



**Samrat Choudhary**  
elected BJP legislative  
party leader, set to be  
next Bihar CM

NATION | NEWS

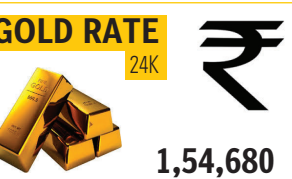
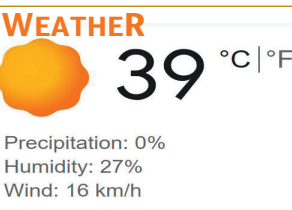
**Trump says Iran talks could**  
resume 'over next two days' as  
ships pass Hormuz Strait  
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**Ram Charan Stuns with His**  
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SCAN FOR  
E-PAPEROM NAMO  
VENKATESAYA

INBRIFS

## AMIT SHAH PROMISES POLITICAL SOLUTION FOR NORTH BENGAL HILLS

Kolkata TSIT: Union home minister Amit Shah stated that if the Bharatiya Janata Party comes to power in the upcoming West Bengal Assembly Elections, it will work towards a lasting political resolution for the hill regions of Darjeeling, Kurseong, and Kalimpong without separating them from the state. Addressing a public rally in Gangarampur in West Dinajpur district, Shah said the proposed solution would address the long-standing demands of the Gorkha community while keeping the hills within West Bengal.

## 2,926 CANDIDATES IN FRAY FOR BENGAL POLLS

KOLKATA (TSIT): A total of 2,926 candidates remain in the fray for the upcoming West Bengal assembly elections following the completion of the nomination withdrawal process, the Election Commission said on Tuesday. According to an official press note issued by the poll panel, 1,478 candidates will contest in 152 constituencies in the first phase, while 1,448 candidates are in the race for 142 constituencies going to polls in the second phase. The last date for filing nominations for the second phase was April 9, with scrutiny held on April 10 and withdrawals permitted till April 13.

## 'Final warning...': Stalin threatens massive agitation over delimitation



Chennai (TSIT): Issuing a direct warning to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin cautioned that the state will launch a massive agitation if the Union government proceeds with the proposed delimitation exercise that could reduce its parliamentary representation.

In a strongly worded video message posted on X, Stalin questioned the rationale behind the move, particularly in the context of southern states like Tamil Nadu that have successfully implemented population control measures. "Is delimitation a punishment for Tamil Nadu, which

succeeded in population control?" he asked, warning that the state would resist what he described as an impending "injustice at its doorstep".

Stalin alleged that the Centre is attempting to push ahead with the delimitation process without consulting states, calling it a unilateral decision that undermines the federal structure. He stressed that Tamil Nadu would not remain passive if its political voice is weakened. "If the Union government proceeds with this exercise, Tamil Nadu will undertake a massive protest," he said, adding that the issue goes beyond electoral considerations. "For us, elections and

governance are secondary -- policy and self-respect come first." Stalin asserted, underlining the emotional and political weight of the issue.

The Chief Minister also expressed concern over the timing and manner in which a possible parliamentary session may be convened to take forward the process. Referring to reports of a special sitting, he remarked that the Parliament may not be convened in the usual manner and could instead be "forcibly brought together", suggesting a lack of transparency.

Stalin further warned that if any move affecting state representation is introduced during the session, Tamil Nadu would respond with full-scale protests. He reiterated that the Centre has not sought the views of states like Tamil Nadu before attempting to implement such a critical exercise. In a striking escalation, Stalin cautioned that the Union government would witness "a Tamil Nadu it has never seen before" if delimitation is imposed. Invoking the legacy of the Dravidian movement, he said the country may once again see a resurgence of the kind of political resistance associated with the DMK in the 1950s and 1960s.

## China warns US against interference as Hormuz blockade tensions escalate



Beijing, Apr 14 (TSIT): China has issued a strong warning to the United States over its decision to impose a blockade in the Strait of Hormuz, urging Washington not to interfere in Beijing's trade and energy ties with Iran. Chinese Defence Minister Dong Jun on Monday said that China would continue to honour its agreements with Tehran, asserting that Chinese vessels would keep operating in the region despite escalating tensions. "Our ships are moving in and out of the waters of the

Strait of Hormuz. We have trade and energy agreements with Iran. We will respect and honour those agreements and expect others to not to interfere in our affairs," he said.

He also maintained that Iran controls the strait and that it remains open for Chinese shipping.

The warning comes after the United States Central Command enforced a naval blockade, leading to disruptions in maritime movement. At least two oil and chemical tankers were

reportedly forced to turn back, including a vessel bound for China that reversed course shortly after the blockade took effect.

The Strait of Hormuz remains a critical energy corridor for China, supplying nearly 40 per cent of its oil and around 30 per cent of its LNG requirements. Any disruption in the region has significant implications for global energy markets.

US President Donald Trump announced that vessels entering or leaving Iranian ports would be stopped, warning that any Iranian naval craft approaching US ships would be "eliminated."

CENTCOM stated that the blockade would be enforced impartially on vessels of all nations operating in and around Iranian ports, including those along the Arabian Gulf and Gulf of Oman. The development follows the collapse of recent talks between the US and Iran, which were aimed at reaching a broad agreement after a temporary ceasefire, further heightening tensions in the region.

## Centre tables Constitution Amendment Bill to expand Lok Sabha to 850 seats



New Delhi (TSIT): The Union government has proposed increasing the strength of the Lok Sabha from 543 to 850 members through The Constitution (One Hundred and Thirty First Amendment) Bill, 2026, to be taken up during a special session of Parliament on April 16 and 17. Under the proposed amendment to Article 81, a maximum of 815 members will be chosen from states, with not more than 35 members to be chosen from Union Territories (UT). The Bill also proposes amending Article 82, which currently governs the readjustment of parliamentary constituencies following each Census. The proposed amendment seeks to delete the existing proviso mandating that the next delimitation exercise be carried out based on the first Census conducted after 2026, thereby allowing delimitation to proceed before the 2026-27 Census is completed. Alongside the Constitution Amendment Bill, the Centre is also moving the Delimitation Bill, 2026, to repeal and replace the Delimitation Act, 2002.

## AP becomes India's first quantum technology hub: CM Naidu



Amaravati (TSIT): Andhra Pradesh has emerged as India's first quantum technology hub with the inauguration of open-access quantum reference facilities by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. The Chief Minister inaugurated the Amaravati Quantum Reference Facility-1 at SRM University AP and virtually launched Facility-2 at Medha Towers, marking a major step in the state's technological advancement. The launch coincided with World Quantum Day and the birth anniversary of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.

Naidu described the initiative as a "once-in-a-generation opportunity," stating that the state is committed to developing indigenous quantum computing capabilities and assured full support for innovation and research. The newly launched sys-

tems, Amaravati Quantum 1S and 1Q, are designed as advanced hardware test beds for validation, benchmarking, and real-time performance testing. While the SRM University facility will cater to academic and research needs, the Medha Towers centre will focus on industry applications.

The project has been developed with support from premier institutions such as TIFR, IISc Bengaluru, and DRDO, along with industry partners, with a strong emphasis on domestic supply chains. Highlighting the future potential of quantum technology, the Chief Minister said it could revolutionize sectors like healthcare, agriculture, and advanced research while generating employment in areas such as hardware engineering, software development, and cryogenics.

## CM REVANTH WRITES TO PM MODI, Seeks All-Party Meet on Delimitation; Proposes 'Hybrid Model'

Hyderabad, TSIT: Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging the Union Government to hold wide-ranging consultations and convene an all-party meeting on the proposed delimitation of parliamentary constituencies. In his letter, the Chief Minister stressed that decisions of such national importance must be taken only after building broad consensus among all states and political parties, particularly to ensure fairness for southern states.

He pointed out that delimitation, women's reservation, and the proposed increase in Lok Sabha seats are being wrongly viewed as inter-linked issues, creating confusion



among the public. He clarified that these should be treated separately. Revanth Reddy reaffirmed support for the Women's Reservation Bill and called for the immediate implementation of 33% reservation for women in the existing 543 Lok

Sabha seats, along with similar provisions in State Assemblies. On delimitation, he noted that previous exercises were conducted by redrawing constituency boundaries without increasing the total number of seats, suggesting that a similar approach could be followed now. Expressing concern over proposals to expand Lok Sabha seats to around 850, he warned that a purely population-based (pro-rata) model would disproportionately disadvantage southern states like Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, and Puducherry—states that have achieved better population control and human development outcomes. He also highlighted existing disparities in

central fund allocations, stating that increasing seats on a population basis could further deepen political and economic imbalances. As an alternative, the Chief Minister proposed a "Hybrid Model", under which: 50% of additional seats would be allocated based on population, and 50% based on economic contribution and development indicators. He said this balanced approach would ensure fair representation while safeguarding the interests of progressive states. Calling for inclusive dialogue, Revanth Reddy urged the Prime Minister to initiate discussions to arrive at a solution that upholds federal balance, unity, and democratic fairness.

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## Rahul targets TMC, alleges corruption, violence and political collusion in Bengal

Kolkata, Apr 14 (TSIT): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi launched a sharp attack on the Trinamool Congress during his first campaign rally in Raiganj ahead of the state Assembly elections.

The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha accused the TMC of indirectly strengthening the Bharatiya Janata Party in the state, alleging that the ruling party's governance failures were creating space for the BJP's growth.

Gandhi claimed that despite central fund cuts and stalled welfare schemes such as MGNREGA, the BJP was not financially supporting West Bengal, while blaming the



TMC for misgovernance. He also alleged that both national and state-level politics had failed Bengal, though for different reasons.

Launching a broader attack on corruption, he referred to past scandals such as the Saradha and Rose Valley chit fund cases, as well

as allegations involving coal smuggling, illegal mining, and what he described as a "syndicate system" and "goon tax" affecting transport and trade sectors. He further alleged that corruption benefits only a small network within the ruling party, while ordinary citizens see little development. According to him, promises of large-scale job creation made in 2021 had not materialised, pointing to rising unemployment applications as evidence of economic distress in the state. Raising concerns about governance and law and order, Gandhi referred to incidents of political violence.

## Service above all: Manoj Sinha applauds community kitchen initiative in Jammu

Jammu, Apr 14: In Jammu, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha reaffirmed the importance of compassion and public service, stating that helping those in need is the highest responsibility one can uphold. He was speaking during an event marking the enhancement of Apna Bhojanalaya, a community kitchen operated by Sewa Bharti with support from Jammu and Kashmir Bank and other contributors. The upgraded facility aims to expand its reach and continue providing meals to the underprivileged.

Sharing his thoughts, Sinha praised the organisation's consistent commitment to social welfare. He highlighted that initiatives like Apna Bhojanalaya not only address hunger but also restore dignity and reinforce a sense of community. Strengthening such efforts, he noted, ultimately contributes to building a more compassionate and inclusive society.

Founded in 1979 by Balasaheb Deoras, Sewa Bharti has grown into a major non-governmental organisation focused on empowering disadvantaged sections of society. Its work spans across



education, healthcare, and skill development, particularly in underserved areas known as Sewa Bastis.

The organisation runs kindergartens, student hostels, and coaching centres to support education among economically weaker groups. In the healthcare sector, it operates mobile clinics and organises medical camps to reach those with limited access to services. Additionally, Sewa Bharti promotes self-reliance by

offering vocational training programs, including typing and shorthand courses for youth. With a strong emphasis on women's empowerment, the NGO also establishes sewing and tailoring centres to help women gain financial independence. Functioning through an extensive volunteer network, Sewa Bharti is part of the larger Rashtriya Sewa Bharti framework, continuing its mission of grassroots-level social transformation.

## Noida unrest 'well-planned conspiracy', 300 arrested; Pakistan link under probe: UP minister



Noida, Apr 14: Uttar Pradesh Labour Minister Anil Rajbhar on Monday termed the violence during workers' protests in Noida a "well-planned conspiracy," adding that agencies are probing a possible Pakistan link in light of recent terror-related arrests in the region.

The minister said preliminary findings suggest the unrest may have been aimed at disrupting law and order and development in the state. He noted that four suspected terrorists were recently arrested from Noida and Meerut, with alleged links to handlers based in Pakistan, strengthening suspicions of a broader conspiracy. Rajbhar's remarks came after protests by factory workers demanding a wage hike turned violent across several areas,

including Phase-2, Sector 60, Sector 62 and Sector 84. Incidents of arson, vandalism and stone-pelting were reported, with vehicles torched, property damaged and traffic severely affected.

Police deployed heavy force and used tear gas to disperse crowds and restore control. Authorities have arrested around 300 people in connection with the violence, while over 100 others have been detained for questioning. CCTV footage from factories is being scanned to identify those involved.

The minister further alleged that the unrest may have been intended to disrupt a programme of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Muzaffarnagar, accusing "anti-national forces" of attempting to create instability.

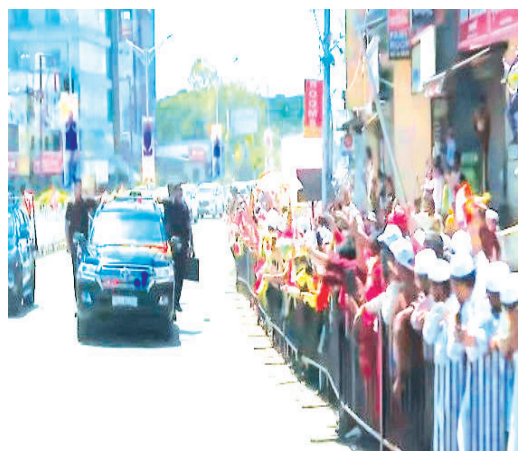
## Samrat Choudhary elected BJP legislative party leader, set to be next Bihar CM



Patna, April 14 : In a major political development, Samrat Choudhary has been elected as the leader of the BJP legislative party, paving the way for him to become the next Chief Minister of Bihar. The decision was taken during a crucial BJP legislative party meeting held on Tuesday at the party's state headquarters on Veer Chand Patel Path in Patna. The meeting was presided over by Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who had been appointed as the central observer by the party leadership. Senior leaders, including BJP National President Nitin Nabin, B. L. Santosh, and Bhikhu Bhai Dalsaniya, were also pres-

ent during the meeting. Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Sinha proposed the name of Samrat Choudhary as the leader of the BJP legislative party leader and it was supported by former Deputy Chief Minister Renu Devi. With consensus achieved across the party, Samrat Choudhary is set to lead the BJP and the government of Bihar. This development signals the beginning of a new political chapter in Bihar, marking the transition from the era of Nitish Kumar to a new leadership under Samrat Choudhary. Earlier in the day, Nitish Kumar officially resigned as Chief Minister after chairing his final cabinet meeting.

