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Oil Refinery In Iran Struck Despite Ceasefire, Tehran Strikes Kuwait, UAE

Tehran: An oil refinery on Iran's Lavan Island was hit in what Iranian authorities described as an "enemy attack" on Wednesday, hours after a two-week ceasefire between Iran and the United States took effect. The National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company reported the incident, according to Shana, the news outlet of the Iranian Oil Ministry. The company said the facility was struck around 10:00 local time. No casualties were reported.



'Get Lost' vs 'Stay Quiet': An Election Body-Trinamool Congress Showdown

New Delhi: Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar told the Trinamool Congress delegation to "get lost" during a meeting on the upcoming West Bengal polls, senior party leader Derek O'Brien said today. "I want to tell you what the Chief Election Commissioner told us within seven minutes of the meeting. 'Get lost' -- this is what the Chief Election Commissioner told the Trinamool Congress delegation. So we left. We are the second largest opposition party in Parliament," he told the media. He

said the Trinamool delegation went to meet the Chief Election Commissioner with nine letters from the party chief and Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, which have not been replied to. The delegation, he said, also raised the high-profile reshuffle of top officials and cops after the model code of conduct came into force. "We told him you are transferring these officials, how do you want to conduct a free and fair election? And then, he said, 'get lost,'" the Trinamool's Leader in Rajya Sabha said,



adding, "What I saw today is a shame." He also dared the election body to release audio or video of the meeting. O'Brien said one member of their delegation congratulated the Chief

Election Commissioner for being the "only Chief Election Commissioner in the history of India to have notices in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha to be removed".

Amit Shah To Unveil BJP Bengal Manifesto On Friday

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah will release the West Bengal election manifesto of the Bharatiya Janata Party on April 10, party sources told. According to BJP sources, the manifesto is expected to focus heavily on allegations of corruption and misgovernance against the ruling Trinamool Congress. The party is likely to promise a White Paper detailing what it describes as 15 years of irregularities under the TMC government. The BJP is also expected to highlight action against alleged mafia networks in sectors



such as coal, sand and stone mining. On the welfare front, sources said the manifesto will promise Rs 3,000 per month for beneficiaries

of Lakshmi Bhandar, along with Rs 3,000 monthly assistance for unemployed youth under the proposed Yuva Sathi programme.

Congress Chief Mallikarjun Kharge "Regrets" Gujarat remarks at Poll Rally

Thiruvananthapuram: First, a defence. Then, an apology. Mallikarjun Kharge maintains his Gujarat remarks were "deliberately misinterpreted", and then offered his "sincere regret" over the Gujarat remarks at a Kerala poll rally that caused a massive uproar. "Some remarks of mine in a recent election speech in Kerala are being deliberately misinterpreted. Even so, I express my sincere regret," the Congress chief

posted on X. "It was never my intention to hurt the sentiments of the people of Gujarat for whom I have always had and will continue to have the highest of respect," he underlined. The comments were made during a poll campaign in Kerala's Idukki district.

Kharge had sought to make a comparison between people in Kerala and in Gujarat as he attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief



Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and said the two leaders

"can fool people who are illiterate in Gujarat or in

other places" but not in the poll-bound state.

Minister Lokesh conducts 87th day of Praja Darbar



From Our Staff Reporter Guntur, April, 8: Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh conducted the public grievance redressal program "Praja Darbar." The event was held for the 87th

day at the TDP central office in Mangalagiri, Guntur district. On this occasion, he addressed issues brought by people from various districts across Andhra Pradesh. Not only common

citizens, but also TDP workers and leaders brought their problems to the attention of the party's National General Secretary, Nara Lokesh. The minister patiently listened to their

concerns and received their petitions.

As part of the Praja Darbar program, a complaint was submitted to Minister Lokesh regarding the establishment of the South

Coast Railway. Staff requested him to ensure that the loco pilots' Galla depot in Vijayawada is not relocated during the formation of the South Coast Railway zone. Bus owners who suffered losses due to COVID requested support in the form of replacement buses.

S. Chinn Shivamma from Gundampadu in Kurnool district complained to Minister Lokesh that her inherited 2.63 acres of land had been encroached upon. She requested justice after an inquiry into the matter and asked for her land to be returned. Minister Lokesh patiently listened to everyone's issues, accepted their petitions, and assured that efforts would be made to resolve them after proper review. He also shared this update through a post on X (formerly Twitter).

Resolve the issues of Home Guards : AP BJP Chief writes to CM Chandrababu

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, April, 8: After the bifurcation of the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh state, Home Guards have been facing severe difficulties as they are posted far away from their native places as part of their duties, expressed AP BJP Chief PVN Madhav with concern. He stated that many of them are currently serving in Andhra Pradesh, while their families are residing in Telangana. Around 200 Home Guards belonging to Telangana are presently working in AP. As a result, they are facing serious personal and financial problems. He also expressed concern that they are losing morale.



hope that allowing interstate transfers on a reciprocal basis would help resolve the long-pending issues of Home Guards.

Similarly, in the letter, Madhav explained to CM Chandrababu that fishermen from Cuddalore and Karaikal in neighboring Tamil Nadu are coming to areas like Nellore, Ongole, and Bapatla in Andhra Pradesh and troubling local fishermen. He said several incidents have already occurred that disturb law and order. He criticized that Tamil Nadu fishermen are illegally entering Andhra coastal areas and causing fear among locals.

