

April 11, 2026 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. Allahabad High Court Justice Yashwant Varma, who was embroiled in a controversy involving the discovery of bundles of cash amidst partially burnt packets at his residence, has resigned from his post.

(i) Central government sources stated on Friday (April 10) that he had sent his resignation letter to the President on Thursday (April 9).

(ii) A fire broke out at Justice Yashwant Varma's official residence on March 14 of last year, while he was serving as a Judge of the Delhi High Court. At that time, bundles of cash were discovered inside a room at the residence, amidst packets that had been partially burnt in the fire. This cash, which was found in a partially burnt state, subsequently went missing.

(iii) In connection with this controversy, a notice seeking the removal of Justice Yashwant Varma from office was submitted in Parliament on behalf of a total of 208 Members of Parliament (MPs)—comprising 146 members from the Lok Sabha and 62 members from the Rajya Sabha. The notice for the motion to remove the Judge was accepted in the Lok Sabha. However, since the matter had already been taken up in the Lok Sabha, the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha rejected the motion in that House.

(iv) Following the acceptance of the motion in the Lok Sabha, Speaker Om Birla constituted a three-member inquiry committee—comprising Supreme Court Justice Aravind Kumar, Madras High Court Chief Justice M.M. Shrivastav, and Senior Advocate of the Karnataka High Court B.V. Acharya—to conduct an investigation into the matter and submit a report.

(v) Justice Yashwant Varma filed a petition in the Supreme Court challenging the Lok Sabha Speaker's decision to constitute the inquiry committee. However, the Supreme Court recently issued an order dismissing the petition.

(vi) In this context, Yashwant Varma has resigned from the post of High Court Judge.

2. The Venezuelan Parliament has approved a new mining regulatory bill designed to revitalize the country's stalled mining industry and attract foreign investors.

(i) Led by Interim President Delcy Rodríguez—who maintains cordial relations with the United States following the arrest of former President Nicolás Maduro—the Government introduced this bill with the aim of overhauling a mining sector that has languished for years under the grip of criminal syndicates and mismanagement.

(ii) Furthermore, the legislation imposes a ban on individuals holding high-ranking Government positions from owning mining licenses. Prior to its enactment, the bill has been referred to the country's Supreme Court to verify its constitutional validity.

3. "China will never accept Taiwan's independence; the demand for such statehood is the primary factor disrupting peace," stated Chinese President Xi Jinping.

(i) To improve bilateral relations between China and Taiwan and to de-escalate prevailing regional tensions, Cheng Li-wun—the leader of Taiwan's main opposition party, the Kuomintang—has undertaken a 'peace visit' to China.

(ii) Against this backdrop, speaking during a meeting with Cheng Li-wun in Beijing, Xi Jinping remarked, "People on both sides of the Taiwan Strait are Chinese belonging to the same family. The people desire nothing but peace, development, and cooperation."

(iii) "However, Taiwanese separatism stands as an obstacle to that peace. Both of Taiwan's political parties must join hands and work together toward reunification with the motherland and national rejuvenation," he urged. Strongly criticizing this stance taken by China, Taiwan's ruling administration asserted, "The right to determine Taiwan's future rests solely with its people. China should engage in dialogue with the democratically elected Government of the nation, rather than exerting such pressures."

4. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has stated that India's economic growth is projected to be 6.9 percent in the current fiscal year (2026-27), which began on April 1st.

(i) While this figure was previously projected at 6.5 percent, the upward revision in growth has been attributed to factors such as increased domestic demand, reduced import tariffs in the U.S., and a more relaxed financial environment. It is further projected that this growth momentum will strengthen to 7.3 percent in the subsequent fiscal year (2027-28).

(ii) The ADB has warned that the prolonged conflict situation prevailing in the Middle East poses a significant challenge to the economies of Asian nations.

(iii) Factors such as rising energy prices, disruptions to trade logistics, and a decline in foreign exchange inflows could potentially impact India's economic activities. It has also been pointed out that rising crude oil prices are likely to increase input costs, thereby raising the probability of a widening Current Account Deficit.

(iv) Driven by rising prices of food items and crude oil, inflation in India is projected to rise from 2.1 percent in the previous fiscal year to 4.5 percent in the current fiscal year. However, assuming a scenario where global oil prices decline in subsequent years, inflation is expected to moderate to 4 percent.

(v) Given that inflation remains within the Reserve Bank's target range, it is anticipated that there will be no major changes to interest rates during the current fiscal year; furthermore, the Central Government is expected to prioritize expenditure control as part of its fiscal consolidation measures.

