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Israel attacks major Iranian petrochemical site after Trump's infrastructure threats



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R Ashwin Explains How Quitting Test Cricket Made Virat Kohli A New Beast In T20 Cricket

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SCAN FOR E-PAPER



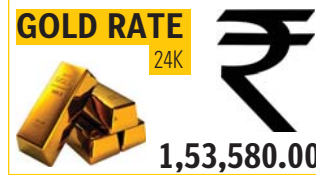
OM NAMO VENKATESAYA



05-04-2026
Total pilgrims: 83,271
Tonsures: 25,018
Hundi kanakalu: 3,78CR
Waiting Compartments: 20

Approv. Darshan Timi for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens) - 12H

WEATHER



INBRIFS

Abusive language alone not obscenity under Indian Penal Code: SC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has held that mere use of abusive language such as the word "bastard" during a heated altercation would not amount to an offence of obscenity under Section 294(b) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). A bench of Justices Pamidighantam Sri Narasimha and Manoj Misra made the observation while partly allowing appeals filed by two accused persons challenging their conviction in a 2014 case arising out of a long-standing boundary dispute between close relatives in Tamil Nadu. In its detailed judgment, the Justice Narasimha-led Bench examined the scope of "obscenity" under Section 294 IPC and clarified that not all vulgar or abusive expressions would attract penal consequences. "Mere use of the word 'bastard', by itself, is not sufficient to arouse the prurient interest of a person. More so, when such words are commonly used in the modern era during heated conversations," the apex court observed.

Woman burnt alive after she rejects marriage proposal in Kolkata

Kolkata (TIST): A 30-year-old Muslim woman was allegedly set on fire and succumbed to her injuries on Monday, April 6, after she refused to marry a man who lured her on the pretext of a job interview in Kolkata, West Bengal. According to local media, the incident took place in Babughat in the Maidan area on Saturday, April 4. The victim, Shagufta Parveen, suffered 90 per cent burn injuries and made a declaration moments before passing away at the SSKM Hospital, revealing the accused's name. Siddhartha Chariwal allegedly called Parveen to a secluded spot by falsely claiming it was for an interview. A heated argument broke out between the two at the spot when the accused asked to marry the victim. Chariwal reportedly poured kerosene on Parveen following her refusal and set her ablaze. Eyewitnesses called police and she was rushed to the hospital, where she was in critical condition for two days before passing away.

Stalin to campaign in Puducherry today as Assembly polls enter final phase

Puducherry, April 6 (TSIT): Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK President M.K. Stalin is set to campaign in Puducherry on Monday, as the union territory heads into the final phase of high-voltage electioneering ahead of the April 9 Assembly polls. The visit comes at a crucial juncture, with just days left for voters to decide the fate of candidates contesting across all 30 constituencies.

Stalin will address a public meeting at 5 p.m. at the Thattanchavady Regulated Sales Complex, where he is expected to canvass support for candidates of the INDIA bloc. His speech is likely to focus on key political themes, alliance unity, and voter mobilisation



in the closing stretch of the campaign.

Voting for the 30-member Puducherry Legislative Assembly will take place on April 9 (Thursday), with a total of 294 candidates in the fray. Candidates have been actively campaigning across constituencies, engaging in door-to-door outreach, public meetings, and local interactions in

an effort to consolidate support. The electoral contest has taken the shape of a multi-cornered fight.

The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) comprises the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the All India N.R. Congress (AINRC), the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), and the Lakshya Jananayaga Katchi.

The INDIA bloc includes the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), the Indian National Congress, and several allied parties. In addition, regional players such as the TVK and Naam Tamilar Katchi (NTK) are also in the fray, making the contest more competitive and unpredictable.

No talks with Iran on Hormuz transit levy, reports baseless: Govt

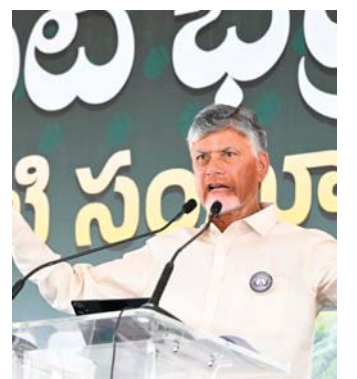
New Delhi, April 6 (TSIT): The government on Monday dismissed reports suggesting that India was in discussions with Iran over imposing a transit levy through the Strait of Hormuz, calling such claims baseless and without any foundation. Speaking on the issue, Mukesh Mangal, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Shipping, clarified that India has held no talks with Iran regarding any levy for passage through the Strait of Hormuz.

"The government is not aware of any such development, seeking to allay concerns amid heightened tensions in the region," he stated. Providing an update on maritime movement, Mangal said that 16 Indian vessels operating west of the Strait of Hormuz are being closely



tracked. "LPG carriers Green Sanvi and Green Asha have safely crossed the critical shipping route and are expected to arrive in India on April 7 and April 9, respectively," he added. The two vessels are carrying 46,500 tonnes and 15,500 tonnes of LPG, ensuring continuity in energy supplies. On the energy front, Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, noted that LPG imports have seen some decline while domestic production remains limited.

Andhra launches 100-day action plan for water security



Amaravati, April 6 (TSIT): Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Monday launched the 'Jaladhara' programme, a 100-day action plan taken up across the state for water security. With the goals of desilting tanks, repairing canals, recharging groundwater, and conserving water, the government has designed the Jaladhara programme to ensure water for every acre and confidence for every farmer. The Chief Minister launched the programme in Yadiki in Anantapur district, in the drought-prone Rayalaseema region.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister stated that the government initiated a public movement for water conservation. He said in this programme, led by 60,000 members of water user associations, every single citizen should become a stakeholder. The Chief Minister stated that by utilising the earth itself as a natural reservoir for storage, we can achieve more effective water management. He called upon the people, government officials, and water user associations to join hands and increase groundwater levels. "We must ensure that groundwater is available at a depth of 6 meters before the monsoon season, and at less than 3 meters after it. If we can achieve this, the state will no longer face any water scarcity." He emphasised the need to fill the reservoirs to their capacity so that the state can have the opportunity to utilise the water whenever necessary.

CM Revanth Announces Adilabad Airport, Irrigation Revival to Boost Development



Adilabad (TSIT): Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Monday unveiled a series of major development initiatives for Adilabad, including the revival of the long-pending Pranahita-Chevella irrigation project at Tummidihatti to ensure irrigation water for the region.

Addressing a public meeting at Pipri, the Chief Minister asserted that completing pending irrigation projects is a top priority and vowed to transform Adilabad into a fertile and prosperous district. He also announced that the foundation stone for the proposed Adilabad Airport will be laid on Telangana Formation Day, enhancing connectivity in the backward region.

Highlighting long-term plans, he said Adilabad will be developed as a hub for industries, education, and tourism by 2034, with a university project already in the pipeline. He also reiterated Rs.225 crore allocation for the development of the Gnana Saraswati Temple, along with further support for temple infrastructure.

Criticizing the previous Bharat Rashtira Samithi government, he alleged lack of development over the past decade. Emphasizing inclusive governance, he said welfare schemes and development works are being implemented across all constituencies without discrimination, reaffirming his government's commitment to improv-

Mamata questions PM Modi's silence over Pak minister's Kolkata threat



Kolkata, April 6 (TSIT): West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of maintaining a deliberate silence at his election campaign rally in Cooch Behar district on Sunday regarding the threat issued by Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, who said that Pakistan would retaliate with a strike on Kolkata if India tried to stage any false-flag operation against Pakistan in the future.

"How could a Pakistani minister speak about targeting Kolkata? Why did the Prime Minister not say anything about this when he came here on Sunday? Why couldn't he say that strict action would be taken against this? Why was he silent? Why hasn't action been taken against Pakistan?"

"Who made their Pakistan

minister say such things? We demand an investigation in the matter. If they talk about attacking Kolkata, we won't accept it," the Chief Minister said at an election campaign rally in Nadia district on Monday, ahead of the two-phase Assembly polls in the state later this month.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister also cautioned that on the counting day on May 4, Trinamool Congress workers should not be misled by false rumours in the early hours of counting, suggesting that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidates are ahead in the majority of the Assembly constituencies in West Bengal. "In the morning hours, they would like to project as if their candidates are winning in most of the constituencies. But do not get disheartened by that. Watch till the end. We will finally win. Do not leave the counting centres till the counting is over," the Chief Minister said.

The Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF), Praveen Kumar, became the Centre of the Chief Minister's attack during her speech.

Iran rejects ceasefire proposal as Trump calls it a 'significant step'

Tehran (TSIT) Iran on Monday, April 6, rejected a United States (US)-backed ceasefire proposal, insisting any agreement must guarantee a permanent end to hostilities across West Asia, even as President Donald Trump described the plan as a "significant step" but insufficient. Tehran conveyed its response via Pakistan, according to the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), stating it would only consider a truce if the US and Israel immediately halt strikes, including those targeting



senior leadership. Iran's 10-clause response rejects a temporary ceasefire and calls for a definitive end to conflicts across the region,

Revanth lays foundation for Rs 225 cr Basara temple renovation work



Hyderabad, April 6 (TSIT): Telangana's famous Gnana Saraswati temple is to get a big facelift as Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Monday laid the foundation for the temple's expansion and development works to be undertaken at a cost of Rs 225 crore.

Accompanied by Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and some other ministers, the Chief Minister performed Bhoomi Puja at the temple in Basara town of Nirmal district. Before performing Bhoomi Puja, the Chief Minister, along with his family members, performed prayers at the temple. They participated in various rituals amid the singing of Vedic hymns by priests.

Situated on the banks of the

sacred river Godavari, which is also revered as the "Dakshina Ganga" (Southern Ganges), the temple boasts a glorious history spanning thousands of years.

According to the legend, following the Kurukshetra War, Veda Vyasa came to reside on the banks of Godavari at Basara and during his stay, he sculpted and consecrated the idols of Goddesses - Gnana Saraswati, Mahalakshmi, and Mahakali. From then, Basara gained popularity as a holy site with the enshrine of "Trimataas".

Devotees come to the temple to perform Aksharabhyasam (the traditional initiation ceremony into formal education) for their children. In view of the increasing number of visitors and lack of adequate facilities in the temple,

the Chief Minister resolved to

take up comprehensive development of the Basara temple and instructed the officials to formulate a master plan to execute the developmental works in strict adherence to the temple's established traditions and rituals.

The authorities consulted with the spiritual heads of the Sringeri Peethadhipatis before formulating the Master Plan and obtained their approval for the construction of the sanctum sanctorum ('Garbhalyam'), 'Artha Mandapam', 'Raja Gopuram' (main tower), other towers, 'Mada Veedhulu' (processional streets), temple tank ('Koneru'), and the Northern Gateway. In view of the growing number of devotees and future requirements, the sanctum sanctorum and Artha Mandapam, currently spanning 2,000 square feet, are being expanded to cover 5,000 square feet. The plans included the construction of a nine-storey Raja Gopuram on the northern side, seven-storey towers in the remaining three directions, Mada Veedhulu (processional streets) 33 feet in width encircling the temple on all four sides and a northern Gateway. In total, the temple's built-up area is being expanded from 20,000 square feet to 62,000 square feet.

As Godavari Pushkaralu is scheduled to start in June next

BJP Guided by 'India First', Committed to Service: PM Modi on Foundation Day

New Delhi, April 6 (TSIT) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday extended warm greetings to Bharatiya Janata Party's workers on the occasion of the party's Foundation Day, emphasizing the long-standing commitment to public service and the principle of "India First." The BJP was established in 1980 after a split from the Janata Party, rooted in its predecessor, the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, founded in 1951 by Shyama Prasad Mukherjee. It has since grown into one of India's major national parties with a focus on cultural nationalism and development.

Posting on X, PM Modi said, "Warm greetings to all BJP Karyakartas across the nation on the party's Sthapana Diwas. Our Party has always been at the forefront of serving society, guided by the principle of India First. Our Karyakartas are known for their selfless service, unwavering dedication and a deep passion towards good governance. They have worked tirelessly at the grassroots, ensuring maximum people are connected to our ideology and work."

He also remembered the workers whose "dedication,



sacrifice and perseverance", he said, have shaped the party's growth over decades.

The Prime Minister added, "The BJP stands as a party that places the well-being of people at the centre of its vision. This is reflected in our work at the Centre and in various states. BJP remains committed to building a Viksit Bharat. May our collective resolve continue to drive this vision forward and take India to new heights of progress and prosperity."