He recalled that in March this year, locals in Juvvaladinne area of Nellore district detained boats of Tamil Nadu fishermen who were allegedly moving illegally and behaving aggressively. However, with the support of state government and local officials, those boats were released overnight. He stated that no action being taken against them is raising many doubts. Through this letter, PVN Madhav appealed to CM Chandrababu to take action against Tamil Nadu fishermen who are illegally entering Andhra coastal areas and causing fear among locals.

Central government to undertake major constructions in Amaravati worth Rs.2,534 crore

New Delhi/Amaravati, April 8: The Central Government has given good news to Andhra Pradesh. It is set to undertake major construction projects in Amaravati worth Rs.2,534 crore. A key step has been taken toward the construction of the Central Secretariat in Amaravati.

A PIB (Press Information Bureau) memorandum has been prepared allocating Rs.1,299.08 crore for the construction of the Common Central Secretariat (CCS) and Rs.1,234.91 crore for the development of residential complexes (GPR4). For these projects

to move forward quickly, clearance is required for the file currently pending with the Cabinet Secretariat. Officials of Andhra Pradesh have already submitted the Gazette notification recognizing Amaravati as the capital to the Cabinet Secretariat. Approval for this proposal is likely in the upcoming Union Cabinet meeting. Only the Cabinet Secretariat's clearance, which is crucial for further approvals, remains pending.

The file from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has already been approved by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. A total of 22.53 acres of land has been allocated for these central constructions in Amaravati. The Andhra Pradesh government has offered this land to the Central Public Works Department (CPWD). Out of this, 5.53 acres are designated for the Secretariat building and 17 acres for residential complexes (GPR4). Once the Cabinet Secretariat grants clearance, construction of central government offices in Amaravati is expected to accelerate.

Our goal is to win the highest number of Swachh Survekshan awards: Pattabhiram

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, April, 8: Swachh Andhra Corporation Chairman Kommareddy Pattabhiram strongly criticized former Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and the YSRCP. Speaking to the media on Wednesday, he alleged that the previous YSRCP government imposed a tax even on garbage but failed to clear it, leaving huge accumulations behind. He stated that around 153 lakh metric tons of waste across the state were left uncleared and pending. He said that 100 metric tons of

waste have already been cleared, and about 50 lakh metric tons still need to be processed. Pattabhiram added that steps are being taken to establish new processing centers to ensure that waste generated each day is processed on the same day.

"Revenue from waste..." He revealed that fresh waste processing units are being set up in 107 municipalities across the state at a cost of Rs.528.65 crore. These units will have the capacity to process 5,300 tons of waste. He mentioned

that the Central Government has allocated ₹213 crore and the State Government ₹141 crore for these units. Agreements have been made to start operations from June. He also said that steps are being taken to generate revenue from waste.

"Waste-to-energy plants..." Pattabhiram said the government is promoting the use of bio-fertilizers to reduce dependence on chemical fertilizers. Bio-fertilizers produced from processing units will be supplied to farmers at low cost. He added that 10% of the revenue from bio-fertilizer sales will go to the Swachh Andhra Corporation.

He also stated that efforts are being made to recycle waste, with municipalities and the corporation each receiving 10% of the revenue generated from recycling. The government is planning to set up waste-to-energy plants at six locations across the state. He urged citizens to separate wet and dry waste. Awareness programs on sanitation are being conducted in 5,000 schools to educate children. He said that all these measures are

aimed at winning the highest number of Swachh Survekshan awards in the country. He also mentioned plans to introduce a real-time dashboard to continuously monitor waste collection.



EDITORIAL

The economic crisis brought about by lies

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent comments comparing the West Asian conflict to the coronavirus may be intended to be reassuring. But they risk underestimating the severity of the current economic stress. Rather than a public health crisis with a clear domestic policy response, the pandemic should be seen as an external geopolitical crisis with deep economic linkages, particularly through oil, trade and migration. The government's message of "all is well" seems increasingly irrelevant to the real lives of workers, small businesses and families facing rising costs and job losses. The spillover effect of the oil and gas crisis has become the most immediate concern. India's heavy reliance on West Asia, where the bulk of its crude oil and LPG imports come from, has exposed structural weaknesses.

Disruptions in supply chains have already led to factory closures, particularly in energy-intensive sectors like the textile industry. The closure of nearly half of the units in Surat and the loss of millions of jobs are not isolated incidents. They are early warning signs of a broader industrial slowdown. In addition, the shortage of LPG and production is affecting daily life, forcing households and businesses to rely on expensive or polluting alternatives. Macroeconomic indicators further highlight this fragility. A weakening rupee, dwindling foreign exchange reserves, and rising crude oil prices are creating a major crisis. Reports from Moody's Ratings and other agencies point to slowing GDP growth and rising inflation due to high input costs, sluggish consumption, and a slowdown in the economy.

This pressure is not just external. It is also exposing domestic weaknesses such as stagnant wages, high household debt, and uneven private investment. Reliance on indirect taxes like GST also makes government revenues more volatile in times of economic crisis. It limits fiscal flexibility at a time when it is most needed. Equally worrying, the human dimension is also emerging. The early signs of large-scale migration of migrant workers due to job losses and rising living costs mirror the plight seen during the pandemic. If not addressed early, it will further damage key urban industries and exacerbate rural distress.

At the same time, any slowdown in the Gulf economies threatens remittance flows, which are a vital source of livelihood for millions of Indian households and a source of stability to the foreign exchange account. Overall, it is clear that this crisis is not just a temporary disruption but also a stress test of India's economic resilience and policy preparedness. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that the tensions in West Asia are posing further challenges to the Indian economy. The Minister clarified that India is facing external and internal challenges as it works towards the goal of Vikasit Bharat. She expressed concern that the growing conflicts in West Asia have raised regional security concerns, which could make the current fiscal year more difficult for India.

