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Decoding Trinamool's Poll Campaign : Strategy, Messaging and Narrative



Kolkata: The Trinamool Congress crafted its 2026 West Bengal Assembly election campaign as a reflection of its core philosophy -- Maa, Maati, Manush. At the centre of this strategy is a strong focus on women, grassroots welfare, and a deeply rooted cultural narrative. While political messaging often shifts with changing circumstances, the Trinamool has projected consistency in its ideological positioning. At the same time, the campaign blends this continuity with innovation, agility, and culturally resonant outreach.

A key pillar of the campaign has been the "Banglar Vote Raksha" initiative, launched as a proactive response to concerns around the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Even before the issue gained national traction, the Trinamool had begun mobilising resources across Bengal to safeguard voter inclusion.

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After 28 Years as BJP Peon, Ramesh Bhil Gets Ticket For Civic Election



Mehsana: In a move that has become a major talking point in the Mehnsana Municipal Corporation elections, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has granted a ticket to Ramesh Bhil, a dedicated staff member who has served as a peon at the Mehnsana District BJP office for nearly three decades. Ramesh Bhil officially filed his nomination papers on Saturday, transitioning from a back-end party worker to a frontline political candidate for Ward Number 13. The 50-year-old candidate, who has completed his 10th-grade education, has been a fixture at the district headquarters for 28 years, where his primary responsibilities included managing the office and serving tea and water to senior leaders and visiting party workers. The decision to field Bhil is being viewed as a strategic message from the party leadership, highlighting its "worker-first" ideology.

Minister Lokesh to meet President Draupadi Murmu

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, April 11: It is known that Amaravati has recently been given full legitimacy as the capital of Andhra Pradesh. With the approval of President Draupadi Murmu, the dream of Amaravati farmers and the people of AP has come true. Celebrations have broken out across the state. On this occasion, the alliance leaders have decided to express special thanks to President Draupadi Murmu on behalf of the people of Andhra Pradesh. To this end, the leaders of the TDP, Jana Sena and BJP alliance will meet the President under the leadership of AP Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh. They will go to Delhi on Monday and meet President Murmu.



They will express their gratitude on behalf of the people of AP for recognizing Amaravati as the capital. On this occasion, Minister Lokesh will present her with a booklet explaining the features of Amaravati. In the recent AP Assembly session, the members passed a resolution stating that Amaravati should be the permanent capital of

Andhra Pradesh. The state government sent this resolution to both houses of Parliament. Later, when the bill was discussed in the Lok Sabha on April 1, almost all parties supported it. The next day, the bill went to the Rajya Sabha and got the green signal there too. With this, it was sent for the President's approval. On April 6, Presi-

dent Draupadi Murmu examined it and approved it. On the same day, by 10 pm, a gazette notification was also issued. The Central Law Department issued a gazette stating Amaravati as the capital in Sub-Section-2 of the AP Reorganization Act. With this, Amaravati got legal protection at the central level as the permanent capital.

CM Chandrababu calls Yanamala Ramakrishnudu.. inquires about his health



From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, April 11: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu has paid special attention to the health condition of senior Telugu Desam Party leader and former minister Yanamala Ramakrishnudu. The Chief Minister called Yanamala on Saturday and inquired about his well-being. Yanamala Ramakrishnudu fell ill a few days ago and doctors performed a heart stent in his heart. After the surgery, he is currently resting at his residence as per the doctors' advice. During the phone conversation, Chandrababu inquired about Yanamala's current health condition and the details of the treatment he is receiving. Stating that his services as a senior leader who supports the party are very crucial, the CM wished Yanamala Ramakrishnudu a speedy recovery with full health and to become active in the public sphere again.

CM Chandrababu condemns Girl's Murder in Kadapa, vows action

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, April 11: Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has strongly condemned the brutal murder of a teenage girl in Kazipet, Kadapa district. He warned that strict action would be taken against anyone attacking women and girls, emphasising that no one involved in such crimes should be spared. Naidu ordered police to initiate legal proceedings and to implement measures to prevent similar incidents in future, asserting there is no room for compromise on the safety of females. The victim, 17-year-old Ramakeerthana, was murdered by Venkatesh, who had been harassing her for some time. When she refused his advances, Venkatesh went to her home on Friday, where she was alone. He reportedly tried to force her into accepting his love, and when she again refused, he attacked her with a knife, slashing her throat. Her parents found her in a pool of blood upon returning from farm work and rushed her to hospital, but she died en route. The incident has caused widespread outrage in the local community.

