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No Supreme Court Relief For Bengal Voters Deleted In SIR Process



New Delhi: The Supreme Court has declined to grant interim voting rights to those whose names were deleted during the voter roll clean-up process special intensive revision (SIR) and whose appeals are still pending before the appellate tribunals. During the proceedings, Trinamool Congress leader Kalyan Banerjee said that at least 1.6 million appeals have been filed, and they should be allowed to vote in the two-phase assembly election due later this month. In response, Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said, "That is entirely out of the question. If we were to permit this, then the voting rights of the individuals involved would have to be suspended."

Justice Joymalya Bagchi said there are 3.4 million ap-

peals in the SIR exercise, and added that a report submitted by the Calcutta High Court Chief Justice clearly stated this data. The Election Commission of India (ECI) has already frozen the Bengal voter list and no new name can be included before the election, unless the Supreme Court gives a specific direction on this count, which did not happen today. Nineteen appellate tribunals have been set up in the state bordering Bangladesh to decide the fate of 27 lakh cases that have been deleted in the judicial adjudication cases. The Supreme Court's order came after a group of 13 people sought its intervention in the deletion of their names from the Bengal voter list. The court called the petition "pre-

Nitish Kumar's Successor Will Inherit A Bihar Drowning In Financial Debt

Patna: As Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar prepares to step into the role of a Rajya Sabha MP, his successor will inherit a state in deep financial distress with thousands of crores of payment pending across several districts and departments. Reports from various parts of the state indicate that a large number of employees are not receiving

their salaries on time, and payments due to contractors also remain stalled. Even though nearly two weeks of April have elapsed, more than 5,00,000 government employees and pensioners have yet to receive their salaries or payments for the month of March. It is estimated that the government needs to arrange approximately Rs

9,000-10,000 crore every month solely to cover salaries and pensions. The problem is not confined to a single district or department. In districts such as Saharsa, Madhubani, Banka, Gopalganj, Sitamarhi and East Champaran, a large number of employees are left waiting for their salaries.



Delhi Court's "Hope You Don't Return" Comment To Arvind Kejriwal

New Delhi: Delhi's former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who was appearing in Delhi High Court for the first time to present his arguments to have a judge recuse, told the court that he was apprehensive that the judge was biased and he was not convinced that he would get a fair hearing. Kejriwal and the others discharged in the liquor policy case have sought that Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma recuse from the hearing of a petition by the Central Bureau of Investigation against the trial court's decision. The court has accepted Kejriwal's application. "This court dismissed

the lower court's verdict, which spanned over 5,000 pages, in a mere five minutes," Kejriwal said in his argument before Sharma. "Following the court's verdict, I wrote a letter to the Chief Justice of the High Court. I received a written response stating that, once a case has been assigned, only the concerned judge can decide to recuse himself from the matter," he said. Kejriwal, who was personally arguing his recusal application, had taken a few wrong turns and was set right by the judge. He then told the judge that this was his first appearance in court. To this, the judge responded,

"May God grant that you never have to return." "Personally, I hold you in high regard," Kejriwal further told Sharma. To this, she responded, "We, too, respect you". "There is nothing personal involved here," interjected Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who was representing the CBI. In his arguments, Kejriwal had sought to read from the trial court's judgment despite the judge's disapproval and cited a Supreme Court judgment. His lawyer stepped in repeatedly to bolster his arguments. The exasperated judge, who had been asking the advocate to desist from assisting the former Chief Min-



ister, at one point said, "Don't stare at me". Kejriwal has presented 10 points before the court, explaining why he believes a fair hearing will not take place in this matter. The court, Kejriwal argued, had granted relief to the Enforcement Directorate even without a formal application. "The Court appeared remarkably generous in granting relief to the ED.

Pension processing in AP to be done only through the 'NIDHI' portal... Key orders issued!

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, April, 13 : The Andhra Pradesh government has taken another important step to increase transparency and reduce delays in the pension sanction process. It has issued orders stating that all types of pension cases in the state must henceforth be processed only through the NIDHI (RBPS) portal. The government has decided to do away with physical applications and will implement this new rule from May 1. The government has set a deadline for the current paper-based application system. Officials will accept only those physical pension proposals received up to April 30, 2026. From May 1, 2026, no paper applications will be accepted. All pension



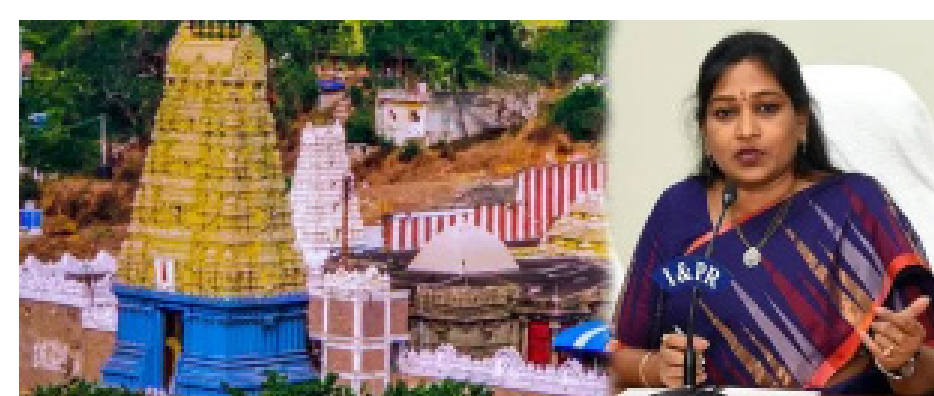
applications submitted after that date must be filed online through the NIDHI portal. The government has also directed officials to submit all pending physical applications in various departments to the respective offices before April 30. This digital system, introduced to speed up pension processing, offers several benefits. Applicants can track the sta-