## 'Modiji aapka swagat hai' echoes in Dehradun as people welcome PM



Pathak were also present.

An exhibition showcasing the construction procedure of the wildlife corridor was presented, and the officials briefed the Prime Minister about the project. PM Modi also held a roadshow along the Wildlife Corridor in Saharanpur. A large crowd gathered along the road to catch a glimpse of the Prime Minister as he waved back at them.

Many attendees wore costumes and performed traditional folk dances to welcome the Prime Minister.

Later, the Prime Minister will inaugurate the Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor at a public function in Dehradun and address the gathering on the occasion.

The 213 km long six-lane access-controlled Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor has been developed at a cost of over Rs 12,000 crore.

The corridor traverses through the states of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, and will reduce travel time between Delhi and Dehradun from over six hours at present to around two and a half hours.

Dehradun, April 14 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi was warmly welcomed by an enthusiastic crowd during a roadshow in Dehradun on Tuesday, following his arrival in Uttarakhand to inaugurate the Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor. Large numbers of people gathered along the sides of the road, chanting phrases such as "Modiji aapka swagat hai," "Bharat Mata Ki Jai," and "Modi, Modi," while waving the Tricolour and the BJP flag.

Dressed in traditional attire from Uttarakhand, women and children also lined the route to greet the Prime Minister as his convoy passed by the excited crowd. Earlier,

PM Modi offered prayers at the Jai Maa Daat Kali Temple in Dehradun. During his visit, he was welcomed by children dressed in traditional attire who performed the Durga Devi Stotram. He also interacted with other devotees present at the temple. The Prime Minister also reviewed the Wildlife corridor on the elevated section of the Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor in Uttarakhand's Saharanpur.

During this, Union Highways and Transportation Minister Nitin Gadkari, UP Governor Anandiben Patel, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, and Deputy CMs Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh

## EC sets up dedicated helpline for West Bengal voters ahead of polls

Kolkata, Apr 13: In a move to ensure smooth and peaceful elections, the Election Commission of India has launched a dedicated toll-free helpline and email service for voters in West Bengal to report any law-and-order concerns directly.

Apart from the existing nationwide helpline (1950), a special number—18003450008—has been introduced specifically for the upcoming West Bengal Assembly elections. Voters can also lodge complaints via a dedicated email ID set up for the purpose.

The initiative is aimed at enabling citizens to promptly report incidents such as threats, intimidation, violence, or interference with polling agents.

State Chief Electoral Officer Manoj Agrawal said the Commission has already begun receiving complaints related to



law and order, prompting the need for a more direct and responsive communication channel. He assured that every

complaint would be investigated and appropriate action taken. Reaffirming its commitment

to free and fair elections, the Commission has already deployed central security forces across the state. These forces are conducting route marches in sensitive areas to build voter confidence ahead of polling.

Senior officials, including district magistrates, police superintendents, and force coordinators, have jointly appealed to citizens to participate in the voting process without fear. They have also issued strict warnings to potential troublemakers, stating that any attempt to disrupt polling—through booth capturing, intimidation, or harassment—will invite stringent legal action. Authorities emphasised that the elections will be conducted in a manner that is free from violence, coercion, inducement, and malpractice, ensuring that voters can exercise their democratic rights safely and confidently.

## India's passenger vehicle sales jump 16 pc in March: Report

New Delhi, April 14 : Domestic passenger vehicle dispatches to dealers increased by 16 per cent (year-on-year) to 4,42,460 units in March, driven by improved demand and inventory build-up at dealerships, according to data released by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) on Tuesday.

Passenger vehicle wholesales had stood at 3,81,358 units in March last year. Two-wheeler dispatches also recorded strong growth, increasing 19.3 per cent to 1,97,128 units last month



compared to 16,56,939 units in the corresponding period a year ago, the industry body said in a statement.

Similarly, three-wheeler dispatches rose 21.4 per cent year-on-year to 76,273 units

in March, up from 62,813 units in March 2025.

Moreover, domestic passenger vehicle dispatches from companies to dealers had risen 10.6 per cent year-on-year to 4,17,705 units in

February, reflecting continued positive market sentiment, according to data from Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers.

The broader outlook for the passenger vehicle segment also remains positive, though growth is expected to moderate going ahead.

According to an earlier report, the industry is likely to clock wholesale volume growth of around 7-9 per cent in FY26, supported by strong festive demand, recent GST rate cuts and a steady pipeline of new model launches.

## CBI arrests absconding kidnap accused, files chargesheet in Rs 23 crore cyber fraud case

New Delhi, Apr 13: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Monday arrested a fugitive accused in a 2014 abduction case, tracking him down in Surat after years on the run.

The accused, Bhola Singh—also known by aliases Gautam Kumar and Amit Sharma—was apprehended from his hideout where he had been living under a false identity. The case, involving the abduction of two residents from Kolkata, was handed over to the CBI by a High Court. Officials said



Singh had been absconding since 2015 and is wanted in at least 11 cases registered by the Bihar Police, including charges of kidnapping, attempted murder, murder, and possession of illegal arms and explosives. He was located in Surat using forged documents and arrested during a coordinated operation. Following his arrest, Singh was produced before a local court to secure transit remand to Kolkata, where he will be presented before a court for custodial interrogation. In a separate development, the CBI has also filed a chargesheet in a major cyber fraud case involving the alleged cheating of a Delhi-based senior citizen of nearly Rs 23 crore.

## Fresh clashes erupt in Noida as wage protests turn violent again

Noida, Apr 14: Fresh violence broke out in parts of Noida on Tuesday as workers protesting over low wages clashed with police, with incidents of stone-pelting reported from Sector 80 and adjoining areas. Police said the situation escalated after miscreants allegedly tried to take advantage of the protest, leading to clashes and forcing security personnel to disperse the crowd. Another incident was reported from Garhi Chaukhandi village in Sector 121, where protesters targeted a police vehicle despite heavy deployment. Earlier, workers had gathered peacefully, demanding a minimum monthly wage of Rs 20,000. However, tensions flared as protests intensified, with reports of vandalism and stone-pelting also emerging from residential areas where domestic workers were staging demonstrations. Workers from an industrial unit had also raised concerns over wage disparities, alleging that skilled and unskilled labourers were being paid similar allowances. Some claimed that employees were terminated within months and rehired to avoid benefit hikes, while others highlighted a drop in hourly wages after apprenticeship periods. The unrest, which entered its second day, saw participation from nearly 45,000 workers across multiple locations in the commissionerate on Monday. Violence had earlier been reported from Sector 63 and near industrial premises.

## Tejashwi Yadav slams Bihar govt, alleges remote control rule and poor governance

Patna, Apr 13: Rashtriya Janata Dal (Tejashwi Yadav) leader Tejashwi Yadav launched a strong attack on the ruling BJP-JD(U) alliance in Bihar on Monday, alleging widespread misgovernance and claiming that the state is effectively being controlled "from Gujarat."

Speaking to IANS, Yadav accused the Bharatiya Janata Party and its ally Janata Dal (United) of failing to address Bihar's longstanding developmental challenges. He alleged that individuals aligned with the BJP were influencing the administration, including elements within the JD(U), contributing to the current law and order situa-

tion. He asserted that people were aware of the prevailing issues but would respond politically in due course.

Yadav further criticised the government's economic performance, claiming that Bihar's resources had been exhausted despite two decades of rule. He said the state continues to struggle with poverty, low per capita income, weak education and healthcare systems, and a lack of industrial growth.

He also dismissed political attention on ministerial visits to the Chief Minister's residence, stating that public concerns such as unemployment, inflation, migration, and agricultural dis-



stress were being ignored. According to him, gover-

nance priorities have shifted away from people's wel-

fare. The RJD leader alleged administrative stagnation, claiming that Cabinet meetings have not been held for months and that decision-making has slowed significantly. He also pointed to rising crime and corruption, along with unmet electoral promises.

Commenting on reported changes in political posters featuring Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, he made a brief remark suggesting ongoing internal shifts within the ruling setup.

Reiterating his "remote control" allegation, Yadav claimed that real power in Bihar does not rest within the state leadership and that decisions are influenced externally. He said

successive governments over the past 20 years have failed to deliver meaningful development.

Separately, he announced that the party's student wing has been renamed from Chhatra RJD (CRJD) to the Socialist Students Association of India (SSAI), citing compliance with a Supreme Court directive restricting political party activity in educational institutions.

On national politics, Yadav expressed confidence in West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee, predicting her electoral success and stating that his party would extend support to the Trinamool Congress in the state.

## M. K. Stalin urges protecting Constitution, pluralism on Ambedkar Jayanti

CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin on Tuesday paid tribute to BR Ambedkar on his 135th birth anniversary as he urged people to defend the Constitution, uphold social justice and protect the voices of the oppressed.

In a post on X, Stalin invoked Ambedkar's vision on social progress and equality, stating, "I measure the progress of a community by the degree of progress which women have achieved." - Ambedkar. On the birth anniversary of revolutionary Ambedkar, let us strengthen our resolve to protect the Constitution, establish social justice, and safeguard every oppressed voice! India's strength lies in its pluralism, not in imposed uniformity." Emphasising inclusivity, Stalin further said, "If progress is the measure, let us reject uniformity and hierarchies, choose pluralism and equality; let us establish justice! "I measure the progress of a community by the degree of progress which women have



achieved." - B. R. Ambedkar. On the birth anniversary of Babasaheb, let us strengthen our resolve to defend the Constitution, uphold social justice, and protect every oppressed voice. India's strength lies in its pluralism, not in imposed uniformity. If progress is the measure, let us reject uniformity and hierarchy; choose pluralism and equality, and uphold justice." The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's remarks came as leaders across the political spectrum remembered Ambedkar's contributions to India's democratic and constitutional

framework on his 135th birth anniversary. Meanwhile, Congress MP Manickam Tagore also invoked Ambedkar's warning on the functioning of the Constitution, alleging that a special session of Parliament scheduled for April 16 was being rushed. He said the move was turning parliamentary democracy into a "mere formality." Tagore stated, "A special session of Parliament is being rushed on April 16, right at the peak of election campaigning in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. A reasonable demand for an all-party meeting after the elections

has been rejected... This is not democracy. This is bulldozer governance."

He also raised concerns over delimitation, calling for wider consultation and transparency, and emphasised that Parliament "is not a rubber stamp" but the foundation of people's voice. Senior Congress MP P Chidambaram also paid tribute to Ambedkar, saying, "We remember Babasaheb Ambedkar today on his birthday! We also remember his precious gift to the people of India - the secular democratic Constitution of India!" Dr BR Ambedkar, popularly known as Babasaheb, was the chief architect of the Indian Constitution and a key figure in India's social reform movement. Born into a Dalit Mahar family, he dedicated his life to securing equal rights for marginalised communities and promoting social justice. Ambedkar served as independent India's first Law and Justice Minister and was posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1990 for his contributions to the nation.

## Annamalai hits out at Stalin's 'warning' on delimitation, accuses him of fear-mongering

Chennai, April 14 : BJP leader K. Annamalai on Tuesday launched a scathing attack on Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin over his remarks on the proposed delimitation process, calling his "warning" to the Centre "uncalled for" and alleging that it was aimed at creating "fear" among the public.

Annamalai said the Modi government is committed to taking all stakeholders along on the issue and dismissed Stalin's concerns as an attempt to generate unnecessary apprehension among people in the state. The remarks come ahead of a Special Session of Parliament scheduled to begin on April 16, during which the amendments to the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023, and a proposed Delimitation Bill are expected to be discussed to facilitate one-third reservation for women in Parliament. Earlier, Stalin, in a video message, had cautioned the Centre against proceeding with delimitation in a manner that could adversely impact southern states.



He said Tamil Nadu would launch a large-scale agitation if its interests were compromised or if the southern region faced disproportionate consequences. He also questioned the timing of the special session, noting that it coincides with Assembly elections in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal scheduled for April 23. The Chief Minister argued that Tamil Nadu and other southern states had implemented population control measures in line with the Centre's guidance and should not now face adverse outcomes as a result. He maintained that

the state would not remain silent if its interests were undermined. Responding to these remarks, Annamalai told IANS, "It is very unfortunate that the Chief Minister is trying to sow discord and create fear-mongering in the minds of the Tamil population. We all know, if you look at the video, the kind of language he has used, saying that Tamil Nadu will go back to the 1960s, threatening the Prime Minister is uncalled for." He further said that the Prime Minister has made a "lot of effort" to bring everybody together. "Since 1996, it (women's

reservation issue) has been stuck. Many senior leaders of various political parties in the current INDIA bloc have opposed reservations for our mothers and sisters. The Prime Minister made the effort from September 2023 to pilot this and get this bill passed in both Houses of Parliament by bringing everybody together," he said.

Slamming Stalin, Annamalai said, "What is the problem of the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister? Nowhere have we said it's a population-based increase. Everywhere we have said we will take everybody together. The Home Minister in Coimbatore a year back said it's going to be a pro rata increase." "Whatever increase we are going to bring, it is going to be pro rata so that nobody suffers. It is very, very unfortunate that the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, by putting out this video, has gone against the oath he took on the Constitution of India," the BJP leader said, referring to Stalin's video post on X.

## Southern Railway to celebrate 75th Formation Day



CHENNAI (TSIT): When Southern Railway marks its 75th year on April 14, its network today covers over 5,100 km across the south. Its evolution can be traced back to a single train that left Royapuram for Arcot in 1856. Formed in 1951 through the merger of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, the South Indian Railway and the Mysore State Railway, the zone was part of a larger post-Independence effort to reorganise railways into administrative units. But much of its footprint had already taken shape decades earlier. By the 1860s, lines had reached the west coast through Beypore (a Kerala port town) and Calicut (present-day Kozhikode).