'Will End Appeasement Politics; Not Allow Bengalis Become Minority': PM Modi

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday promised to implement the Uniform Civil Code in West Bengal to end what he called the "politics of appeasement", while asserting that the BJP would not let Bengalis become a minority in the state. Addressing a rally at Jangipur in Muslim-majority Murshidabad district, Modi said the BJP's election manifesto, released by Union Home Minister

Amit Shah on Friday, is a roadmap to end TMC's 'Mahajungleraj' in West Bengal. "The nation's security is of paramount importance to us. The BJP resolves to implement UCC in West Bengal to end the politics of appeasement forever," Modi said. His remarks came a day after the state BJP, in its manifesto, promised to implement the UCC within six months if it comes to power. (Turn to Page 2)



PM Modi, Rahul Gandhi's Rare Candid Chat In Parliament Complex

New Delhi: A video of a public, cordial conversation between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi - a rarity in India's current polarised politics - has gone viral on social media. The PM and the Congress MP were among leaders who had gathered at the Parliament complex on Saturday to pay tribute to social reformer Mahatma Jyotirao Phule on his 200th birth anniversary. The video shows Prime Minister Modi greeting Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla,

Union Ministers JP Nadda and Arjun Ram Meghwal, Gandhi and others, and then stopping to speak to the Leader of the Opposition. Sources said the Prime Minister asked Gandhi about the health of his mother and former Congress president Sonia Gandhi, who was hospitalised recently. "Gandhi informed him that her health is improving. In response, the Prime Minister expressed his satisfaction and extended his best wishes," said source. Sonia Gandhi was discharged from the Sir



Ganga Ram Hospital on March 31 after recovering from a systemic infection (when pathogens enter the bloodstream and spread throughout the body). She had been admitted with a fever on March 24. Taking to X on Saturday morning, PM Modi described Phule as a "guiding light" and said his emphasis on education, learning and welfare of all is relevant in today's age.

CM Chandrababu Naidu's new plan to strengthen the finances of TDP workers

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, April 11: Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu is regularly attending the training classes being held at the TDP office. The TDP leadership is providing training to leaders and activists with senior party leaders. The CM shared his views while drinking coffee with the leaders and activists undergoing training. He explained the past developments in politics and administration, current welfare, development and future plans to the activists. Feedback was also taken from leaders and activists on the implementation of various schemes and programs at the field level. The Chief Minister directed the leaders to increase awareness so that even ordinary activists can better analyze the developments taking place in the state... and the evil deeds of the opposing

party. He announced that the E3 program will be implemented for the financial empowerment of party activists. **TDP vote bank should increase: CM** 'We have taken up clean and green... We are encouraging clean energy... We are also doing clean politics. Activists should work to stop TDP as a caretaker address for clean politics. We should do positive politics... We should increase positive votes... TDP's vote bank should increase than before,' CM Chandrababu suggested. Along with the welfare and development programs being implemented by the government... he informed the leaders that they should also make the people understand the difficulties the government is facing. He said that the E3 program will be introduced for party leaders and activists. He said that



an 'Ethical Economic Empowerment' program will be launched to financially strengthen the activists with ethics and honesty. 'The way I have thought for my family... I am thinking the same way for the TDP family,' CM Chandrababu Naidu said.

People's trust in laws and judiciary has increased: Anita

From Our Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam, April 11: Andhra Pradesh Home Minister Anitha Vangalapudi has commented that people's trust in laws and the judiciary has increased. She emphasized that public prosecution is an honor. She clarified that punishment will be given without bail in POCISO cases. She stated that justice will be served to the people if the police system and the judiciary work in coordination. Today (Saturday), a one-day workshop on the Human Trafficking and Slave Labour (Abolition) Act, 1976 was or-

ganized in Visakhapatnam under the auspices of the Andhra Pradesh Prosecution Department. **We saved 900 children.** Home Minister Anita, Director of Prosecutions Ramakoteswara Rao and 200 prosecution officers participated in this workshop as the chief guests. Public prosecutors who have shown excellent performance in various cases were honored. The awardees were congratulated. Anita spoke on the occasion. She said that this workshop is useful for the society. She explained



that 900 children have been rescued as part of Operation Trace. She said that 180 people who were trapped in different countries have also been rescued. She said that training is also being provided in the police department with new technology. Home Minister Anita said that only if the police system and the judicial system are strong... democracy will be strong.

EDITORIAL

Do 2.7 million people
not have a vote?

The entire country is watching the West Bengal elections with an unprecedented level of excitement. The reason for this is that the elections will be held without nearly 27 lakh voters in the list. The objections of all of them are still under judicial review. It is not possible to say what will happen to them by the time of polling. So far, they are all floating in a paradise of illusion. As a result, the original 7.66 crore voters' list before the Comprehensive Revision of the Voters' List (CVR) has now shrunk to 12%. This controversial revision process is challenging the ideals of democracy. Mistakes in the voter list, omission of names of eligible voters, and other issues are questioning the very foundations of democracy. This undermines the credibility of the election process. Ultimately, the Comprehensive Revision of the Voters' List is becoming suspicious. In such circumstances, even if the President, who is the guardian of the Constitution, and the Supreme Court, which is responsible for protecting the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution, intervene, the sanctity of this election process will not be restored.

According to Article 326 of the Constitution, elections to Parliament and the Assembly are held on the basis of adult suffrage. It is mandatory for any citizen of India to get the right to vote if he/she attains the age of 18. He/she has to get registered for this purpose. According to Article 324(1), the functions of the Election Commission include preparing for the elections to Parliament and the Assembly, preparing and revising the voters' lists, supervising the elections and issuing guidelines. But a situation has now arisen in West Bengal where citizens are losing their right to vote through no fault of their own. The Election Commission's stance on the concept of universal adult suffrage of citizens has raised serious questions. The removal of nearly 92 lakh names in West Bengal on the grounds of 'logical disparities' and the objections raised by 60 lakh people against the removal of these names are questioning the very principles of democracy.

