

# THE CAPITAL

ENGLISH NEWS DAILY

A PUBLICATION OF CAPITAL MEDIA GROUP

NEW ERA BEGINS FROM AP, TELANGANA TO AMERICA

Vol-2. Issue-20. WEDNESDAY 2 APRIL 2025

Printed at VIJAYAWADA • HYDERABAD • DELHI



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## IN BRIEF



**Nagababu, Somu Veerajulu sworn in as MLCs**

**Amaravati:** Janasena Party leader Konidala Nagendra Rao (Nagababu) and BJP leader Somu Veerajulu were sworn in as Members of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council (MLCs) on Wednesday in the presence of Legislative Council Chairman Moshen (Cont.on P2)



**KCR reviews preparations for BRS silver jubilee celebrations**

**Hyderabad:** BRS Chief and former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhara Rao (KCR) met with party leaders from Medak, Sangareddy, and Siddipet districts at his Erravalli farmhouse on Wednesday. Accompanied by K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) and Harish Rao, KCR (Cont.on P3)



**Purandeshwari urges Railway Minister to establish satellite station at Gollapudi**

**New Delhi:** BJP State President Purandeshwari requested the Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav for establishing Satellite Railway Station Near Vijayawada. Purandeshwari met Union Railway Minister in Delhi today, urging him to consider (Cont.on P2)

## AP regaining investor confidence : Lokesh

• Performed Bhoomi Pooja for Reliance's CBG plant in Kanigiri

**The Capital News New Delhi, April 2:** IT and HRD minister Nara Lokesh said Andhra Pradesh is regaining investor confidence under Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, citing strong ties with Reliance Foundation and its interest in setting up biogas plants in the state. Lokesh performed Bhoomi Pooja for a Compressed Biogas (CBG) plant in Kanigiri constituency on Wednesday and later addressed a public meeting. Speaking at the event, Lokesh criticized the previous government for allegedly driving away industries and failing to bring investments. He challenged "Pulivendula MLA"



to list any major projects initiated in the past five years but claimed there was no response. **First CBG plant in Kanigiri:** The minister announced that the first CBG plant in Kanigiri will create employment

opportunities for 2.5 lakh people across Andhra Pradesh. He reiterated his commitment to fulfilling promises (Cont.on P3)

**CM Naidu pushes for fast-track completion of Amaravati Bypass**

## BJP to announce new national, State chiefs by mid-April

**The Capital News New Delhi, Apr 2:** The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is set to appoint a new national president, with an official announcement expected by the third week of April. Alongside this, leadership changes are likely in key states, including Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal. In Andhra Pradesh, Daggubati Purandeshwari is expected to retain her position as State president. However, BJP MLA from Vijayawada West, Sujana Chowdary, is reportedly in the race for the po

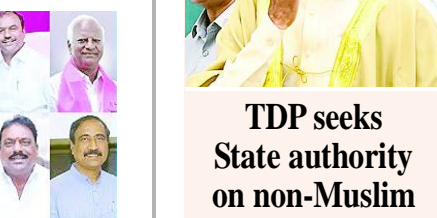


st, offering to bear all expenses to strengthen the party in the state. BJP leader Madhav is also said to be a contender. The selection process for the national president will gain momentum after the conclusion of the Parliament session on April 4. Organizational elections have been completed in 13 States, with State presidents already announced.

The BJP constitution mandates that elections in at least half of the States be completed before choosing a national president. J P Nadda has been serving as BJP chief since 2019, with his term extended until 2024 despite the usual three-year tenure. The upcoming appointment will mark a significant shift in the party's leadership structure.

## SC questions Speaker's inaction on Telangana MLAs' defection case

**The Capital News New Delhi, April 2:** Supreme Court Justice B R Gawai questioned whether courts should remain passive if the Speaker fails to act against defecting MLAs for four years, asserting that the judiciary serves as the guardian of the Constitution. The Supreme Court on Wednesday resumed hearings on petitions filed by BRS leaders Padi Kaushik Reddy, K T Rama Rao (KTR), and BJP leader Maheshwar Reddy regarding the defection of Telangana MLAs. Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi



and Abhishek Manu Singhvi are representing the Telangana Assembly Speaker and the 10 accused MLAs. Rohatgi argued that courts should not interfere in the Speaker's constitutional authority and that judicial review is permissible only after the Speaker makes a decision. He pointed out that the Telangana High Court has yet to rule on the matter. However,

Justice Gawai countered, questioning whether her courts should remain silent if the Speaker delays action indefinitely. "If the Speaker does nothing for four years, should the courts simply watch?" Justice Gawai asked. He also questioned whether the judiciary has the power to compel the Speaker to act in a timely manner. The hearing continues.



**TDP seeks State authority on non-Muslim representation in Waqf Board**

**New Delhi:** The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) is set to propose an amendment to the Waqf Board Amendment Bill 2024, seeking to leave the inclusion of non-Muslims in State Waqf boards to the discretion of respective State (Cont.on P3)

## Modi govt should approve bills enhancing BC quota in Telangana: CM Reddy

**The Capital News New Delhi, Apr 2:** Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy demanded that the Modi government approve state bills aimed at increasing reservations for Backward Classes (BCs) in education, employment and local bodies to 42 per cent. Addressing a protest organised by National BC Welfare Associations at Jantar Mantra, Reddy said the state government made several representations to the central government for early approval of the bills, but there has been no response.



"Many representations were made to the Centre, but there was no response. Therefore, we are here to protest," he said. The state Legislative Assembly on March 17 passed two bills to increase BC reservation from 23 per cent to 42 per cent in educational institutions, employment and

elections to rural and urban local bodies. The bills require centre's approval as the proposed BC reservation would exceed the 50 per cent cap on quotas. "We have sent the reservation bill to the Centre. We are asking (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi that we want to implement it in our state, not in Gujarat or Uttar Pradesh or Madhya Pradesh. If we want to give 42 per cent reservation in our state, what problem Modi has in approving it," Reddy asked. The CM appealed to Modi to listen (Cont.on P3)



## NHAI constructs 5,614 km of National Highways in FY25; exceeds target

**The Capital News New Delhi, Apr 2:** State-owned NHAI has constructed 5,614 km of National Highways against the target of 5,150 km during the financial year 2024-25, an official statement said on Wednesday. In addition, the statement said capital expenditure by NHAI in financial year 2024-25 for the development of National Highway Infrastructure reached an all-time

high of over Rs 2,50,000 crore (provisional), as against a target expenditure of Rs 2,40,000 crore. This high est-ever capital expenditure in a financial year by NHAI includes both government budgetary support and NHAI's own resources, it added. According to the statement, the overall capital expenditure increased by around 21 per cent, as compared to Rs 2,07,000 (Cont.on P3)



