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BJP Eyes Assam Hat-Trick, Three-Way Contest In Kerala High-Stake Polls



New Delhi: Assam, Kerala, and Puducherry kickstarted the 2026 election cycle this morning. The BJP is bidding for an Assam hat-trick, while Kerala's Left front wants a fifth straight term. N Rangaswamy's AINRC is plotting a fourth win in five Puducherry polls. The headline state in this round is Assam. A high-

voltage campaign concluded Tuesday after the BJP and Congress traded allegations and denials amid a flood of promises. The BJP promised implementation of the UCC, two lakh jobs, ejection of illegal migrants, Rs 5 lakh crore to boost connectivity, and two LPG cylinders, a nod to gas shortage reports amid the US war on Iran. Much of the campaign rhetoric centred on 'jati-mati-bheti', i.e., the BJP's assertion it will protect Assamese land and culture against infiltration by 'miyas', a derogatory term for Muslims of Bangladeshi origin and whom the ruling party has branded 'illegal immigrants'.

PM Modi Slams Mamata Banerjee Over "MISGUIDED" Fish Farming Policies, She Replies

Kolkata: The West Bengal government led by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has failed to make the state self-reliant in fish farming or pisciculture despite a massive demand for it, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said at a gathering in Purba Medinipur today. PM Modi questioned the ruling Trinamool Congress what it has been doing for the last 15 years that the state, which has a very high demand for fish consumption, has been compelled to bring them from other states in order to

plug any shortage. "Another immense opportunity in West Bengal lies in fish farming - in fisheries and seafood... Despite the immense demand for fish here in Bengal, the state remains far from self-reliant in fish production," PM Modi said at the gathering. "Even today, Bengal is compelled to import fish from other states to meet its domestic requirements. Even after 15 years in power, the Trinamool Congress has failed to provide you with even something as basic as



fish; that, too, must be sourced from outside the state," he said in a video of the event posted by news agency on X. (Turn to Page 7)

'Should Be Celebrated' Shashi Tharoor Exclusive On Pak Role In Ceasefire



New Delhi: India should celebrate Pakistan's mediation that led to a US-Iran ceasefire because we want peace too, senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor told Vasudha Venugopal in an exclusive interview. He also described India's response as "mature" and "sensible". Asked if Islamabad's role in mediating the truce should make New Delhi apprehensive, he replied, "I don't see why, because honestly, not everything is zero-sum. If Pakistan were being applauded for sending terrorists to India, then it would be a zero-sum game."

'Remarks Meant To Influence Assam Poll Process': FIR Against Pawan Khera

New Delhi: It began with a press conference. Now, the cops are involved. On Day 3, the Assam Police are still searching for Congress leader Pawan Khera in connection with the allegations he made against Assam Chief Minister Himanta Sarma's wife, Riniki Bhuyan, barely days before

polls in the northeastern state. Khera, the Congress' Media and Publicity Department head, held two press conferences on April 5: one in Delhi and another in Guwahati. The Congress leader alleged that Sarma's wife has multiple passports and foreign property, which were not declared

in the Chief Minister's election affidavit. The allegations were rejected as "false, fabricated and malicious" by the Sarmas. On a complaint by the Chief Minister's wife, the case was registered at the Guwahati Crime Branch Police Station against Khera under several sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya

Sanhita (BNS), including Section 175 (false statement in connection with an election), Section 35 (Right of private defence of the body and of property) and Section 318 (cheating). Early on Tuesday morning, the state police landed at Khera's Delhi home. The Congress leader was away in Hyderabad.



Political leaders' behavior and performance should be role models for youth: Ayyannapatru

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, April, 9: Andhra Pradesh Assembly Speaker Chintakayala Ayyannapatru stated that the current state of politics in society is discouraging youth. He was speaking at the West Zone conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association held in Goa.



considered political laboratories, are now producing very few leaders entering politics. Recalling N. T. Rama Rao, he said that after founding the Telugu Desam Party, NTR provided political opportunities to many from the new generation and those without political backgrounds. He also mentioned that N. Chandrababu Naidu has been elected as an MLA nine times. The Speaker suggested that after implementing women's reservation, 33% of seats in legislatures should be reserved for those under 40 years of age, which would bring fresh energy into politics.

