



**Women Reservation Bill will help to change 'disha and dasha' of nation: PM Modi**

NATION | NEWS

**Blockade of Iranian ports will last 'as long as it takes', US defence secretary says**

WORLD | NEWS



**Tralala Moving Pictures Drops First Single 'Thassadiya' from Samantha's Action Comedy Family Drama 'Maa Inti Bangaaram' — In Cinemas May 15**

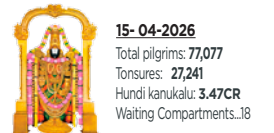
CINEMA | PAGE



SCAN FOR E-PAPER



OM NAMO VENKATESAYA



15-04-2026  
Total pilgrims: 77,077  
Tonsures: 27,241  
Hundi kankaku: 3,47CR  
Waiting Compartments: 18

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

**WEATHER**  
39 °C | F  
Precipitation: 10%  
Humidity: 30%  
Wind: 11 km/h

**GOLD RATE**  
24K ₹ 1,57,510

**INBRIFS**  
Indian Navy's INS Sudarshini reaches Morocco on Lokayan 26 deployment

New Delhi, April 16 (TSIT) Indian Navy's Sail Training Ship, INS Sudarshini, made port call at Casablanca, Morocco on April 15, as part of its ongoing transoceanic deployment under Lokayan 26. The ship's arrival at this prominent port marks an important milestone in the expedition and reflects Indian Navy's sustained efforts to enhance maritime engagement in line with the vision of MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across the Region). In a statement issued here, the Naval spokesperson said that the visit further underscores the strengthening of bilateral relations and naval cooperation between India and Morocco.

**Lack of power in over 100 Kolkata poll booths; EC orders immediate action**

Kolkata (TSIT) In a surprising development, the Election Commission has discovered that more than 100 polling booths in central Kolkata lack electricity. The issue has raised serious concerns just a few days ahead of the election because this time the Commission has mandated advanced web-casting arrangements at every polling station to ensure transparency during voting.

"Webcasting cannot function without a reliable power supply. So we have directed district election officers (DEOs) to immediately ensure electricity connections at all such booths," a senior official at the CEO's office said. In cases where restoring power is not feasible in time, authorities have been instructed to arrange generators. The Commission has made it clear that the absence of electricity must not disrupt webcasting under any circumstances. While the absence of electricity in rural polling stations is not uncommon and had been addressed earlier through specific directives, officials admitted that such a situation in Kolkata was unexpected.

## Ponnam seeks action against Tejasvi Surya over Telangana remarks



Hyderabad (TSIT) : Telangana's Minister for Transport and Backwards Classes Welfare, Ponnabrahma Prabhakar, has urged Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to expunge the offensive remarks made by BJP MP Tejasvi Surya on Telangana's formation from official records and to take strict action, including cancellation of his membership.

In a letter submitted to the Lok Sabha Speaker, the minister strongly objected to Surya's remarks made during the debate on the bills for women's reservation. The minister stated that the MP compared the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh and creation of Telangana state with the partition

of India and formation of Pakistan. "This analogy is not only factually untenable but also deeply insensitive and inappropriate in the context of parliamentary discourse," Ponnabrahma Prabhakar wrote. He mentioned that the formation of Telangana was the outcome of a democratic constitutional process that reflected the legitimate aspirations of its people.

He added that equating this with the violent and traumatic partition of the nation diminishes the sanctity of that process and disregards the sentiments of the people of Telangana.

He further stated that such comparisons are unnecessary and risk fostering regional discord, misrepresenting historical and constitutional realities, and undermining the spirit of unity and cooperative federalism that underpins democracy. Ponnabrahma Prabhakar urged the Speaker to order the expunction of the remarks and to direct the MP to tender an unconditional apology to the Lok Sabha and the people of Telangana.

"This analogy is not only factually untenable but also deeply insensitive and inappropriate in the context of parliamentary discourse," Ponnabrahma Prabhakar wrote in letter.

## If Constitution amendment bill is passed, democracy will be finished in India: Priyanka

NEW DELHI (TSIT): In a stinging attack, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Thursday said the government began finishing off democracy by putting pressure on institutions, such as the Election Commission (EC) and the judiciary, but now, an "open attack" has been launched on democracy with the Constitution amendment bill. Participating in a debate in the Lok Sabha on three bills introduced for amendments in the women's quota law and setting up a delimitation commission, Priyanka Gandhi asked why can't the government give 33 per cent reservation to women on the current 543 seats of the Lok Sabha.

She said the bill talks of increasing the number of Lok Sabha seats to up to 850 - to be done by a delimitation commission on the basis of the 2011 Census data. "This seems fine on the surface but the real meaning comes to the fore when one carefully reads it. It smells of politics," the Congress leader said.

She said on reading the fine print, it shows that the three members of the delimitation commission will decide the fate of the states and their representation in Parliament. "The gov-



This issue is close to the heart of every woman. There is a background to this issue. The prime minister said this issue was blocked for 30 years. This was started by a person called Nehru. Not the Nehru they avoid so much but Motilal Nehru, who as the president of a committee prepared a list of 19 rights which were then passed as a resolution at the Karachi session of the Congress and formed the basis of giving women equal rights in Indian politics."

ernment began finishing off democracy by putting pressure on institutions, such as the Election Commission, the judiciary, the media etc., but now, an open attack on democracy is being launched," Priyanka Gandhi said. If this Constitution amendment bill is passed in Parliament, democracy will be finished in India, she added.

The Congress MP also narrated a background to the issue of women's reservation in legislative bodies.

"This issue is close to the heart of every woman. There is a background to this issue. The prime minister said this issue was blocked for 30 years. This was started by a person called Nehru. Not the Nehru they avoid so much but Motilal

Nehru, who as the president of a committee prepared a list of 19 rights which were then passed as a resolution at the Karachi session of the Congress and formed the basis of giving women equal rights in Indian politics," she said. She said it was Rajiv Gandhi who, as the prime minister, brought a bill for women's reservation in panchayats and nagarpalikas and finally, the bill for it was passed during the P V Narasimha Rao government of the Congress.

"Under the UPA, this was passed in the Rajya Sabha but a consensus could not be reached in the Lok Sabha. In 2018, Rahul Gandhi wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, calling for women's reservation," Priyanka Gandhi said.

Taking a swipe at Modi, she said it seems from the prime minister's address that the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is a champion of women's reservation.

"Any woman would tell you that women easily recognise those who try to mislead them," she said and urged the BJP to be careful. "In 2023, when this law was passed, the Congress supported it and today also, the Congress is strongly in support of women's reservation. But the truth is that the debate is not on women's reservation. The bill that the government has brought has changed the direction of the debate," Priyanka Gandhi said and hit out at the BJP over the delimitation provisions in the bill.

The Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill to tweak the women's quota law was introduced in the Lok Sabha on Thursday after a division of votes. Two ordinary bills - the Delimitation Bill and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill to implement the proposed amended women's quota law in the Union territories of Delhi, Puducherry and Jammu and Kashmir - were also introduced in the House.

## CM Naidu Calls for 15% Growth, Stresses Strategic Planning & Execution

CM stresses micro-macro planning, boosts productivity focus; assures funds for key projects and welfare schemes without burdening public



Amaravati (TSIT): Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday directed officials to make efforts to achieve 15 per cent growth rate. He asked them to implement both micro and macro-level planning strategies to achieve the state's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) targets. He emphasised the need for short, medium, and long-term planning to attain optimal productivity levels across sectors.

During a review meeting of Finance department, the Chief Minister stressed that field-level execution is critical to achieve the targeted 15 percent growth rate. He instructed offi-

cial to ensure effective implementation of these plans down to the grassroots level, according to Chief Minister's Office (CMO). The CM noted that the state is already providing essential resources such as water and electricity to agriculture sector and industries, and called for focused efforts to further enhance productivity.

Despite financial constraints, the government has not increased electricity tariffs and is also bearing an additional burden of Rs 4,600 crore arising from decisions taken by the previous administration, he said. The Chief Minister directed revenue-generating departments to meet their targets

without imposing any burden on the public. He highlighted that completion of key projects like Amaravati and Polavaram would significantly boost wealth creation in the state.

He assured that there is no shortage of funds for priority projects and that, with the support of the Central Government, these projects will be completed to accelerate development. He asked the officials to utilise central government schemes including Purvodaya and Sasci schemes to take up development projects.

The Chief Minister reiterated that welfare schemes will be implemented in line with the welfare calendar. He further directed officials to focus on securing funds due to the state under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act.

Criticising the previous government for shutting down Anna Canteens, he said that despite challenges, the current government is providing meals to poor through 269 Anna Canteens across the state.