tus of their files online, eliminating the need to visit offices repeatedly. Approvals can be obtained faster through the digital process, and services will be delivered directly to beneficiaries without the involvement of middlemen. The government has issued key instructions regarding this new system to heads of all departments and

district officials. It has directed that pension papers of employees should be uploaded to the NIDHI portal even before their retirement. This decision is expected to benefit thousands of retired employees and pensioners. The main objective of these orders is to eliminate technical issues in pension approvals and strengthen the overall system.

Home Minister Anita reviews arrangements for Simhachalam Chandanotsavam

Visakhapatnam: State Home Minister Vangalapati Anita visited and offered prayers at Lord Simhadri Appanna Swamy temple. Temple officials accorded her a grand welcome with traditional honors. After the Vedic scholars blessed her. The Home Minister reviewed the arrangements for the upcoming Chandanotsavam of Appanna Swamy, scheduled to be held on the 20th of this month. She conducted a review with officials on infrastructure, parking, and traffic management to ensure that devotees do not face any inconvenience, and gave several suggestions. She instructed the police to take precautionary mea-



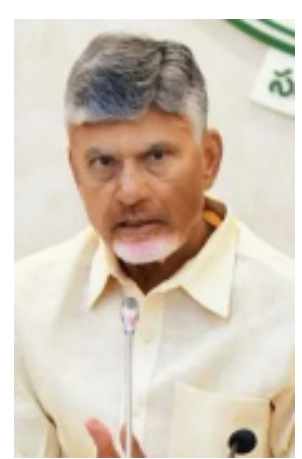
sures to prevent traffic issues. She also suggested that NDRF and SDRF teams be kept ready at the temple to handle any emergencies. Continuous monitoring through CCTV cameras from the command control room was advised, and she suggested using AI technology if necessary. She

also directed that a large number of ORS packets be made available for devotees. The minister said that Chandanotsavam is a unique and special occasion. She mentioned that devotees from across the state would arrive in large numbers for the "Nijaroopa

Darshan" (true form of the deity). Last year, around 1.2 lakh devotees attended, and this year about 2 lakh devotees are expected. Keeping devotees' convenience in mind, arrangements are being made for medical camps at ten locations, along with drinking water and buttermilk facilities.

CM Chandrababu reviews Real-Time Governance

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, April, 13 : A Real-Time Governance (RTG) meeting was held at the Secretariat under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. The meeting took place in the RTGS Conference Hall at the Velagapudi Secretariat, where a high-level discussion was conducted on data-driven decision-making. The Chief Minister, who focused particularly on the use of data in governance, reviewed the functioning of the Real-Time Governance system. Secretaries of key departments, along with officials from the Finance, Planning, and



Welfare departments, participated in the meeting. During the meeting, discussions were held on the construction of a data lake, the use of technology, and methods of making decisions

through data analytics. The CM emphasized the need to further enhance the use of technology in governance. Representatives from RTGS, APSDMA, and APSFL organizations, as well as Digital Corporation, Tricor, and Vassar Labs, were also present at the meeting. Officials from the Anna Canteen Trust and the Gram-Ward Secretariat (GSWS) system also participated. The Chief Minister instructed officials to take steps toward making decisions based on data analytics. He also directed all concerned departments to work in coordination with each other.

ACB Custody for Shanthi; Son Meeting Plea Verdict Delayed

From Our Staff Reporter Vijayawada, April 13: The investigation has intensified against K. Shanthi, Assistant Commissioner of the Andhra Pradesh Endowments Department, who is facing allegations in a disproportionate assets case. The ACB court has issued key orders in this matter. After hearing a petition filed by ACB officials seeking her custody, the court granted two days of ACB custody. ACB officials will question her on April 15 and 16. She is currently lodged as a remand prisoner in the Vijayawada district jail in connection with the disproportionate assets case. Meanwhile, the



court also heard a petition filed by Shanthi explaining her personal situation. She stated that she has a two-and-a-half-year-old child and requested permission to meet her young son daily in jail (mulaqat/visitation). After hearing arguments from both sides, the ACB court postponed its verdict on

this petition to April 16. Shanthi, who held a key position in the Endowments Department, is accused of misusing her authority and amassing large amounts of illegal assets. ACB officials conducted raids based on these allegations. Based on crucial documents and details of assets found

during these searches, she was arrested. Officials believe that further benami properties and financial irregularities may come to light during the custody interrogation. The verdict expected on April 16 and the findings from the custody investigation have now become a matter of keen interest.