The Finance Minister described the West Asian conflict as a systemic shock that has become a threat to the global energy supply system. She expressed concern that the global economy is facing instability, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity. The Minister said that international government debt has increased. Moody's Ratings has cut India's economic growth forecast to 6 percent for the current fiscal year from 6.8 percent last year. Moody's said that the ongoing war in West Asia is slowing growth and risks increasing inflation. It said that prolonged disruptions due to the war, especially due to LPG transportation, could lead to future shortages of LPG for households, higher fuel and transportation costs, as well as food inflation due to India's dependence on imported fertilizers. Moody's expects India's real GDP growth to slow to 6 percent in 2026-27 from 6.8 percent in 2017, as the ongoing war in West Asia, coupled with higher prices and rising raw material costs, has severely impacted the Indian economy, Moody's said. Former Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) Arvind Subramanian has warned that the country is heading towards a severe economic crisis. He expressed concern that the country's GDP could fall by more than 1 percent and inflation could rise by 1.5 percent due to disruptions in oil, gas and fertiliser supplies due to the war. He analyzed that government subsidies will not last long and will eventually have to be passed on to the common man. He said that the Indian economy is at risk of serious stagnation due to the war in West Asia. The reduction in the fiscal capacity of governments due to huge debts is likely to become another major negative factor in this crisis. The depreciation of the rupee can also pose a serious challenge for policymakers. While the import bill has risen significantly, foreign exchange reserves, which are considered an indicator of the country's economic strength, are rapidly dwindling. India's foreign exchange reserves fell by \$10.29 billion (about Rs. 95 thousand crore) to \$688.06 billion in the week ended March 27, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said. The previous week's decline of \$11.41 billion is also worrying. The impact of tensions in West Asia is having a serious impact on the Indian rupee. The complete depletion of foreign exchange reserves will cause the rupee to depreciate rapidly against the dollar in the international market. This will make the goods we buy from abroad more expensive. As a result, the cost of crude oil imports will increase, leading to an increase in transportation costs and skyrocketing prices of essential commodities in the country. The lack of foreign currency required for the import of machinery will slow down the country's industrial growth. Ultimately, India's creditworthiness will be affected and lead to an economic crisis. The fall in the value of the rupee to the bottom in the international financial market and the continuous increase in oil prices will drown India's import bill. Currently, the import bill is facing a threat from two sides. On the one hand, while crude oil prices are skyrocketing in the international market, on the other hand, the value of the rupee is falling to a low of 95 against the American dollar at one stage. Experts predict that both of these will put severe pressure on the country's economy. This crisis should be taken as a lesson and future reliance on fossil fuels should be reduced. While the government has taken some short-term measures such as reducing fuel taxes and re-directing supplies, these appear to be reactive rather than strategic. To overcome the current crisis, the government needs to procure fuel and fertilizer reserves at low prices from wherever it can around the world on a war footing.

BJP And Left, Ideologically Diverse, Has Same Set Of Voters



As India concluded its demonetisation exercise in the early parts of 2017, a silent change on the electoral landscape was triggered in two states - Bengal and Odisha. This change manifested itself in the by-election results. In Bengal, in the assembly by-elections held to Dakshin Kanthi in 2017, and in Maheshala in 2018, the BJP came runner in both, where in the 2016 assembly elections the party had less than 10 per cent votes. Clearly the BJP had appealed to an aspirational Hindu voter consistently 2017 onwards, fueled by the narrative of demonetisation, being an act of leveling up society. Flash back in history to the early 50s and 60s in Kerala, when the undivided CPI contested without allying with any parties: the party performed well in Hindu majority districts; it did poorly in districts of Kottayam, Ernakulam, and Kozhikode, where the religious minorities have a decisive influence, and the party got better results in places where the SC and the lower caste Ezhavas had a high presence. Again here it was an aspirational section of the Hindu society which had allied with the Left Front.

OPPOSING IDEOLOGIES WITH IDENTICAL SOCIAL BASE

The early trajectories of the stories of the growth of the BJP and the Left, not just reveal similarities in voter base appealed to, but also reinforce the complementary nature of their growth. In Bengal, the growth of the BJP between 2016 and 2019 was precisely in the areas where the LF was strong ear-

lier and not the urban areas which remained a stronghold of the Trinamool. The Trinamool on the other hand claimed and retained a vote, which was largely dependent on an urban populace, and an anti-Left vote, that was inherited from the Congress party. In a nutshell the Congress remained more or less intact; however, the Left voters morphed themselves into BJP voters. A contrast is seen comparing the votes of the Left and the BJP in Bengal between 2016 and 2021 elections. The perfect swap graphic for West Bengal is as below. The Left started by grooming its constituency within the Borgadaras, the share croppers from 1978-80, which remained with the party right until 2017, from whence the BJP started picking up threads. The Jangal Mahal region (Paschim Medinipur, Bankura, Purulia) in West Bengal, the most underdeveloped, has been crucial to the BJP's rise, with a large focus on ST groups, and then the border regions, where the BJP draws a bulk of its support from the Matua's (SCs).