## Women's quota law: BJP has turned 'nari' into 'nara', says Akhilesh

NEW DELHI (TSIT): Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Thursday accused the BJP-led central government of turning 'nari' (women) into a 'nara' (slogan) for political benefits and demanded reservation for OBC



and Muslim women under the proposed women's quota law. Participating in a debate on three bills introduced in the Lok Sabha to amend the Women's Reservation Act, 2023, and set up a delimitation commission, Yadav said the Samajwadi Party has always supported reservation for women and furthered the cause of women-led development. All socialist leaders have believed in gender and social justice, he said.

## TVK chief Vijay announces Rs 2,500 monthly assistance, eight gram gold for marriage



CHENNAI (TSIT): TVK chief Vijay on Thursday unveiled a sweeping manifesto for the April 23 Assembly elections in Tamil Nadu that particularly highlighted the welfare of women, promising others - Rs 2,500 monthly assistance for those below 60 years and 8 gram gold for marriage.

The actor-turned-politician also assured a quality silk saree in addition to gold for indigent brides and interest-free loans up to Rs 5 lakh for women-run SHGs.

He assured corruption-free good governance if voted to power. The manifesto also laid importance on education. To prevent school dropouts, mothers or guardians of children studying in government and

state-aided schools will receive Rs 15,000 annually.

Vijay promised 100 special residential schools named after iconic leader K Kamaraj and higher education loans of up to Rs 20 lakh. He also assured AI Ministry, AI University and AI City. The manifesto places a strong emphasis on agrarian welfare, too. The TVK chief assured a full waiver of agricultural cooperative crop loans for farmers owning less than five acres of land, while those holding more than five acres will receive a 50 per cent loan waiver. Additionally, the party promised a Minimum Support Price of Rs 3,500 per quintal for paddy and Rs 4,500 per tonne for sugarcane.

Addressing youth unemployment, Vijay pledged to create five lakh new government jobs and offer five lakh stipendiary internships. Unemployed graduates will be provided a monthly aid of up to Rs 4,000. For government employees, the party assured consideration of the Old Pension Scheme and the regularisation of contract workers, including nurses.

## US warns strikes on Iran energy infrastructure if deal is not reached

Washington (TSIT): The United States on Thursday warned Iran that its energy infrastructure could be targeted if it fails to reach a deal, with Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth saying American forces are prepared to escalate beyond the current blockade.

Speaking at a Pentagon briefing, Hegseth said US forces were ready to strike critical sectors, including power generation and energy facilities, if Tehran "chooses poorly". "We are locked and loaded on your critical dual use infrastructure... and on your energy industry," he said.

He added that while Washington preferred a diplomatic resolution, military options remained fully opera-



"We'd rather not have to do it, but we're ready to go at the command of our President and at the push of a button,".

tional. "We'd rather not have to do it, but we're ready to go at the command of our President and at the push of a button," he said.

Hegseth was joined by Air Force General Dan Caine, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Admiral Bradley Cooper, who oversees US military operations in the Middle East as Commander of US Central Command. The warning comes as the

US enforces a naval blockade targeting Iran's ports and coastline, part of a broader effort to pressure Tehran following what officials described as recent combat operations under Operation Epic Fury.

Hegseth said the blockade was already constraining Iran's economic lifelines, particularly energy exports. "Your energy is not moving and will not move and we can

do this all day," he said.

He framed the blockade as an alternative to direct strikes but made clear that escalation remained an option.

"This blockade... is the polite way that this can go," he said, warning that failure to reach an agreement could lead to attacks on infrastructure. Military officials said US forces remain on high readiness despite a ceasefire that has temporarily paused major combat operations. Caine said the joint force was prepared "to resume major combat operations at literally a moment's notice."

The Pentagon said Iran's military capabilities, particularly command and control systems, had been significantly degraded during

recent operations. Hegseth noted that Tehran's ability to coordinate had reached "the worst it's ever been," though he said the regime retained an incentive to avoid renewed conflict.

Cooper said US forces in the region were using the cease-fire period to strengthen operational readiness. "We're rearming, we're retooling, and we're adjusting our tactics," he said, adding that troops remained "highly motivated" following recent engagements.

He also highlighted coordination with regional partners, including Gulf states and Israel, describing them as "exceptional teammates" supporting joint defence efforts across the Middle East.

## AKASA AIR, SPICEJET PLANES DAMAGED IN GROUND INCIDENT AT DELHI AIRPORT; DGCA PROBES

NEW DELHI: An Akasa Air aircraft and a SpiceJet plane were damaged after coming in contact at Delhi's Indra Gandhi International Airport on Thursday afternoon, officials said. The incident occurred around 2:15 pm at Terminal 1. The Akasa Air plane was stationary on the taxiway preparing for takeoff, while the SpiceJet aircraft was taxiing toward the parking stand.



FOR ADVERTISEMENT PLEASE CONTACT: 9948480279, 7330778889

CHANGE OF NAME I, NB SUB SHAILENDRA KUMAR R/O: HOLUPURA, KURAWALI, HALPURA, MAINPURI, UTTAR PRADESH - 205263 have changed my Daughter's name from ANSHIKA to ANSHIKA YADAV vide Affidavit dt.16-04-2026

CHANGE OF NAME I, MOHAMMED RAFAEE AHMED (Old Name), S/O. AGA MAHABOUBALI, R/o. H.No: 18-1044, Ashok Nagar, Miryalaguda, Nalgonda (Di), Telangana 508 207. Here by declare that I have changed my name as RAFAEE AHMED MD (New Name), (SSC MARKS MEMO) S/o. MAHABOUBALI.

CHANGE OF NAME I, BOKKA SUMAN, Father of BOKKA SHRESHTA, R/o. H.No. 4-14, Siddapur Village, Hasanparthy Mandal, Hanamakonda District, Telangana, do hereby declare that I am the natural and legal father/guardian of my minor daughter's former name is BOKKA SNIMA, and the same has been recorded in her Birth Certificate, School Records, and other documents. Has Changed name from BOKKA SNIMA (Old Name) to BOKKA SHRESHTA (New Name) for all future purposes.

Telangana Emerges as Investment Hub in Aerospace, Defence and Space Sectors Minister Sridhar Babu

Hyderabad, April 16 (TSIT): Telangana has emerged as a fast-growing destination for investments in aerospace, defence and space sectors, with State IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu urging American industrialists to explore opportunities in the State.

Addressing a delegation from the US National War College at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat, the Minister highlighted that Telangana offers a robust ecosystem for cutting-edge sectors such as drones, counter-drone systems, aerospace components, defence electronics, cyber security, space technology, AI in defence, and advanced communication systems.

Describing Telangana as a "mine of opportunities," he said the State is steadily moving towards becoming a global leader in these sectors. "From



rocket manufacturing to advanced drones, and from fighter aircraft components to satellite systems, the 'Made in Telangana' mark is gaining global recognition," he said.

The Minister noted that the aerospace, defence and space sectors in Telangana are registering an annual growth rate of over 30%, with exports witnessing a remarkable 103% compound annual growth rate (CAGR) between 2024 and 2026.

He pointed out that global aerospace giants such as Lockheed Martin, Boeing,

Safran, Airbus and Dassault Aviation, along with central public sector undertakings like DRDO, BHEL, MIDHANI, BDL, RCI and HAL, are already operating in the State.

In addition, over 1,500 MSMEs in precision engineering, drones and defence electronics are contributing to strengthening the "Telangana brand" globally. Citing international recognition, he said Hyderabad has been ranked as the world's most cost-effective aerospace city by the Financial Times (FT) rankings. Telangana

has also received the "Best State for Aerospace" award from the Central Government five times, positioning it strongly on the global aerospace map.

The Minister emphasized that the State government is proactively developing a comprehensive ecosystem to meet future industry needs. Through the TS-IPASS system, approvals are granted within 15 to 30 days, while the Young India Skill University is ensuring a steady supply of industry-ready skilled workforce.

MINISTER VAKITI SRIHARI FELICITATES VEM NARENDRA REDDY ON OATH AS RAJYA SABHA MEMBER

New Delhi, April 16 (TSIT): Telangana Minister Vakiti Srihari met and congratulated Vem Narendra Reddy on his swearing-in as a Member of the Rajya Sabha. During the meeting held at the Parliament House, the Minister felicitated Vem Narendra Reddy by presenting him with a shawl, marking the occasion with warmth and respect. Vakiti Srihari conveyed his best wishes to the newly sworn-in Member of Parliament and expressed confidence that Vem Narendra Reddy would effectively represent the interests of Telangana in the Upper House.