This act has been criticized severely for taking away the citizens' right to vote and stand in elections through no fault of their own. The Election Commission's undertaking of the Special Comprehensive Revision (SCR) process of the voters' lists before the elections in the state and the deadlines set for it are also questionable. While the Election Commission is preparing to announce the election schedule in April and May, it is not known why it was done in such a hurry without any method to remove 92 lakh people from the voters' lists and announce the model voters' list on February 28. Nearly 60 lakh people raised their objections to the removal of names from the list on the grounds of logical contradiction or logical difference. All of them approached the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court took up the hearing on these petitions. The arguments made by the Election Commission on the removal of names did not influence the Supreme Court at all. The Supreme Court expressed dissatisfaction that the policies followed by the Election Commission are not in line with the actual conditions of India.

However, the green signal given by the Election Commission to continue its revision process is being discussed. However, it is gratifying that the Supreme Court has taken responsibility for the process of reinstating the names of lakhs of voters who were removed. In fact, that work should have been done by the Election Commission. The Supreme Court has given the Election Commission time till April 7 to resolve the objections and consolidate the lists. The Supreme Court has helped the Election Commission to appoint more than 700 judges to resolve it within the deadline. But the logical difference is that although 27 lakh people on the list have the right to appeal against the Election Commission, it has not been done. They have been left in a helpless position, unable to check their positions in the voter list.

The Election Commission is doing its job without resolving the disputes of those who are waiting before the appellate court with complaints. If the Commission is ready to conduct the elections by leaving their complaints to the wind, this will be the most despicable drama. The Election Commission should be able to prove with sufficient evidence why citizens were removed from the voter list. Otherwise, there is nothing more absurd than if the Election Commission asks citizens, 'Why should you continue to be removed from the voter list?' It is against the principles of natural law and constitutional provisions. Asking a citizen to prove himself as a voter is not following due process. When a situation arises where the Election Commission neglects its responsibilities to violate the constitutional right of a citizen to vote, it is mandatory for the President and the Supreme Court to intervene. They have the responsibility to implement the constitutional orders to protect the rights of citizens. The right to vote is very crucial in a democracy.

Ahead Of Bengal Polls, Decoding
The Bhadrakalok's Views On SIR

In Kolkata's social vocabulary, a particular group has long held a special place - the 'bhadrakalok', or what is often referred to as the 'madhyabitta' (middle-class). In English-language discourse, this social class was once described as the "middling class", and the term later evolved into the "educated middle class", sometimes simply called the "middle class". During the colonial period, British officials, who first encountered this social group, referred to them as "educated natives." Like most modern social classes, however, the boundaries of the bhadrakalok community are difficult to define precisely. In West Bengal, and particularly in Kolkata, the bhadrakalok have historically played a central role in shaping public opinion.

In earlier decades, the Congress party enjoyed considerable support among Kolkata's urban middle class, while rural Bengal leaned more towards the Left parties. Later, during the final phase of Left rule, Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee maintained significant support among urban educated voters, while Mamata Banerjee emerged as the political favourite in rural Bengal. Eventually, Banerjee managed to expand her influence across both demographics. However, in the 2026 Assembly election, a different pattern appears to be emerging in parts of urban Kolkata. In some areas, there is visible anti-incumbency after nearly fifteen years of Banerjee's government. Among sections of the bhadrakalok, too, a certain level of dissatisfaction has become evident. Their concerns revolve around several issues that have dominated political debates in the state, including the education recruitment scam, allegations of corruption in political campaigns, and the activities of the so-called "syndicate" networks involved in construction and local contracting. For many members of the Bengali



bhadrakalok community, these controversies have created a sense of disillusionment with the present administration. The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the voter list has added another layer of controversy. Some argue that the deletions disproportionately affect slum residents or minority communities in Kolkata, while others suggest that the exercise targeted illegal infiltrators, including Bangladeshis living in railway colonies or old refugee settlements.

Differing Opinions

Renowned filmmaker Arindam Sil said, "We are not against SIR, but we are worried about the abrupt huge deletion. Bengali cultural degradation is a wrong perception because there are good films Bengalis are still creating. Tagore's songs, dance and book fairs -- all are still happening. But deleted voters can't get hearings from tribunals. This is unthinkable." Painter and renowned artist Samir Aich disagreed. "After the RG Kar and Sandeshkhali incidents, Bengali culture has completely

eroded. I do not subscribe to any particular party but, as a creative person, I think Bengal has lost its cultural glory in the past 15 years. Vote bank politics should be stopped. The SIR idea is good," he said. Retired police officer Nazrul Islam also said implementing the SIR was a good decision and that the Trinamool Congress government in the state had "destroyed" the state's development model. Banerjee and the Trinamool have argued that many genuine voters have been removed from the list and that the deletions do not affect only minority communities, but also a significant number of Hindu voters. There have been several reported instances where academicians, teachers, professors, college students, and government employees discovered that their names were missing from the voter lists. For many people, the process of correcting the records and re-entering their names has proven to be complicated. The SIR verification procedure requires filling out multiple forms and appearing for inquiries,

which many citizens have found difficult and stressful. The BJP has tried to counter these criticisms by arguing that voter list revisions have taken place in several other states as well, including Kerala, Assam and Tamil Nadu, without similar political turmoil. The party says the protests in West Bengal are largely incited by the Trinamool. Banerjee, however, has argued that there is a political conspiracy behind the process, claiming that it is being used as a method to remove voters sympathetic to her party. In her campaign speeches, she accused the Election Commission of functioning as a political instrument of the BJP, an accusation that the saffron party has denied.

