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## PM Modi congratulates Nitish Kumar on taking oath as Rajya Sabha Member

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday congratulated Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on taking oath as Rajya Sabha member and said he is one of the most experienced leaders in the country and his commitment to good governance has been appreciated everywhere. PM Modi also said that he was fully confident that Kumar's long political experience will further enhance the dignity of Parliament. "Nitish Kumar ji is one of the most experienced leaders in the country. His commitment to good governance has been appreciated everywhere," he said in a post on X in Hindi. The prime minister said Kumar has made an indelible contribution to the development of Bihar and it will be a great pleasure to see him in Parliament once again.



chamber at a brief ceremony in the presence of Union Minister J P Nadda, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Minister of State for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal among others. As Kumar assumes the Rajya Sabha role, it marks the end of his rule in Bihar. The NDA is likely to elect a new chief minister of Bihar on April 14. The prime minister also congratulated Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh for being nominated as a member of the Upper House. PM Modi said Harivansh has made invaluable contributions to journalism and public life and he is a respected intellectual and thinker. "With his profound thoughts and insights, he has enriched the proceedings of the House over the past few years. I am delighted that the Honorable

President has nominated him to the Rajya Sabha. My very best wishes to him for the upcoming parliamentary term," he said. Harivansh's second term as a member of the Upper House ended on April 9. He took the oath in Hindi in the chamber of the Rajya Sabha Chairman, who administered the oath to him.

## Uniform Civil Code In 6 Months, Rs 3,000 For Women: BJP's Bengal Manifesto

**Kolkata:** Unveiling the Bharatiya Janata Party's manifesto 'Sankalp Patra' ahead of the West Bengal Assembly elections, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the party would implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the state within six months and provide Rs 3,000 per month to strengthen women's financial independence. Calling the manifesto a roadmap for building a "Sonar Bangla", Shah said the BJP's promises were aimed at farmers, youth, women and government employees. Launching a sharp attack on the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC), the Union Home Minister alleged that the last 15 years of Mamata

Banerjee's government had been a "nightmare" for the people of West Bengal. "The BJP Sankalp Patra will guide farmers, youth and women, giving them a new direction. It will offer renewed hope to every citizen who takes pride in Bengal's culture and will serve as a roadmap for the creation of Sonar Bangla," Shah said. He said the BJP government would bring Prime Minister Narendra Modi's welfare model to Bengal and ensure that all central government schemes are implemented with full accountability.

### Focus On Women's Empowerment

The Union Home Minister announced a monthly

assistance of Rs 3,000 to strengthen women's financial independence. He also said that 33% reservation would be provided for women in the police force and in all government jobs in the state. The BJP also set a target of creating 75 lakh "Lakshpati Didis" to empower women economically. Shah said there would be at least one women's police station in every mandal, along with a help desk in every police station. Shah reiterated that the Uniform Civil Code, already implemented in several BJP-ruled states, would be implemented in West Bengal within six months of the party forming the government, so that "there is one



law in Bengal for every citizen." He also said that all government employees and salaried workers would be ensured dearness allowance (DA), and that the 7th Pay Commission would be implemented within 45 days under a BJP government. Addressing the young people of the state, Shah said recent graduates would be given a monthly allow-

ance of Rs 3,000. A one-time financial assistance of Rs 15,000 would also be provided to help them prepare for competitive examinations. For farmers, the BJP promised to add an additional Rs 3,000 annually from the state government under the PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme, taking the total assistance to Rs 9,000 per year.

## India Successfully Demonstrates 1,000-Kilometre Quantum Communication Network Using Homegrown Technology

**New Delhi:** In a groundbreaking achievement, India has successfully demonstrated a 1,000-kilometre quantum communication network in less than two years under the National Quantum Mission (NQM), significantly outpacing the original eight-year, 2,000-km target. Developed using indigenous technology from QNu Labs, a startup nurtured by the

mission, this deployment ranks among the longest quantum key distribution (QKD) systems worldwide, strengthening India's quantum-safe security infrastructure.

Department of Science and Technology (DST) Dr Abhay Karandikar described the achievement as a "landmark advancement," noting that it surpasses early-stage expectations

and puts India on track to achieve its target of a 2,000-km quantum communication network. The development is expected to strengthen India's secure communication capabilities across defence, financial systems and critical infrastructure. Additionally, the technology is designed to work across challenging terrains, including underwater and underground networks, expanding

its potential civilian and strategic applications. Buoyed by the success, the government has expanded startup support under the mission, adding nine new ventures, taking the total number of supported startups to 17. "The newly supported startups are working on areas ranging from quantum biosensors for disease detection and photon sensing technologies to quantum po-



sitioning systems, atomic memory and precision elec-

tronic systems," read the statement.

## YSRCP leaders are engaging in cunning, deceitful politics: Union Minister Ram Mohan

**From Our Staff Reporter Srikakulam, April, 10:** Union Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu stated that Srikakulam district is agriculture-based and that the coalition government's goal is to ensure irrigation security for its people. He said they are committed to utilizing Vamsadhara waters effectively to make the district prosperous and fertile. The minister criticized the five-year rule of YSR Congress Party, alleging that the irrigation system in Srikakulam was neglected during that period. He noted that the Vamsadhara Tribunal was established in 2010 and that efforts have been ongoing since then to resolve issues with Odisha regarding the Neradi barrage. Ram Mohan Naidu stated that in 2024, with co-ordination between the central and state governments, focus was placed on resolving the Neradi barrage issue. He expressed happiness that with the Bharatiya Janata Party coming to power in Odisha as well, the path for resolution became smoother. Based on the tribunal's verdict, a gazette notification was issued, resolving a long-pending issue. He questioned why YSRCP leaders are not speaking about this now. He clarified that despite being a Union Minister, his first priority remains the development of his district.



from Srikakulam. He also mentioned that a Kendriya Vidyalaya has been established in Palasa and that GI tagging has been achieved for Ponduru Khadi. He added that he is ensuring all possible support from the central government for the district. The Union Minister expressed anger that YSRCP leaders are unable to tolerate development in the district. He said that leaders who truly work for the people should appreciate the work done with central government support. He described the passage of the Amaravati Capital Bill in both Houses of Parliament as a historic moment. He noted that even the Indian National Congress supported the bill, while the YSRCP walked out of Parliament during its discussion.