PUBLIC NOTICE

On behalf of the State Bank of India, Kaviraj Nagar, Khammam Branch, it is hereby informed to the general public that Smt. Nallapuni Kavitha, W/o Nallapuni Srinivasa Rao, residing at H.No: 1-85 (1-75/B), Mududalappi Village, Khammam Rural Mandal, Khammam District, has approached our branch for a loan by mortgaging the immovable property mentioned in the schedule below. This property was lost in the Kaman Bazar area during a fire. Despite extensive searching, it could not be found. A complaint regarding this loss was filed at the Khammam 1-Town Police Station on 06-04-2026. Following an inquiry, the SHO of Khammam 1-Town issued a "Non-Traceable Certificate" (No: 1520064261135158290) on 16-04-2026, confirming that the original link document No: 25101981 could not be traced. Therefore, if anyone finds the said original link document, has information regarding it, or has any objections/claims over the property, they are requested to contact the address below in writing with proper evidence within seven (07) days from the date of this public notice. If no objections are received within the stipulated time, it will be presumed that there are no objections/claims on the scheduled property, and the loan will be processed. Objections received after the deadline will not be entertained. Schedule: Khammam District, Khammam Municipal Corporation, Khanapuram Haveli Revenue Village, Survey No: 112/2 and 113 Part. The property is a Ground Floor Residential House constructed on Plot No. 7, Snragar Colony (Police Colony) Street, Khanapuram Haveli Area House Number: 04-2-534 (New 15-9-705) Tal. Area: 3811 Sq. Yards. Boundaries: East: Plot No. 6 sold by Panduranga Rao. West: House of Sri Damodar in Plot No. 8. North: 30'-0" wide Road. South: Plot No. 72. Sd/- M. V. Satyanarayan, Advocate Mamilagudem, Khammam. Cell: 944150601

'Arrive Alive' Drive Intensified Across Telangana: DGP Shivdhar Reddy

Hyderabad, April 16: The 'Arrive Alive' road safety programme has been intensified across Telangana under the "Praja Palana - Pragathi Pranali" initiative, aimed at preventing avoidable road accident deaths. Director General of Police B. Shivdhar Reddy said. Participating in a large awareness programme at Jadcherla in Mahabubnagar district, the DGP, acting on the directions of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, stressed that even a moment of negligence on roads can result in tragic loss of lives. He identified over-speeding, reckless driving and drunk driving as the major causes of accidents and expressed concern over the increasing fatalities among youth. He noted that road accident deaths are significantly higher—about 9 to 10



times—than murder cases, underscoring the urgency of the initiative under the State's 99-day action plan. Earlier, the DGP visited a black spot on NH-44 near Peddayapalli and distributed helmets along with local MLA Janampally Anirudh Reddy. Addressing a gathering of nearly 3,000 students, drivers and

citizens, he called for strict adherence to traffic rules. First-aid kits were distributed to auto drivers, while free eye check-ups, spectacles and driving licence assistance were provided. Awareness materials such as radium stickers and pamphlets were also released. Mahabubnagar district

recorded a 20% reduction in road accidents between January and April compared to last year, according to SP D. Janaki. The programme also featured emotional testimonies from families of accident victims. As part of Day-4 activities, road safety campaigns were conducted across multiple districts. Seminars, CPR demonstrations and helmet distribution drives were held in Karimnagar, Warangal and Adilabad, while Sangareddy showcased innovations like a "Smart Helmet." Eye screening camps were organised in Kamareddy and Siddipet, and Nalgonda adopted a "No Helmet - No Entry" resolution. In Nizamabad, a Rs.25,000 incentive was announced for those assisting accident victims during the Golden Hour.

GOOD NEWS TO FARMERS

Table with columns: S.No., PRODUCT NAME, TYPE OF FERTILIZERS, SPECIFICATIONS. Lists various fertilizer products and their details.

Table with columns: S.No., Sy.No., Type of Land, Name of the Enjoyer & Actual owner of the land. Contains land acquisition details for various plots.

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KADA PROJECT DIRECTOR INSPECTS SIX PHCS IN KUPPAM, PUSHES 'TATA SANJEEVANI' VISION



KUPPAM (TSIT): Kuppam Area Development Authority (KADA) Project Director Vikas Marmat (IAS) conducted an extensive inspection of six Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in the Kuppam constituency on Thursday. The inspected PHCs included Kangundi, Vijilapuram, Veernamala, Ramakuppam, Santipuram, and Rallabudugur. The Project Director reviewed medicine availability, diagnostic equipment, and staffing, and directed offi-

cial to address major infrastructure gaps. A key focus was the "Tata Sanjeevani" project—a core component of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's vision to modernize healthcare. Marmat urged ASHA workers and local leaders to act as brand ambassadors, ensuring every household receives information about advanced health services. "The goal is to ensure no citizen is deprived of quality medical care," he said. Local revenue and health officials accompanied him during the visit.

Shivanth Reddy Calls for Massive Dharna Against India-US Trade Deal

Hyderabad (TSIT): Telangana Youth Congress State General Secretary and Mahabubnagar District In-charge Shivanth Reddy unveiled a poster for a mega dharna to be held on April 18 at Indira Park Dharna Chowk in Hyderabad, opposing the India-US trade agreement under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Addressing party leaders and workers at the District Congress Office, Shivanth Reddy alleged that the trade deal would adversely affect national interests. He stated that reducing tariffs on imported goods would weaken domestic industries and pose a threat to the livelihoods of farmers and workers. He also expressed concern over data security, claiming that the personal data of 140 crore Indians could be at risk. Further, he warned that the dairy sector might be opened up to foreign corporations, which could



SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED DEMAND NOTICE. Includes details of the borrower, loan amount, and terms of the demand notice.

ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL LIMITED DEMAND NOTICE. Includes details of the borrower, loan amount, and terms of the demand notice.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, KALPNA YADAV spouse of JC-733961N SUB DINESH KUMAR, R/o. Village: Raghavpur, Post: Vaidpura, Tehsil: Saiphai, District: Etawah, State: UP - 206001, hereby state that my name is changed from KALPNA YADAV to KALPANA YADAV vide Affidavit dated 15 April 2026.

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY Follow us on @SCRailwaysIndia Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website: www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

e-Tender Notice Nos. CJE/29/Elec/M/SC/02/PA/OT/2026 Dt.15.04.2026

For and on behalf of President of India, the undersigned invites e-tender for the given below work up to 15.00 hours on 07.05.2026

S.No.: 01 e-Tender No.: etender No.C/29/Elec/M/SC/02/PA/OT/2026-27 etender No.E-M-SC-02-OT-2026-27

Name of work: Secunderabad Division Electrical Maintenance Department : (i) Provision of Divyangjan facilities in stations under Sr.DEN/North/SC jurisdiction. (ii) Provision of Divyangjan facilities in stations under Sr.DEN/South/SC jurisdiction and (iv) Provision of Divyangjan facilities in stations under Sr.DEN/West/SC jurisdiction.

(iii) Provision of Divyangjan facilities in stations under Sr.DEN/South/SC jurisdiction and (iv) Provision of Divyangjan facilities in stations under Sr.DEN/West/SC jurisdiction.

(v) Provision of left over divyangjan facilities (Accessible route with tactile guidance, Tactile flooring for platform zoning, Contrasting Colour Scheme for structural elements & Platform edge Strips) to meet short term targets under Sr.DEN/North/SC jurisdiction (vi) Provision of Divyangjan facilities to meet short term targets in Sr.DEN/North-West/SC section (vii) Provision of Divyangjan facilities to meet short term targets in stations under Sr.DEN/South/SC section (viii) Provision of Divyangjan amenities (water taps, Divyangjan toilets, Accessible route with tactile guidance, Platform zoning, Contrasting colour scheme for structural elements & Platform edge strips) to meet short term targets in Sr.DEN/West/SC section (ix) Provision of Divyangjan amenities to meet short term targets in Sr.DEN/Co-ord/SC section (x) Provision of Divyangjan amenities to meet short term targets in SNF-SC-KZJ (xi) KZJ-BZA Section: Upgrade of COPs with SS gutter, New sheeting & Provision of additional PF shelters in stations under ADE/NS/KZJ sub division (xii) KZJ-BZA Section: Proposed construction of additional COPs in stations under ADE/NS/MDR sub division - Electrical arrangements. Tender Value (₹): 2,86,28,720.00 EMD (₹): 2,93,200.00 CTF (₹): 0.00 Completion period: 6 Months

1. Tender conditions/other particulars are available in the Tender documents on IREPS website at "www.ireps.gov.in" which can be downloaded, can be participated and can view any modifications if any.

2. The tender notice is also displayed in the Notice Board located in the office of Sr.DEE(Maintenance), Secunderabad Division, South Central Railway, Secunderabad which can be seen on all working days.