Earlier in the day, Union Home Minister Amit Shah also conveyed his greetings. "Heartfelt greetings to all BJP workers on the foundation day dedicated to the resolve of Nation First above all. The establishment of the Bharatiya Janata Party, formed by the nation-

alist thought and ideological inspiration of Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Ji and Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Ji, was not merely a political event, but a pledge for national reconstruction... Beginning with the core ethos of welfare for the last person in line, the BJP under the leadership of Modi Ji has realised the mantra of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas', the Union Minister wrote in a post on X. Other senior leaders, including Union Ministers J.P. Nadda, Kiren Rijiju, Nitin Gadkari, as well as Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, conveyed wishes on the party's foundation day.

Himachal govt sets target to increase state's forest cover to 32 per cent by the year 2030

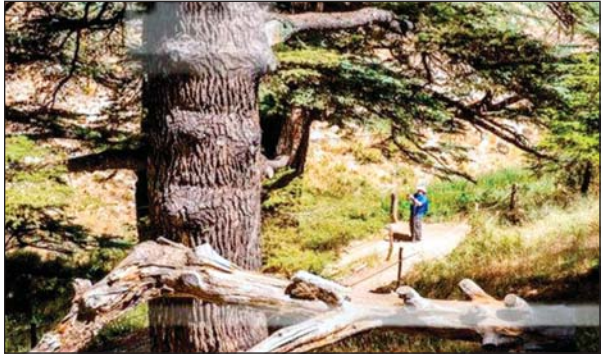
SHIMLA: The Himachal Pradesh government has set a target to increase the state's forest cover from the existing 29.50 per cent to 32 per cent by the year 2030, a spokesperson said on Sunday.

The government, in its Budget for the 2026-27 fiscal, had announced an initiative, 'Mission 32 Per cent', he said.

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu had said the decision marks "a major step towards making Himachal a green Himalayan state" and is expected to enhance biodiversity.

"The target is not merely statistical, it forms part of a broader strategy to address climate change, maintain ecological balance and ensure sustainable development," the spokesperson added.

Highlighting the steps



taken in this direction, he said to achieve this objective, the state government over the past three years has introduced several innovative initiatives that integrate forest expansion, conservation and community participation.

"Among these, the Mukhyamantri Van Vastara Yojana stands as a key intervention. The scheme aims to convert barren and unproductive hills into

also creates future livelihood opportunities for local communities.

"Similarly, the Rajiv Gandhi Van Samvardhan Yojana represents a significant step towards the rejuvenation of forest areas. Large-scale plantation is being carried out on forest land, supported by dedicated financial provisions for maintenance, which is a major component of the scheme," he said.

He added that an amount of Rs 1.20 lakh per hectare is being provided to ensure not only the plantation but also the survival and proper upkeep of saplings.

The scheme is being implemented on the ground through self-help groups, Mahila Mandals and youth groups, generating employment and strengthening the rural economy, the spokesperson said.

Samaypur Badli head constable solves 155 cases in three months

NEW DELHI: Head Constable Sanjay Kumar Vashist of Samaypur Badli police station has been declared the "best investigating officer" of Delhi Police's outer-north district for disposing of 155 cases in the first quarter of 2026, an official said on Sunday. The recognition was conferred on Vashist by Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer-north) Hareeshwar Swami, following a review of performance in the three months from January to March.

"Inspector Shailendra Singh Jharkhar of Samaypur Badli police station was named best Station House Officer, while Assistant Commissioner of Police Rakesh Kumar of the same station led the best-performing sub-division.

Odisha police registers FIR over death of Bengali actor Rahul Arunoday Banerjee

BALASORE: The Odisha police have registered an FIR over the death of actor Rahul Arunoday Banerjee, who allegedly drowned during a shoot of a Bengali television serial at Talsari beach in Balasore district, officials said on Sunday.

Banerjee, 43, drowned during a TV serial shooting at Talsari beach in Odisha on March 29 by accidentally slipping into seawater. He was declared dead by a doctor at a Digha hospital, where he was taken by his associates, the police said.

An FIR was registered at Talasari Marine police station on Saturday night after receiving a complaint from the actor's wife, a police officer said on Sunday.

The police officer said they will investigate from



all angles, including if any criminal conspiracy to the incident and evidence will be collected before coming to a definite conclusion.

Banerjee rose to fame with the 2008 Bengali film 'Chirodini Tumi Je Amar', directed by Raj Chakraborty, which starred him opposite Pri-

yanka Sarkar and became a major hit.

Banerjee, who had started his career in early 2000, acted in several critically acclaimed Bengali films and TV soaps after the blockbuster success of Chirodini in 2008 and also started hosting a podcast which gained popularity.

The West Bengal Motion Picture Artists' Forum on Saturday had lodged a complaint at the Regent Park police station in Kolkata against the producers in connection with the incident.

Kolkata Police said the complaint was treated as a 'Zero FIR' against the serial's producers, accusing them of conducting the shoot in a "negligent manner" that endangered human lives.

India supports ongoing efforts to stop war: Iran after EAM Jaishankar-Araghchi talks

Tehran, April 6 : India has stressed the importance of restoring stability and security in West Asia, and expressed support for ongoing efforts aimed at stopping the war, the Iranian Foreign Ministry has said. External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar held a phone conversation with his Iranian counterpart, Abbas Araghchi, on Sunday and discussed the recent developments about the situation in West Asia.

"Iran's Foreign Minister, referring to what he described as grave crimes committed by US and Israeli forces against the Iranian people - including attacks on industrial and production infrastructure, as well as peaceful nuclear facilities under safeguards - also highlighted continued rhetoric by US officials openly threatening strikes on Iran's energy infrastructure," read a statement by Iran's Foreign Ministry after the phone



conversation between the two leaders.

During the conversation, Araghchi emphasised the responsibility of the international community and the United Nations to "confront violations of international law and prevent the normalisation of war crimes".

The Iranian Foreign Minister stressed the

"firm determination" of the country's people and armed forces to defend the national interests and security, "warning about the broader consequences of US and Israeli military actions for regional and global stability".

"India's Foreign Minister, noting the importance of restoring stability and security in

the region, expressed support for ongoing regional and international efforts aimed at stopping the war," the Ministry statement read.

Earlier on Sunday, EAM Jaishankar said he received a call from Araghchi, during which the two leaders discussed the prevailing situation in the region.

Min Ravinder Indraj Singh launches 7 projects in Outer Delhi's Bawana

NEW DELHI: Development works in outer Delhi's Bawana Assembly constituency received a fresh push on Sunday as Ravinder Indraj Singh inaugurated seven infrastructure projects simultaneously in Rohini's Sector-24.

The projects, launched under the Chief Minister Development Fund (CMDF), include the construction of roads and drainage systems across pockets 06, 08, 09, 17, 18, 20, and 22.

Officials said the works are aimed at improving basic civic amenities and

enhancing living conditions for residents in the area.

Addressing the gathering, Singh, who holds the Social Welfare and SC/ST/OBC Welfare portfolios, described the initiative as a "significant step towards holistic development" of the constituency.

He, in his statement, added that the projects are being executed by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and form part of a broader push to upgrade infrastructure across the capital.

The minister credited the leadership of Chief

Minister Rekha Gupta for accelerating development works, claiming that projects are progressing at an "unprecedented pace."

He noted that several schemes approved under CMDF will further strengthen roads, drainage, water supply, street lighting, and parks. Emphasising accountability, Singh warned officials against delays or negligence, asserting that there is no shortage of funds for development. He directed departments to adhere strictly to timelines while maintaining quality standards. He also highlighted

the coordinated efforts of multiple agencies, including the Delhi Jal Board, Public Works Department, Irrigation and Flood Control Department, DSIIIDC, and TPDDL, in implementing these projects.

Stressing the government's focus on both rural and urban areas, Singh said the administration is committed to ensuring visible, on-ground progress in every locality.

Continuous inauguration of such projects, he added, is intended to sustain development momentum and deliver timely benefits to citizens.

UP CM urges BJP youth to counter Op's negative narratives ahead of elections

GORAKHPUR: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday called upon BJP's young workers to remain vigilant and respond firmly, while maintaining decorum, to the negative narratives being spread by a frustrated and disheartened opposition on social media platforms.

"In view of the upcoming Assembly elections, the opposition would launch a fresh wave of fabricated allegations online, and BJP's booth-level teams must stay strong and prepared to counter and rebut such attacks," Adityanath said.

Adityanath was addressing the 'Yuva Samvad' programme organised by the BJP's city unit on Sunday.

Speaking at the event, he encouraged party workers, stating that the youth must focus on development while also respecting heritage.

"Just as soldiers remain alert to safeguard the nation's borders, party workers too must stay vigilant in their responsibilities," he said.

He emphasised that booth-level workers must actively promote the achievements of the double-engine government and remain alert at their respective booths.

The chief minister urged them to stay vigilant on social media as well, noting that those who once created an identity crisis for the youth of Uttar Pradesh, having failed on all fronts, will now resort to social media.

"They will attempt to set negative narratives through false and fabricated allegations, and workers must be ready to counter them

effectively. To counter such narratives, workers should highlight past instances of lawlessness, including mafia dominance, extortion, insecurity of women and traders, and communal unrest during festivals," he said.

"They should present evidence such as newspaper clippings and examples from that time, and respond assertively while maintaining the dignity of language," Adityanath said.

The chief minister also said that emphasis should be placed on promoting positive aspects. By creating quality content, social media platforms can be used effectively to highlight developments across sectors, thereby strengthening the campaign of the double-engine government.

Citing examples from the lives of Lord Rama, Lord Krishna, Abhimanyu, Guru Gobind Singh and his four sons, Swami Vivekananda, Maharana Pratap, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Rani Lakshmi Bai, Subhas Chandra Bose and Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, he said these figures symbolise the power and inspiration of youth who dedicated everything for the nation and dharma.

Drawing a comparison with the previous regime, Adityanath said, "First-time voters may not be aware of the situation in Uttar Pradesh before 2017. Riots used to occur every third day, and there was widespread fear during festivals."

He cited examples from regions like Kushinagar and Maharajanji, where criminal gangs operated freely.

IOCL actively strengthens auto LPG distribution in Karnataka

BENGALURU: IOCL on Sunday said it is actively strengthening Auto LPG distribution across its network in Karnataka to address the surge in demand arising from the ongoing geopolitical situation. The company, however, highlighted that infrastructure limitations—including a limited number of Auto LPG Dispensing Stations (ALDS), constrained dispensing capacity, and operational challenges—are making it difficult to fully offset the supply gap caused by the closure of private Auto LPG outlets.

Bengaluru and several other parts of the state are witnessing disruptions in auto-rickshaw services due to a shortage of Auto LPG. Long queues of autos have been seen outside fuel stations at many locations, with drivers waiting for hours for supplies.

"In Karnataka, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) collectively operate 72 ALDS, with Indian Oil Corporation accounting for 55 of these outlets. In comparison, over 300 ALDS were operated by private players; however, nearly 80 per cent of these private

stations have become non-operational due to prevailing geopolitical challenges," Indian Oil Corporation Limited said in a release.

Stating that IOCL has significantly scaled up its supply in Karnataka with the support of the Government of India, the company said its average daily supply, which stood at approximately 43.5 MT per day in February, increased to 59.53 MT per day in March and has been further ramped up to 68.53 MT per day with effect from April 4. "Despite these efforts, infrastructure

limitations—including a limited number of ALDS, constrained dispensing capacity, and operational challenges—make it difficult to fully offset the supply gap caused by the closure of private Auto LPG outlets," it added.

Highlighting that pricing disparities are influencing consumer behaviour, the company said PSU-operated outlets, including those of IOCL, are retailing Auto LPG at Rs 89.52 per litre in Bengaluru, whereas private marketers are selling it between Rs 99 and Rs 105 per litre.

Delhi Police bust Rs 70 lakh racket diverting free govt. medicines; 5 held

NEW DELHI: Delhi Police busted a syndicate that was involved in an illegal diversion and sale of government-supplied medicines, recovering stocks worth approximately Rs 70 lakh, an officer said on Sunday.

According to the police, the operation was carried out by the NR-II unit of the Crime Branch, which got their hands on three accused, Neeraj Kumar (53), Sushil Kumar (47), and Laxman Mukhia (48), while they were transporting a large consignment of medicines marked "Govt Supply Not For Sale."