Car overturns after losing control... two youths killed

Kadapa: A tragic incident occurred in Kadapa district. Two young men lost their lives after a car lost control and overturned. The accident took place on Monday. According to preliminary police investigation, Chenna keshavulu and Shivachandu, residents of Atlur Gopavaram mandal, were traveling in a car. Near Madakalavaripalle on the outskirts of Badvel town, the car went out of control and overturned. As a result, both Chennakeshavulu and Shivachandu sustained severe injuries. Upon receiving information, the police rushed to the spot. With the help of locals, the injured were shifted to a nearby hospital. Doctors who examined them confirmed that they were already dead. The police shifted the bodies for postmortem and registered a case. An investigation is currently underway.

EDITORIAL

Inter education on the path of progress

The Chief Minister's slogan that the expenditure on education should be seen as an investment in future generations clearly shows the sincerity of the government towards education. With this perspective, several reforms are being implemented in the state to strengthen intermediate education and towards the comprehensive development of students. Intermediate education is the most crucial stage in a student's life. It is at this stage that they decide their goals and take steps towards higher education. Therefore, this stage should not be considered just a class stage, but a strong foundation for building the future. That is why quality teaching, proper guidance and a comprehensive environment are essential. In this context, the introduction of the breakfast and midday meal scheme for intermediate students for the first time in the country is a historic decision. This scheme increases the concentration of students and improves their physical and mental development due to the provision of healthy food. This is especially beneficial for students from rural and economically backward families. The Integrated Command Control Center system set up for transparency in the conduct of examinations has become an ideal for all education boards in the country. By connecting the CCTV cameras of all the inter colleges in the state, the teaching, examination and administration system has become more efficient. With the expansion of digital facilities in 430 government junior colleges in the state, modern education has become available. Through IFP, IDP panels and free Wi-Fi, students are easily preparing for national level competitive examinations like NEET, JEE, EAPCET, CLAT. By implementing the FRS (Face Recognition System) system to increase the attendance rate of students and college staff, transparency in college management has increased and qualities like discipline and punctuality are developing among students. It is noteworthy that CFM funds are being released based on the number of students for cleanliness and greenery in government junior colleges, and Rs. 56 crores have been allocated for the development of infrastructure. Also, priority is being given to the physical and mental development of students by providing special funds for the development of sports. With the aim of a drug-free Telangana, Prahari clubs are being established and awareness about drugs is being raised among students. By organizing special training programs for lecturers through the Telangana Anti-Narcotic Bureau, they are becoming mentors for students. Keeping in mind the mental health of students, the appointment of student counselors in every college and the implementation of programs like Tele-Manas are commendable. This is helping to reduce the fear of exams. Also, teaching skills are being improved by conducting centralized training programs for government teachers and principals. After 14 years, revising textbooks based on the NCERT syllabus will make it easier for students to prepare for national level competitive exams. Continuity in teaching has been created by filling up the vacancies of teachers and principals faster than ever before. Emphasis has been placed on experimental education by eliminating the shortage of lab equipment in government colleges. By introducing modern courses in vocational education along with traditional courses as per the needs of the industry, students are acquiring employable skills. Overall, these reforms are leading intermediate education towards quality and strengthening the future of students. These steps taken by the government are transforming the education system more effectively and guiding students towards higher goals.

Islamic NATO Or Europe - Is Gulf Rethinking Its Options After Trump's 'Betrayal'?

Almost two hours before US President Donald Trump's deadline to 'end the whole of civilisation' through massive bombings on the night of April 7, his post on Truth Social announced a two-week-long ceasefire brokered by Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir. Speculations were divided: many doubted Iran would act on Trump's threats, while a significant number believed a strike against Iran's energy infrastructure was imminent. The security landscape in the Gulf has been permanently altered by the ceasefire, which now hangs in limbo as talks between US and Iran held in Islamabad collapsed. The escalation from the US, Iranian retaliation, and Europe's limits have reshaped Gulf security in ways Washington did not anticipate. Every major war in West Asia has reshaped the region's power politics, with global implications. After the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, the Jewish state emerged victorious with more territory under its control than it had before it. Similarly, the 1956 Suez crisis ended the global influence of Britain and France, the two major colonial empires. The 1967 Six-Day War reestablished Israel's military dominance and laid the groundwork for the present-day Gaza crisis. In 1973, the Yom Kippur War caused a major oil crisis after Saudi-led oil-producing countries refused to sell to the US over its support for Israel. The aftermath of the war saw the emergence of the petro-dollar system and the start of the US-Saudi military partnership in exchange for the trade of oil in dollars. The Gulf wars of 1991 and 2003 weakened and later led to the removal of Saddam

Hussein from power, making Iran the sole rival to Saudi Arabia in the region. Similarly, the 2026 Iran-US war has turned the region increasingly vulnerable, has left its energy infrastructure more exposed, made Iran weaker, and forced the Gulf to rethink its security partnership with the US.

