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## IN BRIEF



**Lokesh to lay foundation for Reliance's first CBG plant in Prakasam**

**Amaravati:** Minister for IT and HRD Nara Lokesh is set to lay the foundation stone for Reliance's first Compressed Biogas (CBG) plant in Kani giri, Prakasam district on April 2. The plant marks the beginning of a significant partnership between Reliance (Cont.on P5)



**SC issues notice to former AP CID chief Sanjay**

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court has issued notices to former Andhra Pradesh CID chief Sanjay in connection with a corruption case in the fire department. The Andhra Pradesh government had filed an FIR against Sanjay, following which the AP High Court (Cont.on P5)



**SC orders Dr Prabhavati to appear in RRR case**

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court has directed former Guntur Government General Hospital superintendent Dr. Prabhavati to appear before the investigating officer on April 7 and 8 in connection with the custodial torture case filed by Deputy Speaker (Cont.on P5)

## Trickle to a Flood

Trend in Inward remittances by the Indian diaspora

Year	(\$ billion)
2020	79.8
2021	86.3
2022	107.5
2023	110.3
2024	129.4

Source: RBI

## India receives record \$129.4 billion in remittances in 2024

**The Capital News New Delhi, April 1:** Indians working abroad sent home a record \$129.4 billion in 2024, with the highest-ever inflows of \$36 billion in the October-December quarter, according to the latest data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). India remains the top recipient of re-

mittances globally, surpassing second-placed Mexico with \$68 billion. China follows with \$48 billion, while the Philippines and Pakistan receive \$40 billion and \$33 billion, respectively, as per figures compiled by World Bank economists. The growth in remittances for (Cont.on P3)



## PM Modi to Visit Thailand for BIMSTEC Summit

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will embark on a two-day visit to Thailand starting Thursday to attend the sixth BIMSTEC Summit. During the visit, PM Modi will meet Thai Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra to discuss bilateral relations and cooperation. At the summit, the theme is "BIMSTEC - (Cont.on P2)

## NASA's newly returned astronauts say they would fly on Boeing's Starliner capsule again

**The Capital News Cape Canaveral, April 1:** NASA's celebrity astronauts Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams said Monday that they hold themselves partly responsible for what went wrong on their space sprint-turned-marathon and would fly on Boeing's Starliner again. SpaceX recently ferried the duo home after more than nine months at the International Space Station, filling in for Boeing that returned to Earth without them last year. In their first news conference since coming home, the pair said they were ta-



kened back by all the interest and insisted they were only doing their job and putting the mission ahead of themselves and even their families. Wilmore didn't shy from accepting some of the blame for Boeing's bun-

gled test flight. "I'll start and point the finger and I'll blame me. I could have asked some questions and the answers to those questions could have turned the tide," he told reporters. "All the way up and down the chain.

We all are responsible. We all own this." Both astronauts said they would strap into Starliner again. "Because we're going to rectify all the issues that we encountered. We're going to fix them. We're going to make it work," Wilmore said, adding he'd go back up "in a heartbeat." Williams noted that Starliner has "a lot of capability" and she wants to see it succeed. "We're all in," she said. The two will meet with Boeing leadership on Wednesday to provide a rundown on the flight and its problems. "It's (Cont.on P3)

## Chandrababu aims for zero poverty in AP by 2029

**The Capital News Bapatla, April 1:** Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu has set an ambitious goal to eradicate poverty in Andhra Pradesh by 2029. Speaking during his visit to Bapatla district on Tuesday, he emphasized that the welfare of the people comes first, ahead of all other priorities. During his visit to Kothagollapalem of Chinaganjam mandal, the Chief Minister distributed pensions to beneficiaries, personally visiting their homes and inquiring about their issues. Speakin-

### • CM distributes pensions to beneficiaries in Prakasam



g at the Kothagollapalem Prajavedika Sabha, he stated, "People come first, and everything else follows," reiterating his commitment to welfare programs. He also highlighted that the pensions provided in Andhra Pradesh were mor-

e generous than in neighboring Telangana, calling for respect in the distribution of such benefits. The CM further discussed several key projects, including the ongoing development of Amaravati, which he said was progressing rapidly despi-

te earlier setbacks. He also mentioned the significant investment of Rs. 11,000 crore for the revival of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant and the creation of a railway zone for the city. In terms of education, he announced that the DSC recruitment process would be completed by the end of the month, with teachers being appointed by June. Chandrababu Naidu also assured that the Polavaram irrigation project would be completed by 2027 and (Cont.on P2)



## WhatsApp bans over 9.7 million accounts in India during Feb

**New Delhi:** WhatsApp on Tuesday said it banned more than 9.7 million accounts in India during February 2025, 1.4 million of which were proactively banned prior to any user reports. Releasing its monthly safety report, the Meta-owned messaging app also shared tips on using the platform re-



## Major tax, banking changes take effect from April 1

**The Capital News Mumbai, April 1:** As the new financial year begins on April 1, several key tax and financial regulations will come into effect, impacting taxpayers, investors, and banking users. These changes include higher tax exemptions, stricter UPI regulations, updated pension schemes, and mandatory KYC for financial accounts. **Higher tax**

