



Nari Shakti Sammelan: PM Modi says India about to make one of the most significant decisions of 21st century

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SCAN FOR E-PAPER



OM NAMO VENKATESAYA



12-04-2026
Total pilgrims: 77,743
Tonsures: 30,276
Hundi kankaluk: 30,276
Waiting Compartments: 20

Approv. Darshan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens). 8 H

WEATHER

39 °C | °F

Precipitation: 5%
Humidity: 31%
Wind: 11 km/h

GOLD RATE

24K ₹
1,54,530/-

INBRIFS

RAHUL TO ADDRESS THREE ELECTION RALLIES IN BENGAL TODAY

Siliguri (TSIT) Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will arrive in West Bengal on Tuesday to campaign for the ongoing Assembly elections, a party leader said on Monday. Addressing a press conference here, Congress spokesperson Charan Singh Sapra said Gandhi will begin his campaign with a public meeting at Samsarganj in Murshidabad district, followed by a rally at Chanchal in Malda district. He will depart after addressing a meeting in Raiganj of Uttar Dinajpur district. During the press meet, Sapra also launched a sharp attack on the ongoing 'Special Intensive Revision' (SIR) of the electoral rolls in West Bengal.

SC REFUSES TO QUASH LAND-FOR-JOBS CASE AGAINST LALU PRASAD YADAV

New Delhi (TSIT): The Supreme Court on Monday declined to quash the CBI FIR and charge sheets against RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav in connection with the alleged land-for-jobs scam. A bench of Justices M.M. Sundresh and N. Kottiswar Singh, while disposing of Yadav's plea challenging the Delhi High Court order refusing to quash the corruption case, granted him liberty to raise legal objections during trial and exempted him from personal appearance before the trial court.

Asha Bhosle cremated with full state honours at Mumbai's iconic Shivaji Park

Mumbai, April 13 : The curtains fell on a golden era of Indian music as the legendary playback singer Asha Bhosle was cremated with full state honours on Monday at Mumbai's iconic Shivaji Park. 'Asha Tai', as she was affectionately known, passed away on Sunday, April 12, at the age of 92 due to multi-organ failure following a cardiac arrest. She had been admitted to Breach Candy Hospital a day earlier as she was suffering from extreme exhaustion and a chest infection. The Maharashtra government accorded the veteran singer a state funeral, a tribute reserved for those who have

CM Revanth opposes linking women's quota with delimitation



Hyderabad (TSIT): Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Monday strongly opposed the Centre's move to link the Women's Reservation Bill with the proposed delimitation of constituencies, warning that it could lead to political injustice for southern and smaller states. Addressing a press meet, he said women's reservation and delimitation are separate issues and should not be combined. He alleged that linking the two was a strategy to delay implementation of reservations for women and create confusion.

Revanth Reddy stated that the Congress has consistently

supported women's empowerment, recalling that the Women's Reservation Bill had earlier been passed in the Rajya Sabha but could not be cleared in the Lok Sabha. While supporting the 2023 bill, he criticised the Centre for delaying its implementation by tying it to future Census and delimitation exercises. He demanded immediate implementation of women's reservation in the existing Lok Sabha and Assembly constituencies, stating that nearly 181 women could have been elected if the policy had been enforced in the 2024 elections.

On delimitation, the Chief Minister cautioned that basing

seat allocation solely on population would unfairly penalise southern states that successfully implemented family planning. He warned that such a move could widen the political gap between North and South India and weaken the representation of states like Telangana.

Expressing concern over reports of a possible 50% increase in parliamentary seats, he said absolute numbers matter more than percentages, and any disproportionate increase for northern states would dilute the voice of southern regions. Proposing a balanced approach, Revanth Reddy suggested a hybrid

model where additional seats are allocated partly on a pro-rata basis and partly based on states' contribution to Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP).

He also called for wider consultations, including an all-party meeting, expert discussions, and debates in state assemblies and Parliament before any final decision on delimitation.

Reiterating his commitment to social justice and federal balance, the Chief Minister said Telangana would work with other southern and smaller states to oppose any move that undermines their political representation.

CM Naidu pushes deregulation to fast-track industries



Amaravati (TSIT): Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Monday directed officials to simplify policies and procedures to expedite the setting up of industries, as part of the Union government's Deregulation Phase-2 initiative. During a review meeting with a central delegation led by Sandeep Poundrik, the Chief Minister stressed the need to eliminate outdated laws and reduce regulatory burdens to create a more business-friendly environment.

Officials informed that 23 priority items across seven departments have been completed under Phase-1, while 28 areas have been identified

under Phase-2. Of 47 recommendations, 18 have already been implemented, with a target to complete the rest by May 31. Naidu called for a drastic reduction in compliance requirements—from over 800 to below 100—and sought to bring down the number of licenses to single digits. He also directed that the current 82 approvals required for businesses be reduced to 57 in phases, while building and occupancy approvals should be cut from 30 to 18.

Emphasising efficiency, he proposed measures such as promoting third-party inspections, eliminating duplicate licensing systems, granting lifetime validity for regis-

trations, and introducing simplified, state-specific fire safety norms. He also instructed that the entire approval process be made fully online.

The Chief Minister said the reforms should reduce the time required to establish industries by at least 40 per cent. He also stressed faster land allocation in industrial parks, creation of a single nodal agency for approvals, and simplification across sectors like environment, power, tourism, education, and health.

He added that platforms like Mee Seva, Single Desk Portal, and WhatsApp Governance (Mana Mitra) would be leveraged to ensure seamless service delivery. Sandeep Poundrik appreciated Andhra Pradesh's proactive approach, stating that the state is ahead of central recommendations and expressing confidence in successful implementation of Phase-2 reforms within the timeline.

Trump warns Iran amid US naval blockade in Strait of Hormuz



Washington / Tehran (TSIT): US President Donald Trump on Monday issued a stern warning to Iran, stating that any Iranian vessels approaching American naval forces would be "immediately eliminated" following the enforcement of a new maritime blockade.

The United States Navy has reportedly established a blockade covering Iranian ports and coastal areas, including the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz, marking a sharp escalation despite an existing ceasefire framework between Washington and Tehran. In a post on Truth Social, Trump claimed that Iran's navy had been "completely obliterated," alleging that 158 vessels were destroyed. He said smaller fast-attack boats, previously not considered a major threat, would now be targeted if they approached US forces.

SIR 'major issue' for Bengal polls, people firm on throwing infiltrators out of state: Shah

DURGAPUR (TSIT): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said the SIR of electoral rolls is a "major issue" in the upcoming West Bengal assembly polls, and stated that the people have resolved to throw infiltrators out of the



state. Speaking to PTI Videos at his roadshow in Paschim

Bardhaman district's Durgapur, Shah said the responsibility for the political violence in Bengal lies only with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and her nephew, Abhishek Banerjee, who is the TMC's general secretary.

Women participation increasing in sports: Rajnath Singh

Lucknow (TSIT) : Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday welcomed the increased participation of women in sports, hoping that the MP Khel Mahakumbh organised here will further strengthen the sporting culture in Lucknow and across Uttar Pradesh. Addressing the sports persons, Rajnath Singh said, "Lucknow has always been known for its rich sporting culture. It is with the very objective of further developing this sporting culture here that the MP Khel Mahakumbh has been initiated." "My



effort is to further expand the sporting facilities in Lucknow city," he said. The Defence Minister said today that modern sports infrastructure is also being developed near villages. Even in the far-flung areas of the country, better grounds, modern stadiums, and modern training facilities are now being built.

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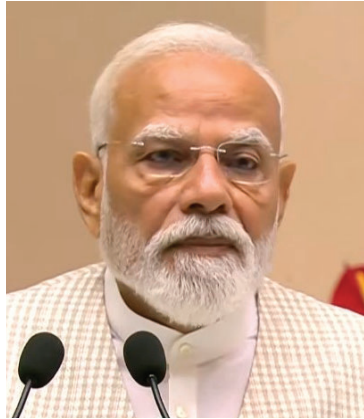
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Nari Shakti Sammelan: PM Modi says India about to make one of the most significant decisions of 21st century

New Delhi, April 13 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday addressed the national-level 'Nari Shakti Vandan Sammelan', and said that the Parliament is on the verge of making a historic decision in the coming days by introducing the amendments to the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam. Addressing the large gathering at New Delhi's Vigyan Bhawan, the Prime Minister started by paying homage to the martyrs of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre and also extended Baisakhi greetings to the countrymen.

During this, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta also shared a toll-free number -- 9667173333 -- which people can give a missed call to support the Modi government's Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam Bills. Speaking about the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, PM Modi said, "India is about to make one of the most signifi-



cant decisions of the 21st century; I say this with a strong sense of responsibility. This decision is dedicated to the Nari Shakti and Nari Shakti Vandan." "Our Parliament is going to make a historic decision, which will give concrete form to the concepts of

the past and fulfil the resolutions of the future. A resolve rooted in equality, where social justice is not merely a slogan, but an integral part of our work culture and decision-making process," he said. "From the State Assemblies to the Parliament, the end of decades of waiting is 16, 17 and 18 (referring to April 16-18)," he said.

The Prime Minister recalled that in 2023, in the new Parliament building, the first step was taken towards the Nari Shakti Adhiniyam.

"For it to be implemented on time, women's participation gives strength to our democracy. We have called a special session of the Parliament," he added. The Sammelan saw participation from prominent personalities and women achievers across diverse sectors, including government, academia, science, sports, entrepreneurship, media, social work and culture.

The event brought together a wide spectrum of stakeholders to deliberate on the role of women in India's development journey. Addressing the gathering, PM Modi said, "Through this event, we are receiving the blessings of mothers and sisters from across the nation. I have not come here to wake you up or give you orders, but to seek your blessings. You all have come here from different parts of the nation, and I thank you for your time." "Everyone had felt the need for women's reservation for decades, and discussions were also held. Over 40 years were spent on this deliberation. Every party and several generations made an effort towards this. Every political outfit took this forward according to their understanding. When Nari Shakti Adhiniyam was introduced in 2023, even then every political party passed it with consensus and then everyone had also demanded its implementation before 2029," he said.

Chowdhury summoned by police in election related case, BJP terms it 'politically motivated'

GUWAHATI: Assam Jatiya Parishad (AJP) on Sunday slammed Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma after its candidate for Guwahati Central Kunki Chowdhury was summoned by police in an election-related case and claimed that the ruling party is rattled after seeing that the mandate has gone against them in the constituency.

Chowdhury reached Panbazar Police Station in the morning after receiving a summons for an election-related case. She was served a notice on Saturday and asked to appear before police on Sunday before 11 am, noting that failing to do so would render her liable for arrest.

Chowdhury came out of the police station after around two hours of questioning and told the waiting scribes that she recorded her statement before the investigating officer.

A case was filed against Chowdhury and her campaign manager, Sandeep Yadav, by a BJP activist Naba Kumar Lahkar on the day of polling on April 9, alleging the duo violated the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) and hampered



the conduct of free-and-fair elections. The AJP has strongly condemned the "harassment" of its candidate by the Assam Police, and has lodged a formal complaint with the Chief Electoral Officer of Assam.

"All the charges in the FIR are bailiable, so she cannot be arrested. In fact, the charges are not serious at all. This was filed and the summons issued with such a strong language just to harass her," Chowdhury's advocate, Santanu Borthakur, told reporters outside the police station.

The Model Code of Conduct (MCC) is in force now, and when the chief secretary is running the government, how can the chief minister reportedly say that

he has sent police, asked the legal expert.

"Kunki contested the polls and set a narrative for the entire state, and it was damaging for the BJP. That's why this politically motivated case was filed," Borthakur said.

He also asked the police what happened to the complaint Chowdhury filed regarding a deep fake video, allegedly propagated by BJP IT cell members.

AJP debutante Chowdhury found herself at the centre of a charged controversy with CM Sarma threatening legal action against her parents over alleged beef consumption, even as she dismissed the attacks as baseless and challenged BJP veteran Vijay Kumar Gupta in Guwahati Central constituency.

On April 4, Chowdhury filed a police complaint for alleged deep-fake defamatory videos on social media about her family, following Sarma's claims about her mother's food habit.

Commenting on the latest development, AJP president Lurinjyoti Gogoi said summoning Chowdhury is "shocking and unfortunate".

CM Sawant appeals to allies, Oppn to back implementation of Women's Reservation Act

PANAJI: Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Sunday appealed to political allies, opposition parties and MPs to come together for the implementation of the Women's Reservation Act, calling it a crucial step towards strengthening the representation of women in legislatures.

