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Bushehr strike widens Gulf nuclear alarm



Tehran: Iran's foreign minister has warned Gulf states that any radioactive fallout from attacks on the Bushehr nuclear plant would devastate nearby

Arab capitals before reaching Tehran, sharpening fears that the widening US-Israeli campaign against Iranian strategic sites could trigger a cross-border nuclear emergency. The warning followed what Iranian and international officials described as the fourth strike affecting the Bushehr area in under three weeks. Seyed Abbas Araghchi said on Saturday that "radioactive fallout will end life in GCC capitals, not Tehran" and invoked the international uproar over fighting near Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant to question what Tehran sees as muted Western reaction to repeated attacks near Bushehr. His remarks were carried in a public statement on X and echoed by regional media, giving them a direct public record rather than leaving them as second-hand accounts.

'Another Pahalgam Before Polls?' Mamata Banerjee's Shocker, BJP's Response

Kolkata / New Delhi: In a shocking political attack ahead of the polls, West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress leader Mamata Banerjee has questioned if the BJP has a "blueprint ready" for "another Pahalgam attack before the election". The BJP has said the Trinamool chief's remark was aimed at appeasing its minority votebank and described the ruling party in Bengal as "anti-Hindu". Addressing a public meeting at

Bethuadahari in Nadia district, Banerjee referred to Pakistan Defence Minister Khwaja Asif's threat to hit Kolkata and questioned why Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who addressed a rally in north Bengal's Coochbehar yesterday, did not respond to the threat. "Pakistan's defence minister said they will target Kolkata. Why didn't Narendra Modi say we will take strong action? What is the reason? blueprint ready? Another Pahalgam before the election?" she said. Banerjee also warned that if Delhi targets Bengal's people, Bengal will hit back. "If someone talks about targeting Kolkata, we as Indian citizens will not tolerate it. You sit quietly. Aren't you ashamed? You must resign," she said, addressing the Prime Minister.



PASSPORT ROW JOLTS ASSAM CAMPAIGN



Dispur: A fresh political clash has broken out in Assam days before voting in the state assembly election, after Congress leader Pawan Khera alleged that Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's wife, Riniki Bhuyan Sharma, holds multiple foreign passports and has not fully disclosed overseas assets. The accusation was rejected by

Sarma as fabricated and politically motivated, with the chief minister saying he and his wife would pursue criminal and civil action. Assam's 126 seats go to the polls on 9 April, according to the state election schedule published by the Chief Electoral Officer. Khera, speaking at a press conference in New Delhi, claimed his party had documents showing that Bhuyan Sharma held three active passports said to be from the United Arab Emirates, Antigua and Barbuda, and Egypt. Reports on the press conference said he also raised questions about alleged overseas business interests and property links, and sought scrutiny of disclosures made in election filings. Economic Times reported that the Congress framed the matter as one involving citizenship law and asset transparency, while Hindustan Times and Times of India carried the substance of Khera's claims and his demand for further investigation.

"Will Argue My Own Case": Arvind Kejriwal Seeks Judge's Recusal In Liquor Policy Case

New Delhi: After waiting for nearly three hours, former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal appeared in person in the Delhi High Court seeking recusal of Justice Swarna Kanta Sharma from hearing the CBI petition challenging the discharge of the AAP convenor and all other accused in the liquor policy case. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for CBI, at the outset termed

the recusal petition by Kejriwal and seven others as "frivolous, vexatious and contemptuous". The Solicitor General argued that the court was not a forum for theatrics and that Kejriwal should discharge his lawyer if he wanted to appear in person in the case. "Some people in this country make a career out of making baseless allegations against everyone.



Tragedy... One dead, four seriously injured due to lightning strike

Markapuram: A series of lightning strikes in Andhra Pradesh is causing deep tragedy. Sunday, three people died due to lightning strikes in Srikakulam and Tirupati districts. Monday, another tragic incident occurred in Markapuram district. Lightning struck a maize factory in Pullalacheruvu. A man named Kannayya (28) died on the spot due to the strike, while four others were seriously injured. The injured were shifted to Yerragondapalem Government Hospital for treatment. Further details about their condition are yet to be known. On Sunday, heavy rains lashed B. Kesupuram in Mandasa mandal of Srikakulam district. A mother and daughter—Madiya Krishnaveni (35) and Madiya Yogeshwari (15)—who had gone for farm work took shelter under a tree due to rain. At that moment, a lightning strike killed both of them. Similarly, in Tirupati district, another person died due to lightning. The incident took place in Kalavagunta village of Srikalahasti mandal. A worker named V. Kamaraj (35), who had gone for toddy tapping, was struck by lightning and died. Though he was shifted to the Venkatagiri Government Hospital, doctors confirmed that he had already passed away. Due to a trough extending over the Bay of Bengal, thunderstorms accompanied by lightning are occurring across Andhra Pradesh. In this situation, AP State Disaster Management Authority MD Prakash Jain advised farmers, agricultural laborers, and shepherds to remain alert.

AP ranks No.1 in the country in micro irrigation: CM



From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, April 6 : Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said that the future of the state and agricultural sustainability can be achieved only through water conservation. He stated that the government is working with the slogan: "Guiding flowing water, store moving water, and recharge stagnant water into the ground", aiming to increase groundwater levels. On Monday, the Chief Minister toured Anantapur district and held a meeting with irrigation associations and farmers at Yadiki.