"The accused were inter-

cepted at Jai Bharat Transport in Tis Hazari on Thursday, where the medicines were being moved in a tempo and a car," they added.

The seized medicines included high-value antibiotics and critical care drugs such as Cefixime, Amoxicillin with Clavulanate, Ceftriaxone, Cefazidime, Meropenem, Erythropoietin injections, and Rabies Antiserum, all meant for free distribution in government hospitals. While being interrogated, Neeraj Kumar, who is said to be the kingpin of the racket, disclosed that he had been running the illegal network for over a year.

Clash between groups in Malkangiri, Odisha; 5 arrested

BHUBANESWAR: A clash broke out between two groups in Odisha's Malkangiri district, a senior police officer said on Sunday.

The incident took place at a tribal-populated Palakonda village on Saturday evening over the holding of prayer by a particular group of people in the village, the police officer said.

"The disturbance erupted between the two groups as one majority group asked the other to conduct the prayer in another place on the outskirts of the village, as they had to conduct some puja inside the village. However, the other group objected to it, which led to a heated argument between them," Raj Kishore Dash, additional superintendent of police (ASP), Malkangiri, told PTI over the phone.

In anger, some people of the majority group removed the asbestos from the roofs of three houses of the other group, he said, adding, "the roofs are being restored by the district administration."

TBB Rumble 2026: Telangana Bikers Brotherhood Marks First Anniversary with Grand Celebration

Hyderabad (TSIT) Telangana Bikers Brotherhood (TBB), one of the fastest-growing motorcycle riding clubs in Telangana, celebrated its first anniversary on April 4, 2026 with a grand event titled "TBB Rumble 2026" at Big Daddy Resort, Kadthal, Hyderabad.

The event brought together around 170 riders along with their families, celebrating the shared passion for motorcycling, the thrill of the open road, and the strong sense of community among riders. The celebration featured award ceremonies, music, and dance performances, creating a vibrant and engaging atmosphere.

The event was graced by distinguished guests including Shri Badya Naik, Circle Insoector (Prohibition & Excise), Amangal and Shri Chandrashekar Subinspector, Kadthal along with founders and admin-



istrators of several prominent motorcycle clubs

from Hyderabad. Speaking on the occa-

sion, Phanindra Kumar Adep, Founder of TBB,

along with Co-founder Ashish Rang, shared that the club was established with the vision of supporting new entrants into the motorcycling community, guiding them, and promoting safe and enjoyable riding experiences.

The club actively promotes awareness about responsible riding, including a strong "No Drugs" message, and is also engaged in charitable initiatives for society.

Starting with just six members, TBB has grown rapidly to nearly 600 active riders within a year, making it one of the largest and fastest-growing motorcycle riding communities in Telangana.

Founder Phanindra added that the club organizes weekly Sunday rides, typically involving a minimum of 50 participants, exploring destinations across Telangana and neighboring states.

EDITORIAL

Is Trump The President Who Lost Asia To China?

For at least a decade, developing countries across Asia and Africa have worried about growing dependent on China. They're concerned about debt traps, coercive policies, and hidden costs that might push their economies toward crisis. Crisis has come, and that logic has been turned on its head. After six weeks of the US and Israel's war on Iran and its ensuing counterattacks, it is the countries that bet on Chinese supply chains that are faring better than the ones that trusted Pax Americana. Consider Pakistan. By now it should have been in the middle of yet another economic and social implosion. It has always been vulnerable to energy price shocks, given that it imports almost all of its energy, much of it through the Strait of Hormuz. The country has \$130 billion in external debt and a persistent current account deficit, and so the slightest nudge should have tipped it over into a familiar spiral: Emergency requests to the International Monetary Fund, 18-hour power blackouts, unrest on the streets. None of that is visible. There are signs of stress, certainly: Islamabad has hiked fuel prices and is planning to shut off electricity for two to three hours each day. A sustained shortage of liquid natural gas will make it hard to keep power plants running. But, compared to the situation just a few years ago - when, after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the economy had a full-scale meltdown - it's showing remarkable resilience. What's the difference? Chinese-made solar panels. Pakistanis have gleefully transitioned to solar power, importing about 17 gigawatts a year of photovoltaics since 2024. A quarter of households have installed solar panels for their own use. Islamabad didn't even have to spend too much money subsidizing the renewables rollout. They just had to ride Chinese overcapacity instead of fighting it, and make it work for their own citizens by keeping tariffs low. The price of imported solar panels dropped by almost 60% in 2024-25; Beijing's subsidies kept their factories humming, but also financed the electricity of millions of households across Pakistan. Many other countries made the opposite choice, in order to insulate domestic production or minimize political risk. Those that tried to keep cheap photovoltaic cells out have seen much slower rates of uptake - and are, in consequence, far more exposed to the chaos in the Gulf. Nor are solar panels the only way in which cheap Chinese goods are turning out to be sources of resilience rather than disruption. Nepal has a higher proportion of electric vehicles than any other country in the world, barring Norway. Its huge imported fleet of cheap EVs mean that it is far less worried about gasoline prices than most of its Asian neighbors. And they run on clean electricity, emerging from a hydropower infrastructure that is financed in part by Beijing. It's not hard to imagine policymakers from across the developing world looking at examples like these and concluding that betting on Beijing isn't actually the riskier option. Some may already have taken that chance; imports of Chinese solar panels have shot up in the past couple of years across sub-Saharan Africa in particular. If the only options are dependence on predictably mercantilist Beijing and on an erratic, self-centered and disruptive US, the choice is obvious. That may turn out to be the wrong call. It isn't wise to imagine that relying upon Beijing's goodwill is any safer. In just the past year, China has shown the willingness to weaponize control over supply chains, such as the production of magnets and rare earths. But right now, the contrast is glaring. Countries that believed that the open trading order, underpinned by American hegemony, would protect them from shocks are struggling; those who chose to run the risk of dependence upon Chinese imports and infrastructure are showing unexpected resilience. This will only get worse if Trump withdraws from the Gulf without making an effort to reopen the Strait of Hormuz. Then the lesson the world learns is even harsher: America will make decisions about your energy supply, take no responsibility for the consequences, and then leave. China will sell you the technology that allows you to stop caring about what the US does.

The Quiet 'Upheaval' Within US Military Over The Iran War

A series of developments inside the United States military has brought a deeper issue into focus: what happens when visible disagreement emerges between the military and political leadership during an ongoing war? The sequence of events in the Iran campaign is now reasonably clear. General Randy George, the US Army's chief and a highly decorated infantry officer who served in the Gulf War, Iraq, and Afghanistan, was removed while American forces remained engaged in operations against Iran. His tenure had not run its course. George's firing stemmed in part from Hegseth's long-running grievance with the Army and his troubled relationship with Army Secretary Dan Driscoll, with whom George had been an ally. Driscoll is widely seen as aligned with Vice President JD Vance, adding a dimension of internal political rivalry to what was formally presented as a routine leadership change. The Rumsfeld-Shinseki Episode The parallel with an earlier chapter of American civil-military history has not gone unnoticed. George's ouster carries echoes of Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld sidelining General Eric Shinseki after disagreements over troop requirements for the Iraq war. Shinseki paid professionally for his candour. The pattern, a serving chief removed mid-conflict amid reported differences over operational direction, is recognisable. Reporting suggests George opposed Hegseth's push for a land war in Iran, though whether Trump fully backs such a plan remains unclear. Additional developments reinforce the picture. Hegseth has been linked to interventions in promotion processes, including instances where Black officers and women were removed from consideration at senior levels. He intervened to remove multiple Army officers from a promotion list after Driscoll refused to do so, an unusual step that drew White House attention. A close associate from the Secretary's own office has reportedly been posi-



tioned as the leading candidate for the next Army chief, suggesting that the basis for top appointments is shifting. Institutional safeguards have been adjusted as well. Senior military legal officers, responsible for advising on the legality of operations, have been removed. These positions have traditionally served as an internal check within the chain of command, particularly during active operations. A further strand concerns the framing of the Iran campaign itself. Throughout the month of attacks, service members reported rhetoric from commanders invoking the idea of a "holy war", and the Military Religious Freedom Foundation received over 200 complaints from active-duty personnel. One non-commissioned officer described being told the conflict is part of "God's plan" and that the President was "anointed by Jesus to light the signal fire in Iran". Hegseth has used Christianity to justify the US-Israeli war against a Muslim-majority country, telling Americans to take a knee and pray for victory "in the name of Jesus Christ".

More than two dozen members of Congress have formally requested an Inspector-General-level investigation into whether such a war framing contravenes constitutional protections and professional military norms. Taken together, these developments describe a moment in which the military and executive are not fully aligned on a major conflict, and where that gap is being managed through changes in leadership, process, and internal structure, simultaneously, and under operational pressure. The Balance That Matters Most Civil-military systems are designed to accommodate disagreement. Professional militaries are expected to offer candid advice; political leaders are expected to decide. The strength of the system lies in its capacity to absorb that tension without fracturing institutional coherence. During wartime, that balance becomes especially consequential. An armed force engaged externally depends on internal stability, clarity of purpose, and continuity of command. When senior leadership

changes frequently, when promotion processes attract scrutiny, and when advisory mechanisms are restructured, the institution is required to adapt at multiple levels simultaneously while managing an active conflict. These conditions place heavier demands on the system precisely when those demands are already high. Lessons Closer Home Pakistan offers the starkest regional lesson: decades of military-sponsored religious nationalism did not strengthen the state. It hollowed it out, producing institutional decay, democratic erosion, and a security apparatus that ultimately became ungovernable. India is not immune to these pressures either, though it faces them on a far smaller scale; of late, veterans have flagged public displays of religious affiliations by some uniformed officers. The American situation in the Iran campaign is still developing. Its long-term impact will become clearer with time. What it has already demonstrated is that the management of internal military coherence is a wartime requirement.

How Iran Has Pierced The One 'Shield' That Protected America For 30 Years

If the early weeks of the 2026 Iran conflict were intended to showcase the return of decisive American airpower, the events of last week have served as a sobering corrective. Wars against capable state adversaries rarely conform to technological optimism, and this episode underscores the limits of even overwhelming military superiority. The downing of an American F-15E Strike Eagle over western Iran marks a significant inflexion point in the conflict not because of the scale of the loss, which remains limited, but because of its symbolism. For the first time in this war, a manned American combat aircraft has been brought down by enemy fire in hostile airspace. The potential loss of a crew member and the launch of a high-risk combat search-and-rescue operation by the US, though ultimately successful, reinforces the enduring reality that even a single aircraft loss can generate cascading operational, political, and psychological consequences. A Pattern, Not An Anomaly This incident did not occur in isolation. On the same day, an A-10 Thunderbolt II ground-attack aircraft was also lost to Iranian fire over Kuwait near the Persian Gulf, with the pilot ejecting. These developments point to a pattern rather than an anomaly. The vulnerability of non-stealth, low-altitude platforms operating in contested environments is once again being laid bare. The damage sustained by accompanying rescue helicopters - according to Iran's Revolutionary Guards, at least five people were killed, and several "flying objects" were destroyed, including a transport plane, during the rescue operation for the downed fighter jet crew member - further illustrates the layered risks of modern warfare, where efforts to recover personnel can expose additional assets to enemy fire. It is true that these setbacks do not fundamentally alter the strategic balance. The United States retains overwhelming advantages in terms of airpower, precision strike capability, and operational reach. American aircraft continue to conduct sustained sorties across Iranian territory, targeting infrastructure, missile systems, and military installations. Official statements from Washington have emphasised this asymmetry, highlighting the degradation of Iran's