He emphasized that without innovative thinking, it is not possible to attract youth towards politics or provide them opportunities. Speaker Ayyannapatru, who attended the CPA West Zone conference in Goa, also met Goa Governor P. S. Sreedharan Pillai (note: text mentions Ashok Gajapathi Raju, likely referring to a dignitary). During the meeting held at Lok Bhavan, he presented the book Maverick Messiah, written by Ramesh Kandula based on the political life of NTR, to the Governor and Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh.

AP Deputy Speaker Raghurama Krishnam Raju condemns YSRCP attack on ABN Andhra Jyothy

From Our Staff Reporter West Godavari, April, 9: Several political leaders have already condemned the attacks by YSRCP cadres on the offices of ABN Andhra Jyothy. Political leaders warned that a civilized society will not tolerate attacks for speaking the truth fearlessly or attempts to suppress press freedom.

Leaders of the ruling alliance, including Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, and Minister Nara Lokesh, strongly opposed the attacks. Former Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu also condemned the incident. Reacting to the attacks, AP Deputy Speaker Raghurama Krishnam Raju said that there are proper ways to express protest and questioned why attacks were being carried out. He remarked that YSRCP seems to consider violence as a form of protest. He sarcastically commented that earlier, when the Telugu Desam Party office was attacked, the slogan "Why Not 175" was reduced to 11. He also criticized YSRCP chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for repeatedly talking about bringing "Mavigen," say-

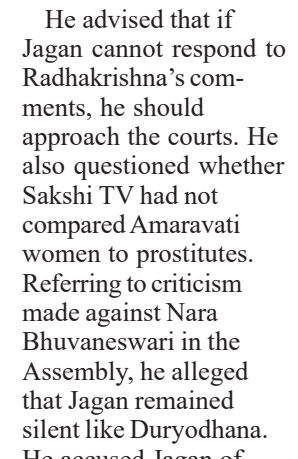
ing that such claims would not materialize. He asserted that even if such a bill is proposed in the AP Assembly, it will not happen. Raghurama further remarked that people are not free to watch "movies" every day, referring to Jagan's statements. He also spoke about his custodial torture case, stating that he is seeking punishment for those who assaulted him. Recalling a custodial torture case in Tamil Nadu where a father and son died, he said the consequences faced by the police in that case are well



known. He expressed hope that justice would be delivered similarly in his case, adding that this is why "Sunil Kumar and his group" are fearful.

Jagan's remarks on ABN MD... Minister Atchannaidu gives a strong counter

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, April, 9: Minister K. Atchannaidu strongly criticized former Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. Speaking to the media on Thursday, he said Jagan has no right to speak about women. "You are talking about a newspaper... your wife is also a media owner," he remarked. He stated that Vemuri Radhakrishna did not start a newspaper using corrupt money or by misusing his father's power like Jagan allegedly did. He added that Radhakrishna worked as a journalist and rose step by step before establishing his media organization. He said Radhakrishna has been presenting the realities of Andhra Pradesh to the public and speaking to create awareness.



He advised that if Jagan cannot respond to Radhakrishna's comments, he should approach the courts. He also questioned whether Sakshi TV had not compared Amaravati women to prostitutes. Referring to criticism made against Nara Bhuvaneshwari in the Assembly, he alleged that Jagan remained silent like Duryodhana. He accused Jagan of verbally harassing Amaravati women and TDP members. "Where were you when YSR died?" The minister further alleged that after coming to power in 2019 with a request for "one chance," Jagan caused destruction in the state. He questioned why Jagan holds such grudges against Andhra Pradesh. He said people

gave power to the NDA with strong faith, and claimed that within 22 months, the state was put back on track with central support. He recalled that Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy became Chief Minister in 2004 and said everyone knows the financial condition at that time. He alleged that Jagan mentally troubled YSR. He questioned Jagan's whereabouts at the time of YSR's death, asking: "When everyone was worried about YSR's whereabouts, was Jagan lobbying for the Chief Minister's post? Even before confirming what happened, did he collect signatures for the CM? Why was he in other states at that time?" "Jagan has no thought beyond power" Atchannaidu further

alleged that Jagan was responsible for his uncle's murder and questioned whether he remembers leaving his mother and sister in distress. He criticized Jagan, saying he has no thoughts beyond power. He also claimed that there are suspicions regarding Jagan's role in YSR's death. He said Jagan's shows what happens when a "psycho" is given power. He alleged that Jagan had earlier instigated attacks on Reliance agencies blaming them for his father's death, but later allotted a Rajya Sabha seat to a person linked to Reliance. The minister added that even Botsa Satyanarayana had spoken about Jagan's alleged role in YSR's death.