3. The Railway reserves the right to cancel the tender without assigning any reason thereto.

Sr.Divisional Electrical Engineer (M)/Secunderabad

E-Tender Notice No. N-SG-36-2026-27-COP-01 Dt. 10.04.2026

Sr.DSTENED acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Tender Number and Date: N-SG-36-2026-27-COP-01 dated 10.04.2026 Name of Work: Annual Repair Contract (ARC) of Primary Digital Drop Insert Multiplexer Cards of M/Is Webfil Make in Nanded Division for a Period of Two Years (Inclusive of Spare Parts). Estimated Project Cost (₹): 21,53,292/- Bid Security (₹): 43,100/- Completion Period of Work: 24 Months Bid Closing Date (Bid Due Date): 05.05.2026 at 15:00 hrs Bid Opening Date: 05.05.2026 at 15:00 hrs Validity of Offer: 60 Days from Bid Closing Date Cost of Tender Booklet (₹): 0/-

All bidding is in Indian Railway e-tendering portal www.ireps.gov.in. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender. Further details can be seen in www.ireps.gov.in.

Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, Nanded

E-Tender Notice No. N-SG-36-2026-27-ARC-05 Dt. 10.04.2026

Sr.DSTENED acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Tender Number and Date: N-SG-36-2026-27-ARC-05 dated 10.04.2026 Name of Work: Annual Repair Contract (ARC) of Primary Digital Drop Insert Multiplexer Cards of M/Is Webfil Make in Nanded Division for a Period of Two Years (Inclusive of Spare Parts). Estimated Project Cost (₹): 21,53,292/- Bid Security (₹): 43,100/- Completion Period of Work: 24 Months Bid Closing Date (Bid Due Date): 05.05.2026 at 15:00 hrs Bid Opening Date: 05.05.2026 at 15:00 hrs Validity of Offer: 60 Days from Bid Closing Date Cost of Tender Booklet (₹): 0/-

All bidding is in Indian Railway e-tendering portal www.ireps.gov.in. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender. Further details can be seen in www.ireps.gov.in.

Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, Nanded

E-Tender Notice No. N-SG-36-2026-27-STRGTH-02 dated 10.04.2026

Sr.DSTENED acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Tender Number and Date: N-SG-36-2026-27-STRGTH-02 dated 10.04.2026 Name of Work: Strengthening of Earthing and Surge Protection Systems for Reliable Signalling over Nanded Division. Estimated Project Cost (₹): 2,58,69,735/- Bid Security (₹): 5,17,400/- Completion Period of Work: 12 Months Bid Closing Date (Bid Due Date): 05.05.2026 at 15:00 hrs Bid Opening Date: 05.05.2026 at 15:00 hrs Validity of Offer: 60 Days from Bid Closing Date Cost of Tender Booklet (₹): 0/-

All bidding is in Indian Railway e-tendering portal www.ireps.gov.in. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender. Further details can be seen in www.ireps.gov.in.

Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, Nanded

E-Tender Notice No. N-SG-36-2026-27-HAZRD-44 Dt. 13.04.2026

Sr.DSTENED acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Tender Number and Date: N-SG-36-2026-27-HAZRD-44 dated 13.04.2026 Name of Work: Reliability improvement of Signal and Telecom gears through implementing of point hazard circuits at Adilabad, Purna and Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar in Nanded Division. Estimated Project Cost (₹): 2,76,42,957/- Bid Security (₹): 5,52,900/- Completion Period of Work: 12 Months Bid Closing Date (Bid Due Date): 06.05.2026 at 15:00 hrs Bid Opening Date: 06.05.2026 at 15:00 hrs Validity of Offer: 60 Days from Bid Closing Date Cost of Tender Booklet (₹): 0/-

All bidding is in Indian Railway e-tendering portal www.ireps.gov.in. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender. Further details can be seen in www.ireps.gov.in.

Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, Nanded

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at https://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

TEJASVI SURYA EFFIGY BURNT IN KHAIRATABAD OVER REMARKS ON TELANGANA STATEHOOD

Hyderabad, April 16 (TSIT): Congress leaders staged a protest at Gandhi Bhavan on Thursday condemning remarks made by Tejasvi Surya comparing the formation of Telangana with the creation of Pakistan.

Under the leadership of Khairatabad (Hyderabad Central) DCC President Motha Rohith Mudhiraj, party workers burnt an effigy of the BJP MP and demanded an immediate apology from the party.

Addressing the protest, Rohith Mudhiraj strongly criticised the comments, stating that equating Telangana's formation with the partition of the country was an insult to the self-respect of nearly four crore people of the State. He said the Telangana movement was a constitutional and democratic struggle fought over several decades for identity and rights.



He recalled that the State of Telangana was formed after extensive consultations and sustained public demand during the tenure of the UPA government under the leadership of Sonia Gandhi, reflecting the aspirations of the people.

Rohith Mudhiraj alleged that attempts to distort this history were unacceptable and termed the remarks as irresponsible and provocative. He also criticised elected representatives from Telangana belonging to the BJP for not responding to the issue.

Minister Komatireddy Slams Tejasvi Surya Over Remarks on Telangana Formation

Hyderabad TSIT: State Roads & Buildings and Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy strongly condemned the remarks made by BJP MP Tejasvi Surya in Parliament, where the formation of Telangana was compared to the India-Pakistan partition.



Calling the comments "highly objectionable and irresponsible," the Minister said that such statements insult the self-respect of four crore people of Telangana and undermine the sacrifices made by hundreds of students and youth during the Telangana movement.

disrespects the martyrs," he said. Minister urged the Lok Sabha Speaker to take appropriate action against the MP for making such remarks in Parliament. He also demanded that Tejasvi Surya immediately withdraw his statements and issue a public apology to the people of Telangana. Alleging that such comments are politically motivated, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said the people are closely watching and will not tolerate any attempts to insult the dignity of Telangana.

Mudhiraj Community Declared Largest Group in Telangana; Celebrations in Kokapet



HYDERABAD (TSIT): The Telangana government's declaration of the Mudhiraj community as the largest population group in the state was celebrated with a milk abhishekam at the Mudhiraj Atmagaurava Bhavan site in Kokapet. Telangana State Mudhiraj Corporation Chairman Borra Ganeswar Mudhiraj thanked Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy for recognizing the community's demographic strength through the census. He expressed hope that the government would upgrade the community from BC-D to BC-A category. He also appreciated TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud and Ministers Vakti Srihari Mudhiraj and Ponnamp Prabhakar Goud for their roles in the census process. He urged the BC Commission to initiate reclassification and called for community unity in education, employment, and economic sectors.

Drivers are the ones who save lives, don't be careless while driving

Mahabubabad District Correspondent : As part of the Telangana State Government's ambitious Public Administration Progress Plan - 99-day program, Arrive Alive-2026, a CPR training and eye medical camp was organized for auto drivers, bus drivers, lorry drivers and other vehicle drivers in the district under the auspices of District SP Dr. Shabarish Aarti Gardens in Mahabubabad district headquarters.

A total of about 1000 drivers participated in this program. Road Safety & Railways IG K. Mesh Naidu attended the program as the chief guest. Before the program started, the SP IG was welcomed politely. Later, the program started with the Telangana State Anthem. Kesamudram CI Satyanarayana said that the Progress Plan program introduced by the Telangana Government was launched by District Collector Sneha Shabarish and SP Dr. Shabarish, explained through photos how it is being implemented effectively from the village level.

Later, videos of road accidents that have occurred in the district were shown to drivers of all categories and created awareness about the value of lives and mistakes that lead to accidents. While Thorrur CI Ganesh explained about safe driving practices, precautions to be taken, mistakes not to be made, Motor Vehicle Inspector Sai Charan garu made all vehicle drivers aware about the procedure for obtaining a driving license, maintenance of vehicle documents, speed limits to be followed on curves and straight roads, and vehicle control.

District Medical Health Officer (DMHO) Dr. Ravi Rathod said that drivers should always have emergency numbers and described the first hour immediately after an accident as the "golden hour" and explained the steps to be taken at that time. The District SP said that auto drivers, bus drivers, lorry drivers and other vehicle drivers are not only those who take passengers to their destination but also the first responders during accidents. It is mandatory for every driver to be aware of CPR, and those who do not know should learn it.

The main purpose of this program is to conduct eye tests for all vehicle drivers, provide eyeglasses to those in need, and provide CPR training.

Govt Welfare Schemes Being Implemented Effectively: Mulugu Collector



MULUGU (TSIT): District Collector Divakara TS stated that government welfare schemes are being effectively implemented in the district, adding that the mid-day meal scheme will be extended to Class 10 and intermediate students. Speaking at the Mandal Sabha programme in Mallampally as part of the 99-day 'Pragathi' plan, the Collector said the government is prioritizing education, social security, and women's economic development. He noted that motorized vehicles are being distributed free of cost to disabled persons and announced the new Indramma Family Life Insurance Scheme for financial security. He advised farmers to diversify beyond paddy, highlighting oil palm cultivation which provides steady income for up to 30 years. A palm oil factory under construction in Inchrala will employ 300 people. Plans for a new market yard and government offices in Mallampally are also underway.

degree and engineering colleges for over two-and-a-half decades and shaping the careers of thousands of students. Since 1996, he has been developing Priyadarshini Educational Institutions with Khammam and Kothagudem as centres, earning a distinguished place in the education sector.