**exemption limits:** From April 1, individuals earning up to Rs 12 lakh annually will be exempt from income tax. Additionally, salaried employees will receive a standard deduction of Rs 75,000, making income up to Rs 12.75 lakh tax-free under the new tax regime. **UPI deactivation for inactive numbers:** To enhance security, the (Cont.on P3)



## Indian markets tumble ahead of Trump's tariff announcement

### • Rs 3.2 lakh crore wiped off

**The Capital News Mumbai, April 1:** Indian stock markets faced a sharp decline on Tuesday, as trading resumed after the long weekend, ahead of US President Donald Trump's highly anticipated tariff announcement on April 2. The Nifty fell over 350 points, and the Sensex dropped as much as 1,500 points at its lowest point. This market slump is a direct resp-

onse to the recent volatility in global markets. On Friday, US markets saw a steep sell-off, and while there was a late recovery on Monday, investor nerves remain frayed as Trump's tariff plans draw closer. Trump's upcoming tariff announcement, dubbed "Liberation Day" by the US President, has stirred significant uncertainty. White House Press (Cont.on P5)



## Lokesh to distribute 3,000 house pattas under 'Mana Illu - Mana Lokesh' programme

**Amaravati:** Minister for IT and HRD Nara Lokesh will launch a program on April 3 to grant permanent rights to residents who have built houses on government lands in Mangalagiri. As part of the first phase, 3,000 house pattas will be distributed, resolving a long-pending issue for thousands of families. The initiative will regularize both the land (Cont.on P2)

## Hyderabad varsity students announce indefinite protest, to boycott classes over land dispute

**The Capital News Hyderabad, April 1:** The University of Hyderabad Students' Union (UoHSU) has announced an indefinite protest and boycott of classes from Tuesday, demanding the removal of police personnel and earth-moving machinery from the campus. UoHSU Vice President Akash said students and teachers were urged to join the protest on campus and boycott classes. In a joint statement, the UoHSU and other students' associations accused the university administration of "betraying" students by



facilitating land clearing activities for the state government on 400 acres at Kancha Gachibowli abutting the university. They also condemned the "brutal police crackdown" on peaceful demonstrators. The protesting students demanded a written assurance that the land would be formally regis-

tered under the university. Additionally, they called for the public release of minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on the issue by the university and greater transparency in land-related documents. A BJP legislators delegation led by its legislature party floor leader Alleti Maheshwar Re-

ddy and leaders are scheduled to visit the site on Tuesday. A large number of police personnel have been deployed near the MLAs quarters here. Maheshwar Reddy told PTI that he was not permitted to step out of his residence by the police. Also, the police did not issue any notice to him as to why he was being prevented. According to Reddy, other saffron party MLAs and leaders were also prevented by the police from coming out of their residences. The Telangana government's plans to develop (Cont.on P3)



**India receives..**  
(From Page 1)  
2024 is estimated at 5.8%, a significant increase compared to the 1.2% growth in 2023. The number of Indians working abroad has tripled from 6.6 million in 1990 to 18.5 million in 2024, with India's share of global migrants rising from 4.3% to over 6% during this period. Indian migrants in the Gulf countries make up about half of the total Indian migrant population globally. The recovery of job markets in high-income countries, particularly in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), post-pandemic has been a key driver of remittances, especially in the United States, where employment among foreign-born workers is now 11% higher than the pre-pandemic level of February 2020. Official remittances to low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) are expected to reach \$685 billion in 2024, continuing to outpace foreign direct investment (FDI) as the primary external financial flow. Over the past decade, remittances to LMICs have risen 57%, while FDI has declined by 41%. The World Bank anticipates that remittances will continue to rise due to ongoing migration pressures driven by demographic trends, income gaps, and climate change.

**PM Modi to..**  
(From Page 1)  
Prosperous, Resilient, and Open," leaders will focus on enhancing collaboration within the BIMSTEC framework, including capacity building, trade, security, and digital connectivity. India has actively worked on initiatives within BIMSTEC to foster regional cooperation, including strengthening maritime, physical, and digital connectivity, as well as promoting food, energy, climate, and human security. This visit, at the invitation of the Thai government, marks the second meeting between PM Modi and Shinawatra. The leaders are expected to build on the positive momentum from PM Modi's 2019 visit, further reinforcing India's commitment to regional cooperation. BIMSTEC, established in June 1997, connects South and South-East Asia, with members from both regions, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, and Thailand. Thailand, a maritime neighbor and key partner in India's Act East Policy, plays a vital role in the Indo-Pacific region. Recently, India strengthened ties by sending the holy relics of Lord Buddha for a successful 25-day exposition across Thailand, symbolizing their enduring cultural and religious bonds.

# AP Chambers Urges Emirates Airline for Direct Vijayawada-Dubai Flight

**The Capital News Vijayawada, April 1:** The Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry Federation (AP Chambers) has formally requested Emirates Airline to introduce a direct flight between Vijayawada and Dubai. A letter was addressed to Mr. HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman & Chief Executive of Emirates Airline & Group, highlighting the increasing demand and for seamless connectivity between Vijayawada and Dubai. AP Chambers has been advocating for a direct flight for over five years, citing the substantial demand for international connectivity from the region. A team from Emirates Airline recently conducted a feasibility study at Vijayawada International Airport and was reportedly satisfied with the airport's technical capabilities. In its letter to the Chairman of Emirates Airline, AP Chambers stated that Vijayawada, a key economic hub in Andhra Pradesh, has witnessed significant growth in trade, tourism, and industrial activity.