Similarly, in Kerala, one of the most celebrated victories of the BJP is in the Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation in December 2025. The party unseated the 40-year monopoly of the Left, clearly indicating a direct switch between the same set of voters. One of the lesser publicised facts of the 2024 elections in Kerala was a tangible growth of the BJP, post January 2024. The party forfeited its deposit only in 6 of the 16 Lok Sabha seats it con-



tested. Across the state, the BJP grew by reducing the Left to rubble. Here's a flashback: The 2021 success of the LDF in beating anti-incumbency with a sizable 6 per cent lead over the votes of the UDF. The success was based on a consolidation of minority votes in addition to Hindu votes. In the 2024 general election, the Left saw a serious erosion in its vote share, polling just 33.6 per cent votes, a drop of 45.43 per cent from the 2021 assembly election that resulted in a rout across the state.

The vote swap dataset is as follows:

Given the sizable minority population in Kerala, all the loss of the Left does not translate to the gain of the BJP. The gain or loss is complementary. A survey conducted by VMR for MMTV across all 20 seats in Kerala in 2024. It showed the support for the BJP rose from 18 per cent to 27 per cent among the Hindu voters between the two Lok Sabha elections in 2019 and 2024. For every three Hindu voters who voted for the LDF, two Hindu voters voted for the NDA in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

HOW SHIFTING LOYALTIES OF ASPIRATIONAL GROUPS WORK

The Left Front does include various societal groups, having built a rainbow of Hindu support from dominant backward classes in Kerala led by the LDF. Ezhavas and other SC

are the social groups among whom the LF has a primary support base. The vote share of the LDF amongst the Ezhava Hindus, as estimated in a poll conducted by VMR during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Within the Hindus the Left Front's vote share is highest among the OBC's (54.57 per cent) amongst OBC. Similarly, the LF has the highest vote share among the SC (with a support level pegged at 56 per cent). According to an opinion poll conducted in West Bengal recently, amongst the ST the BJP has the largest support at 51 per cent, and even among the Matua, the dominant SC community, it has the largest vote share of 43 per cent followed by 39 per cent, supporting the Trinamool Congress. Clearly, it is the rise of the aspirational Hindu class that has always been the bulwark of the BJP and the Left in the respective states in their growth phases.

SIMILAR ADVENTURES AND PURSUITS

The post-election surveys held by the Delhi-based Centre for the Study of the Developing Societies (CSDS) in the 2011 and 2016 Kerala assembly elections illustrate that the Left Front commanded only 25 per cent to 35 per cent votes of both religious minorities even after forming electoral alliances with parties based on minority groups. One of the most pragmatic solutions for the Left was

to build relationships with breakaway factions of the Muslim League (Indian National League) and build bridges with splinter factions of the Kerala Congress, which represented support of various Christian denominations. The stupendous success of the Left beating anti-incumbency in 2021 in Kerala also includes a fair share of Christian voters brought to its fold by the Kerala Congress (Mani) faction.

One of the last minute surprises in the 2024 Union Cabinet formation was George Kurian, a Christian, as a part of the BJP representation from Kerala in the Union government. It was the BJP addressing a "fill in the blank" for its growth in Kerala. The BJP co-opted various Christian leaders into its fold especially on the plank of "love Jihad" to create its own coalition of Hindu and Christian voters much alike the Left by inducting prominent Christian leaders into its fold. In April 2021, George publicly demanded that India be declared a Hindu Rashtra, to protect Hindus and adherents of other Indian religions. Clearly, the Left and the BJP though ideologically diverse end up cultivating the same set of voters, and their growth is complementary across the states. The goal of a Congress-mukt Bharat, for the BJP, passes through a Left-mukt navigation more than a Congress-mukt navigation, in the Left leaning states.

Iran Scorecard: A List Of Winners, Losers, And Those Who Rigged The Game

The ceasefire in West Asia does not end the conflict. It reveals who was fighting it, and who was winning around it. This scorecard starts with a simple observation: the fighting involved three principals, the United States, Iran, and Israel, but the ceasefire was shaped by others. Who fought and who mediated tells you almost everything about who won.

Iran: Victor by Any Meaningful Measure

Iran is the clearest winner of this conflict. The military outcome was a stalemate, and against the world's most powerful military, a stalemate is a victory. Its missile forces remain functional, its A2/AD architecture was tested and held, and the Strait of Hormuz stayed under effective Iranian control throughout. Every day the strait remained contested, oil prices spiked and global shipping paid a premium, transferring real economic leverage to Tehran. Hormuz control is both a military and a financial instrument, and Iran has now proved it can wield both simultaneously. Above all, the Axis of Resistance survives intact. Hezbollah, the Houthis, the Iraqi factions, the network Iran has spent decades building, emerged functional and emboldened. Tehran can point to a battle-tested proxy network and a demonstrated deterrence capability against two nuclear-armed adversaries. That is regional primacy.

The United States and Trump: Two Different Ledgers

The United States, as a strategic actor, absorbed a serious



and potentially lasting blow. Washington's inability to achieve its objectives against a sanctioned, regionally isolated middle power will reverberate. Partners in the Gulf, in East Asia, in Eastern Europe will recalibrate. The arms-for-security model that has underpinned American regional influence, the implicit bargain of "buy our weapons, host our bases and we will guarantee your survival", is harder to sell after a ceasefire in which the guarantor accepted terms brokered by others. And a financially rejuvenated Iran will be even more difficult in the months and years ahead. Donald Trump is a different accounting entity entirely. He is not invested in long-term American influence architecture. He is invested in his domestic political position as a peacemaker and ender of wars. On that narrow measure, the ceasefire is defensible. No flag-draped coffins. No open-ended commitment. A deal he can brand and a base that reads ending wars as strength rather than retreat. Trump extracted the outcome his political coalition rewarded him for, and the

long-term costs, the credibility erosion, the alliance fraying, the emboldened adversaries, will accrue to institutions and successors he has no interest in protecting. The president and the presidency point in different directions. That divergence is itself a strategic vulnerability.