(vi) Factors such as salary revisions for Government employees and an increase in exports driven by trade agreements with the European Union are expected to provide further impetus to future economic growth.

(vii) ADB Chief Economist Albert Park has stated that rationalizing subsidies to protect the poor and vulnerable from adverse impacts, and maintaining fiscal space for public investments, are key challenges facing India.

(viii) Nevertheless, it is noteworthy that this 6.9 percent projection by the ADB appears somewhat more encouraging than the World Bank's forecast of 6.6 percent.

5. Peace talks between the United States and Iran are set to commence late on Saturday (April 11) in Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan.

(i) The scheduled start of these talks on Friday faced last-minute delays and complications due to several stringent conditions put forward by the Iranian side.

(ii) Global attention has now turned to these negotiations, which aim to transform the two-week interim ceasefire—reached between the U.S. and Iran last Wednesday—into a permanent peace treaty.

(iii) The talks are scheduled to take place starting Saturday morning at the Serena Hotel, located within Islamabad's "Red Zone"—a high-security precinct housing key Government offices and Diplomatic missions.

(iv) Representing the United States, a delegation led by Vice President J.D. Vance is participating in the talks; the Iranian delegation includes Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf and Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi, among others.

6. Ahead of the Orthodox Easter festival, Russian President Putin announced a temporary 32-hour ceasefire in Ukraine, commencing on Saturday evening (April 11).

(i) Accepting this decision by Russia, Ukrainian President Zelensky stated that Ukraine, too, would observe the ceasefire, utilizing this opportunity to foster peace.

(ii) Although a similar ceasefire was announced last year as well, both nations traded accusations of mutual violations. Against this backdrop, Zelensky expressed hope that the people would be able to celebrate Easter this year without fear, and that this temporary pause would pave the way for lasting peace.

7. Sergio Gore, the U.S. Ambassador to India, announced that U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio is scheduled to visit India this coming May.

(i) Rubio's visit to India is significant, as negotiations between the two nations to finalize an interim bilateral trade agreement are currently ongoing.

(ii) Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, who is currently on a three-day visit to the United States, met with U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio at the White House—the official residence of the U.S. President. During this meeting, they held consultations on various issues, including bilateral relations, trade, critical minerals, defense, and the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) grouping. The announcement regarding the U.S. Secretary of State's upcoming visit to India was made following this meeting.

8. India's External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar, met with the President of Mauritius, Prithvirajsing Roopun.

(i) The 9th Indian Ocean Conference is currently being held in Mauritius. Mr. Jaishankar has traveled to Mauritius to participate in this event.

(ii) While there, he met with the President of Mauritius, Prithvirajsing Roopun. During the meeting, he conveyed greetings on behalf of the President of India, Droupadi Murmu, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

(iii) Following this meeting, he held consultations with the Prime Minister of Mauritius, Navin Ramgoolam, and senior cabinet ministers.

(iv) Furthermore, Mr. Jaishankar met with Pravind Kumar Jugnauth—the former Prime Minister of Mauritius and leader of the MSM party. Subsequently, he held separate meetings with the Foreign Ministers of Nepal, Bhutan, and Seychelles, who had also arrived in Mauritius to attend the Indian Ocean Conference.

(v) Mr. Jaishankar noted on his social media page that bilateral issues were discussed during these meetings. Upon concluding his visit to Mauritius on Saturday, Mr. Jaishankar is scheduled to proceed to the United Arab Emirates for the next leg of his tour.

9. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has commended the achievement realized through India's Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR).

(i) The Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor was designed by the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR)—a research and development center located in Kalpakkam, Chennai—and was constructed by the Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam (BHAVINI).

(ii) Unlike conventional thermal nuclear reactors, these breeder reactor structures utilize a mixed uranium-plutonium oxide fuel. This enables the reactor to generate more fuel than it consumes during operation. Furthermore, this reactor will be instrumental in transmuting thorium into Uranium-233.

(iii) This Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor, with a power generation capacity of 500 MW, achieved its first stage of nuclear fission operation on April 6th. This marks the initial phase of nuclear power generation. It represents a historic milestone in ensuring long-term energy security and enhancing indigenous nuclear technology capabilities. The Central Atomic Energy Regulatory Board recently hailed this as a significant achievement within the nuclear power program.