The airport serves the Capital Region of Andhra Pradesh, encompassing Vijayawada, Amaravati, and Guntur, with a catchment population of approximately 20 million. Additionally, around 500,000 Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) from Krishna, Guntur, Prakasam, and the Godavari districts frequently travel to the Middle East, Europe, and the US, often transiting through other Indian cities due to the absence of a direct flight. Currently, passengers from Andhra Pradesh must endure long layovers in Hyderabad, Bangalore, or Chennai to reach Dubai and other international destinations. A direct flight connection would significantly reduce travel time and enhance convenience for both business and leisure travellers. AP Chambers mentioned that Vijayawada is a major centre for agriculture, food processing, textiles, auto components, and industrial exports. A direct flight will strengthen business and trade ties between Andhra Pradesh and the Middle East, further promoting investment and commercial collaborations. Dubai serves as a crucial gateway to global markets, and improved accessibility will encourage trade expansion and tourism. With a large volume of travellers from the region and the strategic advantage of Dubai as an international transit hub, AP Chambers is confident that the route will maintain an occupancy rate above 80%, ensuring profitability for Emirates Airline. AP Chambers' President Mr. Potluri Bhaskara Rao urged Emirates Airline to commence direct flight operations between Vijayawada and Dubai at the earliest, considering its immense potential in terms of demand and growth.



# Woman sets man on fire in Palnadu

**The Capital News Palnadu, April 1:** A shocking incident unfolded in Uyyandana village of Krosur mandal, where a woman allegedly set a man on fire over accusations of false propaganda. The victim, identified as Tammiseti Chiranjeevi (35), sustained burns after Devalla Srilakshmi (30) poured petrol on him and ignited the flames. According to reports, Srilakshmi was enraged over Chiranjeevi's alleged defamatory remarks about her. Despite multiple warnings, when he refused to stop, she resorted to the extreme act. Locals, witnessing the incident, immediately doused the flames and rushed Chiranjeevi to Sattenapalli Government Hospital. After initial treatment, he was shifted to Guntur Government General Hospital (GGH) for further care. The victim has since filed a police complaint, accusing Srilakshmi of attempted murder. Police have registered a case and are investigating the incident.

# NHAI hikes toll charges by 4-5 pc across country

**The Capital News New Delhi, April 1:** Commuters on national highways and expressways will need to pay more for their road journeys, as the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has increased toll charges by an average of 4 to 5 percent on highway sections across the country. The revised toll charges for motorists on national highways have come into effect from Tuesday, a senior highways ministry official told PTI. NHAI notifies toll rate hikes for all the national highways and expressways separately. According to him,



the change in toll fee is part of an annual exercise to revise the rates that are linked to the changes in the wholesale price index-based inflation. Every year, it is implemented from April 1. There are around 855 user fee plazas on the national highway network on which user fee is levied as per National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008. Out of these, around 675 are public-funded fee plazas and 180 are concessionaire-operated toll plazas. The revised rates will affect the commuters of key routes across the country, including Delhi-Meerut Expressway, Eastern Peripheral Expressway, and Delhi-Jaipur Highway, among others.

# Special Flower Offering to Durgamma



**The Capital News Vijayawada, April 1:** On the third day of Vasanta Navratri, which falls on April 1, a special flower offering was made using yellow and white chamanthuli along with jasmine flowers. The ceremony began at 9 a.m. in the newly constructed puja mandapam within the Nataraja Swamy temple premises. After the priests and officials arrived at the archana site with flowers sourced from the main temple, they brought the flowers

# Lokesh to distribute..

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and houses occupied by residents, ensuring legal ownership and security for the poor. The first patta will be handed over in Undavalli village on April 3, with Lokesh personally visiting beneficiaries' homes to mark the launch of the 'Mana Illu - Mana Lokesh' program. For years, low-income families have lived on government lands, urging authorities to legalize their settlements. Over the past ten months, Lokesh has directly overseen the process, from collecting resident details to coordinating with departments and ensuring a hassle-free application process for the poor. The large-scale distribution will continue from April 4 at a designated venue near Mangalagiri Don Bosco School. The schedule for patta distribution is as follows: April 4: Yarrabalem, Neerukonda, and Kaja villages, April 7: Penumaka, Undavalli, Ippatam, Kolanukonda, and Padmasali Bazaar, April 8: Ratnala Cheruvu and Mahanadu-2, April 11: Sitanagararam, Salam Center, and Drivers Colony and April 12: Mahanadu-1 and Undavalli Center.