Focus on water conservation and irrigation
Speaking on the occasion, he said that every citizen has the responsibility to protect natural resources and transform the land into a vast reservoir. He highlighted that due to innovative schemes like Neeru-Progress and NTR Jalasiri implemented during the Telugu Desam Party government, Andhra Pradesh now ranks first in the country in micro irrigation. He noted that micro irrigation has become a boon for farmers in the Rayalaseema region, where the value of rainwater is well understood. The government has introduced micro and drip irrigation systems and is providing equipment with up to 90% subsidy. He added that: - 63% of crops in Rayalaseema are under micro irrigation - Rs.30,000 crore will be spent on horticulture over the next six years - Groundwater levels in Anantapur have improved to 11.25 meters - 20,000 tanks have been filled in Rayalaseema He emphasized that understanding the value of every drop of water is essential for securing a better future for coming generations.

The Chief Minister criticized the previous government, saying it played a "three capitals game" in the name of the capital. He described Amaravati as a "people's capital" and said the entire country supported it, except the YSR Congress Party. He assured that the Veligonda project will be completed this year and water will be released through it. He also assigned responsibility to the district collector to link streams and tanks in Anantapur. He said Andhra Pradesh can now proudly call Amaravati its capital. He pointed out that 1,500 TMC of water from the Krishna River flowed into the sea last year, and diverting even 300 TMC could solve water issues. He stressed that river interlinking would bring prosperity to the country. He added that through the Pattiseema project, water is being lifted and diverted to the Krishna delta, and efforts are being made to transform drought-prone Anantapur into a prosperous district.

YSRCP has turned into a big drama company: MLC Anuradha

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, April 6 : Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council Chief Whip and MLC Panchumarthi Anuradha said that the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) has turned into a drama company that misleads people rather than functioning as a political party. She criticized their double standards, saying that while they admit inside the Assembly that Amaravati is the capital, they spread negativity about it outside. She lashed out at YSRCP chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, saying that if he calls Amaravati's development "looting," he should first understand what real looting is. She stated that earning thousands of crores by misusing his father's power is looting, and being involved in illegal assets cases and roaming on bail for years is also looting. She said that taking funds in the name of mobilization advances without even starting the Polavaram project is looting. She also alleged that collecting cash



in liquor sales without digital payments is looting. She made serious accusations that exploiting mining leases is a real scam. Anuradha further alleged that during Jagan Mohan Reddy's tenure as Chief Minister, grabbing thousands of acres of valuable land in Visakhapatnam under the name of "22A" is also looting. She praised Amaravati, saying it is not just land but a global center with IT hubs, sports city, universities, and employment opportunities for thousands of youth. She added that the entire country is feeling sorry seeing Andhra Pradesh without a capital, and even MPs from other

BJP is the largest party in the world: Deputy CM

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, April 6: On the occasion of the 47th Foundation Day of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan extended his wishes through social media platform X. On this auspicious occasion of the party entering its 47th year, he conveyed heartfelt greetings to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP national leadership, AP BJP president PVN Madhav, party leaders, and workers. He said the BJP is moving forward with the principles of love for the nation and dedication to its people. He stated that the vision of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and L. K. Advani, combined with the determined leadership of Narendra Modi, has helped the BJP emerge as the largest political party in the world.

BJP 47th Foundation Day... CM extends greetings

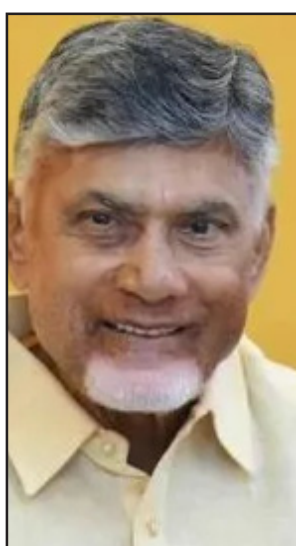
From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, April 6: On the occasion of the 47th Foundation Day of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu conveyed his greetings. Responding via the social media platform X, he said that BJP is committed to the all-round development of the nation with nationalism as its foundation. He added that the party has strengthened the country through decisive governance and its commitment to progress. "On the occasion of the

47th Foundation Day of the Bharatiya Janata Party, I extend my heartfelt greetings to the party leaders and workers. With nationalism as its foundation, the party is committed to the overall development of the nation. It continues to strengthen our culture and democratic values while striving for inclusive development and service to the country. From the party's founding leaders to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and under the leadership of current Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP has empow-

ered the nation through decisive governance and dedication to progress. In Andhra Pradesh, the National Democratic Alliance 'double-engine government' is working with double speed, serving the people with enthusiasm and standing as an example of cooperative federalism. Under the leadership of party president Nitin Nabin, I sincerely hope the BJP achieves more success in serving the nation and strengthens our journey towards the goal of 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India)."

She advised that insulting the sacrifice of farmers who gave 30,000 acres of land for the capital, trusting Chief Minister Chandrababu, is not right.

Anuradha sarcastically said that due to irresponsible behavior, people limited YSRCP to just 11 seats, not even granting them opposition status. She urged them to stop spreading false propaganda about the capital without understanding what a self-sustainable project is. She criticized that whenever serious discussions about the capital arise, instead of answering, they resort to meaningless words like "Mavign" just to pass time, which reflects irresponsibility.



EDITORIAL

Is Kejriwal against questioning?