### EASTERN RAILWAY

Following e-Tenders are invited by Sr. Divisional Engineer (IV)Howrah, Eastern Railway, DRM Building, near Railway Station, Howrah-711001 from Tenderers having experience of Similar Nature of work and required Financial capabilities including those Registered with Irrigation/CPWD/SEB/MES or any public sector undertaking for the following work. Under Sr. DEN/4/Howrah : SI. No. 1. E-Tender No. 12\_2026-27, dtd. 10.04.2026. Description of work : Emergency work of supplying stone boulder in wagons & on ground and other miscellaneous works for monsoon season in Howrah Division. Approx. Cost: ₹ 2,71,50,707.05. Earnest Money: ₹ 5,43,000/-. SI. No. 2. E-Tender No. 13\_2026-27, dtd. 10.04.2026. Description of work : Supplying of Quarry Stone Dust as emergency material during monsoon season in Howrah Division. Approx. Cost: ₹ 1,86,70,800/-. Earnest Money: ₹ 3,73,400/-. SI. No. 3. E-Tender No. 14\_2026-27, dtd. 10.04.2026. Description of work : Ballast/rail piling as emergency material & other miscellaneous works during monsoon season in Howrah Division. Approx. Cost: ₹ 1,58,27,135.10. Earnest Money : ₹ 3,16,600/-. Cost of Tender Form : 0.00 (for each). Completion Period : 04 (Four) months from the date of issue of acceptance letter (for each). Closing date and time of tender : 04.05.2026 at 14.00 hrs. (for each). In case the date of closing mentioned in the Notice Inviting Tender is declared a holiday/bandh/strike on any account, the date of closing tender online will not be changed as the application in the website of IREPS does not permit submission of any offer after closing date and time of the tender. However, opening of tenders online will be done next working day. The details of tender are available at website www.ireps.gov.in Tenderers are requested to submit their offer online on the above website. Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) & Tender Document Cost in respect of e-tendering, should be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only through above website. Note: Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR) will not be accepted as EMD for tenders invited on IREPS (e-tender portal). No manual offer will be accepted.

(HWH-21/2026-27) Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.e.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in Follow us at : @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

## To combat extreme heat: State's green program for passive cooling solutions extended to 100 govt schools

CHENNAI: Following a successful pilot phase, Tamil Nadu is set to expand its 'Green School Program' to 100 government schools, aiming to tackle rising heat stress and create safer, more comfortable learning environments across the state. BJP mirrors AIADMK welfare pitch, pushes temple agenda in TN manifestos; minority, dalit assurances missing

The initiative, launched in partnership with the UNEP and the Cool Coalition, uses passive cooling solutions to protect students from heat-related disruptions. The expansion comes as extreme heat tightens its grip on urban and coastal Tamil Nadu. Cities like Chennai experience intensified temperatures due to the urban heat island effect, where built-up areas trap heat, pushing local temperatures 10-15 degrees Celsius higher than surrounding regions. In sev-



eral schools with limited green cover, playground and terrace temperatures have been recorded between 40°C and 45°C. Research shows that student concentration begins to decline once classroom temperatures cross 30°C. At around 32°C, exam pass rates can drop by nearly 10%. Prolonged exposure also leads to fatigue, dehydration, headaches, and increased absenteeism, particularly among younger children. DMK candidate Chittrarasu promises better facilities, infra for Anna Nagarising heat

impact on students To address this, TN has adopted passive cooling techniques that rely on design and natural elements rather than energy-intensive AC. Key interventions includes cool roofs with reflective coatings that reduced heat absorption, lowering roof surface temperatures by up to 20°C and indoor temperatures by 8°C. Schools were also being equipped with better ventilation systems, including jaali-style perforated walls and roof ventilators to release trapped hot air. Tree planting, shaded

structures like pergolas, and energy-efficient BLDC fans (consuming up to 60% less electricity) further improve conditions. Cool roofs, green cover ease classrooms Initial results from the 8 pilot schools have been encouraging. One pilot saw 78% reduction in cooling energy costs through a combination of cool roofs, insulation, and shading. Teachers have reported improved student attentiveness and reduced discomfort during peak afternoon hours. Beyond infrastructure, the programme integrates climate awareness into the school ecosystem. Students are encouraged to maintain green spaces and understand sustainable practices, becoming active stakeholders in climate action. With the next phase targeting 100 institutions, officials say the long-term goal was to replicate the model across Tamil Nadu, particularly in heat-vulnerable districts.

## New Research Indicates That Loneliness Triggers Sugar Cravings in Women

A UCLA Health study has discovered that lonely women are more inclined to crave high-calorie, sugary foods, demonstrating a link between loneliness, unhealthy eating behaviors, and poor mental health. The research highlights the brain's role in these correlations and suggests holistic interventions as potential remedies to break the cycle of loneliness and unhealthy eating. Research indicates that lonely women show heightened brain activity in areas linked to cravings for food. A recent study by UCLA Health discovered that women who feel lonely show brain activity in areas linked to cravings and the drive to eat, particularly when viewing images of high-calorie foods like sugary treats. These women also displayed unhealthy eating habits and suffered from poor mental health.



Arpana Gupta, Ph.D., a researcher and co-director of the UCLA Goodman-Luskin Microbiome Center, wanted to research the negative impacts of loneliness, especially as people continue to be working remotely after the COVID-19 pandemic, and how the brain interplays with social isolation, eating habits, and mental health. While it is established that obesity is linked to depression and anxiety and that binge eating is understood to be a coping mechanism against

loneliness, Gupta wanted to observe the brain pathways associated with these feelings and behaviors. Methodology and Findings The researchers surveyed 93 women about their support system and their feelings of loneliness and isolation, then separated them into two groups: those who scored high on the perceived social isolation scale, and those who scored low. The researchers found that women who had higher levels of social isolation tended to have higher fat

mass, lower diet quality, greater cravings, reward-based eating, and uncontrolled eating, and increased levels of anxiety and depression. The women were then shown pictures of food versus non-food, sweet food versus non-food, and savory food versus non-food. MRI scans recorded the participants' brain activity while they viewed these images. The researchers found that the group of women who perceived themselves to be lonely experienced increased activation in regions of the brain associated with greater cravings to eat sugary foods, and decreased activation in the brain region associated with self-control toward eating behaviors. "These findings are interesting because it provides evidence for what we intuitively know," Gupta said. "When people are alone or lonely, it impacts more than how they are feel-

ing; they underreport what they eat, their desire to eat, and their cravings especially for unhealthy foods."

### EASTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. : NIT/02/26/19, dated 13.04.2026. e-Tenders are invited by Principal Chief Materials Manager, Eastern Railway, 2nd Floor, Fairlie Place, 17, Netaji Subhas Road, Kolkata-700001 for supply of the following items : SI. No. & Tender No.; Description; EMD respectively : (1) 19265014; Bearing adapter ASM with journal BRG etc.; ₹ 5,09,760/- . Tender Opening Date & Time : 11.05.2026 at 13.30 hrs. (2) 10261874A; Drum Type Reverser high capacity; ₹ 3,16,480/- . (3) 12525068C; Supply, installation and commissioning of EOT Crane 20 Ton etc.; ₹ 2,41,600/- . Tender Opening Date & Time : 04.05.2026 at 13.30 hrs. (for sl. no. 2 & 3). (4) 04255016A; Solid Wheel D 920 as per RDSO SK No. CR-835; ₹ 4,73,130/- . Tender Opening Date & Time : 28.04.2026 at 13.30 hrs. (5) 10261935; Set of Single Pole Circuit Breaker etc.; ₹ 3,76,840/- . Tender Opening Date & Time : 06.05.2026 at 13.30 hrs. (6) 11265005; Air Spring assembly capacity 160 kN; ₹ 20,00,000/- . (7) 08265013; Procurement of Supply and Installation of Aerosol fire etc.; ₹ 2,24,200/- . (8) 11265004A; Supply, Installation and Commissioning of IOT based Hydrostatic Pressure Water level Sensor for underslung water tank etc.; ₹ 8,27,440/- . (9) 11265007A; Supply, Installation and Commissioning of IOT based water level indicator system for LHB Non AC etc.; ₹ 4,61,600/- . Tender Opening Date & Time : 04.05.2026 at 13.30 hrs. (for sl. no. 6 to 9). (10) 1226F-S\_Switch\_4666; Running Contract for procurement of F/S switch 52 Kg of 6400 mm [OR] for 1 in 8.5 Turnout BG [1673 mm] for 52 Kg Rail on PSC sleepers to RDSO Drawing No. T-4866; ₹ 8,59,750/- . Tender Opening Date & Time : 17.04.2026 at 13.30 hrs. (11) 1226\_Dxing\_DS\_6494; Running Contract for 1 in 8.5 Diamond Crossing & T-6494; ₹ 20,00,000/- . Tender Opening Date & Time : 26.05.2026 at 13.30 hrs. (12) HVN\_T-8992\_2026; Running Contract for Procurement of HVN Liners Confirming to drawing no. RT-8992; ₹ 6,54,900/- . Tender Opening Date & Time : 14.04.2026 at 13.30 hrs. (13) 1226-TWS-9775; 6400mm Curved thick web switch with thick-web tongue rails and anti creep device for 1 in 8.5 turnout BG (1673mm) for 60 kg (UIC)60E1A1 Rail on PSC sleepers complete with all fittings for 1 in 8.5, BG 60 Kg, turnout of fan shaped layout on PSC Sleepers i.e. all fittings for switch portion as per sub assembly No. T-9775 Alt-03; ₹ 20,00,000/- . Tender Opening Date & Time : 30.04.2026 at 13.30 hrs. (14) 12261030; Running contract for Manufacturing and supply of Elastic Rail Clip MK-V to RDSO Drg. no. T-5919; ₹ 50,00,000/- . Tender Opening Date & Time : 27.04.2026 at 13.30 hrs. (15) 14261159; Underground Railway Jelly Filled Telecom 6 quad cable 0.9mm DIA for signalling and telecom installation conforming to specification no. IRS-TC-30/2005 VER. 1 with AMNDT-5; ₹ 50,00,000/- . Tender Opening Date & Time : 15.04.2026 at 13.30 hrs. (16) 1226-NGRGRSP-8779; Manufacture and supply of 6mm thick Nylon Cord Reinforced Grooved Rubber Sole Plates for 60 Kg 1 in 12 complete turnout for fan shaped layout on PSC Sleepers as per RDSO's standard layout drawing No. T-8779. Alt. - 03; ₹ 0/- . Tender Opening Date & Time : 17.04.2026 at 13.30 hrs. (17) 12261019; Manufacture and supply of 1 in 12 CMS Crossing for BG, suitable for Rails 60 kg UIC/60E1 confirming to RDSO Drg. No. (T-4220, Alt. 9); ₹ 16,07,160/- . Tender Opening Date & Time : 21.04.2026 at 13.30 hrs. (18) 1226-TWS-8780; Manufacture and supply of 10125 mm Curved Switches as per RDSO Drg. No. T-8780; ₹ 50,00,000/- . Tender Opening Date & Time : 17.04.2026 at 13.30 hrs. (19) 14261109; PVC Insulated Armoured, Underground, Unscreened Railway signalling cable (Heavy Duty) with high conductivity copper conductor of size 12 Core x 1.5 sq. mm as per Specn. No. IRS-S-63/2014(Rev.4.0); ₹ 50,00,000/- . Tender Opening Date & Time : 15.04.2026 at 13.30 hrs. (20) 12261049; Manufacture and Supply of Composite Grooved Rubber Sole plates [CGRSP] 10 mm thick for use with Wider PSC Sleeper, as per RDSO Drg. No. T-8747; ₹ 20,00,000/- . (21) 1226-DR\_Switch-5836; Fabrication and supply of 6400 mm overriding Derailing Switch (RH), suitable to BG, 52 kg rails for 1 in 8.5 fan shaped layouts on PSC sleeper conforming to RDSO Drg. No. (T-5836 Alt. 3); ₹ 3,37,860/- . Tender Opening Date & Time : 12.05.2026 at 13.30 hrs. (for sl. no. 20 & 21). Tender Cost : 0 (for all). Note : All above mentioned tenders are e-tenders and all tenderers are requested to submit their bids online through the IREPS website at <https://www.ireps.gov.in> For more details regarding the above mentioned tenders and other supply tenders please visit IREPS website. (STORES-02/2026-27) Tender Notice is also available at website : [www.e.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.e.indianrailways.gov.in) / [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) Follow us at : @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

**CLIX CAPITAL SERVICES PVT. LTD.** Registered Office: W/2/1, 1st Floor, West Patel Nagar, Delhi, 110008 "REGISTRATION-IV-A" [See proviso to rule 8(6)] Sale notice for sale of Immovable Properties

**E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable property mortgaged / charged to the Clix Capital Services Pvt. Ltd. (CLIX) (Secured Creditors), the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Clix Capital Services Pvt. Ltd. (CLIX), Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on **05.05.2026**, for recovery of amount as mentioned below, due to the Secured Creditors from following Borrower(s), Guarantor(s) and Corporate Guarantor(s). The reserve price and earnest money to be deposited is mentioned below respectively.

Name of Borrower, Co-Borrower/ Guarantor(s) with addresses	Description & Owner(s) of Properties
1. J Rahamathullah S/O Jainulabtheen, 2. Mr. H Jainulabtheen All that Piece And Parcel Of Land And Building, Comprised In Old S.No.41, New S/O Hytharkan, Both R/O No.7a G3 A Block Ecstasy Apts Ground T.S.Nos.6997 & 8422, Block No.109 Of (Zamin Village, Mambalam And Part Of Floor 'F' South Mada Street, Opp Vijayakanth Marriage Hall(Parishad Nos.560, 567/8 And 584/92) Measuring With An Extent Of 804.19 Sq.Mtrs. Chennai-600107. Also At: T/6 13 Anna Fruit Market/Sq.Ft. Lies Out Of Grounds 2109 Sq. Ft. Or 21389 Sq.Ft. (As Per Document) Koyambedu Chennai Tamil Nadu-600092. Also At: Apartment(Grounds) Together With Apartment Measuring No.Gg. In Ground Floor, Having Its Bearing No.Gg. In Ground Floor, Having Its Carpet Area Of 1536 Sq.Ft., Along With 1500 Sq.Ft., Of Constructed Area In Building Known As Mezzanine Floor, Along With 1500 Sq.Ft. Of Constructed Area In Mezzanine Floor, Along With Common Area In The Building Known As 'Ramaniamy Aarudra', Situated At Old Door No.4, New Door No.15, Habubullah Road, T.Nagar, Chennai-600 017, T.Nagar Village, Mambalam Taluk, Chennai New Door No.15, Habubullah Road, T.Nagar, Chennai-600 017, District And Bounded On The North By: Habubullah Road, South By: GRT Road, Loan No. - SCH/MLM000620824 / SCH/MLM000626061, East By: Land Belongs To Mr.Abdul Rahim & Mrs. Saravathi Gir, West By: Land Belongs To Mr. Krishna Prasad & Mr.Sastri, Situated Within The Sub-Registration District Of T.Nagar And In The Registration District Of South Chennai.	