He praised N. Chandrababu Naidu for his efforts to secure legal status for Amaravati, stating that the people of the state gave full support to Amaravati as the capital through elections. "YSRCP Still Hasn't Learned"

He criticized Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, saying that while in power, he played "three-capital politics" and continues similar tactics now. He alleged that YSRCP fears that if Amaravati is completed, Chandrababu Naidu's name will be remembered permanently. He said Chandrababu

Naidu has a special recognition at the national level. He added that while YSRCP's agenda is to prevent investments in the state, Naidu's agenda is development. He remarked that even after public rejection, YSRCP has not learned and may be remembered negatively in history.

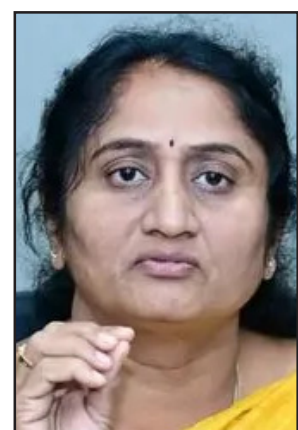
He also accused YSRCP leaders of land scams under the pretext of making Visakhapatnam the capital. He concluded by stating that Bhogapuram Airport and Mulapeta Greenfield Port will be completed soon, and that steps are being taken for state development with central support.

## If anyone targets women, that will be their last day: Minister Savita

**From Our Staff Reporter Kadapa, April, 10:** The incident of a student's murder in the district has created a sensation across Andhra Pradesh. A girl was brutally killed by a man obsessed with her, who slit her throat in a horrific manner, causing widespread shock. Andhra Pradesh Minister Savita expressed deep grief over the incident. She was distressed to learn that the girl was murdered in the name of love. The minister said the killing of the student is extremely painful. She stated that it is heart-breaking that a girl with a bright future lost her life.

She assured that the coalition government will stand by the victim's family and that the (accused) will be punished severely.

Minister Savita also assured the victim's family that such punishment would be given that no one would dare to look at women with ill intent again. She made it clear that the accused will not be spared, no matter who he is. She warned that anyone behaving like a maniac towards women and girls will be crushed with an iron hand. She angrily stated that those who behave like psychos towards women

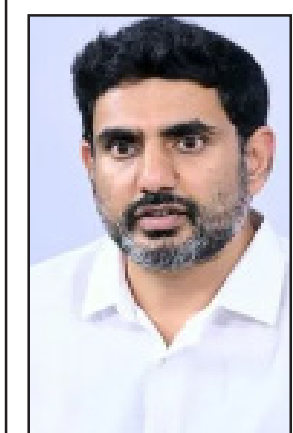


will face their last day. She added that the coalition government is pro-women. She advised youth to act responsibly and stay away from intoxicants like drugs.

The minister also appealed to parents to keep an eye on the behavior of their sons.

This incident occurred today in Khajipet mandal of Kadapa district. Avula Venkatesh, a resident of Anjaneyakottala village, harassed a girl from another village in the same mandal in the name of love. He pressured her to marry him. When she refused, he brutally murdered her by slitting her throat. Within hours after the murder, the police arrested the accused Venkatesh. The incident has created tense conditions in both villages.

## Need to stay alert on local body elections: Minister Lokesh



**From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, April, 10:** Andhra Pradesh IT and Education Minister Nara Lokesh made key remarks regarding the upcoming local body elections. He instructed ministers to work hard for the elections. He held a meeting with ministers on Friday, where several important issues were discussed. He advised that local elections are approaching and everyone must remain alert. He also suggested that party workers and leaders should be kept prepared. Minister Nara Lokesh directed that all ministers must be fully available at the Telugu Desam Party office. He issued strict instructions that, regardless of other engagements, they must attend grievance programs held at the party office. He emphasized that everyone should remember that the party comes first. He further guided that the requests made by party workers should be addressed completely and effectively.

## Botsa shed tears over YSR's death but didn't condemn Jagan's role: Somireddy

**Nellore, April 10:** TDP MLA and former minister Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy strongly criticized the behavior of YSR Congress Party leaders over a weekend article published in Andhra Jyothy. Speaking to the media in Nellore on Friday, he said that the language used by YSRCP leaders like Kakani Govardhan Reddy, Ambati Rambabu, and Perni Nani was no less harsh than that used by Andhra Jyothy MD Vemuri Radhakrishna.

He sarcastically remarked that YSRCP leaders seem to think Andhra Pradesh is like North Korea. Questioning former minister Kakani, who challenged others saying "come if you are real men," he asked why he was hiding in Chintamani. He also criticized YSRCP leaders for threatening to file cases against media figures like Ramoji Rao and Vemuri Radhakrishna.