Aam Aadmi Party has removed Raghav Chaddha, a young dynamic leader, as the Deputy Leader of the Rajya Sabha and appointed another MP from Punjab, Ashok Mittal, in the court. This decision taken by former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has created a sensation across the country. It may be his choice who should be the Deputy Leader in the Rajya Sabha. But, the occasion of his removal, a letter was written saying that Raghav Chaddha should not be given priority to speak in the Rajya Sabha! Kejriwal has so far erased the label of a personality and a person who fought against corruption. He has proven himself to be a representative of a one-man central political system. If the central government suspends Raghav Chaddha from the Rajya Sabha for not being able to answer the questions he raises and the arrows he fires at him, Kejriwal, who claims to be a genuine alternative to the BJP, strengthens it, the decision taken by him is aimed at strengthening the BJP unconditionally, and it cannot be seen otherwise. Aam Aadmi Party MP Raghav Chaddha recently exposed the exploitation of corporate powers in the Rajya Sabha from a new angle. In particular, it was exposed in the Rajya Sabha that various companies have stated a period of 28 days as a month in the name of monthly recharge. Not only has the recharge scam worth hundreds of crores of rupees been exposed, but why are the people's representatives in the legislatures paying ten thousand rupees under phone charges when a recharge of just 300 rupees per month is sufficient for unlimited usage for a month? Isn't this a misuse of public money? He asked. By mentioning such sensational matters in the Rajya Sabha, he created a huge craze among the youth of the country. They were happy that the middle class had been given representation. Kejriwal, who was upset by this, removed him as the Deputy Leader of the Rajya Sabha and wrote that he should not be given priority, which created a sensation in the history of the Rajya Sabha. Can it be said that denying freedom of speech to a member of Parliament or writing that he denies 19(1) of the Constitution is a stain on the political charisma of a person like Kejriwal? In fact, the issues raised by Raghav Chadha brought fame to him and also to the Aam Aadmi Party. But, Kejriwal's action wiped it out. Didn't Raghava Chadha want to gain popularity across the country through the Rajya Sabha? Is it internal hatred that Raghava Chadha is filling the position he lost? Or is it fear that he will replace the position of alternative leadership? It could be anything. Overall, Raghava Chadha's priority has been reduced, and tomorrow he may even be thrown out of the party? Whatever the case, the youth of the country feel that Arvind Kejriwal has once again brought out his inner man and killed the questioning nature. The strangulation of such questioning natures did not start with Raghava Chadha alone. Before the Delhi elections, another Rajya Sabha member, Swati Malaiwal, was expelled from the party. Earlier, in the early days of the Aam Aadmi Party, questioning intellectuals like Yogendra Yadav and Kiran Bedi were smoked without even thinking about it. Kejriwal, who rains questions on his opponents, is strangely unable to tolerate questions and developments from his party leaders. Is it a chronic illness in him? Kejriwal, who came to power using the craze generated by the anti-corruption movement, has failed to transform the Aam Aadmi Party into a democratic party. Aam Aadmi Party does not have a specific political policy or structure. Aam Aadmi Party has joined the list of parties that have made personality worship an official agenda. Moreover, the party does not have a specific political policy or ideology, nor does it have a democratic structure, except for Kejriwal, whose only agenda is Kejriwal. There is no place for organizational meetings and elections in the Aam Aadmi Party, nor is there a tradition of respecting the opinions of the workers. The party units have not been elected democratically, except for the online missed call membership rush. From national committees to local committees, everything in Kejriwal's eyes is nothing but paper rules! Do the party workers not have a platform for their opinions? Even though a national council is held once every two years, there is no room for discussions or opinions except for listening to Kejriwal's speech. There is still no clarity on an economic and political agenda. Even after being recognized as a national party, there has been no change in the policies of the Aam Aadmi Party. The same confusion prevails over the AAP flag. First the white flag, then the yellow-green flag, then the blue color under the green flag. The same is true in political policies. On the one hand, Bhagat Singh and Ambedkar are placed on the right and left. On the other hand, the BJP demands that Saraswati, Lakshmi Devi and Vinayaka pictures be printed on the hundred rupee note. He says Jai Bajrang Bali, while at the same time he says Inquilab Zindabad. Is he actually a secularist? Is he another form of communalism that has taken root? There is no clarity. Moreover, his political affiliations are controversial! The Aam Aadmi Party has no alliances with anyone. He joined the India Alliance while the BJP government was filing cases against him. Chandrababu Naidu, KCR, Shiv Sena, Mamata Banerjee, and others tried to form an alliance with the idea of becoming the Prime Minister by garnering support from regional parties. Even after joining the India Alliance and contesting, he did not win a single seat in Delhi, where they were in power, and even in Punjab, he narrowly escaped death and won only three seats. After that, he contested the elections in his home state of Haryana as an independent in the India Alliance, thereby ushering in the defeat of the Congress. Didn't he get his own ticket? As a result, the Congress not only lost in the Delhi elections because it played the same role, but he also failed to win as an MLA. All these are Kejriwal's self-inflicted political crimes, not the defeat of the Aam Aadmi Party. On the one hand, the BJP is campaigning that the Congress is a team of the Congress, and on the other hand, the Congress is campaigning that the BJP is a team of the BJP, but Kejriwal is currently in a political dilemma and absurd situation where he cannot say that he is an independent team. The structure that has come to power and opportunities at the national level is not a democratic system. But it's not visible in him. He hasn't learned anything from experience.

When Naxals Killed 75 CRPF Jawans - And I Had To Arrange Aircraft For Their Coffins

The government has announced that the Maoist menace has been 'wiped out' from the infamous 'Red Corridor', meeting the deadline of March 31 it had set for itself. While one can bask in the glory of this announcement, it must be remembered that the task of shaping a 'normal', threat-free life for those in the dense jungles of the far-and-beyond has just begun. This was driven home by an almost full-page 'In Memoriam' published today in a national newspaper by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), which carried photographs of 75 of its jawans who were killed by Naxals in Bastar district this day, a decade and a half back. This touched a raw nerve in this writer.