Gulf Disillusioned?
The US and Israel have had strong ties for over eight decades. The Arab world witnessed a thaw in its relations with the Americans, especially with the emergence of the petro-dollar trading system, which further increased the demand for the US dollar in exchange for security guarantees. The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, which include Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, the UAE, and Oman, have invested heavily in their relationship with the US, assuming their interests would be well-considered over Israel's. However, Donald Trump, who is known for being unpredictable, has prioritised Israel's goals over the GCC's. Though Iran has remained a threat to these countries, as neighbours, the GCC and Iran maintained trade relations despite differences. The primary driver behind the Iranian attacks on its neighbours was the presence of the US military in West Asia, especially in the Gulf. Even in its 10-point peace plan, Iran demanded a US military withdrawal from the Middle East. The Gulf countries acted cautiously. The crown prince of Saudi Arabia, Mohammad Bin Salman, reportedly pushed Trump to continue the war, seeing it as an opportunity to reshape the power dynamic in the region. The goals of the GCC were hedged against the assumption that a regime



change would take place soon. However, Iran's attacks on oil refineries and natural gas infrastructure continued. According to an assessment from the Stimson Centre, in a month, the GCC received 83% of Iranian drones and missiles compared to just 17% launched at Israel. The message was clear - Iran attacked both military and civilian assets to destabilise the region's energy infrastructure and ensure that the ripple effects of the war go beyond the region. Only a ceasefire has been established, but hostilities remain.

Is Europe A Safer Bet?
In this context, Europe can emerge as a better partner for the Gulf than the US. One of the key reasons behind this observation is Europe's stance of not intervening directly in the war. UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer vehemently rejected America's request to send British troops to fight the war against Iran; however, the UK allowed the US to use its bases to launch attacks. In response, Iran fired ballistic missiles at Diego Garcia, located 4,000 km

away. Even so, Europe is unlikely to emerge as a genuine alternative to the US in the near future, largely due to its own continued reliance on American air defence systems for both wide-area and localised protection. This dependence was highlighted, for instance, during the conflict when the redeployment of two Patriot missile system batteries from Germany to Turkey created air defence gaps across Europe. Secondly, American weapons sales have seen a dramatic increase, soaring from 27% to over 50% following the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine. This is because US-made systems, such as the Patriot, THAAD, NASAMS, and Stinger air defence platforms, remain globally dominant. While the newly elected German Chancellor Friedrich Merz called for Europe to pursue strategic 'independence' from the US in 2025, the continent collectively remains reliant on American defence capabilities. But, despite its military dependency on the US, Europe remains a middle power and a strong economic

partner, which can anchor the Gulf countries, and Asian countries such as India, South Korea, and Japan, which in future can help create a military partnership that does not have the US as the foundational pillar.

US-Europe Fracture
Trump's rhetoric and actions in West Asia have been more destabilising for Europe than for Russia recently. In 2022, Europe faced an energy crisis due to its reliance on Russian gas. The effects of the energy crisis still exist, though the continent has agreed to phase out its dependence on Russian gas and actively depends on the US, Norway, Algeria and Australia for fossil fuel supplies. Now, the Iran war has had a disastrous effect on European economies, with at least 18 countries announcing relief packages for their citizens. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which Trump withdrew from, is also a case in point. It was considered a European and American diplomatic victory under the Obama regime to stop the Iranian nuclear programme and integrate Iran into the global economy.

Why World's Most Powerful Man Has Failed To Stop Netanyahu From Razing Lebanon

The failure of the Iran-US talks in Islamabad has sparked fears of a resumption of war after Trump's announcement that the US will blockade the Strait of Hormuz. But for Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, such an outcome appears to be an answer to his prayers - and even to his efforts. The talks, following Trump's unilateral announcement of a two-week ceasefire last week, were not part of the script Netanyahu thought he had drafted with the American president. That decision left the Israeli leader isolated and even angry. He wanted to continue the war until his objectives were achieved. Netanyahu reluctantly halted airstrikes on Iran after the ceasefire announcement, but within hours, he dramatically escalated attacks on Iran's proxy, Hezbollah, in Lebanon. In just 10 minutes, Israeli jets bombed 100 targets across the country, killing more than 300 people, many of them civilians. He insisted that Lebanon was not part of the two-week truce, despite Iran and Pakistan saying it was - although US officials backed Netanyahu's claim. Nevertheless, Israel's action jeopardised the ceasefire's future. Israel continued its attacks in Lebanon even when the Iranian and US teams were meeting in Pakistan, despite Trump asking Netanyahu to scale back the military operation. It remains unclear whether Netanyahu was defying the American president or acting with his blessing to pressure Tehran. Either way, the result hardened Iran's position. Tehran kept the Strait of Hormuz closed to oil tankers, in violation of the ceasefire terms.