Netanyahu: A Personal Reckoning

Israel as a state endures. Benjamin Netanyahu as a political figure does not obviously survive this outcome. The war was partly a mechanism for his political survival; the total victory promise that kept his coalition intact and his legal troubles at bay. The ceasefire without victory removes that cover. The hostage families are furious. Coalition partners are sensing blood. The ICC exposure remains unresolved. A highly personal vendetta against Hamas and Iran, pursued with a ferocity that alienated Israel's closest ally at critical moments, has produced a pause rather than a conclusion. Netanyahu is domestically weakened, judicially vulnerable, and increasingly likely

to be removed before the next phase of this conflict begins.

The Gulf: Exposed and Divided

The implications for the Gulf are severe and poorly understood outside the region. The GCC is not a monolith, and the ceasefire has made that abundantly clear. Saudi Arabia is the most exposed. Iranian strikes on Saudi infrastructure during the conflict were pointedly strategic and a demonstration. Riyadh's oil facilities, its air defence architecture, its economic lifelines were shown to be within Iran's effective reach. The ceasefire ends the bombardment. It does not end the vulnerability. Saudi Arabia now lives permanently adjacent to a battle-hardened, narratively victorious, regionally hegemonic Iran, with the American security guarantee visibly diminished and no credible tripwire between them. The UAE paid a different kind of price. Abu Dhabi aligned itself openly with the US war effort, betting that the world's most powerful military would deliver a decisive outcome. It did not. Iran does not forget who

cheered from the sidelines, and the UAE's financial and trade hub ambitions depend on a regional environment that Tehran can now complicate at will. The ceasefire preserves the UAE's immediate position; it does not repair its strategic exposure. Qatar fares better, protected by its studied neutrality and its gas interdependence with Iran, which created mutual incentives for restraint. But even Doha cannot escape the fundamental reality now visible to every Gulf capital: the American security umbrella has limits, and Iran has just demonstrated where those limits are. Pakistan's role deserves acknowledgement precisely because it was unexpected. The Islamabad Accord represents Pakistan's most consequential diplomatic moment in a decade, a return to global relevance that Islamabad will press hard to consolidate. Some Gulf capitals may view Pakistan's brokerage dimly, reading it as a tilt toward Tehran. That displeasure is real but limited: Pakistan's nuclear deterrence, its labour exports, and its Islamic solidarity credentials give it equities in the Gulf that limit any lasting rupture.

Poshan Pakhwada Aims to Boost Children's Cognitive Development

Rampachodavaram, April 8: Polavaram District Joint Collector Bachu Smaran Raj stated that comprehensive measures are being implemented through Anganwadi centers to enhance the cognitive development of children. He unveiled the poster for the 8th Poshan Pakhwada at the ITDA office on Wednesday. The program will be conducted from April 9 to 23 across all Anganwadi centers under eight ICDS projects. Awareness activities will focus on maternal and child nutrition, early brain development (0-3 years), play-based learning for children (3-6 years), parental involvement, and reducing screen time.



Officials emphasized the role of community support in strengthening Anganwadi centers and directed staff to promote learning through play, while ensuring proper nutrition for pregnant women and lactating mothers.

Rs170 Crore Plan for Indira Gandhi Municipal Stadium Development



Vijayawada, April 8: State Transport and Sports Minister Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy laid the foundation stone for the development of the Indira Gandhi Municipal Corporation Stadium in Vijayawada under Khelo India funds.

The project, estimated at around ₹160-170 crore, will be executed in three phases with contributions from Khelo India, the Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SAAP), and the state government. The Minister said the government aims to strengthen sports infrastructure across the state and make Andhra Pradesh a leading sports hub in the country within the next three years.

He added that sports development works, which had slowed earlier, are now gaining momentum across cities like Guntur and Srikakulam. Plans are also underway to develop a Sports City and Sports University in Amaravati and to host National Games by 2029.

MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni) and SAAP Chairman Animini Ravi Naidu also highlighted that the upgraded stadium will meet international standards and significantly boost sports activities in the region.

Farmers Urged to Adopt Crop Diversification as Paddy Procurement Begins



Rajamahendravaram, April 8: District Collector Keerthi Chekuri inaugurated a paddy procurement

center at Malakapalli village in Tallapudi mandal on Wednesday. She stated that all arrangements for Rabi paddy procurement have been completed, with nearly 50% of harvesting already finished in the mandal. The Collector advised farmers in upland areas to shift from paddy cultivation to oil palm, citing reduced risks like moisture-related losses and improved soil health. She emphasized that the government is extending full support for oil palm cultivation.

MLA Muppidi Venkateswara Rao assured that adequate gunny bags and staff are available, and payments will be credited to farmers within 24 hours.

The Collector and MLA also inspected the Primary Health Centre, reviewed services and sanitation, and promoted awareness on tuberculosis, highlighting free treatment and early detection.