My father was the Additional Collector of Bastar district in 1982-83 and based in Kanker, a name that got synonymous with Naxal activities later. The place was peaceful, like any other village in the hinterland of tribal India, and our visits there were wonderful. So, when the Naxal menace became acute at the beginning of this century, I asked my old man what had transformed that quiet place into one where the government writ did not run. His reply shocked me - "We kept sending reports that a parallel organisation had started taking root and political steps were needed urgently to curb it, but to no avail." The results came to haunt us in the coming years.

2010, Then 2013, Then 2017

In 2010, I was Assistant Chief of the Air Staff controlling transport aircraft and helicopters, and on April 6 that year had to arrange An-32 aircraft to carry coffins of 75 CRPF jawans. The mayhem that must

have happened is difficult to imagine. The brave hearts of No 62 Battalion, who were on an anti-Naxal operation, were ambushed by a group of 500-plus Maoists positioned on high ground; the troopers, devoid of any reinforcements due to roads being booby-trapped with IEDs, fought for six hours before making the supreme sacrifice. That these large-scale killings were repeated on May 25, 2013, when 30 people lost their lives (including the Chattisgarh Congress leadership) and on April 24, 2017, when 26 CRPF jawans were killed, showed that, irrespective of the political party in power, the basics of governance had been given short shrift in the previous decades through political unprofessionalism.

The steely determination to tackle the Naxal challenge began head-on in 2006 with Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh declaring it as the biggest internal security threat. Police forces were pumped in, and the Indian Air Force provided helicopters from 2009 for non-kinetic tasks; it is noteworthy that, though the helicopters were armed, calls for their offensive use were firmly rejected by the government. The rules of engagement were crystal clear - while helicopters would not initiate any proactive kinetic action, they would act firmly in self-defence if fired upon; the belligerents on the ground were, after all, Indian citizens. It is to the credit of successive governments that the resolve to tackle the insurgency did not flag; in fact, it only went up.

Insurgency As A Cancer

An insurgency is like cancer. Even after its remission, the patient requires continu-



ous tending in the long term to prevent its return. The lingering sub-surface threat lies in the famous Mao Tse Tung quote that insurgents are like fish in water - water being the local population. If the water is removed from the equation, the fish die. The villagers/tribals who call them the 'common man' must always see two aspects of official power favouring them: the government as a dependable provider of daily sustenance, and second, a deterrent capability that cannot be challenged by any alternate source of power. The insurgent 'fish' must be continuously denied a favourable human cocoon for sustenance.

So, what should the long-term strategy be? First, 'winning hearts and minds' of the populace is the cornerstone of any anti-insurgency plan. Improved education facilities for the young would go a long way in strengthening the psychological link with the rest

of India. The extensive ingress of government machinery into the erstwhile Maoist strongholds and the widespread road infrastructure and communication facilities created must be improved further to cement governmental writ. As the entry of 'outsiders' into tribal areas increases, it is vital to ensure that tribal traditions and lands are not usurped by unscrupulous elements; the bottom line is that 'exploitation' of people indigenous to the area must be prevented at all costs.

Second, backing the administrative efforts should be deterrence, born of the gloved fist of the government's law-and-order machinery. Deterrence is built over time and is a 'process' of ensuring that an adversary follows one's guides without having to go kinetic - Sun Tzu termed it the 'acme of skill' for the warrior in conflict, but it is equally applicable in civil governance where the 'insurgent' is one's

own citizen. In anti-insurgency action, the threat of retribution is more important than the actual implementation of punitive measures of law. The 'Sentencing Project', a 2010 study in the United States, stated that increasing the severity of a punishment does not have much effect on lawbreakers compared to an assurance of certainty of punishment. It is the surety that the government would come down heavily on the lawbreakers that would prevent the tribal populace of the erstwhile Red Corridor from again being coerced to become a sanctuary for any insurgent ideology.

Finally, insurgents are masters at playing political football. The drive to ensure an insurgency-free India must be a bipartisan effort, else gains made so far will be frittered away. The task of arranging aircraft to carry coffins must not befall anyone again.

How Iran Has Pierced The One 'Shield' That Protected America For 30 Years

If the early weeks of the 2026 Iran conflict were intended to showcase the return of decisive American airpower, the events of last week have served as a sobering corrective. Wars against capable state adversaries rarely conform to technological optimism, and this episode underscores the limits of even overwhelming military superiority. The downing of an American F-15E Strike Eagle over western Iran marks a significant inflexion point in the conflict not because of the scale of the loss, which remains limited, but because of its symbolism. For the first time in this war, a manned American combat aircraft has been brought down by enemy fire in hostile airspace. The potential loss of a crew member and the launch of a high-risk combat search-and-rescue operation by the US, though ultimately successful, reinforces the enduring reality that even a single aircraft loss can generate cascading operational, political, and psychological consequences.

A Pattern, Not An Anomaly

This incident did not occur in isolation. On the same day, an A-10 Thunderbolt II ground-attack aircraft was also lost to Iranian fire over Kuwait near the Persian Gulf, with the pilot ejecting. These developments point to a pattern rather than an anomaly. The vulnerability of non-stealth, low-altitude platforms operating in contested environments is once again being laid bare. The damage sustained by accompanying rescue helicopters - according to Iran's Revolutionary Guards, at least five people were killed, and several "flying objects" were destroyed, including a transport plane, during the rescue operation for the downed fighter jet crew mem-

ber - further illustrates the layered risks of modern warfare, where efforts to recover personnel can expose additional assets to enemy fire. It is true that these setbacks do not fundamentally alter the strategic balance. The United States retains overwhelming advantages in terms of airpower, precision strike capability, and operational reach. American aircraft continue to conduct sustained sorties across Iranian territory, targeting infrastructure, missile systems, and military installations. Official statements from Washington have emphasised this asymmetry, highlighting the degradation of Iran's air defences and the broader military pressure being exerted.