Voices Raised

As a result, two parallel currents are now visible in Kolkata's public discourse. On the one hand, there is genuine discontent among sections of the bhadrakalok community regarding governance issues. Many of these voices regularly appear in television debates and discussions across social media platforms. Among sec-

tions of the Bengali middle class, criticism of the government has been growing. However, the SIR controversy has also caused discomfort among several independent intellectuals and professionals who do not align with the Trinamool Congress. For example, Dr Kunal Sarkar, a well-known cardiologist, and Professor Sukanta Chowdhury, emeritus professor of Jadavpur University, have expressed concerns about the way the process has been handled. These figures are generally regarded as free-thinking public intellectuals rather than supporters of any particular political party, yet they have voiced dissatisfaction with how the Election Commission and judicial officers conducted the SIR process. Sarkar said, "It is terrible. The BJP should not advance its political interests through the Election Commission and SIR." In the end, how all these factors will influence the final electoral outcome remains uncertain. As the saying goes, the final word will only be known when the results are declared.

Strengthening Social Protection For
All Types Of Workers Is Urgent

In a context of rapidly changing labour markets, a new report of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) has said that strengthening social protection for all type of workers have become urgent. Robust social protection systems are essential in helping people, societies and economies to navigate the change, it says.

The report has also pointed out the financing gaps in social security protection. Encouraging examples notwithstanding, the annual financing gap to achieve universal social protection in low- and middle-income countries remains vast, standing at 3.3 per cent of GDP. Of this, 2.0 per cent of GDP is required for essential health care and 1.3 per cent for the following five key benefits: 0.6 per cent of GDP is for child benefits, 0.3 per cent for old-age pensions, 0.2 per cent for disability benefits, 0.2 per cent for unemployment benefits and 0.05 per cent for maternity benefits.

The report titled "Universal Social Protection in changing labour markets: Protecting Workers in all types of employment" has emphasized that social protection needs to play a greater role to mend and reinvigorate currently strained social contracts. This requires not only a strengthening of social protection systems, including floors, but also increased policy coherence and coordinating social

protection with other relevant policy domains.

Social protection coverage is often tied to people's employment situation, a relationship made more complex as the world of work changes and diversifies, it says. When it comes to social insurance coverage, the reality is more complex than what can be captured by a simple dichotomy of "standard" versus "non-standard" forms of employment. Depending on national contexts, coverage levels can differ greatly among and within different subcategories of workers (including part-time, temporary and self-employed workers), pointing to the importance of policy design in shaping coverage results in specific labour market contexts.

One of the reasons for persistent coverage gaps is the fact that many workers and their families are neither covered by contributory mechanisms (especially social insurance) nor by non-contributory (usually tax-financed) mechanisms - they fall through the cracks of both types of mechanisms, and thus are often referred to as the "missing middle", leaving them vulnerable.

Some categories of workers are less likely to be covered by social insurance than others, for instance, workers on temporary contracts (especially seasonal workers, those with very short

contracts or those in casual labour), in part-time work (especially those with very few and irregular hours), workers on digital platforms, agricultural workers and those in self-employment, depending on national policy and legal frameworks and their implementation. As a result, many of these workers find themselves in informal employment, which further contributes to their high vulnerability.

Another key factor that influences social insurance coverage is enterprise size. In almost all countries, social security coverage of employees in smaller enterprises is lower than for those in larger enterprises. Low coverage is a particular challenge for enterprises with less than five workers, often due to exclusion from legal frameworks, relatively high administrative cost of registration or low compliance. For social protection systems to support people in navigating work and life transitions, a focus on reducing poverty is not enough - a shift towards preventing poverty is necessary for better outcomes, it says.

Intervening only once people have fallen into poverty is neither in line with the universal right to social security, nor conducive to human and economic development. In many cases, policy debates focus on "the

poor" and "the non-poor" as if these two categories were distinct and stable over time. However, longitudinal data demonstrate that for some people and households, poverty might be a transient experience, others move in and out of poverty, while for others, poverty is chronic.

Such high levels of flux at the lower end of the income distribution are one of the reasons for which narrow poverty targeting often results in high levels of exclusion. Recognizing such poverty dynamics and designing policies and programmes in a more forward-looking way contributes to preventing negative coping strategies, such as selling valuable assets, taking on debt or reducing expenditure, including on children's food and education.

To ensure human and economic development in a world of heightened vulnerability and volatility, developing more effective social protection systems is an urgent priority. Instead of being primarily reactive, social protection should address the root causes of poverty by establishing dependable systems that reduce vulnerability, reinforce people's capabilities and prevent people from falling into poverty in the first place.