### Criticism of YSRCP Leadership

Somireddy stated that TDP leaders maintain discipline and do not speak like YSRCP leaders. He said the High Court verdict was a "slap" to YSRCP. He alleged that during the rule of Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, around ₹3,500 crore liquor mafia activities led to 50,000 deaths. He further said that during discussions in the Legislative Council about the death of Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy, opposition leader Botsa

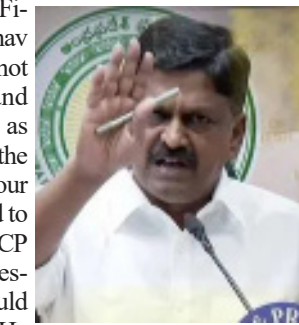
Satyanarayana became emotional and shed tears but did not condemn Jagan's role in the matter.

### "YSRCP Won't Return to Power"

Somireddy predicted that YSRCP, which he accused of destroying the state, has no chance of returning to power. He said YSRCP leaders should feel ashamed seeing the investments coming to Andhra Pradesh under N. Chandrababu Naidu. He added that the party is now facing consequences for its past actions.

## They don't seem to know about ABN and CBN: Minister Payyavula Keshav

**From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, April 10:** State Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav said that YSRCP leaders do not properly understand ABN and CBN. He described that just as CBN is in politics, ABN is in the media. He stated that even your father YSR and KCR had tried to threaten ABN. Addressing YSRCP chief Y.S. Jagan, Keshav questioned what new threat he could possibly make against ABN. He said that even your father YSR and your political mentor KCR could not intimidate ABN. The minister asserted that apart from trying to threaten ABN, neither Jagan nor his party leaders have achieved anything significant. Speaking to reporters on Friday in the capital Amaravati, Minister Keshav remarked, referring to Jagan, that incidents like the "Kodi Kathi" attack, the "stone attack," the suspicious death of your father, and even your uncle's murder—all ended up benefiting you. He said Jagan has no faith in democracy. He stated that ABN Radha Krishna writes news for the welfare of the people and described him as someone who rose from the grassroots and stands for the public. He added that ABN Radha Krishna criticizes anyone who does wrong. Keshav recalled that ABN had also criticized them many times. He described ABN Radha Krishna as a person who believes in values. He said that trying to threaten ABN would only reflect foolishness. He also accused Jagan of blocking the channel's broadcast while in power and expressed anger over it. Mocking him, Keshav said that if you keep saying "rappa rappa," people will make you "rappa rappa" as well.



## EDITORIAL

### Crisis again with Israeli aggression

Despite the ceasefire agreement reached between the US and Iran with the mediation of Pakistan to reduce tensions in West Asia, the agreement fell into chaos after Israel launched fierce attacks on Lebanon. The US and Iran are angry that Pakistan has not been able to explain the points of the agreement properly. Israel has revealed that it does not trust Pakistan's mediation. On the one hand, welcoming the ceasefire agreement, on the other hand, it has supported the attacks on Lebanon. Israel has announced that its main goal is to completely eliminate Hezbollah's infrastructure from southern Lebanon. Trump has made it clear that its warships and forces will be deployed around Iran until a full-fledged agreement is implemented to end the war. With this, Iran took the continued attacks on its ally Lebanon seriously and closed the Strait of Hormuz again. As a result, ships that had to pass through the strait are being forced to turn back. The central government has issued a key advisory to sailors stranded in the Strait of Hormuz. It has warned Indian sailors not to come out unless necessary. Amid such complications, the first phase of talks between the US and Iran will begin on Saturday (11.4.2026) in Islamabad, which is creating tension among the world. It seems that a US delegation led by US Vice President JD Vance will participate in these talks. This war should not have started. There were several talks between the US and Iran before the war. When an agreement was almost reached and was being finalized, Israel played the role of a omen. It gave false signals that Trump would do anything he set his mind to. Trump ordered a surprise bombing campaign against Iran on February 28, provoked by Netanyahu. Trump underestimated Iran's ability to retaliate. He believed that Iran would be defeated immediately. Despite the devastation caused by the US and Israel over the past forty days, Iran has not surrendered. The US has still not found an easy way to open the Strait of Hormuz. If Trump realizes, even if it is too late, that his prediction was wrong, it will be good news for West Asia. Pakistan has gained international recognition for playing a responsible and constructive role in preventing this war. It has helped bring both the US and Iran closer. But there is a huge gap between the US's 15-point proposal for a ceasefire and Iran's 10-point proposal. While Iran and Pakistan hope that the agreement will resolve all crises, including Lebanon, the US and Israel deny that the agreement includes any military action in Lebanon. US Vice President JD Vance also said that they received three separate versions of proposals from Iran, and that the first 10-point proposals were rejected because they looked like they were written by Chat GPT. Trump mentioned the second version of the proposals sent by Iran. He said that the third proposal sent by Iran was even worse than the first and had unacceptable demands. JD Vance announced that he learned about this third proposal through social media. JD Vance urged Iran not to let the ceasefire agreement fail because of Lebanon. Although US President Trump has repeatedly warned that he will take control of the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf, doing so will only bring great economic losses to the US. It is well known that 20 percent of the world's oil passes through this strait. To gain control of this strait, the US military must gain control over about 600 km of Iranian territory. To stop Iran from launching missiles at ships, 30,000 to 45,000 soldiers will be needed. Maintaining that many soldiers there for years will cost the US a lot. In the past, the US had to pay a high price for maintaining military forces in Afghanistan and Vietnam. In this context, restraint on Israel and its military actions is very necessary for peace and stability in West Asia. The United Nations and many international organizations and countries are expressing serious concern that Israel's military actions are crossing the line. In these circumstances, Israel should restrain itself and prevent Trump from coming. He should focus on working towards lasting peace, without provocative speeches or threats of genocide, to escape the chaos he has created. Only then will he receive the high respect befitting his position on the global stage.