Accused arrested in 'Chinna Tirupati' fake ticket scam: DSP

Eluru, April 8: DSP Shraavan Kumar stated that seven accused have been arrested in connection with the fake ticket scam at Dwaraka Tirumala Temple (popularly known as "Chinna Tirupati"). He said that along with the main Raju, six other temple employees have also been arrested. Speaking in Eluru on Thursday, the DSP said that a laptop, printer, and five mobile phones used for printing fake tickets were seized from the accused. The scam came to light in the second week of March this year at the famous pilgrimage site of Dwaraka Tirumala in Eluru district, where fake (darshan) tickets were being sold at the temple of Lord Venkateswara. The issue was exposed when some tickets failed to scan at the temple's scanning point. It became a major talking point as Raju, the son of the



temple's AEO (Assistant Executive Officer) Ramanaraju, was identified as the prime accused in the case. Due to heavy devotee rush, temple staff usually take strict precautions. Devotees purchase tickets at the counter, enter the temple, and present them at the scanning point, where security personnel scan the tickets before allowing entry. Raju, who was working as an outsourcing employee

at the temple, allegedly sold Rs.200 tickets through the counter. However, when these tickets were scanned at the entry point, they failed to register. Security personnel immediately informed higher temple authorities. Officials then examined the issued tickets and identified 61 fake tickets. They questioned Raju regarding the issue, after which temple authorities lodged a complaint with the police.

EDITORIAL

Will those two states
achieve a hat-trick?

Elections are being held in the states of Kerala, Assam and the Union Territory of Puducherry on Thursday (April 9). There is nothing special to discuss about the Puducherry elections this time. It seems that the opposition to the government will not work as a strong factor in Kerala and Assam this time. In Kerala, the CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) is currently fighting hard against the opposition to the government expressed among the people and the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF). Although all the members of these two fronts are part of the united opposition platform at the national level, in the state of Kerala they are clashing with each other in a "who are you" manner. As for the BJP, it has yet to prove itself as a major party in state politics. The LDF government led by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan is aiming to win for the third consecutive time and score a hat-trick. In 2021, the LDF, which has been in power for decades, rewrote Kerala's political history and came to power for the second time, breaking the tradition of changing the government every five years in Kerala.

Now it is determined to win for the third time and create a historic record. In the last ten years, the LDF has widely advertised that it has implemented schemes like Life Mission, social security pensions, extreme poverty eradication, changes in education and medical sectors, and minimum wage for laborers, and that these will make it win. Under the Life Mission scheme, it has built and distributed five lakh houses for the poor. Under the poverty eradication scheme, it has liberated about 64,000 families. The LDF has focused on 'performance-based politics' rather than personal criticism. However, financial difficulties in the state and delay in pension distribution have led to criticism from the opposition. Meanwhile, the CPM party has faced unexpected resistance this time. Five experienced and key senior leaders have left the party and entered the fray as rebel candidates as independents of the Congress-backed UDF.

Some of them have been contesting seats like Kanchukota and Payannur for the CPM since 1967. In Kerala, the allegations that these three alliances are fighting fiercely on the outside but are making agreements for mutual benefits on the inside are creating excitement among the voters. As for the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF), it is hopeful of winning these assembly elections with the enthusiasm it achieved in the 2025 Lok Sabha and local body elections. It has won four corporations in the recent local body elections. It is noteworthy that the Muslim League has achieved better results than the CPM in the local body elections in strong seats like Malappuram. After the defeat in the 2021 assembly elections, the UDF has given opportunities to new and young people as candidates. The Congress is planning to implement the model of promises that were successful in Telangana in Kerala.

It has announced six guarantees to attract students, women and youth. These include interest-free loans of up to Rs 5 lakh for small traders and special support price of Rs 250 per kg for rubber farmers. Looking at the Assam Assembly elections, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma is hoping to become the Chief Minister for the second time and the NDA government to win for the third time. Sharma is strengthening the Hindutva ideology and turning the anti-Muslim argument into a serious form. Moreover, he is known for making hate speeches. His election affidavit of 2018 revealed that 40 cases were registered against him. Most of these cases are related to hate speeches. Here, the main goals of the BJP are to eradicate Muslim infiltrators. Development projects and Hindutva extremism. It cites cow violence, love jihad and religious conversion as the main issues.