Reserve Price (RP) & EMD & Incremental Amount	Recovery Amount as per Demand Notice	Date & Time of On-Site Inspection of Property	Date & Time of E-Auction
Rs. 3,63,60,000/-, Rs. 36,36,000/-, Rs. 1,00,00,000/-	Rs. 3,80,23,380.16/- as on 10.09.2025	02.05.2026 to 04.05.2026 From 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM	05.05.2026 11 Am to 1 Pm (with unlimited extensions of 5 Minutes each)

EMD amount shall be remitted through NEFT/RTGS/FundsTransfer in favor of Clix Capital Services Pvt. Ltd., Account No. 34190500665, ICIBANK IFSC-ICIC0003419

Last date for deposit of EMD and uploading Bid Documents: 04-05-2026 Till 12.00 PM at [www.bankauctions.in](http://www.bankauctions.in)

The balance 25% of final purchase price minus EMD amount shall be deposited by the successful bidder, latest by the next working day by RTGS / NEFT within 15 days from the date of auction in the same E-Auction account as above. The refund of EMD to the unsuccessful bidders shall be made only in the account number mentioned by such bidder in the Bid Form within 5 working days.

**Terms and Conditions:-** E-auction is being held on "AS IS WHERE IS" and "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis and will be conducted online through Clix's approved service provider C1 India Pvt. Ltd. at the web portal [www.bankauctions.in](http://www.bankauctions.in). Bid Documents, Declaration, General Terms and Conditions of online auction sale are available in [www.bankauctions.in](http://www.bankauctions.in). To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorized Officer, there is no encumbrance on the properties. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of properties put on auction and claims/rights / dues affecting the property/ies, prior to submitting their bid. In this regard, the A-auction advertisement does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any confirmation or any representation of Clix. For any details with respect to any help, procedure and on-line training in respect of the auction process please contact +91-7291981124/25/26 and E-mail ID - [delhi@clix.com](mailto:delhi@clix.com). For any details regarding the property please contact Mr. Ayush Gupta, (M) 9999918811. It may please be noted that in case of any discrepancy/inconsistency between auctions notices published in English and in Hindi then the contents of the notice published in English shall prevail. The Authorized Officer/ Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in anyway for any third party claims/ rights/ dues. The sale shall be subject to rules/ conditions prescribed under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

Date : 15.04.2026, Place : Chennai Authorized Officer, Clix Capital Services Pvt. Ltd.

# EDITORIAL

## How Netanyahu Is Fast Turning Into The Worst 'Deal' Trump Ever Made

On April 11 and 12, delegations from the United States and Iran held talks in Islamabad to discuss mutually acceptable terms amidst a two-week ceasefire. Late on April 12, US Vice President JD Vance, who led the US delegation, asserted that the talks had failed to yield an outcome, and US President Trump announced that the US Navy would "blockade" the Strait of Hormuz. Amidst uncertainty, two fundamental characteristics of the ceasefire still remain - neither Tehran nor Washington have ruled out further talks, and Iran is yet to resume missile/drone attacks at US bases in the Gulf (which keeps the US-Iran ceasefire technically intact). A third, more crucial, characteristic also remains intact: that Israel (which was not in the room in Islamabad) continues to significantly influence, if not upend, American diplomacy with Iran. Regardless of the substance, the Iranian delegation (led by Parliament Speaker Mohammed Bagher Ghalibaf) meeting JD Vance represented the highest level of direct US-Iran contact in 47 years. However, it became evident that while talks began on a positive trajectory, with technical teams, written exchanges, and structured discussions, the Iranians maintain that a call by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to VP Vance turned the US position more untenable in subsequent negotiations, which lasted for 21 hours overall. Israeli influence over US decision-making is old, as is its impact on broader US foreign policy. However, two elements are new: the first is the degree to which Israel has influenced Trump, and the second is the fresh challenges that this influence is facing.

Since 1985, the last five US Presidents prior to Donald Trump have overseen considerable consistency in American financial assistance to Israel, through a combination of economic and military aid. From Ronald Reagan to Barack Obama, this aid has remained between approximately \$2.8 billion and \$3.5 billion annually. By 2008, towards the end of George Bush's second term, American financial assistance to Israel became almost exclusively military. By 2012, under President Barack Obama, the US Congress legislated that it was US policy "to help the Government of Israel preserve its qualitative military edge". Functionally, this meant that no defence deal that the US would conclude with other states in the region could threaten Israel's QME. A prominent example of this policy is that Israel is the only country that operates the F-35s with specific customisations, while other Arab states continue to fail in their efforts to procure the world's most potent fighter jet. The cornerstone of this historically lopsided relationship has been the influence of the 'Israel Lobby', a diffuse but coherent political action group that has historically succeeded in directing US policy towards pro-Israel positions, even when not in the US national interest, as John Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt note in their 2007 book of the same name.

### Palestine As An Outlier

However, neither domestic compulsions nor the institutional sustenance of US deference to Israel's security needs could prevent multiple US Presidents from keeping US policy on Palestine in line with international law, at least nominally, and account for the Arab interest. Among other things, this meant officially viewing Israeli settlements in the West Bank (and Gaza before 2005) as illegal, recognising Tel Aviv as Israel's capital (and not Jerusalem, as Israel had maintained since 1980), and not recognising Israel's rights over the Golan Heights in Syria, which the former had been occupying since the 1967 war. More importantly, successive US Presidents have not hesitated to criticise Israel. Ronald Reagan famously characterised Israel's massive - at the time unprecedented - bombardment of Beirut in 1982 as a "holocaust", forcing then Israeli PM Menachem Begin to change course (even as Israel continued its larger invasion of Lebanon).

# Pakistan Has Already Got Its 'Prize', Even If The US-Iran Talks Collapsed

Only the eternal optimist or someone completely detached from reality could have expected the Islamabad talks between the US and Iran to lead to an actual peace deal. That the talks collapsed after marathon discussions doesn't come as a surprise. Even the 'event manager' - Pakistan - which was basking in its newfound glory as the global peacemaker, the saviour of the world, and centre of international diplomacy, had started to dampen its expectations. Mouthpieces of the regime had started spinning stories about how Pakistan had fulfilled its duty to the world by organising the talks between the two belligerents. They, however, insisted that the outcome of the parleys depended on the protagonists and not on Pakistan. Of course, had the talks succeeded, Pakistan would have taken the credit.

### A Pros And Cons List

As far as Islamabad is concerned, it has already milked the event for whatever it was worth and did all the virtue-signalling possible to burnish its image in the comity of nations. It will now take stock of all its gains and the possible losses it might incur in the coming days, weeks and months because of the role it played as a broker.

On the plus side of Pakistan's balance sheet is the profile it believes it has built up for itself as the venue of the talks. While talks between the US and Iran have been held earlier in various cities - Geneva, Muscat, Doha - Pakistan presented the Islamabad talks as something epochal. The hype within Pakistan and its military - and state-controlled private media - was bigger than anything in the international media. The global media mentioned Pakistan, in most part, only as the location of the parleys. The stream of phone calls between Pakistan's (nominal) Prime Minister and global leaders was nothing extraordinary and was part and parcel of the kind of international diplomacy practised in fraught times. It in no



way signified Pakistan's centrality to any peace deal. Even so, Islamabad was satisfied that after decades, the country's name was not being taken in a negative context - war, terrorism, double-dealing, instability, insolvency, military rule, stolen elections ... Well, it's a long list.

### The Real 'Medal Of Honour'

Pakistan can also claim to have won the goodwill of the Trump administration. After all, it went out of its way in trying to bail out Trump by pushing for a ceasefire. Not only did the Pakistanis copy-paste messages handed down to them from Americans, but they also tried to align Turkey, Egypt and even Saudi Arabia behind its efforts to push for peace talks. This drew appreciation from the US Vice-President, who thanked them quite profusely. For the Pakistanis, who have done everything possible to woo Trump & Co - from nominating him for the Nobel Peace Prize to signing crypto and mining deals with his buddies, and even entering into an agreement on the Roosevelt hotel in New

York City - getting a pat on the head from the Americans will be worn as a medal of honour.

More substantively, the Pakistanis seem to have managed the Saudis rather well. Not only did they avoid jumping into the fray against Iran in defence of Riyadh, but they also managed to convince the Saudis that they were doing this to protect the interests of the Kingdom. In doing so, they even managed to ingratiate themselves with the Saudis to a point that there were reports that Pakistan would be given a deposit of \$5 billion by the Kingdom to build up its foreign exchange reserves, which were depleted after the UAE asked them to pay back their money. There are also reports that Qatar will aid Pakistan financially and that the Saudis could make some big investments in Pakistan.

### A Bigger Role In Middle East?

In other words, the Pakistanis believe that, in tangible terms, they have managed to make some much-needed money by playing peacemaker. There is also an expectation that Pakistan has positioned itself to play

a significant role as a net security provider and security guarantor in the Middle East. This would open up enormous diplomatic, political, economic and strategic opportunities for the country. Domestically, the regime has cemented its position by creating an impression that the opposition can forget about any pressure from outside over the incarcerated Imran Khan.

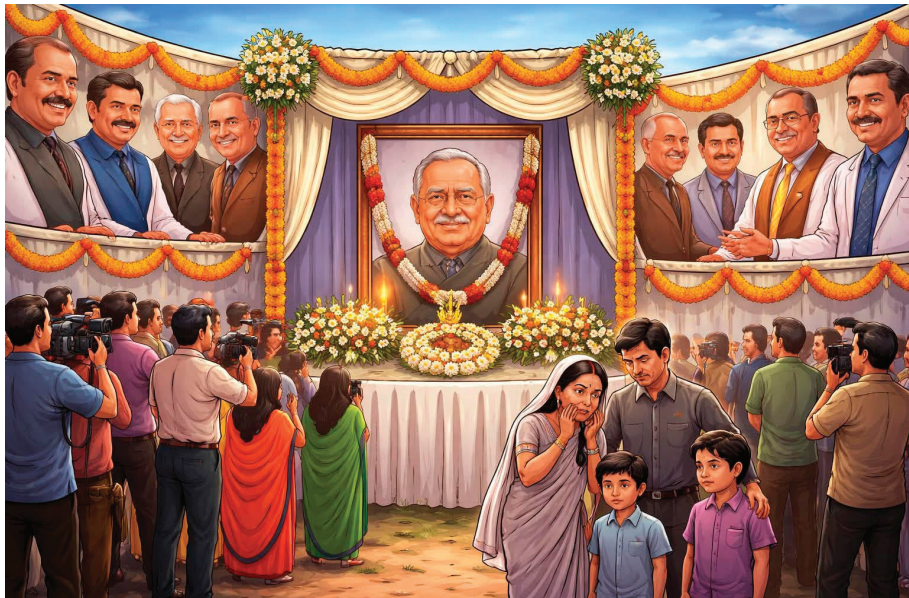
### The 'Peacemaker's' Perils

There is, however, also a downside to the role Pakistan has played, especially since the talks collapsed and there is a real possibility of hostilities restarting. Worse, the second round of war could be far more destructive and could pull Pakistan into the vortex. Under its mutual defence agreement with the Saudis, Pakistan is reported to have dispatched thousands of soldiers and some fighter aircraft to the Kingdom, presumably to support it against Iranian attacks if hostilities resume. If Pakistan gets dragged into the war, then Iran could be forced to target infrastructure in Pakistan.

# WE ARE PEOPLE WITH ACCESS, OUR SORROW IS ALSO VIP

— Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

Whether it's a house groundbreaking ceremony or a shop inauguration, the joys of a wedding or the grief of a loved one's death—posting pictures of prominent politicians and officials everywhere is no longer a display of "respect," but a display of influence and influence. This gives rise to a mentality where a person's true identity is determined not by their actions but by their "connections." Once, the walls of homes were adorned with pictures of gods and goddesses, instilling faith. Then came family photos, conveying a sense of belonging. Today, those same walls are filled with photographs taken with politicians and officials, conveying neither faith nor belonging—simply a message: "We are people with influence." This "access" is no longer a privilege, but a certificate of social status. This phenomenon isn't confined to walls; it has penetrated deep into our psyche. Today, individuals identify themselves less by their names and more by their "connections." They rarely mention their qualities, their work, or their personality in their introductions, but instead take pride in revealing which leader or official they are close to. This trend has reached a dangerous point, where self-respect has been replaced by veiled arrogance—an arrogance born of standing tall, not on one's own, but on the pedestal of others. The most painful situation arises when this pretense intrudes even into our most private and sensitive moments. Grief, once a time of simplicity, silence, and deep compassion, is now being buried under banners and posters. Even when a loved one dies, erecting large billboards and affixing photographs with politicians has become a way to say, "Our



grief is VIP too." This statement is as ironic as it is frightening, as it bears testimony to the dying sensitivity within us. Does grief even have a category? Are tears now shed based on identity? Is death still a matter of mourning, or has it also become a social display? This situation isn't just a habit, but the result of a deep-seated insecurity. Deep down, we've begun to feel that if we don't demonstrate our "accessibility," society won't take us seriously. We've come to believe that being "connected" isn't the key to gaining respect, but rather, "worth it." This mindset leads us away from self-reliance and toward dependency. Instead of forging our own identity, we borrow it—sometimes from a leader, sometimes from an official, and sometimes from an influential figure. Social media has deepened this trend. Wall photos are no longer confined to homes; they reach hundreds of thousands of people through Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp. Every joy is now a post, and every sorrow a status. In a world of likes and comments, even emotions have become "content."

People are more concerned with appearing happy than being happy, and more concerned with showing sadness than being sad. This pretense is slowly swallowing up our true feelings. When every emotion becomes a display, its depth is lost. Happiness becomes an event, and sadness a formality. This ostentation is also giving rise to an invisible competition in society. If one person posts a photo with a prominent leader, another tries to find an even bigger name. It becomes a race that seems endless. In this race, humanity, simplicity, and self-respect gradually fade away. Individuals forget who they are and become preoccupied with proving who they are with. This is an identity crisis—where the "I" is lost and "my connections" take over. This trend is also deeply worrying from a democratic perspective. When a person's identity in society begins to be determined by their connections, fundamental principles like equality and justice begin to weaken. People begin to believe that those with "access" are above the rules, and those without are mere spectators. This mindset not only fosters cor-

ruption but also deepens inequality in society. Gradually, the belief that respect can be earned through hard work and honesty begins to fade. This is having the most profound impact on our new generation. Children and young people are growing up seeing that connections are more important than competence to gain respect in society. They are learning that the path to success lies not through hard work, but through connections. This thinking leads them in the wrong direction, where they start looking for shortcuts instead of hard work. This is not only a personal loss but also a serious threat to the future of society. We need to understand that not everything needs to be shown. Some feelings are private, and their dignity is maintained in simplicity. Mourning is not a time for display, but for introspection and compassion. Happy times are also not for show, but for sharing affection. We don't need to prove every relationship, every achievement, and every connection to the world. True respect and dignity are built on our behavior, our actions.