In a formal statement ahead of the special sitting of Parliament, Sawant described the move as a "watershed moment" in the country's democratic journey.

The Budget Session of Parliament has been extended, and a special three-day sitting of the House has been convened on April 16. The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam will ensure an increase in the number of Lok Sabha seats to 816, of which 273 will be reserved for women.

The provision to provide 33 per cent reservation to women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies was brought by amending the Constitution in 2023.

Sawant said the focus has now shifted to imple-

menting the landmark legislation enacted in 2023, in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for the greater participation of women in governance.

"The progress of any society is intrinsically linked to the extent to which women are empowered to lead and shape decisions," Sawant said, stressing that legislative bodies must reflect the excellence women are already demonstrating across sectors.

He said that the move follows extensive consultations with constitutional experts and marks a decisive step towards fulfilling a long-pending national commitment.

The issue transcends political differences, Sawant said, calling for collective action to demonstrate a shared commitment to gender equity for future generations.

He urged all stakeholders to present a constructive voice in favour of the initiative, saying it would deepen democratic participation and bring renewed energy to governance.

Tripura tribal council poll records 83 per cent voting



AGARTALA: Around 83 per cent of the 9.62 lakh voters exercised their franchise in the elections to the 28-member Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council on Sunday, which witnessed a few stray incidents of violence, officials said.

Voting started at 7 am at 1,257 booths in all eight districts of the northeastern state, as 9,62,547 electors are eligible to decide the fate of 173 candidates from different political parties in the elections.

The TTAADC comprises two-thirds of the state's geographical area and is home to a population of 13 lakh.

"Around 83 per cent voting was reported till 7 pm, and it may go up further because final reports are yet to be received," State Election Commission (SEC) secretary Anurag Sen told PTI.

"No fatality or grievous injury was reported during the polling process because of the timely intervention of security forces," said police spokesperson Rajdeep Deb.

The BJP and Tipra Motha Party (TMP) thanked the voters and polling officials for conducting the elections with a high turnout.

"The turnout has already reached over 80 per cent. It shows the voters joined the

festival of democracy spontaneously. We are confident of winning the elections," BJP state president Rajib Bhattacharjee said at a press conference.

He said, "Some sporadic incidents were reported to the party, and accordingly, we flagged these issues with the state poll panel for taking necessary steps."

TMP founder Pradyot Kishore Manikya Debbarma also congratulated the voters for joining the voting process in large numbers.

"I am thankful to the people for the way they have showered love and affection on me during the election process. This election will mark the highest voting percentage because of high turnout so far," he told the reporters.

The police spokesperson said, "Voting process has largely remained peaceful barring a few skirmishes between the BJP and Tipra Motha supporters till the last reports came in. DGP Anurag has been personally monitoring the security aspect to ensure peaceful elections."

He said a few crude bombs were thrown at Valuerchar, a polling booth under Mirza-Kathalia-Rajapur constituency in Sepahijala district but no one was injured there.

Haridwar trip turns tragic as car plunges from flyover in Muzaffarnagar; three killed

MUZAFFARNAGAR: Three Haryana residents were killed on Sunday, while two others were severely injured, after the car they were travelling in broke through the railing of a flyover here and plunged into a ditch, officials said.

The incident took place near a village on the Panipat-Khatima highway under Chapar police station limits when the group was on their way to Haridwar from Haryana's Gurugram, they added.

The impact was severe, leaving the car mangled, police said.

Govindan defends marriage of viral sensation from Kumbh mela; complaint against Left leaders

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: CPI(M) state secretary M V Govindan on Sunday said there was nothing wrong with a young woman who came into the lime-light during the Prayagraj Kumbh Mela marrying her Muslim friend at a temple in Kerala, blaming the Sangh Parivar for the controversy.

An investigation was recently launched in Madhya Pradesh following claims that the woman was only 16 years old at the time of the marriage.

Addressing a press conference, Govindan said he maintained that the marriage was a "real Kerala story".

"What is wrong with it? It was a real Kerala story," he said.

Govindan, along with General

Education Minister V Sivankutty and CPI(M) Rajya Sabha MP A A Rahim, had attended the marriage held last month in Thiruvananthapuram.

He said the age-related issue was a legal matter and should be investigated by the police and concerned authorities.

"We have faced several cases. We are not the people who hide when a case is registered," he said.

Govindan said all documents produced by the woman were examined before the marriage.

"Two persons, knowing it was favourable to marry in Kerala, came here and approached the police. Even her father was with her and submitted documents showing she was of the appropriate age.

There were two main documents, Aadhaar and PAN card, and both carried the same date of birth," he said.

He added that the documents were verified by the police, temple authorities and officials issuing the marriage certificate.

Govindan alleged that the Sangh Parivar was behind the controversy.

"They are surprised that such a marriage happened here. The couple say they are under severe threat now," he said.

He said that, for the CPI(M), it was a case of two young individuals from different religions deciding to marry and approaching the police, following which the marriage was conducted at a temple.

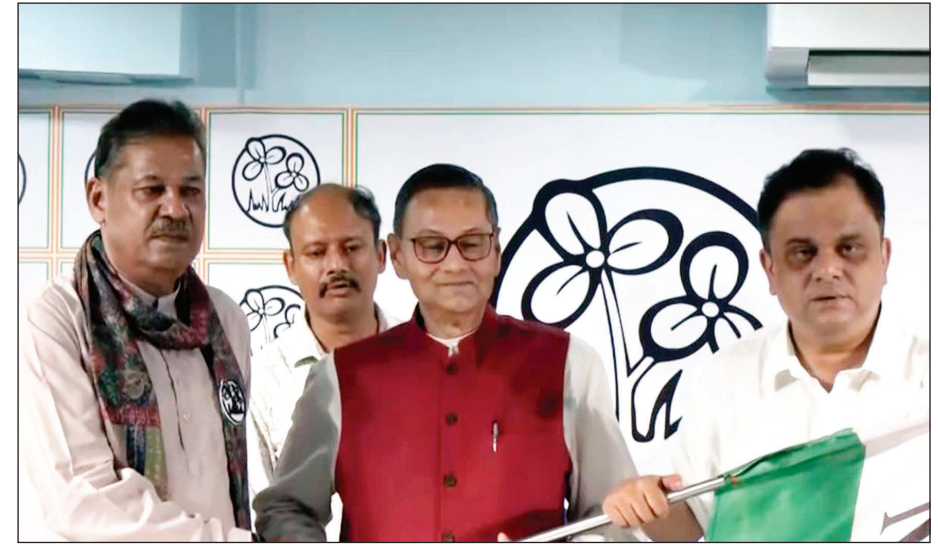
Party leaders had attended the ceremony to congratulate the couple, he added.

"We still believe what was done is right. We will not retreat under pressure from the Sangh Parivar narrative. We will continue to support such matters," Govindan said.

Meanwhile, Anjana Devi, a member of the National Commission for Women advisory board and a native of Thiruvananthapuram, has filed a complaint with the Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister seeking action against those involved in the marriage.

In her complaint, she named the woman's husband, Farman Khan, Sivankutty, Govindan and Rahim as accused.

Netaji's kin Chandra Bose joins TMC ahead of Bengal polls



KOLKATA: Chandra Bose, grandnephew of Subhas Chandra Bose and a former BJP leader, joined the Trinamool Congress on Sunday, days ahead of the West Bengal assembly elections.

Bose joined the ruling party in the presence of state minister Bratya Basu and TMC MP Kirti Azad, and alleged that the BJP indulges in "divisive politics" and does not follow the legendary freedom fighter's ideals. "It is not possible to follow Netaji's ideals while being in the BJP," Chandra Bose asserted.

"Today, we are seeing that the BJP indulges in di-

visive politics and spreads communal hatred. We must now fight to save India and resist divisive politics," he said soon after joining the TMC.

Chandra Bose had joined the BJP in 2016 and unsuccessfully contested the assembly polls that year from Bhabanipur against Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

He later contested the 2019 Lok Sabha election from Kolkata Dakshin, but tasted defeat again.

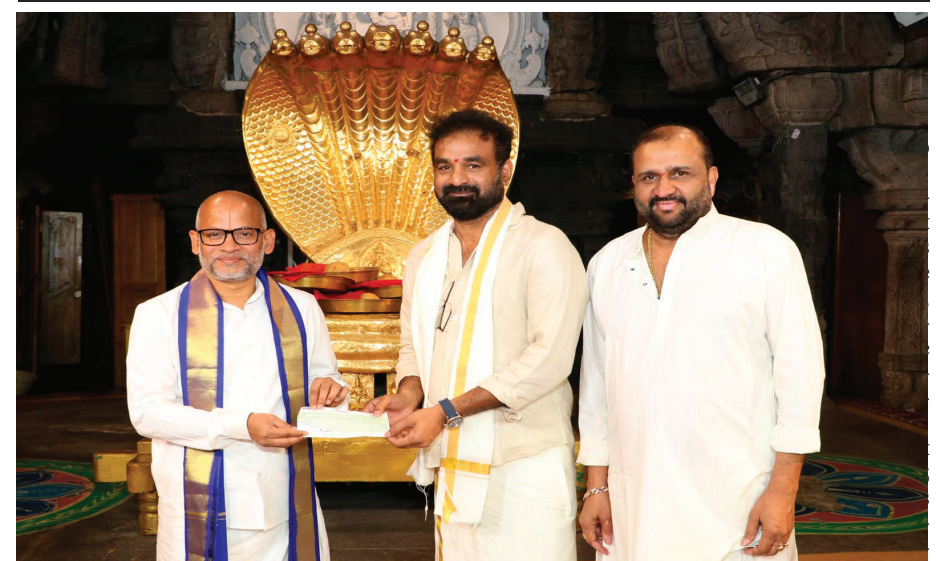
His differences with the BJP leadership had widened over time, and in September 2023, he announced his resignation from the

party. After quitting the saffron party, Chandra Bose had on multiple occasions praised Banerjee for her stand on several issues.

On March 27, he had described his decision to join the BJP as a "historic blunder", in a social media post.

"If the objective of any party is to create division among voters to win elections, I cannot accept that," he had written.

Elections to the 294-member West Bengal assembly will be held in two phases - on April 23 and April 29. Votes will be counted on May 4.



Varma Steels Private Limited, based in Hyderabad, donated Rs.1,01,01,116 to the Sri Venkateswara Pranadana Trust of the TTD on Monday.

Berger Paints launches 'Garmi Gone, Thandak On' cooling range

New Delhi: As temperatures continue to climb year after year, staying cool is no longer just about comfort, it is becoming a daily challenge for millions of households across India. Against this backdrop, Berger Paints India Ltd., the country's second-largest paint company and a leader in protective coatings, has introduced a more intuitive and immersive way to tackle rising heat through its Home Cooling Paints Range. This is supported by a nationwide campaign, Garmi Gone, Thandak On', which promotes smarter and more energy-efficient ways of living.

Recognizing that a significant amount of heat enters homes through walls, roofs, and structural openings, Berger Paints' Home Cooling range offers a practical solution through innovative products such as Berger Anti



Dust Kool and Berger Roof Kool & Seal, which are designed to reduce heat absorption across walls and rooftops. The range also includes Berger Tank Kool, which addresses an often-overlooked source of heat—black synthetic water tanks that tend to over-heat during peak summers. Together, the range provides a holistic approach to lowering indoor temperatures at the source.

At the heart of the campaign lies a simple but powerful idea, smarter cooling must go beyond air conditioning. By addressing heat ingress at its origin, Berger Paints is positioning its solutions as not only effective and accessible, but also as a more sustainable alternative to energy-intensive cooling methods.

The solutions can help reduce surface and ambient temperatures by up to 10°C, making them especially relevant for heat-prone regions and cost-conscious households. Taking this commitment a step further, Berger Paints is

extending its cooling solutions to underserved communities through a partnership with Smile Foundation. As part of this initiative, the company will undertake a school beautification programme across 30 govern-

ment schools in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. By applying heat-reflective coatings to school buildings, the initiative aims to lower indoor temperatures and create more comfortable, heat-resilient learning environments, particularly critical during peak summer months when extreme heat can impact attendance, concentration, and overall student well-being.