US' Manned vs Unmanned Systems

Such assertions, however, deserve closer scrutiny. Degradation is not destruction. Iran's integrated air defence system, though weakened, has demonstrated resilience. The ability to shoot down advanced aircraft, even sporadically, suggests that sufficient capability remains to impose costs. This is not trivial. In high-intensity conflicts, the ability to inflict even limited attrition can shape operational choices, slow campaign tempo, and impose political constraints. The broader pattern of US losses reinforces this point. Earlier in the campaign, a significant number of MQ-9 Reaper drones were shot down over key Iranian locations such as Isfahan and Bushehr. These unmanned systems, often viewed as relatively expendable, have proven vulnerable against layered air defences. While individually less politically sensitive than manned aircraft, their cumulative loss,



both in financial and operational terms, is far from negligible. More importantly, the distinction between manned and unmanned losses begins to blur in strategic impact. Drones enable persistence and reduce risk to personnel, but they are not immune to denial. Their attrition limits surveillance coverage, targeting precision, and operational flexibility. At the same time, the loss of even a single manned aircraft introduces a qualitatively different dimension - raising questions of escalation, domestic perception, and the risks associated with pilot capture or casualty.

America's Air Superiority Isn't Absolute

What emerges from these developments is a more complex and less reassuring picture of contemporary airpower. Air superiority, long viewed as the cornerstone of US military doctrine, no longer guarantees invulnerability. It provides access, freedom of manoeuvre, and the ability to shape the battlespace, but within constraints imposed by increasingly capable adversaries. This has implications that extend well beyond the immediate conflict. For much of the post-Cold War era, US air campaigns - in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Libya -

were conducted against relatively weak or degraded air defences. This created an expectation, both within military planning and public discourse, of low-risk intervention. Airpower was seen as a tool capable of delivering rapid, decisive outcomes with minimal cost. The Iran conflict challenges that assumption. Alongside lessons from the Russia-Ukraine war, it reinforces the reality that state-on-state conflicts involving capable adversaries are inherently contested. Integrated air defence systems, even when partially degraded, can deny airspace, impose attrition, and complicate operational planning. The battlefield is no longer permissive; it is dynamic, adaptive, and unforgiving.

Where Does The US Go From Here?

In response, doctrinal and technological shifts are likely to accelerate. Greater emphasis will be placed on stealth platforms, stand-off weapons, electronic warfare, and the suppression and destruction of enemy air defences (SEAD/DEAD). The role of autonomous systems and "loyal wingman" concepts will also gain prominence as militaries seek to distribute risk and enhance survivability. At the same time, the importance of

human capital - pilot training, mission planning, and resilience under pressure - remains undiminished. Equally, the events of April 3 highlight the importance of multi-domain integration. Airpower alone, however advanced, cannot deliver decisive outcomes in isolation. It must be complemented by cyber operations, intelligence capabilities, ground manoeuvre, and diplomatic engagement. The notion of quick, clean wars driven primarily by aerial dominance appears increasingly untenable. Ultimately, the April 3 losses are a moment of strategic introspection. They don't fundamentally undermine US military superiority but puncture its narrative of effortless dominance. The United States continues to hold the advantage, but it is an advantage that must be exercised with caution, adaptability, and a clear recognition of its limits. In that sense, the real significance of these events lies not in what was lost, but in what they reveal. Contemporary warfare, even for the most advanced militaries, is neither frictionless nor predictable. The mythology of invulnerable airpower should give way to a more grounded understanding - one in which effectiveness coexists with risk, and dominance is always contested rather than absolute.

Drugs Crackdown 2.0 Launched in Vijayawada



Vijayawada, April 6: The NTR District Police Commissionerate, in coordination with the district

administration, launched "Drugs Crackdown 2.0" under the slogan "Zero Tolerance to Drugs." The initiative aims to eliminate drug abuse and create awareness among youth. The program was inaugurated in Wambay Colony in the Nunna Police Station limits by Police Commissioner S.V. Rajasekhara Babu and District Collector S. Lakshmi Sha. Officials stated that a 34-day, 550-km cycle rally by five women police personnel successfully spread awareness, with nearly 3 lakh

people taking a digital pledge against drug use. As part of the crackdown, 149 drug "hotspots" have been identified. Over the next 30 days, around 3,000 drug test kits will be used to screen suspected individuals, with those testing positive being referred to de-addiction centers. A special team comprising police and health staff will conduct surprise checks using a dedicated bus. Measures such as CCTV surveillance, improved lighting, drone monitoring, and awareness campaigns

are being intensified. Officials warned of strict action against drug offenders, rowdy sheeters, and open drinking. Around 25 individuals involved in ganja-related offenses have already been booked under the NDPS Act, with proposals sent against 20 more. Collector Lakshmi Sha emphasized that while awareness efforts were prioritized so far, strict enforcement will now follow if necessary. The administration reiterated its commitment to making the district drug-free.