Under the Arunodaya scheme, 40 lakh people are directly receiving Rs 1250 per month in their bank accounts under the welfare scheme. It is said that it is imperative to drive out infiltrators from the state and prevent illegal encroachments. The CM has made serious allegations that Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi has links with Pakistan, and in return, Gogoi has made sensational allegations that CM Sharma's wife has passports from three countries, including the UAE, Egypt, and Barbours, and is ready to flee abroad if she loses. In Puducherry, the NDA government under the leadership of All India NR Congress leader N Rangaswamy has been in power since 2021. Although there are only 30 constituencies here, the personal prestige of the candidates, their connection with the people, and social relations are the reasons for their success rather than party politics.

Why Lebanon Was Excluded
From Ceasefire Plan

Lebanon has emerged as a critical fault line in US-Iran peace talks after Israel targeted capital Beirut and other locations in the country Wednesday evening, killing over 250 people in attacks Lebanese President Joseph Aoun slammed as 'barbaric'.

The attack came hours after the US and Iran announced a two-week ceasefire to a war that began Feb 28 and escalated to missile strikes on Gulf energy infrastructure and a near-shutdown of the Strait of Hormuz, causing a global energy crisis.

Citing Tel Aviv's attacks, Iran also fired missiles - at Israel and other Gulf nations - raising fears of a ceasefire collapse - and re-imposed a 'shutdown' of the Hormuz, the narrow maritime channel that handles a fifth of the world's seaborne crude oil trade.

Ceasefire Chaos: Israel Hits Lebanon, Iran Fires Back. Trump's Next Move?

How the US deals with this episode - President Donald Trump has three options - resume fighting or push for a diplomatic resolution, which will mean reigning in Israel - will determine if the ceasefire holds or an even more destructive war breaks out.

Israel's Beirut strikes

Israel's attacks on Lebanon were its fiercest yet in this war; it reportedly fired 100+ missiles in 10 minutes at claimed Hezbollah targets in Beirut, southern Lebanon and the east-

ern Bekaa Valley.

Beirut's central neighbourhoods were targeted earlier in this war but never so heavily or in the middle of the day.

Associated Press journalists in the city saw charred bodies at one of its busiest intersections in the Corniche al Mazraa area, a mixed commercial and residential area.

The attacks underscored a key gap in the ceasefire agreement.

The Lebanon conundrum

Iran has insisted any deal must include Lebanon.

This position was made clear in backchannel talks in early March, according to some reports. And sources told Reuters Tehran had made "guarantees" that any ceasefire will include cessation of attacks on proxies like the Hezbollah.

But the US and Israel disagree.

Trump spoke to American broadcaster PBS News Wednesday morning and said he viewed any strikes on Beirut as "a separate skirmish", and that Lebanon had been excluded from the truce because of Hezbollah, i.e., the Iran-backed militia group. "That will get taken care of too..."

Senior Trump administration officials have suggested the President is intent on ending Iran's 'axis of resistance', i.e., armed proxy groups operating like Hezbollah, Hamas in Gaza,



and the Houthis (who control parts of Yemen and threaten shipping in the Bab al-Mandab Strait).

Trump, they said, believes disarming the Hezbollah is crucial to long-term West Asia peace.

The US has considered Hezbollah a 'terrorist' organisation for years, blaming it for a series of bombings and hijackings in the 1980s, including one targeting Marines in Beirut.

And State Department documents and United Nations reports describe it as one of the most heavily armed non-state actors in the region, with an arsenal that includes thousands of rockets and a sophisticated cross-border tunnel network

Israel has been equally clear about what it claims are "exis-

tential threats". Officials have already stressed that Benjamin Netanyahu's goal is to target Lebanon till the Hezbollah is wiped out.

But Pakistan, which played the go-between role in US-Iran talks, has indicated otherwise. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said the truce applied "everywhere" and explicitly included Lebanon.

This ambiguity will be a litmus test for US attempts to secure peace.

If Trump can't get Netanyahu to stand down, at least for now, Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei - already under pressure from hardliners for agreeing to a truce in the first place - likely won't be able to stop the IRGC from arguing the US has failed to enforce peace and resuming the war.

Why Lebanon?

Because of the Hezbollah. Its name translates to 'party of God' in Arabic.

Financed and armed by Iran, it is the most prominent player in Iran's 'axis of resistance'.

Created by the IRGC during the Lebanese Civil War, the Shiite Muslim movement gained its moniker - 'the Resistance' - by fighting Israeli troops occupying southern Lebanon till 2000.