Free Solar Power Scheme Launched for SC/ST Beneficiaries

Kakinada, April 8: District Collector M.N. Harendhira Prasad inaugurated the free solar power scheme under the "PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana" at Jalluru village in Pithapuram constituency on Wednesday. The scheme, implemented by the Electricity Department, aims to provide financial relief to SC/ST households by reducing electricity costs. Solar panels were installed at the residence of beneficiary Koramari Nagamani. The Collector stated that households consuming up to 200 units per month are eligible and will receive an incentive of ₹200 per month. In the district, around 19,000 people are eligible, with 16,000 applications received so far. The project targets installation of solar systems with a capacity of 12.94 MW at a cost of ₹73.56 crore. Each household will get a 2 kW solar panel free of cost. In Jalluru alone, 72 beneficiaries are



being covered. Officials and public representatives attended the ??????????.

Mutations Must Be Completed Quickly: JC Sedhu Madhavan



and ensuring that farmers do not face any

Vizianagaram, April 8: Joint Collector Sedhu Madhavan has directed revenue officials to speed up the distribution of Pattadar Passbooks, resurvey works, and mutation processes in the district. During a review meeting held at the Collectorate on Wednesday, he emphasized error-free preparation of passbooks

inconvenience. He also instructed officials to accelerate the digitization of revenue records and correct discrepancies in identified villages to achieve 100% accuracy. Petitions received through PGRS and Revenue Clinics should be resolved promptly without delays, he said, adding that reopened grievances must be handled with special attention.

The JC further directed that LPMS issues be resolved by June and that Tahsildars personally attend to revenue petitions. He stressed completing voter revision mapping and enhancing WhatsApp governance services for better public service delivery.

Special Committees Formed for Water Resource Conservation

Rampachodavaram, April 08: District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar announced that the district administration has accelerated the implementation of the "Jaladhara - Jala Harathi" program aimed at water conservation, groundwater recharge, and efficient water usage.

Special committees have been formed at the mandal level across Rampachodavaram and Chinturu divisions, involving officials from irrigation, groundwater, DWMA, RWS, horticulture, agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, and forest departments.

The Collector directed officials to work in coordination to take up activities such as desilting of tanks, cleaning of streams, construction of recharge pits, and prevention of water wastage. Field visits and regular monitoring have also been emphasized.



He stressed that the program should be implemented with public participation to ensure sustainable water resources and improved irrigation support for farmers.

Build Strong Character to Achieve Higher Goals: Eagle IGP A.K. Ravi Krishna

Rajamahendravaram, April 8: Eagle IGP A.K. Ravi Krishna advised students to develop a strong personality and strive for higher positions in life, comparing growth to a bamboo plant that strengthens its roots before rising. He spoke as the chief guest at anti-ragging, anti-alcoholism, drug abuse, and cybercrime awareness programs held at Adikavi Nannaya University and Godavari Global University. Addressing around 1,000 students, he urged youth to stay away from drugs and focus on positive thinking and self-discipline to build a bright future. He noted that awareness programs have reached nearly 20 lakh students across the state.



He also cautioned about increasing cybercrimes, advising victims to report incidents to helpline 1930 and share drug-related information via 1972. He said Eagle is working towards a drug-free Andhra Pradesh by forming committees in about 40,000 educational institutions. Students

were encouraged to use libraries and seek guidance from teachers to achieve success.

Construction Safety Rules Mandatory: Minister Warns of Strict Action



Visakhapatnam, April 8: State Labour Minister Vasamsetti Subhash stated that safety regulations must be strictly followed at all construction sites in Visakhapatnam district. He warned that strict action

will be taken against those who violate the rules. During surprise inspections at multiple sites, including projects in Endada, Sagar Nagar, and Madhurawada IT SEZ, the Minister identified several lapses. He noted the lack of basic facilities like toilets for workers and non-usage of essential safety gear such as masks, gloves, helmets, and safety boots.

The Minister also highlighted major violations in cess payments, with some companies continuing work despite large pending dues. He emphasized the importance of worker registration, stating that labourers can avail government welfare schemes through a one-time registration fee.

He directed officials and managements to ensure proper safety measures, timely cess payments, and access to welfare benefits for all construction workers.

Malakapalli Selected as Solar Model Village

Rajamahendravaram, April 8: Malakapalli village has been selected as the first Solar Model Village in the district, said Collector Keerthi Chekuri. The village has received a special grant of ₹1 crore from the Central Government, which will boost development activities.



Speaking at the PM SC-ST Surya Ghar Yojana event held in the village, the Collector inaugurated solar units installed in two houses. She stated that with solar units set up on 68 houses, Malakapalli has earned recognition as the district's first solar-powered village.

The grant will be used to provide solar power for essential services such as the Primary Health Centre, schools, street lighting, and drinking water pumping. This initiative is expected to significantly reduce electricity costs and enable further development works.

MLA Muppidi Venkateswara Rao urged people to utilize the free electricity scheme. He mentioned that 4,704 applications have already been received in Kovvur con-

stituency, and installations will be done in phases. Subsidies and bank loan facilities are also being provided for other eligible groups.

Staff Efforts Bring Good Reputation to Power Department: Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar



Vijayawada, April 8: Andhra Pradesh Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar said that the electricity department has earned a good reputation due to the collective efforts

of its staff. He inaugurated the new corporate office of APCPDCL at Gunadala.

The Minister stated that the government is committed to providing quality and uninterrupted power supply without increasing tariffs, as per the directions of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. He added that steps are being taken to prevent power disruptions and low-voltage issues, while aiming to improve consumer satisfaction from 80% to 95%.

He also highlighted initiatives like new substations, solar and wind energy projects, and battery storage systems to enhance power generation. Officials noted that advanced software is being used for transparency, and the new building is designed with a 'Net Zero' concept using green energy technologies.