air defences and the broader military pressure being exerted. US Manned vs Unmanned Systems Such assertions, however, deserve closer scrutiny. Degradation is not destruction. Iran's integrated air defence system, though weakened, has demonstrated resilience. The ability to shoot down advanced aircraft, even sporadically, suggests that sufficient capability remains to impose costs. This is not trivial. In high-intensity conflicts, the ability to inflict even limited attrition can shape operational choices, slow campaign tempo, and impose political constraints. The broader pattern of US losses reinforces this point. Earlier in the campaign, a significant number of MQ-9 Reaper drones were shot down over key Iranian locations such as Isfahan and Bushehr. These unmanned systems, often viewed as relatively expendable, have proven vulnerable against layered air defences. While individually less politically sensitive than manned aircraft, their cumulative loss, both in financial and operational terms, is far from negligible. More importantly, the distinction between manned and unmanned losses begins to blur in strategic impact. Drones enable persistence and reduce risk to personnel, but they are not immune to denial. Their attrition limits surveillance coverage, targeting precision, and operational flexibility. At the same time, the loss of even a single manned aircraft introduces a qualitatively different dimension - raising questions of escalation, domestic perception, and the risks associated with pilot capture or casualty. America's Air Superiority Isn't Absolute What emerges from these developments is a more complex and less reassuring picture of contemporary airpower. Air superiority, long viewed as the cornerstone of US military doctrine, no longer guarantees invulnerability. It provides access, freedom of manoeuvre, and the ability to shape the battlespace, but within constraints imposed by increasingly capable adversaries. This has implications that extend well beyond the immediate conflict. For much of the post-Cold War era, US air campaigns - in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Libya - were conducted against relatively weak or degraded air defences. This created an expectation, both within military planning and

public discourse, of low-risk intervention. Airpower was seen as a tool capable of delivering rapid, decisive outcomes with minimal cost. The Iran conflict challenges that assumption. Alongside lessons from the Russia-Ukraine war, it reinforces the reality that state-on-state conflicts involving capable adversaries are inherently contested. Integrated air defence systems, even when partially degraded, can deny airspace, impose attrition, and complicate operational planning. The battlefield is no longer permissive; it is dynamic, adaptive, and unforgiving. Where Does The US Go From Here? In response, doctrinal and technological shifts are likely to accelerate. Greater emphasis will be placed on stealth platforms, stand-off weapons, electronic warfare, and the suppression and destruction of enemy air defences (SEAD/DEAD). The role of autonomous systems and "loyal wingman" concepts will also gain prominence as militaries seek to distribute risk and enhance survivability. At the same time, the importance of human capital - pilot training, mission planning, and resilience under pressure - remains undiminished. Equally, the events of April 3 highlight the importance of multi-domain integration. Airpower alone, however advanced, cannot deliver decisive outcomes in isolation. It must be complemented by cyber operations, intelligence capabilities, ground manoeuvre, and diplomatic engagement. The notion of quick, clean wars driven primarily by aerial dominance appears increasingly untenable. Ultimately, the April 3 losses are a moment of strategic introspection. They don't fundamentally undermine US military superiority but puncture its narrative of effortless dominance. The United States continues to hold the advantage, but it is an advantage that must be exercised with caution, adaptability, and a clear recognition of its limits. In that sense, the real significance of these events lies not in what was lost, but in what they reveal. Contemporary warfare, even for the most advanced militaries, is neither frictionless nor predictable. The mythology of invulnerable airpower should give way to a more grounded understanding - one in which effectiveness coexists with risk, and dominance is always contested rather than absolute.

The Dantewada Massacre, And What India Needs To Do To Stay Maoist-Free

The government has announced that the Maoist menace has been 'wiped out' from the infamous Red Corridor, meeting the deadline of March 31 it had set for itself. While one can bask in the glory of this announcement, it must be remembered that the task of shaping a 'normal', threat-free life for those in the dense jungles of the far-and-beyond has just begun. This was driven home by an almost full-page 'In Memoriam' published today in a national newspaper by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), which carried photographs of 75 of its jawans who were killed by Naxals in Bastar district this day, a decade and a half back. This touched a raw nerve in this writer. My father was the Additional Collector of Bastar district in 1982-83 and based in Kanker, a name that got synonymous with Naxal activities later. The place was peaceful, like any other village in the hinterland of tribal India, and our visits there were wonderful. So, when the Naxal menace became acute at the beginning of this century, I asked my old man what had transformed that quiet place into one where the government writ did not run. His reply shocked me - "We kept sending reports that a parallel organisation had started taking root and political steps were needed urgently to curb it, but to no avail." The results came to haunt us in the coming years. 2010, Then 2013, Then 2017 In 2010, I was Assistant Chief of the Air Staff controlling transport aircraft and helicopters, and on April 6 that year had to arrange An-32 aircraft to carry coffins of 75 CRPF jawans. The mayhem that must have happened is difficult to imagine. The brave hearts of No 62 Battalion, who were on an anti-Naxal operation, were ambushed by a group of 500-plus



Maoists positioned on high ground; the troopers, devoid of any reinforcements due to roads being booby-trapped with IEDs, fought for six hours before making the supreme sacrifice. That these large-scale killings were repeated on May 25, 2013, when 30 people lost their lives (including the Chattisgarh Congress leadership) and on April 24, 2017, when 26 CRPF jawans were killed, showed that, irrespective of the political party in power, the basics of governance had been given short shrift in the previous decades through political unprofessionalism. The steely determination to tackle the Naxal challenge began head-on in 2006 with Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh declaring it as the biggest internal security threat. Police forces were pumped in, and the Indian Air Force provided helicopters from 2009 for non-kinetic tasks; it is noteworthy that, though the helicopters were armed, calls for their offensive use were firmly rejected by the government. The rules of engagement were crystal clear - while helicopters would not initiate any proactive kinetic action, they would act firmly in self-defence if fired upon; the beligerents on the ground

were, after all, Indian citizens. It is to the credit of successive governments that the resolve to tackle the insurgency did not flag; in fact, it only went up. Insurgency As A Cancer An insurgency is like cancer. Even after its remission, the patient requires continuous tending in the long term to prevent its return. The lingering sub-surface threat lies in the famous Mao Tse Tung quote that insurgents are like fish in water - water being the local population. If the water is removed from the equation, the fish die. The villagers/tribals who call them the 'common man' must always see two aspects of official power favouring them: the government as a dependable provider of daily sustenance, and second, a deterrent capability that cannot be challenged by any alternate source of power. The insurgent 'fish' must be continuously denied a favourable human cocoon for sustenance. So, what should the long-term strategy be? First, 'winning hearts and minds' of the populace is the cornerstone of any anti-insurgency plan. Improved education facilities for the young would go a long way in strengthening the psychological link with the rest of India. The extensive ingress of gov-

ernment machinery into the erstwhile Maoist strongholds and the widespread road infrastructure and communication facilities created must be improved further to cement governmental writ. As the entry of 'outsiders' into tribal areas increases, it is vital to ensure that tribal traditions and lands are not usurped by unscrupulous elements; the bottom line is that 'exploitation' of people indigenous to the area must be prevented at all costs. Second, backing the administrative efforts should be deterrence, born of the gloved fist of the government's law-and-order machinery. Deterrence is built over time and is a 'process' of ensuring that an adversary follows one's guides without having to go kinetic - Sun Tzu termed it the 'acme of skill' for the warrior in conflict, but it is equally applicable in civil governance where the 'insurgent' is one's own citizen. In anti-insurgency action, the threat of retribution is more important than the actual implementation of punitive measures of law. The Sentencing Project, a 2010 study in the United States, stated that increasing the severity of a punishment does not have much effect on lawbreakers compared to an assurance of certainty of punishment.

CBI Probes Rs 73,000 Crore Bank Fraud Linked To Anil Ambani's Reliance Group; ED Flags IBC Irregularities

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is probing bank loan frauds cumulatively worth Rs 73,000 crore in seven cases registered against the Reliance Anil Ambani Group, according to a status report filed in the Supreme Court in February. The CBI informed the court that it is actively investigating seven cases, and is probing the roles of certain public servants as well. After reviewing the status report filed by the CBI and its financial investigations counterpart, the Enforcement Directorate (ED), the apex court issued an order on March 23. "...the losses in the other cases also come to several thousands of crores, totalling claims of approximately Rs 73,006 crore," the apex court order said, referring to the CBI probe. A response from the Reliance Group to a query sent by PTI regarding this development is awaited. The ED told the court that it seized certain documents that speak about a purported "Project Help", indicating that insolvency proceedings were "deliberately" started through unrelated lenders. "According to



ter probe agencies concerning this investigation. The court directed that all agencies and financial institutions shall extend their "full cooperation" to the ED and make the necessary information available in a timely fashion. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is probing bank loan frauds cumulatively worth Rs 73,000 crore in seven cases registered against the Reliance Anil Ambani Group, according to a status report filed in the Supreme Court in February. The CBI informed the court that it is actively investigating seven cases, and is probing the roles of certain public servants as well. After reviewing the status report filed by the CBI and its financial investigations counterpart, the Enforcement Directorate (ED), the apex court issued an order on March 23.

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the report, all funding for IBC (insolvency and bankruptcy code) acquisitions was arranged through a group of eight NBFCs (non-banking financial companies)... It is noted that claims totalling approximately Rs 2,983 crore were settled for Rs 26 crore," the SC said, after perusing the ED report. The ED also informed the court that it has constituted a special investigation team to probe these cases and is currently working on eight cases related to the Reliance Anil Ambani Group (RAAG).

The Supreme Court said, "Since the preliminary facts speak for themselves, it is a situation where senior officials of the investigating agencies must collaborate and make a strong effort to uncover any irregularities, illegal acts, or collusion and connivance by public officials, especially those in the financial institutions, if any, in granting undue benefits to the management of RAAG." "While we do not express any opinion on the merits of the allegations, all that we wish to observe is that it is imper-

ative upon the CBI and the ED to complete the investigation in a most dispassionate, fair, transparent and independent manner and take the ongoing investigation to its logical conclusion in a time-bound manner," it added. The ED also informed the three-member Supreme Court bench led by Chief Justice Surya Kant that it has "not received" certain information sought from sis-

Want To Prep In Advance But Too Many Ifs, Says FM Sitharaman Amid West Asia Situation West Asia Tensions Push Companies To Move Backup Data Centers Farther Away; India Sees Demand Surge

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said that while India is aggressively prepping for supply disruptions from the West Asia crisis, a volatile mix of "moving parts"—from insurance hurdles to hazy global pricing—is complicating the government's advance procurement strategy.



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said that while India is aggressively prepping for supply disruptions from the West Asia crisis, a volatile mix of "moving parts"—from insurance hurdles to hazy global pricing—is complicating the government's advance procurement strategy. Sitharaman flagged emerging risks on the supply side, particularly in energy and fertilisers, as the conflict begins to disrupt trade flows. Gas supplies from the region have been hit, with shipments being diverted and logistics becoming increasingly unpredictable. "There are too many moving parts," the minister said, pointing to challenges around insurance and freight. In some cases, insurers are unwilling to cover shipments,

adding to uncertainty for importers even when supplies are available. On fertilisers, Sitharaman said the situation for the upcoming kharif season remains comfortable, with adequate stocks of urea, DAP and potash already built up. However, she indicated that the government is moving early to secure supplies for the rabi season, even as global price discovery remains uncertain. Economists See Rates On Hold As Iran War Stokes Inflation Fears Suppliers themselves are unclear on pricing amid the volatility, she said, complicating advance procurement decisions. At the same time, the

government is mindful of demand pressures, noting that excess buying cannot be curtailed if it affects farmers. "This is uncertainty, even if we want to prep in advance, there are so many ifs," she said. The minister said the focus remains on staying prepared for contingencies, even as the situation continues to evolve with multiple uncertainties around supply chains, pricing and logistics. Speaking on the macro outlook, Sitharaman indicated that India's fiscal position allows room for the Reserve Bank of India to consider rate cuts, signalling policy flexibility at a time when global uncertainties are rising.

West Asia Tensions Push Companies To Move Backup Data Centers Farther Away; India Sees Demand Surge

The ongoing conflict in West Asia is changing how companies think about their data centers, with a growing shift away from keeping backup facilities nearby to placing them farther away to reduce risk. Earlier, companies preferred secondary data centers to be located in the same city or nearby regions to keep costs low and ensure faster data access. "That approach is now changing. "We're seeing a shift from proximity-related redundancy to risk-distributed resilience," said Sachin Tayal, Managing Director at Protiviti Member Firm. He added that firms are now preparing for scenarios where "an entire region goes down," not just a single facility. ALSO READ | No Truce In Sight? Iran Calls US 15-Point Plan 'Illogical', Prepares Counterproposal This shift is already showing up in demand. Co-Founder and CEO of Yotta Data Services Sunil Gupta said data center demand has jumped sharply in the past three to four weeks, with fresh requirements ranging between 200 and



500 megawatts. He added that this reflects companies reworking their infrastructure to hedge against geopolitical risks. India is emerging as a key alternative location. Gupta said India can offer nearly twice the data center capacity for the same investment compared to some Asia-Pacific regions, and could absorb 15-20% of workloads from the Gulf in the next three to six months. According to Tayal, companies are increasingly choosing multiple locations across

regions or countries instead of relying on a single geography. This is especially visible in sectors such as financial services and digital platforms, where downtime risks are high. At the same time, firms are trying to balance performance and safety. Critical, real-time operations are still kept closer to users, while backup systems are being moved to distant locations. "It's no longer about choosing between latency and resilience, but designing

systems that deliver both," Tayal said. Importantly, companies are now willing to spend more for this added safety. What was earlier seen as an optional cost is now being treated as essential risk protection. Taken together, executives say this marks a longer-term shift. Gupta noted that the move towards geographically spread-out data infrastructure is not temporary, but a "permanent structural change" in how companies build and manage their digital backbone.