Six years later Israel and Hezbollah were at war again; a month-long conflict that killed over 1,200 people, mostly civilians, after the Hezbollah kidnapped two Israeli soldiers.

The Hamas' October 7, 2023, attacks on Israel prompted another exchange of rockets and artillery fire, and it waded into this war March 2, firing a barrage of projectiles at northern Israel.

All That Glitters Is Not Being Mined

We are a nation obsessed with gold, a civilisation that treats the yellow metal as both a spiritual necessity and the ultimate firewall against the vagaries of fortune. Yet, while we sit atop an estimated 500 million tons of unmined gold ore, our domestic production remains a rounding error on the global ledger. We mine a pittance - barely one and a half tons a year - while draining our foreign exchange reserves to import hundreds of tons annually from mines in Australia, Ghana, and Peru. This state of affairs is more than an irony; it is a self-inflicted wound that undermines our economic sovereignty at a time when the world order is fracturing. The glittering paradox that sits at the heart of the Indian economy is not merely a curiosity for geologists; it is a profound indictment of national policy. For decades, the Indian state has approached gold mining with a mindset of scarcity and suspicion rather than one of strategic abundance. The regulatory labyrinth that a prospective miner must navigate is so dense and archaic that it effectively functions as a prohibition. From the initial reconnaissance permit to the final mining lease, the process is a gauntlet of overlapping jurisdictions, opaque environmental clearances, and a tax regime that punishes the very risk-taking it should be courting. While other nations have streamlined their mining codes to attract the billions in capital required for deep-shaft exploration, India has remained trapped in a colonial-era bureaucratic inertia that treats every mineral deposit as a potential scandal rather

than a national asset.

The cost of this inertia is staggering. In a world defined by geopolitical volatility and the weaponisation of currencies, gold has reaffirmed its status as the indispensable hedge. Central banks across the globe are hoarding bullion as a safeguard against a fraying dollar-dominated system. India, by continuing to import the vast majority of its gold, is essentially exporting its wealth to secure its safety. We are paying a premium to foreign mining conglomerates to extract abroad a resource we possess in abundance beneath our own feet. This unnecessary drain on our foreign exchange reserves weakens the rupee and limits our ability to invest in other critical sectors like infrastructure and technology.

A Tedious Process

A drastic change of policy is no longer a matter of choice; it is a strategic imperative. We must begin by ruthlessly streamlining the laws that govern the subsoil. The current multi-layered approval process must be replaced with a single-window clearance system that offers regulatory certainty over a twenty-year horizon. Capital-intensive mining is not a business for the faint of heart or the short-sighted. It requires decades of investment before a single gram of gold is recovered. No rational investor, domestic or foreign, will commit the necessary billions if the rules of the game can be changed mid-stream by a local bureaucrat or a shift in provincial politics. We need a legal framework that honours the sanctity of contracts and provides a clear, expedited



path from discovery to extraction.

Furthermore, we must address the fiscal hostility that has historically characterised the Indian mining sector. Our royalty rates and tax structures are among the highest in the world, often making the extraction of lower-grade ores, which make up the bulk of our 500 million tons, economically unviable. If we want to transform India into a global gold-mining hub, we must provide aggressive tax incentives for long-term capital investments. This is not about corporate hand-outs; it is about recognising the unique risk profile of the industry. Tax holidays for the initial years of production and credits for exploration expenditures would signal to the global markets that India is finally open for business.

Finding A Middle Ground

The environmental and social concerns that often dog the mining industry are real, but they are not insurmountable. The choice is not between a pristine environment and a hole in the ground; it is between a chaotic, unregulated illegal mining sector and a modern, world-class industry that adheres to the highest global

standards of sustainability. By inviting major global players through a transparent bidding process, we bring in the advanced technology and responsible practices that minimise the ecological footprint of extraction. Modern gold mining, when done correctly, can be an engine of rural development, providing high-skilled jobs and infrastructure in some of the country's most underdeveloped regions. Critics will argue that gold is a "dead asset" and that we should focus our industrial energy on electronics or green energy. This misses the point of the current global moment. Gold is the ultimate liquidity. It is the only asset that is not someone else's liability. By developing our domestic mining capacity, we create a strategic reserve that bolsters our national balance sheet without the need for external borrowing. We transform a dormant geological fact into a dynamic economic force. We turn the dormant, "dead" asset under our soil into a living shield for our economy.