(iv) In this context, IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi stated the following in a post published on the 'X' platform:

- Through the Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor at Kalpakkam, India has achieved remarkable progress. This constitutes a pivotal step toward ensuring fuel sustainability and shaping the future of nuclear energy utilization.
- The IAEA will continue to extend its support toward the safe advancement of India's nuclear energy program. He concluded by conveying his congratulations to Prime Minister Modi.

10. Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh was nominated by the President as a Member of Parliament (MP) to the Rajya Sabha. Subsequently, he took the oath of office as a nominated MP.

(i) The tenure of former Supreme Court Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, who served as a nominated MP in the Rajya Sabha, concluded last March. Harivansh has been appointed to fill this vacancy.

(ii) Harivansh, aged 69, was elected as a Rajya Sabha MP from Bihar on behalf of the Janata Dal (United) for two consecutive terms (2014–2026). His tenure as an MP ended on April 9.

(iii) In this context, President Droupadi Murmu issued an order nominating him as a Rajya Sabha MP. An official notification issued in this regard stated: "Exercising the powers vested in her under Article 80, Clause 1(a) and Clause 3 of the Constitution, President Droupadi Murmu has nominated Harivansh to fill the vacancy in the Rajya Sabha caused by the retirement of a nominated Member."

(iv) Following this nomination, Harivansh took the oath of office as a Rajya Sabha MP for the third time. Rajya Sabha Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan administered the oath of office to Harivansh in his chamber within the Parliament complex.

11. President Droupadi Murmu has given her assent to the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) General Administration Bill, 2026.

(i) The Central Government has notified this consolidated legislation, which regulates the appointment, deputation, promotion, and other service conditions of officers belonging to the Central Armed Police Forces—including the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Border Security Force (BSF), and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).

(ii) This Bill, which was recently passed by Parliament, shifts the governance of CAPF officers' appointments and service conditions—previously regulated by the specific Acts of their respective forces—to be administered under a single, unified statute.

(iii) Under this Act, provisions have been made to appoint IPS officers on deputation to 50 percent of the posts at the Inspector General (IG) level, 67 percent of the posts at the Additional Director General (ADG) level, as well as to the posts of Special Director General and Director General within the Central Armed Police Forces.

(iv) The Supreme Court had previously ruled that the number of IPS officers appointed to the Central Armed Police Forces on a deputation basis must be gradually reduced within a specified timeframe.

(v) Following the dismissal of the Central Government's petition seeking a review of this verdict, the Government introduced the aforementioned consolidated Bill.

(vi) Allegations have been raised that this Bill serves to dilute the Supreme Court's verdict. Furthermore, a petition challenging the Central Government's action has also been filed in the Supreme Court.

12. Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan released the Sindhi edition of the Constitution.

(i) Speaking at an event held in Delhi to mark Sindhi Language Day—during which he released this new edition, available in both Devanagari and Persian scripts—he stated: "Sindhi, one of the ancient languages, is a truly melodious tongue. The literary tradition of the Sindhi language reflects a unique confluence where Vedanta philosophy and Sufi thought converge; furthermore, it upholds universal values such as unity, love, and brotherhood."

(ii) The release of the Sindhi edition of the Constitution—specifically, its publication in the Devanagari script for the very first time since independence—marks a significant milestone in the promotion of linguistic recognition.

13. Jyotiba Phule's 200th Birth Anniversary (April 11, 1827) – The Honorable Prime Minister has announced the formal commencement of year-long nationwide celebrations (April 2026 – April 2027).

14. Analysis of the long-standing dispute over the capital of Andhra Pradesh and its final legislative resolution in 2026.

(i) Causes of the Confusion

- State Bifurcation (2014): Under the UPA Government, unified Andhra Pradesh was divided into Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- Temporary Capital Status: The 2014 Reorganisation Act stipulated that Hyderabad would serve as the shared capital for both states for a period of 10 years, after which Andhra Pradesh needed its own capital.
- Policy Reversal (2019): After the TDP Government initially selected Amaravati, the subsequent YSRCP Government under Nara Chandrababu Naidu proposed a "Three Capitals" plan: Amaravati

(Legislative), Visakhapatnam (Executive), and Kurnool (Judicial).

- Political Friction: Disagreements between the State Government and the Center regarding funding for Amaravati led to a breakdown in the TDP-BJP alliance during that period.