The rollout will focus on some of India's most heat-affected regions, aligning with the growing urgency around climate

adaptation. As weather patterns continue to shift, Berger Paints' Kool range signals a broader transition in how India approaches cooling by moving from reactive solutions to preventive ones. It is a step that combines innova-

tion with purpose, helping households and communities better cope with increasingly harsh summers. Mr. Abhijit Roy, MD & CEO of Berger Paints India Limited, said, "At Berger Paints, we have always believed in staying ahead of consumer needs, and as we are known to launch industry first innovative products, we understand the evolving challenges households face in heat-prone regions. With our Home Cooling range, we are looking at addressing heat where it begins, rather than where it is felt. Through 'Garmi Gone, Thandak On' campaign, we want to drive a larger behavioral shift towards more sustainable and accessible cooling practices, while also extending this impact to communities through our partnership with Smile Foundation."

Industrial Hub to be Developed Along with A.R.A.I Centre: M. B. Patil



Bengaluru: The Union Government has shown interest in establishing an A.R.A.I. (Automotive Research Association of India) centre in Mandya district. However, instead of the initially proposed 100 acres for the A.R.A.I centre, Large and Medium Industries Minister M. B. Patil and Union Minister for Heavy Industries H. D. Kumaraswamy on Monday discussed the possibility of developing a complemen-

tary industrial park spread over at least 500 acres. They also directed officials to identify suitable land for the project. Both the Ministers held detailed discussions with officials at the Committee Room in Vidhana Soudha. "If the A.R.A.I centre is established on just 100 acres, it will remain a standalone facility. Instead, it would be more appropriate to develop a comprehensive industrial hub over at least 500 acres, incorporating the proposed A.R.A.I centre and supporting the growth of the automobile sector. Union Minister Kumaraswamy has also agreed to this proposal.

Solar training graduation marks milestone in Bengaluru



Bengaluru: The WE Foundation, in partnership with CGI and BES Polytechnic, celebrated the successful completion of a solar PV installation training programme, marking a significant milestone in skill development for the renewable energy sector. The initiative aims to bridge the skill gap in solar energy by equipping participants with industry-relevant technical expertise, thereby enhancing employment opportu-

Director of The WE Foundation, said the collaboration reflects a shared vision of enabling meaningful careers in the renewable energy sector. Neha Kothari of CGI highlighted the role of technology in driving sustainable change, while Suresh Sivanandaiah emphasised the programme's grassroots impact in building confidence and employability among partici-

Vinay B., Principal of BES Polytechnic, stated that the initiative provided students with practical knowledge and sustainable practices, reinforcing the institution's commitment to creating industry-ready professionals and supporting the growing "green jobs" movement. The programme stands as a model for collaborative efforts between industry, academia, and social organisations to drive economic empowerment and environmental sustain-

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The programme aligns with CGI's Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) commitments and supports global sustainability goals by fostering green skills and reducing carbon emissions. It also focuses on empowering youth with future-ready capabilities to meet the growing demand for skilled solar technicians. Speaking on the occasion, Nabanita Banerjee, Director of The WE Foundation, said the collaboration reflects a shared vision of enabling mean-

ingful careers in the renewable energy sector. Neha Kothari of CGI highlighted the role of technology in driving sustainable change, while Suresh Sivanandaiah emphasised the programme's grassroots impact in building confidence and employability among participants. Vinay B., Principal of BES Polytechnic, stated that the initiative provided students with practical knowledge and sustainable practices, reinforcing the institution's commitment to creating industry-ready professionals and supporting the growing "green jobs" movement. The programme stands as a model for collaborative efforts between industry, academia, and social organisations to drive economic empowerment and environmental sustainabil-

Protium Finance Limited advertisement. Includes company details, possession notice, and description of mortgaged property.

UDIPI BRANCH advertisement. Includes branch details, appendix IV-A notice for sale of immovable properties, and encumbrance details.

BAJAJ FINANCE LIMITED advertisement. Includes company details, appendix IV-A notice for sale of immovable assets, and loan account information.

Disciplinary action if unnecessary statements are made in public: DCM D K Shivakumar tells MLAs



Bengaluru : Stating that there was nothing wrong in MLAs meeting the Party High Command, Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC President D K Shivakumar today warned that unnecessary public statements would invite disciplinary action from the Party.

When asked whether the MLAs had consulted him before going to Delhi, he said, "Some of them did. There is nothing wrong in asking the High Command for a ministerial berth. Even first-time and second-time MLAs can become ministers — this has happened before. But this is not the right time. Elections are still going on. Some have gone to Tamil Nadu. Let the elections happen first, then we can think about this." When asked about his meeting with Mallikarjun Kharge, he said, "The party had instructed me to go to Tamil Nadu. I went and came back, and need to go again. I had to report on that to the AICC President. I met him and submitted my report."

First woman president takes oath at SSVV Mangalore Central Council



Lobo, who belongs to the Bendore Conference, was administered the oath of office by Fr Flavian Lobo, spiritual advisor, in the presence of Fr Francis D'Souza, former spiritual advisor, and Fr Walter D'Souza, parish priest of Bendore. Br Joe

Mangaluru, Apr 13: The St Vincent De Paul Society, Mangalore Central Council (SSVP), celebrated a historic milestone with the oath-taking ceremony of its first-ever lady president in its 66-year history. Preetha

Coelho, the outgoing president, expressed his gratitude to all for their support and cooperation during his six-year tenure.

Sri Sai Ram PU College Achieves 100% Results for 4th Consecutive Year; Students Secure State Ranks advertisement. Includes details about the college's performance and student achievements.

Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd. advertisement. Includes company details, demand notice, and a table of secured assets with borrower details.

Bandhan Bank advertisement. Includes bank logo, regional office details, and an auction cum tender for sale notice with terms and conditions.

EDITORIAL

Tamil Nadu's Gen Z Turn May Be Here, Thanks To Vijay

Soon after he filed his nomination from Perambur in north Chennai, 'Thalapathy' Vijay was clear about the section of the electorate that would help him change his designation from candidate to MLA - the Gen Z voter. "Gen Z, vote for the whistle symbol. Give me a chance. It must be a whistle revolution," he exhorted the crowd to 'whistle podu' (blow the whistle) on April 23.

The 2026 Tamil Nadu assembly election is different not just for the presence of Vijay and his Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) as the X-factor. The manner in which the party has approached this election has made age an important dynamic in a state whose presiding deities at election time have always been caste and cash.

Does the use of the term 'Gen Z' matter when all leaders address the youth in general? Yes, because by using the English term 'Gen Z' in a Tamil speech, Vijay is doing a linguistic handshake with the digital native. What is conveyed is that he understands their lingo, their world of algorithms and digital trends better than the leaders of the DMK and AIADMK, who are stuck in an analogue era in the times of 5G. In a state with a tech-savvy population, this distinction matters.

From an electoral point of view as well, this distinction, though exclusionary in nature, makes political sense. Vijay is doing targeted campaigning, trying to maximise the percentage of votes that come from the under-40 demographic. With 2.2 crore out of the 5.6 crore total voters, in percentage terms, the under-40 segment translates to roughly 40 per cent of the total electorate. Usually, the male elders in the family dictate the electoral choice of the younger ones and the women. But this time, Vijay, by appealing directly to the first-time voters, the Gen-Z and the women, is validating their distinct identity. Thus, the 2026 election, by making age a critical marker, is making the younger lot active participants in the democratic process, contrary to the disdain with which the youth usually look at politicians and politics. The expectation is that this lot would be enthused enough to cast their vote and feel empowered. Not only that, communicating with this generation means the message gets amplified as the shareability quotient over different forms of social media is very high. Hence, doing politics over reels makes more sense than over wall posters. It is important to note that Vijay is not just appealing to the younger lot; he has also presented them with choices they can relate to. A significant number of candidates are under 40, most of them first-time contestants. This shift is something the Dravidian parties have not been able to make in substantial numbers. Both the DMK and AIADMK have far too many well-entrenched district strongmen who cannot be displaced by the leadership. Like minister Durai Murugan, who is the oldest in the fray at 87. Among the exceptions are DMK's candidate in Avanashi constituency, 28-year-old Dr Gokilamani. This move to woo the younger electorate by presenting them with fresh faces as candidates is a leaf out of NT Rama Rao's book in Andhra Pradesh in 1983, when 150 out of the 294 candidates that the actor-turned-politician fielded were first-time contestants. A majority of them were an educated lot - lawyers, doctors, teachers, engineers - and that gave hope of a new future in the Telugu state. That template of risky disruptors is being replicated in Tamil Nadu now. But while the 'Catch them Young' is a commendable move, will the age factor succeed in being caste-neutral and cash-neutral? Will a 20-year-old brought up with the casteist pride of being a Vanniyar, a Gounder or a Thevar, connect with a system update that promises dignity through 21st-century employment opportunities? That is the challenge for parties like the TVK, and unless they address this regularly on the campaign trail, they will not succeed in making aspirational identity trump caste identity. For the age factor to play a decisive role, the under-40 electorate has to look beyond the boundaries of a Theni, a Karur, a Cuddalore, and think about participation in a global economy. They have to choose between managers of the existing caste system and disruptors of the same system.

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

The failure of the Iran-US talks in Islamabad has sparked fears of a resumption of war after Trump's announcement that the US will blockade the Strait of Hormuz. But for Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, such an outcome appears to be an answer to his prayers - and even to his efforts. The talks, following Trump's unilateral announcement of a two-week ceasefire last week, were not part of the script Netanyahu thought he had drafted with the American president. That decision left the Israeli leader isolated and even angry. He wanted to continue the war until his objectives were achieved. Netanyahu reluctantly halted airstrikes on Iran after the ceasefire announcement, but within hours, he dramatically escalated attacks on Iran's proxy, Hezbollah, in Lebanon. In just 10 minutes, Israeli jets bombed 100 targets across the country, killing more than 300 people, many of them civilians. He insisted that Lebanon was not part of the two-week truce, despite Iran and Pakistan saying it was - although US officials backed Netanyahu's claim. Nevertheless, Israel's action jeopardised the ceasefire's future.

Israel continued its attacks in Lebanon even when the Iranian and US teams were meeting in Pakistan, despite Trump asking Netanyahu to scale back the military operation. It remains unclear whether Netanyahu was defying the American president or acting with his blessing to pressure Tehran. Either way, the result hardened Iran's position. Tehran kept the Strait of Hormuz closed to oil tankers, in violation of the ceasefire terms.



Tehran, as the war was proving too costly for him, both politically and economically. Saturday's 21-hour talks in Pakistan, which even included a face-to-face meeting between Iran and the US for the first time in almost half a century, must have alarmed Netanyahu. He feared that Trump might concede too much to Iran to secure a deal at a meeting where Israel was not even invited. Israel doesn't care about the Strait of Hormuz. It is more concerned about a bolder, angrier and more radical Islamic regime still in possession of over 400 kilograms of 60% enriched uranium, which Israeli officials have said is enough to make 11 nuclear bombs. Iran is also believed to have more than 1,000 missiles capable of reaching Israel, along with a large number of missile launchers. Iran has lost about 5,000 of its fighters during the current war, according to the Israeli military. That is a small fraction of its regular army and IRGC fighters. So, Netanyahu was relieved that the US ended the Pakistan talks without a deal, mainly because of disagreement over Iran's nuclear programme.

In a televised address on Saturday, Netanyahu told Israelis that the war in Iran was not over. He has not concealed his wish to continue the conflict until the Islamic regime is toppled. At the very least, he wants the military action to continue for a while longer to further degrade Iran's military and economic capabilities. His decision to escalate in Lebanon was clearly an attempt to make it harder for Tehran to maintain the ceasefire - which he was even successful at, with the Iranians repeatedly saying that they were unable to trust the US.

Why Lebanon?

Following pressure from Trump, Netanyahu announced on Thursday that his government will hold talks with Lebanon's government. The talks, long demanded by Lebanon, are set to take place in Washington on Tuesday. However, they are unlikely to resolve the issue of Hezbollah, which remains a major threat to Israel despite multiple military campaigns against it. The Iran-backed group has long functioned as

a shadow army inside Lebanon, defying the government in Beirut. Successive Lebanese governments have been unable to disarm it despite Israeli demands. The group emerged after Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982 and its two-decade occupation of the southern region. It's been popular with Lebanon's Shia population for its armed resistance against Israel. Hezbollah also joined Hamas in the Gaza war following the 2023 attack on Israel and launched hundreds of missiles at the Jewish state. In response, Israel invaded Lebanon, killing Hezbollah's top leader Hassan Nasrallah, hundreds of its fighters and thousands of civilians. It also destroyed most of its vast arsenal of missiles and drones, along with a large part of Lebanon's civilian infrastructure and homes. But Hezbollah quickly rebuilt part of its military arsenal and recruited new fighters. When Israel and the US attacked Iran six weeks ago, Hezbollah launched a barrage of missiles at Israel, opening a new front in the war. Israel was prepared and responded with airstrikes, bombing Hezbollah targets. Over the past six weeks, the war has taken more than 2,000 lives in Lebanon and left one million people - roughly a fifth of its population - homeless. Hezbollah has also killed 11 Israelis during this period, nearly as many as were killed by missiles launched from Iran.