# The Great North-South Debate, And Prickly Questions About 'Fairness'

The ongoing debate over delimitation and parliamentary representation, provoked by the government calling a special three-day session of Parliament this week to debate constitutional amendments on the Women's Reservation Bill (but really to alter the delimitation of constituencies in the North's favour before the 2029 elections) has reopened one of India's most sensitive political and constitutional fault-lines. The core question is: how should a diverse federal union balance the democratic principle of "one person, one vote" with the need to ensure that smaller states or states with slower-growing populations retain a meaningful voice in national decision-making? The issue has acquired renewed urgency as population growth diverges sharply between regions, raising concerns that strict population-based seat allocation could deepen the emerging North-South divide. This dilemma is not unique to India.

The European Union has grappled with a similar challenge for decades: how to design a representative assembly for a political union in which Germany and Malta, or France and Estonia, must coexist as equal members. The EU's solution - degressive proportionality - offers a useful framework for India's current debate. Europe balances democracy and federal equity through a clever formula set into law under the Treaty of Lisbon. Under it, the European Parliament is built on three constraints that together preserve both democratic legitimacy and federal balance:

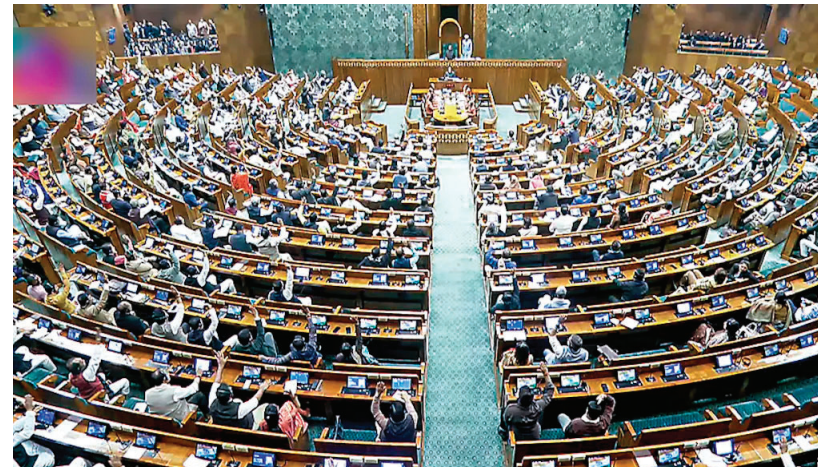
*A minimum threshold: No member state can have fewer than six seats.*

*\* A maximum ceiling: No state can have more than 96 seats.*

*An inverse ratio: The larger a state's population, the more citizens each representative must correspond to.*

This means that while Germany has far more Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) than Malta, a Maltese MEP represents roughly 80,000 citizens, while a German MEP represents around 850,000. The system ensures that the "Big Four" - Germany, France, Italy, and Spain - cannot dominate the Parliament simply by virtue of population. Smaller states retain a meaningful voice, preserving the federal spirit of the Union.

The EU's approach is not perfect, but it reflects a recognition that pure proportionality can undermine the cohesion



of a political union. Representation must reflect population, but not only population: it must also cater to needs of state identities. India, of course, faces a similar challenge. Since, unlike the EU, we are one country, India's federal structure is more deeply rooted in our constitution and more politically consequential than the EU's. Yet the underlying tension is similar. States that successfully implemented population control - Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and others - now face the prospect of losing relative political influence if Lok Sabha seats are reallocated strictly on the basis of population. Conversely, states with high population growth - Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, all in the Hindi heartland - stand to gain significantly. This raises a fundamental issue: should states be penalised or rewarded for their demographic behaviour? And should political power shift dramatically in ways that could destabilise the federal compact?

The concern is not merely theoretical. A strict population-based delimitation could produce a Lok Sabha in which a handful of large northern Hindi-belt states hold a permanent majority, enabling them to shape national policies even against the preferences of the rest of the country. This would mirror the very scenario the EU sought to avoid. The government has cleverly sought to divert the public conversation toward the case for women's representation - an important reform, but one that enjoys broad consensus and does not address the structural challenge at hand. Its real objective is to use women's representation as a "hook" to permit delimitation ahead of the constitutionally-mandated 2027 Census,

which would otherwise give us new constituencies only in time for the 2024 elections.

Sensing its own vulnerabilities in 2029, the ruling party wishes to advance that deadline by implementing women's reservation along with an expanded parliament and newly-delimited constituencies in time for the next general elections. Hence the unseemly rush to meet this week, even as election campaigning is going on in Tamil Nadu and Bengal.

The government's cleverness is not just to cloud the issue by presenting it as being about women's representation. It is also by seeming to address the concerns of Southern states by retaining the present proportion of seat differences between them and the North, by the simple expedient of raising all states' seats by 50%. The government argues that this would ensure that ratios between states remain the same: for example, UP's 80 seats would become 120 and Kerala's 20 seats would become 30, but the ratio between them remains 4:1. This masks the fact that the absolute difference in the number of MPs between these states changes from 60 (80 versus 20) to 90 (120 versus 30), giving more UP MPs a say in determining who forms the next government. That, in fact, is really the point of the entire exercise, which is why the Opposition parties have publicly expressed scepticism about it.

If all you want is women's representation, they say, go ahead and reserve one-third of the seats in the present Lok Sabha for women and we will support you. But don't do any delimitation until after the 2027 Census is over and a new Delimitation Commission has done its work while taking all these concerns into account.

# India received highest number of regressive tax recommendations from IMF: Oxfam

**New Delhi:** India received the highest number of regressive tax recommendations from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) between 2022 and 2024, according to an analysis by Oxfam. The analysis, released ahead of the IMF and World Bank spring meetings in Washington, has flagged that the global body is applying "double standard" by giving largely progressive advice to wealthy countries while suggesting regressive measures for others that are "likely to exacerbate inequality". The report said 59 per cent of the IMF's tax advice to low- and lower-middle-income countries was regressive, while 52 per cent of its recommendations to high-income countries were progressive. A regressive tax refers to a uniform taxation system which burdens those in lower income groups more than high earners. In contrast, a tax levied in proportion to one's income is termed progressive. Oxfam examined 1,049 tax recommendations made by the IMF to 125 countries between 2022 and 2024 and found that only 30 recommendations, or around three per cent, focused on net wealth taxes and the taxation of income from wealth, namely capital gains. The



report said that despite the rapid growth of extreme wealth, billionaire wealth has surged by 81 per cent since 2020. The analysis found that the United States and Brazil received the most progressive IMF tax advice. Canada, Australia, France, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Sweden and Norway also received more progressive recommendations, along with China, Kazakhstan, Angola and Botswana. "While high-income countries generally receive IMF recommendations that are tilted towards progressive measures, amounting to 52 per cent of the overall total classifiable advice to these countries, poorer countries

don't seem to get the same treatment," the report said. On the other hand, India received the highest number of regressive recommendations, followed by several other countries in the Global South. "This regressive aspect of tax advice for Global South countries means that most measures advised by the IMF are likely to exacerbate inequality in these countries, by placing the bulk of the tax burden on middle- and low-income people while leaving the wealthiest unscathed." The report said that the IMF's tax advice to South Asia was "by far the most regressive", followed by those suggested for Latin America and the Caribbean and sub-Saharan

Africa. The analysis cited Chile, Nigeria and Hungary as examples of countries where the IMF recommended measures that could disproportionately burden low- and middle-income groups. In Chile, with one of the highest levels of income inequality, the IMF advised raising tax rates for low- and middle-income groups while leaving rates on top income brackets untouched. In Nigeria, where nearly one-third of the population lives in poverty (the highest rate in Africa), it suggested increasing value-added tax, while in Hungary, it advised against a windfall profit tax on energy companies. "A progressive tax system ensures those who have

higher income and more wealth pay proportionally more taxes than those who have less. Progressive tax measures like net wealth and capital gains taxes were rarely recommended, and when they were, advice was concentrated in high-income contexts," the report said. The report also highlighted several country cases reflecting concerning tax policy advice. In New Zealand, the IMF expressed concern that the corporate income tax in the country is "relatively high compared to peer advanced economies" and advised the government to lower it. In Sweden, it recommended "lowering taxes on deferred capital gains" to address distortions in the housing market. In the Philippines, the IMF called for broadening the value-added tax base by rationalising exemptions, while in Cote d'Ivoire, or the Ivory Coast, it recommended eliminating VAT exemptions and applying statutory VAT rates. Oxfam said the IMF publicly acknowledges that tax policy is a critical tool for addressing inequality, but it links its tax advice to inequality far more often for high-income countries (34 per cent) than low- and lower-middle-income countries (8 per cent).

# Cognizant Launches Technoverse Hackathon 2026

**BENGALURU, April 14, 2026** – Cognizant (NASDAQ: CTSH) today announced the launch of Cognizant® Technoverse Hackathon 2026. Now in its third edition, the hackathon has grown from a regional initiative into a national platform, bringing together over 20,000 pre-final year engineering students from more than 400 colleges across India to collaborate, innovate, and demonstrate their AI-powered problem-solving skills.



"We are living in a pivotal moment for the industry, and as an AI builder, Cognizant is deeply committed to developing the next generation of talent that will drive this transformation," said Rajesh Varrier, President - Global Operations and Chairman & Managing Director, Cognizant India. "Cognizant Technoverse Hackathon 2026 is a platform where India's brightest engineering minds tackle real industry challenges, think at an enterprise scale, and take their first steps toward becoming the technology leaders of tomorrow." The hackathon offers students a unique opportunity to bridge academic learning with real-world appli-

cations, work on industry-aligned problem statements, engage directly with practitioners from Cognizant, and gain first-hand exposure to how enterprises explore innovation. Participants will build solutions across several high-impact domains: Banking, Insurance, Healthcare, Life Sciences, Retail, Manufacturing, Communications, Media & Technology, and Energy & Utilities. In line with the company's commitment to inclusion across its India operations, the hackathon reinforces equal representation with 50% women participation. Each participating college may field multiple teams of four members each, with a

minimum of two women per team. The hackathon will conclude in May, with the top three teams named winners at a felicitation ceremony hosted at a Cognizant facility in Pune. As part of its broader commitment to empowering individuals with cutting-edge technology skills, including generative AI, Cognizant launched Synapse in 2023 — a skilling initiative that has already surpassed its original goal of upskilling one million individuals worldwide, well ahead of its 2026 target. Building on this momentum, the company has set a new goal to upskill a total of two million individuals by the end of 2030.

# HARRY AND MEGHAN MIX CHARITY AND BUSINESS ON AUSTRALIA VISIT

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex have posed for selfies and done gardening with hospital patients and medics and helped veterans' children make pottery on the first of a four-day Australian tour. The couple - no longer working royals and visiting in a private capacity - will combine visits to charitable causes, which included a women's refuge on Tuesday, alongside money-making events. The schedule also reflects the commercial aspect of the trip, with Prince Harry due to give a keynote speech at a summit where tickets cost up to A\$2,400 (£1,260) per person. Meghan will hold an "in-person conversation" at a women-only "girls weekend" in Sydney hosted by the producers of the Her Best Life podcast. It is unclear how much Prince Harry and Meghan are being paid for the commercial events. The couple landed at Melbourne airport around 06:30 on Tuesday (21:30 BST Monday) on a commercial Qantas flight from Los Angeles. It is Harry and Meghan's first time in



Australia since 2018 when they spent around nine days in the country as part of an intense tour just a few months after their marriage. While that trip saw large crowds gather to greet them wherever they went, this time there are no events planned to meet members of the public. After stepping down as working royals in January 2020 and giving up their His and Her Royal Highness (HRH) titles, Prince Harry and Meghan are visiting as private citizens and say that the trip is privately funded. But there

are questions over whether Australian taxpayers are picking up any of the bill for policing during the visit. The visit will take in Melbourne, Canberra and Sydney, and while charitable causes, issues and organisations close to their hearts are central to the visit, as private citizens, the couple are free to personally profit from the trip. At the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne, hundreds of people gathered in the foyer for a glimpse of Harry and Meghan on Tuesday. The couple talked animatedly to

children being treated there, and their parents - posing for selfies giving hugs and shaking hands. The duke and duchess then met with other onlookers - mainly staff and patients with their families. Among the crowd was Emily Burke and her three-year-old daughter Phoebe who had just been discharged from an overnight stay. "We just found out they were coming so we hung around," Burke told the BBC, adding that "Meghan came and had a little chat with Phoebe... she was commenting on her Bluey slippers".

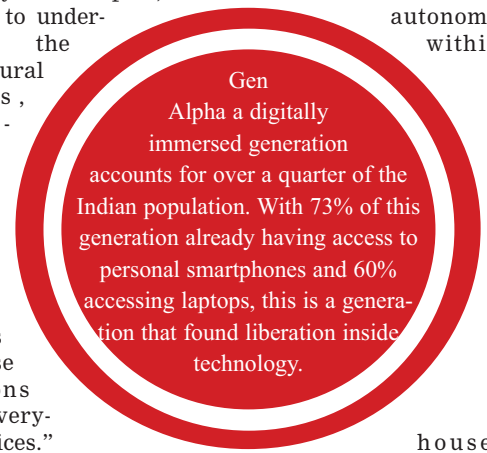
# Autonomous, atypical and aware: Rukam Capital spotlights Gen Alpha consumer trends in its 'Gen Alpha Decoded: The Consumer-Brand Dynamic' report

Gen Alpha a digitally immersed generation accounts for over a quarter of the Indian population. With 73% of this generation already having access to personal smartphones and 60% accessing laptops, this is a generation that found liberation inside technology. To further understand Generation Alpha, Rukam Capital has unveiled a one of its kind reports, 'Gen Alpha Decoded: The Consumer-Brand Dynamic' that details on how they are redefining consumer behaviour and brand engagement. Commenting on the launch of the report, Archana Jahagirdar, Founder and Managing Partner, Rukam Capital, said, "Gen Alpha is one of India's youngest generations that has the potential to influence up to 80% household purchase decisions. They are digitally fluent with limitless access to content, yet are shaped by algorithms, micro-trends, peer valida-

tion, and early ethics on sustainability and inclusivity. As India's D2C brands, edtech, content creators, toys, F&B, and fashion vie for their loyalty, assumptions must yield to evidence. With the unveiling of 'Gen Alpha Decoded: The Consumer-Brand Dynamic' report, we aim to understand the behavioural shifts, preferences, and trends that drives a 10 year old's purchase decisions and everyday choices." Gen Alpha is not defined by technology alone, but by how they use digital ecosystems to negotiate autonomy, identity, and influence within tightly structured lives. They are increasingly taking

the driver's seat in shaping consumption, culture and everyday decisions. Nearly 50% of Gen Alpha ask for a specific brand pointing to early brand consciousness with 66% of Gen Alpha children influencing everyday decisions, reflecting their increasing autonomy within

have a strong preference for utility-driven choices across six themes. Gen Alpha's digital exposure is extensive, with content streaming platforms like YouTube dominating their daily consumption, but their influence extends far beyond screens as they remain constantly aware of what is considered "cool," often linking it to achievement and social validation. They actively assert their preferences to ensure individuality for when it comes to the brands they wear, the toys they choose, and the snacks they consume, highlighting their growing influence in everyday decision-making. The survey was conducted in collaboration with YouGov, with over 2000+ respondents capturing both parents' perspectives and Gen Alpha viewpoints, highlighting evolving behaviours across digital engagement, financial awareness, and consumption patterns.