## Mother kills three children to pursue illegal affair

**Hyderabad:** In a horrific act of betrayal, a mother in Hyderabad's Aminpur brutally murdered her three children by poisoning their food, allegedly to continue an extramarital affair. The shocking crime, which took place on March 27, has left the local people in outrage. Police confirmed that Rajitha mixed poison into curd rice and fed it to her children, 12-year-old (Cont.on P3)

## CM Chandrababu reviews TTD development plans

**The Capital News Amaravati, April 2:** Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu held a review meeting on Wednesday at the Secretariat to discuss the enhancement of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) and its services. The meeting focused on improving the temple's prestige, making it more accessible to devotees, and ensuring seamless services. TTD officials presented a report detailing initiatives undertaken over the past nine months to enhance facilities for pilgrims. The Chief Minister reviewed future strategies to manage the increasing influx of devotees and discussed feedback collected on services such as darshan and accommodation. Special arrangements for major festivals, including Brahmotsavam, Rath Saptami, and Vaikuntha Ekadashi, were also examined. Officials



briefed Naidu on improvements in Srivari Laddu Prasadam and Anna Prasadam. Other key topics included expanding gallery facilities, setting up arrangements at Madhavedhi to accommodate more devotees, constructing a base camp at Alipiri, and developing the Sri (Cont.on P3)



## Waqf amendment bill an 'attack on religious freedom': Sharmila

**Vijayawada:** Andhra Pradesh Congress Chief Y S Sharmila Reddy on Wednesday condemned the Waqf Amendment Bill as an "attempt to undermine" the religious freedom granted to Muslims under the Constitution. She called the bill a "plot" to suppress minorities and a violation of constitutional values. The APCC (Cont.on P3)

**Nagababu, Somu Veerraju.**

(From Page 1) Raju. Following the swearing-in ceremony, Somu Veerraju visited the BJP state office, where he was greeted with garlands by party leaders. BJP MLA Parthasaradhi and other leaders honored him with shawls and expressed their support. Speaking on the occasion, Parthasaradhi stated that Veerraju's reappointment as an MLC was a historic moment for the BJP. He emphasized that the MLC seat was allocated to the BJP following the formation of the coalition government and credited Veerraju's contributions to the party's growth in the state. Parthasaradhi highlighted the party's role in the Legislative Council, where the opposition YSRCP holds a majority. He stressed the importance of making the BJP's voice heard and exposing the failures of the previous government. He further asserted that the BJP would effectively communicate the government's initiatives to the public while addressing grassroots-level concerns. He expressed confidence that the party would strengthen its presence across Andhra Pradesh by forming booth-level committees.

**Purandeshwari urges...**

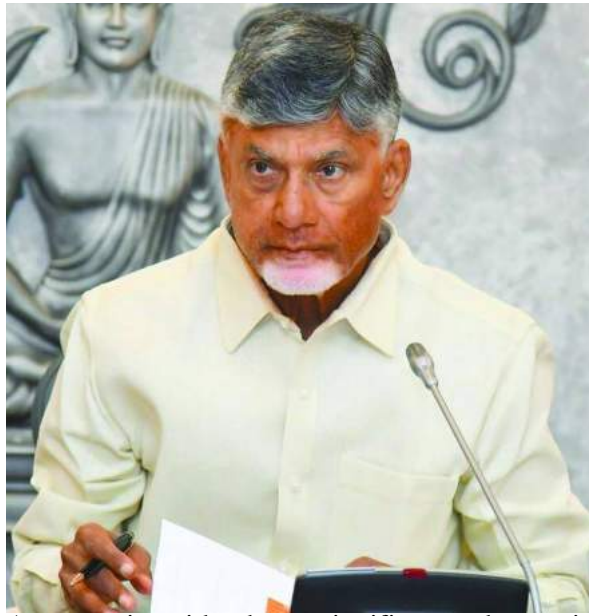
(From Page 1) the construction of a satellite railway station near Gollapudi. Citing heavy congestion at Vijayawada Railway Station, she emphasized that the proposed station would enhance connectivity to Amaravati and ease travel from Vijayawada to other destinations.

**Man slits throats of woman, daughter in Visakhapatnam**

**Visakhapatnam, Apr 2:** A 25-year-old man 'attacked' a woman by slitting her throat and injured her daughter—whom he is said to be in love with—at their residence on Wednesday, said a police officer. The accused, identified as Naveen, allegedly slit the throats of Lakshmi (43) and her daughter, Deepika Gayatri (20). Lakshmi died on the spot, while Deepika was hospitalised in critical condition.

**CM Naidu pushes for fast-track completion of Amaravati Bypass**

**The Capital News Amaravati, April 2:** Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu has directed authorities to expedite the completion of the bypass through the Amaravati region, citing its importance for the rapid development of the capital area. The bypass will not only improve connectivity to the national highway but also facilitate the transport of construction materials essential for ongoing projects. The Vijaya wada bypass, part of the Chennai-Kolkata Highway, stretches from Kaja to Chinna Autapalli via Gollapudi. The 17.88-kilometer Kaja-Gollapudi segment intersects nine grid roads in



Amaravati, with the National Highways Authority of India (NHA) already constructing underpasses at five intersections—E-3, E-8, E-10, E-13, and E-15—to ensure smooth traffic flow. Despite the project's

significance, the previous government neglected it. However, the NDA coalition government has made it a priority. CM Naidu has identified four additional grid road crossings lacking underpasses and has ordered immediate action to construct them. A plan is being prepared to make the necessary cuts in the bypass and estimate the cost of the required underpasses. In a recent meeting with Union Minister for Transport and National Highways Nitin Gadkari, Naidu stressed the urgency of completing the bypass before the monsoon season. He stated that halting work for underpass construction now could delay the project by 15 months. Instead, the government has decided to first complete the bypass and then proceed with the underpass construction. The target is to finish the pending bypass works by the end of June.