Iran's Influence

Israel's actions have also targeted Hezbollah supporters in Lebanon, who are Shia Muslims, like those in Iran. Last month, the Israeli military launched a ground operation in southern Lebanon with a warning from the Defence Minister, Israel Katz, that he would not allow the return of people to the country's south until the safety of Israelis is guaranteed. Other Israeli politicians have hinted that they want to extend the operation, which could lead to another occupation of southern Lebanon.

Netanyahu's Dilemma

Trump's decision to hold ceasefire talks with Iran caught Netanyahu off guard. He was, clearly, unhappy and unprepared. Iran's resilience during the 40-day conflict and its use of the Strait of Hormuz as a choke-point for shipping in the Gulf forced Trump to seek a ceasefire with

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

Almost two hours before US President Donald Trump's deadline to 'end the whole of civilisation' through massive bombings on the night of April 7, his post on Truth Social announced a two-week-long ceasefire brokered by Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir. Speculations were divided: many doubted Iran would act on Trump's threats, while a significant number believed a strike against Iran's energy infrastructure was imminent. The security landscape in the Gulf has been permanently altered by the ceasefire, which now hangs in limbo as talks between US and Iran held in Islamabad collapsed. The escalation from the US, Iranian retaliation, and Europe's limits have reshaped Gulf security in ways Washington did not anticipate. Every major war in West Asia has reshaped the region's power politics, with global implications. After the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, the Jewish state emerged victorious with more territory under its control than it had before it. Similarly, the 1956 Suez crisis ended the global influence of Britain and France, the two major colonial empires. The 1967 Six-Day War reestablished Israel's military dominance and laid the groundwork for the present-day Gaza crisis. In 1973, the Yom Kippur War caused a major oil crisis after Saudi-led oil-producing countries refused to sell to the US over its support for Israel. The aftermath of the war saw the emergence of the petrodollar system and the start of the US-Saudi military partnership in exchange for the trade of oil in dollars. The Gulf wars of 1991 and 2003 weakened and later led to the removal of Saddam Hussein from power, making Iran the sole rival to Saudi Arabia in the region. Similarly, the 2026 Iran-US war has turned



the region increasingly vulnerable, has left its energy infrastructure more exposed, made Iran weaker, and forced the Gulf to rethink its security partnership with the US. Gulf Disillusioned? The US and Israel have had strong ties for over eight decades. The Arab world witnessed a thaw in its relations with the Americans, especially with the emergence of the petrodollar trading system, which further increased the demand for the US dollar in exchange for security guarantees. The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, which include Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, the UAE, and Oman, have invested heavily in their relationship with the US, assuming their interests would be well-considered over Israel's. However, Donald Trump, who is known for being unpredictable, has prioritised Israel's goals over the GCC's. Though Iran has remained a threat to these countries, as neighbours, the GCC and Iran maintained trade relations despite differences. The primary driver behind the Iranian attacks on its neighbours was the presence of the US military in West Asia, especially in the Gulf. Even in its 10-point

peace plan, Iran demanded a US military withdrawal from the Middle East. The Gulf countries acted cautiously. The crown prince of Saudi Arabia, Mohammad Bin Salman, reportedly pushed Trump to continue the war, seeing it as an opportunity to reshape the power dynamic in the region. The goals of the GCC were hedged against the assumption that a regime change would take place soon. However, Iran's attacks on oil refineries and natural gas infrastructure continued. According to an assessment from the Stimson Centre, in a month, the GCC received 83% of Iranian drones and missiles compared to just 17% launched at Israel. The message was clear - Iran attacked both military and civilian assets to destabilise the region's energy infrastructure and ensure that the ripple effects of the war go beyond the region. Only a ceasefire has been established, but hostilities remain. Is Europe A Safer Bet? In this context, Europe can emerge as a better partner for the Gulf than the US. One of the key reasons behind this observation is Europe's stance of not intervening directly in the war. UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer vehemently rejected America's request to send British troops to fight the war against Iran; however, the UK allowed the US to use its bases to launch attacks. In response, Iran fired ballistic missiles at Diego Garcia, located 4,000 km away. Even so, Europe is unlikely to emerge as a genuine alternative to the US in the near future, largely due to its own continued reliance on American air defence systems for both wide-area and localised protection. This dependence was highlighted, for instance, during the conflict when the redeployment of two Patriot missile system batteries from Germany to Turkey created air defence gaps across Europe. Secondly, American weapons sales have seen a dramatic increase, soaring from 27% to over 50% following the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine. This is because US-made systems, such as the Patriot, THAAD, NASAMS, and Stinger air defence platforms, remain globally dominant. While the newly elected German Chancellor Friedrich Merz called for Europe to pursue strategic 'independence' from the US in 2025, the continent collectively remains reliant on American defence capabilities.

Manumukt 'Manav' Trust Organizes Memorial Ceremony



DR. SATYWAN SAURABH

(Rajendra Singh Rawal Receives 711,000 Matadin-Murtidevi Memorial Award)

Narnaul (Dr. Satywan Saurabh): Along with the prominent leaders of India's freedom struggle, countless dedicated workers like Pandit Matadin also played a significant role—those who chose to become the foundation stones rather than the visible pinnacle of the edifice of independence. This was stated by Rajendra Singh Rawal, former Chief Minister and Member of Parliament from Sudurpashchim Province, Mahendranagar (Nepal), while addressing the gathering as the chief guest. The occasion was the 28th annual ceremony organized by the Manumukt 'Manav' Memorial Trust at the International Cultural Centre, Manumukt Bhavan, Sector-1, Part-2, in memory of Prajmandal movement activist and eminent social worker Pandit Matadin and his wife Murtidevi. In his address, Rawal emphasized that Pandit Matadin and his associates fought a dual struggle—against the British as well as the princely rulers who supported them—through the Prajmandal movement. Their sacrifices, he said, will always be remembered. Vice Chancellor of Singhania University, Pacheri Bari (Rajasthan), and former IAS officer Dr. Manoj Kumar Garg; Member of the Language Commission Nepal, Kathmandu, Dr. Pushkar Raj Bhatt; Proctor of Vikram University, Ujjain (Madhya Pradesh), Dr. Shailendra Kumar Sharma; and former Municipal Council Chairperson and BJP Mahila Morcha District President Bharti Saini also paid heartfelt tributes, highlighting Pandit Matadin's contributions to the freedom struggle and social service. Pandit Matadin's son and Chief Trustee, Dr. Ramniwas 'Manav', presented couplets dedicated to his parents. One of them read: "Whenever life brings joy or sorrow, Mother and father are remem-



bered again and again." The program began with a devotional song by Industrial Development Officer Dr. Sunil Bhardwaj and was conducted efficiently by Dr. Pankaj Gaur under the inspirational guidance of Trustee Dr. Kanta Bharti. Earlier, Provincial President of the United Indian Dharma Sansad, Rakesh Mehta, highlighted the life and contributions of Pandit Matadin. Poets including Oshin Shukla Sakshi (Narnaul), Dr. Mukut Agrawal (Rewari), Sanjay Pathak (Jaitpur), and Pravendra Pandit (Alwar) presented poems reflecting his achievements. Awardees Honored: During the ceremony, Rajendra Singh Rawal (Mahendranagar, Nepal) was honored with a shawl, memento, citation, and 711,000 as the Matadin-Murtidevi Lifetime Achievement Award. Senior litterateur Dr. Sheel Kaushik (Sirsa) and late writer-editor Urmi Krishna (Ambala Cantonment) were conferred the Matadin-Murtidevi Memorial Award with 75,000 each. The Matadin-Murtidevi Shikhar Samman was awarded to Dr. Pushkar Raj Bhatt (Kathmandu), Harish Prasad Joshi (Mahendranagar), Dr. Shailendra Kumar Sharma (Ujjain), and Acharya Pradyumna (Narnaul). Additionally, several individuals from India and Nepal—including Trivikram Pandey (Lalitpur), Bhanubhakta

Acharya, Rajendra Nath (Kathmandu), Dr. Hareram Pathak (Dibrugarh), Dr. Prabhu Chaudhary (Ujjain), Dr. Shehnaz Ahemd (Nanded), Prof. Vijay Kumar Mirche (Mahasamund), Dr. Lalit Kumar Singh (Delhi), Pravendra Pandit (Alwar), Ramanand Sharma (Shimla), Pankaj Sharma (Ambala), Vijay Kumar (Ambala Cantonment), Major Shaktiraj Kaushik, Dr. Gyan Prakash Piyush (Sirsa), Dr. Dharmveer Yadav and Dr. Sudha Yadav (Mirpur, Rewari), and others from Narnaul—were honored with the Matadin-Murtidevi Memorial Samman for their notable contributions in various fields. Notable Presence: The three-hour long event witnessed the presence of several distinguished personalities, including Pro Vice Chancellor Sunil Kumar Sobti, Campus Director P.S. Jassal, Librarian Dr. Dharampal Bargadh (Singhania University), Hakeekat Yadav (Delhi), Dr. Bhanwar Singh Kasana (Mahendranagar), regional hydrogeologist Rakesh Nimahoria, social workers Ramanand Agrawal, Ghanshyam Garg, Rani Sanghvi, Prof. Dr. Vandana Kumari, environmentalist Krishnavatar Sharma, Krishan Kumar Sharma, advocate Murarilal Sharma, Shradha Sharma, Ritu Sharma, Dr. Sharmila Yadav, and KBC fame Sachin Agrawal, along with several dignitaries from Nepal.

'SAME SYSTEM OF KILL':

Trump Claims 158 Iranian Ships Destroyed, Links Anti-Drug Tactics To Hormuz Blockade

US President Donald Trump on Monday claimed that Iran's naval forces had been largely 'obliterated' and warned of immediate military action against any remaining vessels that approach a US-enforced blockade. In the post on Truth Social, Trump said Iran's navy was "lying at the bottom of the sea" with 158 ships destroyed, while adding that some smaller "fast attack ships" had not been targeted as they were not initially seen as a major threat. He issued a direct warning that any such vessels nearing the blockade would be "immediately eliminated". Trump also linked the military action to broader security concerns, saying the same system used to counter drug trafficking at sea would be deployed against Iranian vessels. He claimed that a majority of narcotics entering the United States via sea routes had already been stopped. The remarks come amid sharply escalating tensions in the Gulf region following the collapse of recent US-Iran talks in Islamabad. Soon after the failed negotiations, Washington announced a naval blockade



aimed at preventing ships from entering or leaving Iranian ports through the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz. The narrow waterway handles nearly 20% of global oil supplies, making it one of the world's most critical energy chokepoints. The ongoing conflict and restrictions on shipping have already disrupted oil flows and raised concerns of further price spikes and supply shortages. However, independent reports, such as that of The New York Times, suggest that while Iran's larger naval assets have taken significant damage during weeks of US-led

strikes, many of its smaller, fast-moving boats remain operational and continue to pose a threat in the region. Military experts have warned that enforcing a full blockade would be a complex and risky operation, potentially provoking retaliation from Iran and further destabilising the region. The latest statement underscores the fragile state of the situation, with a temporary ceasefire still in place but under increasing strain. Diplomatic efforts are continuing behind the scenes, but Trump's remarks signal that the US is prepared to escalate militarily if ten-

sions are not resolved soon. Two people in the northern Israeli city of Nahariya are being treated by medics following reports of strikes being fired at the city, according to Israel's Magen David Adom emergency service. One of those being treated is a 60-year-old woman, who sustained minor injuries due to a "projectile", it writes on Telegram. Lebanon's state-run National News Agency reports that Hezbollah today announced an air attack on the Liman barracks, north of Nahariya, as part of a wider set of strikes. The Israel Defense Forces

(IDF) says it has intercepted more than 10 missiles launched from Lebanon at Israel and its forces operating in southern Lebanon since this morning. The military also said earlier today it was expanding its operations in the south of Lebanon. The video shows rubble where a building once stood and damage to the wall of a neighbouring structure. It is not clear what the intended target was. We've confirmed the location of the footage and verified that it was first shared online earlier today, indicating that it's recent. Separately, the Israeli military says it is close to capturing the Hezbollah stronghold of Bint Jbeil in southern Lebanon. Let's turn now to the situation in Lebanon, where fighting has continued despite a ceasefire between the US and Iran, which Israel says does not apply to its campaign against Hezbollah. According to the latest figures from Lebanon's public health ministry, 2,089 people - including 166 children - been killed in the country since 2 March, reports the state-run National News Agency.