# Chandrababu aims..

(From Page 1)  
emphasized the importance of linking rivers for the State's development. Addressing concerns about the State's debt, which stands at Rs. 10 lakh crore, the Chief Minister reassured that both welfare and development would proceed in parallel. He announced several new welfare initiatives, including a free gas cylinder every four months for households, remunerative prices for farmers' crops, and Rs. 20,000 for fishermen during the hunting ban. Additionally, he vowed to create employment opportunities and bring modernization to agriculture. Speaking on the legacy of Dr. B R Ambedkar, he highlighted the importance of education and empowerment, citing historical figures such as Ambedkar and former President Dr. AP J Abdul Kalam, who overcame adversity with the help of others. He also spoke about the savings of Dwarka communities, which now amount to Rs. 35,000 crore, and the importance of mobile phones, which he once advocated for when they were considered a luxury. Chandrababu Naidu announced plans to provide 2 cents of land in urban areas and 3 cents in rural areas, ensuring that every homeless person in the State would have a house within five years.

# WhatsApp bans..

(From Page 1)  
responsibly. It listed out ways to do so, including respecting boundaries, avoiding spamming with bulk and auto messages, and using broadcast lists responsibly. "According to the report for the month of February 2025, WhatsApp banned over 9.7 million accounts in India for violating its Terms of Service. More than 1.4 million of these accounts were proactively banned prior to any user reports," WhatsApp said. A WhatsApp spokesperson further said the platform has consistently invested in Artificial Intelligence and other technology, data scientists and experts, and processes, to keep users safe on the platform. "In accordance with the IT Rules 2021, our latest published report outlines user complaints received, actions taken, and WhatsApp's proactive approach to preventing abuse, including accounts that were proactively banned, before any reports from users," the spokesperson added.

# Farmers Demand for Expansion of Budameru at Enikepadu

**The Capital News Vijayawada, April 1:** The Budameru under-tunnel near Enikepadu should be expanded to protect the Eluru canal ayacut in the Krishna Eastern Delta from flood-related submersion. Alla Venkata Gopalakrishna Rao, State President of the Federation of Irrigation Water Users Associations, has appealed to the state government for this expansion. Last September, the Budameru main drain overflowed during heavy floods, causing water to flood the area near the Enikepadu under-tunnel and the Egadatti Eluru canal. This flooding resulted in the complete loss of the first crop on 500 acres in the Enikepadu ayacut, severely impacting local farmers. In response to the floods, farmers found themselves in dire circumstances and planted paddy during the Kharif season. Gannavaram MLA and Government Whip Yarlagadda Venkat Rao informed the state government of the situation last month and instructed Alla Venkata Gopalakrishna Rao and local distributary



committee chairmen Kosaraju Rambabu and Kommareddy Rajesh to ensure timely irrigation for the affected 500 acres, ultimately saving the harvested paddy crop. In line with this, Alla Venkata Gopalakrishna Rao, along with the Distributary Committee Chairmen Kosaraju Rambabu (Buddhavaram), Kommarreddy Rajesh (Kakulapadu), Yarlagadda Ravibabu (Gudivada), and Drainage Assistant Engineer K. Srinivasa Murthy, inspected the under-tunnel of the Eluru canal at the 36th km of Budameru in Enikepadu village this morning. During the inspection, Alla Venkata Gopalakrishna Rao stated that the damage

caused to the Eluru canal from the Budameru floods had been presented to the state government by the Gannavaram MLAs in the assembly. The under-tunnel near Enikepadu was originally built during the British era with 11 shafts to carry 4,300 cusecs of flood water. To accommodate increased flooding, it needs to be expanded by 22 shafts to handle 15,000 cusecs. From 2014 to 2019, during the previous Telugu Desam government, an estimate of Rs 506 crore was proposed for the development of the Budameru drain from the Velagaleru regulator to Enikepadu. This development plan included dredging the Budameru main drain, strengthening embankments, and constructing new bridges to replace old culverts near the railway line at Mustabad. The expansion project for the Enikepadu under-tunnel was launched last year. However, the Y.C.P. government not only neglected the concerns of the then MLAs but also allowed encroachments on the Budameru embankments in Vijayawada town, leading to turmoil during recent floods and damaging the Eluru canal in the Krishna eastern delta. On this occasion, the farmers expressed their gratitude to Gannavaram MLA Yarlagadda Venkat Rao and the team of irrigation association leader Alla Venkata Gopalakrishna Rao for saving the 500 acres of crops in Enikepadu. Former Enikepadu Sarpanch Koneru Sivarama Krishna Rao (Pedababu), as well as Eluru canal ayacut leaders Gogam Venkata Balakoteswara Rao, Ukti Venkateswara Rao, Gogam Srinivasa Rao, and Patapanchala Venkat Rao, also participated in the programme.









Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu participating in NTR Bharosa pension distribution programme at Kottagollapakem village in Bapatla district on Tuesday



The priests performing puja with flowers to goddess Durga on the occasion of third day in the Vasantanavaratru on Tuesday



Minister Kollu Ravindra, RTC chairman K Narayana distributing pensions at door strip in Machilipatnam on Tuesday





PHOTO FEATURE

THE CAPITAL • VIJAYAWADA • TUESDAY • 1 APRIL 2025

# Trump administration says it deported 17 more violent criminals' to El Salvador

Washington, Apr 1 (The Capital News) The Trump administration said Monday that it has deported 17 more "violent criminals" from the Tren de Aragua and MS-13 gangs to El Salvador, as it doubles down on a policy of removing people from the US to countries other than their own despite criticism over lack of transparency and human rights issues. The State Department said the immigrants were removed Sunday night. The statement said murderers and rapists were among them but didn't give details of the nationalities or alleged crimes of those removed. The office of El Salvador President Nayib Bukele, however, said Salvadorans and Venezuelans were

among the prisoners. "These criminals will no longer terrorize our communities and citizens," Secretary of State Marco Rubio said in the statement. "Once again, we extend our gratitude to President Bukele and the government of El Salvador for their unparalleled partnership." The men were flown to El Salvador by the US military, the State Department said. As seen in video from the Salvadoran government, they were transported by bus to El Salvador's maximum security prison, changed into the prison's standard white T-shirts and shorts and had their heads shaven. They were walked by guards into a cell block, the video shows, and some were made to kneel upon the



floor with their wrists cuffed behind their backs and ankles shackled. Guards put one or both hands on the men's necks and forced them to walk quickly while bent at the waist and shackled with their heads down. Some men in the video grunted from the exertion, and one appeared to vomit on the floor while listening to instructions. More than 200 Venezuelan immigrants facing

deportation were sent to El Salvador earlier this month and are also being held in the maximum security prison. The Trump administration also has deported immigrants of various nationalities to other countries in Central America. But El Salvador is the only country where the US is sending people so they can be imprisoned there. Bukele offered to jail immigrants the US wanted to deport

— regardless of nationality — during a February meeting with Rubio. Trump has claimed the Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua is invading the United States and invoked the Alien Enemies Act of 1798, a wartime authority that allows the president broader leeway on policy and executive action to speed up mass deportations. He sent dozens of people to El Salvador before a judge barred further deportations under the act's authority. The administration is now asking the Supreme Court to allow it to resume those deportations. The State Department, the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Defense, which handled the removals

Sunday, did not give detailed information about who was on the flight, their alleged crimes or under what legal authority they were removed from the country. Immigration and civil rights advocates have challenged the Trump administration's deportations of people to countries other than their own, saying they first need to be given the opportunity to say whether they fear persecution or torture there. Advocates have also sued to prevent use of the Alien Enemies Act. A federal judge on Friday temporarily blocked the Trump administration from deporting people to third countries without first being allowed to argue that it would jeopardize their safety.

## China launches major military exercises around Taiwan

Beijing, Apr 1 (The Capital News): China on Tuesday launched joint military exercises consisting of multiple forces around Taiwan as a "stern warning" against Taiwanese independence forces and to assert its sovereignty over it. The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Eastern Theatre Command on Tuesday started to conduct joint exercises around Taiwan Island, a spokesperson of the Command said. The theatre command organised its army, navy, air and rocket forces to close in on Taiwan Island from multiple directions, said Senior Colonel Shi Yi, the spokesperson for the theatre command was quoted by state-run Xinhua news agency. China, which claims Taiwan as part of its mainland, has conducted similar military exercises in the



recent past, but this is the first major military exercise around Taiwan since US President Donald Trump assumed power for a second tenure. According to Shi, these drills mainly focus on sea-air combat-readiness patrols, joint seizure of comprehensive superiority, assault on maritime and ground targets, and blockade of key areas and sea lanes to test the joint operation capabilities of the troops. The drills serve as a stern warning and forceful deterrent against "Taiwan independence" separatist forces, and are a legitimate and necessary action to safeguard China's sovereignty and national unity, Shi said.

## Venezuela will have its first female saint after approval from Pope Francis

Caracas, Apr 1 (The Capital News) Venezuela is set to have its first female saint following approval from Pope Francis. On Monday, he paved the way for the canonization of Blessed María Carmen Rendiles by authorizing a decree recognizing a miracle attributed to her, the founder of the Congregation of the Handmaids of Jesus. A date for her canonization has not been set.



Who was Carmen Rendiles? She was born on Aug. 11, 1903, in the Venezuelan capital, Caracas, and died there on May 9, 1977. From a young age, following her father's death, Rendiles helped her mother support the

family and worked at a local parish. She joined a French congregation in Venezuela in 1927 and became a novice at age 24. In 1961, supported by the local Catholic hierarchy, she founded an autonomous congregation. The Catholic bishops conference of Venezuela said in a news release Monday that she struggled with the loss of an arm, but

her physical deficiency "did not prevent her from developing an exemplary Christian life." Catholic leaders in Venezuela requested her canonization in 1995. She was beatified in 2018. What's the miracle attributed to Rendiles? According to the Vatican, she miraculously cured a young woman diagnosed with a type of hydrocephalus, a condition in

which cerebrospinal fluid builds up within the brain. Her condition had worsened until a Mass was celebrated before Rendiles' grave. Loved ones prayed for her recovery. And after the sick woman touched Rendiles' portrait, her health improved. "The young woman's recovery was complete, stable and long-lasting, and the event was deemed scientifically inexplicable," the Holy See said in a written statement. Another Venezuelan saint Earlier this year, Pope Francis approved the canonization of Blessed José Gregorio Hernández (born Oct. 26, 1864), known as "the poor's doctor," the first Venezuelan layperson to be beatified.