**Police halt protest rally by UoH students, faculty over land dispute**

**The Capital News Hyderabad, Apr 2:** A protest rally by students and faculty of the University of Hyderabad (UoH) against the Telangana government's plans to develop a 400-acre land parcel in Kancha Gachibowli bordering the varsity, was stopped by the police here on Wednesday. The UoH Teachers Association led a rally from Ambedkar auditorium to East Campus in solidarity with the agitating students. According to students, the police barricaded the entire East Campus area while heavy machinery was deployed to clear the site. As the protesters attempted to advance, the police stopped and dispersed them using "mild force". The demonstrators raised

slogans such as "police go back". A protesting student told media that the police resorted to lathi-charge on students and faculty. However, a police official denied the claims and said, "They were prevented from taking out the rally." The University of Hyderabad Students' Union (UoHSU) and other unions and parties aligned with it have launched an indefinite protest and announced boycott of classes from April 1, demanding the removal of police personnel and earth-moving machinery from the campus. The student groups and environmental activists have voiced opposition to the proposal to undertake development work at the site, citing envi-

ronmental conservation concerns. The Telangana government's plans to develop IT infrastructure and others on 400 acres of land over which student groups of UoH held protests intensified on March 31 with the government maintaining that the land parcel belonged to it and not the varsity. However, the UoH Registrar contradicted the government's claim that the boundary of the land in question was finalised. Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and Industries Minister D Sridhar Babu, both alumni of UoH, had on Tuesday asserted that the government has not taken even an inch of the university's land.

**AP govt to allot 44 bars through E-auction, online lottery**

**The Capital News Amaravati, April 2:** The Andhra Pradesh government will allocate 44 bars across the State through an e-auction and online lottery system. The Liquor Prohibition and Excise Department has issued a notification for the process, targeting bars that have failed to pay their license fees, non-refundable registration charges, and bid amounts. Interested individuals must complete online registration by April 7, while the non-refundable application fee must be paid by April 8. The fee structure is based on the population size: Rs. 5 lakh for areas



with a population of up to 50,000, Rs. 7.5 lakh for areas with a population between 50,000 and 5 lakh and Rs. 10 lakh for areas with a population exceeding 5 lakh. The highest bidder in the online process will be allotted a bar on April

9. The city administration has released details on the bars, offset prices, and the official gazette notification for place-wise allocation. For further information, applicants are advised to contact the relevant authorities.

**SBI Free Medical Camp**



**The Capital News Visakhapatnam, Apr 2:** The free medical camp organized at the Saligramapuram branch of State Bank of India on Wednesday was a success. V Health Care and V Dental Hospital jointly organized this free medical camp and conducted BP, sugar and dental checkups. The camp received a great

response from the bank's customers. About a hundred people underwent medical checkups in this camp. Bank Chief Manager Mr.P.S. N. Murthy supervised the camp. Dr.V. Swarna latha, V Health Care Director KMK Ramesh, Clinic Head CH.Krishna, medical team Bharathi, Latisha, Tulsi, and Likhith provided services.

**Infant girl succumbs to bird flu in Andhra**

**Narasaraopeta (Andhra Pradesh), April 2 (The Capital News)** A two-year-old girl from Andhra Pradesh succumbed to bird flu more than a fortnight ago, an official said on Wednesday. The infant died on March 15, and the Pune-based National Institute of Virology (NIV) later confirmed that she had contracted bird flu after testing her sample. "The girl died of bird flu while undergoing treatment at AIIMS-Mangalagiri," the official told PTI. However, the official said only the infant had contracted bird flu in her entire household, which surprised authorities. There were no reported bird flu cases in Palnadu district, and we could not determine how the girl became infected, he said. Asked whether the child had consumed raw chicken, the family responded affirmatively, leading officials to consider it a possible cause—though not conclusively—said the official. Family members said the girl occasionally ate a piece or two of raw chicken and that she had consumed one before her symptoms began to appear. Authorities suspect this habit may have been a factor but have not declared it as the definitive cause, the official added.

**'Mockery of Tenth Schedule': SC on Telangana CM statement over bye-elections**

**New Delhi, Apr 2 (The Capital News)** Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's purportedly saying in the assembly there would be no bye-elections even if BRS MLAs switched sides attracted Supreme Court's ire on Wednesday. "If this is said on the floor of the house, your chief minister is making a mockery of the Tenth Schedule," a bench of Justices B R Gavai and Augustine George Masih remarked. The Tenth Schedule of the Constitution deals with provisions on disqualification on the ground of defection. Reddy allegedly stating in the assembly on March 26 that there would be no bye-elections even if BRS members switched sides prompted Justice Gavai's strong comments. The issue cropped up when the bench was hearing arguments on the pleas raising the issue of alleged delay by the Telangana assem-



bly speaker in deciding on the petitions seeking disqualification of some BRS MLAs who had defected to the Congress. Senior advocate C A Sundaram, appearing for BRS leader Padi Kaushik Reddy, referred to Reddy's purported statement. Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the speaker, said the assembly proceedings were not in question in the matter pending before the apex court. "Something being said at Ramlila Maidan is different than what is being said on the floor of

the house," Justice Gavai said. Justice Gavai noted when a politician says something in the assembly, it has some sanctity. There were judgments which state that a minister's statement on the floor of the house can be used for interpreting that statute, he added. Sundaram quoted Reddy as saying, "Speaker sir, through you, I want to assure the members that they need not worry about bye-elections. No bye-elections will happen. Even if BRS desires to have one for their seats, there will be none. Even if their members switch sides, there will not

**Ex-information commissioner Vijay Kumar appears before ACB**

**The Capital News Guntur, April 2:** Former information commissioner Vijay Kumar appeared for questioning at the district ACB office following a directive from the High Court. The court had recently expressed displeasure over his failure to comply with previous summons despite being granted anticipatory bail. Vijay Kumar, who served as information commissioner under the previous YSRCP government, is facing allegations of misusing public funds in the Information Department. The ACB registered a



case against him on November 14 last year based on a vigilance report regarding irregularities in government-issued advertisements. Despite receiving summons for questioning on March 18, Kumar initially responded that he would appear at his convenience. Following this, he sought anticipatory bail from the High Court. The court, while granting bail, mandated his presence for questioning. The ACB assured that he would not be arrested at this stage. Kumar's questioning comes ahead of the next hearing on his anticipatory bail plea, scheduled for the third week of April.

**Heat waves predicted in 30 mandals of Andhra Pradesh on April 2**

**Amaravati, April 2 (The Capital News)** The Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) has forecast heat waves in 30 mandals across the state on Wednesday. Out of the 30 mandals, six are in Srikakulam district, five mandals each in Vizianagaram and Alluri Sitarama Raju districts, 11 in Parvathipuram Manyam, one in Kakinada, and two in East Godavari. "Several mandals across Andhra Pradesh will experience heatwave conditions on April 2, requiring caution in affected regions," said APSDMA managing director R Kurmanadh. Scattered light rains with thunder and lightning are likely in Sri Sathya Sai and Chittoor districts on Wednesday, said APSDMA managing director R Kurmanadh in a press release.