AI+ SMARTPHONE NOVA 2 GOES ON SALE ON FLIPKART STARTING APRIL 14



Ai+ Smartphone has announced the commencement of sales of its latest device, Nova 2, as part of the newly launched Nova Series. Designed for everyday reliability and expressive personal style, the Nova 2 will be available exclusively on Flipkart and select retail outlets starting April 14 at 12 noon. The Ai+ Nova 2 will be available at the following pricing:

4GB+64GB | 8,999
6GB+128GB | 10,999

"The Nova Series is our strongest expression yet of what Ai+ stands for; technology that is accessible, reliable, and built for real everyday use. With Nova 2, we wanted to make sure that users who are upgrading for

the first time or switching to Ai+ find everything they need without compromise. We are excited to open sales on April 14 and bring more users into the Ai+ ecosystem," said Madhav Sheth, CEO, Ai+ Smartphone and Founder, NxtQuantum Shift Technologies.

Performance That Powers Your Day
The Nova 2 is equipped with a 6000mAh battery designed to keep up with a full day of streaming, browsing, gaming, and multitasking. It runs on Android 16 with NxtQuantum OS, delivering a smooth and optimised experience straight out of the box. Featuring a 6.745-inch HD+ display with a 120Hz adaptive

refresh rate and HBM support, the Nova 2 delivers fluid visuals and seamless scrolling whether users are consuming content or navigating everyday tasks.

A Camera and Design Built for Everyday Life
The smartphone comes with a 50MP rear camera designed to capture sharp, natural images across lighting conditions, along with an 8MP front camera for clear selfies and video calls. The Nova 2 further features a refined build with IP64 resistance and a side-mounted fingerprint sensor, available in five distinct colours — Purple, Green, Pink, Blue, and Black — each designed to reflect a different personality.

US judge dismisses \$10bn Trump defamation suit against Wall Street Journal

■ A US judge has dismissed a case against the publisher of the Wall Street Journal (WSJ) over a story about ties the US president had to convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.



lawyer told CBS News, the BBC's US news partner, that the president will refute the "powerhouse" suit. US District Judge Darrin Gayles said Trump came "nowhere close" to showing the WSJ acted with actual malice towards him. The case was dismissed without prejudice, though Trump will be allowed to file a new, amended lawsuit. He has until 27 April to do so. Trump's lawyer said the president will "continue to hold accountable those who traffic in Fake News to mislead

the American People". "The standard for "actual malice" in defamation cases is that defendants must prove that a public statement was both false, and that the news organisation or individual who made the statement knew or should have known that it was false or acted in reckless disregard of its falsity. In his ruling, Gayles said he had to dismiss the complaint because Trump had "not plausibly alleged that the Defendants published the Article with actual malice".

The WSJ, owned by Murdoch's company News Corp., published exclusive reporting over the summer tying Trump and Epstein together through the birthday book. Shortly after Democratic lawmakers published an image of the birthday note on social media, ahead of the release of other documents related to Epstein. The newspaper did not publish an image of the note at the time but the details of its written description matched the picture that was released by lawmakers.

LIC Approves 1:1 Bonus Shares: Check Issue Size, Timeline And Other Details

Life Insurance Corporation of India said on Monday that the Board of Directors authorised the allotment of fully paid-up bonus equity shares worth Rs 6,352 crore. The shares, which carry a face value of Rs 10, are being issued in a 1:1 ratio, effectively doubling its paid-up share capital. Under this structure, shareholders receive one new bonus equity share for every one existing share held. This is the first ever bonus issue announced by LIC. The company will complete the issue of bonus shares within two months from the date of approval, which is on or before June 12. However, the proposal is subject to approval from the shareholders of the Corporation and will be done in accordance with the applicable provisions. Following the move, LIC's paid-up share capital will increase from 632 crore shares to 1,264 crore shares. The monetary value of the post-issue capital will stand at approximately Rs. 12,649 crore.



LIC Q3FY26
State-owned life insurer LIC reported a 17% jump in net profit at Rs 12,958 crore in the third quarter ended December 2025. The country's biggest insurer, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), earned a net profit of Rs 11,056 crore in the year-ago period. During the quarter, the net premium income of the insurer rose to Rs 1,25,613 crore from Rs 1,06,891 crore in the same period a year ago, LIC said in a regulatory filing. The total income also improved to Rs 2,33,984 crore in the latest December quar-

ter compared to Rs 2,01,994 crore in the same period a year ago.

LIC Share Price
LIC's stock ended 0.66% higher at Rs 798.35 apiece on the NSE on Monday. This compared to a 0.86% decline in the Nifty index. The stock has fallen 5.09% year-to-date, and 4.23% in the last 12 months. Insurance behemoth Life Insurance

Corporation of India (LIC) is likely to announce its first-ever bonus issue of shares tomorrow, following its board meeting which is scheduled for April 13 (Monday). The state-run company had announced earlier last week that its board of directors will hold a meeting to consider and recommend its first-ever bonus issue of shares. Bonus issue consists of free shares distributed by a company from its reserves and is often seen as a sign of strong financial health and growth prospects. While the issue of bonus shares increases the total number of outstanding shares, it does not change the company's market capitalisation. However, it can improve liquidity and affordability, allowing more investors to add shares of the company to their portfolio.

RBI 'Returns' Ujjivan SFB's Universal Bank License Application; Lender Says Will 'Re-Apply In Due Course'

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has returned the universal banking license application filed by Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (SFB), saying the lender must diversify its asset book more before applying for the license, according to an exchange filing. "The RBI through their aforesaid letter took note of the Bank's recent efforts towards diversification of its loan portfolio. However, they were of the view that there is scope for progress in this area. Therefore, RBI have returned the above-mentioned application and advised the Bank to consider applying again after demonstrating a diversified loan portfolio," the notice said. The application for transitioning to a Universal Bank was submitted as part of the bank's long-term growth plans, the lender said in a statement. "Ujjivan will contin-



ue to embark on the path of diversification and will resubmit the application in due course, keeping RBI's guidance in view," it added. This is the second application by a SFB that the RBI has "returned" in recent past. The regulator had earlier returned Jana SFB's universal bank license application, while

giving in-principle approval to AU SFB to convert to an universal bank and granting in-principle approval to Fino Payments Bank request to transition into a SFB. Ujjivan SFB's gross loan book stood at Rs. 37,057 crore in Q3FY26 and group loans formed 45% of loan book.

Oil Weekly Outlook: Prices Seen Firm Above \$100 as Hormuz Blockade Lifts Risk Premium

Oil prices are expected to trade firm this week after US President Donald Trump announced a blockade of the Strait of Hormuz following the collapse of negotiations between Iranian and US officials in Pakistan. Sentiment was further boosted by traders increasing their long positions and by tightness in the physical market. Daniel Hynes, senior commodities strategist at ANZ Research, said tensions will rise further after Trump warned that the US would impose a naval blockade on the strait. "Not only does this restrain exports from Persian Gulf oil producers, but it will also restrict Iran's ability to export oil and will exacerbate the supply disruptions the market is experiencing," he said. The US Central Command, or CENTCOM, said in a statement that it will implement a blockade of all maritime traffic entering and exiting Iranian ports on April 13 at 10 a.m. US Eastern Time.



"The blockade will be enforced impartially against vessels of all nations entering or departing Iranian ports and coastal areas, including all Iranian ports on the Arabian Gulf and Gulf of Oman," it said. This pushed the price of New York-traded West Texas Intermediate crude and global benchmark Brent crude above the psychologically important \$100-a-barrel mark on Monday. The

risk premium tied to Hormuz, Iranian exports and possible retaliation remains alive. "Even without a full resumption of war, crude is likely to stay supported as long as the Strait remains a point of confrontation," said Charu Chanana, chief investment strategist at Saxo Bank, in a note to clients. On the technical front, the WTI May crude contract has support at \$94-\$90 a barrel, while

resistance stands at \$118-\$120 a barrel this week, said Pranav Mer, vice president of research, commodity and currency, at JM Financial. On the MCX April crude contract, support is seen at Rs 8,500-Rs 8,000 a barrel and resistance at Rs 11,200-Rs 11,500, he said. Money managers increased their net long positions in NYMEX crude by 7,121 lots to 137,838 as of April 7, according to Commodity Futures Trading Commission

data. The number of rigs drilling for crude oil in the US remained flat at 411 in the week to April 10, Baker Hughes said in its weekly report. Last week, crude oil prices fell sharply on prospects for peace talks between US and Iranian officials, raising hopes of diplomatic progress to end the disruption of supply from the Persian Gulf and reduce the risk premium. This week, market participants will take cues from the OPEC monthly report, the International Energy Agency monthly report, the International Monetary Fund meeting, US consumer price inflation, China first-quarter GDP, speeches from Federal Reserve governors, and an update related to the US-Iran talks. At 1:10 p.m. IST, the May contract of WTI crude oil was at \$103.69 a barrel. The April contract on the MCX was 5.5% higher at Rs 9,658 a barrel. Meanwhile, Brent June futures surged nearly 7% to \$101.80 per barrel.

ORBÁN ERA SWEEP AWAY BY PÉTER MAGYAR'S HUNGARY ELECTION LANDSLIDE

Viktor Orbán's 16 years in power is over and a system condemned as an "electoral autocracy" lies in tatters, defeated by a 45-year-old former party insider who convinced a majority of Hungarians to bring it to an end. "We did it," Péter Magyar told a crowd of cheering supporters beside the River Danube, overlooking Budapest's magnificent parliament on the other side. "Together we overthrew the Hungarian regime." Preliminary election results, based on more than 98% of counted votes, put his Tisza party on course for an extraordinary 138 seats, with Orbán's Fidesz on 55 and the far-right Our Homeland on six. The landslide will not only allow Magyar to overturn Orbán's increasingly unpopular domestic policies, but reset Hungary's global relationships. Orbán has been a close partner of both US President Donald Trump - earning an in-person appearance from US Vice-



President JD Vance in the final week of the campaign - and Russia's Vladimir Putin, and he had become a big thorn in the side of the EU and Ukraine. Magyar, on the other hand, stood on a platform of distancing Hungary from Russia in favour of more cordial ties with the EU and Ukraine. For two years, Magyar took his burgeoning movement around villages, town squares and cities, rallying Hungarians who had

had enough of the cronyism and corruption that had become endemic in Hungary over years. "Never before in the history of democratic Hungary have so many people voted - and no single party has ever received such a strong mandate," he said on Sunday night, after a record 79.5% of the electorate turned out to vote. Orbán's rule was built up through four successive election victories and sweeping majorities, but it became clear it was over in a matter of minutes. As pro-Magyar supporters waited expectantly in the square on the Buda side of the Danube, the Tisza leader posted an extraordinary message on Facebook: "Viktor Orbán just called me on the phone and congratulated us on our victory." There was barely time to digest what had just happened and only 30% of the vote had at that point been

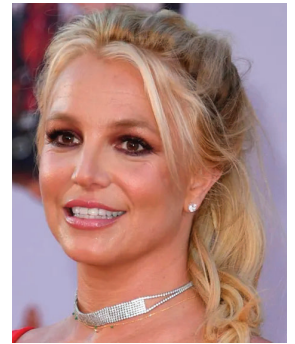
counted. But moments later, Orbán himself appeared on a stage in a conference centre a mile down-river on the other side of the Danube, surrounded by his glum-looking Fidesz party colleagues. "The result of the election is clear and painful," he told them, thanking the estimated 2.5 million Hungarians who stuck by him. "The days ahead of us are for us to heal our wounds." Word began to spread among Magyar supporters, and at the nearby hotel that had become party HQ, Tisza activists hugged each other.