## Tokyo Gas purchases Chevron's Texas gas assets for \$525 million

Tokyo, Apr 1 (The Capital News) TG Natural Resources, owned by Tokyo Gas Co and Castleton Commodities International, is acquiring a 70% stake in the East Texas gas assets of Chevron USA Inc, a subsidiary of Chevron Corp, for \$525 million. The move, announced Tuesday, marks Tokyo Gas' expansion of its US business at a time when President Donald Trump is seeking to boost US gas exports. Tokyo Gas denies the move is in response to Trump's policies - the investment was being studied long before he came to office - but an investment of this scale in the US is expected to



be seen favourably by the Trump administration. TGNR is a major gas producer in East Texas, jointly owned by TG East Texas Resources LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Tokyo Gas America, and CCI US Asset Holdings. Of the purchase amount, \$75 million will be paid in cash

and \$450 million used as capital to fund the Haynesville development in Texas. The shale gas produced on the site is for the US market for now, but exporting it in the form of liquefied natural gas to Japan is an option for the future, according to Tokyo Gas. Tokyo Gas is Japan's largest

provider of city-area gas, primarily serving the Tokyo area. Besides Texas, it also has operations in the US in the Louisiana area. "We are excited to partner with a world-class company like Chevron on this transaction. There is considerable operational overlap between the Chevron acreage and the legacy TGNR acreage, which will allow TGNR to realise synergies of over \$170 million during the development of the asset," TGNR Chief Executive Craig Jarchow said in a statement. Resource-poor Japan imports almost all its energy, and its main sources for gas are now Australia and the US.

## Brazil's government admits to spying on Paraguay during Bolsonaro's presidency

Sao Paulo, Apr 1 (The Capital News) Brazil's government said on Monday that its intelligence agency spied on Paraguayan authorities during the presidency of Jair Bolsonaro, the predecessor of incumbent Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, a move that stopped in March 2023, three months into Lula's administration. The statement from Brazil's foreign ministry came hours after a report by news website UOL accused Lula's administration of spying on Paraguay. The ministry did not detail the specific Paraguayan officials targeted but said the surveillance stopped "as soon as the current administration became aware of the fact." "President Lula's administration categorically denies any involvement in the intelligence action reported today against Paraguay, a member country of (trade bloc) Mercosur with which Brazil maintains histori-

cal relations and a close partnership," Brazil's foreign ministry said. Paraguay's Foreign Minister Rubén Ramírez Lezcano told journalists in Asuncion earlier on Monday that he has "no evidence that Brazil has attacked our system." Bolsonaro did not make comments about the case. The ministry also said the current director-general of its intelligence agency was waiting for Senate confirmation early in 2023, when the espionage was still active. According to the UOL news report, Brazilian intelligence agents infiltrated Paraguayan computer systems to obtain information regarding tariff negotiations related to the Itaipu hydroelectric dam, one of the world's largest. Brazil and Paraguay share the rights of the energy generated at the Itaipu dam, which has an installed capacity of 14,000 megawatts.

## Indian markets..

(From Page 1)

Secretary Karo line Leavitt highlighted what she called "unfair trade practices," singling out countries like India for imposing high tariffs on American goods. Her comments have fueled market fears that Trump's reciprocal tariff s could escalate trade tensions further. The Nifty's decline was primarily driven by major heavyweights such as HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Reliance Industries, Infosys, and TCS, collectively contributing nearly 200 points to the 350-point drop. However, mid-cap stocks have shown relative strength, limiting the broader market's decline. Despite this, the market has lost around Rs 3.2 lakh crore in value. Market analysts are advising a cautious approach, suggesting that large-cap stocks are likely to outperform mid- and small-cap ones in the current volatile environment. They pointed out that the focus should remain on large-cap companies as earnings pressures and liquidity concerns continue. Although foreign institutional investors have made a return in recent weeks, they warned that the market is unlikely to see the same sustained bull run experienced over the last nine years.

## SC issues notice..

(From Page 1)

granted him anticipatory bail. However, the State government has now challenged the High Court's decision in the Supreme Court. A bench comprising Justice Amanutullah and Justice P K Mishra took up the matter on Tuesday and directed Sanjay to file a counter in response to the AP government's petition. The next hearing has been adjourned until the end of the month.

## Lokesh to lay..

(From Page 1)

Industries and the Andhra Pradesh government. At the initiative of minister Lokesh, Reliance has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the state government to establish 500 CBG plants across the state with an investment of Rs 65,000 crore. The event will be attended by energy minister Gottipati Ravikumar, along with other government officials and key Reliance executives, including director PMS Prasad, RIL mentor PVL Madhav Rao, and Reliance Bioenergy Business CEO Harindra K Tripathi. In the next five years, the project is set to utilize 5 lakh acres of wasteland for energy plantations, alongside the development of the 500 CBG plants. This initiative will generate direct and indirect employment for 2.5 lakh people in the state. Once fully operational, these plants are expected to produce 40 lakh metric tons of compressed biogas annually. Reliance is setting up four integrated CBG hubs across the country, with one of them located in Prakasam district. The CBG plants will be set up on high-wasteland areas in Prakasam, Anantapur, Chittoor, and Kadapa districts. Reliance aims to produce renewable energy using energy crops from just 3-4 percent of the State's wastelands, with each plant requiring 1,000 acres of land. The total investment for each CBG plant is Rs 130 crore, with Rs 105 crore allocated for plant establishment and Rs 25 crore for revitalizing surrounding wastelands. Each plant will produce 7,800 metric tons of compressed biogas and 22,000 metric tons of high-quality fermented manure annually. This will help in converting 3,000 acres of wasteland into fertile land. Reliance plans to grow hybrid Napier grass and other energy crops on 5.5 lakh acres of wasteland in Andhra Pradesh. The green fertilizer produced at the CBG plants will be used to improve soil quality, transforming barren lands into productive areas. This initiative is expected to boost rural economic activities and provide employment opportunities for local youth in the areas surrounding the plants.