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# Forensic probe found aluminium powder caused explosion in Gujarat godown that killed 21: Police

**The Capital News Deesa, Apr 2:** A forensic investigation has confirmed that the presence of aluminium powder, one of the ingredients to make firecrackers, caused the huge explosion and blaze which ripped through the warehouse near Deesa town in Gujarat killing 21 persons a day ago, police said on Wednesday. A part from aluminium powder, a team from the forensic science laboratory (FSL) also found yellow dextrin powder from the warehouse where firecrackers were stored, Bana skantha district Superintendent of Police Akshayraj Makwana told reporters. Though the SP admitted that

both substances are used for manufacturing firecrackers, he told reporters that a detailed investigation was underway to find out whether firecrackers were manufactured in the godown or not. The godown, where the explosion took place around 9.45 am on Tuesday, is located in an industrial area near Deesa town, around 30 km from the Banaskantha district headquarters. The blast was so powerful that it sent body parts of workers flying 200-300 metres away. Family members of some of the workers who stayed on the premises were crushed to death after heavy chunks of the RCC roof slab fell



on them, officials said. Police on Tuesday night arrested warehouse owners Deepak Mohnani and his father Khubchand Mohnani from neighbouring Sabarkantha district, Makwana said, adding that an FIR was registered in Deesa against the duo. Both of them were booked on the charges of culpable homicide not

amounting to murder and under relevant sections of the Explosives Act and the Explosive Substances Act, the SP said. "Apart from firecrackers, the FSL team found aluminium powder from the warehouse. A bag containing yellow dextrin was also found. Both materials are used in making firecrackers. The FSL told us that aluminium powder was the reason behind the explosion," Makwana said. Aluminium powder has several other applications and it can be bought and sold in the open market without any license because it is a "non-explosive" material despite being a flammable one, he said. If

ignited in a closed room, this material would lead to a blast as it produces a high amount of energy, the SP said. "The accused duo has not admitted that firecrackers were being manufactured in the godown. But since we have found these materials, we will conduct a detailed probe in that direction. We are also checking the presence of oxidizers, key ingredients for making firecrackers," Makwana said. On Tuesday, Deesa Sub-Divisional Magistrate Neha Panchal had said that the godown had initially obtained a license for storing firecrackers, but it was not renewed after it expired on December

31 due to lapses. The licence was only meant for storing firecrackers. "However, it seems they were prima facie illegally manufacturing firecrackers," the official said. During investigation, police found that Deepak Mohnani was held nearly three years ago for his alleged involvement in a cricket betting racket, the SP said. Apart from a five-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) formed by Range IG Chirag Koradia to probe the incident, seven other teams have been set up to investigate other aspects, such as bank transactions of the accused and analyzing call detail records, he added.



## Man arrested after hit-and-run accident claims life

**The Capital News Pune, Apr 2:** A day after a 49-year-old man was hit by a car while he was on his morning walk in Undri area and died, the police on Wednesday said they have identified and arrested the driver. Accused Sameer Kad (32), a resident of the same area, was driving with his wife at the time of the incident, police said. Sujit Kumar Singh, the victim, was flung against the roadside wall after being struck by a vehicle

around 6.40 am on Tuesday. He died on the spot. "After hitting Singh, Kad, who was with his wife, did not stop. We checked the footage of multiple CCTV cameras in the vicinity and tracked the car's registration number, and he was apprehended on early Wednesday morning," said sub-inspector Amit Shete of Kalepatal police station. As per the probe so far, the accused was not drunk but fled from the spot fearing arrest, he said.

## UP govt implements technological innovations to revolutionize ration distribution system

**The Capital News Lucknow, Apr 2:** The Uttar Pradesh government has revolutionized the ration distribution system over the past eight years, making it not only efficient but also transparent and corruption-free through digital advancements, an official statement issued here on Wednesday said. Upholding the core principles of 'Service, Security and Good Governance', the government has implemented technological innovations through the Food and Civil Supplies Department that directly benefit over 1.15 crore ration card holders in the state, it said. The state government has introduced e-KYC and Aadhaar verification to ensure fairness in



ration distribution. The beneficiaries can now complete their e-KYC at any fair price shop nationwide. As per the Food and Civil Supplies Department, 77.37 per cent of the state's ration card holders (1.15 crore), including 10.02 lakh beneficiaries who availed the service in other states, had completed e-KYC by March 2025, it said. This initiative has not only expanded access-

sibility, but also helped identify and eliminate ineligible cardholders, ensuring that food grains reach those truly in need. The government is working towards achieving 100 per cent e-KYC coverage to further strengthen the system. The integration of e-POS machines has significantly enhanced transparency in the distribution process ensuring that food grains reach the beneficiaries directly, effectively curbing corruption and eliminating middlemen. The government is constructing 'Annapurna Bhawans' under schemes like MGNREGA to modernize the public distribution system. So far, 3,534 such centers have been completed, with 2,000 mo-

re under construction. For 2025-26, Rs 200 crore has been allocated to expand their reach, especially in rural areas, it said. 'Annapurna Bhawans' will serve as ration distribution centers and provide multiple public services. Each facility will house two rooms -- one for government ration storage and another for a Common Service Center (CSC) -- offering services such as birth, death, income and caste certificates. These centers will include general stores, bill payment facilities, broadband services, affordable generic medicines and essential household items, making the government services more accessible and efficient for citizens.

## Swati Maliwal raises concern over unchecked growth of e-rickshaws in Delhi

**The Capital News New Delhi, Apr 2:** AAP Rajya Sabha member Swati Maliwal on Wednesday expressed concern over unchecked growth of e-rickshaws in Delhi, and demanded strict regulations for them to ensure urban mobility remains efficient and safe. Raising the issue during the Zero Hour, she said the unregulated surge of e-rickshaws has created severe traffic congestion in the national capital. Maliwal further said there is no cap on the number of e-rickshaws, leading to uncontrolled proliferation, particularly around metro stations, markets, and major roads. She also said authorities do not have accurate data on



the number of registered e-rickshaws in the national capital. She expressed concern over the lack of licensing and formal training among the drivers. In her mention, Maliwal also spoke about electrocution of a 7-year-old boy due to an illegal e-rickshaw charging station. She said e-

rickshaws are involved in accidents due to poor safety standards, overloading, and reckless driving. The AAP MP proposed measures like imposing a cap on e-rickshaw numbers, mandatory registration and licensing, designated zones and fixed routes, stricter traffic enforcement, and shutting

down unauthorized charging points. "I am not saying that all e-rickshaw drivers are bad," she said adding while autos and taxis are strictly regulated, e-rickshaws continue to operate without any accountability. Strict regulations must be in place to check undue driving and traffic rule violations, else they will become a traffic menace, she said. In his Zero Hour mention, Ramji Lal Suman (SP) spoke on the need to provide legal guarantee on minimum support price (MSP) for major crops. He emphasized that problems of farmers cannot be addressed till the government agrees to provide a legal guarantee on MSP.