Finally, the report says, it should be noted that universal coverage of a social protection system does not

necessarily need to be achieved by universal programmes. In contexts where contributory pensions have significant coverage, social pensions, for instance, may be pension-tested and provided only to those without a sufficient contributory pension. Advantages of integrating contributory and non-contributory forms of social protection include lower levels of expenditure on tax-financed schemes and the potential for higher benefit levels through the expansion of social insurance benefits.

Here it is important to ensure that the interaction between contributory and non-contributory forms of social protection does not create negative incentives towards contributing to social insurance, which could happen, for instance when making even a small contribution to the social insurance system would immediately disqualify one from tax-financed benefits, or when tax-financed benefits are higher than contributory benefits. To avoid such situations, the careful coordination between contributory and non-contributory schemes is advisable. For example, a tapered pension test can ensure that for those on lower incomes, tax-financed pensions complement social insurance pensions, and are gradually withdrawn at higher levels of income.

Gollapalem Students Selected for National-Level Games



Kakinaada, April 11: Four students from Zilla Parishad High School, Gollapalem, have been selected for upcoming national-level softball and baseball competitions in Delhi, bringing pride to the region. According to Headmistress Susheelamani, J. Jayakrishna excelled in the Under-14 softball event held in Pulivendula and secured selection for the national tournament scheduled from April 16 to 22. Similarly, K. Lokeshwari Deepika, D. Sangeetha, and D. Adarsh performed well in the Under-14 state-level

baseball competitions held at Palamaneru in Chittoor district and qualified for the nationals, said Physical Director G. Sunil Kumar. Financial assistance for travel expenses was provided by Chandala Adinarayana Charitable Trust Chairman Chandala Adinarayana and retired BC Welfare Deputy Director Sanapala Dhanaraju. Local officials and community leaders congratulated the students and wished them success at the national level.

Achievers' Day Celebrated at Aditya University



Gandepalli, April 11: Achievers' Day was celebrated in a grand and festive atmosphere at Aditya University, Surampalem, on Saturday. Over 4,400 students from the 2025-26 batch secured placements in 255 companies, turning the campus into a celebration of success. The university management, including Chairman Nallamilli Seshareddy and Vice Chairman Satish Reddy, expressed their appreciation over the achievement. Vice Chairman Satish Reddy personally interacted with students and congratulated them. Pro-Chancellor Dr. N.

Satish Reddy stated that the institution fulfilled its promise of providing both a degree and a job opportunity within four years. He added that efforts will continue to ensure placements for all eligible students. Top salary packages reached up to ₹39.6 lakh per annum, with several students securing high-paying offers above ₹20 lakh and ₹10 lakh. Parents expressed gratitude to the university for providing quality education, discipline, and bright career opportunities to their children.

Tight Arrangements for Chandanotsavam; Ministers Stress Coordination for Devotee Convenience



Visakh South, April 11 (Pen Power): The Andhra Pradesh government is making elaborate arrangements for the Chandanotsavam to be held on April 20 at the Sri Varaha Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Devasthanam. Ministers directed officials to ensure smooth conduct of the festival with proper coordination and without inconvenience to devotees. At a review meeting held at the Visakhapatnam Collectorate on Saturday, Endowments Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy, District In-charge Minister Dola Bala Veeranjanya Swamy, and Home Minister Vangalapati Anitha participated and reviewed the arrangements in detail. The Endowments Minister said a special ministerial

sub-committee has been formed under Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu to oversee major festivals like Chandanotsavam. He added that along with the District Collector, the Endowments Commissioner has been appointed as a special officer for the event. Officials were instructed to ensure proper traffic regulation, transport facilities, security, and darshan arrangements considering the heavy rush. VIP darshan will be allowed only till 5 AM, after which free and paid darshan will be opened for general devotees. The District In-charge Minister said over two lakh devotees are expected and emphasized strict arrangements, including deployment of volunteers in queue lines to prevent stampedes. Facilities such as drinking water, toilets, and rest areas are being arranged on a large scale. Home Minister Vangalapati Anitha stressed that all departments must act responsibly as per SOPs and ensure coordination. In view of possible unseasonal rains, officials were asked to set up strong shelters, pandals, and German sheds. On the occasion, ministers launched an online portal for darshan tickets, with the first ticket purchased by the Endowments Minister. Temple EO Venkata Rao said tickets will be available online from Monday, with APS technology support for easy access. MLAs Ganababu, Palla Srinivasa Rao, Vamsikrishna Srinivas, Panchakarla Ramesh Babu, Vishnukumar Raju, District Collector M. Abhishikt Kishore, Police Commissioner Shankhabrata Bagchi, and officials from various departments attended the meeting.

Tirumani Sripuja Assumes Charge as Joint Collector

Paderu, April 11: Tirumani Sripuja officially assumed charge as the Joint Collector of ASR District (Paderu) on Saturday at the district collectorate. Recently transferred as part of IAS officers' promotions, she was posted to the district after serving as ITDA Project Officer. Prior to taking charge, she visited the Modakondamma temple with her family and sought blessings.

ity is to ensure that government welfare schemes reach all eligible beneficiaries. She also assured speedy resolution of public grievances, including those received through "Prajavani," and emphasized coordination with all departments under the guidance of the District Collector for overall development. District officials and staff welcomed her on the occasion.



