the NTR Bharosa pension scheme is a major support for the poor. He participated in the "Pedala Sevalo" program held at Moparru village in Amarthaluru mandal on Wednesday. The Collector distributed pension amounts to beneficiaries, including a disabled pension to Talluru Varaprasad, old-age pension to Kancherla Chandraleelamma, and widow pensions to K. Nagamalleswari and K. Shanthi.



He said the scheme provides crucial support to the underprivileged and helps those neglected in society. Under the scheme, ₹78.05 crore has been disbursed to 1,82,358 beneficiaries in the district. Officials and field staff are delivering pensions directly to beneficiaries' homes.

Several officials, including DRDA PD B. Singayya, RDO Sridevi, DPO Prabhakar Rao, and others, participated in the program.

## Chittoor District: Strict Action on Drugs and Medical Violations



**Chittoor, April 1:** The District Collector chaired a review meeting on drug control and medical regulations at the Collectorate. Officials from the Eagle Cell, Drug Control Department, and Medical Association attended.

The Collector ordered strict monitoring of illegal drug sales and misuse of abortion kits. Concern was expressed over rising gender determination tests affecting the sex ratio, and medical professionals were urged to prevent such practices.

Sale of narcotic drugs without a valid doctor's prescription was strictly prohibited, with warnings of severe action against violators. All medical shops and drug dealers were instructed to maintain proper stock and billing records.

Action under the PD Act was directed in two registered cases. Citizens were encouraged to report illegal activities via the Eagle toll-free number 1972.

The Collector emphasized accountability in the medical sector and warned of legal consequences for violations.

## Collector Inspects Jal Jeevan Mission Works

**Markapuram, April 1:** District Collector M. Vijaya Sunitha on Wednesday inspected the ongoing Jal Jeevan Mission works worth ₹1290 crore at Gottipadi in Markapuram mandal. She directed officials to expedite the works aimed at providing drinking water facilities in the district and ensure timely completion without delays. The Collector reviewed the progress of works completed so far and those pending, and interacted with officials regarding execution. Joint Collector P. Srinivasulu, RWS EE Suresh Babu, RDO Prabhakar, Tahsildar Chiranjeevi, and others were present.



# Tovino Out Of Dragon, Is Kerala Model Better?



The other day, Malayalam Star Tovino Thomas revealed that he opted out of NTR's Dragon as he could not accommodate dates. "We work differently in Malayalam. We finish a film at a stretch unlike in Telugu. We do 4-5 films in an year. Giving dates to Dragon means troubling 4-5 films," Tovino Thomas said. That also

brings us to the Question which work culture is right. Malayalam is a small industry and operates on shoestring budgets. So it is important for them to finish shoots at a stretch and Release so that there is no burden of Interests and also issues due to availability of dates. It is difficult to adopt to that model in Telugu

because except of the Hero and Director, everyone here works on Multiple Projects. So the dates have to be adjusted accordingly.

But then, it's high time at least the medium budget films concentrate on this kind of film-making. Medium Budget films right now are going through a crunch due to bad non-theatrical market and disappointing theatrical performance. Making films in less number of working days and releasing them quickly will ease the budget burden on the Producer. Ram had decided to start two projects simultaneously. That is a welcome sign. Also, the Big Stars have become too slow. Except for Prabhas, no star is giving at least one film an year. There is too much focus on making Pan-India where the budgets are rising for sure but the Hindi Performance is not guaranteed. The Stars should focus on making at least two

films in three years. Only then, the audiences will keep the habit of going to Theaters. Also, Pan-India content need not be always those Big Action Entertainers made on Huge Scale requiring Massive Budgets. We have seen the non-theatrical market dwindle even for Stars. Megastar Chiranjeevi's Vishwambhara is suffering and even Prabhas's Fauji is not getting the offers the Producers would like. Rajasaab neither got big non-theatrical offer nor performed well in the Hindi market. At the end, the scale did not matter anything. It is also important for the Stars to keep an eye on their film budgets. If they can not lower their paychecks, they should be partners in the Production. The next two years are going to be very tough for the industry. Everyone needs to be very cautious. It is definitely not wrong to get inspired by the Kerala Model.

## New Collector Assumes Charge in Visakhapatnam



**Visakhapatnam, April 1:** M. Abhishikt Kishore has assumed charge as the new District Collector of Visakhapatnam. Speaking to

the media, he said that comprehensive development and public welfare will be his top priorities. He emphasized accelerating de-

velopment activities and attracting investments in IT, industries, data centers, and tourism. He also stressed the importance of improving infrastructure, generating employment, and ensuring balanced urban-rural growth. The Collector stated that he will focus on addressing public grievances promptly and will visit various parts of the district to understand local needs. Key projects like Bhogapuram Airport and port-led development will be given priority. He expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister and the government for the opportunity. Officials welcomed him and extended their best wishes.

## Konaseema District Leads in Public Grievance Redressal

**Amalapuram, April 1:** Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema district has secured the top position in the state in resolving public grievances through the grievance redressal platform, said District Collector R. Mahesh Kumar. The district achieved an impressive 88.74% resolution rate and scored 3.54 out of 5 in public satisfaction. The Collector credited this success to the coordinated efforts of district officials and field staff, highlighting their dedication, transparency, and prompt response to petitions. He emphasized that direct interaction with citizens and speedy, quality resolution



of complaints played a key role. Stating that this achievement brings greater responsibility, he assured continued

commitment to delivering better public services and addressing every grievance efficiently.