### KCR reviews preparations for

(From Page 1)

directed leaders to begin preparations for the BRS Silver Jubilee celebrations, scheduled for April 27 in Warangal. KCR emphasized the need for large-scale public mobilization, instructing leaders to hold preparatory meetings in each constituency. He urged former MLAs and MLCs to strategize ways to bring lakhs of people to the event. Key Planning Discussions a day earlier, KCR had met with BRS leaders from the Warangal district, discussing detailed arrangements for the party's formation day event. He stressed the importance of meticulous planning for crowd management, logistics, and public outreach to make the event a grand success. Party leaders are working rapidly to organize the celebrations, marking 25 years since BRS's establishment. Following the Warangal event, KCR announced plans to restructure party committees from village to state levels and hold training sessions for leaders. Rallying Support & Criticism of Congress Rule KCR asserted that the BRS Silver Jubilee meeting would boost public morale in Telangana, stating that people were eagerly waiting to participate. He predicted massive voluntary turnout at the event. During the meeting, KCR also criticized the Congress government, claiming its rule had disheartened farmers and various sections of society. He expressed concern over the plight of farmers, stating that he never imagined they would face such hardships under the current administration. With Warangal historically playing a pivotal role in the Telangana movement, BRS leaders vowed to reignite that spirit and ensure the success of the upcoming Silver Jubilee celebrations.

### AP regaining investor...

(From Page 1)

made during the Yuvagalam padayatra and highlighted the project's benefits for farmers. Lokesh also reaffirmed Amaravati as the State capital and pledged efforts to bring a railway project to Kanigiri. Praising Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, he described him as a determined leader capable of achieving his goals and referred to him as his brother. Lokesh accused the previous government of misusing Jal Jeevan Mission funds and credited Pawan Kalyan for securing their reinstatement. He also warned political opponents against obstructing the CBG plant, stating that such actions would be recorded in his Red Book. Asserting the NDA alliance's strong electoral mandate, he announced plans to lay the foundation stone for a Triple IT institution soon.

### TDP seeks State authority..(From Page 1)

governments. As the Lok Sabha begins discussions on the bill, attention is focused on whether it will secure parliamentary approval. The TDP, along with its NDA ally Janata Dal (United), has expressed support for the proposed amendments. However, sources indicate that the TDP, led by Chandrababu Naidu, will advocate for flexibility regarding non-Muslim representation in State Waqf boards. While backing most provisions of the bill, including mandatory participation of women, the TDP is firm on its proposal for state-level discretion on board composition. The party has issued a three-line whip to its MPs, ensuring full attendance during the debate.

### NHAI constructs 5,614 km of ..(From Page 1)

crore in financial year 2023-24, and by around 45 per cent as compared to Rs 1,73,000 crore in FY 2022-23. During FY24-25, NHAI leveraged three modes for monetization, that included Toll Operate Transfer (TOT), InvIT and Toll Securitization. "During the financial year, NHAI monetized assets for a total of Rs 28,724 crore," the statement said, adding this includes NHAI's highest-ever single-round InvIT receipt worth Rs 17,738 crore.

### CM Chandrababu reviews..(From Page 1)

Padmavati Ammavari Temple. The progress of the Srivari Temple in Amaravati and the construction of Srivari temples outside the state were also discussed. The Chief Minister emphasized the need to further elevate Tirumala's global standing and enhance the overall experience for pilgrims.

### Modi govt should approve....(From Page 1)

to the state government's concerns and approve the bills. "We are ready to implement it, approve the bill," he said. "I am not bothered whether you will implement it across the country. I am not bothered whether you will implement it in your Gujarat. As Telangana CM, we have decided in the Assembly to increase to 42 per cent. What problem do you have?" He also said that the Modi government should not try to dominate the state by being in power at the Centre. "If you dominate, you know what happened to Nizams and Razakar in the past." Reddy said the Centre, without majority support, has passed many bills such as Triple Talaq, Article 370, Citizen Amendment Act, and farm bills, and today (on Wednesday) tabled the Waqf Bill in Parliament. He urged the PM not to do injustice to Telangana by stopping the state government from increasing the reservation cap for BCs. "The BJP is against the welfare of BCs. They have been postponing the census since 2019 because they want to avoid Rahul Gandhi's demand for a caste census. Rahul Gandhi is advocating for reservations based on the caste census," he added. Besides Reddy, DMK MP Kanimozhi, AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi, Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee president Bomma Maheg Kumar Goud and Communist Party of India national secretary K. Narayana, Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) leader Supriya Sule and 42 BC unions were present at the protest rally.

### Waqf amendment bill an... (From Page 1)

president claimed that the bill was part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's agenda to allegedly hurt Muslim sentiments, terming it a "black day" for India and a means to incite religious hatred. In a post on X, Sharmila said, "The bill's provisions allowing government officials to supervise Waqf properties and requiring documents for properties dating back 300 years are deeply concerning, adding that, the stipulation that individuals must follow Islamic practices for five years before receiving Waqf land is unacceptable." The bill not only disrespects the religious sentiments of Muslims but also allows the government to control Waqf assets and give them to Modi's allies, she remarked. Sharmila condemned TDP and Jana Sena's support for the bill, calling it "shameful". She further criticised Chandrababu Naidu's "hypocrisy" and highlighted his contradictory stance on Waqf assets.

### Mother kills three children to...

(From Page 1)

Sai Krishna, 10-year-old Madhu Priya, and 8-year-old Gautam, watching them die one by one. She pretended to have consumed the same food and later feigned illness to divert suspicion. Her husband, Chennaiya, narrowly escaped as he had not eaten the poisoned meal. Investigators revealed that Rajitha had rekindled a relationship with a former classmate and saw her children and husband as an obstacle. She plotted their murder in cold blood and executed it while her husband was away at work. When he returned home, he found all three children dead. Police initially suspected the father but later uncovered Rajitha's gruesome conspiracy. After interrogation, she confessed to the killings. Her lover, who is believed to have been involved in the plan, has also been arrested. The gruesome crime has sent shockwaves, with locals demanding the harshest punishment for Rajitha.



Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu conducting the review meeting with TTD chairman BR Naidu, EO Shyamala Rao, JEO Venkaiah Chowdary and other officials over Tirumala and new temple projects at Secretariat on Wednesday



Minister for IT Nara Lokesh participating in the inauguration of CBG plant at Kanigiri in Prakasam district on Wednesday along with Reliance Group PMS Prasad and other officials



Newly elected MLC Somu Veerraju being felicitated at party office on Wednesday



The rank and file of TDP celebrating birthday celebrations of senior leader TD Janardan at party central office on Wednesday



The newly elected MLCs Alapati Rajendra Prasad, Somu Veerraju, BT Naidu, P Rajasekhar and K Nagendra Babu swearing at Assembly on Wednesday

# PHOTO FEATURE

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## US judge orders Trump administration to restore legal aid to unaccompanied migrant children

San Francisco, Apr 2 (The Capital News) A federal judge in California on Tuesday ordered the Trump administration to temporarily restore legal aid to tens of thousands of migrant children who are in the United States without a parent or guardian. The Republican administration on March 21 terminated a contract with the Acacia Center for Justice, which provides legal services for unaccompanied migrant children under 18 through a network of legal aid groups that subcontract with the center. Eleven subcontractor groups sued, saying that 26,000 children were at risk of losing their attorneys; Acacia is not a plaintiff. Those groups argued that the government has an

obligation under a 2008 anti-trafficking law to provide vulnerable children with legal counsel. US District Judge Araceli Martínez-Olguín of San Francisco granted a temporary restraining order late Tuesday. She wrote that advocates raised legitimate questions about whether the administration violated the 2008 law, warranting a return to the status quo while the case continues. The order will take effect Wednesday and runs through April 16. "The Court additionally finds that the continued funding of legal representation for unaccompanied children promotes efficiency and fairness within the immigration system," she wrote. It is the third legal setback in less than a



week for the Trump administration's immigration crackdown, though all may prove temporary as the lawsuits advance. On Friday, a federal judge in Boston said people with final deportation orders must have a "meaningful opportunity" to argue against being sent to a country other than their own. On Monday, another federal judge in San Francisco put on hold plans to end protections for hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans, including 350,000 whose legal

status was scheduled to expire April 7. The Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008, which created special protections for migrant children who cannot navigate a complex immigration system on their own. Plaintiffs said some of their clients are too young to speak and others are too traumatized and do not know English. The law requires the government to ensure "to the greatest extent practicable" that all children entering the country alone have

legal counsel to represent them in proceedings and to "protect them from mistreatment, exploitation, and trafficking." Defendants, which include the Department of Health and Human Services and its Office of Refugee Resettlement, said that taxpayers have no obligation to pay the cost of direct legal aid to migrant children at a time when the government is trying to save money. They also said district courts have no jurisdiction over a contract termination that would have expired at the end of March. Acacia is under a new contract with the government to provide legal orientations, including "know your rights" clinics. But plaintiffs said they are not asking for the con-

tract to be restored; rather, they want a return to the status quo, which is spending \$5 billion that Congress appropriated so children have representation, said Karen Tumlin with the Justice Action Center at a court hearing Tuesday. She said the administration cannot simply zero out funding without providing direction on who will help these children. "They need to make sure to the greatest extent practicable that there is a plan," she said. Jonathan Ross with the US Department of Justice said the government is still funding legally required activities, such as the "know your rights" clinics, and that legal clinics can offer their services without charge.

## India, Nepal ink 10 MoUs worth NRs 625 million for community development projects

Kathmandu, Apr 2 (The Capital News) India and Nepal have signed 10 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) for high-impact community development projects in the Himalayan nation to be funded by Indian assistance amounting to NRs 625 million, according to an official release. The agreements were signed on Tuesday for development in the education, health, and culture sectors, the Indian embassy here said in a press release. "These High Impact Community Development Projects #HICDP are being built with (the) Government of India's financial assistance at a total cost of NRs 625.00 million in Education, Health and Culture Sectors under 'Nepal-India

Development Cooperation'," the embassy said in a post on X. It added that implementing these projects will "help provide better educational, healthcare and cultural facilities to the people of Nepal." The projects undertaken include the construction of three schools, one monastery, one e-library at a school, and two health post buildings. With this, India has taken up over 573 HICDPs in Nepal since 2003, of which 495 projects have been completed. These projects reflect the Indian government's "continued support" in bolstering the efforts of the government of Nepal in the "growth and development" of its people by augmenting infrastructure in priority sectors, said the release.

## Republican state Senator Randy Fine wins special election for Florida's 6th Congressional District

Ormond Beach (US), Apr 2 (The Capital News) Republican state Sen. Randy Fine won a special election Tuesday to represent Florida's 6th Congressional District, defeating Democratic challenger Josh Weil and squashing efforts by national Democrats who spent millions of dollars on the race. Fine had faced growing pressure during the race's final days as some Republicans publicly criticized his campaign and fundraising efforts. His victory ends Democratic hopes to score a huge upset in a district that was heavily supportive of President Donald Trump in November. The race to fill the seat vacated by Mike



Waltz when he was tapped to become Trump's national security adviser received national attention. Democrats poured money into Weil's campaign to outrace Fine by nearly tenfold, attempting to flip a seat where the president won by more than 30 points. Fine, a self-described "conservative firebrand," ran with Trump's endorsement. Fine's struggles

in the last few weeks as national Republican operatives worried that he needed more money to combat Weil's eye-popping \$9 million compared to Fine's \$1 million, which drew national attention from political operatives questioning whether this race would embarrass Republicans less than 100 days into Trump's administration. Yet that wasn't the case for Democrats. For

weeks, national leaders have attributed Weil's fundraising success to what they characterized as widespread outrage about the Trump administration's overhaul of the federal government. That outrage failed to materialise in large enough numbers to overturn the outcome in the reliably Republican district, foiling Democrats' hope to pull off a huge upset that would have buoyed their party. Fine was first elected to the Florida House in 2016 and ran each year as a representative until 2024 when he successfully won his election to the Florida Senate. He is known for his support of Israel and his efforts to restrict LGBTQ+ rights.

## Senate confirms Matt Whitaker as Trump's ambassador to NATO

Washington, Apr 2 (The Capital News) The Senate confirmed Matt Whitaker late Tuesday as President Donald Trump's US ambassador to NATO, a crucial emissary to the Western alliance at a time of growing concern about the American commitment abroad. Whitaker, who had served in Trump's first administration at the Justice Department, brings a law enforcement background rather than deep foreign policy or national security ties. He was confirmed by the Senate on a vote of 52-45. During a confirmation hearing, Whitaker assured senators that the Trump administration's com-



mitment to the military alliance was "ironclad." Trump has long been skeptical, and often hostile, toward the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which was formed by the US and other countries in the aftermath of World War II as a deterrent to potential aggression from what was then the Soviet Union. The US commitment has been called into question due

to Trump's sharp criticism of European allies and his eagerness to build ties with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Trump has pushed other countries to contribute a greater share of their budgets to their own defense, rather than relying on the U.S. Whitaker had been chief of staff to Attorney General Jeff Sessions during

Trump's first term, and then was chosen to become acting attorney general when his boss was fired after recusing himself from the department's investigation of Russian influence in the 2016 election. He had been considered for the top job in the Justice Department with the president's return to the White House, but instead was tapped for the ambassadorship. In nominating him, Trump said in a statement that Whitaker was "a strong warrior and loyal Patriot" who "will ensure the United States' interests are advanced and defended."