SWIGGY VS ETERNAL: WHO WILL WIN THE Q4 EARNINGS BATTLE?

Analysts expect a mixed set of earnings from India's new-age technology companies in the March quarter, as rising macroeconomic uncertainty, competitive intensity and continued investment in quick commerce weigh on profitability even as revenue growth remains strong. Brokerages remain constructive on long-term growth, but near-term margins continue to be closely monitored. Brokerages on Eternak According to Kotak Institutional Equities, Eternak is expected to report healthy growth in Q4, driven by strong performance in both food delivery and quick commerce arm Blinkit. The brokerage expects food delivery net order value (NOV) to grow 17% year-on-year, while Blinkit NOV is projected to surge 99% year-on-year, supported by aggressive store additions and improving throughput at existing stores. Sequentially, food delivery NOV may decline 2.4% due to seasonality, while Blinkit NOV could rise around 10% quarter-on-quarter. Margins



are also expected to improve slightly. Food delivery Ebitda margin is estimated at around 5.7% of NOV, up 30 basis points quarter-on-quarter, driven by higher platform fees, improved restaurant take rates and increased advertising income. Contribution margin is expected to rise to 10.7% of NOV. For Blinkit, profitability may remain flat sequentially as operating leverage from older stores is offset by pricing actions amid rising competition. However, Kotak believes Blinkit remains best positioned among quick

commerce players due to improving ad monetisation and a higher proportion of mature stores over time. Meanwhile, HDFC Securities expects Eternak's NOV growth to be supported by dark store expansion and stable order growth. The brokerage expects adjusted Ebitda margins of around 5.6% of NOV, broadly stable quarter-on-quarter. It also noted that the food delivery growth gap between Eternak and Swiggy may narrow in quarter ended March due to user additions driven by membership programmes.

Nuvama Institutional Equities expects Eternak's food delivery NOV to grow about 18% year-on-year, with Blinkit continuing to drive overall growth. Margin improvement is expected to remain gradual, with profitability improving as scale increases. Brokerages on Swiggy Brokerages expect Swiggy to report steady revenue growth in quarter ended March, led by food delivery and Instamart, though profitability in quick commerce is likely to remain under pressure. Kotak Institutional Equities expects Swiggy's food delivery gross order value (GOV) to grow 19% year-on-year, with revenue growth of about 23% driven by higher take rates and platform fee hikes. Contribution margin is expected to improve by 20 basis points quarter-on-quarter to around 7.8%, while adjusted Ebitda margin may improve to 3.2%. Instamart is expected to report strong growth, with GOV rising 75% year-on-year and revenue growing 66% year-on-year.

US STOCK MARKET TODAY: S&P 500, NASDAQ TICK HIGHER AMID IRAN TRUCE EXPECTATIONS

Wall Street opened on a mixed note on Monday, with S&P 500 and Nasdaq Composite in the green, and Dow Jones Industrial Average ticking marginally lower. S&P 500 opened 0.17% or 11 points higher at 6,593.77, Nasdaq rose 0.32% or nearly 70 points to open at 21,949.01, whereas Dow Jones traded 0.06% lower at 46,477.99. As of 10:06 a.m., S&P 500 traded little changed at 6,588.87, Nasdaq traded 0.17% higher at 21,917.28, and Dow Jones traded flat at 46,503.13. Earlier in the day, an Axios report, which quoted four US, Israeli and regional sources, claimed that a partial deal may be reached between the parties within the next 48 hours. It highlighted that the deal may entail a potential 45-day ceasefire between the warring groups. After the market opened six out of the 11 sectoral indices traded lower, while five traded in the green. Materials and



Healthcare sectors led the decline, while Communication Services and Consumer Discretionary contributed most to gains. Majority of the magnificent seven stocks traded higher, with only Microsoft Corp edging 0.42% lower to \$372.05. On the other hand, Amazon.com Inc's stock rose over 1% to \$212.02 and Meta Platforms Inc. followed suit and traded at \$580.23. Similarly, Apple Inc. jumped 1.11% to \$258.94, Google-parent Alphabet Inc. traded 0.85% higher at \$298.23, and Tesla Inc. rose 0.68% to \$363.07. However,

stock of chipmaker giant Nvidia Corp. slipped 0.3% to \$176.73. ALSO READ: Bitcoin Tops \$70,000 on Optimism Over Possible Iran Ceasefire The speculations regarding a possible truce had brought some relief in the commodities market as well with spot gold prices rising. As of 10 a.m. EST, spot gold traded 0.18% higher at \$4,684.57 an ounce. Crude oil prices continued their rally, with West Texas Intermediate rising 0.48% to \$112.07 a barrel, and global benchmark Brent Crude trading 0.28% higher at \$109.33 a barrel.

From the Heart of Hyderabad to the Runways of Mumbai: Vaishali Agarwal Debuts 'Baakul'

Hyderabad, April 06, 2026 - In a landmark moment for her label, Hyderabad-based couture designer Vaishali Agarwal steps onto the pan-India fashion stage for the very first time, marking a significant evolution in her two-decade design journey. Known for building a strong legacy in Hyderabad's couture landscape, Vaishali now expands her vision to metro and national audiences, beginning with a striking showcase at a recent fashion week that just concluded in Mumbai, where her latest collection, Baakul, was unveiled with actor Alaya F as the showstopper. This showcase marks more than just a runway presentation; it signals Vaishali Agarwal's first-ever step beyond Hyderabad, taking her deeply rooted design language to a wider Indian luxury audience, while staying profoundly connected to the cultural nuances and artisanal richness of her home region. Over the past two



decades, Vaishali has built a reputation for creating culture that thoughtfully bridges tradition with modern design. What began as designing clothes for her young daughter gradually evolved into a full-fledged couture label celebrated for its intricate embroidery, handcrafted textiles, and deeply layered cultural storytelling. Her work has consistently honored Indian

craftsmanship while adapting to the sensibilities of the modern bride and occasion dresser. Rooted in research, craftsmanship, and collaboration, Vaishali Agarwal's design philosophy draws from heritage, mythology, and nature, brought to life with artisans across India through contemporary silhouettes for the modern woman. This vision culminates in Baakul, named after

the sacred flower offered to Lord Shiva and inspired by Nataraja's cosmic rhythm, translating spirituality into garments defined by symbolism, grace, and fluid movement. While this is her first showcase beyond Hyderabad, the collection remains deeply anchored in the design nuances of the region. Rich textile sensibilities, handcrafted surface ornamenta-

tion, and the poetic detailing synonymous with Hyderabad's couture legacy remain central to the collection's identity. Meaningful motifs such as Nandi and the fish from Ganga are interpreted through intricate dhabka embroidery, delicate gota appliqué, signature handmade floral work, and the statement dori jacket. Fluid silhouettes, metallic accents, and richly layered textures bring a distinctly contemporary edge, making the collection feel equally relevant for the modern bride, festive occasions, and elevated celebrations across India's metro fashion landscape. On the occasion, Fashion Designer Vaishali Agarwal comments, "Taking Baakul to one of the biggest Fashion Weeks in Mumbai is a defining milestone for us. It is the first time we are presenting Vaishali Agarwal couture beyond Hyderabad, opening our narrative to metro and pan-India audiences."

Israel attacks major Iranian petrochemical site after Trump's infrastructure threats

The Easter Egg Roll is a long-running tradition at the White House, which first marked it in 1878. It's, in theory, a light-hearted event in which staff members, guests and even reporters bring their children along. This year's edition is expanded, and besides the hunt for Easter eggs there are activity stations such as "Hen to Home" - in which children can get a close look at live chicks, as well as a military card writing station and lunar exploration experience. The carefree, child-focused atmosphere, however, stands in stark contrast to President Trump's comments on Iran, which is says is "not so strong" now following more than a month of sustained US and Israeli bombing. We're expecting more substantive comments on the war at his later news conference in the White House briefing room. It is clear, however, that he is celebrating the success of the



complex and dangerous search-and-rescue mission inside Iran as a notable victory - in a war that seems to many Americans to be getting more complicated and difficult to get out of. US President Donald Trump has been now speaking at the White House's annual children's Easter event. Flanked by the Easter Bunny, Trump starts by speaking about the war in Iran and yesterday's

rescue of an injured airman left stranded in a remote mountainous region of Iran after his aircraft was shot down. "It's something that you rarely see," Trump says of the rescue, calling it difficult and high-risk. "I don't think it gets much more hostile than Iran." He says it's hard to conduct such an operation within the territory of an enemy that is "strong", but adds that Iran is

not as strong as it was a month ago. Trump also teased his news conference later today - around 13:00 local time (18:00 BST) - during which he's expected to speak more about the war and the rescue. According to Iranian state news agency IRNA, in its 10-point response Iran has rejected a ceasefire and emphasised the necessity of a permanent end to the war. It says the

response includes a list of Iranian demands - including an end to hostilities in the region, a protocol ensuring safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz, as well as reconstruction and the lifting of sanctions". IRNA adds that US President Donald Trump "by extending the repeated deadline once more, has stepped back from his previous threats." The state-run Iranian news agency IRNA is now reporting that Tehran has submitted its response to a US proposal to end the war. The agency reports the 10-point response includes a rejection to a proposed ceasefire, saying there needs to be a permanent end to the war. It's already extremely crowded at the White House, where dozens of reporters have come in early to stake their claims on limited real estate in the briefing room ahead of President Donald Trump's news conference this afternoon. When Trump steps up

to the podium at 13:00 local time, he will be peppered with questions about the successful rescue operation that recovered the two crew members of a US F-15, as well as where he sees the conflict going in coming days, weeks and months. One question that he is likely to face is about the lingering threats to US forces, despite his claims that Iran's military is largely unable to function. Trump has claimed that US forces have achieved "air superiority" over Iran. That does not mean they are immune to threats, as the pilots of at least two aircraft found out in recent days. It may, however, mean that any escalation could result in US casualties that might prove domestically difficult for the administration. Trump is also likely to be asked about the state of any ongoing negotiations or potential ceasefire - which the White House this morning described this morning as "an option".

DR CONGO AGREES TO TAKE DEPORTEES FROM THE US



The Democratic Republic of Congo has agreed to accept migrants deported from the US who are not themselves Congolese under a deal effective from this month, officials said. The Ministry of Communication said a temporary reception system had been set up, while facilities to accommodate arrivals had been selected in the capital, Kinshasa. "Logistical and technical support" will be provided by the US, the statement on Sunday said, adding that the Congolese government would bear no financial cost for the scheme. The government did not say how many deportees they would

accept. The US has already sent deportees to several other countries in Africa as part of Washington's crackdown on immigration. Amid concerns that migrants could be returned to their home countries - where some fear persecution - Congolese officials said no such transfers are being planned. The decision to receive what are known as third-country migrants - that is those who come from neither the sending nor receiving nation - aligns with DR Congo's commitment to human dignity, international solidarity and to protect the rights of migrants, the statement read.

US Secret Service investigates reports of gunfire near White House



The US Secret Service is investigating gunfire heard near the White House early on Sunday morning. Officers responded to reports of gunfire in the area around Washington DC's Lafayette Park just after midnight local time (04:00 GMT) and conducted a search of the park, just north of the president's residence, and the surrounding area, the agency said. No suspect was located and no injuries were reported, the Secret Service said. The agency and its partners are looking for a possible vehicle and person of interest. President Donald Trump was in Washington DC this weekend. The Secret Service said operations at the White House remain normal but "a heightened security posture is in place". The

investigation closed some roads in the area, but they have since reopened, Secret Service spokesman Anthony Guglielmi said in a post on X. A representative for the Secret Service confirmed to the BBC on Sunday evening that "the investigation continues". The president remained in the capital this weekend rather than flying to his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida, where he often spends his weekends. In a post on X, White House communications director Steven Cheung said on Saturday that Trump "has been working non-stop in the White House and Oval Office" this Easter weekend. Trump is slated to host a family Easter dinner at the White House on Sunday, according to the BBC's US media partner CBS News.