# Three Things May Happen At The End Of The 14-Day Ceasefire (Or Earlier)

The two-week ceasefire between the United States and Iran, announced on April 7, 2026, has provided a temporary halt to what had become an accelerating cycle of escalation. US President Donald Trump framed it as a victory, claiming the US had met its military objectives and that a longer agreement was close to finalisation. Iran accepted the ceasefire on the condition that ships transiting the Strait of Hormuz would do so in coordination with its armed forces. Both sides had reasons to welcome an off-ramp. Neither side has fully stopped fighting. The ceasefire, as it stands, may be better understood as a pause rather than a settlement.

#### What Iran Wants From This Deal

After months of experiencing constant high-alerts, missile strikes, and assassinations, Iran's primary incentive for accepting a two-week pause for talks has been a promise of breathing space. Iran's agreement to the talks despite the temporary two-week window, countering the very first point of its 10-point proposal, only confirms this theory. In these two weeks, irrespective of the negotiation's outcome, Iran is looking to recover and regroup, in terms of military strength, public morale and broader political consolidation under the new leadership. However, hours after the ceasefire announcement, Israel has reportedly continued its strikes on Iran, as confirmed by Israeli military officials. These Israeli strikes may derail US-Iran negotiations, as proven twice in the past. The IRGC may not observe a political agreement that does not address the core condition of a ceasefire. These reported ceasefire violations are not marginal complications. They suggest this deal rests on the assumption that US agreement ensures Israel's alignment. This assumption, however, might not hold true in reality.

#### The Hormuz Question

The ceasefire is conditional on Iran reopening the Strait of

Hormuz. This can be considered the primary point in Iran's proposal that incentivised the US to accept it as a framework for negotiations. Iran has agreed to allow passage, but emphasised that this will be under the supervision of its armed forces. This is not a full return to pre-war conditions. Iran's parliament has already passed legislation formally enshrining a toll system on Hormuz traffic. The IRGC has been operating a de facto vetting and fee arrangement since mid-March. The ceasefire does not appear to resolve either of these developments. Splitting this transit fee between Iran and Oman might also draw criticism from other Gulf nations like the UAE, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, which are key US allies in the region. The UAE has already expressed opposition, stating that the waterway cannot be held hostage by any single country and that free navigation must be part of any final settlement. Their exclusion from the transit arrangements is likely to be a source of friction in the weeks ahead.

The broader stakes of Hormuz extend beyond the immediate conflict. Control and assured access to the sea lanes of communication has been a foundational pillar of US power projection for decades. Iran's ability to impose coordinated passage through the Strait represents a structural shift in the waterway's legal and strategic status. While the successful blockade has emerged as proof of Iran's dominance over the Strait of Hormuz at a military level, this transit fee is a step toward institutionalising control. Should that arrangement become codified through any longer-term agreement, the US may find itself under pressure to counter it, regardless of the diplomatic framing around the current pause.

#### The Gaza-Lebanon Problem

Within hours of the announcement, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu



made clear that the ceasefire did not include Lebanon. Israel's strikes against Hamas have also continued despite a ceasefire in early 2025. Pakistani mediators had urged all warring parties to observe a ceasefire everywhere, and Islamabad initially indicated that Lebanon was covered. Netanyahu and US Vice-President JD Vance have directly rejected that reading. In mid-March, Israel launched a ground invasion of southern Lebanon, and its forces have remained in active combat with Hezbollah ever since. Fighting between Israel and Hezbollah is, therefore, expected to continue regardless of what is agreed between Washington and Tehran. Despite mentioning it in their proposal as a symbolic gesture, Iran does not expect Israel's attacks on Hamas and Hezbollah to end either.

#### The Three Outcomes

These challenges and conditions surrounding the ceasefire could result in three likely scenarios. The first scenario is where the ceasefire sustains in a meaningful way, becoming a means for advanced talks on contested topics of Strait of Hormuz, nuclear enrichment, the role of non-state actors, and sanctions against Iran. This ideal scenario would, however, need the full

participation and compliance of the US and Iran, along with Israel and the GCC countries. The second scenario is that, as was the case during June 2025 and February 2026, the talks are used by Israel and the US to launch another wave of surprise attacks. However, considering the statements by US and Israeli officials that their military objectives have been achieved and that Iran no longer poses an imminent threat, this scenario is less likely. Unlike June 2025, this confrontation has also considerably exhausted American and Israeli military resources while proving Israel's capability to survive, retaliate and retain control of the Strait of Hormuz. This substantially enhances the overall deterrence in the current talks as compared to the talks in June 2025 or February 2026.

#### A War Without The US?

The third scenario to consider is one where Iran and Israel continue to engage militarily while the US exits direct conflict, maintaining support for Israel on an indirect basis. Israel's recent record with ceasefires, as seen in the case of Gaza since 2025 and Lebanon since 2024, are key indications in this direction. Reports of continued exchange of fire between Israel, Iran and the Gulf countries after the

ceasefire announcement are also cases in point. Iran's sustained interest in the ceasefire and talks with the US despite Israel's strikes on Lebanon and the UAE's attacks on Iran's oil facilities further supports the likelihood of this scenario. Similarly, a stable US interest in continuing the talks despite Iran's reported strikes against Gulf countries, threats to renew the blockade of straits and bombing Tel Aviv is also an important point hinting at this direction. Beyond the control of Hormuz, the Trump administration's domestic pressures would be a key driver of an American exit. However, long-standing US commitments to Israel would ensure that the US continues to support it through military aid and equipment at least in the short-term. The ceasefire is a meaningful development. A pause at this level of escalation indicates that off-ramps remain available. Whether it translates into something more durable will depend on whether Lebanon, Hormuz and Iran's nuclear posture can be addressed in a framework acceptable to the Gulf states, Israel and the IRGC. That is a substantial set of conditions. The next two weeks are more likely to clarify the distance between the parties than to close it.