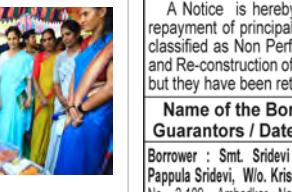
Naaven appointed as JNTU Governing Body member

Khammam (TSIT): The government has issued orders appointing Dr Katepalli Naaven Babu, chairman of Priyadarshini Educational Institutions, as a member of the governing body of JNTU Hyderabad. The appointment is seen as a recognition of his services in the field of education, having successfully run

degree and engineering colleges for over two-and-a-half decades and shaping the careers of thousands of students. Since 1996, he has been developing Priyadarshini Educational Institutions with Khammam and Kothagudem as centres, earning a distinguished place in the education sector.

WOMEN'S LIVELIHOOD FOCUS UNDER 99-DAY PROGRAMME

RANGAREDDY (TSIT): Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Commissioner Divya Devaraj said the 99-day 'Pragathi' programme is aimed at boosting women's livelihoods and strengthening rural development. Speaking at a mandal-level meeting in Shadnagar, she stated that the initiative promotes financial independence among women. She noted that women have already been enabled to become bus owners in 558 mandals across Telangana, creating new income opportunities. She added that under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.



HUSNABAD POLICE ORGANIZES FREE EYE CAMP UNDER 'ARRIVE ALIVE' INITIATIVE

HUSNABAD (TSIT): As part of the 'Arrive Alive' initiative to prevent road accidents, Husnabad police organized a free eye medical camp at Bhadrakali Hospital on Saturday. Motorists received eye check-ups using advanced equipment by experienced ophthalmologists. Free spectacles were distributed to those with vision impairments. Police officials stressed that clear vision is critical for safe driving. Husnabad ACP Sadanandam said the move can significantly reduce accident rates.

DEMAND NOTICE Under Section 13(2) of the Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. Includes details of borrower Smt. Sridevi Dandrea Alias Pappula Sridevi, W/o. Krishna Kumar, H/o. No. 2-109, Ambedkar Nagar, Near Old Vegetable Market Warangal, Telangana 506371. Amount Outstanding: Rs. 41,34,498.75/-

SHIRAM FINANCE LIMITED Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No. 14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032. DEMAND NOTICE Whereas the borrowers/co-borrowers/guarantors mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from SHIRAM FINANCE LTD. Includes details of Janagam Shekar Goud, S/o: Janagam Venkataiah Goud, Age 42 Years, Occ: Self Employee, R/o: H.No: 3-16-110/629, St.No 02, Vasavi Nagar, Ramanthapur, Amberpet, Hyderabad, 500013.

LIC HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED #201, 2nd Floor, Krishi Sapphire Building, Near Image Hospital, Hitech City Main Road, Madhapur, Hyderabad - 500081. POSSESSION NOTICE (Under Rule 8(1) Immovable Property) WHEREAS, the undersigned being the authorized officer of the LIC Housing Finance Limited, Hyderabad under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13 (2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices calling upon the following Borrowers to repay the amount mentioned against their names with further interest / costs etc. within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notices.

## Pawan Kalyan congratulates Lokesh on being appointed TDP working president

Amaravati, April 16 : Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has congratulated Nara Lokesh on being appointed as the national working president of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). The Jana Sena leader, in a statement on Thursday, wished that Lokesh, who served as the national general secretary of the TDP, become successful in his new responsibility. He hoped that Lokesh will continue the spirit of coalition. Pawan Kalyan also congratulated Palla Srinivas Rao for being appointed as the TDP



state president for another term. Meanwhile, Lokesh thanked Pawan Kalyan for congratulating him and conveying his best wishes. "With your blessings and in keeping with your aspirations, the

alliance spirit will continue even more amicably with coordination and with the objective of state's progress and public welfare. I will live up to the trust you've placed in me as your brother. Heartfelt gratitude for the affection you're

showing towards me as a brother," Lokesh posted on 'X'. Lokesh, son of Chief Minister and TDP national working president N. Chandrababu Naidu, was Wednesday appointed as the national working president. This is the first time in TDP's history that a national working president has been appointed. Lokesh is a minister in Naidu-led Cabinet, handling the portfolio of human resources development, information technology and electronics.

## Full Preparedness for Census Operations in Tirupati District: Collector Dr. S. Venkateswar



TIRUPATI, April 16, 2026 - The district administration is fully prepared to successfully conduct the upcoming 2026-2027 Census Operations, said District Collector Dr. S. Venkateswar. Speaking at a media interaction held at the Video Conference Hall of the District Collectorate, the Collector stated that as part of the 2026-27 Census programme launched by the Government of India, he is performing the duties of Principal Census Officer for the district under the guidance of the State-level Census Director. Joint Collectors, Municipal Commissioners, and Tahsildars are working as Charge Officers.

The entire district has been divided into 42 Charges, out of which 36 are Mandals, 5 are Municipalities, and Tirupati Municipal Corporation has been constituted as a special Charge. Each Charge has been further divided into House Listing Blocks, and Enumerators have been appointed for each block along with Supervisors to monitor them.

Training programmes for Census operations have already been conducted at the state level under the leadership of senior officials. In the district, comprehensive training and hands-on

workshops were organized for three days for the Charge Officers. Additionally, Master Trainers and Field Trainers have been identified, and phased training is being provided to Enumerators and Supervisors. The final phase of training for Enumerators will commence from April 23, he informed.

A key highlight of this Census is that it will be conducted 100% online. Data collection will be done through a special mobile app provided to the Enumerators. This will save time and significantly improve the accuracy of data collection.

For the first time in the country, the 'Self Enumeration' method is being introduced. Under this facility, people can register their family details online by themselves. This option will be available from April 16 to April 30. The Collector urged the public to make use of this opportunity and register their details in advance.

The House Listing phase will begin from May 1. During this phase, Enumerators will visit every household to collect housing-related details. Subsequently, the second phase of Population Enumeration will be conducted in February 2027.

The Collector clarified that the information collected during the Census will be kept completely confidential and will not be linked to any welfare schemes. The Census data will be used only for policy formulation by the government. He appealed to the public to provide accurate information without any misconceptions.

## Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Atmakuri Rama Rao Celebrates 100% Success in CBSE Class X Results



HYDERABAD, April 15, 2026 - Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Atmakuri Rama Rao has achieved a stellar milestone by recording a 100% pass rate in the CBSE Class X Board Examinations 2026. This achievement underscores the institution's unwavering commitment to academic excellence and holistic development. The results reflect extraordinary student dedication and pedagogical excellence. Leading the cohort, Jaswitha Jangama secured the top position with 487 marks (97.4%), followed closely by Burra Lalitha Kumar and Yellammagari Jaswanth, both scoring 485 marks (97%). Raj Harshit T earned the third spot with 484 marks (96.8%). Subject-wise perfor-

mances were equally remarkable, with students achieving perfect scores of 100 in Sanskrit and Artificial Intelligence. Other highlights include 99 in English and Telugu, 98 in Science and Social Science, and 95 in Mathematics and Hindi. The high scores in Artificial Intelligence particularly highlight the school's focus on future-ready, skill-based education. Principal Smt. Sreelatha Nair congratulated the students, stating, "This success is a collective triumph of our students' hard work, the relentless efforts of our faculty, and the constant support of parents." The school management extended their heartfelt wishes to the students for their future endeavours.

## SPMVV Hosts Discussion Forum on Women's Reservation Bill

TIRUPATI: Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam (SPMVV) organized a discussion forum on the Women's Reservation Bill, 2023 (Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam) on April 15 at the 'Dhruvi' Auditorium. The event, coordinated by Professor C. Vani, brought together staff, students, and women politicians. Registrar Professor R.



Usha said political empowerment for women requires participation

from Panchayat to Parliament. Advocate K.C. Sarala noted the

Bill's potential can be realized only when women govern independently. BJP leader Sadhineni Yamini Sharma asserted that women embody Shakti and possess inherent administrative strength. Students shared their perspectives on the need for reservation. Dr. D. Uma Devi proposed the vote of thanks.