YOUNG GRAY WHALE DIES AFTER SWIMMING UP RIVER IN WASHINGTON STATE



A young gray whale has been found dead after swimming 20 miles (32.2km) inland up a river in Washington state, a local scientific research group said, pointing to hunger as a possible cause. "We are saddened to confirm that the whale seen in the Willapa River over the past few days is deceased," the Cascadia Research Collective said in an update on Facebook on Saturday. It added the group was evaluating the safety of the location

to carry out an examination. The juvenile whale, affectionately dubbed "Willapa Willy" by locals, was first spotted last Wednesday in the north fork of the river, about 145 miles southwest of Seattle, the marine mammal research group said. The whale, "although thin, was behaving normally," the group said at the time, with no sign of injuries. Its teams had hoped the whale would find its own way out of the river but it failed to do so.

HOW RESCUE OF US AIRMAN IN REMOTE PART OF IRAN UNFOLDED

US special forces launched a high-stakes raid into Iran on Sunday to rescue an injured airman left stranded in a remote mountainous region after his aircraft was shot down two days earlier. While many details remain confidential, some information has begun to emerge about how the US raced against the clock and advancing Iranian operatives to find the officer deep inside hostile territory. The airman's ordeal began on Friday when an F-15E Strike Eagle jet was shot down over southwestern Iran - the first incident of its kind in more than 20 years. The two US military personnel on board ejected and, while the pilot was rescued the same day, the second crew member - a weapons operator - became separated and remained stranded in a sparsely popu-



lated, rugged region. Official confirmation soon followed swirling reports that a US airman was missing inside a war zone. While US aircraft were seen flying low over the area on Saturday, Iran offered a bounty of \$50,000 (\$86,100) to anyone who found him alive, and videos shared on social media, which have not been verified by the BBC, appeared to show armed civilians searching. The airman

was armed with a handgun, US officials said, and would have received training for this situation, which involves intermittently turning on a beacon signal to help American forces locate him, getting to high ground, establishing communications and concealing himself. According to reports in US media, the airman hid in a mountain crevice and restricted the use of his bea-

con signal out of concern it could be picked up by Iran. A senior Trump administration official said the CIA was able to trace the airman's exact location and informed the Pentagon, which would have also had to rule out the possibility the beacon signal was an Iranian trap. Donald Trump later said the injured airman's location was monitored "24 hours a day" as he was "being hunted down by our enemies, who were getting closer and closer by the hour". The CIA also reportedly ran a deception campaign inside Iran, falsely spreading word that US forces had already found him. As US special forces aboard several aircraft made their way towards the stranded officer, strikes were reportedly launched to keep Iranian troops away from the area.

Trump declares victory after rescue but threats to US operation in Iran still loom

US President Donald Trump was swift to declare victory after the second crew member of a F-15 fighter jet downed over Iran was recovered, claiming that the dramatic and successful rescue in Iranian territory "proves, once again, that we have achieved overwhelming air dominance and superiority". Observers, however, paint a more complicated picture of what this means for the US in Iran. While the mission was a success, the events of the last few days - in which two aircraft were downed and at least one helicopter was hit by gunfire - highlight that threats to US aircraft and personnel remain even after



weeks of heavy US and Israeli strikes against Iran's military infrastructure and boasts from the president that Tehran had "no anti-aircraft equipment" left. Several Washington sources who spoke to the BBC speculated that the loss of aircraft and the complexi-

ty of the operation to recover the pilots could potentially dissuade Trump from any ground operation to take control of Iran's key oil export terminal at Kharg Island and other sites in the Gulf, or to seize highly enriched uranium buried deep underground in Iran.

These operations - scoped by military planners and presented to the president as options - are deeply complex and risk exposing US forces to lingering Iranian capabilities, including difficult-to-find man portable air defence systems, known as Manpads, which are shoulder-launched missiles most effective against low-flying aircraft. On the other hand, the fact that US troops were able to enter a contested environment, and set up a forward airfield and refuelling point under the nose of the Iranians - then hold it for hours while two stuck aircraft were destroyed and replacements sent - might embolden him.

'Really feeling the love' - Savannah Guthrie returns to NBC as search for mother goes on



US television presenter Savannah Guthrie has returned to NBC's Today show, telling her co-anchors it was "good to be back", as the search for her mother continues. It was her first appearance in the studio since 30 January, two days before her 84-year-old mother Nancy was reported missing. Her co-anchors noted on Monday that many fans were standing outside the studios on a chilly New York morning carrying signs welcoming Guthrie back. "I'm really feeling the love," she said in response. Investigators believe Nancy Guthrie, who was last seen on 31 January, was taken against her will from her home near Tucson, Arizona, but they have not shared a possible motive or arrested a suspect. Before giving his typical weather report, NBC forecaster Al Roker blew her a kiss and said: "It's good to see you my dear." Guthrie carried on with the news as usual, telling viewers about the Artemis moon mission and the National Collegiate Athletic Association men's basketball tournament finals. Last month she said it was "part of my purpose right now" to return to work although she was unsure if she would still be able to do

it. On Easter Sunday, Savannah Guthrie reaffirmed her Christian faith in an Easter video message from a church in New York. "I still believe. And so I say with conviction, 'Happy Easter,'" she said in her closing message at the end of the Easter Sunday service at Good Shepherd New York. The NBC presenter, one of the most recognisable figures on morning television in the US, had temporarily stepped away from her anchoring duties after her mother's disappearance. She also stood down from NBC's coverage of the Winter Olympics. In an interview last month with Today, she said: "I can't not come back. This is my family." She also raised the possibility that her own fame may have been behind her mother's disappearance, saying that thought was too much to bear. Nancy Guthrie vanished without her medicines. She was dropped off at her home by relatives on the evening of 31 January and then failed to show up at a friend's house to watch a virtual Sunday service the following morning. The family announced in February a \$1m reward for information leading to her return.



Emergency jabs after 100 children die of suspected measles in a month in Bangladesh

Hungary alleges plot to blow up gas pipeline ahead of election



Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban has convened an emergency meeting of the National Defence Council after explosives were found near a pipeline that transports Russian gas to Hungary. The discovery in a border area of neighbouring Serbia comes as Orban's party is badly trailing in opinion polls ahead of crucial elections next Sunday. Opposition leader Peter Magyar

accused him of "panic-mongering" orchestrated by "Russian advisers", days after security experts warned of a possible "false flag" operation that could be blamed on Ukraine. Orban, an ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin, has resisted EU calls to abandon Russian energy imports since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine. In recent weeks Hungarian security experts have raised the possibility of a staged operation, either on Hungarian or Serbian territory, intended to arouse enough sympathy for Orban to help his Fidesz party win the election - or to give Orban an excuse to declare an emergency and postpone or cancel the vote.

"EXTREMELY DEFLATING":

CSK Icons React As Franchise Suffers Third Consecutive Loss In IPL 2026

Bogged down by a third successive loss this IPL season, Chennai Super Kings team management must work on keeping a "hurting" dressing room in good spirits to arrest the slide, Indian spin legend R Ashwin has said. CSK suffered a crushing 43-run defeat to Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Sunday to remain at the bottom of the points table with three straight reverses. Speaking on JioHotstar, Ashwin and former South African captain Faf du Plessis analysed CSK's problems. "I am sure the dressing room atmosphere is going to be hurting. I am not too sure how hard the words can be, but honestly, with such a young side, there is only one way you can go and that is upwards. "The way to go upwards is to get a really good work ethic going and a good team atmosphere. I am sure it is going to be



extremely deflating inside that Chennai dressing room after this thumping defeat to RCB," Ashwin said. The former India spinner said it is not fair to expect accountability from the inexperienced players. "It is very tough to put CSK's defeat against RCB into words. The RCB-CSK contest is supposed to be one of the most

celebrated clashes in the IPL. "There are some issues in the squad, but there are a lot of inexperienced players in that line-up. We cannot really ask them for accountability. They are at an age where they need to go out and enjoy their cricket. You cannot push them into the legacy chase that is expected from a franchise of CSK's

calibre." Opting to bowl first after winning the toss, CSK ran into a rampaging Tim David, who hammered a 25-ball 70 to power RCB to an imposing 250/3. Du Plessis backed India's T20 World Cup hero Sanju Samson to come good after failing to fire in the first three matches. "If you take a close look at the CSK batting line-up, you

would say the quality is there. So, you back the quality. You back Ruturaj Gaikwad, the captain. He has proven it over and over again. Sanju Samson is a class player, who proved his doubters wrong in the T20 World Cup. "And then you have a mighty talented youngster in Ayush Mhatre, who has been exceptional so far in his short IPL career. So, you have the talent in the top three. It is just a matter of letting them put it together. "There is no way that Sanju Samson scores runs for fun in the T20 World Cup but ends up failing multiple times in the IPL. He is too good a player to fail multiple times. You just have to back him and give him time," Du Plessis said. Asked how the consecutive defeats will test Ruturaj Gaikwad as a leader, the South African said this tough phase will help him evolve in captaincy.

R Ashwin Explains How Quitting Test Cricket Made Virat Kohli A New Beast In T20 Cricket

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) batter Virat Kohli has looked like a different beast in T20 cricket, despite quitting T20 internationals two years ago. Kohli has looked in prime touch since the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 season started, as the Bengaluru franchise sets high expectations for the talismanic batter again for this campaign, former India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin explained how quitting the Test format helped Kohli unlock a few more shots in his arsenal. In the match against the Chennai Super Kings on Sunday, Kohli hit a no-look six, giving fans a Gen-Z vibe, matching young batters in playing an inventive style of cricket, Ashwin, speaking on 'Champions' vali Commentary' as a JioStar expert, explained how quitting Test cricket helped Kohli unlock such shots. "Virat was still playing Test cricket in 2024, he was very still, the bat wouldn't move much, but now, here in 2026, the bat is



down initially and later he brings it up, which we call potential energy, or the constant movement of the bat, and he is getting into lovely positions, in 2024, his head was so still that even the movement of his feet was balanced, because he was still playing Test cricket then, in 2026, since he doesn't play Test cricket anymore, he doesn't have to control his hands as much and is letting them go, going for more shots," he said. Irfan Pathan, another JioStar

expert, shared his insights on the technical changes he has seen in Kohli's game so far this season for RCB. "Because of that backlift, he is getting that momentum, more power, and that is why the strike rate has gone up, when you are standing still in the prelude, before the bowler bowls, you don't get the momentum that you want to create to go for big shots, but when you bring the bat down, then up again, you already have that momentum," Pathan said.

Shah Rukh Khan In 'Intense Chat' With KKR CEO Venky Mysore After Team Goes 2 Down vs PBKS. Internet On Overdrive

Shah Rukh Khan, Kolkata Knight Riders' co-owner, was present at Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Monday for his side's match against Punjab Kings. KKR opted to bat against PBKS. The start to the innings was not good for KKR, as they lost Finn Allen (6 off 7 balls) and Cameron Green (4 off 2 balls) in the second over bowled by Xavier Bartlett. Soon after, rain stopped play. It was at this time that the camera showed Khan talking with KKR CEO Venky Mysore. While there was no way to know what the two were discussing, the internet reckoned that the Bollywood superstar looked intense. Three-time champions Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) won the toss



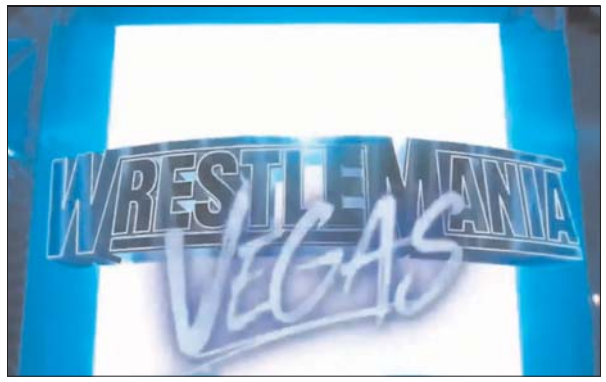
and decided to bat against Punjab Kings (PBKS) in the 12th match of the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) tournament. The high-voltage encounter is being played at the iconic Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Monday. After winning

the toss, Rahane revealed that Varun Chakravarthy suffered an injury while taking a catch during the last game. "We are going to bat first. It looks like a good wicket, a little bit on the drier side, but it's a very good wicket with slightly

less grass covering as well. It's all about having that belief and confidence. It's about winning those small moments. We are confident. Two changes, forced. Varun Chakravarthy got injured while taking a catch in the last game, and Narine isn't playing. Powell and Saini are in," Rahane said. Punjab skipper Shreyas Iyer confirmed that they were fielding the same XI. "Not at all. I was supposed to bowl as well, so I'm kind of happy with the decision he took. Our (Shreyas and Ponting) chemistry blossomed during our Delhi Capitals days. He gives freedom to all the youngsters, and he is an inspiration himself. Same team for us," Iyer said.