## Over 1 Lakh US Troops Are Stationed In Europe. What Happens If They Leave?

Wednesday was the day after the United States and Iran had agreed on a two-week ceasefire. Obviously, the pause in the West Asia war was going to dominate the press conference at the White House. During the press briefing, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt dropped a bombshell. In response to a question, she casually revealed that President Donald Trump would be discussing the US's potential exit from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) with Secretary General Mark Rutte later that day. Trump has been angry over the fact that several European NATO members refused his call to support the US-Israeli military campaign against Iran. Only days earlier, he had signalled how far he was willing to go, saying America's membership was not "beyond reconsideration". Then came the meeting itself. Trump and Rutte spoke privately for nearly two hours, described afterwards as a blunt and tense exchange. If there had been hope that diplomacy might cool tempers, it faded quickly. Within minutes, Trump took to Truth Social and delivered a pointed message: "NATO WASN'T THERE WHEN WE NEEDED THEM, AND THEY WON'T BE THERE IF WE NEED THEM AGAIN."

#### The Leaked Messages

One could see it coming. Last year, in an accidentally leaked WhatsApp chat, Vice President JD Vance and War Secretary Pete Hegseth called the Europeans "free-loading". There is a strong feeling in the Trump administration that Europe has taken the US for a ride for far too long. "Yeah I think they've been free-loading,"

Trump had told reporters back then, when asked if he agreed with Hegseth, who was quoted as saying in the leaked Signal chats. A user identified as Vance had even said, "I just hate bailing Europe out again", and a user identified as Hegseth replied: "I fully share your loathing of European freeloading. It's PATHETIC." Will the US, however, really leave the 32-nation alliance? If America, its most powerful member, were to leave, defence experts in Europe believe the consequences would extend far beyond the continent.

#### The Unmistakable Numbers

To understand the scale of such a move, it is important to begin with what the US currently provides to NATO. Around 1 lakh highly trained American troops are stationed across Europe. The US has air bases in Germany and Italy, naval facilities in Spain, intelligence hubs, logistics networks, missile defence systems and rapid response units across Europe. These forces are deeply integrated into NATO command structures and would be among the first to respond during a crisis. Needless to say, their presence acts as a deterrent in a big way, particularly against Russia. It is to be noted that the American role is not limited to troops. The US makes up the backbone of NATO's nuclear deterrence. It is no secret that American nuclear weapons are stationed in several European countries under NATO's nuclear-sharing arrangement. More important than the weapons is the guarantee behind them. The credibility of NATO rests on the assumption that the US would come to Europe's defence. If

Washington were to withdraw, that assumption would certainly weaken. Even if treaties remained, the psychological impact would be immediate, because deterrence depends as much on perception as on capability.

#### America Is, After All, The Strongest

The first impact of a US withdrawal would, therefore, be operational. European militaries are bound to face capability gaps. The US currently provides much of NATO's airlift capacity, intelligence-gathering, missile defence and long-range strike capability. European forces have strengthened since 2014, especially after Russia's actions in Crimea (Ukraine), but the gap remains large. Without American support, coordination would slow. Command structures would need redesigning. Joint operations would become more complicated. The alliance would still exist, but it would function differently and with reduced capacity. The second impact would be psychological. American troops in Europe serve, many say, as a tripwire. Their presence automatically links European security with American involvement. If they were withdrawn, that automatic link would disappear. Countries close to Russia, especially in Eastern Europe, worry that this ambiguity could invite testing actions below the threshold of full conflict. Even small incidents could become more likely if adversaries believe America is not directly engaged. In security terms, perception matters and withdrawal would change perceptions overnight.

#### Slower To Act

Let's consider logistics, too.



Today, if Russia attacks a European country, arranging logistics would be a nightmare for Europe without the US's help. American bases in Europe serve to defend the continent. They are also staging grounds for operations in the Middle East, Africa and surrounding regions. If those bases were gone, NATO's ability to deploy quickly outside Europe would shrink. Crisis response missions, evacuations, maritime patrols and humanitarian operations would be delayed. European countries would then face a clear choice. Either they in-

crease defence spending significantly and build independent capabilities, or they accept reduced readiness. Some movement in this direction has already begun. Germany has increased its defence budget. Poland is expanding its armed forces. France has long argued for European strategic autonomy. However, building military capability takes time. Procurement cycles run for years, and training soldiers and integrating systems takes longer. A sudden American withdrawal would create a gap that Europe could not immediately fill.

## 3-Day AI Workshop Held at Pragati Engineering College



**Gandepalli, April 10:** A three-day student workshop on “Multimodal AI Fusion: Generative AI, Natural Language Processing & Computer Vision” was conducted at Pragati Engineering College from April 8 to 10. Organized by the Department of Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning for B.Tech third-year students, the workshop featured Dr. Masjid Shaikh from Zetacoding Innovative Solutions, Bengaluru, as the resource person. The sessions focused on AI tools, chatbot development, and the working of AI language models. College Chairman Dr. Paruchuri Krishnarao said such initiatives help students stay updated with emerging technologies and prepare for future industry needs.