## Apollo Jubilee Hills Performs Rare 10-Hour Lung Procedure, Patient Shows Remarkable Recovery



HYDERABAD, April 16, 2026 - Doctors at Apollo Hospitals Jubilee Hills have successfully carried out a highly specialised Whole Lung Lavage (WLL) procedure on a 38-year-old patient suffering from Pulmonary Alveolar Proteinosis (PAP), a rare and potentially debilitating lung disorder. The complex 10-hour procedure, considered the gold standard for selected PAP cases, involved washing both lungs using nearly 30 litres of warm saline to remove accumulated proteinaceous material that hampers oxygen exchange. The procedure was successfully performed under the leadership of Dr. Vijay Kumar Chennamchetty,

Lead Interventional Pulmonologist, along with a multidisciplinary team comprising Dr. Ravi Kanth Vanguri, Dr. Madhav, Dr. U. Srinivas (Anaesthesiology), Dr. N. Soujanya, Dr. Sricharan, and Dr. Neelesh Guttikonda (Pulmonology). Dr. Vijay Kumar Chennamchetty said the patient, who required six litres per minute of oxygen support at the time of admission, showed significant improvement post-procedure and was discharged on just one litre per minute, indicating substantial recovery in lung function. Whole Lung Lavage is among the most technically demanding procedures

in pulmonary medicine, requiring precise airway management, advanced anaesthesia, intensive monitoring, and close coordination between multiple teams. The anaesthesia team, along with physiotherapists and technicians, played a crucial role in ensuring the safety and success of the procedure. Speaking on the achievement, Dr. Chennamchetty said, "Whole Lung Lavage is a highly specialised and resource-intensive procedure that demands precise execution and strong multidisciplinary collaboration. Successfully performing this intervention reflects our team's capability and commitment to offering advanced treatment solutions for rare and challenging pulmonary diseases." Tejasvi Rao Veerapalli, CEO of Apollo Hospitals Telugu States, said the successful outcome highlights the hospital's growing expertise in handling complex respiratory conditions through advanced interventional pulmonology techniques.

## Medicover Hospitals Achieve Rare Clinical Success with Two Complex Pediatric Surgeries

Hyderabad, 16 April 2026: Doctors at Medicover Hospitals successfully managed two rare and highly complex pediatric cases, demonstrating advanced surgical expertise and multidisciplinary coordination. Both cases required meticulous planning and high precision, doctors stated. An 8-year-old girl weighing 21.2 kg presented with breathing difficulty and neck pain. MRI of the neck and spine revealed a large mass measuring 11.6 x 10.6 x 8.7 cm located in the posterior part of the chest. The tumor was in close proximity to major blood vessels, including the aorta, and extended into the spinal canal, making the condition extremely critical. Doctors noted that if left untreated, the tumor could have increased in size, leading to compression of the spinal cord and resulting in paralysis. It also carried a risk of affecting major blood vessels, potentially becoming life-threatening. Under the leadership of Dr. Pramod Reddy



Kandakure, Chief Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgeon, along with Neurosurgeon Dr. Aneel, the team successfully removed the 500-gram mass without causing any neurological deficit. The child is now stable and recovering well. Histopathological examination confirmed the tumor as ganglioneuroma, a rare non-cancerous tumor. In another case, a 4-year-old boy presented with bluish discoloration of lips and nails since birth, along with breathing difficulty. Investigations revealed a rare congenital heart defect known as single ventricle physiology, where the heart fails to develop into four chambers, leading to inad-

quate oxygenation. Doctors explained that without timely intervention, such conditions can result in worsening oxygen levels, poor growth, and severe cardiac complications. The child underwent a complex cardiac surgery, following which his oxygen levels improved significantly, along with better physical activity. Speaking on the cases, Dr. Pramod Reddy Kandakure said, "These cases were extremely challenging and required precise surgical planning and execution. In the tumor case, the proximity to the spinal cord and aorta made the procedure highly delicate, where even a minor error could result

in paralysis or severe bleeding. In the single ventricle case, treatment must be individualized based on the patient's unique anatomy and physiology. Our goal was to improve oxygen delivery and overall functional capacity." He further added, "The success of these cases reflects the importance of a multidisciplinary approach, advanced technology, and timely medical intervention. Early diagnosis and prompt treatment can significantly improve outcomes even in the most complex conditions." Neurosurgeon Dr. Aneel added, "Tumors involving the spinal canal require extreme precision to avoid damage to the spinal cord. Careful surgical planning and team coordination were key to achieving a successful outcome in this case." Doctors emphasized the importance of early medical evaluation and advised parents not to ignore symptoms such as persistent pain, breathing difficulty, or bluish discoloration in children.

## GOVT WELFARE SCHEMES SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED EFFECTIVELY.



Suryapet (April 16) Government welfare schemes should be implemented effectively. Mandal Sabha, a special platform for solving problems at the mandal level, said District Collector Tejas Nand Lal Pawar that the government will launch the Praja Jalan Pragathi Plan program to effectively implement the welfare schemes of the people. As part of the 99-day Praja Palana - Pragathi Plan program, District Collector Tejas Nand Lal Pawar participated in the Mandal Sabha organized at the Rythu Vedika in the Munagala Mandal Center on Thursday, along with District SP Narasimha. Speaking on the occasion, the District Collector suggested that the authorities should identify public problems and work to solve them immediately.

## GITAM Hyderabad Felicitates Graduating NCC Cadets with Heartfelt Farewell

HYDERABAD, April 16, 2026 - The Directorate of Sports and NCC at GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, organized a heartfelt farewell ceremony for its graduating NCC cadets on Thursday, celebrating their dedication, discipline, and exemplary service to the institution and the nation. Prof. D.S. Rao, Pro Vice-Chancellor, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and congratulated the cadets on their achievements. Addressing the gathering, he emphasized that the true value of NCC training extends beyond earning a 'C' Certificate. "It equips you with resilience, discipline, and the ability to face challenges



with courage. These qualities will guide you in contributing meaningfully to the nation," he noted. DVVSR Varma, Resident Director, and Ambika Philip, Director - Hospitality & Campus Life, attended as Guests of Honour and appreciated

the dedication and service of the graduating cadets. On the occasion, the dignitaries also felicitated Associate NCC Officer (ANO) Lieutenant S. Ajay Kumar for successfully completing his ANO training and formally receiving

his designation. The programme featured reflections from outgoing cadets, who shared their enriching NCC journey, while junior cadets expressed their admiration and gratitude. Mementos were presented to the graduating cadets in recognition of their contributions and accomplishments. A specially curated video highlighting NCC achievements, along with an audio-visual presentation capturing memorable moments, added a nostalgic touch to the ceremony. The event also included classical performances and engaging activities by cadets, which were warmly received by the audience. The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks by the senior cadets, followed by a group photograph and a luncheon, marking a fitting end to a memorable celebration.

## Public Relations Conference on Telangana Rising 2047

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad Chapter of the Public Relations Society of India (PRSI) will organise the 4th Telangana Public Relations Conference on Sunday, April 19, 2026 at The Plaza, Begumpet, Hyderabad from 9.00 AM to 6.00 PM. The conference, themed "Telangana Rising 2047: Communication, Innovation & Empowerment," aims to bring together policymakers, administrators, academicians, communication professionals, industry leaders, students and PR practitioners to deliberate on the role of strategic communication in shaping a progressive and developed Telangana by the year 2047. The inaugural session will be graced by Chief Guest Nalamada Uttam Kumar Reddy, Hon'ble Minister for Irrigation, Food & Civil Supplies, Government of Telangana. The Guests of

Honour will be K Sreenivas Reddy, Chairman of Telangana Media Academy, Ch Priyanka, Special Commissioner, I&PR Dept., Prof K Nageswar will deliver the keynote address on "Telangana's Growth Story: Communication Strategies for a Developed Telangana by 2047." The conference will feature three thematic technical sessions: Communication: AI for Every Profession - Preparing the Workforce Innovation: Industry, Urban Development, Transport & Infrastructure Empowerment: Agriculture, Culture, Heritage, Tourism & Branding Senior Bureaucrats, experts from academia, governance, technology, urban planning, agriculture, tourism and corporate communication sectors will address

these sessions. The valedictory session will be attended by Chief Guest Gutha Sukender Reddy, Hon'ble Chairman of Telangana Legislative Council and the Guests of Honour will be A V Ranganath, Commissioner, HYDRABAD and K V Ramanachary, former Media Advisor to the Govt., of Telangana. The Conference will be attended by the National Leaders of PRSI and about 200 PR and Communication Professionals of the State representing Central & State Govt Departments, Organisations, PSUs, Communication Teachers and Students etc. During the inaugural and valedictory sessions, PRSI will honour distinguished personalities, professionals and organisations through: Pride of Telangana Honour to four eminent profes-

sionals of Telangana Lifetime Achievement Recognition to four Past Chairmen of PRSI Hyderabad Chapter Public Relations Awards to outstanding services by organisations in multiple categories Conference Director Y Babji stated that the event would blend vision, ideas, policy dialogue and professional recognition under one platform. Spot delegate registration will be open from 9.00 AM to 9.45 AM at the venue, he added. Dr. Kambhampati Yadagiri, Chairman of PRSI Hyderabad Chapter, said the conference would serve as a milestone event in positioning public relations as a strategic partner in Telangana's development journey. SD/- Rajesh Kalyana Secretary, PRSI, Hyderabad Chapter

# Women Reservation Bill will help to change 'disha and dasha' of nation: PM Modi

New Delhi, April 16 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday that the Women Reservation Bill will help change the "disha and dasha" (direction and condition) of the country's politics by involving half of the population of the nation in decision-making.