After handing over ITDA Project Officer responsibilities to Aditya Varma, she took charge as Joint Collector. Speaking on the occasion, she said her prior-

Aditya Varma Assumes Charge as ITDA Project Officer

Paderu, April 11: Aditya Varma assumed charge as the new Project Officer of ITDA (Tribal Welfare Department) on Saturday, taking over from outgoing officer Tirumani Sripuja. Prior to assuming office, he visited the Modakondamma temple with his family and sought blessings. Later, he was accorded a warm welcome by ITDA staff at the office.

Speaking on the occasion, Aditya Varma said he would ensure effective implementation of government welfare schemes to reach every tribal household. He emphasized improving education standards in tribal schools, enhancing healthcare in remote areas, and creating employment opportunities for tribal youth through skill development. He assured transparent administration and prompt resolution of tribal issues, adding that he would work in coordination with district officials and conduct field visits to understand ground-level problems. Officials and staff from various departments attended the program.



Strict Action in POCSO Cases: Home Minister Anitha

Visakh, April 11 (Pen Power): Andhra Pradesh Home Minister Vangalapati Anitha said public confidence in the legal and judicial system has significantly increased, with stricter punishments being imposed on offenders. Addressing a workshop in Visakhapatnam on human trafficking and the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, she highlighted the crucial role of public prosecutors in ensuring justice. The Minister stated that the government is taking a tough stand in POCSO cases, ensuring denial of easy bail to accused and speeding up legal processes for quick justice to victims. She also noted that around 900 children have been rescued under "Operation Trace," and 180 individuals stranded abroad were safely brought back. Efforts are being made to strengthen police capabilities through modern technology training. Nearly 200 prosecution officials attended the programme, where



outstanding public prosecutors were honoured.

Collector Walks 15 km to Address Tribal Village Issues



Rampachodavaram, April 11 (Pen Power): Polavaram District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar stated that steps are being taken in phases to resolve issues in villages of the newly formed Gurtedu mandal. On Saturday, he walked nearly 15 km from Tangedu Kota to Singanna Kota under Patakota to directly interact with villagers. Residents highlighted the need for an Anganwadi centre, drinking water, road facilities, and land titles for 11 tribal families under the Forest Rights Act. The Collector assured action on these issues. He also directed officials to organize a special medical camp in the village and inspected the village secretariat and Primary Health Centre, emphasizing timely services and availability of medicines. Mosquito nets were distributed to prevent malaria in tribal



areas. Officials from various departments participated in the programme.

Interstate Thief Arrested; Gold Worth Rs14 Lakh Recovered

Tirupati, April 11: Tirupati District SP L. Subbarayudu announced the arrest of an interstate thief involved in a jewellery robbery. The thief, identified as Velmurugan alias "Pulsar Babu" from Chennai, was caught using technical evidence during the investigation. The incident occurred on March 14 in Sullurupeta, where the thief threw chilli powder into the eyes of a jewellery shop owner at Venkateswara Jewellers and fled with 12 gold chains weighing about 112 grams, worth ₹14 lakh, on a motorcycle. Police recovered the stolen gold from Kerala, where it had been pledged. The accused has a history of 25 criminal cases. Authorities are initiating action under the PD Act. He has been produced in court and remanded. SP Subbarayudu appreciated the police team and re-



warded them for their efforts.

Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Fought Against Caste System: Collector C.M. Saikant Varma



Guntur, April 11: District Collector C.M. Saikant Varma said that Mahatma Jyotiba Phule was a reformer who dedicated his life to eradicating caste discrimination, untouchability, and social evils like child marriage. On the occasion of Phule's 200th birth anniversary, the Collector, along with Joint Collector Ashutosh Srivastava and District Revenue Officer N.S.K.

Khajavali, paid floral tributes to his portrait at the Collectorate VC Hall. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector highlighted that Phule's ideas contributed significantly to strengthening the education system and promoting girls' education. He described Phule as a pioneer who worked tirelessly for the upliftment of marginalized sections. Officials and staff attended the program.

Phule's Ideals an Inspiration: Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha



Vijayawada, April 11: District Collector Dr. G.

Lakshmisha said that the principles of social reformer Mahatma Jyotirao Phule continue to inspire present generations. He paid floral tributes to Phule's statue during the 200th birth anniversary celebrations by the Backward Classes Welfare Department at Tummalalpalli Kalakshetram on Saturday.

Speaking on the occasion,

the Collector highlighted Phule's relentless fight against social inequality and his efforts for the upliftment of weaker sections. He emphasized that Phule believed education was the key to empowerment and equality in society.

He urged everyone to follow Phule's ideals and work towards building an equal and just society.

Phule Bicentenary Celebrated; Minister Calls to Follow His Ideals

Amalapuram, April 11: On the occasion of the 200th birth anniversary of , tributes were paid in Ramachandrapuram. State Labour Minister said Phule's contributions towards the upliftment of marginalized communities and women's education remain an inspiration for present generations. Floral tributes were offered at the Municipal Office and RTC Complex, followed by participation in a buttermilk distribution and food service program organized by RTC employees. The Minister urged everyone to follow Phule's ideals of education,



equality, and eradication of caste discrimination. Public representatives, officials, and local leaders attended the event.