# NMDC CELEBRATES 135TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR

**Hyderabad, 14th April 2026:** NMDC, India's largest iron ore producer, marked the 135th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution, at its Corporate Office in Hyderabad as well as across all its project locations nationwide. The celebrations were led by Shri Amitava Mukherjee, CMD, NMDC along with senior leadership including Shri Vinay Kumar, Director (Technical); Shri Joydeep Dasgupta, Director (Production); Shri Anurag Kapil, Director (Finance); who along with the employees offered tributes to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on his 135th birth anniversary. The event, organized by the NMDC HO SC/ST Employees Welfare Association, saw enthusiastic participation from employees and executives. Shri B. Hanumantha Rao, President and Smt. C Annapurna, General Secretary along with office



bearers of the NMDC HO SC/ST Employees Welfare Association were instrumental in coordinating the event. The commemorative ceremony began with the lighting of lamps and putting garland on the portrait of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, followed by a prayer session paying homage to his life and vision. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Amitava Mukherjee, CMD, NMDC, emphasised, "Dr. B.R. Ambedkar reminded us that 'liberty, equality and fraternity' are not separate ideals, but a way of life that must shape our

democracy. His words continue to hold profound relevance in today's rapidly evolving world, reminding us that true progress lies in ensuring growth is inclusive and equitable. At NMDC, we remain committed to upholding these ideals by fostering a culture where dignity, fairness and shared progress define our path forward." Inspired by the timeless ideals of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, NMDC reiterated its steadfast commitment to building an inclusive and equitable society in line with his vision.

# Instamart and Kalyan Jewellers Enable Customers to Lock Today's Gold Price for Akshaya Tritiya

14th April 2026: This Akshaya Tritiya, jewellers are making it easier for gold buyers to plan ahead despite changing prices. Instamart, India's pioneering quick commerce platform, has partnered with Kalyan Jewellers to facilitate Gold Rate Protection, a first-of-its-kind feature that lets consumers lock today's gold rate and buy on the day of Akshaya Tritiya, for whichever price is lower - the lock-in price or the market rate on that day. Gold holds enduring significance during Akshaya Tritiya, symbolising prosperity and auspicious beginnings. As customers plan their purchases in the lead-up to the festival, ease and assurance become equally important. Instamart's Gold Rate Protection makes it both convenient and reassuring for users ordering BIS hallmarked gold coins from Kalyan Jewellers. How It Works Between April 10 and April 16, 2026, consumers can select eligible Kalyan Jewellers gold coins on the Instamart app and pay 5% advance, starting from ₹500 for a 0.5 gm gold coin to prebook and take delivery on Akshaya Tritiya. On April 19, between 8:00 AM and 12:00 PM IST, they complete their purchase at the lower of the two prices - gold rate on the day of pre-booking or as per delivery date, whichever is lower. All prebook customers will also receive a free silver coin from Kalyan Jewellers. Arjun Choudhary, VP Growth, Instamart, At Instamart, we've consistently looked to innovate around how Indians shop for precious metals during key occasions, from delivering 1 kg silver bricks during Dhanteras to introducing silver Rakhis for Raksha Bandhan. The gold Rate protection is a feature designed to help

**Here is how it works**

**Step 01**  
Pay a price lock charge between 10% - 16% April to lock your gold price\*

**Step 02**  
On 19th April (between 8 AM - 12 PM), pay the rest at the lower of the locked price or market price, from the same location where the price was locked\*

Today's 1g Gold Coin Rate: ₹15,632 (Plus 6% Making Charges and 3% GST)

**Get Your Price Lock Pass**

20 MINS Kalyan Jewellers 24KT Flower Design... ₹500	20 MINS Kalyan Jewellers 24KT Swastik Gold ... ₹1000	20 MINS Kalyan Jewellers 24KT Laxmi Gold C... ₹1000
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consumers navigate gold prices with greater confidence during the festival. By allowing users to secure a price in advance while still benefiting from any price drops, we strive to offer strong overall value to consumers. This is quick commerce going beyond convenience to deliver mean-

ingful value on culturally significant purchases." Ramesh Kalyanaraman, Executive Director, Kalyan Jewellers, "Gold rate protection has been a preferred feature across Kalyan Jewellers' retail showrooms, offering customers greater assurance while planning their festive purchases. With Instamart, we are extending this for the first time to a quick commerce platform. As traditions evolve, we remain committed to making gold buying both meaningful and seamless." Last year, Instamart witnessed a surge of over 500% in gold and silver coin sales on Akshaya Tritiya compared to Dhanteras, underlining the growing appetite among Indian consumers for quick commerce as a trusted channel for auspicious purchases. This initiative is the latest in Instamart's continued effort to go beyond everyday essentials, cementing its role as a destination for meaningful, occasion-led purchases delivered with the speed and trust its customers have come to rely on. All gold and complimentary silver coins\* are BIS Hallmarked, 24 Karat Kalyan Jewellers gold coins, will be subject to availability\* and subject to the terms of the offering. \*T&C Apply Gold Price Lock is a limited-period seller-led offer on select Kalyan Jewellers products listed on Instamart. A price-lock charge is required and will be adjusted against the final purchase made on April 19, 2026, between 8:00 AM and 12:00 PM IST. The final price will be the lower of the locked rate or prevailing market rate on the day. Offer, including a complimentary silver coin, is subject to availability and additional terms and conditions.

# Trump says Iran talks could resume 'over next two days' as ships pass Hormuz Strait despite US blockade

Talks between the US and Iran could restart "in the next two days", Donald Trump has told the New York Post, external. "Something could be happening over the next two days, and we're more inclined to go there [Pakistan]," he tells the newspaper. This comes after a weekend meeting in Islamabad, Pakistan, involving US Vice-President JD Vance and Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, among others. The talks ended without a deal. Earlier today, Iran's state-run media said messages have been exchanged between Tehran and Pakistan, but there is "no information" about any agreement to hold further talks with the US. For the first time in decades, the ambassadors to the US of Israel and Lebanon, countries that do not have diplomatic relations, are meeting in Washington, in what many hope will pave the way for a ceasefire in the war



here, where Israel has been fighting the Iranian-backed group Hezbollah. There is very little the Lebanese authorities can offer, however. The state is not a party to the conflict, and has almost no influence over Hezbollah, which is accused by opponents of defending the interests of Iran and dragging Lebanon into unwanted wars. This one has killed more than 2,000 people, according to the health ministry, which does not distinguish combatants from civilians, and displaced a fifth of the population. Communities are in ruins, and many residents may never be able to go back. Invading Israeli troops continue their ground operations, to create what officials describe as a security buffer zone along the border, which has raised fears that parts of the country will remain under occupation even after

the war. One of the roots of this conflict is Hezbollah's arsenal. Disarmament is a demand from the US, Israel and many Lebanese, but the government in Beirut cannot deliver it without Hezbollah's consent, amid concerns the use of force could result in violence. Supporters say Hezbollah is the only protection they have from Israel, and the group is already saying it will not abide by any decision.

Lebanon's President Joseph Aoun, who is not in the US, says he hopes the talks will mark the "beginning of the end" of Lebanon's suffering. He also says stability "will not return" to southern Lebanon if Israel "continues its occupation". For context, Israeli troops are carrying out ground operations in southern Lebanon to create what officials describe as a security buffer zone along the border. This has raised fears that parts of Lebanon could remain under occupation even after the war. Now let's return to Washington DC, where Israeli and Lebanese ambassadors are in talks. Before the talks began behind closed doors, a photo was taken in the Benjamin Franklin Room of those taking part. From the US side, participants include US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, US Ambassador to Lebanon Michel Issa, and US Ambassador to the UN Mike Waltz. Standing next to them are Lebanese Ambassador to

the US Nada Hamadeh and Israeli Ambassador to the US Yechiel Leiter. Secretary of State Rubio has just spoken briefly, describing this as a historic opportunity. Rubio says this meeting is about "a lot more" than a ceasefire - it's about "bringing a permanent end" to Hezbollah's influence. He says they understand they are working against decades of complexities that won't be resolved in the next one hour of talks, but the hope is to outline a framework for a permanent, lasting peace. Earlier, we brought you a post where US President Donald Trump said his Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni lacks "courage" over the war in Iran. We can share more now from Trump's interview with Italian outlet Corriere della Sera. Trump said: "Giorgia Meloni doesn't want to help us in the war, I'm shocked," and questioned Italy's approach to securing oil supplies.

China has called the US naval blockade of Iranian ports "irresponsible and dangerous". Beijing's foreign ministry said the move would "undermine the already fragile ceasefire agreement" and further jeopardise the safety of ships passing through the Strait of Hormuz, a critical waterway Iran effectively closed in response to US-Israeli strikes. The blockade came into force on Monday, a day after peace talks between the US and Iran broke down in Pakistan. US President Donald Trump has said the measure is intended to force Iran to give up its nuclear ambitions. Analysts say the move is also designed to pressure China - the biggest buyer of Iranian oil - to encourage Tehran to open the strait. Iran's ambassador to the UN has described the US blockade as a "grave violation" of Tehran's sovereignty. Up until now, Chinese vessels have been among the few managing to make their way through the

## US blockade of Iran ports irresponsible and dangerous, China says

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strait. It is not clear whether they had to pay a toll to Iran in order to do so. The US blockade could potentially cut off China's supply and have far-reaching consequences for its economy. "China believes that only by achieving a comprehensive ceasefire and ending the war can we fundamentally create conditions for easing the situation in the strait," China's foreign ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun said. "China urges all parties to abide by the ceasefire arrangements, focus on the general direction of dialogue and peace talks, take practical actions to promote the easing of the regional situation, and restore normal traffic in the strait as soon as possible." Guo also told a news conference on Tuesday that reports China was preparing to deliver new air defence systems to Iran were "completely fabricated". Trump has threatened to impose a 50% tariff on China's goods if military assistance was provided to Tehran.

## French woman, 86, held by ICE after moving to US to reunite with long-lost love



An 86-year-old French woman who moved to the US last year after rekindling a 1960s romance is being detained at an immigration enforcement centre in Louisiana. The son of Marie-Thérèse, from the city of Nantes, sounded the alarm after his mother was arrested in Anniston, Alabama, earlier in April. "They handcuffed her hands and feet like she was a dangerous criminal," he told French outlet Ouest-France. The US Department of Homeland Security, which oversees Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), told the BBC that an "illegal alien from France" matching Marie-Thérèse's name had entered the country in June 2025 and overstayed her 90-day visa. According to her son, however, Marie-Thérèse was awaiting a green card when she was detained. Marie-Thérèse's mother had moved to the US after marrying her long-lost love - an American man named Billy whom she had met in the 1960s, when he was a soldier stationed in the Nato base of Saint-Nazaire, and she a secretary. Billy returned to the US in 1966. He and Marie-Thérèse lost touch, got mar-

ried - each in their own country - and had children. The two reconnected in 2010 and visited one another with their spouses. Ouest-France reported. By 2022, both were widowed and started a relationship. Billy was a "charming, adorable man", Marie-Thérèse's son said, and the couple were in love "like teenagers". They married last year and Marie-Thérèse relocated to Alabama, applying for a green card - a long-term visa - that would grant her the right to remain in the US. But she had not yet received the green card when Billy died suddenly in January, leaving her immigration status unclear. Shortly after Billy's death, his son and Marie-Thérèse reportedly entered a dispute over his inheritance. Billy's son "threatened her, intimidated her, and even went so far as to cut off her water, internet, and electricity," her son told Ouest-France. Marie-Thérèse hired a lawyer, but was arrested by ICE the day before a scheduled hearing. Neighbours alerted her children. There is no proof that it was a report by Billy's son that landed his stepmother in an ICE detention centre.

## RETRIAL OVER DEATH OF ARGENTINA LEGEND MARADONA TO BEGIN

A retrial into the death of the football great Diego Maradona, who died aged 60 after suffering heart failure, starts on Tuesday. The first trial in May 2025 collapsed after one of the three judges on the case allegedly allowed unauthorised filming in court for a documentary. Maradona's medical team are accused of failing to administer proper medical care, and seven people will be tried for homicide with possible intent. They deny the allegations. If convicted, they face between eight and 25 years in prison. The football legend had been recovering at his home in Tigre, in Buenos Aires province, after successful surgery on a brain blood clot earlier that month. Investigators classified the



case as culpable homicide, a crime similar to involuntary manslaughter, because they said the accused were aware of the seriousness of Maradona's health condition but did not take the necessary measures to save him. The heart failure caused him to suffer acute pulmonary oedema, when fluid builds up in the lungs, the preliminary autopsy confirmed.

## JD Vance defends backing 'great guy' Orbán's campaign after landslide defeat

US Vice-President JD Vance has insisted he was right to stage a two-day campaign visit to back Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán five days before he was voted out of office by opposition party Tisza's landslide victory. Insisting Orbán was a "great guy" who did a "very good job", Vance told Fox News he was "one of the few European leaders we've seen who's been willing to stand up to the bureaucracy in Brussels". While he was sad Orbán had lost, he was sure the US would "work very well" with the new government, he said. Péter Magyar, who led Tisza to victory, had been critical of Vance's intervention, warning last week that "no foreign country may interfere in Hungarian elections".