## SC orders Dr Prabhavati..

(From Page 1)

Raghurama Krishnam Raju. The court warned that her interim protection will be revoked if she fails to cooperate with the probe. A bench comprising Justice Vikramanath and Justice K Viswanatham issued the order after senior government advocate Siddharth Luthra presented evidence that Prabhavati had repeatedly failed to cooperate with the investigation. Dr. Prabhavati, who was the Superintendent of Guntur Government Hospital at the time, had reported that Raghurama suffered no injuries in custody. The government subsequently filed a case against her report, prompting Prabhavati to seek anticipatory bail in the AP High Court, which was denied. She then approached the Supreme Court, which granted interim protection while directing her to attend the hearings. However, the AP government filed a fresh petition, arguing that Prabhavati had refused to appear before investigators despite being summoned multiple times. The court noted that she had responded through her lawyer and husband but avoided direct participation in the probe. The Supreme Court has now mandated her presence at the designated police station at 10 AM on April 7 and 8. The bench made it clear that non-compliance would lead to the cancellation of her interim protection. The next hearing is scheduled for April 15.



## Veteran forward Vandana Katariya retires from international hockey

New Delhi, Apr 1 (The Capital News) Indian women's team stalwart Vandana Katariya bid farewell to international hockey on Tuesday, stating that she is stepping away at the "zenith" of her 15-year illustrious career. Katariya, the 32-year-old veteran striker with 320 international appearances and 158 goals to her name, leaves as the most capped player in the history of Indian women's hockey. "Today, with a heavy yet grateful heart, I announce my retirement from international hockey -- a decision that feels both bitter-sweet and empowering. "I'm stepping away not because the fire in me has dimmed or the hockey in my tank has run dry, but because I want to bow out at the zenith of my career, while I'm still at my



very best," Katariya wrote in an Instagram post. "This isn't a goodbye born out of exhaustion; it's a choice to leave the international stage on my terms, with my head held high and my stick still blazing. The roar of the crowd, the thrill of every goal, and the pride of wearing India's colours will forever echo in my soul," she added. Katariya, who made her senior team debut in 2009, was an integral part of some of the most defining moments in the sport, including

India's historic fourth-place finish at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, where she became the first and only Indian woman to score a hat-trick at the Games. "To my teammates, my sisters-in-arms, your camaraderie and trust have fuelled my spirit. To my coaches and mentors, your wisdom and faith in me have shaped my path." Hailing from Roshnabad, Haridwar, Katariya played her last match for India during the Bhubaneswar leg of the FIH Pro League in

February. "... And to my late father — my rock, my guiding light — without you, this dream would have remained out of reach; your sacrifices and love have been my foundation. You've given me a platform to dream, to fight, and to win," she wrote. "But this isn't the end of my story — it's a new beginning. I'm not hanging up my stick; I'll keep playing, keep scoring, and keep inspiring in the Hockey India League and beyond. The turf will still feel my footsteps, and my passion for this game will never fade. "Today, I retire from international hockey, but I carry forward every memory, every lesson, and every ounce of love you've given me. Thank you for being my family, my fuel, and my forever teammates in spirit," she added.

## Ashwani credits MI skipper Hardik for memorable IPL debut

Mumbai, Apr 1 (The Capital News) Mumbai Indians newcomer Ashwani Kumar on Tuesday said skipper Hardik Pandya settled his nerves before his IPL debut by reminding him that "Punjabis are fearless" and that he should just go out and scare the opposition. The 23-year-old left-arm pacer from Jhanjeri, Punjab, became the first Indian ever to take four wickets in maiden IPL appearance as he ended with figures of 4/24 in three overs to blow away KKR's star-studded batting lineup here on Monday. Ashwani, who only ate a banana before the match, credited his captain for making him feel at ease. "It is a very good feeling. I hadn't thought that I'll do so well. Hardik bhai told me, 'you're from Punjab and Punjabis are fearless, so

just scare the opponents and enjoy yourself," Ashwani told iplt20.com about the unique advice he received. He also became the first Indian bowler in the last decade to take a wicket off his very first ball in the IPL. Bowling coach Paras Mhambrey was impressed with Ashwani's composure. "To see someone coming in, first game, under pressure, happy for him. He worked on his strengths and focused on his strengths and that gave him results. It's not about performance, it's about going and enjoying what you do best," Mhambrey said. Ashwani was one of three changes MI made for the match and Mhambrey explained the rationale behind his selection. "Left-arm seamer who swings the ball and has got a high pace, ticks a lot of