Magyar has promised to reverse Orbán-era changes to education and health, tackle corruption, restore the independence of the judiciary and kill off the widely loathed system of patronage known as NER that helped enrich party loyalists and squander state resources. To make those changes to the constitution, he needed a two-thirds majority of 133 of the Hungarian parliament's

199 seats. Though the final results are not yet in, Tisza is on course for 138. Magyar had been telling his supporters to prepare for a change of regime, and now they had it the parties truly started and the champagne flowed. Cars blared their horns across Budapest, women waving Hungarian flags through open sun roofs. Many of those who backed Magyar are not natural supporters. For years he backed Orbán and now he has brought him down. "He's someone you cannot be absolutely sure of," a lawyer called Ágnes told the BBC, "but we're at a point where we need to hope for something better, which he promises - and we truly hope his promises come true." Another target in Magyar's sights is pro-Orbán state media. The M1 TV channel has until now slavishly toed the party line, along with what were once independent websites bought up over time by Fidesz allies.

Britney Spears goes into rehab after driving under the influence arrest

Britney Spears has gone into rehab, a month after she was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs. The singer voluntarily checked herself into a treatment facility, her representative told multiple US media outlets on Sunday. Following her arrest on 4 March, the star's representative called the incident "completely inexcusable" and said her loved ones would "come up with an overdue needed plan to set her up for success for well being". Her entry into treatment comes three weeks before the 44-year-old is due to appear in court in California to face the DUI charge. Last month, Spears was reported to authorities for driving her BMW "erratically at a high rate of speed" on a motorway, California Highway Patrol said. She "showed signs of impairment" and submitted to a series of field sobriety tests after she was pulled over. Afterwards, her representative told the BBC:



"Britney is going to take the right steps and comply with the law and hopefully this can be the first step in long overdue change that needs to occur in Britney's life. "Hopefully, she can get the help and support she needs during this difficult time. "Her boys are going to be spending time with her. Her loved ones are going to come up with an overdue needed plan to set her up for success for well being." Spears is one of the most successful pop stars of all time, with hits such as Baby One More Time, Toxic, Everytime, Gimme More, Womanizer, and Stronger.

Pope says he has 'no fear' of Trump after scathing criticism



Pope Leo has said he has "no fear" of the Trump administration and will continue to speak out against war after the US president launched an unusual and scathing attack over his stance on the Iran conflict. Donald Trump accused the pontiff of being "WEAK on Crime and terrible for Foreign Policy" in a Truth Social post, later telling reporters he was "not a big fan". The Pope told reporters en route to Algeria that he did not want to get into a debate with Trump but would continue to promote peace. He has been a staunch critic of the Iran war, calling Trump's threat to destroy Iranian civilisation "unacceptable" and calling for him to find an "off-ramp" to end the conflict. In general, it is rare for a pope to directly address statements by world leaders. There are more than 70 million Catholics in the US, about 20% of the population. They include Trump's Vice-President JD Vance. Trump's remarks came as the pontiff embarked on an 11-day trip to Africa, his second major foreign trip since being elected last year. The

US president wrote in Sunday's post that the Pope "should get his act together" and said he was "weak on nuclear weapons", apparently referring to Tehran's attempts to become a nuclear power, cited as one of the reasons for the US and Israel going to war with Iran. He also suggested that the pontiff was elected "because he was American, and they thought that would be the best way to deal with President Donald J Trump". "If I wasn't in the White House, Leo wouldn't be in the Vatican." Asked by reporters to explain the post, he later said: "I don't think he's doing a very good job, he likes crime, I guess." Trump added: "He's a very liberal person, and he's a man who doesn't believe in stopping crime, he's a man who doesn't believe we should be toying with a country that wants a nuclear weapon so they can blow up the world." In response, the Pope told reporters on board his plane to Algiers that he did not see his role as that of a politician but as one of spreading the message of peace.

Ghanaian footballer killed after armed attackers open fire at team bus

Ghanaian footballer Dominic Frimpong has died after suspected armed robbers opened fire at the bus carrying his team Berekum Chelsea back from a match. "Masked men wielding guns and assault rifles" ambushed the bus and "blocked the road" as the team returned home on Sunday, according to the club. Police say Frimpong sustained gunshot wounds and died while receiving treatment. A manhunt for the suspects is under way. The Ghana Football Association (GFA) expressed its "profound shock and deep sorrow", describing the 20-year-old as a "promising young talent whose dedication and passion for the game embodied the spirit of our league". The



team was on the road back from a Ghana Premier League game against Samartex in Samreboi - 270km (170 miles) away from Berekum - which they lost 1-0. "[The men] started shooting at our bus as the driver tried to reverse," Berekum Chelsea said in a statement on Monday. "The players and staff fled into nearby bushes to take cover."

Katya Adler: Jubilation in Budapest will be felt in Europe but leaves Moscow cold

Budapest's iconic Chain Bridge links both sides of the city - beautiful Buda with vibrant Pest - across the river Danube. At night, the lights that illuminate the bridge shimmer like mini moons in the waters below. Normally, it's a favourite spot for tourist selfies - but not this Sunday. Following a historic election result that unceremoniously booted Prime Minister Viktor Orbán out after 16 years in government, the bridge was lit up in red, white and green - the colours of the Hungarian flag. Supporters of the triumphant Péter Magyar and his Tisza party said they felt they were getting their country back. A sense Magyar reflected back to them in his victory speech. "We did it," he said.



"We brought down the Orbán regime - together we liberated Hungary. We took back our homeland! Thank you! Thank you all!" There was a definite sense here that history was being made. Voter turnout was record-breaking. Despite Orbán's iron grip on state media, the

changes he introduced to the electoral system to favour his party and the huge influence his friends and family members have in positions of power in the "illiberal democracy" he said he turned Hungary into, the Fidesz leader was totally trounced at the polls. I

watched crowds of first-time voters dancing through Budapest's backstreets, drunk with a heady mix of hope and incredulity in the early hours of Monday morning. "I cried when I put the X on my ballot paper," Zsófia told me. "I still can't quite believe we did it. But we did!" As Zsófia spoke, her group of friends were loudly chanting "Russians Go home!" It's an ironic full circle for Orbán. He became famous in 1989 in then-communist Hungary, calling on Russians to go home in a passionate speech he gave in the dying days of the Soviet Union. It's a phrase that first ricocheted through Budapest during Hungary's ill-fated anti-communist uprising of 1956. But over the years, Orbán changed his political stripes.

PERU ELECTION DRAGS INTO SECOND DAY AFTER BALLOT DELIVERY FIASCO

The results of the general election in Peru have been delayed after tens of thousands of people were unable to vote due to technical and logistical problems at a number of polling stations. The electoral authorities have granted a one-day extension to more than 50,000 voters who could not cast their ballots on Sunday. A preliminary count of half the votes that were cast put conservative candidate Keiko Fujimori slightly ahead of the right-wing former mayor of the capital, Lima, Rafael López Aliaga - but the battle for second place is still very close-run. All candidates are far short of the 50% of votes needed to

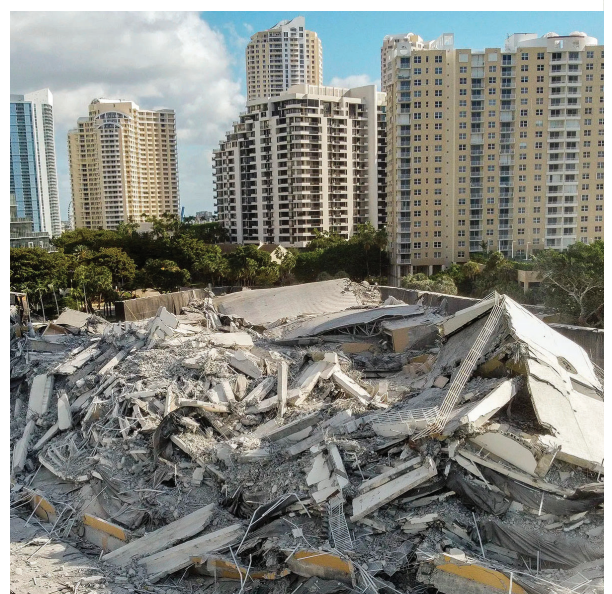


win outright, making a run-off between the top two candidates on 7 June almost certain. Voters who experienced problems in Lima and at polling stations abroad - such as in Orlando, Florida and Paterson, New Jersey - will be able to cast their ballots on Monday, the elec-

toral authorities ruled. Scores of polling stations opened late or, in some cases, not at all. Peru's current President José María Balcázar said that the company hired to deliver the voting material had failed to do so in time. Voting is mandatory for Peruvians

aged between 18 and 70, and those failing to cast their vote can incur a fine. In total, more than 27 million of Peruvians were asked to vote for members of both houses of Congress and for a new president. Whoever wins the presidential race will replace the 83-year-old Balcázar, who has only been in the job since February. Peru's political establishment has been rocked by a series of scandals and impeachments that have led to the resignations, ousters and impeachments of six presidents in the last decade. The last president to serve out his term in full was Ollanta Humala, who governed from 2011 to 2016.

Controlled demolition brings down luxury Miami hotel in seconds



A hotel at one of Miami's most exclusive locations was demolished to make way for something even bigger. Demolition experts conducted the controlled implosion of the former Mandarin Oriental, Miami on Brickell Key, on 12 April. The human-made island is at the mouth of the Miami River, across from downtown. This marks the largest implosion for Miami in more than a decade. The 23-story building opened 25 years ago and collapsed within seconds following the blast. According to Swire Properties, the demolition will make way for the groundbreaking of The Residences at Mandarin Oriental, Miami. Will Smith, Penelope Cruz and the Real Madrid soccer team were guests. The resort's signature restaurant Azul, which closed in 2019, was once helmed by Miami celebrity chef

Michelle Bernstein. And in 2024, it was one of 10 hotels in Miami-Dade County awarded one Michelin key in the prestigious French guide's debut ratings of accommodations. Yet, none of that was enough for the current edition of the Mandarin Oriental on Brickell Key in South Florida's frenetic real estate and hospitality markets. On Sunday morning just after 8:30 a.m., the 23-story building and 6-story parking garage came tumbling down. The hotel is gone. It marked the largest implosion for Miami in more than a decade, officials said. The collapse started slowly. Blue and pink smoke began to billow from the top of the building, followed by explosions and a soft roar that crescendoed to a giant thud as all floors collapsed in under 20 seconds.

US BLOCKADE OF IRANIAN PORTS TAKES EFFECT AS TRUMP THREATENS TO DESTROY 'ATTACK SHIPS'

Two people in the northern Israeli city of Nahariya are being treated by medics following reports of strikes being fired at the city, according to Israel's Magen David Adom emergency service. One of those being treated is a 60-year-old woman, who sustained minor injuries due to a "projectile", it writes on Telegram. Lebanon's state-run National News Agency reports that Hezbollah today announced an air attack on the Liman barracks, north of Nahariya, as part of a wider set of strikes. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) says it has intercepted more than 10 missiles launched from Lebanon at Israel and its forces operating in southern Lebanon since this morning.

The military also said earlier today it was expanding its operations in the south of Lebanon. The video shows rubble where a building once stood and damage to the wall of a neighbouring structure. It is not clear what the intended target was. We've confirmed the location of the footage and verified that it was first shared online earlier today, indicating that it's recent. Separately, the Israeli military says it is close to capturing the Hezbollah stronghold of Bint Jbeil in southern Lebanon. Let's turn now to the situation in Lebanon, where fighting has continued despite a ceasefire between the US and Iran, which Israel says does not apply to its campaign against



Hezbollah. According to the latest figures from Lebanon's public health ministry, 2,089 people - including 166 children - been killed in the country since 2 March, reports the

state-run National News Agency. An additional 6,762 people have been injured, it adds. Back in the UK Parliament in London, Prime Minister Keir Starmer has

just finished updating MPs on the situation in the Middle East. Here's a quick rundown of what he said: The US-Iran ceasefire agreement was "undeniably welcome", but Lebanon must be included under the terms. He hoped negotiations would continue without further escalations, including in the Strait of Hormuz - a "running sore", which has been "shamefully exploited" by Iran. The impact of Iran's behaviour was causing "untold" economic damage, visible "on every petrol court in the country". Businesses in the energy, shipping, insurance and finance sectors told him that vessels would not travel through the strait "until it is safe to do so"

Dozens of countries will convene a summit later this week on the situation in the vital waterway. It will focus diplomatic efforts towards a negotiated end to the conflict and reopening the strait, and military planning to "provide assurance for shipping" at that point. As we've reported, Donald Trump has threatened to strike forcefully any small Iranian "fast attack ships" that threaten the US blockade. As Trump alluded to, most of the US strikes focused on Iranian naval targets have been larger vessels and submarines, which were seen as strategically important targets to ensure American military dominance in the Persian Gulf.