Three-Day Training Program on Emerging Technologies Held at Pragati Engineering College



Gandepalli, April 6: A three-day awareness and hands-on training program on "Emerging Technologies" was inaugurated at Pragati Engineering College from April 6 to April 8, under its third phase. The program is organized for students from rural schools in East Godavari district. College Chairman Dr. Paruchuri Krishnarao stated that the initiative, sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, witnessed participation from 347 students belonging to schools in the Kakinada rural region. The program focuses on providing awareness and practical training in advanced technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Cyber Security, Internet of Things (IoT), and Mobile Applications. It also emphasizes safe and

effective usage of technology among students. Principal Dr. G. Naresh highlighted the importance of early exposure to AI tools, cyber safety practices, and educational use of mobile applications at the school level. Program Coordinator Dr. V. Prashanth expressed gratitude to DST for supporting the initiative and noted that the event includes expert lectures from industry and academia, hands-on sessions, a project expo, and a medical camp. The event was attended by Director (Management) M.V. Harinath Babu, Vice President M. Satish, Director-Academics Dr. K. Satyanarayana, Dean (Career Development Cell) Dr. M. Radhika Mani, Controller of Examinations Dr. Y. Jayababu, along with faculty members and students.

Death Sentence to 9 Policemen – Sensational Verdict by Madurai Bench

Tirupati Crime Bureau, Pen Power, April 6: In a sensational judgment, the Madurai Bench in Tamil Nadu has awarded the death penalty to nine policemen in connection with the custodial deaths that occurred at Sathankulam Police Station in 2020.

In the highly shocking case involving the custodial deaths of a father and son that shook the state, a special court on Monday (April 6) sentenced nine accused policemen to death after finding them guilty. The convicted policemen—Sridhar, Raghuganesh, Murugan, Balakrishnan, Muthuraj, Chelladurai, Thoman Francis, Samudurai, and Veyilmuthu—were all awarded capital punishment. Additionally, the court imposed a fine of ₹15 lakh on Sridhar. This case had sparked widespread outrage across the state at the time, as it involved a brutal instance of custodial violence. After a prolonged trial and careful examination of evidence, the court concluded that the accused had committed an extremely heinous crime.



Court's Observation on Jayaraj's Health: Although Jayaraj had pre-existing conditions, including lung and heart-related issues, the court clarified that these were not the cause of death. It firmly stated that the custodial torture was the direct cause of both deaths.

Details of the Crime: On June 19, 2020, during the COVID-19 lockdown, Jayaraj (59) and his son Bennis (31) were taken into custody by Sathankulam police for allegedly keeping their mobile phone shop open beyond permitted hours. They were taken to the police station, where they were reportedly subjected to severe custodial torture throughout the night. Later, they were remanded to Kovilpatti Sub-Jail. The incident triggered massive public protests, following which the case was handed over to the CBI for investigation. The court upheld the arguments presented by the CBI. The court accepted that the victims were falsely implicated and brutally assaulted inside the police station. According to post-mortem reports, their deaths were not due to illness but were caused by severe injuries inflicted using batons and iron rods.

Traffic Control Measures Urged to Prevent Accidents

Amalapuram, April 6: District Collector R. Mahesh Kumar emphasized that public safety is the top priority and called for coordinated efforts to significantly reduce road accidents. Chairing the District Road Safety Committee meeting, he directed officials to identify accident-prone "black spots" and install rumble strips, solar signals, and signboards. He instructed authorities to implement speed breakers and traffic control measures at highway and rural road junctions, and to strictly enforce rules against over-speeding, drunk driving, and non-use of helmets and seat belts. Awareness programs in schools and colleges were also stressed. The Collector reviewed accident statistics, fatalities, and penalties, and discussed trauma care services provided to victims. He highlighted the importance of the "golden hour" in saving lives and ensuring ambulance availability along highways. Officials were directed to improve road infrastructure, fill potholes, install street



lighting, and develop pedestrian facilities like zebra crossings and ?? paths. Coordination among police, transport, R&B, and health departments was termed essential. He also ordered expediting the Jonnada flyover and service roads due to increased traffic near Ravulapalem junction, especially with rising pilgrim movement to Vadapalli temple.

Collective Efforts Needed for Water Resource Conservation in Polavaram District



Rampachodavaram, April 6: Officials emphasized that protecting natural water resources and preventing water wastage is everyone's responsibility. District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar and MLA Miriyala Sirisha Devi highlighted a 100-day program (April 6–July 14) to improve groundwater levels and strengthen irrigation systems. Farmers were urged to actively participate, while village-level ac-

tion plans will focus on repairing tanks, canals, and water bodies. Authorities will prepare water budgets and complete repair works within the set timeline. In tribal areas, lift irrigation systems will also be repaired. A check dam at Sitapalli stream near Sirigindalpadu is expected to provide irrigation to about 500 acres, supporting farmers and improving water availability in the region.

Tight Arrangements for Chandanotsavam



Visakhapatnam, April 6: District Collector M. Abhishek Kishore has directed officials to ensure

smooth and successful conduct of the Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Chandanotsavam without any disruptions. During a review meeting with key departments at the Collectorate on Monday, the Collector instructed all departments to work in coordination and follow Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). He emphasized learning from past experiences and avoiding previous shortcomings. Police were asked to oversee security, while APSRTC was directed to arrange special transport facilities. Proper ticketing guidelines must be followed, including details of pickup and drop points on ₹1500 and ₹1000 tickets. Limited vehicle passes will be issued. Officials were instructed to provide adequate drinking water, sanitation, toilets, and medical camps for devotees. Emergency services, including ambulances, fire safety teams, and uninterrupted power supply, must be ensured. The Collector also suggested temporary closure of liquor shops during the festival and directed food safety checks at donor-run food counters. All arrangements must be completed by April 17.