(ii) Chronological Events

- 2014: The Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act was enacted, giving Hyderabad to Telangana while allowing Andhra to use it for a decade.
- 2014-2015: The Chandrababu Naidu Government announced Amaravati as the capital and began large-scale land acquisition (33,000 acres).
- 2019: The new YSRCP Government halted Amaravati's progress and introduced the three-capital theory.
- March 2022: The Andhra Pradesh High Court ruled that the State Government lacked the authority to change the capital and mandated that Amaravati remain the sole capital.
- October 22, 2025: Prime Minister Narendra Modi officially participated in the Amaravati construction project launch, signaling renewed support.
- March 28, 2026: The Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly passed a formal resolution confirming Amaravati as the permanent capital.
- April 2026: The Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill 2026 was passed in both houses of the Indian Parliament, providing final legal closure.

(iii) Consequences of the Conflict

- The issue led to a protracted battle in the High Court and a special leave petition in the Supreme Court.
- For several years, the "Green City" project of Amaravati remained in limbo without formal legal recognition or adequate funding.
- Global companies and investors were hesitant to commit to the region due to the shifting political stance on the capital's location.
- Every dollar of delay affected the state's fiscal health; however, the resolution has now unlocked a ₹13,000 crore funding package from the World Bank.

(iv) Remedies and Resolutions

- Judicial Intervention: The High Court's 2022 verdict acted as a primary check against the abandonment of Amaravati, stating the Government could not reverse a previous sovereign policy decision.
- The return of the TDP-led alliance to power resulted in the state filing a new affidavit in the Supreme Court to withdraw the previous Government's appeals.
- Except for the YSRCP, almost all political parties supported the 2026 Amendment Bill in Parliament, creating a broad democratic consensus.

(v) Steps Taken by the Government

- The Central Government introduced and passed the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill 2026 to formally designate Amaravati as the sole capital.
- The Naidu Government successfully acquired 33,000 acres of land for the capital project without significant legal friction.
- The Government secured a massive ₹13,000 crore loan from the World Bank to accelerate

infrastructure development.

- Projects like the IBM Quantum Valley and other international institutions are now set to begin operations in Amaravati.
- The Government aims to build Amaravati as a "Green Capital" with infrastructure superior to even New Delhi and Chandigarh.

15. Analysis of the growing need to regulate digital and social media consumption, particularly among the youth.

(i) Causes of Excessive Usage

- Today, parents often give smartphones to children as a tool to distract them during feeding or to keep them quiet, effectively using the device as a "digital nanny".
- Children are introduced to mobile devices under the guise of learning through videos in various languages, which quickly transitions into a primary source of entertainment.
- Unlike the past, where entertainment (movies/songs) was restricted to specific days or times, the internet provides uninterrupted access 24 hours a day.
- Entertainment has shifted from being a part of life to becoming the central focus of life.
- Multinational tech companies prioritize the massive profits generated through internet services, often at the expense of social health.

(ii) Significant Recent Events

- Karnataka's Initiative: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced in a recent budget speech that the state would take steps to control social media usage for individuals under the age of 16.
- Andhra Pradesh's Plan: Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu announced a 90-day plan to design a system specifically to reduce social media usage for children under the age of 13.
- International Trends: Countries such as Australia, France, Germany, and Denmark have already moved forward with similar initiatives to protect the younger generation from digital harms.

(iii) Consequences

- Constant connectivity has led to a dangerous level of dependency and addiction among both adults and children.
- The habit of checking smartphones even during the middle of the night (e.g., 2 AM) has severely disrupted sleep patterns and natural routines.
- The breakdown of defined "work," "rest," and "sleep" hours has led to a general decline in social and personal discipline.
- In the era of Artificial Intelligence, children can easily bypass age restrictions or use their parents' accounts, rendering simple controls ineffective.

(iv) Proposed Remedies

- Adults and parents must first instill self-discipline in their own usage habits before they can successfully regulate their children's behavior.
- Time-Restricted Access: Returning to a model similar to old television broadcasts, where social media for entertainment purposes operates only during specific mandated hours.
- Mandatory Age Verification: Opening social media accounts should require proof of age through documents like educational certificates or Aadhaar.



- Since tech giants are multinational, the crisis must be addressed through international regulatory standards rather than just local laws.
- Public Debate: India's intellectual society should be urged to lead a serious debate on finding a balance between the necessity of water and the necessity of "regulating the digital flow".

(v) Steps Taken by the Government

- Budgetary Intent: The Karnataka Government has officially signaled its intent through the budget to legislate controls for the under-16 age group.
- The Andhra Pradesh Government is currently in a 90-day window to develop the specific technical and legal frameworks required for age-based social media restrictions.
- While regional steps are being taken, there is a growing call for the Central Government to mandate digital identification for all social media users to ensure age compliance.