Formula 1 Likely To Make India Return In 2027, Government Working To Resolve Tax Issues

The roar of high-performance engines is set to return to the Buddh International Circuit (BIC), as the Indian Government has officially signalled its intent to bring Formula 1 back to the country by 2027. Following recent discussions, the Sports Minister has expressed confidence that the long-standing hurdles that saw the Indian Grand Prix exit the calendar after 2013 are finally being dismantled. While the Indian Government has declared itself "ready" to host the race, the final inclusion depends on the FIA and Formula One Management (FOM). The BIC is expected to be a serious contender for a slot on the 2027 calendar. "We are aiming to host Formula 1 in 2027. We have had favourable talks with the FIA. The event will be held at the Buddh International Circuit in Noida, even though we have tracks in Chennai



and Hyderabad. MotoGP will come to India before Formula One does," Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said during a briefing. Historically, the "tax-heavy" classification of F1 as entertainment rather than sport was what drove the sport away from India. The Ministry has indicated that tax

issues will be settled, providing the fiscal clarity required by international organisers and teams. The Ministry has set a tight deadline, stating that all logistical and circuit-related arrangements for Formula 1 will be completed within the next three to six months. "All the tax and infrastructure issues

will be settled. In the next 3-6 months, India will be ready to host Formula One once again," Mandaviya said. The BIC, located in Greater Noida, remains one of the most technical and well-regarded tracks designed by Hermann Tilke. Despite the hiatus, the circuit has recently hosted successful interna-

tional events, including MotoGP, proving its capability to handle world-class racing. The Sports Minister also revealed that India is set to host a MotoGP event before the return of F1. "MotoGP will come to India before Formula One does. The FMSCI will be given recognition. They will have the next round of talks with the FIA and also sign a contract for the event to happen in India. Three companies have spoken to me and shown their interest in organising Formula 1 in India," he concluded. Formula One races were held in Noida for only three seasons (2011, 2012, and 2013) at the Buddh International Circuit in Greater Noida. Sebastian Vettel, driving for Red Bull Racing, won all three editions of the event. The return of F1 is viewed as more than just a sporting event, but a strategic move to boost India's profile as a global sports hub.

Brett Lee Pays Emotional Tribute To Asha Bhosle: "Fortunate To Have Shared A Small Moment"

Australian cricket legend Brett Lee paid a beautiful tribute to the iconic Indian singer Asha Bhosle, who passed away on 12 April at the age of 92. Lee remains one of the few cricketers who had the privilege of working with Bhosle, the two famously collaborating on the track 'You're the One for Me' in 2007. The song remains fresh in the minds of cricket lovers in India, as such a crossover was never seen again. Taking to Instagram, Lee recalled his meeting with Bhosle and lauded her for being so humble despite her stardom. "I had the pleasure of writing and recording You're the One for Me with Asha Bhosle back in 2006. It's something I'll always be incredibly grateful for. What stayed with me most wasn't just her extraordinary talent, but how kind and humble she was. For someone who had achieved so much in her life, she carried herself with such



warmth and generosity," Lee wrote on Instagram. "My thoughts are with her family and friends at this time. I feel very fortunate to have shared even a small moment with someone so special. There's no doubt her legacy will live on for generations to come," he added. In his autobiography, My Life: Brett Lee, he opened up about the memorable collaboration, revealing that the music video for the song was filmed during his visit to India for the 2006 Champions Trophy. The

cricketer even lent his voice to Hindi lines in the track, including "Haan, main tumhara hu, tumhara hi rahunga." "I had great fun. I didn't tell any of my teammates what I was up to, when I went to shoot, I told them I was just going for a look through the streets. Four months after that whirlwind recording experience, I caught up with Asha when she visited Sydney to perform at the Opera House. She gave me her compilation album with a personally signed message.

"1st IPL Match To Be Longer Than Dhurandhar 2": 4 Hour, 23 Minutes Long MI vs RCB Sets Social Media Abuzz

One thing the T20 format brought for fans was fast-paced action. With the advent of the format, fans could watch a full cricket match in less than four hours. However, the Mumbai Indians vs Royal Challengers Bengaluru IPL 2026 match was nowhere close to that. The toss for the match took place at 7 pm IST, and the last ball of the game was bowled after 11:45 pm. According to some reports, the match ran for four hours and 23 minutes, making it the longest IPL game without a Super Over. Joy Bhattacharjya, who earlier served as Team Director of Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), made an intriguing and hilarious comment. "Another record for the IPL. The first match which was longer than Dhurandhar



2!" he wrote on X. The runtime of Dhurandhar: The Revenge was close to three hours and 50 minutes. Meanwhile, Royal Challengers Bengaluru skipper Rajat Patidar expressed pride in his team's performances and stated that consist-

tently posting 200-plus totals shows the amount of talent in the squad. RCB continued their strong run in IPL 2026 with an 18-run victory over Mumbai Indians at the Wankhede Stadium, registering their highest-ever total at the venue. Riding on a blister-

ing 78 off 36 balls by Phil Salt, who was named Player of the Match, and a captain's knock of 53 off 20 balls by Rajat Patidar, RCB posted a formidable total on Sunday. With the ball, Krunal Pandya (1/26) and Suyash Sharma (2/47) played key roles in restricting Mumbai's chase. Reflecting on the team's consistent batting performances, skipper Patidar said, "At the moment, it feels like we are scoring 200-plus in every match. It gives me a lot of confidence, and as a captain, I feel like I have a lot of talent in the team." Patidar, who also recorded the fastest fifty by a captain in the tournament's history with a 17-ball half-century, elaborated on his batting approach: "I don't really think too much about how I want to play.

"What Are You Saying?" Yuvraj Singh Reveals How Gary Kirsten Stumped Indian Team With Bold Promise

Gary Kirsten oversaw a period in Indian cricket during which India dominated world cricket. The dressing room at that time (2008 to 2011) consisted of cricketing giants like Sachin Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag, and Zaheer Khan, as well as relatively younger superstars such as MS Dhoni, Yuvraj Singh, and Virat Kohli. Kirsten did a commendable job of holding the dressing room together and was the coach of the 2011 World Cup-winning team. Former India all-rounder Yuvraj Singh has highlighted the transformative impact of former head coach Gary Kirsten on Indian cricket, recalling how his man-management skills and belief in players played a



defining role in the team's success between 2008 and 2011. Speaking to former England captain Michael Vaughan on India's white-ball growth during Kirsten's tenure from 2008 to 2011, Yuvraj reflected on the South African's arrival at a crucial phase, when India were building towards a

period of sustained dominance across formats. "I think Gary Kirsten was a big influence at that moment. Gary was a good man. We needed a good guy - that's all we wanted. Someone who said, 'Guys, let's be one on the park. Let's be together.' And Gary was very hardworking," Yuvraj said in a video

shared by the Stick to Cricket podcast on Monday. "And I think the day he came, he said that in the next four years, till the 2011 World Cup, we are going to be the number one T20 side, the number one Test side, and the number one ODI side. And a couple of guys looked at each other like, 'What are you saying?' And that's what we did in the next four years - while Australia were dominating as well. So, I think his intention was good. He is a good man, and he took Indian cricket to a different level," he added. Kirsten's tenure coincided with one of India's most successful phases, culminating in the 2011 ICC Cricket World Cup triumph and consistent top rankings across formats.

"Did You Say Like A Movie?" Pakistani Reporter's IPL Question Leaves Overseas Coach In Splits

Yet another Pakistan Super League (PSL) press conference saw an Indian Premier League (IPL) question leave everyone stunned on Sunday. Former New Zealand cricketer Jacob Oram, who is coaching the Islamabad United team, was asked to draw his conclusions on a comparative statement made between the two T20 leagues on either side of the border by South African cricketer Rilee Rossouw. Oram, however, was left in stitches when the reporter finished his question. Rossouw had called IPL a longer tournament, in comparison to PSL, while also suggesting that since there are many Bollywood owners in the Indian league, it feels like a movie. Reporter: Recently, Rilee Rossouw said the Pakistan Super League is a more competitive and compact league, and IPL feels like a movie rather than actual cricket. So what's your thought on it? Jacob Oram: Did you say like a movie? (laughing) Reporter: I didn't say it, Rilee Rossouw did. Jacob Oram: "Similar tournaments but very different. The IPL is twice as long, but I haven't coached in the IPL, I have only played there. That was a long time ago. It has grown into a bit of a behemoth. In terms of



coaching, this is my first opportunity in the PSL, and I am loving it. The Islamabad United group, from the staff to the players to everyone, has been so welcoming. I would love to have crowds here, for the atmosphere and the vibe, but I understand the reasons why they are not here. Everything else is well looked after, well catered for. So far, so good here, loving it. We are very happy to be here." Since the PSL 2026 season started, a clear pattern in press conferences has been seen.

Kochi's Kalina Rangers Clinch Maiden Red Bull Four 2 Score National Championship

The Red Bull Four 2 Score National Finals concluded with a spectacular display of football, as amateur players from across the country battled it out for the coveted title and the opportunity to represent India on the global stage. The high-energy 4v4 tournament lived up to its reputation, delivering intense action and showcasing the immense talent of grassroots footballers. Mumbai City FC star and Indian National team forward Vikram Pratap Singh was also present on the occasion. In the finals, Team Kalina Rangers from Kochi emerged victorious with the help of a sudden death golden goal by Tyson Patel, defeating all other teams to bag the bragging rights and a chance to represent India at the World Finals. The Best



of India Rise to the Occasion Throughout the competition, teams from 10 cities showcased their talent, resilience, and passion for the sport. After weeks of exhilarating qualifiers, the National Finals in Coimbatore saw the best of India go head-to-head in a battle for supremacy. The

victorious team Kalina Rangers will now embark on an even greater journey, the Road to the World Finals in Canada, where they will represent India at the Red Bull Four 2 Score World Final later this year, where they will be looking to etch their name in Red Bull Four 2 Score history.

R VAISHALI UNDER PRESSURE IN WOMEN'S CANDIDATES



Indian Grandmaster R Vaishali will be under pressure when she takes on former women's world champion Zhongyi Tan of China in the penultimate round of the Candidates chess tournament in Paphos. Vaishali, who was leading by a full point, suffered a setback in the 12th round, playing with white she lost to China's Jiner Zhu, who has now drawn level at the top of the points table. Vaishali will need to regroup after the final rest day of the tournament, which will determine the challenger to reigning world champion Wenjun Ju of China. Apart from Zhongyi, Vaishali also faces a tricky challenge from Russia's Kateryna Lagno, who may be out of title contention but remains a formidable opponent. Kazakhstan's Bibisara Assaubayeva is also in the hunt after a hard-fought win over Lagno, while Ukraine's Anna Muzychuk too remains in contention. The two are trailing the leaders by half a point, setting up a potentially thrilling finish. Vaishali and Zhu share the lead on seven points, with

Assaubayeva and Muzychuk close behind on 6.5 points. The Russian duo of Aleksandra Goryachkina and Lagno are on 5.5, while India's Divya Deshmukh and Tan are further back on five points. It is clear that a lot can go right-or-wrong for all the four players in contention. In the open section, Uzbekistan's Javokhir Sindarov is firmly in control with nine points and is just a draw away from securing a shot at the world title against India's D Gukesh later this year. Dutch Grandmaster Anish Giri, who is on seven points, remains the only realistic challenger and is set to face Sindarov in a crucial clash in the next round. If Anish wins he might still have a chance. However, as things have been unfolding here, there is a very remote chance of that happening. Fabiano Caruana is third on six points, followed by American compatriot Hikaru Nakamura, Wei Yi and Matthias Bluebaum of Germany, while India's R Pragmanandhaa is further down the standings on five points, a half point ahead of Andrev Esibenko of Russia.