Tributes Paid to Mahatma Jyotirao Phule in Rajamahendravaram



Rajamahendravaram, April 11: On the occasion of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule's birth anniversary, East Godavari

District SP D. Narasimha Kishore paid floral tributes at the District Police Office.

He praised Phule as a figure who dedicated his life to the upliftment of the oppressed, women's education, and social equality. The SP urged youth to follow Phule's ideals and work towards justice, education, and equality.

Additional SP L. Chenchi Reddy, DSP T.V.R.K. Kumar, and other police officials were present.

Target of 20 Lakh Solar Rooftops: Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar



Markapur, April 11: State Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar said the government aims to install 20 lakh solar rooftop systems across the state. He launched the PM Surya Ghar Solar Rooftop Scheme at Pedda Yachavaram village in Markapur mandal,



along with District Collector M. Vijaya Sunitha and local MLAs.

The Minister stated that ₹1,200 crore is being spent on the scheme by the Centre and State. Solar units will be installed free of cost for SC/ST households, enabling them to generate electricity and even

sell surplus power in the future. Subsidies are also being provided for BC and OC beneficiaries.

In Markapur district alone, ₹402 crore is being allocated, with 12,342 beneficiaries identified. Officials urged people to take advantage of the scheme.

Workers Urged to Utilize Welfare Schemes: Minister Subhash

Amalapuram, April 11: State Labour Minister Vasanamsetti Subhash urged workers to make full use of welfare schemes implemented by the Central and State governments. During his visit to Ramachandrapuram town, the Minister interacted with workers in textile and other shops and created



awareness about e-Shram cards. He advised those without cards to register immediately and even demon-

strated the online registration process.

He highlighted schemes like Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan and Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maandhan, stressing the govern rights of both organized and unorganized workers. Labour officials and local leaders also participated in the program.

Phule's 200th Birth Anniversary Celebrated in Kakinada

Kakinada, April 11: The 200th birth anniversary of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule was celebrated grandly in Kakinada. The event was organized by the BC Welfare Department near the Phule statue at the Government Hospital. Joint Collector Apoorva Bharat, MLC Parabattula Rajasekharam, Kakinada City

MLA Vanamadi Kondababu, and Municipal Commissioner N.V.V. Satyanarayana paid floral tributes. Speakers highlighted Phule's contributions towards eradicating untouchability, promoting social justice, and empowering women. They also recalled Savitribai Phule's role in advancing women's education. Officials, public repre-



sentatives, and community leaders participated in the event.

Shreyas Iyer Leads By Example As Punjab Kings Beat Sunrisers Hyderabad By 6 Wickets



Shreyas Iyer once again proved his worth as a leader and a batter, guiding Punjab Kings to a commanding six-wicket victory over Sunrisers Hyderabad in an Indian Premier League match on Saturday. After an astute piece of captaincy, Shreyas led by example with an unbeaten 69 off 33 balls to help PBKS chase down a daunting target of 220 with as many as seven balls to spare. The foundation for the victory was laid by a rollicking 99-run opening stand between Priyansh Arya (57 off 20 balls) and Prabhsimran Singh (51 off 25), after Abhishek Sharma unleashed a brutal onslaught with a blistering 28-ball 74 to power SRH to 219 for six. Sent in, Abhishek and Travis Head (38 off 23 balls) blew away the PBKS bowlers with a 120-run opening partnership in a mere

8.1 overs. The home team though made a fine comeback with the ball after Shashank Singh (2/20 in 3 overs) removed both openers in one over and, as a result, SRH, who were 120 for no loss at the start of ninth over, ended inside 220. Xavier Bartlett (1/42 in 4 overs) bowled a brilliant final over to concede just five runs. Abhishek smashed eight sixes and five fours. In reply, PBKS got the start they needed and raced to 93 for no loss in the powerplay, with the opening duo of Priyansh and Prabhsimran going hammer and tongs at the SRH bowlers. Left-arm spinner Harsh Dubey leaked 18 runs in the first over, providing PBKS with the perfect launch pad. Prabhsimran danced down the ground to get a couple of sixes, including one against veteran left-arm seamer Jaydev

Unadkat, even as Eshan Malinga gave away 17 runs. Priyansh then hammered Harshal Patel for 6, 6, 4, 4 to race to a 16-ball fifty. Shivang Kumar raised SRH hopes by picking three wickets but Shreyas completed the job for his side. Earlier, Abhishek got off the blocks quickly and launched into Arshdeep to collect 24 runs with the help of two fours and two maximums including a straight six and another off a top edge over third man. Marco Jansen, too, was taken to the cleaners with 16 runs in the left-arm quick's first over as SRH reached 60 for no loss in four overs. Abhishek reached his half-century in 18 balls with a six over long-on off a Vyshak Vijaykumar slower ball, and two balls later, a low full toss was lofted over long-on for another maximum to sig-