However, he said on Monday the US was a "strong and important" Nato partner and if President Donald Trump or anyone else called him he would talk to them. Orbán will continue to run Hungary in a caretaker role until Magyar is sworn in, and the three party leaders with seats

in parliament have been invited to meet President Tamás Sulyok on Wednesday. Sulyok has the task of convening Hungary's new parliament and recommending the next prime minister by 12 May, and Magyar has urged him to do that as soon as possible and then

resign, calling him a "puppet" of Orbán's government. Magyar has suggested that he could become prime minister on 5 May, or even sooner. Sulyok's office has made clear to Hungarian media he will not resign, however he is expected to discuss with the three party leaders when to convene the National Assembly and propose a new prime minister. In another striking development, the incoming prime minister said he would appear on public radio and TV on Wednesday ahead of his visit to the president. Magyar said on Monday that in all the time he had led Hungary's main opposition party he had never been allowed on public TV, until he was asked on Monday morning, after he had swept Fidesz from power.

## Accusers seek justice after unwanted explicit messages from Congressman Eric Swalwell

Two women who have accused Congressman Eric Swalwell of sending unwanted explicit photos say they are grateful he is facing consequences now and leaving Congress after acting with impunity for years. Annika Albrecht and Ally Sammarco told the BBC's US partner CBS News they feel vindicated. But Albrecht said there is more to be done. "For me, justice won't be until he can't ever harm a woman ever again, and he has faced the consequences for the women that he has harmed," she said. Swalwell, a Democrat, said on Monday that he will resign. He has also dropped



out of the California governor's race. He apologised to his wife and supporters for making mistakes but denied claims of sexual abuse. In a statement, Swalwell has said he is "deeply sorry to my family, staff, and constituents for mistakes in judgement I've

made in my past". "I will fight the serious, false allegation made against me," he added. "However, I must take responsibility and ownership for the mistakes I did make." He was elected to the House of Representatives in 2012 to represent a district near

San Francisco. Last week, four women accused him of misconduct ranging from sexual harassment to rape. As a result, Congress opened an ethics inquiry, and lawmakers were considering expelling the congressman. "He was pushed into a corner, essentially, because they were planning to expel him... so I think he did that to save face a little," Sammarco told CBS News. "But I also felt very vindicated that he realized it was over for him." Sammarco told CNN last week that Swalwell sent her unsolicited nude messages over Snapchat, an app that deletes messages after they're sent.

## Cameroon separatists to pause fighting ahead of Pope visit



Anglophone separatists in Cameroon have announced a period of "safe travel passage" and halted fighting ahead of Pope Leo XIV's visit to the conflict-hit region this week. Leaders of several armed and secessionist groups said the three-day measure was in recognition of the "profound spiritual importance" of the papal visit, which starts on Wednesday, and the need to safeguard civilian life. In a statement from Unity Alliance - which brings the groups together - they said they would facilitate the movement of those celebrating the visit. The government is yet to comment. A near-decade of violence in the English-speaking regions has left at least 6,000 dead and many more forced from their homes. Pope Leo is currently in Algeria for a second day as part of his 11-day tour of the continent, in which he will also visit Cameroon, Angola and Equatorial Guinea. Peace is one of the major themes of his visit. The pontiff arrived in Algeria on Monday, marking the first visit by any pope to

the predominantly Sunni Muslim country. It is also the birthplace of St Augustine, and Leo XIV is the first pontiff from the order to follow his teachings. He is now in Annaba - where the saint was a bishop - and in the afternoon, is expected to celebrate Mass at the Basilica of Saint Augustine. During a meeting at a nearby nursing home run by Catholic nuns, the Pope reiterated his message of peace. "God's heart is torn apart by wars, violence, injustice and lies," he said, explaining that his heart was "not with the wicked, the arrogant or the proud". "God's heart is with the little ones and the humble, and with them he builds up his kingdom of love and peace day by day, just as you are striving to do here in your daily service, friendship and life together." The Pope's second country stop is Cameroon, where he will visit Bamenda, the capital of the country's North-West region. The city is regarded as the centre of Cameroon's conflict between Anglophone separatists and state forces.

## GREEK POLICE USING MASKED MIGRANTS TO FORCIBLY PUSH OTHER MIGRANTS BACK ACROSS BORDER

Police in Greece have been recruiting migrants to violently push other migrants back across its land border with Turkey, according to wide-ranging evidence uncovered by the BBC. We have seen internal police documents in which guards describe how the recruitment of so-called mercenaries was ordered and overseen by senior officers. Our findings reveal allegations of brutality, with witnesses reporting migrants being stripped, robbed, beaten and even sexually assaulted. It has been claimed that mercenaries have been unofficially employed on the border since at least 2020. The Greek prime minister told the BBC he was "totally

unaware" about allegations of the use of migrants for pushbacks, while the country's authorities have not responded to our written detailed requests for comment. Pushbacks - forcing migrants and asylum seekers back across borders without due process - are generally considered illegal under international law. Claims that they were being carried out in Greece by foreign masked men were reported in 2022 by the Netherlands-based news organisation, Lighthouse Reports. Our own investigation - carried out in collaboration with the Consolidated Rescue Group (CRG) - began last autumn, when we were sent distur-



bing video allegedly showing migrants being mistreated by mercenaries. It was shared with us by a smuggler, who claimed to have become disgruntled with his associates. We have not been able to verify the content but it mirrors accounts we have gathered from other independent sources.

We have since pieced together information from migrants, former mercenaries, police sources, official documents and leaked transcripts: One border guard told a disciplinary hearing they had information, reported to their superiors, that mercenaries had been raping female migrants Two

migrants and an ex-mercenary say they saw extreme violence by both mercenaries and Greek police, including people being beaten until they passed out. A migrant says a masked man took off her daughter's nappy in the hunt for valuables Greece has seen well over a million migrant arrivals since 2015 - chiefly through sea crossings but also along its land border with Turkey. This frontier runs 200km (124 miles) along the Evros River. It marks the outer edge of the European Union, separating Greece's Evros region and the Turkish territory of East Thrace. Refugees or illegal migrants crossing the river into Greece enter a heavily

militarised restricted zone, dotted with watchtowers. A police source in the region told us that mercenaries have been used to push back as many as hundreds of people a week. "There is no soldier, police officer or Frontex (EU border agency) officer serving here in Evros who does not know that pushbacks are taking place," they added. We have found that the mercenaries are themselves migrants, recruited from countries including Pakistan, Syria and Afghanistan, and that they can be rewarded with cash and mobiles looted from other migrants, as well as papers that, in effect, allow passage through Greece.



## Salman Khan Sends Message To Preity Zinta With Punjab Kings In Top 2 Among IPL 2026 Teams

Punjab Kings are among the most consistent teams in IPL 2026. After finishing runners-up in IPL 2025, Punjab Kings have begun the new season in right earnest. They are the only team in the IPL to remain undefeated so far. In four matches, they have won three, while one ended in a no-result. This performance has seen PBKS placed among the top two teams on the points table. Bollywood superstar Salman Khan also had a message for Preity Zinta as the team continued their strong run. "Well done, Zinta. Congratulations, Zinta. Team is playing well ... @realpreityzinta," Salman wrote on X. Meanwhile, former South African cricketer Faf du Plessis has praised the batting depth of Punjab Kings (PBKS) in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 season, calling them one of the strongest contenders for the title. Speaking on Star Sports,



JioStar expert du Plessis said Punjab Kings' batting unit has been consistently delivering, just as it did in the previous season when the team reached the final. "PBKS batters are doing really well, and that is helping them in the IPL once again. Last season, all their batters played a crucial role in helping them

reach the final. This season, their batting unit is delivering again," du Plessis said. He also highlighted captain Shreyas Iyer, noting that after a quiet start with the bat, the skipper responded with a match-winning performance against Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) in Mullanpur on Saturday.

"Captain Shreyas Iyer is the only top-four batter who hadn't got runs so far, and he comes in and not only gets a big score but takes his team through against SRH," he added. While praising PBKS overall, du Plessis pointed out minor concerns in the bowling department, especially around the form of

Arshdeep Singh and an off day for Marco Jansen. "I think PBKS are ticking every box. They are a very formidable side. Yes, there are still a few questions. Arshdeep Singh is perhaps not bowling as well as he would want. Marco Jansen had an off day. But none of this is serious," he said. He concluded by calling Punjab Kings "among the title favourites," underlining their balanced squad and strong batting momentum this season. "But none of this is serious. For me, they are among the title favourites." Punjab Kings maintained their impressive start to the IPL 2026 season with a thrilling six-wicket victory over Sunrisers Hyderabad at the New International Cricket Stadium, New Chandigarh. After winning the toss and electing to bowl first, the Kings faced an aggressive Hyderabad side that raced to 120 without loss in just eight overs.

## Roman Reigns, CM Punk Clash As WrestleMania Showdowns Heat Up

Just five days before WrestleMania 42, Monday Night Raw at the Golden 1 Center delivered chaos, contract signings, and brawls that set the stage for the "Show of Shows." The main event saw Roman Reigns and CM Punk meet in the ring one last time before their WrestleMania clash. Punk continued his verbal "pipebombs," questioning Reigns' legacy and The Rock's influence. Reigns, calm but defiant, declared himself the "Original Tribal Chief" focused on reclaiming his throne. The segment ended in a chilling staredown, with security forced to separate the two. Gunther and Rollins Trade Blows: The Intercontinental Championship feud reached a boiling point when Gunther took to the ring to address his dominance. He was swiftly ambushed by Seth "Freakin" Rollins, sparking a massive brawl that required several officials to intervene. Rollins vowed to "reclaim his kingdom" this Saturday at WrestleMania. Backstage Mayhem: Liv Morgan



Attacks: During a backstage interview, Liv Morgan blindsided Stephanie Vaquer. The force of the attack sent Vaquer crashing into interviewer Cathy Kelley, who suffered a nasty fall. WWE medical staff later confirmed that while Kelley was shaken, she cleared protocol. The incident has added a dark, personal layer to the Women's World Championship rivalry. WWE

Raw, April 13: Other Results: - Lyra Valkyria secured a massive victory over Charlotte Flair in a highly competitive singles match. - LA Knight & The Usos defeated The Bloodline (represented by the MFTs) in a chaotic six-man tag team match. - Kairi Sane defeated Iyo Sky in a fast-paced bout that showcased the agility of both Damage CTRL members.

## KKR Slammed Over Releasing Sunrisers Hyderabad's New Pace Sensation: "Wasn't Getting Chance"

Former Indian cricket team batter Manoj Tiwary slammed Kolkata Knight Riders for not utilising fast bowler Sakib Hussain after the youngster's heroics for Sunrisers Hyderabad on Monday. The pacer was in sensational form during his IPL debut against Rajasthan Royals as he took four wickets including the major wicket of Yashasvi Jaiswal. Sunrisers Hyderabad went on to beat Rajasthan Royals by 57 runs and Hussain was praised by both experts as well as fans. Hussain was part of the KKR setup between 2024 and 2025 but did not play a single match for the franchise. He was released ahead of the IPL 2026 auction and Sunrisers Hyderabad bought him for



the base price of Rs 30 lakh. Tiwary said that KKR have released good players in the past and cited the examples of Shubman Gill and Shreyas Iyer. "I have seen him; he (Sakib) was in the KKR squad for many years, but he wasn't getting a

chance there. We have seen KKR release some good players. If they hadn't released him, then he wouldn't have come to the Sunrisers," he said on Monday. With Harshit Rana and Akash Deep getting ruled out and

Matheesha Pathirana not joining the franchise till now, KKR have been facing major problems in the pace bowling department. Two debutants, SRH's Praful Hinge and Sakib Hussain played key roles in their team's win by taking four wickets each. Praful Hinge, 24, and 21-year-old Sakib Hussain, who SRH played instead of domestic and India veterans Harshal Patel and Jaydev Unadkat, claimed figures of 4/34 in 4 overs and 4/24 in 4 overs, respectively. "No one expected two debutants to perform in this way in their very first match. The SRH bowling coaches had confidence in them and those who follow domestic cricket knew their ability," Tiwary said.

## Sunrisers Hyderabad Pacer Ruled Out Of IPL 2026 Day After Victory Over Rajasthan Royals, Replacement Named

A day after Sunrisers Hyderabad notched a memorable win over Rajasthan Royals, one of their players has been ruled out of IPL 2026. The 2016 champions Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) have been dealt a big blow amid the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026, as all-rounder Brydon Carse has been ruled out of the entire tournament without playing a single match due to injury. The team has announced Sri Lankan pacer Dilshan Madushanka as Carse's replacement. "Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) have picked Dilshan Madushanka as a replacement for Brydon Carse for the remainder of the TATA Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026. Carse has been ruled out of the ongoing IPL



season due to an injury," the Indian Premier League said in a statement released on Tuesday. "Dilshan Madushanka, a left-arm medium pacer, has represented Sri Lanka in one Test, 28 ODIs, and 19 T20Is and has 70 wickets in international cricket to his name. He will join SRH for INR 75 lakh. The Sri Lankan

bowler was previously part of the Mumbai Indians (MI) in the IPL," the statement added. Madushanka's entry will further bolster the SRH bowling unit, which already includes youngsters Praful Hinge and Sakib Hussain, along with experienced pacers Harshal Patel and Jaydev Unadkat. Designated captain Pat

Cummins is likely to join the group on April 17. Madushanka has not played a match in the IPL so far. He was acquired by the Mumbai Indians (MI) for Rs 4.6 crore in 2024 but was ruled out due to a hamstring injury. The 25-year-old Sri Lankan left-arm pacer is known for his ability to swing the ball early in the powerplay. Ishan Kishan is leading the side in Cummins' absence. Under his captaincy, the team has won two out of five matches in the ongoing season. They are currently placed fourth in the points table with a net run rate of +0.576. SRH defeated table-toppers Rajasthan Royals (RR) on Monday, courtesy of a brilliant bowling display by debutants Praful and Sakib, who took four wickets each.

## SEXIST ABUSE OF UNION BERLIN BOSS 'EMBARRASSING'

Union Berlin's director of football has condemned "insane" sexist abuse directed towards new head coach Marie-Louise Eta. Eta became the first woman appointed to manage a men's team in one of Europe's top five leagues after being named interim head coach of the Bundesliga side. Since her appointment on Sunday, the 34-year-old has been the target of sexist comments on social media. "It's just embarrassing. I've noticed it, but I also refuse to read or even just expose myself to that kind of nonsense because for me this is about quality - leadership quality," said Horst Heldt. "We have 100% confidence in Loui - complete conviction. I find it insane that we have to deal with this in this day and age. "We're talking about a highly competent leader here, and you can be sure that everyone here at Union, whether in the stands or within the club itself, stands 100% behind this decision and will do everything in their power to ensure that this doesn't lead to any further discussion in the future." Eta, a former Germany youth international and Women's Champions League winner with Turbine Potsdam, will take charge of Union Berlin's women's side this summer. She



became the Bundesliga's first female assistant coach, with Union Berlin, in November 2023. She deputised for manager Nenad Bjelica, who was serving a three-match suspension, during a 1-0 win over Darmstadt in January 2024 to become the first woman to lead a Bundesliga team from the touchline. Union Berlin, who are 11th in the 18-team Bundesliga, are 11 points clear of the automatic relegation zone with five matches remaining but have won only twice in 14 league outings in 2026.