## MY Bharat Budget Quest 2026 Grand Finale in Guntur



**Vijayawada, April 10:** The grand finale of the MY Bharat Budget Quest 2026 will be held on April 12–13 at Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur. Organized by Mera Yuva Bharat under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, the event will bring together top young participants from across the country. Over 15,000 youth from 17 locations will take part in discussions on Union Budget 2026 themes, focusing on education, employment, growth, and infrastructure. The initiative has seen participation from over 12 lakh youth nationwide. A special highlight will be the Women’s Youth Parliament on April 12 under the theme “Nari Shakti: Viksit Bharat Ki Awaaz,” where participants will debate the Women’s Reservation Bill. The event aims to promote youth-led policy dialogue and strengthen participatory governance.

## High-Tech Fraud by YSRCP Leader; Victims in Distress

**Anantapur District, April 10:** A high-tech fraud that came to light in Kalyandurg of Anantapur district has created a major sensation locally. A YSR Congress Party leader allegedly deceived people by claiming he had lakhs of crores in his bank account and collected crores of rupees from them. While frauds usually involve hundreds or thousands, this case shocked people as the accused claimed to have Rs.7 lakh crore in his account using fake documents. The accused, YSRCP leader Erriswamy from Kalyandurg constituency, is said to have orchestrated this large-scale scam.

### Fake Documents as the Investment Tool

Erriswamy carefully planned the fraud to convince people that he possessed enormous wealth. He created a forged bank statement showing a balance of 77 lakh crore in his account. He also fabricated documents claiming that he had received permission from the Reserve Bank of India to withdraw this massive amount.

### He then told victims:

“To withdraw this money, I need to pay a processing fee, but I don’t have cash right now. If you help me now, I will give you a huge share once the money is withdrawn.”

### Rs. Crore Collected

Believing his false promises, several victims gave him money—some even taking loans to do so. It is reported that he collected over Rs.3 crore so far. When days passed without any returns, victims started questioning him.

## Deepam Subsidy to Continue for PNG Users: CM



**Vijayawada, April 10:** Chief Minister announced that beneficiaries who opt for Piped Natural Gas (PNG) will continue to receive subsidies under the Deepam scheme. Reviewing domestic gas supply, he directed officials to promote PNG usage and create awareness among beneficiaries about its advantages. He set a target of providing 10 lakh PNG connections within six months. The CM also reviewed delays in the Srikakulam–Kakinada gas pipeline project and spoke with Union Minister, urging early completion. The Minister assured prompt action.

## Tribal Women Empowerment Through VDVks

**Rampachodavaram, April 10:** Dr. Varnali Dekha, Director, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, stated that Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs) are being set up to promote economic empowerment of tribal women. She inspected a cashew processing unit established under VDVks at Pandirimamidi in Rampachodavaram mandal along with Polavaram Joint Collector B. Smaran Raj. She reviewed details on the number of VDVks, clusters, women groups, employment, wages, processing capacity, procurement, pricing, and marketing. She emphasized that the Centre is taking special steps to improve livelihoods, forest produce value addition, and socio-economic development of tribal communities. Officials from various departments were present.



## Students should contribute to Viksit Bharat goal: Governor Abdul Nazeer



**Rajahmendravaram, April 10:** Andhra Pradesh Governor and Chancellor Abdul Nazeer called upon students to actively contribute towards achieving the “Viksit Bharat 2047” vision. Speaking at the 16th and 17th convocation ceremonies of Adikavi Nannaya University on Friday, he emphasized that determination, hard work, and clear goals are key to success. The Governor awarded degrees and gold medals to meritorious students and highlighted the



importance of education in fostering independent thinking, analytical skills, and values. He noted that the National Education Policy promotes multidisciplinary learning, digital advancement, and research. A total of 45 gold medals and PhD degrees were presented, while 722 students from the 2022-23 and 2023-24 academic years received their degrees. University officials and dignitaries attended the programme.

## FPO Formed to Ensure Fair Prices for Organic Tribal Produce

**Paderu, April 10:** ITDA Project Officer T. Sree Pooja said efforts are underway to ensure remunerative prices for organically grown crops of tribal farmers through the newly formed “Made in Araku Welfare Society” (FPO) in Alluri Sitharama Raju district. Speaking at a meeting held at the ITDA office, she said the society will focus on quality testing, packaging, barcoding of produce, and providing complete product information to consumers. Steps will also be taken to enable direct sales in urban markets like Visakhapatnam, eliminating middlemen. The FPO will promote organic certification, provide technical guidance to

farmers, and facilitate tie-ups with corporate companies



for direct procurement. A new executive committee was also unanimously elected during the meeting.

## Follow Safety Rules During Summer Travel: Anakapalli SP



**Anakapalli, April 10:** District SP urged the public to follow safety precautions during summer travel and warned parents against allowing minors below 18 years to drive is a punishable offence, and strict legal action will be taken against vehicle owners and parents if minors are caught driving. He cautioned motorists against rash driving, wrong-route travel, and violating traffic rules, especially during peak hours. Travelers were advised to check vehicle condition before long journeys, wear helmets, avoid stopping on highways, and carry sufficient water. In case of emergencies, people can contact police via Dial 100/112 or the highway helpline 1033.

## Hostel Management Must Be Improved: District Collector

**Vizianagaram, April 10:** District Collector S. Ramsunder Reddy directed officials to ensure proper management and adequate basic facilities in social welfare hostels across the district. During a review meeting held at the Collectorate on Friday, he emphasized the need for priority attention to sanitation, toilets, and water supply. He also instructed hostel officials to submit details of urgent works by Monday. District Social Welfare Officer M. Annapoornamma informed that repair works worth ₹4.39 crore have been completed in 22 hostels. Welfare department officials and hostel staff attended the meeting.