boxes for us. Wankhede, we always knew, is a wicket that has a lot of bounce compared to others. He's the kind of guy who swings the ball and has a high pace as well, so we felt it was the right surface for him to play." The debutant was overjoyed to bag Andre Russell's wicket in particular. "Manish Pandey had hit me for a four already. Hardik bhai told me to bowl at the body for him. My favourite wicket was Andre Russell's because he is a very big player. Hardik bhai told me

don't be afraid, so I just wanted to bowl to my plans." Ashwani struck off his first ball to dismiss KKR skipper Ajinkya Rahane but not before a fumble from Tilak Varma. Speaking about that moment, Ashwani said, "When he fumbled, I was just hoping he catches it because when you take a wicket off your first ball, the match usually goes well." Ashwani's success left his family and friends overjoyed too. "My whole village was very happy because Mumbai is the best team and has a lot of big players.

## India's campaign at World Boxing Cup begins with Lakshya Chahar's defeat



New Delhi, Apr 1 (The Capital News) India's campaign at the first World Boxing Cup was off to a disappointing start as Lakshya Chahar lost his opening 80kg bout to local boxer Wanderley Pereira in Foz do Iguacu, Brazil. The reigning national light heavyweight champion, Chahar, suffered a compre-

hensive 0-5 unanimous decision defeat to the 2023 World Championship silver medalist and Paris Olympian in the pre-quarterfinals at the Rafain Palace Hotel & Convention late Monday night. It was always going to be a tough task for the Indian, and Pereira proved to be far superior in the ring. All but one judge gave

him 30, giving the Brazilian a total of 149 out of a possible 150 points, while Chahar finished with 135. Three Indian boxers -- Jadumani Singh Mandengbam (50kg), Nikhil Dubey (75kg), and Jugnoo (85kg) -- will step into the ring on day two of the six-day tournament. The 20-year-old Jadumani will face a tough challenge against last year's World Boxing Cup finalist silver medalist, Ellis Trowbridge of Great Britain, in a bid to secure a spot in the semifinals. Nikhil will square off against local hope Kaue Belini in the quarterfinals, while Jugnoo will aim to out-punch

France's Abdoulaye Traore to earn his place in the last eight. This is the first event hosted by World Boxing since it received provisional recognition from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in February and the inclusion of the sport in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. It also marks the first time elite Indian boxers are competing on the international circuit since the Paris Olympics. Additionally, it is the first international competition where Indian boxers are participating in the new weight categories introduced by World Boxing.

## Queen Hansika Just Made Black the New Sexy!

Fashion isn't just about clothes; it's about attitude, and Hansika Motwani wears both effortlessly. In her latest photo-shoot, she transforms a simple black saree into a power move. The sheer drape hugs her silhouette, while a daring red lip adds just the right amount of rebellion. She doesn't just wear the saree—she owns it.

The setting is cinematic—a grey curtain backdrop that lets Hansika's presence take center stage. Her high ponytail adds a sharp edge, emphasizing her striking features. Every pose, every glance is deliberate, turning the shoot into a masterclass in confidence and style. She's not just a fashion icon; she's a mood.



## Sreeleela Faces Setbacks Amidst Bollywood Debut and Telugu Film Criticism



Sreeleela, the young actress who quickly rose to fame, is now grap-

pling with a series of setbacks. After signing several films to build her fan base, she is now

facing criticism, especially as she prepares for her debut in Bollywood. The actress, who was initially slated to star opposite Kartik Aryan in two films — the third installment of the Aashiqui franchise directed by Anurag Basu and the sequel to Pati Patni Aur Woh (PPAW) — has now been replaced in the PPAW sequel by Rasha Thadani. While the makers haven't made an official statement, sources suggest the decision stems from a desire for a fresh pairing, with Sreeleela already set to appear with Kartik in Aashiqui 3. In addition to her Bollywood troubles, Sreeleela is facing criticism in Telugu cinema. Her recent film Robinhood was a commercial disappointment, further adding to the challenges in her career. As she navigates these hurdles, her next moves will be closely watched by fans and critics alike.

## Nani's HIT: The 3rd Case Countdown Begins, Set for Release on May 1st

Natural Star Nani's highly anticipated Pan-India action thriller, HIT: The 3rd Case, is all set for release in just 30 days, hitting theaters on May 1st. In the meantime, the makers have unveiled a 30-day countdown poster, showcasing Nani in an intense action-packed look, with a cigar in his mouth and a gun in his hand, signaling the high-stakes drama to come. Nani has undergone a significant transformation for his role in this film, with a complete shift in body language and diction, presenting a tough and intense persona that has already been teased in the trailer. However, the film's first single, Prema Velluva, offers a softer contrast, with a beautiful romantic melody featuring Nani and Srinidhi Shetty. Directed by



Sailesh Kolanu, HIT: The 3rd Case is produced by Wall Poster Cinema and Unanimous Productions, with a soundtrack composed by Mickey J Meyer.

The film has already generated a lot of excitement, and the team is gearing up for an intensified promotional campaign as the release date draws closer.