Outlining the benefits of women's reservation in achieving Viksit Bharat @2047, PM Modi said all those who have opposed this provision have been taught a lesson by women voters. "We are privileged that we have an opportunity to give a new direction to the nation's politics and strengthen democracy," he said, urging parties not to see it through the

prism of politics.

Earlier, the introduction was approved in the Lok Sabha on Thursday, following a division of votes in the House. The development came after the Opposition pressed for a recorded vote, leading to a formal division process.

Union Law Minister Arjun Meghwal rose in the House to table the Bill, marking a key step in the legislative process. The introduction follows an earlier round of voting in which Members of Parliament supported bringing the Bill forward for discussion. The Constitution (One Hundred and Thirty-First Amendment) Bill, 2026, and the



Delimitation Bill 2026 and Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026, were introduced.

The Lok Sabha had voted in favour of introducing the Constitution (One Hundred and Thirty-First Amendment) Bill, 2026, after the Opposition demanded a division. Following the use of vote slips, the distribution stood at 251 in support and 185 against, announced Speaker Om Birla, adding that it is subject to change. The Lok Sabha typically relies on voice voting to pass motions; however, when the outcome is contested, a "division" is conducted. In such cases, the Automatic Vote Recorder system is used to register

votes under "Ayes", "Noes", and "Abstain". Subsequently, vote slips were also utilised during the proceedings after the division, with a total of 333 members casting their votes and no abstentions recorded in that round. "If any member wishes to change the vote, they may call for voting through slips," the Lok Sabha Secretary General had earlier informed the House. The Opposition had insisted on a division as the House took up voting on the introduction of the Women's Reservation Bill. The motion required a simple majority to be carried, and the voting process was conducted accordingly amid heightened political engagement.

## CM Naidu Leads by Example, Registers for Self-Enumeration as AP Census Begins

VISAKHAPATNAM (TSIT) Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has registered his details through the online portal as part of the Self-Enumeration initiative launched under the ongoing Census process in the state. The online registration process, which began today under the House Listing and Housing Census phase, allows citizens to submit their household details through the official website (se.census.gov.in). The self-enumeration process consists of 33 questions, which were explained to the Chief Minister by AP Census Director J. Nivas.

Officials informed that the public can utilize the self-enumeration facility until April 30. Subsequently, from May 1



to May 30, enumerators will conduct door-to-door visits to carry out the physical verification and data collection process. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister emphasized that accurate data

collection is crucial for ensuring equitable distribution of welfare and development benefits to all citizens. He stated that the government aims to design development policies by considering the family as

the basic unit, and highlighted the importance of the Census in achieving this objective. Naidu further noted that this is the first Census exercise being conducted in Andhra Pradesh after the state's bifurcation, and described it as not just a data collection exercise but a strong foundation for future development.

The Census will be conducted in two phases: the first phase involving house listing has commenced now, while the second phase, focusing on population enumeration, will begin next year. The Chief Minister urged all citizens to actively participate in the process by submitting accurate information online and contributing to the successful completion of the Census exercise.

## Kamal Haasan campaigns for DMK alliance ahead of TN polls

Chennai, April 16 : Actor-politician Kamal Haasan will campaign in support of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) alliance candidates on April 17 and 19, adding momentum to the ruling front's high-intensity outreach ahead of the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections scheduled for April 23. With the campaign entering its final phase, political activity across the State has intensified, with parties stepping up voter engagement in what is shaping up to be a four-cornered contest.

The electoral battle features the DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance, the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA), Naam Tamilar Katchi, and actor Vijay's



Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK). Candidates have been actively canvassing support at the grassroots level, interacting with voters in residential areas, marketplaces, and public spaces. Senior leaders and key party functionaries have also been crisscrossing constituencies, participating in rallies, roadshows, and public meetings as part of a whirlwind campaign effort.

According to a statement issued by the DMK General Secretariat, Haasan, who heads the Makkal Needhi Maiam (MNMI), will campaign in select constituencies to bolster support for the alliance. His participation is expected to resonate particularly among urban voters and youth, segments in which he retains some political influence. The DMK alliance is relying on

its governance record and welfare initiatives to appeal to voters, while the AIADMK-led front is seeking to capitalise on anti-incumbency and coalition strength.

At the same time, Naam Tamilar Katchi and TVK are attempting to position themselves as alternatives, targeting undecided voters and first-time electors. As the countdown to polling day continues, parties are deploying star campaigners and intensifying outreach to maximise voter turnout in their favour. The coming days are expected to witness a surge in high-profile campaign events across the State. The vote count will take place on May 4, when the electoral fate of candidates in all 234 constituencies will be decided.

## Mahesh Babu's High-Octane Mountain Dew Campaign Spotlights 400ml PET Pack at Rs.20



HYDERABAD, April 16, 2026 - Mountain Dew®, PepsiCo India's bold and fearless beverage brand, has unveiled a high-octane campaign featuring celebrity brand ambassador Mahesh Babu, spotlighting its popular 400ml PET pack at just Rs.20. The campaign reinforces Mountain Dew's commitment to delivering value and accessibility through its trusted price-pack architecture, while staying true to its iconic philosophy of "Darr Ke Aage Jeet Hai." The brand continues to inspire fans to embrace courage and thrill with every sip.

As part of this campaign, Mountain Dew has launched a gripping new TVC directed by acclaimed filmmaker Ali Abbas Zafar. The adrenaline-fueled film showcases Mahesh Babu in a high-stakes outdoor adventure as he confronts a daunting natural obstacle. With suspense building, he faces fear head-on and takes the leap, once again proving that "Darr Ke Aage Jeet Hai." The film highlights Mahesh Babu's fearless persona while bringing alive Mountain Dew's philosophy of courage and triumph, spotlighting the

brand's accessible 400ml at Rs.20 offering.

Commenting on the launch, Akanksha Dalal, Category Head, Mountain Dew, PepsiCo India, said: "At Mountain Dew, our partnership with Mahesh Babu perfectly embodies the fearless spirit that defines our brand. His powerful presence brings 'Darr Ke Aage Jeet Hai' to life like never before, inspiring consumers to embrace courage and thrill—made even more accessible through our value offerings. This campaign perfectly showcases how we connect with audiences through authentic, high-energy storytelling."

The new Mountain Dew TVC will be amplified through a robust 360-degree campaign spanning television, digital, outdoor, and social media. Mountain Dew is available in single-serve and multi-serve packs across modern and traditional retail outlets, as well as e-commerce and quick-commerce platforms. The portfolio includes formats such as 400ml at Rs.20, 1.25L at Rs.50, and 2.25L/2L at Rs.90 - offering consumers multiple value-led choices without compromising on the brand's trusted experience. The brand is known for

## Valedictory of Student Activity Center(SAC) held at Auditorium, KITS Warangal Campus

WARANGAL District Correspondent TSIT, (April 16) : Valedictory of Activity Center (SAC) for the academic year 2025-2026 held at NLR shed - Auditorium, Kakatiya Institute of Technology & Science, Warangal (KITSW) campus announced by the Principal Prof. K. Ashoka Reddy. SAC is the nerve centre of all student activities to build character and attitude. The outcome is the student will become technologically superior and ethically strong and they are also emotionally balanced, he added.

On this occasion the Rajya Sabha MP, KITSW Chairman, Capt. V. Lakshmi Kantha Rao KITSW treasurer P. Narayana Reddy & Husnabad constituency Former MLA & KITSW Additional secretary, Vodithala Satish Kumar has appreciated and congratulated the faculty incharges for 9 clubs and the team of student representatives for successfully



organizing curricular and extra curricular activities under the umbrella of SAC for the all round development of students.

According to the Dean Student affairs Prof. K. Sridhar the students are doing well with Discipline, Dedication and Determination, i.e. D3 formula. Student thought process is highly innovative and most suitable when they are organising technical and cultural events. SAC includes 9 clubs such as Music, Dance & Fine arts (MDF), Photography

and Media Club (PMC), Humanity Club, NCC club, NSS club, Sports & Games club, Literary Club, Technical club & Disciplinary club and ISTE chapter. They have conducted successful technical workshops, seminars and cultural events a total of 74 under SAC. At the end students gave feedback and highlighted that we have acquired life skills, leadership qualities and various technical skills to achieve required competencies for the employability.