Netanyahu's Dilemma
Trump's decision to hold ceasefire talks with Iran caught

Netanyahu off guard. He was, clearly, unhappy and unprepared. Iran's resilience during the 40-day conflict and its use of the Strait of Hormuz as a chokepoint for shipping in the Gulf forced Trump to seek a ceasefire with Tehran, as the war was proving too costly for him, both politically and economically. Saturday's 21-hour talks in Pakistan, which even included a face-to-face meeting between Iran and the US for the first time in almost half a century, must have alarmed Netanyahu. He feared that Trump might concede too much to Iran to secure a deal at a meeting where Israel was not even invited. Israel doesn't care about the Strait of Hormuz. It is more concerned about a bolder, angrier and more radical Islamic regime still in possession of over 400 kilograms of 60% enriched uranium, which Israeli officials have said is enough to make 11 nuclear bombs. Iran is also believed to have more than 1,000 missiles capable of reaching Israel, along with a large number of missile launchers. Iran has lost about 5,000 of its fighters during the current war, according to the Israeli military. That is a small fraction of its regular army and IRGC fighters. So, Netanyahu was relieved that the US ended the Pakistan talks without a deal, mainly because of disagreement over Iran's nuclear programme. In a televised address on Saturday, Netanyahu told Israelis that the war in Iran was not over. He has not concealed his wish to continue the conflict until the Islamic regime is toppled. At the very least, he wants the military action to continue for a while longer to further degrade Iran's military and economic capabilities. His decision to escalate in Lebanon was clearly an attempt to make it harder for Tehran to maintain the

ceasefire - which he was even successful at, with the Iranians repeatedly saying that they were unable to trust the US.

Why Lebanon?
Following pressure from Trump, Netanyahu announced on Thursday that his government will hold talks with Lebanon's government. The talks, long demanded by Lebanon, are set to take place in Washington on Tuesday. However, they are unlikely to resolve the issue of Hezbollah, which remains a major threat to Israel despite multiple military campaigns against it. The Iran-backed group has long functioned as a shadow army inside Lebanon, defying the government in Beirut. Successive Lebanese governments have been unable to disarm it despite Israeli demands. The group emerged after Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982 and its two-decade occupation of the southern region. It's been popular with Lebanon's Shia population for its armed resistance against Israel. Hezbollah also joined Hamas in the Gaza war following the 2023 attack on Israel and launched hundreds of missiles at the Jewish state. In response, Israel invaded Lebanon, killing Hezbollah's top leader Hassan Nasrallah, hundreds of its fighters and thousands of civilians. It also destroyed most of its vast arsenal of missiles and drones, along with a large part of Lebanon's civilian infrastructure and homes. But Hezbollah quickly rebuilt part of its military arsenal and recruited new fighters. When Israel and the US attacked Iran six weeks ago, Hezbollah launched a barrage of missiles at Israel, opening a new front in the war. Israel was prepared and responded with airstrikes, bombing Hezbollah targets. Over the past six weeks, the war has taken more than

2,000 lives in Lebanon and left one million people - roughly a fifth of its population - homeless. Hezbollah has also killed 11 Israelis during this period, nearly as many as were killed by missiles launched from Iran.

Iran's Influence



Israel's actions have also targeted Hezbollah supporters in Lebanon, who are Shia Muslims, like those in Iran. Last month, the Israeli military launched a ground operation in southern Lebanon with a warning from the Defence Minister, Israel Katz, that he would not allow the return of people to the country's south until the safety of Israelis is guaranteed. Other Israeli politicians have hinted that they want to extend the operation, which could lead to another occupation of southern Lebanon. Iran doesn't hide its support for Hezbollah. Members of Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) have been fighting alongside the militant group. Lebanon's Shia political parties support this relationship, and the government is helpless. Two weeks ago, Lebanon withdrew the diplomatic status of Iranian ambassador Mohammad Reza Shibani. However, he remains in Lebanon. Shibani's depart-

ure has been blocked by the country's Shia parties, underscoring the weakness of the Lebanese government. His defiance prompted Israel's Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar to say on X, "Lebanon is a virtual country that is effectively occupied by Iran."

Forever Wars
The conflict in Lebanon has fuelled fears in Israel of a permanent war along its northern border. This conflict, along with the broader one with Iran, has not helped Netanyahu politically as he had hoped. The latest opinion polls in Israel suggest his Likud party would lose votes if elections were held now. One reason for Netanyahu's push to persuade Trump to join the war was reportedly to boost his political support ahead of the October elections. The ceasefire with Iran has seen the return of anti-government demonstrations in Israel, something Netanyahu would like to avoid. Nearly 2,000 people attended a rally in Tel Aviv on Saturday, twice the number the Supreme Court had allowed amid fears of incoming missiles. There were also anti-government rallies in Haifa and Jerusalem over the weekend. Netanyahu has been accused by his opponents of engaging in armed conflicts to gain popularity among the public, which has genuine security concerns. In recent years, existential threats to Israel from Iranian leaders and rocket attacks from its proxies, such as Hamas and Hezbollah, have strengthened those concerns. Yet, Netanyahu's strong military response has failed to make Israelis more secure. He is still seen as the leader who failed to prevent Hamas from murdering 1,200 Israelis on October 7, 2023.

43 Complaints Received in Police Public Grievance Redressal System

Rajahmendravaram, April 13: District Superintendent of Police D. Narasimha Kishore conducted the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) at the East Godavari District Police Office on Monday. A total of 43 complaints were received from across the district, including civil disputes, family issues, cheating cases, and assault cases.

The SP interacted with concerned station officers over the phone and directed them to conduct thorough investigations and resolve the issues as per law, ensuring justice to the complainants.