Change The Mindset

The psychological shift required is perhaps greater than the legislative one. We must stop viewing our

mineral wealth as something to be guarded or hoarded in the ground and start seeing it as a tool for national greatness. The 500 million tons of ore represent more than just metal; they represent schools, roads, and a more stable currency. They represent the difference between a nation that is a passive consumer of global commodities and one that is a master of its own resources.

The window of opportunity provided by current gold prices and the global shift toward "friend-shoring" of critical resources will not stay open forever. Other nations are already moving to secure their supply chains. If India continues to dither, trapped in a web of its own making, we will remain the world's most enthusiastic buyer and importer of what we already own. It is time to abolish the red tape, incentivise the bold, and finally begin the work of bringing our hidden wealth to the surface. Our soil is rich; it is only our policy that is impoverished. We must mine our way to the economic sovereignty we deserve, turning the silent gold beneath us into the loud engine of our future prosperity.

No Compromise on Patient Care: District Collector Lakshmeesha Conducts Surprise Inspection

Vijayawada, April 9: District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmeesha emphasized that there should be no compromise in the quality of healthcare services provided to the public. During a surprise inspection at the Ayodhya Nagar Urban Primary Health Centre (UPHC) on Thursday, he reviewed medical services, staff attendance, availability of medicines, and overall hospital functioning. The Collector examined OP records, drug stocks, lab services, immunization programs, and sanitation conditions. He also interacted with patients to gather feedback on the services being provided. Officials were directed to ensure adequate availability of medicines and maintain punctuality among staff. Special attention must be given to pregnant women and children, he said. In view of the summer season, he instructed staff to take preventive measures against fevers and water-borne diseases and to conduct awareness programs. He also informed that patients can share their



feedback on hospital services through the QR code system.

One Entrepreneur per Village Target: Collector Keerthi Chekuri



Rajahmendravaram, April 9: District Collector Keerthi Chekuri emphasized the goal of creating at least one en-

trepreneur in every village as part of women's economic and social empowerment initiatives. Speaking at a training and review meeting held at the Science Park on the Annual Credit and Livelihood Action Plan for 2026-27, she urged women members to actively participate in implementing livelihood programs and improving learning outcomes among students. The meeting reviewed progress in the banking sector for 2025-26 and discussed strategies for the 2026-27 plan, including setting up 500 units with bank support under schemes like PMEGP and PMFME. The Collector highlighted the need for innovative teaching methods under GSL to enhance conceptual understanding among primary students and improve basic reading and writing skills.

She also stressed boosting students' confidence through creative teaching practices and supportive environments. Officials, SHG members, and DRDA staff participated in the program.

Kakinada: Orders for Immediate Submission of Pending Kharif CMR Rice

Kakinada, April 9: Joint Collector Apoorva Bharat has directed rice millers to immediately submit the pending Custom Milling Rice (CMR) from the previous Kharif season. He also instructed officials to ensure smooth procurement of Rabi paddy without inconvenience to farmers.

During a review meeting with rice millers at the Collectorate, the JC discussed pending CMR, bank guarantees, and implementation of Minimum Support Price (MSP). He stated that 120 rice mills still need to deliver 57,345.087 metric tonnes of CMR rice and urged completion within the stipulated time. Rabi procurement has begun in some mandals from April 4, with an estimated arrival of around 6 lakh metric tonnes of paddy. Millers were asked to make necessary preparations. Officials were directed to ensure adequate facilities at procurement centers, timely supply of gunny bags, GPS tracking for transport vehicles, and prompt online acknowledgment slips



for received paddy. Legal Metrology officials were asked to ensure proper functioning of weighbridges. The JC emphasized maintaining transparency and ensuring farmers receive MSP.

Mother Tongue is Like Eyesight: Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu



Chittoor, April 9: Former Vice President Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu emphasized the importance of mother tongue, Indian identity, and value-based education while

addressing students at the 44th annual and graduation ceremony of a government women's degree college in Chittoor.

He stated that one must always respect their mother tongue, comparing it to eyesight, while English is like spectacles. He urged students to take pride in being Telugu speakers and Indians first, highlighting India's unity in diversity.

Naidu also advised students to adopt healthy lifestyles, including early rising, regular exercise, yoga, and traditional food habits. He stressed the importance of women's education, saying educating a girl empowers an entire family.

He encouraged students to gain knowledge abroad but return to serve the nation, concluding his speech with a call to uphold values, respect parents, and contribute to society.