## SRH Pacer, Who Scripted History On IPL Debut, Recreates Viral 'Mohammed Siraj' Video

Sunrisers Hyderabad fast bowler Praful Hinge, who impressed everyone with his sensational bowling against Rajasthan Royals, recreated Mohammed Siraj's viral video after his team's win in IPL 2026 on Monday. Hinge was in sensational form on his IPL debut as he took three wickets in the very first over of the RR innings and finished with figures of 4/34 in 4 overs. He took the crucial wickets of Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Dhruv Jurel and Lhuan-dre Pretorius in the first over and followed it up with the dismissal of RR captain Riyan Parag. Following the win, Hinge's teammate Nitish Kumar Reddy posted a video with the fast bowler, saying "Bhai log, jo bhi bhai ka id hai wo sab fake hai. Ek jo



niche ID jo tag hoga wo real hoga." The context of the video was linked to an old clip that featured India fast bowler Mohammed Siraj. Siraj shared his Instagram handle in that video and made it clear that people should not follow other fake accounts. Hinge remains focused on contributing

fully whenever given an opportunity, striving to win matches for his side with complete dedication. He also expressed a personal ambition to make a mark in the field by taking a spectacular catch and contending for the Best Fielder award. "I didn't prepare anything special as such.

## Tall Boy, Taller Ambitions: Ayush Shetty's China Breakthrough Signals India's Next Big Badminton Star



"Generational talent." that is how PV Sindhu described Ayush Shetty after his giant killing act in China's Ningbo when he beat World No. 1 Kunlavut Vitidsarn at Asian Badminton Championships 2026. When PV Sindhu uses that phrase, it carries weight. Standing at 6ft 4in, Ayush Shetty has long been impossible to miss physically. After his exploits in China this week, he became impossible to ignore. But the final against Shi Yuqi, was a reminder of where he needs to tighten his game. The World No. 2 belted out a masterclass in control and precision. In front of a partisan crowd, the Indian struggled to impose his trademark attacking game. The result was a swift 42-minute defeat-8-21, 10-21. For Shetty, it was more a lesson. "I think in the final,

my opponent executed his game plan really well," he admitted. "He didn't give me many openings to attack... his length control was very precise and he kept me away from the net. So yes, adapting better in such situations-being more patient, extending rallies, and transitioning smoothly between attack and defence is definitely something I need to work on." The week that led up to the final was a delight for the badminton fans who saw his steep angles, booming smashes and court coverage, thanks in part to that towering frame. And he did spend some time with the Dane. As a youngster, he idolised Lee Chong Wei, drawn to the Malaysian legend's speed and attacking flair. He also idolised Kidambi Srikanth. But with his body evolving, his blueprint for success also changed.

## Peaty on his return to the pool, LA 2028 and Gordon Ramsay's speech

Adam Peaty is back for more, again. The three-time Olympic champion, who almost quit the sport before the Paris Olympics and considered doing so after taking silver in the French capital, returns to the London Aquatics Centre on Tuesday. It is a key step on the road he hopes will lead to a fourth Olympic Games in Los Angeles in 2028 - and possibly another Olympic gold. "The next two years are probably going to be the hardest of my career," Peaty tells BBC Breakfast. "There probably won't be much winning, but the one win

that does matter is LA." It is almost a year since Peaty, who got married while swimming took a back seat, confirmed he will go again. He made the decision after it was confirmed the 50m breaststroke event would be added to the schedule in 2028. It gives Peaty a second shot at more individual golds - the chance to add the 50m title to the 100m medals he won in 2016 and 2021. He has raced here and there in recent months with mixed results, but will compete over both distances at this week's British Championships - a crucial step which he hopes will

lead to the Commonwealth Games, World and European Championships and America's west coast. "It's like tasting an amazing steak and then having to go back to a McDonald's burger," he says. "The Olympics is the one that excites me. That is the one that really gets me out of bed every day, the one I dream of. "We have to set that path now. "Two years out, it is about how much racing and experience can we gather to give the best performance in LA." Peaty was beaten to a third successive gold in Paris by Italy's Nicolo Martinenghi, having contracted coron-

avirus in the days before the final. "With the cards I was dealt I swam out of my skin," he says. "I shouldn't have got a silver medal." Before the Paris Games, Peaty shared his struggles with injury and his mental health, describing the period as a "self-destructive spiral". He says he has not allowed himself to think about what another Olympic medal might mean but remains confident similar issues will not return as he chases more success in LA. "Can we avoid burnout? Absolutely," he says. "It is the logistical and strategic thinking we have to do.



## "RaaKaaSaa" Continues Its Strong Box Office Run, Crossing Rs. 22.60 Cr Worldwide in 10 Days to Emerge as a Breakout Summer Sensation

RaaKaaSaa is settling into a confident theatrical run, crossing Rs. 22.60 crore worldwide in 10 days and continuing to draw steady crowds across centres. More than a spike-driven performance, the film shows signs of a sustained run, with audience turnout holding consistently beyond the opening phase. What's clearly driving this momentum is how audiences are responding inside theatres. RaaKaaSaa is increasingly experienced as a shared outing, with families turning up in groups and engaging with the film in a way that feels easy and unforced. From bursts of laughter to attentive, involved viewing, the response has been active across shows, giving the film a steady rhythm rather than isolated highs. This behaviour is translating into repeat footfalls. Families are not just watching the film - they are returning with others, extending its reach organically. The film's tone plays a key role here; positioned as a light, accessible entertainer, it offers a relaxed viewing experience that allows different age groups to connect without



RaaKaaSaa is settling into a confident theatrical run, crossing Rs. 22.60 crore worldwide in 10 days and continuing to draw steady crowds across centres.

friction. That cross-generational balance is central to its acceptance. Children are drawn into its playful and imaginative stretches, while adults stay engaged with its humour and character-driven moments. The result is a viewing dynamic where no section feels left out, making it a com-

fortable choice for group outings. Certain segments have emerged as consistent crowd-responders. The Sangeeth-Getup Srinu track continues to land strongly across theatres, while Vennela Kishore's performance adds a layer of timing and energy that sustains the film's engagement through key stretches. Building on this steady run, the makers have introduced a ₹100 flat ticket pricing initiative across all single screens in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, effective from April 10. The decision aligns with the film's current audience base, where

group viewing and accessibility play a significant role in turnout. Single screens, particularly across B and C centres, continue to be important volume drivers. With pricing often influencing the decision to step into theatres, this move is expected to open the film to a wider audience while also encouraging repeat visits among families who have already connected with it. Backed by Niharika Konidela and Umesh Kumar Bansal under Pink Elephant Pictures in association with Z Studios, and directed by Manasa Sharma, the film thrives on its ensemble energy

and entertainment-first approach. Led by Sangeeth Shobhan and Nayan Sarika, supported by a vibrant cast, RaaKaaSaa delivers a theatrical experience that resonates with a wide audience base. As the run progresses, RaaKaaSaa is holding its space as a dependable theatrical option, supported by steady word-of-mouth and a viewing experience that works across age groups. With momentum intact and accessibility improving, the film is well-positioned to continue its run through the summer window. RaaKaaSaa is currently playing in theatres.

## 'PITHAPURAMLO' TO RELEASE ON MAY 1ST



The film 'Pithapuramlo... Ala Modalaindi', directed by veteran filmmaker Mahesh Chandra, is set to release on May 1st. The principal cast includes Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Prudhviraj, Kedar Shankar, Mani Chandana, Annapurnaamma, Sunny Akhil, Virat, Sai Praneeth, Sreelu, Prathyusha, and Rehana. The film was produced by Dundigalla Balakrishna, Akula Suresh Patel, and F.M. Murali (Godavari Kittayya) under the Mahesh Chandra Cinema Team banner. Speaking on the occasion, Director Mahesh Chandra

stated, "The trailer and two songs released recently have received a tremendous response. This film features romance, subtle humor, and sentiment; it beautifully portrays the bond between a father and daughter. It also serves as a cautionary tale, highlighting what the younger generation stands to lose if they take a wrong turn in life. Overall, the film conveys a positive message that resonates with both the older and younger generations. The characters depicted in this movie are incredibly natural—the kind of people you might find living next door or right in your own

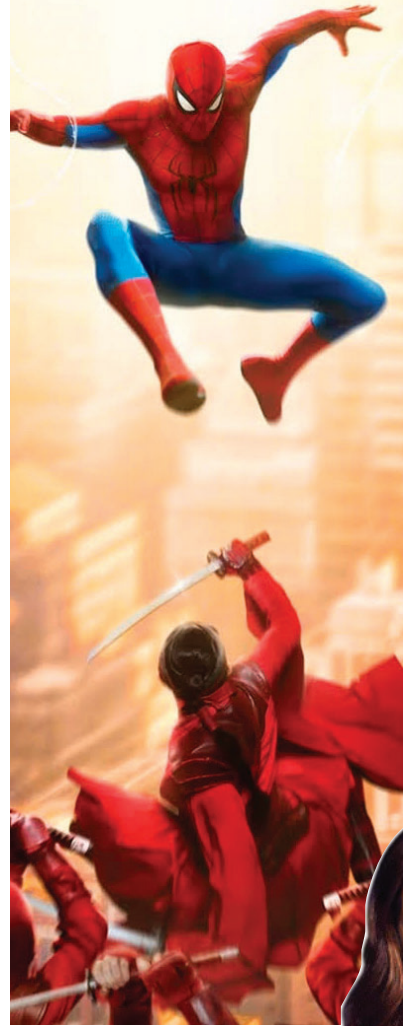
neighborhood. Watching this film feels as though a camera was simply placed to capture real-life events as they unfolded. Concepts like this are truly evergreen. Just as my earlier film 'Preyasi Rave' served as a turning point in my career back in the day, I strongly believe that 'Pithapuramlo... Ala Modalaindi' will now mark a new turning point in my career. Renowned sculptor Rajkumar Wodeyar plays a pivotal role in the film, and the voice-over provided by the 'Haasya Brahma' Dr. Brahmanandam, stands as a special highlight of the movie."

## TOXIC MAKERS SHOULD BREAK SILENCE AS DOUBTS MOUNT ON RELEASE



Speculation is steadily mounting around the release of Toxic, with trade circles increasingly questioning whether the film will make its announced June 4 date. With roughly 40 days left, the silence from the makers has only intensified the uncertainty all over. There has been no major promotional activity or official update, which is unusual for a project of this scale and has raised concerns about its readiness. One of the key reasons behind this

delay is said to be the complications faced by the banner, KVN Productions, following the leak issue surrounding Jana Nayagan, a film which they also produced. The situation has reportedly diverted both attention and resources, slowing down progress on multiple fronts. In fact, the ripple effect is being felt elsewhere too, as the much-anticipated film of Chiranjeevi with director Bobby, backed by the same banner, has also seen delays in its commencement.



## Spider-Man: Brand New Day Star Tom Holland Suits Up for an Epic Showdown in Two New Posters

The buzz around everyone's favourite web-slinger is only getting louder, courtesy of two new posters released this week! Weeks after Spider-Man: Brand New Day dropped its first look, Sony Pictures has treated fans to fresh glimpses of the superhero's next chapter. The posters were unveiled at CinemaCon 2026. Sony head Tom Rothman first showcased the two upcoming posters for the film, noting that it "feels like nothing we've ever made," despite the many past stories around the superhero. He also called it Holland's "finest performance," before Holland appeared virtually to declare that the movie is "the most emotional Spider-

Man film we've ever made, and in some ways, the most grown-up." The trailer of Spider-Man: Brand New Day has already shattered records, becoming one of the most talked-about and widely viewed trailers in recent times. The overwhelming response is a clear sign that audiences are more than ready to dive back into Spider-Man's world—this time with higher stakes, deeper emotions, and a gripping new storyline. Directed by Destin Daniel Cretton, Spider-Man: Brand New Day sees Tom Holland reprise his role alongside Zendaya, Jacob Batalon, Sadie Sink, Jon Bernthal, Mark Ruffalo, Michael Mando, and Trameil Tillman in pivotal roles. Sony Pictures Entertainment India will release Spider-Man: Brand New Day in theatres on 31st July 2026 in

The buzz around everyone's favourite web-slinger is only getting louder, courtesy of two new posters released this week!

## ALIA BHATT IN TALKS FOR BIG PAN-INDIA TELUGU FILM ROLE



## Tara Sutaria teases her 'last week at home' on Farah Khan's show



Bollywood actress Tara Sutaria gave a sneak-peek into her "last week at home", which featured moments from choreographer-filmmaker Farah Khan's shoe, evenings, and dinner, which was almost served among others. Tara took to Instagram, where she shared a string of pictures featuring her elegant dinner table set-up, piano and a painting. For the occasion, Tara wrote: "Last week at home! - Prepping my table for my favourite @farahkhandunder's fabulous show - Evenings - Dinner is

favourite piece of art and my baby grand welcoming me home - @oonadmello, artist extraordinaire and someone I am lucky to call family painted this most exquisite piece for my new home. Seriously... How lucky am I!?" Reacting to the heartfelt post, Farah couldn't help but gush over both the actress and her beautiful home. As she wrote in the comment section: "Gorgeous thanks for having us home you and your house both are beautiful." Tara started her career as a singer in the reality show Big Bada Boom in 2010 and transitioned to acting with the sitcoms The Suite Life of Karan and Kabir and Oye Jassie. She made her film debut in 2019 with Student of the Year 2 and was then seen in films such as Marjaavaan, Ek Villain Returns and Apurva. The actress will next be seen in Toxic.

"Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups," which is slated to release on June 4. Directed by Geethu Mohandas, the film was first scheduled to hit the screens on March 19. However, the makers of the action-drama in March announced that the film's release was being postponed to June 4 this year in the wake of the current conflict going on in the Middle East. KVN Productions and Monster Mind Creations announced the strategic rescheduling of the global theatrical release of the film based on the advice of one of their major distribution partner Phars Films. In an official statement, KVN Productions and Monster Mind Creations said, "Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups is a film we conceptualized with the vision to create cinema for a global audience. Rescheduled to June 4, the film will