Arrangements for POLYCET 2026 to Be Completed, Exam to Be Conducted Smoothly: Joint Collector



Vizianagaram, April 13: Joint Collector Sethu Madhavan directed officials to complete all arrangements for the smooth conduct of POLYCET-2026 scheduled on April 25. A total of 8,053 students will appear for the exam across 26 centers in the district, including Vizianagaram, Nellimarla, Gajapathinagaram, Cheepurupalli, and Bobbili. He instructed officials to ensure basic facilities at centers, deploy special squads, provide police security for question papers, enforce Section 144, and arrange transport, power supply, medical camps, and drinking water. All departments were asked to coordinate effectively to ensure the examination is conducted without any issues.

Surya Andhra Pragati Ratham Campaign Flagged Off in Rajahmundry

Rajahmendravaram, April 13: District Collector Keerthi Chekuri on Monday flagged off the "Surya Andhra Pragati Ratham" campaign at the Collectorate premises to create awareness about the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. The Collector said the scheme aims to provide free electricity up to 300 units per month through solar power while reducing power bills. Subsidies are being offered for rooftop solar installations, with up to 60% subsidy for systems up to 2 kW and 100% subsidy for SC/ST beneficiaries.

Households, apartments, housing societies, farmers, and small and medium businesses are eligible for the scheme. Beneficiaries can also earn additional income by selling surplus power to the grid.

Awareness programs, including Burrakatha performances, will be conducted across the district from April 13 to 16. The initiative is jointly organized by the National Solar Energy Federation of India,



APEPDCL, and NREDCAP. Officials and representatives from the concerned departments participated in the event.

183 Petitions Received at PGRS & Revenue Clinic; Collector Warns of Action on Negligent Officials



Rajahmendravaram, April 13: District Collector Keerthi Chekuri warned that strict action will be taken against officials showing negligence in resolving public grievances.

On Monday, the Collector, along with Joint Collector Megha Swaroop, received petitions during the PGRS and Revenue Clinic at the Collectorate. A total of 183 petitions were received across departments.

During the review meeting, the Collector directed officials to promptly address pending grievances and ensure 100% satisfaction of petitioners. Delays in grievance redressal were questioned, and officials were instructed to rectify procedural lapses.

Of the total petitions, 78 were related to Revenue, 44 to Panchayat Raj, 23 to Police, 8 to Municipal Administration, and 30 to other departments. Officials were asked to take immediate action on all pending cases.

Guest Lecture on Corporate Readiness at Vignan, Duvvada

Visakhapatnam, April 13: A guest lecture on "Building Corporate Readiness: A Practical Playbook for Growth" was successfully conducted on April 13, 2026, at Vignan Institute of Information Technology (Autonomous), Duvvada, under the aegis of the MBA Department. The session was delivered by K. Vamsi Krishna, Assistant Manager - HR at Andhra Pradesh Center for Financial Systems and Services. He highlighted industry requirements, essential corporate skills, and ways for students to enhance their employability. The lecture emphasized the importance of communication skills, adaptability, continuous learning, and understanding workplace culture. Around 120 students and faculty attended the interactive session, gaining valuable insights into aligning academic learning with industry expectations. The program was coordinated by V. Shivaji, Senior Assistant Professor of the MBA Department. The Principal, Rector, and Head of the



Department appreciated the initiative and encouraged students to actively participate in such industry-oriented programs.

Awareness Drive on Self-Enumeration for Census 2027: Collector

Vizianagaram, April 12: District Collector S. Ramsunder Reddy directed officials to create widespread awareness on the self-enumeration process introduced for Census 2027. He stated that, for the first time, citizens can register their own details through the online portal from April 16 to April 30, 2026. The district administration will conduct a 15-day awareness campaign to encourage participation. Of-

officials were asked to involve public representatives, employees, students, self-help groups, and workers. The Collector clarified that self-enumeration is voluntary and urged citizens to take part in building accurate data for future planning.



Collector Orders Strict Safety Measures at Waterfalls

Paderu, April 13: Alluri Sitarama Raju District Collector Nishanthi T. issued strict directives to prevent drowning incidents at tourist spots and water bodies. With rising temperatures drawing visitors to waterfalls and canals in Paderu and Araku areas, officials were instructed to take preventive safety measures. Special focus has been placed on Sariya, Chaparai, Ranajilleda, and Kothapalli waterfalls. The Collector directed installation of warning boards, barricades using bamboo or ropes in deep areas, and identification of ??? zones. Joint patrols by revenue, police, and forest staff will be conducted on weekends, along with breathalyzer checks to prevent intoxicated visitors from

entering water. Schools have been asked to educate students daily on water safety, while hostels must ensure strict supervision. Local swimmers' lists and ambulance facilities in Araku and Ananthagiri areas are also to be arranged. Warning of strict action under the Disaster Management Act for negligence, the Collector emphasized that even a single loss of life due to carelessness will not be tolerated.



118 Petitions Received in PGRS Meeting



Rampachodavaram, April 13 (Pen Power): A total of 118 petitions were received during the PGRS meeting and 2 applications in the Revenue Clinic held in Polavaram district, District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar said. The Collector directly received grievances from the public at the ITDA office and instructed officials to resolve them promptly. He directed that petitions be categorized into financial and non-financial issues and addressed as per government guidelines. Non-financial cases should not be kept pending, he emphasized. All applications must be uploaded online and reviewed daily to ensure timely

disposal. He also stressed transparency, accountability, and quick grievance redressal. Feedback is being collected through IVRS to assess public satisfaction. Officials were instructed to create awareness among people from remote areas and ensure complete resolution of issues without reopening cases. The Collector also personally reviewed several grievances and directed concerned officials to take immediate action. ITDA PO Shubham Nokwal, DRO P. Ambedkar, ST Commission Member Gorle Sunitha, and other district officials attended the programme.