CM Responds Positively to District Development Proposals

Vizianagaram, April 9: District Collector stated that Chief Minister has responded positively to development proposals submitted by public representatives. Around 30 key proposals related to irrigation, roads, hospitals, and education from seven constituencies were reviewed, and officials were directed to examine feasibility and take action. The district ranked 4th in public satisfaction across the state. The CM also instructed officials to improve service quality in electricity, APSRTC, and registration departments, and to expedite proposals for an Outer Ring Road from Bhogapuram Airport to Vizianagaram.



5 Sleeper Coach Buses Seized in Special Drive



Rajahmendravaram, April 9: The District Transport Department seized five interstate private sleeper coach buses during a two-day special drive for violating regulations, said Transport Officer R. Suresh. Officials found several safety violations, including illegal additional diesel tanks and blocked emergency exits (hatches and doors) with luggage. Some buses were also operating without rear emergency doors. The seized buses have been kept at the RTA office, and penalties and taxes amounting to around ₹2.15 lakh have been imposed. The official stated that such inspections will continue regularly.

Census Duty Negligence Not Tolerated: JC Yashwanth Kumar Reddy

Parvathipuram, April 9: District Joint Collector C. Yashwanth Kumar Reddy warned that negligence in Census 2027 duties will not be tolerated. He reviewed training programs conducted for enumerators and supervisors in Kurupam and Gummalakshampur mandals. He emphasized that census data is crucial for national development and future planning. Officials were instructed to visit every household and collect accurate data without errors, using prescribed technical methods and mobile applications.

Supervisors were directed to closely monitor enumerators and ensure data quality. All officials were asked to work in coordination and complete the first phase of house listing and enumeration within the stipulated time.



SP Reviews Security Arrangements for Governor's Visit



Rajahmendravaram, April 9: East Godavari District SP D. Narasimha Kishore reviewed the security arrangements ahead of Andhra Pradesh Governor Abdul Nazeer's visit scheduled on April 10. The Governor will attend the convocation ceremony at Adikavi Nannaya University in Rajanagaram. The SP inspected the helipad set up at Godavari Global University and the arrangements at the convocation venue to ensure smooth conduct of the visit. He also visited the university library and interacted with students. Additional SP (AR) L. Chenchi Reddy, along with DSPs and Inspectors, accompanied him during the inspection.

Drone Mist to Curb Pollution in Vijayawada

Vijayawada, April 9: In an innovative step to control air pollution, NTR District Collector and Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Special Officer Dr. G. Lakshmeshu inspected a drone-based mist spraying initiative in the city. The program was reviewed at M.G. Road and Ambedkar Smriti Vanam on Thursday.

The Collector stated that drones will help spray water mist efficiently across high-traffic and busy areas in a short time. This initiative, along with existing mist vehicles, aims to significantly reduce air pollution and protect public health.

Officials from the health and engineering departments were also present during the inspection.



Strict Action Warned for Negligence in Duties



Parvathipuram, April 9: Joint Collector warned that strict action will be taken against negligence in duties while emphasizing improvement in educational standards in Ashram schools. During a surprise inspection at a tribal welfare boys' Ashram school in Kurupam mandal, he expressed dissatisfaction over poor student performance and improper evaluation of exam workbooks by teachers. He issued charge memos to responsible headmasters and teachers through the Project Officer. The JC also criticized poor sanitation and mismanagement of store rooms, directing officials to immediately improve school conditions and ensure proper academic monitoring.

Donation of Rs.10 Lakhs to TTD



Tirumala, 09 April 2026 : A devotee from Bengaluru G. Vijay Hemanth has donated Rs.10,00,104 to the Tirumala TTD Sri Venkateswara Annaprasadam Trust. The donor handed over the DD to TTD Additional Executive Officer Ch. Venkaiah Chowdary at the Additional EO Camp Office in Tirumala.

Applications are invited for PM Internship Scheme

Kadapa April 09: The Government of India has launched the Prime Minister's Internship Scheme (Phase-3) to provide work experience to the youth along with education, District Skill Development Officer C Vijaya Vinil Kumar said. PG students are eligible. Annual family income is Rs. Eligible candidates are advised to apply through mca.gov.in website. For more details contact number 630 0125455



92 Students Selected for Jobs at M.V.R Degree College

Palamaner, April 9: (By our Skyline staff reporter) College Correspondent M.V.R. Reddy announced that a total of 92 students were selected for jobs during a campus recruitment drive held on Thursday at M.V.R. Degree College in the town, orga-

nized in collaboration with the Magic Bus Foundation. The selections included 26 students for Radical Minds, 7 for Tata Groups, 24 for SBA, 20 for All Set, and 15 for ADECCO. He further stated that the selected students would receive an annual salary ranging from ₹1.8 lakhs to ₹2.8 lakhs.