Strict Action Against Illegal Sand Transport in the District



Rajamahendravaram, April 6: District Collector Keerthi Chekuri chaired the District Sand Committee meeting at the Collectorate on Monday and announced strict measures to curb illegal sand transportation. The district has set a target of stocking 1 million metric tonnes of sand ahead of the monsoon season. Decisions were taken to extend the tenure of existing sand reaches and approve four new sand reaches on patta lands. Sand prices for monsoon stockyards have also been finalized. To enhance transparency and monitoring, the committee approved the installation of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) systems and CCTV cameras at selected sand ramps for real-time tracking of vehicles. Additionally, two drones will be procured to

monitor illegal mining, transportation, and desiltation activities. The Collector also reviewed the progress of weighbridge installations at sand sale centers, noting that six centers are already operational and directing officials to expedite the remaining works. As per NGT guidelines, a sand replenishment survey will be conducted. Strict action has been ordered to prevent sand mining within 500 meters of bridges, including the Gammon Bridge. Authorities also confirmed that cases have been registered and fines imposed for interstate illegal sand transport. Officials from revenue, mining, transport, irrigation, and police departments attended the meeting.

Focus on Rainwater Conservation and Groundwater Recharge: Minister



Srikakulam, April 6: Andhra Pradesh Agriculture Minister on Monday visited the R&R colonies of displaced

families from the Mulapeta Port at Naupada in Santabommali mandal. He also launched a program on water security and irrigation users' associations. The minister identified severe drinking water issues in the colonies and directed officials to ensure safe drinking water supply within 90 days. He stressed the importance of rainwater conservation and groundwater recharge, urging villages to adopt water-saving measures and restore ponds and check dams. Highlighting water scarcity, he noted that even at 300 feet depth, water is unavailable in many areas, and called for efforts to improve groundwater levels before the monsoon. He emphasized that water in the ground is like a "reserve bank" for the future. He also reviewed the progress of the Vamsadhara project, stating that major works were completed earlier and efforts are now being made to resume pending works and improve irrigation facilities.

187 Grievances Received at Collectorate PGRS

Rajamahendravaram, April 6: District Collector Keerthi Chekuri directed officials to thoroughly examine petitions received during the weekly Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) and Revenue Clinic held at the Collectorate every Monday, and ensure permanent solutions. She emphasized identifying root causes to prevent issues from being reopened and resolving them within a fixed timeframe. A total of 187 petitions were received in the program. Department-wise, 91 were from Revenue Clinic, 37 from Panchayat Raj & Rural Development, 16 from Housing, 8 from School Education, 5 each from Municipal Administration and Agriculture & Cooperation, 4 from Animal Husbandry, Dairy & Fisheries, 3 each from Industries & Commerce and Civil Supplies, 2 each from Women, Child & Welfare and Transport & Roads, and 1 each from Labour, Health, and Higher Education departments. Joint Collector Y. Megha Swaroop, DRO T. Sitarama Murthy, Special Deputy Collectors S. Bhaskar Reddy, RDO R. Shiva Ramudu, and district officials participated in the program.



Water Security Initiative Launched in Pendurthi

Visakhapatnam, April 6: A "Water Security-Irrigation Associations Responsibility" program was launched in Pendurthi constituency to strengthen irrigation and ensure water availability for every acre. District Collector M. Abhishikh Kishore and MLA Panchakarla Ramesh Babu inaugurated the initiative at Saripalli village. Officials inspected the local tank and interacted with farmers to assess irrigation needs. The Collector stated that scientific measures are being implemented to conserve water resources and improve groundwater levels. Around 125 tanks in the district currently have good water storage, and steps are being taken to maintain adequate water levels before and after the monsoon.

Works such as desilting, bund strengthening, and jungle clearance will be undertaken to enhance storage capacity. Plans are also being considered to develop the Saripalli tank with beautification and a walking track.

The MLA highlighted that the government is focusing on water resource development under a 100-day action plan. He also raised the issue of access difficulties faced



by farmers cultivating 250 acres beyond the railway track and assured steps toward constructing an underbridge as a permanent solution.

Officials, public representatives, irrigation association members, and villagers participated in the program.

Moolapeta Greenfield Port 70% Complete; Operations Targeted by Year-End

Srikakulam, April 6: Andhra Pradesh Minister for Agriculture Kinjarapu Atchannaidu and Minister for Roads & Buildings B.C. Janardhan Reddy inspected the ongoing works of the Moolapeta Greenfield Port at Santhabommali mandal. They announced that around 70% of the construction has been completed, a significant rise from 20% during the previous government. The ministers stated that the port is expected to begin operations by the end of this year, with efforts underway to speed up remaining works, including road and railway connectivity. About 400 acres of land required for the port has been mostly secured on a long-term lease. The project, being developed at a cost of ₹4,361.91 crore, includes construction of four berths in Phase-1 across 1,524 acres. Officials reported major progress in breakwater, dredging, and berth works. The ministers emphasized that the port will boost industrial growth and employment in North Andhra and benefit neighboring landlocked states like Chhattisgarh,



Jharkhand, and Madhya Pradesh. They also assured that rehabilitation colonies for displaced families will be developed with proper infrastructure and amenities.