Collector Conducts Surprise Inspection at Valetivaripalem Tahsildar Office



Ongole, April 8: District Collector P. Rajababu conducted a surprise inspection at the Valetivaripalem Tahsildar office along with Sub-Collector D. Hima Vamsi. He reviewed the handling of revenue issues and grievance petitions, warning officials against negligence and directing them to resolve applications promptly with proper endorsements. The Collector also assessed land acquisition progress for the 167(B) road and compensation payments, and inquired about land availability and survey

processes for the proposed JSW company project. He instructed officials to speed up these works. Additionally, he reviewed implementation of MGNREGS works, drinking water tank cleaning, and the "Jaladhara-Jala Harathi" program, emphasizing coordinated efforts at the mandal level. The Collector inspected record rooms and various sections, stressing proper maintenance and safety of records, and interacted with visiting citizens regarding their issues.

SHOCK NEWS: Collector Reviews Massive 10th Class Paper Evaluation Process

Rajahmendravaram, April 8: In a significant development, District Collector Keerthi Chekuri conducted a surprise review of the ongoing evaluation of 10th class public examination answer scripts held in March 2026. On Wednesday, the Collector visited the evaluation center set up at Bala Vignana Mandir High School, Sriram Nagar (Lalitha Nagar), and closely inspected the arrangements and overall management. She thoroughly examined the procedures being followed, security measures in place, and the performance of the staff involved. Issuing strict instructions, the Collector emphasized that the evaluation process must be carried out with complete transparency and strict adherence to timelines. She made it clear that negligence in checking answer scripts will not be tolerated and directed evaluators to assess every paper fairly and without bias. Officials informed her that a total of 1,76,032 answer scripts are being evaluated across the district. For this massive exercise, 755 personnel, including evaluators, supervisors, and reserve staff, have been deployed. The evaluation process, which began on April 6, will continue until April 15. Highlighting the importance



of students' futures, Collector Keerthi Chekuri stressed that the evaluation must be conducted with utmost care, accuracy, and impartiality. Regional Joint Director of School Education G. Nagamani, Assistant Commissioner of Examinations M. Amala Kumari, and District Educational Officer K. Vasudeva Rao, along with other officials, were present during the review.

Balanced Budget Focused on Development & Welfare: Minister Ponguru Narayana



Kakinada, April 8: State Municipal Administration Minister Ponguru Narayana stated that the 2026-27 state budget has been designed to balance development and welfare while overcoming financial constraints. He was speaking at a budget outreach program held at the Collectorate. The minister said that despite reduced financial resources post state bifurcation and the burden of previous debts, the government is committed to maintaining economic stability without compromising on welfare. Key initiatives under the "Super Six" schemes—including enhanced

pensions, women empowerment programs, farmer support, and welfare schemes—are being implemented effectively.

He also highlighted that pro-industry policies have attracted investments worth ₹9.68 lakh crore, generating large-scale employment opportunities. Upcoming investments through the Global Partnership Summit and the proposed Google data center in Visakhapatnam are expected to further boost the state's growth. District Collector M.N. Harendhira Prasad and several public representatives attended the program.

Collector Inspects Anganwadi Centre in Jalluru



Kakinada, April 08: District Collector M.N. Harendhira Prasad inspected the Anganwadi centre in Jalluru and the Zilla Parishad High School in Kumarapuram during his visit to Pithapuram mandal on Wednesday. At the Anganwadi centre, he interacted with children and reviewed the kitchen and store room to check the quality of supplies. He instructed staff to provide nutritious food as per the prescribed menu. Later, at the high school, the Collector discussed facilities, including drinking water, with education officials and directed them to ensure smooth conduct of examinations.

Basic Infrastructure in Tribal Areas to be Ensured: Collector Kritika Shukla

Narasaraopet, April 08: Palnadu District Collector Kritika Shukla directed officials to expedite works sanctioned under PM Jan Man and PM Juga schemes to improve infrastructure in tribal habitations. During a review meeting held at the Collector's camp office, she stated that works worth ₹41.38 crore have been sanctioned under PM Jan Man, out of which ₹17.56 crore worth of projects have been completed so far. These include construction of pucca houses, drinking water supply, hostels, anganwadi centers, electrification, and mobile towers in Chenchu areas. She also instructed officials to provide solar power through the PM Surya Ghar scheme in forest areas facing electricity issues and to begin construction of mobile towers in already allotted sites. Under PM Juga, works worth around ₹18 crore are to be taken up in seven tribal villages. Officials including ITDA Srisailam PO



Venkata Siva Prasad participated in the meeting.

Repairs of Tanks and Check Dams Accelerated under 'Jaladhara-Jala Harathi'



Gangavaram, April 8: Polavaram District Joint Collector Bachu Smaran Raj stated that repair works of tanks and check dams are being expedited to ensure adequate irrigation water for farmers. During his visit to Gangavaram village, he reviewed the progress of the "Jaladhara-Jala Harathi" program.

He said that under the guidance of District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar, necessary repairs are being carried out as part of a 100-day action plan from April 6 to July 14. The initiative focuses on water conservation, groundwater recharge, restoration of water bodies, and improved irrigation facilities through village-level planning.

Collector Conducts Surprise Inspection at Konduru PHC

Kakinada, April 08: District Collector M.N. Harendhira Prasad conducted a surprise inspection at the Panduru Primary Health Centre in Kakinada Rural mandal. He reviewed medical services, availability of doctors, operation theatre, labour room, and inpatient and outpatient facilities.