## World Heritage Day to be Celebrated with Special Events on April 18



**Vijayawada, April 10:** District Collector Dr. G Lakshmiha announced that special programs will be organized on April 18 to mark World Heritage Day, aiming to preserve cultural heritage while building a strong future. The events will be jointly conducted by the Tourism Department, NTR district administration, and the District Tourism Authority. Key heritage sites like Kanaka Durga Temple, Mogalarajapuram Caves, Akkanna-Madanna Caves, Gandhi Hill, and Kondapalli Fort will be highlighted. A heritage trekking program to Kondapalli Fort will begin at 6 AM, along with sports events. A heritage walk in the city will also be organized in collaboration with INTACH. A three-day Kondapalli Toys Mela will be held, where winners of a recent competition will receive prizes worth Rs.1 lakh. In the evening, a musical event will be held near Indira Gandhi Municipal Grounds, featuring singers SP Charan and Sunitha. Eminent personalities contributing to heritage preservation will also be honored. The Collector urged public participation to make the initiative successful and stated that plans are underway to make these celebrations an annual event.

## Mission Horticulture Vision : Collector Urges Support for Farmers



**Vizianagaram, April 10:** District Collector S. Ramsunder Reddy directed officials to extend necessary support to farmers shifting to horticulture crops under the “Mission Horticulture Vision” program. During a review meeting held via video conference, he emphasized achieving the Kharif 2026–27 target of 7,260 acres under horticulture cultivation. The Collector instructed officials to

prepare land in blocks with a minimum of five acres each and ensure facilities like water and electricity. He also called for providing borewells and power supply to 5,088 acres lacking these resources, and immediate electricity connections to 950 acres. Farmers should be facilitated with loan support, he added. Officials from the horticulture and agriculture departments participated in the meeting.

## Ministers Direct Speeding Up of Power Works in Amaravati

**Amaravati, April 10:** State Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar and Municipal Administration Minister Ponguru Narayana directed officials to expedite electricity infrastructure works in the capital Amaravati. During a high-level review meeting with CRDA and power department officials at the Secretariat, the ministers assessed the progress of ongoing works. They stressed that the power system is the backbone of capital development and instructed that projects be completed without delays, strictly as per the Amaravati master plan. Officials were asked to ensure coordination in shifting high-tension lines, resolve technical issues promptly, and accelerate execution. The ministers also emphasized providing uninterrupted and quality power supply to residential complexes being built for judges, ministers,



supply system to meet the future needs of the capital’s growing population.

# Chiranjeevi Reacts Strongly against Jana Nayagan leaks



protect cinema. Kill Piracy. Save Cinema." His support is a significant boost for KVN Productions, the banner behind Jana Nayagan, which is also producing Chiranjeevi's next major cinematic venture.

Many observers point out that Vijay's clear political alignment and his transition into full-time politics have created a complex environment, leading to these repeated

troubles and delays. The entire film fraternity is now urging audiences to reject pirated versions and respect the monumental effort put into the film by waiting for the official release.

Megastar Chiranjeevi has consistently demonstrated a deep awareness and a proactive approach in reacting to industry crises, stepping up once again to condemn the massive online leak of Jana Nayagan. The political action thriller starring Thalapaty Vijay is battling severe piracy threats today.

The journey to the big screen has been incredibly challenging for this project, with its original release in January halted completely due to severe censor board roadblocks.

Sharing his thoughts on X, Chiranjeevi strongly emphasized how piracy acts as a harmful force that cripples the cinema industry and diminishes creative efforts.

He wrote, "The unfortunate leak of #Jananayagan is something that deeply concerns me. Cinema is built on trust, effort, and the collective dreams of many. Such incidents affect all of us in the industry and remind us how crucial it is to protect our creative work. My thoughts and support are with the movie team. Let us all take responsibility to respect and

# Eesha Rebba reveals her real love of life, not Tharun Bhascker



ures on Instagram on Thursday. In one of the photos, she is seen with her pet dog, calling it the "love of my life." Tharun Bhascker is currently busy directing "ENE2" and will also be promoting "Gaayapadda Simham", in which he plays one of the lead roles. On the other hand, Eesha Rebba is yet to announce her next project. While sources claim the two are in a relationship, neither has officially confirmed it so far.

Eesha Rebba has been in the news lately over her alleged close relationship with Tharun Bhascker. During the promotions of their film "Om Shanti Shanti Shanti", both faced repeated questions about their dating. At one point, Tharun Bhascker even hinted that he would share some "good news" soon, sparking speculation about their wedding plans. The film was released in theaters in January 2026.

However, three months after the film's release, there has been no official update. The duo also attended Rashmika Mandanna and Vijay Deverakonda's Udaipur wedding together, appearing much like a couple, but remained silent about their own plans. According to industry insiders, the two have reportedly decided to put their marriage plans on hold for now and focus on their respective careers.

Meanwhile, Eesha Rebba shared a fresh set of pic-

# SP Choudhary Aslam's wife demands Rs.25Cr from Dhurandhar?



This comes shortly after the people of Karachi, where the film is set, had requested the makers to share their profits with them. The public in the Lyari region in Karachi said the film extensively features this

locality, and it is only fair that they get a good 70 or 80% of the revenue of the film. But at the end of the day, these financial demands from such individuals always happens in the case of films based on real inci-

dents. But the makers would have already secured the legal parameters, and they will not be bounded by law to share any revenues for the time being. So, all these requests and demands will fall to a deaf ear.