## Istanbul prosecutor investigates opposition boycott calls in wake of mayor's arrest

Istanbul, Apr 2 (The Capital News) Istanbul's public prosecutor's office Tuesday launched an investigation into recent opposition calls for a boycott of pro-government businesses following the arrest of the city's mayor. The prosecutor's office determined that "divisive rhetoric" on traditional and social media aimed at hindering the economic activity of a segment of society constituted "hate and discrimination" and "incitement to hatred and hostility," the state-run Anadolu Agency reported. Anadolu added that the new investigation is to be merged with ongoing investigations into physical and verbal violence committed against certain businesses. Last month saw Turkey's largest protests in more than a decade,



following the arrest of Istanbul's opposition Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu, a key rival to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Imamoglu was jailed pending trial on corruption charges that many see as politically motivated. The government insists the judiciary is independent and free of political interference. Oezgur Ozel, the head of the main opposition Republican People's Party, or CHP, to which Imamoglu belongs, held multiple rallies attended by hundreds of thousands to protest the arrest. Criticizing pro-government media for not covering the

rallies, Ozel called for a boycott of over a dozen companies that ran advertisements with the outlets. A website set up on March 25 listing the companies to be boycotted was blocked by court order two days later. On Tuesday, hours before the prosecutor's office launched its investigation, Ozel posted on social media a call for a general boycott ending all purchases on Wednesday. The boycott is in protest of the arrests of both Imamoglu and 301 university students who were rounded up in the protests. Meanwhile, Trade Minister Omer Bolat, referring to the boycott as "economic sabotage," told Anadolu that any businesses losing money due to the calls for a boycott will be able to sue for damages. ARD

## Trump administration pauses some family planning grants as it investigates compliance with laws

Washington, Apr 2 (The Capital News) The federal government has paused USD 27.5 million for organizations that provide family planning, contraception, cancer screenings and sexually transmitted infection services as it investigates whether they're complying with the law. The National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association says 16 organizations received notice Monday that funding is on hold. At least 11 Planned Parenthood Federation of America regional affiliates and all recipients of federal family planning, or Title X, grants in seven states, had funding withheld. The US Department of Health and Human Services declined to say which laws or executive orders the groups are being investigated for violating, though NFPFHA

said some of the letters cited civil rights laws. Trump has issued executive orders targeting programs that consider race in any way, some of which have been put on hold by judges. Health and Human Services, which is in the midst of deep layoffs, also said that "no final decisions on any spending changes for Planned Parenthood have been made." Republicans have long railed against the millions of dollars that flow every year to Planned Parenthood and its clinics, which offer abortions but also birth control, cancer and disease screenings, among other things. Federal law prohibits taxpayer dollars from paying for most abortions. Providers said the impact on health care will especially hit lower-income people. "We know what hap-



pens when health care providers cannot use Title X funding," Alexis McGill Johnson, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood Action Fund, said in a statement. "People across the country suffer, cancers go undetected, access to birth control is severely reduced, and the nation's STI crisis worsens." The reproductive health association, whose members include most Title X grant recipients, said that about one-fourth of them received the letter, including all the recipients in California, Hawaii, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana and Utah. Mississippi law bans

abortion at all stages of pregnancy. George Hill, president and CEO of Maine Family Planning, which provides abortion services, said that if necessary his organization would go to court to seek the funds. "The Administration's dangerous decision to withhold Maine Family Planning's Title X funds jeopardizes access to critical health care services for thousands of Mainers. Any delay in disbursement of federal grants will have a detrimental effect on our state family planning network and the patients we serve," Hill said. The Missouri Family Health Council, which pays for programs

throughout Missouri and part of Oklahoma, including Planned Parenthood affiliates, also had its funding blocked. Planned Parenthood Great Plains, which includes Missouri, Oklahoma and Kansas, said regional clinics remain committed to providing health care despite the funding uncertainty. "They want to shut down Planned Parenthood health centres to appease their anti-abortion backers, and they're willing to take away birth control, cancer screenings, and STI testing and treatment to get their way," Great Plains Planned Parenthood President and CEO Emily Wales said in a statement. "If blocking health care for low-income patients is what the Trump administration means by making America great again, then we want no part of it."

# Yashasvi Jaiswal leaves Mumbai cricket for shock switch to Goa

Mumbai, Apr 2 (The Capital News) India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal has decided to leave Mumbai, his domestic team that made him the cricketer that he is, citing personal reasons. Jaiswal wrote to the Mumbai Cricket Association on Tuesday, expressing his wish to leave Mumbai for Goa, and the governing body has accepted his request. Jaiswal's shock move will see the left-handed 23-year-old play for Goa from the 2025-26 season. "Yes, it is surprising. He must have thought of something to



make such a move. He has requested us to relieve him and we have accepted his request," an MCA official told PTI on Wednesday. Jaiswal last played for Mumbai against Jammu and Kashmir in their Ranji

had made his sole appearance in the Ranji Trophy 2024-25 season scoring 4 and 26 as Mumbai lost by five wickets to Jammu and Kashmir for the second time in the tournament's history. Jaiswal has been India's first-choice opener since making his Test debut against the West Indies in July 2023 and since then he has played 19 games, cementing himself with stellar performances on the biggest stage. He averages more than 52 in Tests including four hundreds and 10 fifties.

Trophy Group A league round match from January 23-25 following the strict implementation of the BCCI directives that all India players should play domestic cricket if not on national duty. In that game, Jaiswal