Unexpected Twist In WWE WrestleMania 42, Highly-Anticipated Match Cancelled: Report

Just as excitement for WrestleMania 42 was building, an unexpected twist emerged, with the company reportedly deciding to cancel the match between Rey Mysterio and Gunther. What had been built as a classic "David vs Goliath" battle has reportedly been scrapped due to a severe injury sustained by the Master of the 619. The injury is said to have occurred during a physical encounter on the 26 January 2026 episode of Monday Night Raw. Medical evaluations later confirmed that Mysterio suffered multiple fractured ribs on both sides. The extent of the injury makes it impossible for him to be fit in time for



WrestleMania in Las Vegas in two weeks' time. Despite Rey's legendary resilience and desire to compete at Allegiant Stadium, the medical team has ruled him out, citing the high risk of further internal damage. In a swift move to preserve the card, WWE officials have announced Seth

Rollins as the replacement. This change is also a massive tactical shift for the event. While Mysterio vs Gunther was a sentimental story of an underdog fighting for respect, Gunther vs Rollins is a high-octane battle between two powerful figures in the WWE Universe. Gunther has

spent the last year cementing his "Career Killer" reputation, recently dispatching icons such as Goldberg and John Cena. In Rollins, he faces a desperate opponent looking to reclaim his spot at the top of the mountain. While the loss of Mysterio's presence is a blow to the nostalgia factor of this year's "Showcase of the Immortals," the substitution ensures that Gunther will face another strong opponent. Fans may be disappointed to see that the storied career of Rey Mysterio has hit another roadblock, but the prospect of Seth Rollins attempting to dismantle "The Ring General" keeps the excitement around the fixture intact.

CSK's Rs 14.2 Crore Buy Blasted After Loss Against RCB In IPL 2026 Clash: "No Game Awareness"

Former Indian cricket team batter Wasim Jaffer delivered a brutal verdict on Chennai Super Kings star signing Kartik Sharma after his team's loss against Royal Challengers Bengaluru in IPL 2026 on Sunday. Kartik, who was bought for a record Rs 14.2 crore, was not able to produce anything special as CSK slumped to a 43-run loss. While the CSK top order once again failed to score big, Jaffer was particularly disappointed with Kartik as he threw away his wicket at a crucial juncture of the game. Kartik was dismissed after miscuing a slog sweep and Jaffer said that the youngster lacked any kind of 'game awareness'. "Even their openers were disappointing. Soft dismissals for Gaikwad and Samson. Sarfaraz played well, but he too got out. I was



a bit disappointed with Kartik Sharma. I thought there was no game awareness from him. Overall, CSK are far behind. There are a lot of questions about their bowling and execution. I do not know how they will solve this," he said on YouTube. Jaffer was also extremely critical of the fact that CSK were unable to execute their game plan properly and said that it looked like the five-

time champions had no Plan B once Tim David started hitting their top bowlers. "CSK won the toss and took a good call as well to bowl first. It looked like Devdutt was also struggling at one point. But after that, when boundaries started coming, and the momentum shifted, it looked like the CSK bowlers had no answers, especially in the end. Tim David played a brilliant knock.

Why Is Sunil Narine, Varun Chakravarthy Not Playing For KKR vs PBKS In IPL 2026

The Kolkata Knight Riders' playing XI against Punjab Kings in an IPL 2026 match saw two big names missing - Sunil Narine and Varun Chakravarthy. The two spinners have played all the games for KKR this season. However, Kolkata Knight Riders skipper Ajinkya Rahane said at the toss that both spinners were out of the match due to health-related concerns. "Two changes, forced changes. Varun Chakravarthy unfortunately got injured while taking a catch in the last game, and Sunil Narine is sick. (Rovman) Powell and (Navdeep) Saini are in," Rahane said. Rahane won the toss and elected to bat against Punjab Kings. "We are going to bat first. It looks like a good wicket, a little bit on the drier side,



but it's a very good wicket with slightly less grass covering as well. That's the reason to put runs on the board first. (What needs to be done to turn the tide in their favour?) It's all about having that belief and confidence. Preparation-wise, we've been fantastic - each and every player. It's about winning the small moments in the T20 format and giving your best. And if

you find the right moment, just give your best. So, as I said, we are confident as a unit and have that belief," he said. KKR, who have lost both their opening games this season, made two changes, bringing in Rovman Powell and Navdeep Saini in place of the unwell Sunil Narine and mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy, who is out of this match due to injury.

FEMALE COACHES MAKE HUGE DIFFERENCE - SCARRATT



When Emily Scarratt returns to Allianz Stadium on Saturday, it will be in a different role to the one she played during England's World Cup win in September. The Red Roses' record points-scorer, who had been player-coaching at Loughborough Lightning, hung up her boots after England's final victory over Canada. Injury and high-level competition in the centres resulted in arguably the greatest England women's player being deployed on the ground as the team's water carrier. The role had her connected with the coaching team via an earpiece to bring on valuable information to the team. Now she returns for the 2026 Women's Six Nations as England's new lead attack and backs coach, replacing former assistant coach Lou Meadows. With Scarratt's former team-mate Sarah Hunter the side's defence coach, England are developing two of the game's biggest talents as the Red Roses' wait for a female head coach continues. When asked about the value of having women coaching women's teams, Scarratt told BBC Sport: "It is huge.

"I have spent so much of my career being coached by men, and brilliant men, and men who have had so much experience and can bring so much from their own experiences into our world. "Having females around the environment makes a big difference. Just being able to check in with players differently, have different sorts of conversations, be comfortably able to go into the changing room and grab somebody you know, just simple logistics like that. "I found it in terms of the girls feeling like they can say stuff to me that perhaps they wouldn't feel comfortable saying to either an older coach and/or a male coach." At the Women's World Cup last year, 32% of coaches were female, up from 15% in 2021. However, that number fell short of the 40% target set by World Rugby after the previous tournament in New Zealand. In March, it was announced that every team in Fifa's women's football tournaments must include at least one female head coach or assistant coach following the introduction of new regulations.

Richardson wins Stawell Gift despite 10m handicap

ShaCarri Richardson overcame a disadvantage of up to 10 metres to become only the third woman in history to win Australia's iconic Stawell Gift from the back of the field. At an event where athletes are handicapped according to form and ability, Olympic 100m silver medalist Richardson raced from the 'scratch' mark - meaning she was required to run the full 120 metres and overtake the entire field to claim the title. The 26-year-old clocked 13.08 seconds in the final on the uphill

grass track to record the fastest women's time in the 148-year history of the event. Richardson edged Australian 19-year-old Charlotte Nielsen, who began with a nine-metre head-start, in the closing stages to claim the prize pot of 40,000 Australian dollars (£20,900). Former world 100m champion Richardson, who almost missed out on the showpiece after easing up before the line in her semi-final, said she knew she was going to win well before the finish line. "I think I realised I was going to win right past 90

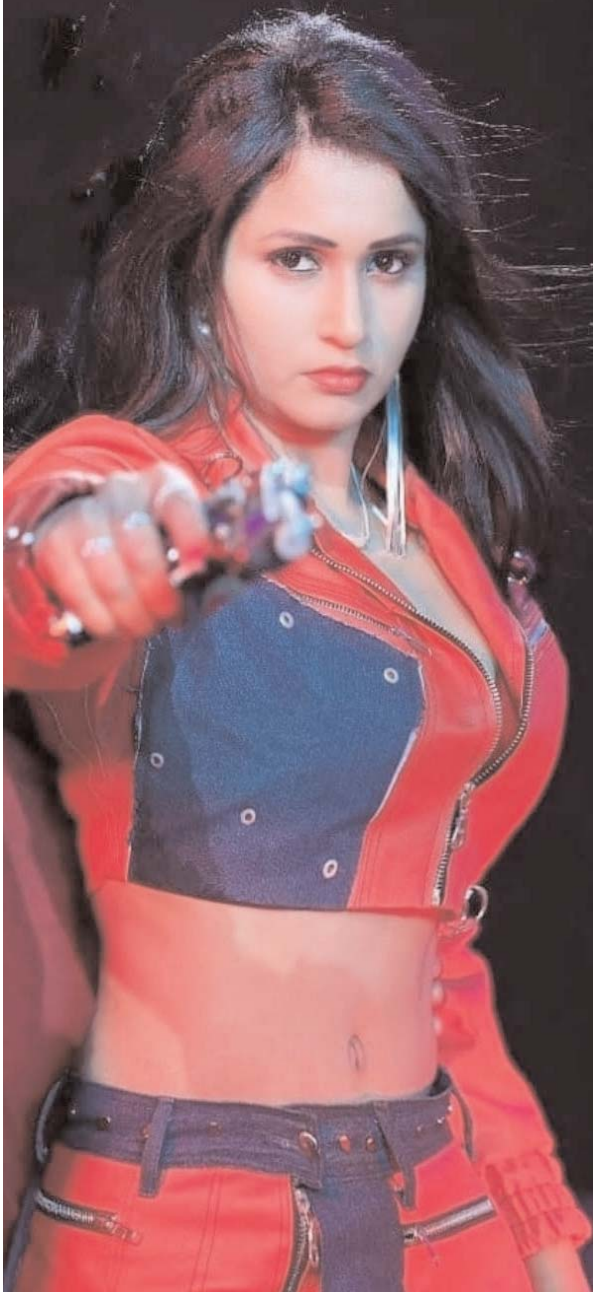
metres," Richardson told Australian broadcaster Seven Network. "This is one of the most exciting, fun and entertaining track meets I've ever ran in, not even just that, but the love, the true love and support for track and field, unbeatable." The three-day competition in the rural town of Stawell featured more than 700 competitors and offered total prize money of A\$155,000 (£81,000). Jamaican Asafa Powell, Britain's Linford Christie and Australian great Cathy Freeman are among the global champions to

compete at the event since it was first held in 1878. Richardson's partner and fellow American sprinter Christian Coleman, holder of the indoor 60m world record, contested the men's event. The former 100m world champion was eliminated in the semi-finals, where he finished fifth in 12.48 seconds. The men's event was won by Australian 21-year-old Olufemi Komolafe in 11.93 off a five-metre start - starting behind all but one of his competitors, with runner-up Jake Ireland starting at 4.5m.



Suspense Thriller “M4M (Motive for Murder)” Set for Worldwide Release on May 8th, 2026

Suspense thriller M4M (Motive for Murder) is gearing up for a grand worldwide theatrical release on May 8th, 2026. Starring popular American actress Jo Shamma and Sambeth Acharya in the lead roles, the film is directed and produced by Mohan Vadlapatla under the Mohan Media Creations banner in association with McWin Group USA. Powered by PVR Inox Pictures for its India release in five languages — Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam — M4M is positioned as a gripping murder mystery thriller with strong pan-India appeal. The USA release will be handled by TekFlix Entertainment, while JVEL Entertainment will oversee the North India release. Even before its theatrical debut, M4M has already created notable buzz with a private screening at the Palais C Theatre during the Cannes Film Festival and a promotional screening at the IMPPA Preview Theatre in Mumbai. Lead actress Jo Shamma's extensive promotional tour across the USA and India has further elevated the film's visibility. Speaking on the release, director-producer Mohan Vadlapatla called the Cannes screening a proud milestone. The premiere received great reviews



and expressed confidence that the film's suspense-driven narrative, music, and background score will leave a strong impact on audiences worldwide.