Jannik Sinner Beats Carlos Alcaraz In Straight Sets In Monte Carlo Final To Reclaim No. 1 Ranking

Jannik Sinner beat defending champion Carlos Alcaraz 7-6 (5), 6-3 on Sunday to win the Monte Carlo Masters for the first time and reclaim the world No. 1 ranking from his biggest rival. "The result is amazing," Sinner said. "Getting back to No. 1 means a lot to me." Four-time Grand Slam champion Sinner met seven-time major winner Alcaraz in their ninth final, in what is often referred to as the "Sinner-Alcaraz" rivalry. Sinner trimmed Alcaraz's head-to-head lead to 10-7 while clinching his 27th career title overall and his

first Masters title on clay. The 24-year-old Italian will return to the top spot in the ATP rankings on Monday. Sinner rallied from 3-1 down in the second set amid blustery conditions at the Monte Carlo Country Club and served out the match, clinching it on his first match point when Alcaraz returned a forehand long. "It was a bit windy, a bit breezy - different conditions from what the tournament has brought," Sinner said. "I am very happy to win a big title on this surface. I haven't done it before, and it means a lot to me." Alcaraz had won his previous 17 match-

es on clay but struggled on Sunday, committing 45 unforced errors. Nevertheless, he praised Sinner. "It is impressive what you are achieving right now," Alcaraz said. "Congratulations on everything." Sinner dropped to his knees after Alcaraz's shot landed out and then jogged over to celebrate with his box. "I felt a bit tired, so I tried to keep the right mentality," Sinner said. "Winning this trophy means a lot to me." It was Sinner's third title of the year after sweeping Indian Wells and Miami - also winning those finals in straight

sets - to become only the fourth man to reach the finals at the first three Masters events of the season. He joined Novak Djokovic (in 2015) as the only player to win the first three Masters tournaments of the year. Alcaraz's two titles this season include the Australian Open, where the 22-year-old Spaniard became the youngest man to win all four Grand Slam tournaments. He produced a stunning comeback to beat Sinner in last year's French Open final, then lost the Wimbledon final to Sinner before defeating him again in the U.S. Open final.



Title and first look poster of the film “Chiranjeevi” unveiled by Mega Brother Nagababu

The film “Chiranjeevi,” starring Kiku Yamanala and Kashish Khan in the lead roles, has officially launched its title and first look poster. The film also features key roles played by Tanikella Bharani, Eswari Rao, Goparaju Ramana, Srikanth Bharath, Viva Raghav, and others. The movie is being produced under the Kiku Entertainments banner by Deepti Nadiminti, with Sai Venkat as the director. “Chiranjeevi” is gearing up for a summer release. Recently, the film’s title and first look poster were launched by Mega Brother Nagababu. On this occasion, the film team expressed their gratitude to Nagababu. The story revolves around a young man named Chiru, who has dextrocardia (a rare condition in which the heart is located on the right side of the chest). The film portrays how he overcomes the struggles and challenges in his life and how he manages to achieve his goals despite his rare medical condition. The director Sai Venkat has crafted the film in an engaging and inspiring manner throughout. The movie is set to be released in the summer with all elements designed to engage



the audience. The makers will soon announce the official release date of “Chiranjeevi.”

“RK Deeksha” Movie in Censor Process – Releasing Soon: Director & Producer Dr. Pratani Ramakrishna Goud



Under the banners of RK Films and Sigdha Creations, Dr. Pratani Ramakrishna Goud is directing and producing the film “RK Deeksha”, presented by D.S. Reddy. The movie stars Dhee and Jodi fame Aksa Khan and Alekhya Reddy as heroines, with Kiran as the hero. Tulasi, Anusha, Keerthana, Pravallika, and Rohit Sharma play other key roles. The film is currently undergoing censor formalities and will soon be released grandly in theatres, said director-producer Dr. Pratani Ramakrishna Goud during a press meet. Heroine Aksa Khan said “I thank Ramakrishna Goud garu for giving me this opportunity to act in ‘RK Deeksha’. After

this movie, I am also doing a women’s kabaddi-based film in the same combination. I performed a song titled ‘Nandi Nandi’ in this film, which is based on the theme of Nandi Awards. This song will surely impress everyone. I request your support for our film.”

Actress Tulasi said

“I played the role of the heroine’s friend in this movie. I have scenes with Aksa Khan and Alekhya Reddy. I wish ‘RK Deeksha’ becomes a big success.” Presenter D.S. Reddy said “We made this film with a strong message that determination can help achieve anything. Every actor in this film will gain recognition through their performances.

T Gopichand, Sankalp Reddy, Srinivasaa Chitturi, Srinivasaa Silver Screen, Presented By Pavan Kumar- Historical Film #Gopichand33 Titled Powerfully Bharata Varsha, Epic Glimpse Unveiled

T Gopichand is stepping into a new era of his career with #Gopichand33, an ambitious historical action drama directed by the very talented Sankalp Reddy. Backed by producer Srinivasaa Chitturi of Srinivasaa Silver Screen and presented by Pavan Kumar, the project is being crafted as one of the most extravagant and technically rich films in Gopichand’s filmography. The makers unveiled the film’s title through a striking and power-packed glimpse. Set against the backdrop of 642 AD, the glimpse opens in the land of Shula before plunging into a riveting montage of high-octane action. Massive war sequences, fierce close-ups of battle-hardened warriors, and intense combat featuring swords, axes, and fire-lit confrontations create an arresting visual experience. The title, Bharata Varsha, is finally revealed—resonating with power and pride, symbolizing the land of Bharata (India). The film stands out with its sweeping visuals, intricate production design, and a richly detailed recreation of a bygone era. Sankalp Reddy’s vision shines through as he brings to life a lesser-explored chapter of Indian history, blending scale with substance. Beyond its grandeur, the



film promises emotionally charged storytelling and action set pieces of epic proportions, rooted in forgotten legacies. Gopichand undergoes a remarkable transformation for the role, embodying the spirit of a fierce warrior with striking authenticity. His commitment to the character is evident in both his physical makeover and commanding screen presence, marking a clear departure from his earlier roles. Ritu Varma stars as the female

lead. On the technical front, cinematographer Soundar Rajan vividly recreates the historical milieu, while production designer Chinna crafts immersive and authentic settings. Complementing the visuals is Anudeep Dev’s powerful background score, which amplifies the film’s dramatic intensity. Backed by top-notch production values, Srinivasaa Silver Screen ensures a cinematic experience of international standards.

“Therachaapa” Team Celebrates Grand Pre-Release Event Ahead of April 17 Release

The much-awaited film “Therachaapa”, produced by Kailash Durgam under the Ananya Creations banner and directed by Joel George, is all set for a grand theatrical release on April 17. Featuring Naveenraj sankarapu, Pooja Suhasini, and Sreelu in lead roles, the film also stars Rajeev Kanakala, Prithviraj, Jagadeesh Prathap Bandari, Fish Venkat, Jabardasth Ashok, Nagi, Apparao, Rising Raju, Rajesh Bhupathi, Naga Vamsi, Srinivas Nesa, Chandra, and many others in pivotal roles. With cinematography by Azeem and Venkat, music composed by Prajal Krish, and background score by M.L. Raja, the film has already garnered strong buzz through its songs, teaser, and trailer, all of which have received an over-



whelming response. Editing is handled by Raju Bodasingi, while choreography is by Jeevan George. Ahead of its release, the team organized a grand pre-release event, attended by the cast, crew, and prominent guests from the industry. Speaking at the event, actor Rajeev Kanakala appreciated producer Kailash Durgam for his dedication and belief in the

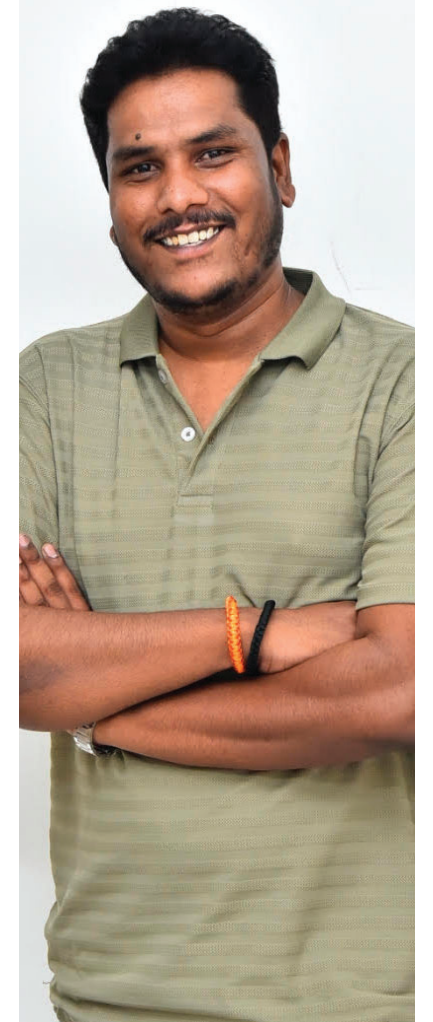
project. He highlighted the physical challenges faced during the shoot, especially filming barefoot on the scorching beach, and praised Naveen Raj for his commitment and emotional dedication to the film, which he has dedicated to his father. Actor Prithviraj shared that despite acting in many films, “Therachaapa” holds a special place in his heart,

as it portrays the lives of fishermen in a realistic manner. He also expressed happiness about sharing screen space with his daughter Sreelu. Actor Naga Mahesh mentioned that his role in the film is unique and will present him in a new light, while Jagadeesh (Pushpa fame) spoke about his bond with Naveen Raj and the team’s collective hard work.

“Thimmarajupalli TV” is a pure suspense drama. The film keeps the audience on the edge of their seats throughout, constantly making them wonder what will happen next: director V. Muniraju

Encouraging new talent, hero Kiran Abbavaram is producing the film under his KA Productions banner in association with Sumaira Studios, with Teja Velpucharla as co-producer. The film introduces Sai Tej and Veda Jalandharr as the lead pair, while V. Muniraju makes his debut as a director. Set against a rural backdrop, this period drama is gearing up for a grand theatrical release on April 17th. In a recent interview, the director shared key highlights of the film. Becoming a director has always been my dream. After entering the industry, I started working in online editing to earn a living. Over time, I felt like I was drifting away from my goal of direction. So I wrote a script, went back to my village, and shot a demo with local people. After returning, I completed the post-production work. Later, during the shoot of the

film Meter, I met Kiran Abbavaram. He asked me what I was working on, and I told him about my demo film. He liked it and asked about the story. After hearing the script, he encouraged me to develop it fully and said we could make it into a film. That’s how Thimmarajupalli TV began. The story of Thimmarajupalli TV is inspired by incidents I witnessed in my childhood. The characters, their emotions, and my personal experiences are all reflected in the film. When I wanted to tell a story on screen, I thought, why not make it about my own village? When television first arrived in our village, it felt like a theater had come to us. This is a story that many villages can relate to. Anyone above 40 would have experienced similar moments related to television. While portraying village life and human ego, the film also delivers strong emotional content toward the end.



NTR’S BEAST MODE FOR DRAGON LEAVES FANS STUNNED

One upcoming pan-India film which has been regularly making headlines due to frequent rumours about its shooting formalities is NTR’s much anticipated action saga with director Prashanth Neel. Tentatively titled Dragon, the big-budget entertainer has been in the making for nearly a year, but not even a single poster or glimpse has been unveiled so far. Despite not giving any update, the team is maintaining that the shooting is progressing at a brisk pace. With NTR’s birthday arriving in just over a month, fans have been waiting with a bated breath for the first glimpse from this film.



Ram Charan Stuns with His Monstrous Wet Look

Nobody expected this. A superstar in a dark long coat holding flowers and a dog in a busy Asian market, and somehow still the most dangerous man in the frame. Then he walked into water. Slicked his hair back. Looked straight into the camera. And said nothing. He did not need to. The Esquire India April 2026 cover did not just feature Global star Ram Charan. It announced a completely different version of

him, sharper, rawer and more powerful than anything seen before. Look at every frame carefully. Nobody expected this. A superstar in a dark long coat holding flowers and a dog in a busy Asian market, and somehow still the most dangerous man in the frame. The navy double-breasted long coat with a half-open shirt and aviator glass-

es screams KGF-level swagger. The thick beard, wet hair slicked back, gold chain dripping water from an infinity pool with a city skyline behind him, that is not a photoshoot. That is a statement. Showcasing an effortlessly cool demeanor, the actor looks breathtakingly sharp in his latest photoshoot. The aquatic shots reveal a raw, magnetic intensity, while his sophisticated street-style look exudes pure swag. His ability to carry complex, stylish looks with such ease is truly commendable. This magnetic off-screen persona is naturally fueling the fire for his highly awaited cinematic return in Peddi.