## Malvika Nair interview: Biker, Sharwanand and her choices

Actress Malvika Nair has pinned her hopes on "Biker," set for release on April 3. She stars opposite Sharwanand in the film. On this occasion, she spoke about the movie and her career in a press interaction.

Tell us about Biker movie, your character and what impressed you about this film? I heard the story in April 2024 and instantly loved it. Director Abhilash Reddy has created a very fresh and unique concept. "Biker" is India's first motocross-based film, and it offers a high-adrenaline, high-octane cinematic experience.

I wouldn't want to reveal too much about my character, but it acts as a bridge connecting different elements of the story. The narrative unfolds across three timelines, and my role evolves significantly. It is a strong, impactful character with good scope for performance.

**What challenges did you face during the film?**

Shooting motocross sequences was technically challenging. At the same time, the music adds a strong adrenaline rush to the film. Apart from the action, the film also has deep emotional layers. The father-

son relationship is particularly special. Every character in the film has a well-defined arc.

**Share your working experience with Sharwanand and director Abhilash Reddy?**

In real life, Sharwanand and I are both introverts, so we don't talk much. But on screen, we share good chemistry. He is very spontaneous, and we connected more during the promotions. Abhilash Reddy is a director with absolute clarity. He knows exactly what he wants from the story and the characters.

**What is the reason behind your selective approach to films?**

I always look for roles that are different and layered. I prefer characters that offer something new and challenging.

**How do you select your scripts?**

Before choosing a project, I always think about the audience, because we make films for them. I also see whether the character connects with me personally. If it feels fresh and unique, I take it up. I am happy with my journey so far and look forward to doing more meaningful roles in the future.



## Adivi Sesh's Dacoit locks Hindi distribution partner

Actor Adivi Sesh is gearing up for a pan-India release with his upcoming film "Dacoit," which will hit screens simultaneously in Telugu and Hindi. Following the successful Hindi run of his previous film Major, Sesh is once again targeting the North Indian market with high expectations. The makers have now finalized PVR INOX Pictures as the Hindi distribution partner, giving the film a strong release platform. Touted to be an action-packed heist drama blended with an intense love story, "Dacoit" has already kickstarted promotions with the release of two songs. The team is now preparing to unveil the trailer and host promotional events in the coming days. Produced by Supriya Yarlagadda, with Suniel Narang as co-producer and presented by Annapurna Studios, the film stars Mrunal Thakur opposite



Sesh. The film marks the directorial debut of Shaniel Deo. The film features music by Bheems Ceciroleo and background score by Gyaani. "Dacoit" is scheduled for a worldwide theatrical release on April 10.

## Free Power Scheme for Weavers Announced



**Srikakulam, April 1:** State Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaaidu announced that

the government has introduced a free electricity scheme for weavers to reduce their finan-

cial burden. Under the scheme, handloom workers will receive up to 200 units and power loom workers up to 500 units of free electricity per month. The minister participated in the NTR Bharosa pension distribution program at Kotabommali, along with District Collector Swapnil Dinakar Pundkar, distributing pensions door-to-door. He stated that pensions are being delivered transparently to all eligible beneficiaries.

He also highlighted various development initiatives, including housing completion, drinking water projects, roads, and infrastructure development in the region.

## India U20 goalkeeper Suraj Aheibam overcomes social media distraction

**Hyderabad:** Social media can quietly disrupt an athlete's routine, turning short breaks into long distractions and slowly affecting focus, recovery and performance. For young players chasing consistency, the impact can be even greater. India U20 men's goalkeeper Suraj Singh Aheibam experienced this first-hand. The night of April 14, 2025, was difficult for Suraj. Classic Football Academy had just lost the Reliance Foundation Development League 2024-25 final 0-3 to Mohun Bagan Super Giant. As disappointment lingered, the Classic FA goalkeeper found himself reflecting not just on the result, but on his own routine. Hours spent scrolling through social media, late nights and constant distractions had slowly crept into his life. That evening, the realisation was clear. If he wanted to grow, something had to change. Within hours, Suraj deleted his Instagram and other social media accounts, choosing discipline over distraction. "I had become a social media addict, and I would be doomscrolling all the time," Suraj said in an interaction with the-aiff.com during the ongoing SAFF U20 Championship



in Maldives. "I would watch reels after breakfast and lunch, and whenever I had free time. But the worst was after dinner. I would go back to my bedroom and keep watching reels for two to three hours," he added. As a result of watching reels till late at night, Suraj woke up tired and struggled to maintain focus during training. Recognising the adverse impact, he decided to take a complete break. The move helped him introduce discipline into his routine. He began sleeping earlier, paying more attention to

recovery, improving his diet and structuring his day around training. The clarity in his schedule also quickly reflected in his performances. Within a month, the results followed. On May 18, 2025, Suraj produced a defining moment in the SAFF U19 Championship final in Yupia, Arunachal Pradesh. With the match tied 1-1 after regulation time, he saved the decisive penalty from Bangladesh's Salahuddin Sahed to help India win the tie-breaker and lift the title. "It validated my move."