The Collector interacted with patients to gather feedback on services and instructed medical staff to utilize available resources efficiently to provide better healthcare. District Malaria Officer Dr. I. Prabhakar and Medical Officer Dr. K. Madhavi were present during the inspection.



Collector Orders Fast-Track Infrastructure in Rehabilitation Colonies

Markapuram, April 8: District Collector M. Vijaya Sunitha has directed officials to expedite the development of basic infrastructure in rehabilitation colonies under the Veligonda Project. She inspected Sunkesula, Idupuru, and Devarajugattu rehabilitation colonies on Wednesday and reviewed their current status. During a review meeting, the Collector instructed officials to complete jungle clearance works and identify and finish pending CC roads at the earliest. She also emphasized timely disbursement of compensation to beneficiaries based on the availability of government funds. Project Special Collector Sridhar Reddy, along with officials Satyanarayana and Venkata Sivaramireddy, participated in the program.



No Compromise on Water Quality: Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha

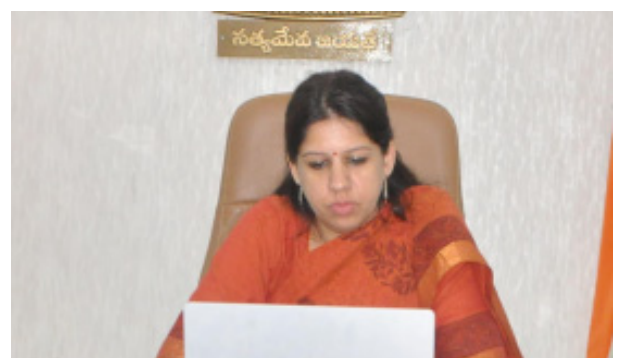


Vijayawada, April 8: District Collector and VMC Special Officer Dr. G. Lakshmisha directed officials to ensure strict monitoring of

RO water plants and drinking water supply systems in Vijayawada amid the summer season. During a surprise inspection at RO plants in Muthyalampadu and Satyanarayanapuram, he reviewed water sources, permissions, equipment, hygiene standards, and quality testing systems. He emphasized that all drinking water units must follow prescribed standards and provide safe, quality water to the public. Regular inspections, display of maintenance schedules, and strict action against unauthorized or sub-standard plants were ordered. With rising summer demand, he warned against any negligence in water quality and urged officials to maintain continuous vigilance and coordination. Public were also advised to report any issues to authorities.

Complaint Resolution Must Be Prioritized: District Collector Kritika Shukla

Narasaraopet, April 8: District Collector Kritika Shukla emphasized that officials should focus on resolving the grievances of complainants rather than merely responding to petitions received through the public grievance redressal platform. She stated that this approach would help reduce the number of reopened cases. On Wednesday evening, the Collector conducted a video conference with district officials from the local Collector's camp office. She noted that an online system has been provided to transfer complaints between departments, but cautioned officials against avoiding responsibility by claiming that petitions do not belong to their respective departments.



Vijayawada Aims for Top Rank in Swachh Survekshan



Vijayawada, April 8: District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha stated that Vijayawada is aiming to secure the top rank in the upcoming Swachh Survekshan by strengthening public participation and implementing innovative strategies. At a meeting held with over 30 Residential Welfare Associations (RWAs) and Terrace Garden groups, the Collector emphasized that sustaining and improving rankings requires collective effort. He urged citizens to take responsibility for cleanliness, starting with waste segregation at the household level. The Collector also highlighted the importance of increasing green cover, promoting terrace gardening, and maintaining parks for better public health. Municipal Commissioner Dhyana Chandra noted that awareness programs will be conducted at the ward level to ensure continued progress.

Rs.185 crore for Vijayawada stadium development: Minister Mandipalli

From Our Staff Reporter

Vijayawada, April, 8: Andhra Pradesh Transport and Sports Minister Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy said that the coalition government is giving top priority to sports development in the state. He stated that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and young leader, Minister Nara Lokesh are encouraging the growth of sports. He expressed confidence that under Lokesh's leadership, Andhra Pradesh will become a hub for sports. He mentioned that the Indira Gandhi Municipal Stadium (IGMC) in Vijayawada is being developed with investments worth hundreds of crores.

"Development worth hundreds of crores..." For the development of this stadium, Rs.20 crore will be provided through Khelo India, another Rs.20 crore through the Sports Authority (SAAP), and around Rs.160 crore by



the state government through the Municipal Administration in three phases, the minister said. He criticized the previous government for neglecting the stadium for five years. He added that under the leadership of MP Kesineni Sivanath, along with coordination from Municipal Administration and SAAP, a government order (GO) has now been issued for its development. He also

praised the MP's efforts in promoting sports as President of the Andhra Cricket Association and said that ministers and MPs are continuously meeting Union ministers to secure funds for the state. "A pride of Vijayawada..." MP Kesineni Sivanath said Vijayawada is rapidly developing and will gain further prominence with Amaravati receiving

permanent recognition as the state capital. He noted that sports infrastructure is improving in cities like Visakhapatnam, Tirupati, and Vijayawada along with the Amaravati region.

He announced that the IGMC Stadium in Vijayawada will be developed in three phases at an estimated cost of Rs.185 crore. He also said Amaravati will become a sports city and a sports university will be established there. The Chief Minister is determined to build a massive sports city over 2,500 acres in Amaravati.

The government is also planning to encourage women athletes further. Efforts are underway to host the National Games in Vijayawada and Amaravati by 2029. He added that dynamic officials in the district administration are playing a key role in the development of NTR district.