PGRS Program Held at Repalle; SP Assures Timely Resolution

Bapatla, April 13: The District SP conducted a Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) program at Repalle Town Police Station on Monday, where 28 petitioners presented their issues directly. Additionally, 31 more petitions were received at the district police headquarters, taking the total to 59. The SP assured that all grievances would be examined within the legal framework and resolved within stipulated timelines. He stated that the PGRS program will be conducted every week in different constituencies to make it more accessible, especially for the elderly, women, and differently-abled persons. Family disputes, land issues, financial matters, and other concerns were among the complaints received. Police officials participated in the program.



Focus on Integrated Development in Agency Areas: Collector



Rampachodavaram, April 13 (Pen Power): District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar directed officials to take proactive steps for integrated development in agency areas and prepare proposals for staff allocation at the state level. At a review meeting held at the ITDA office, he instructed officials to conduct field visits, identify local issues, and ensure timely completion of development works with accountability. Proposals should clearly highlight staff requirements and local needs, he said. The Collector emphasized housing construction under PM

Janman for PVTG beneficiaries, timely issuance of revenue certificates, and completion of works in saturation mode. He also directed speeding up development works in interior areas and resolving infrastructure gaps. Officials were asked to take up pond development under MGNREGA and submit reports. He also stressed preparing proposals for solar power units for every household and government buildings with central subsidies, in coordination with NEDCAP.

Senior district officials attended the meeting.

Online Yoga Initiative Launched in Vijayawada

Vijayawada, April 13: District Collector Dr. G. Lakshminsha launched live streaming of online yoga sessions through the Amaravati Yoga YouTube channel at a program held at Indira Gandhi Municipal Stadium. He said online yoga offers a great opportunity for people to practice from home using modern technology, improving both physical and mental health. He noted that the state's Yogandhra initiative has significantly increased awareness, encouraging many to adopt yoga in daily life.

The Collector highlighted that people from all sections—including students, farmers, police, and professionals—have participated in yoga programs. He added that online sessions enable anyone, anywhere to practice yoga and lead a healthier, happier life.

Representatives of the Amaravati Yoga and Aerobics Association and yoga practitioners attended the event.



Free Solar Power for SC/ST Families Launched: Minister Sandhya Rani



Vizianagaram, April 13: Tribal Welfare Minister G. Sandhya Rani announced that the state government, under Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, has initiated steps to provide free electricity to nearly 6 lakh poor beneficiaries. She inaugurated a solar-based free power project under the "Surya Ghar" scheme at Kothavalasa village

in Salur mandal on Monday. The Minister stated that arrangements have been completed to supply 2 kW free electricity to 36 families in the village, and around 10,000 units will soon be sanctioned in the constituency. She added that solar systems will be used to generate and supply free power to tribal households.

Speed Up Tourism Works at Suryalanka Beach: Bapatla Collector



Bapatla, April 13: District Collector Dr. V. Vinod Kumar directed officials to expedite ongoing tourism development works at Suryalanka Beach. During an inspection of the site along with RTO P. Gloria and District Forest Officer Ravishankar, the Collector reviewed land-related issues and instructed officials to prepare estimates for fencing

government lands and clear encroachments. He warned that strict action would be taken against unauthorized toll collection at the beach and ensured the removal of an illegal toll shed on the spot. Officials from revenue, tourism, forest, and police departments were present during the inspection.

Employment Guarantee Works Should Create Sustainable Assets: Collector Dinesh Kumar



Rampachodavaram, April 13 (Pen Power): Polavaram District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar emphasized that employment

guarantee works should focus on creating sustainable assets. During a review meeting held at the ITDA office with officials, he di-

rected that the daily target of 90,000 man-days and monthly target of 8 lakh man-days be achieved by providing continuous

employment. He instructed officials to complete ongoing works on time and identify new works in coordination with villagers. The Collector stressed ensuring at least 125 days of employment for every job card holder. He warned of strict action against any irregularities and reviewed staff availability and work progress across mandals. Officials and technical staff attended the meeting.

No Petition Should Remain Pending: Vijayawada Collector



Vijayawada, April 13: District Collector Dr. G. Lakshminisha directed officials to ensure that no public grievance remains pending and that all petitions are resolved within stipulated timelines. At the district-level Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) program held on Monday, the Collector, along with Joint Collector S. Ilakkiya and DRO M. Lakshminarasimham, received 153 petitions from the public. He instructed officials to carefully examine each petition, understand the issues thoroughly, and resolve them swiftly in coordination with field-level staff. Emphasizing that public satisfaction is the true measure of governance, he called for a focused and accountable approach, with zero tolerance for delays. Officials from various departments participated in the program.