nal the end of another 24-run over, which propelled SRH to 84 for no loss in five overs, the best powerplay score at this venue. Abhishek enjoyed registering his first half-century of the season and received a hug from Head, before the two resumed their power hitting. Bartlett came back but the onslaught continued unabated as Head struck three consecutive boundaries and Abhishek pummelled one over deep midwicket for a maximum to bring up SRH's 100 inside the powerplay. With his front-line seamers leaking plenty of runs, Punjab skipper Shreyas Iyer introduced Shashank Singh and spinner Yuzvendra Chahal to slow things down, and the former gave away just six runs in his first over. Leg-spinner Chahal conceded only three runs in his first five balls before Abhishek danced down the wicket to smack him for a big six. Continuing with Shashank paid off for PBKS as he effected the much-needed first breakthrough with an innocuous delivery that Head hit to the fielder at long-on. Shashank struck again as Abhishek was caught by Arshdeep after the batter slashed a fuller-length ball but could not clear the boundary. Showing clever captaincy, Shreyas gave Chahal another over and, in the context of the game, he did the job asked of him by conceding just nine runs. SRH skipper Ishan Kishan (27 off 17) got out to Arshdeep while Heinrich Klaasen (39 off 33) was dismissed in the final over.

"Where Is MS Dhoni?" Ravi Shastri Asks Under Pressure CSK Captain Ruturaj Gaikwad. His Reply



For the fourth straight match, Chennai Super Kings are without MS Dhoni. The five-time champions have lost three consecutive matches in IPL 2026. However, there are still no signs of former skipper Dhoni in the team dugout. Ahead of the IPL, the CSK management had said that Dhoni would miss the initial matches of the season due to a calf strain. While videos have surfaced of the five-time IPL-winning captain training, there is still no clarity on when

he will return. At the toss of the CSK vs Delhi Capitals match on Saturday, Ravi Shastri asked skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad, "Where is MS Dhoni?" "For those asking about MS Dhoni, he's at the hotel watching and supporting us. But yes, very soon, you'll see him out on the ground," Gaikwad replied. Talking about the match, Delhi Capitals skipper Axar Patel won the toss and elected to field against Chennai Super Kings in the IPL match in Chennai on

Saturday. The Capitals made two changes, bringing in Jammu & Kashmir pacer Auqib Nabi and Ashutosh Sharma in place of Nitish Rana and Vipraj Nigam. "We would like to bowl first because the pitch looks good, and whatever score is set, we would prefer to chase it. The IPL is a long tournament, and the dressing-room atmosphere is very relaxed. The discussions have been around focusing on what we can control. Once we reach a certain point, there's no need to overthink things," Axar said. "So that's been the mindset-control what's in our hands. The mood is good. If you look at the balance of our side, we have almost all bases covered. Based on the options available, I think we've picked a very good combination. Compared to last year, the team looks more balanced, and hopefully we perform well today. As for the surface, it has been a good batting wicket this season. Over the last couple of years in Chennai, it has played well. It's a red-soil pitch, so there should be good bounce. Our aim will be to restrict them to as low a total as possible and then chase it down. There are two changes: Nabi comes in for

Vipraj, and Ashutosh Sharma replaces Nitish Rana." Gaikwad said that CSK have also made two changes, roping in Dewald Brevis and Gurjapneet Singh. "The pitch does look a bit on the drier side. We were actually 50-50 about the toss, but it's good to back ourselves. The aim is to put our best foot forward today, get that first win, and get on the points table. That's what we've been trying to do over the last couple of games as well," Gaikwad said. "Like I mentioned in the press conference, we've been improving in all departments. The batting has been doing really well; it's just a few key moments where we've missed out, and those are the areas we need to capitalise on. Overall, everyone is in a good space and really eager to go. When you look at the balance of the side, we are definitely playing to our potential. It's great to have Brevis back-he's excited and ready. The middle order looks solid as well. We've also brought in Gurjapneet Singh, who has been bowling well recently, in place of Matt Henry."

R Ashwin Praises New Zealand Star For Countering Pakistan's Usman Tariq With Unique Move

Pakistan spinner Usman Tariq continues to remain a huge mystery for his strange style of bowling. The off-spinner, with his unique stop-and-pause side-arm action, has been a huge trouble for batters. His bowling became a huge talking point during the 2026 T20 World Cup. Fans and experts came up with divided opinions on his bowling style. As India were set to face Pakistan in the group-stage game of the tournament, spin great Ravichandran Ashwin had given them a different way of facing the bowler. He had advised the Indian batters to pull out of their stance during the pause in Tariq's bowling. While the Indian batters didn't apply the strategy, New Zealand batter Daryl Mitchell did it during a Pakistan Super League 2026

game and received huge praise from Ashwin. It happened during a clash between Quetta Gladiators and Rawalpindiz on April 10, at the National Stadium in Karachi. The Indian spinner added that the opponent team captain and batters should take up the issue with the match referees even before the game begins. "Now it's up to the umpires and match referees to time the pause for his delivery. If the pause isn't consistent, then the batter has every right to move away. The captains and opposition batters should raise this issue with the umpires and match referees before the game begins. Well done, Mitchell," wrote Ashwin on X. "Mitchell is right. So is Tariq. The timing of the pause should be monitored to see if he delays it ball to



ball," he wrote further. Earlier this year, Ashwin had said on his YouTube channel, "If he (Usman Tariq) stops before delivering the ball, the batsman has the right to move away. He can say, 'I thought he was stopping.' That will be an interest-

ing case and a huge headache for the umpire. "If I was there, I would have done it. One should do everything to win a game within the rules. I would simply say I don't know when he will release the ball, and I would step away.