No other Indian film was able to create as much public discussion as Dhurandhar in recent years. The film was a phenomenal success at the ticket counters, and it has now proceeded to create geopolitical discourses as well. But strangely the film is facing a very peculiar and unexpected situation now as it is facing revenue sharing demands from SP Choudhary's wife Naureen. Going into the story, Dhurandhar features this feisty cop character, SP Choudhary, who operated a task force in Lyari, Karachi, Pakistan. This real life character was portrayed by Bollywood veteran Sanjay Dutt on screen and he did a phenomenal job with the same.

On that note, Choudhary's wife, Naureen has stated that the film extensively uses her husband's character and reveals his connections with Dawood and the underworld which weren't known to the world. So she has now demanded Rs.25 crore in Pakistani currency from the makers of Dhurandhar for using her husband's name and character.

# Carlos Alcaraz beats Etcheverry to enter Monte Carlo quarter-finals



Monte Carlo: World No 1 Carlos Alcaraz overcame a tough challenge from Tomás Martín Etcheverry to reach the quarter-finals of the Monte-Carlo Masters on Thursday. The Spaniard started strongly but was pushed into a three-set battle before winning 6-1, 4-6, 6-3 in the Round of 16 clash on Court Rainier III. Alcaraz dominated the opening set, winning the first eight points of the match and finishing the set comfortably. However, his level dropped in the second set as he made 23 unforced errors, allowing Etcheverry to bounce back. The Argentine raised his game and won four straight games to take the set 6-4. In the deciding set, Alcaraz regained control. He improved his shot selection and hit 13 winners to close out the match and keep his title defence alive.

"I was playing really well in the first set. I was feeling the ball 10/10. Then I started pretty well in the second set as well and had a chance to break his serve in the second game, but I didn't take it. When you don't take the opportunities at this level, you have to run back. He played more aggressively after that, but I would say it was a great fight in the end," Alcaraz

said on the court after winning the match. Alcaraz served five aces compared to Etcheverry's one and won 98 total points against 83. The Spaniard also won 56 service points and 42 receiving points, both higher than his opponent.

Alcaraz converted five of 12 break points, while Etcheverry managed two of six. The top seed also won 67 per cent of points on his first

second serve, compared to 61 and 50 per cent respectively for the Argentine. With this win, Alcaraz extended his clay-court winning streak to 15 matches. He will next face eighth seed Alexander Bublik in the quarter-finals. Earlier in the day, Jannik Sinner also advanced after a three-set win, staying in contention for the World No 1 ranking.

# Meenakshi enters Asian Wrestling final; Hansika and Neha win bronze



New Delhi: Two-time national champion Meenakshi Goyat staged a stunning comeback to defeat South Korea's Seoyoung Park and enter the women's 53kg final, while Hansika Lamba (55kg) and Neha (59kg) secured bronze medals for India at the Senior Asian Wrestling Championships in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Meenakshi, who earned her place in the Indian squad by defeating two-time World Championships bronze medalist Antim Panghal, was trailing 0-2 until the closing 30 seconds of her semifinal bout. The 25-year-old turned the contest on its head with a decisive four-point throw and held on to her advantage to book a place in the final. The former Asian U-23 champion will now face China's Jin Zhang, who advanced after defeating Japan's Moe Kiyooka by fall.

Later, Hansika Lamba and Neha added two more bronze medals to India's tally, following a strong showing by the men's Greco-Roman wrestlers, who had already secured two silver and three bronze medals in the opening three days of competition. In the women's 55kg bronze medal bout, Hansika showed patience early on against Kyrgyzstan's Aruuke Kadyrbek Kyzy before taking control in the second round. The 19-year-old executed a successful leg attack to register a takedown and went on to dominate the bout, sealing a 6-1 victory.

Neha then claimed India's seventh medal of the competi-

tion with a commanding 10-4 win over Mongolia's Bolortuya Khurelkhuu in the women's 59kg bronze medal playoff. Meanwhile, Harshita (72kg) and Monika (65kg) will look to secure bronze medals on Friday. Harshita lost her semifinal 2-7 to Japan's Mahiro Yoshitake, the 2024 Asian Championships gold medalist, and will now face Uzbekistan's Sevinchoy Polvonova in the bronze medal bout. In the 65kg category, Monika suffered a quarterfinal

defeat to eventual finalist Nana Ikehata of Japan and will now take on South Korea's Hanbit Lee in the bronze medal match. Minakshi (57kg) and Mansi (62kg) also remain in contention after advancing to the repechage rounds following losses to finalists in their respective categories. Minakshi will face Kyrgyzstan's Tancholpon Kybalbekova, while Mansi will take on Mongolia's Tserenchim Sukhee.

# Jannik Sinner beats Tomas Machac to reach Monte Carlo quarterfinals

Monte Carlo: World No.2 Jannik Sinner battled past Tomas Machac in a three-set contest to reach the quarterfinals of the Monte-Carlo Masters at Court Rainier III on Thursday. The second seed secured a 6-1, 6-7(3), 6-3 victory in just over two hours, though not without facing a strong challenge from the Czech player. Sinner began the match dominantly, taking the opening set 6-1 with controlled and aggressive play. However,

the momentum shifted in the second set, where he struggled with consistency and fell behind 2-5. Despite recovering to push the set into a tie-break, Sinner lost it 3-7 as Machac forced a decider. Reflecting on the match, Sinner admitted it was not his best performance. "I think I can be happy. Not every day is the same. I was struggling a little bit. I was a bit tired. The most important thing today was to try and get through somehow," he said on

the court after winning. In the final set, Sinner raised his level, showing better control and precision to close out the match 6-3 and book his place in the last eight. He emphasised the importance of finding ways to win even when not at his best. "In the second set, I struggled a bit to find the right energy, but this can happen. I tried to push myself through, which I have done. Even when you don't feel your best, you try to find ways," Sinner said.