SP Amit Bardar Visits Maoist-Affected Tribal Villages in Alluri Manyam

Paderu, April 13: District SP Amit Bardar conducted a tour of Maoist-affected remote tribal villages in GK Veedhi mandal on Monday. He visited Pedavalasa outpost, Nerellabanda, Annavaram, Kannavaram, and Garimanda villages, interacting with tribal residents and youth to understand their issues. The SP encouraged youth to focus on educa-

tion and sports, stay away from illegal activities like ganja and drug trafficking, and utilize their potential for a better future. He assured that the police department would extend support and coordinate with other departments to resolve local issues, while urging villagers to maintain peace and prevent accidents, especially among children during holidays.



Kondapalli Toys Fair to Be Held from April 18

Vijayawada, April 13: NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshminisha announced that the Kondapalli Toys Fair will be grandly for three days from April 18, marking World Heritage Day. Speaking at a media conference at the Kondapalli Toys Experience Centre, he said the fair aims to promote the traditional Kondapalli

craft at national and international levels and support local artisans. The event will feature exhibitions, sales, live interactions with artisans, discussions, and special sessions on branding, new designs, and online marketing. Prize winners of a recent toy competition will be awarded cash prizes and certificates. Officials from various de-



partments and representatives of the Kondapalli Arts and Crafts Society will jointly organize the fair.

Focus on Timely Disposal of Public Grievances: Palnadu Collector

Narasaraopet, April 13: Palnadu District Collector Krithika Shukla directed officials to give special focus to resolving public grievances promptly and efficiently. At the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) program held at the Collectorate on Monday, the Collector received 128 petitions from people across various mandals. District officials from different departments also participated in the program. She instructed officials to ensure quality and timely disposal of petitions, conduct regular audits on pending grievances, and interact with



applicants. Emphasizing zero pendency, she urged departments to take necessary steps to resolve all grievances within stipulated timelines.

Runner Yatham Nagababu wins 3 medals



Kakinada, April 13 (Pen Power): Samararkota native Yatham Nagababu was felicitated by District Collector Harinder Prasad and Superintendent of Police Bindu Madhav for his outstanding performance at the national-

level athletics meet. Nagababu participated in the Adventure National Masters Athletics Federation Open Championship held from April 9 to 12 at East Vinod Nagar Sports Complex, Delhi, and secured three medals. He won gold medals in



the 800m and 1500m races and a silver medal in the 400m event. On Monday, he met the Collector and SP at the local Collectorate, where they congratulated him for his achievement. Nagababu is currently working as a Deputy Malaria Officer in the Health Department at Bhimavaram and hails from Jalluru Raparthi village in Pithapuram constituency of Kakinada district.

Rajat Patidar says RCB batting depth gives confidence after win

Hyderabad: Rajat Patidar, captain of the defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru, said that at the moment it feels like they are scoring 200-plus in every match. "It gives me a lot of confidence and as a captain, I feel that I have a lot of talent in the team," he said after RCB defeated Mumbai Indians in Mumbai on Sunday night. Captain Rajat Patidar scored a 17-ball 50, which is the fastest fifty for a captain in the tournament's history. Speaking about his batting approach, he said: "I don't really think too much about how I want to play. I try to react to the ball and stay clear about what I want to do, which shot I want to hit and which bowler I want to target. Even in the dugout, I try to read where the scoring opportunities are." All-rounder Krunal Pandya praised the platform set up by the batting unit. "Every game you have to earn that win. The way everyone is batting, Virat, Salty, Tim, everyone has contributed. I'm especially happy for Salty, the way he counter-attacked in the powerplay. That set us up really well," he said. Assessing the effort from the bowling unit, Patidar said: "Even with 200 on the board, there is always pressure due to



dew and conditions. I thought Bhuvu bhai and Jacob started very well and executed the plan." The skipper identified Rasik's spell of 1/23 as a turning point in the game: "The way he planned, the slower balls, the yorkers, it gave me confidence. After his first over, I felt he could change the game." Speaking about Krunal's contribution with the

ball, Patidar said: "K.P. is the most courageous bowler I have ever seen. He has so many skills. He keeps the batsman in doubt about the next ball. This is his strength. He bowls with a lot of confidence. He is not afraid to do anything." Looking ahead to RCB's return home, Patidar said: "Very excited to go back to Chinnaswamy and play with our 12-man army."

Hyderabad Cricket Association engages Sportsmechanics to boost transparency

Hyderabad: Hyderabad Cricket Association Secretary Jeevan Reddy expressed confidence that the Association is on the path to revival, assuring stakeholders that "good days will be back soon." "My doors are always open. Any club secretary with a grievance can approach me directly during office hours. As Secretary and Chief Executive of the Association, I will ensure that all legally valid concerns are addressed promptly," Reddy stated at a meeting of all the club secretaries of the affiliated units. Reddy urged all affiliated clubs to digitize players' birth certificates and link them with Aadhaar to bring credibility and uniformity to player records. The HCA Secretary also announced that HCA has engaged the services of reputed technology firm Sportsmechanics, which is associated with the BCCI, to enhance transparency and accountability across all affiliated units. Reddy agreed to reduce the four-day leagumatches to three-day games, following a consensus among stakeholders.