Collector Shows Humanity in Vizianagaram



Vizianagaram, April 6: During the PGRS program held at the district collectorate on Monday, District Collector S. Ramsunder Reddy drew attention for his humane response to a petitioner's issue. A (differently-abled) man, Sabbavarapu Pothuraju from Uttarapalli village of Kothavalasa mandal, arrived to submit his grievance. Noticing him at the portico, the Collector personally approached, received the application, and assured prompt action. He directed officials to examine and resolve the issue quickly and arranged a wheelchair for the petitioner to reach the PGRS venue. The Collector reiterated that the district administration is committed to addressing public grievances efficiently.

Special Measures for Tank Restoration



Markapuram, April 6: District Collector M. Vijaya Sunitha announced that special measures will be taken for the restoration of tanks, canals, and ponds in the district. She participated as the chief guest in the "Water Security - Irrigation Associations Responsibility" program held at Vemulakota village along with MLA Kandula Narayana Reddy. The Collector stated that under the 100-day action plan, departments including Agriculture, Horticulture, Water Resources, Panchayati Raj, and NREGS will work in

coordination to implement the program swiftly. She directed that desilting works be carried out after inspecting water bodies under 183 irrigation associations. Monitoring will be done through a special portal with a detailed action plan. MLA Kandula Narayana Reddy emphasized the need for special focus on water conservation in drought-prone areas, stating that water saving measures will greatly benefit farmers. Officials from various departments also attended the program.

Immediate Resolution of Public Grievances at Praja Darbar: Minister Vasamsetti Subhash

Amalapuram, April 6: Labour Minister Vasamsetti Subhash



conducted a Praja Darbar at the Ramachandrapuram camp of-

others were present at the event. People from various villages submitted around 80 petitions related to house sites, old-age pensions, disability pensions, and new ration cards.

The Minister reviewed each application carefully and directed officials to take immediate action, stating that delays in resolving public grievances will not be tolerated. He emphasized that being accessible to the public is his primary responsibility and assured that all eligible beneficiaries will receive government welfare schemes.

Subhash also noted that direct interaction with people helps in understanding their issues better and ensures overall development. Senior leader Vasamsetti Satyam and

Evaluation Must Be Fair and Reliable: Collector R. Ramsundar Reddy

Vizianagaram, April 06: District Collector S. Ramsundar Reddy conducted a surprise inspection at the SSC (10th Class) answer script evaluation centre set up at PSR High School in Vizianagaram on Monday. He stressed that the evaluation process must be carried out transparently, accurately, and within the stipulated time. The Collector reviewed the functioning of assistant examiners, special assistants, and chief examiners, and instructed them to strictly follow the prescribed guidelines while valuing each answer script. He also inspected the infrastructure, security arrangements, and record maintenance at the centre. Emphasizing the importance of maintaining the credibility of examinations, he directed officials to ensure error-free and responsible evaluation, keeping in mind the future of students. District Education Officer U. Manikyam Naidu and other officials were present during the inspection.



23 Appointed Under Compassionate Grounds in Visakhapatnam



Visakhapatnam, April 6: District Collector M. Abhishikh Kishore advised candidates appointed under compassionate grounds to work with responsibility and dedication to earn a good reputation. He emphasized the importance of discipline and thorough understanding of their duties. At a program held in the Collectorate VC Hall on Monday evening, appointment letters were distributed to 23 candidates, who are family members of APSRTC employees who died while in service. Among them, 8 were appointed in secretariats, 7 in the Collectorate, 1 in the Police Commissioner's office, and the remaining 7 in various government departments. Officials including DRO M. Visweswara Naidu, APSRTC Regional Manager B. Appala Naidu, and others attended the event.

Immediate Action on Public Grievances: Collector's Directive

Visakhapatnam, April 6: District Collector M. Abhishikh Kishore directed officials to ensure swift resolution of public grievances without delay. During the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) program held at the Collectorate on Monday, he personally received petitions from citizens and stressed the need for quality and timely solutions. A total of 334 grievances were registered, including 59 related to Revenue, 83 to GVMC, 23 to Police, and 169 to other departments. The Collector instructed officials to interact directly with petitioners, identify root causes, and closely examine recurring complaints. Officials from various departments participated in the program, while RDOs and Tahsildars also received petitions through the Revenue Clinic and initiated necessary action for resolution.



97 Grievances Received at District-Level PGRS in Vijayawada



Vijayawada, April 6: District Collector Dr. G. Lakshminsha stated that every grievance submitted by the public reflects their trust in the government and directed officials to give special attention to all petitions. A total of 97 applications were received during the district-level Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) program held on Monday. The Collector, along with Joint Collector S. Ilakkiya and DRO M. Lakshminarasimham, received petitions from people across the district. Most grievances were related to Municipal Administration (17), Police (14), Revenue (11), and Health (8) departments. Officials were instructed to closely monitor pending cases, avoid delays, and ensure permanent solutions by identifying root causes. The government, he emphasized, gives top priority to resolving public issues promptly.

Farmers' & Consumers' Safety is the Goal of Rythu Bazaars: Collector

Amalapuram, April 6: District Collector R. Mahesh Kumar stated that Rythu Bazaars were established to provide agricultural produce at affordable prices directly to consumers. He directed officials to speed up the construction of the boundary wall at the local Rythu Bazaar and ensure quality standards. Around ₹51 lakh is being spent on development works, with a focus on improving safety and facilities for both farmers and consumers. The Collector emphasized that these bazaars eliminate middlemen, ensuring better prices for farmers and fresh, quality produce at lower rates for consumers. He added that the initiative aims to boost farmers' income while promoting public health.



Collector Shows Humanity in Vizianagaram

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Collector reiterated that the district administration is committed to addressing public grievances efficiently.