Sreeleela to pair up with Ajith Kumar in his next?



Sreeleela is steadily gaining offers in Tamil cinema despite not scoring a hit yet. Her first Tamil film "Parasakthi", released earlier this year, did not perform well. However, she has already moved on and is currently working with Dhanush. Movie Premiere Access The latest buzz suggests that she might bag a role in Ajith Kumar's next film.

Ajith Kumar, one of the top stars of Tamil cinema, has been selective about signing new projects as he is currently more focused on car racing. He takes up

films only occasionally.

The director has reportedly approached Sreeleela for a role in the film. Interestingly, she is nearly 30 years younger than Ajith Kumar. In recent years, Ajith has mostly paired up with senior actresses like Trisha Krishnan, Nayanthara, and Manju Warrier.

It remains to be seen whether Sreeleela will be cast as the female lead or in another key role.

Meanwhile, Sreeleela is also lining up multiple projects in Bollywood.

Kantara franchise may not continue henceforth



"Kantara" emerged as a pan-Indian blockbuster, turning Kannada actor-director Rishab Shetty into a nationwide sensation. He followed it up with the prequel "Kantara: Chapter 1", which became an even bigger success. However, the future of the franchise now appears uncertain. Reports suggest that no further sequels may be made.

However, the future of the franchise now appears uncertain. Reports suggest that no further sequels may be made.

Rishab Shetty is currently busy playing Lord Hanuman in Prashanth Varma's "Jai Hanuman", which is being produced by Mythri Movie Makers and is slated for release next year. The actor-director is said to be charging around Rs 60 crore for his projects, with his wife also coming on board as co-producer, taking the overall budget higher. This reportedly made Hombale Films reconsider initiating further "Kantara" projects, leading to the current situation.

Zero hype for LIK, Pradeep Ranganathan faces test

Pradeep Ranganathan made a mark in the Telugu market with a string of successful films. His debut as a lead actor, "Love Today", turned out to be a decent success, followed by "Return of the Dragon" and "Dude", both performing well. Telugu Language Learning Despite delivering three hits, his latest film "LIK" aka "Love Insurance Company" has failed to generate any buzz in Telugu. The hype around the film is almost negligible, and there are no aggressive promotional activities either. As a result, the film now largely depends on word of mouth after its release.

"LIK" is directed by Vignesh Shivan and stars Krithi Shetty as the female lead. S. J. Suryah plays the antagonist. Movie Premiere Access

After this release, Pradeep Ranganathan is expected to move on to new projects, hoping to maintain his momentum. The film arrives in theaters on April 10, 2026.



Neha Sharma : Crazy, Cute, Powerful



Varun Tej begins Korean Kanakaraju promotions



Varun Tej has kickstarted promotions for "Korean Kanakaraju", a film that is partly set in South Korea. He plays a quirky character obsessed with Korea, and the story also takes him to Seoul, where key sequences were recently filmed. Film Industry Insights The team is now gearing up to announce the release date. As part of the promotions, the makers have unveiled details about the first single.

Titled "Kamsahamnida", the song composed by S Thaman will be released on April 11, officially marking the beginning of the film's promotional campaign.

Directed by Merlapaka Gandhi, the film is being jointly produced by UV Creations and First Frame Entertainments. Ritika Nayak plays the female lead, and this will be her next release after the blockbuster "Mirai".

"Korean Kanakaraju" is aiming for a summer holiday release. The film is crucial for Varun Tej as he looks to bounce back after a series of setbacks. Comedian Satya plays a key role, with the film banking heavily on comedy elements.

Why Mrunal Thakur appears moody on sets revealed

Mrunal Thakur is quite popular in both Bollywood and Tollywood, but her success rate has been stronger in Telugu cinema. She has delivered notable films like "Sita Ramam", "Hi Nanna", and "Kalki 2898 AD", and is now gearing up to impress as Saraswathi in "Dacoit", which is set to hit theaters tomorrow (April 10). Telugu Cultural Events An interesting aspect about her behavior on sets has now come to light. According to her "Dacoit" co-star Adivi Sesh, she often appears moody during shoots.

"She turns angry sometimes."



Some days she is chirpy and fun. Some days she appears sad throughout the day.