# Hockey India trims core group of women players from 65 to 40

Bengaluru, Apr 2 (The Capital News) Hockey India on Wednesday trimmed the senior women's core group for the ongoing national camp to 40 from 65 after evaluating the performances of the players over the past two weeks. The camp began at the Sports Authority of India centre at Bengaluru on March 23. While 28 senior players have retained their spots, 12 new players have been selected in recognition of their impressive performances in the 15th Senior Women's National Championship and their efforts in the first phase of the national camp. The goalkeeping department has four familiar names in Savita, Bichu Devi Kharibam, Bansari Solanki, and Madhuri Kindo. They are joined by Samiksha Saxena from Assam, who has been rewarded for her strong performance in the national championships. In defence, eight players from the existing core group -- Mahima Chaudhary, Nikki Pradhan, Sushila Chanu Pukhrabam, Udita, Ishika Chaudhary, Jyoti Chhattri, Jyoti, and Akshata Abaso Dheka



le -- have been retained. Besides, Anjna Ddung from Bengal and Suman Devi Thoudam from Manipur have also been included in the group. The midfield continues to feature experienced names like Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke, Neha, Salima Tete, Manisha Chauhan, Ajmina Kujur, Sunelita Toppo, Lalremsiami, Sharmila Devi, and Baljeet Kaur. Four new players -- Sujata Kujur from Bengal, Mahima Tete and Albela Rani Toppo from Jharkhand, and Pooja Yadav from UP -- have been inducted following their standout performances. Deepika Soreng, Navneet Kaur, Sangita Kumari, Deepika Rutuja Dadaso Pisal, Beauty Ddungdung, and Mumtaz Khan, who have consistently delivered strong performances, have been retained in the forward line. They will be joined by five new

strikers -- Dipimoni Toppo from Odisha, Hritika Singh from Madhya Pradesh, Annu and Chandana Jagadish from Karnataka, and Kajal Sadashiv Atpadkar from Maharashtra. "We have had some really grand sessions and testing. The selectors and the team have done a good job short-listing the best 40 players available. After watching the National Championships, we believe we have identified some good talent and I'm sure they are going to serve the country well over the long-term," Indian women's hockey team chief coach Harendra Singh said about the selection. "I am really excited to see how these young girls are going to perform now in the camp and take one big step for their future." Indian women's hockey team new 40-member senior core group:

**Goalkeepers:** Savita, Bichu Devi Kharibam, Bansari Solanki, Madhuri Kindo, Samiksha Saxena.  
**Defenders:** Mahima Chaudhary, Nikki Pradhan, Sushila Chanu Pukhrabam, Udita, Ishika Chaudhary, Jyoti Chhattri, Jyoti, Akshata Abaso Dheka, Anjna Ddungdung, Suman Devi Thoudam.  
**Midfielders:** Sujata Kujur, Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke, Neha, Salima Tete, Manisha Chauhan, Ajmina Kujur, Sunelita Toppo, Lalremsiami, Sharmila Devi, Baljeet Kaur, Mahima Tete, Albela Rani Toppo, Pooja Yadav.  
**Forwards:** Dipimoni Toppo, Hritika Singh, Deepika Soreng, Navneet Kaur, Sangita Kumari, Deepika Rutuja Dadaso Pisal, Beauty Ddungdung, Mumtaz Khan, Annu, Chandana Jagadish, Kajal Sadashiv Atpadkar.

# French midfielder Gaëtane Thiney to end her 25-year career after this season



Paris, Apr 2 (The Capital News) Gaëtane Thiney, who scored 58 goals in 163 matches with France, took part in three World Cups and contributed to the emergence of women's soccer in the country, will retire at

the end of the season. The 39-year-old Thiney has a chance to call it quits on a high note as her Paris FC club will take on Paris Saint-Germain in the French Cup final next month. "Every story has an end, and mine as a

top-level player will come to an end in 2025, before opening a new chapter in my life," said Thiney, who is still chasing a first major title. "It's not yet time to say goodbye, but rather to savor every moment, to continue to dream and to give everything until the last match with this passion that has never left me." Thiney, an attacking midfielder who was named the league's best player in 2011-12 and 2013-14, played her first match in the topflight when she was just 14. With France, she played at the 2012 Olympic

Games, and featured at the 2011, 2015, and 2019 World Cups. "Soccer has been my driving force, my obsession, my daily challenge and my school of life," she said on her social networks. "Indescribable joys, challenges met, unforgettable encounters and memories engraved forever." Thiney, who also enjoyed a short stint in the United States with Gotham FC in 2021, told L'Equipe she is "very proud" of her achievements. "I've been at a high level for 25 years, I'm going to have to reorganize a bit" she said.

# Malavika Mohanan's Fashion Hits New Heights!

Malavika Mohanan isn't just turning heads—she's igniting the atmosphere with her fashion choices.

Dressed in a sleek black power suit, she looks like a force of nature, one that can't be ignored. The black heels and silver earrings are the perfect finishing touches, adding a subtle yet undeniable shine to her already magnetic aura. The embroidered detail on her neckline offers a hint of artistry, while the daring low-cut adds a confident edge to her sultry appeal. She isn't just wearing clothes; she's wearing attitude.

As if her fashion game wasn't enough, Malavika's Tollywood debut alongside the one and only Prabhas in The Raja Saab is all set to make waves.



# Nani to Present Chiranjeevi's Next, Directed by Srikanth Odela



The film industry is abuzz with the unexpected announcement of Nani presenting a film starring Megastar Chiranjeevi. Directed by Srikanth Odela, the project came as a surprise to fans, especially with reports suggesting it

will be a high-intensity, violent film—something Chiru has never attempted before. In a recent interview, Nani expressed his excitement about backing this prestigious venture. He praised Srikanth Odela's unique style and highlighted how the film will showcase a new dimension of Chiranjeevi. "The general perception of Chiranjeevi garu's films is that they feature dance and action. But he is much more than that—he is considered a member of every family. Combining Srikanth's vision with Chiranjeevi garu's presence is going to be extraordinary," Nani shared. Rumors suggest that Chiranjeevi will play a role closer to his real age, though official confirmation is awaited. The project is set to commence next year, with Chiranjeevi equally thrilled to be part of this ambitious film.

# Vikram's Career Needs a Telugu Twist

Vikram, a powerhouse performer in Indian cinema, has long struggled to get the recognition he truly deserves. Despite his dedication and versatility, his choice of scripts has often limited his commercial success. His latest film, Veera Dheera Shooru, directed by Arun Kumar, is yet another example. While the film was critically acclaimed, it failed to make a mark at the box office. In Veera Dheera Shooru, Vikram's portrayal of Kali was raw and intense, showcasing his exceptional acting skills. However, despite his efforts, the film failed to attract audiences, largely due to a lack of proper promotions and a niche narrative that didn't resonate widely. This pattern suggests that Vikram needs to rethink his strategy, especially when his contemporaries are exploring new avenues. Actors like Karthi, Vijay, Dhanush,



Sivakarthiseyan, and Dulquer Salmaan have gained massive recognition by collaborating with Telugu directors. Even Suriya is set to make his Telugu debut soon. Vikram, too, should consider this shift. Telugu cinema has consistently provided Tamil actors with career-defining successes, expanding their reach beyond their home industry. Audiences are now accustomed to seeing Vikram in performance-driven roles but often feel that his films, as a whole, fall short. To break this perception and achieve the widespread success he deserves, Vikram must step out of his comfort zone and collaborate with a Telugu filmmaker who can bring out a new dimension in him.