'Decoit' action thrills, love story stays in the minds of the audience. Audience will be very surprised to see the action in the love story: Hero Adivi Sesh

Adivi Sesh, who is entertaining with back-to-back pan India blockbusters, is going to come before the audience with the pan-India action-romantic thriller 'Decoit'. Shaniel Deo is making his directorial debut with this film. Mrunal Thakur plays the heroine opposite Sesh. Anurag Kashyap plays a key role. Presented by Annapurna Studios, this film is produced by Supriya Yarlagadda and co-produced by Sunil Narang. The teaser, trailer and songs of this film have raised huge expectations on the film. Decoit will hit the theaters on April 10. On this occasion, hero Adivi Sesh shared the features of the film in a press conference.

film, the love story is the main platform. The love story is the reason for this entire film. If you go to watch action in a love story, you will feel very happy. If you go to watch love in an action film, you will be disappointed. In this, all the emotions are organic.

• Is there any inspiration for this story?

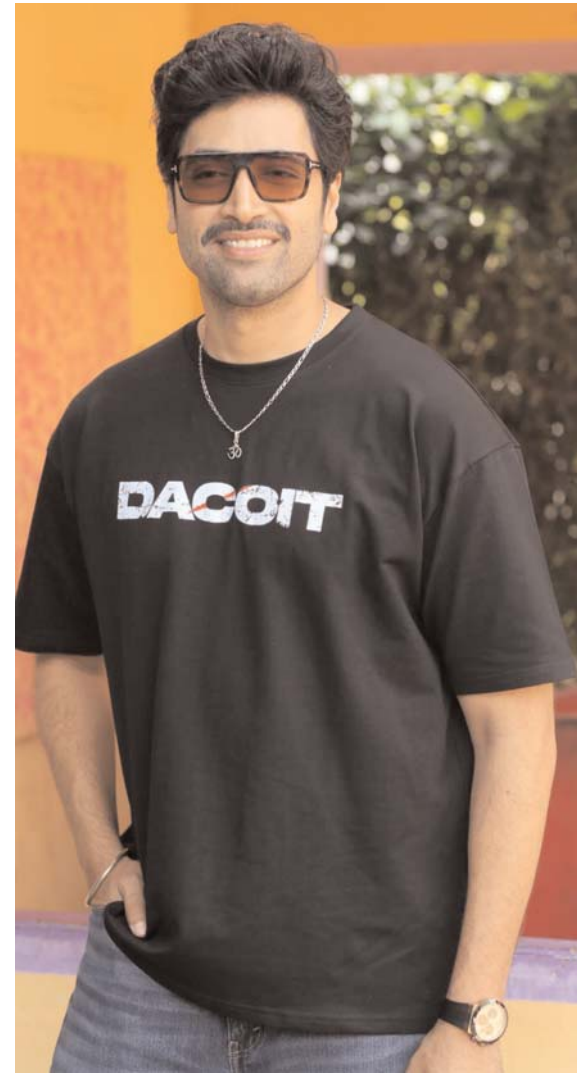
One day a visual metaphor came to my mind. 'If a small flower comes out of a crack in a concrete cement footpath on a busy road'... This story started from this visual imagination. We created a love story in the middle of an intense angry action.

• You haven't danced on screen before. Is there a reason for this?

-When I was dancing at a function when I was a child, someone said, "You're too tall, don't dance." How has that feeling stayed with me since then? I set that limit for myself. But for this film, I crossed that limitation. I was very inspired by the character of Hari in it. He is a very open character who speaks to his face. For this role, I practiced the Madanapalli accent and started speaking at home too. Seeing my accent, my mother said, "What are you talking about?" (laughing)

• Is this why this movie was delayed a bit?

Actually, there wasn't a



Aravind called and said that the film was very promising and let's collaborate. That gave me a lot of joy.

• Working with Bheems?

We wanted to do a fresh music. It was a very fresh project for Bheems garu too. He himself said that this is not like the music I have done. He said that everyone thinks that the song Rubaru is like the songs of Rahman garu sung by me (laughs)

• Whose idea was it for the song Kanne Pettaro?

Hari's character is in a mood to enjoy a moment. While narrating that sequence, Supriya asked when she first danced. I told her that I had danced to the songs Kanne Pettaro and Cheez Badihe when I was a child in Vizag. But she said that we should only do these songs. Cheez Badi He in Hindi and Kanne Pettaro in Telugu were put on. They came in good placements. Polaki Vijay is a very sweet choreographer. Working with him was a great experience.

• What about producer Supriya?

The Karta Karma Kriya of this film is Supriya garu. A hundred days of shooting is like doing 100 marriages. There are many complaints and egos. The parents bear all this with great patience. The producer is the same. Supriya garu is a truly jam producer.

delay. What is the process of making a film like? I've been working non-stop for the past two years. But on the outside, it feels like it's been two years.

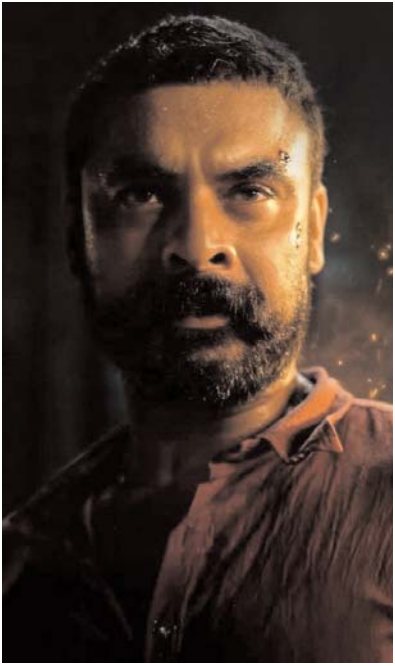
Goodachari 2. I want to work in someone else's vision.

• When did the idea of releasing it in Dolby come about?

We wanted to release the film in Dolby from the beginning. But then Allu

If I want to do films in a row, I shouldn't be in the writing process. I want to recharge emotionally after

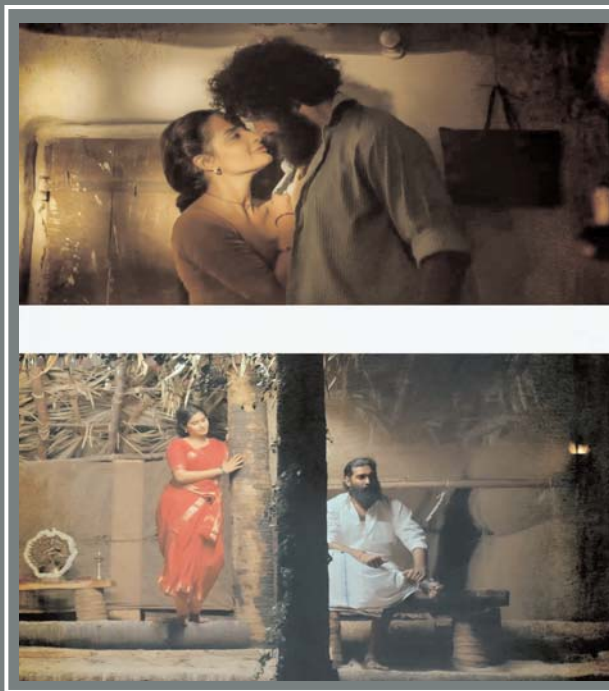
Malayalam star hero Tovino Thomas's prestigious film “Pallichattambi” trailer has been released; set for a grand worldwide theatrical release on April 10t



Pallichattambi is a big-budget film starring Malayalam star Tovino Thomas. The movie is being produced by Noufal, Brijeeesh, and Chanukya, Chaitanya, Charan under the banners of Worldwide Films and C Cube Bros Entertainments. Directed by Dijo Jose Antony, the film features Kayadu Lohar as the female lead. The movie has already created huge expectations on a pan-India level. This prestigious project is set to release grandly in five languages, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and Kannada on April 10th. The trailer of “Pallichattambi” was released today. From what the trailer shows, a group of selfish people set their sights on the lands of the poor in Kunnumpuram. They use a corrupt police officer to suppress those who resist. The villagers wait for a savior who can protect them and their land.

At that crucial moment, a heroic figure steps into Kunnumpuram, inspires the people, and turns the very soil of the village into a weapon to fight back against powerful attacks. The trailer builds curiosity about whether his courageous struggle alongside the villagers succeeds, and whether the land ultimately returns to its rightful owners. The trailer also hints that this intense action entertainer includes a beautiful love story. Tovino Thomas's performance, his action sequences, Kayadu Lohar's makeover, and her screen presence stand out as major highlights. Director Dijo Jose Antony has presented the story, set in the 1950s and 60s, in a very natural and engaging manner.

“THERACHAAPA” SET FOR GRAND RELEASE ON APRIL 17



Mystery Surrounds Actress Subashini's Sudden Death



Kayal is one of the popular television serials in Tamil. Subashini plays the lead role, and, shocking many, the actress died by suicide.

The actress had Sri Lankan origins and was residing in an apartment in Iyyappanthangal when the particular incident occurred. The preliminary investigation revealed to us that Subashini took the extreme decision due to issues in her family. A detailed investigation into her death is currently underway, and upon receiving the information, the police officials rushed to the spot and sent her body for medical examination. There are reports that Subashini

may have been in distress prior to this incident, as she seems to be having differences with her husband. Reportedly, she had an argument with her husband over a video call, with officers indicating that emotional distress could have been a reason for the tragedy. As the investigation is underway, Subashini's photos with her husband Bibin have surfaced on the internet today. Subashini was widely recognised for playing the antagonist in the TV show Kayal. She also acted in films such as Ellaam Mela Irukuravan Paathuppan (2023) and Web (2023). More details into the case will be out as and when the investigation progresses.

“Shikandi” Movie Teaser Launch Event Held Grandly, Film Gearing Up for Summer Release



The film Shikandi, starring Yuvraj Gowda, Nikhil, Deepak Shetty, Khyati, and Nikhita Swamy in lead roles, is produced by Pola Praveen Kumar under the Pola Movies banner and directed by Gurumurthy V. The movie is gearing up for a summer release. The teaser launch event was held grandly today at Prasad Labs in Hyderabad. Story writer Satyadev said -

I recently signed a Kannada-Telugu project with a young Telugu hero. I'm happy to meet this Kannada movie team at this event. In the Mahabharata, Shikandi plays a very crucial role. Shikandi is the reason behind Bhisma Pitamaha laying down his weapons. Everyone in this world is born for a purpose. Inspired by such a powerful character, I hope this movie

becomes a big success.” Heroine Nikhita Swamy said - “The makers told me that I would be playing the role of Shikandi. I've been doing glamorous roles in Kannada, so I initially doubted whether this role would suit me. But after the director and team explained the visual presentation, I gained confidence in the character and the project. The motion poster released recently in

Kannada received a huge response. I hope Telugu audiences will also support our film.”

Actress Neetu Vanajakshi said - “I'm happy to be part of Shikandi. The director has portrayed the story as effectively as he narrated it. All the elements he mentioned are present in the film. I believe you all liked our teaser.”

Actress Chandini said - I didn't know Shikandi was a character from the Mahabharata. I'm not very educated, so I felt scared when I got this opportunity. Until now, people called us names like 'kajja' or 'chekka.' I was afraid they might start calling us 'Shikandi' after this film. But after the director explained the greatness of the character, I felt proud to be part of this film.” Music director

Under the banner of Ananya Creations, producer Kailash Durgam is bringing an exciting new film titled “Therachapa” to audiences. Directed by Joel George, the film is all set for a grand theatrical release on April 17. The movie features Naveen Raj Shankarapu, Pooja Suhasini, and Srilu in lead roles, alongside a strong supporting cast including Rajeev Kanakala, Prithviraj, Jagadeesh Prathap Bandari, Fish Venkat, Jabardasth Ashok, Nagi, Apparao, Rising Raju, Rajesh Bhoopathi, Naga Vamsi, Srinivas Nesa, Chandra, and many more. The film's technical team brings together talented professionals. Cinematography is handled by Azeem and Venkat, while the music is composed by Prajal Krish, with background score by M.L. Raja. Editing is done by Raju Bodasingi, and choreography is by Jeevan George. Therachapa has already generated a strong buzz with its promotional content receiving an overwhelming response.

Pradyottan said - “I composed music for Ram Gopal Varma's Ice Cream. Recently, one of my Kannada films became a success. I provided the background score for this film. I am a Telugu person, and I'm happy to present my work to Telugu audiences for the first time.

They say you must win at home after succeeding outside—I've done that. I request everyone to support Shikandi.” Actor Deepak Shetty said - This is my first Telugu film. Thanks to everyone who attended our teaser launch. The entire team worked passionately.