## Implement Progress Planning Programmes with Full Force: Collector

Jagityala, April 16, TSIT : District Collector B Satya Prasad directed the officials to conduct the 99-day action plan mandal level meetings to be organized in the district in a manner that reflects public governance. In a meeting held at the PNR function hall in Madipelli mandal on Thursday, the collector said that the people should be made aware of the development and welfare programmes undertaken by the government. Farmer assurance, distribution of ration cards, construction of



Indiramma houses, loans to women, loans provided by corporations, Special explanation should be given to the eligible

people about Mahalakshmi scheme and Sannabiyaam distribution. Korutla RDO Jivakar Reddy, Medipelli Mandal

Special Officer Surendra Kumar, Tehsildar Munindhar and MPDO Gangadhar participated in this meeting.

## EARLY DETECTION KEY TO PREVENTING CANCER: DR. SANDEEP KUMAR TULA

The district correspondent, Mancherial, April 16, TSIT : Early detection of cancer significantly increases the chances of complete recovery, said Dr. Sandeep Kumar Tula, a medical expert from Yashoda Hospital, Secunderabad. He was speaking at an awareness program held in Mancherial on Thursday.

Dr. Tula emphasized that people should not ignore minor symptoms and must consult doctors immediately if they notice any unusual changes in their bodies. He noted that modern lifestyle, unhealthy eating habits, and stress are major contributors to the rising incidence of cancer. He advised adopting a healthy diet, regular exercise, and avoiding habits such as tobacco and alcohol to reduce cancer risk. Highlighting women's health, he stressed the importance of regular screening for breast and cervical cancers. He also mentioned that certain cancers can be prevented through vaccination for children aged 9 to 14 years. Dr. Tula added that advancements in medical technology have improved cancer treatment outcomes, and people should not fear the disease but seek timely medical care.



## JAGGAREDDY, NIRMALA REVIEW DRINKING WATER ISSUES IN SADASIVPET

RS.135 CRORE PLAN PROPOSED TO ENSURE SAFE WATER SUPPLY



Sangareddy, April 16 (TSIT)T-GCC Chairman Nirmala Jaggareddy reviewed the drinking water issues in Sadasivpet town and directed officials to prepare plans to supply safe drinking water to every household for one and a half hours daily. A review meeting was held on Thursday with municipal officials, councillors, and representatives from Mission Bhagiratha and the Public Health Department. Officials proposed a comprehensive water supply project from Singur Dam, including construction of intake wells, filter beds, storage tanks, and new pipelines. The estimated cost of the project is Rs.135 crore. Engineers stated that while the town's population of 60,000 requires 21 lakh gallons of water per day, the new scheme is designed to supply up to 52 lakh gallons, ensuring adequate drinking water for the next 50 years. An emergency Municipal Council meeting will be held on April 17 to discuss the project, followed by consultations with public representatives and residents before submitting a final report to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.

# EDITORIAL

## Trump's Favourite Field Marshal: How Munir Became The President's Best Man

The photograph of Pakistan's Army chief being received by Iran's Foreign Minister in Tehran this week has its real backdrop not in the Iranian capital - the real context lies in the White House Oval Office in June 2025. A uniformed Pakistani general serving as America's most trusted diplomatic courier in one of the world's most dangerous standoffs is striking. But once you understand how Donald Trump runs American foreign policy, it is entirely predictable. Trump does not send career diplomats when things get serious. He sends people he has personally decided to trust. Right now, that man is Asim Munir. To understand why, you have to understand not just the President but the remarkable structural symmetry between the two states he and Munir respectively represent. The photograph of Pakistan's Army chief being received by Iran's Foreign Minister in Tehran this week has its real backdrop not in the Iranian capital - the real context lies in the White House Oval Office in June 2025. A uniformed Pakistani general serving as America's most trusted diplomatic courier in one of the world's most dangerous standoffs is striking. But once you understand how Donald Trump runs American foreign policy, it is entirely predictable. Trump does not send career diplomats when things get serious. He sends people he has personally decided to trust. Right now, that man is Asim Munir. To understand why, you have to understand not just the President but the remarkable structural symmetry between the two states he and Munir respectively represent.

### Advertisement - Scroll to continue Two Systems, One Illogic

Pakistan and the United States are not obvious analogues. One is a nuclear-armed developing state with a GDP per capita below \$1,500, perpetually on IMF life support, where the military has historically governed from behind civilian facades. The other is the world's largest economy, a constitutional republic with 2.5 centuries of institutional continuity. And yet, under their current leaderships, both countries are governed by a strikingly similar operating logic: institutions are weak or weakened, personalities dominate, and outcomes depend less on process than on who knows whom and what they have to offer each other. In Pakistan, this is a structural condition. The military has always been the institution that actually decides. Civilian governments come and go; the army remains. Munir has simply made this arrangement more explicit than most predecessors. In Trump's Washington, institutional erosion is more recent but directionally similar. Pakistani officials quickly diagnosed it: access to this White House runs through Trump family businesses as much as through the State Department. Career diplomats and inter-agency processes still formally exist, but they are increasingly decorative. What matters is the personal relationship with the President, and what you can offer him and his circle.

### The Art of the Offer

Islamabad understood that in a personalised system, the entry point is commerce and flattery, not diplomatic convention. The courtship was methodical. The first move was counterterrorism. Pakistani intelligence helped the US capture a key Islamic State-Khorasan operative responsible for the 2021 Abbey Gate bombing, the kind of concrete, nameable result Trump could announce and claim as his own. Then came the commercial offers. World Liberty Financial, a crypto venture in which the Trump family holds substantial interests, sent executives to Islamabad, where Pakistan signed an MoU on stablecoin adoption. Munir personally welcomed the delegation, signalling an alignment between Pakistan's military and Trump-linked business entities. Pakistan simultaneously pitched claims to trillions of dollars in rare-earth minerals.

# Amid Trump's War On The World, How Effective Really Is India's Strategic Autonomy?

In a recent op-ed in February, India's External Affairs Minister assessed, "The world has entered a volatile and uncertain era, possibly the most turbulent in living memory". In a subsequent public comment on April 4, he went on to say that "everything today is being leveraged, if not actually weaponised", and that "arriving at an optimal mix of equities, exposure and risks is a far more complex calculus". The Challenge With Staying Neutral India's striving for and assertion of the strategic autonomy of its decision-making has thus become even more an imperative, and also challenging at the same time. Since 2000, India has built a deepening economic, technological, political and defence partnership with the US, with the latter declaring India as a Major Defence partner and describing the relationship as a defining feature for the 21st century. US leaders also repeatedly said that they saw the rise of India to be in the US's interest. Contrast this with President Trump's comment in July 2025 that he did not want US companies to hire in India, and that of US Deputy Secretary of State Landau at the Raisina dialogue in March this year, that the US would not make the same mistake with India that it did with China. The Quad also does not appear to be getting the same summit-level traction in Trump 2.0 as it did in the preceding Biden administration. Trump's 50% tariffs on Indian products levied last year were seen as a vindictive measure driven by his personal pique at India not crediting him with a role in the ceasefire following Operation Sindoor in May 2025. Before US-Israel. There Was Russia Yet, India avoided direct criticism of the US and Israel for initiating the conflict with Iran, while asserting in its February 28 statement that "sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states must be respected", and expressing only deep "concern at the recent developments". By contrast, in a conversation with the President of the UAE on March 1, the Indian Prime Minister "strongly condemned the attacks on the UAE" and



"expressed that he stands in solidarity with the UAE in these difficult times". The Indian Prime Minister's visit to Israel, just two days before the start of the US and Israeli actions, has also raised questions about the appropriateness of the timing and appearance of partisanship, when the outbreak of conflict was expected. Similarly, India had refrained from direct criticism of Russia when it violated the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine in February 2022, with the Indian Prime Minister diplomatically telling Russian President Vladimir Putin in September 2022 at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Samarkand, that this was "not an era of war". Russia's deep and longstanding defence cooperation partnership with India, and political support over decades in international fora, no doubt influenced the nuance of India's position. What Strategic Autonomy Really Means - In The Real World All these legitimately raise questions about what strategic autonomy entails. Clearly, it cannot imply that India mechanically base its positions and articulations on certain widely articulated, heretofore, positions of

preferred international norms, unmindful of its own direct economic, technological, defence and political interests. No major power does that. China had in 2016 rejected the ruling of an international arbitration tribunal on the South China Sea, calling it "not worth the paper it was written on", and proceeded to militarise several islands and features in violation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The 2026 US National Defence Strategy asserts that the US would no longer support "cloud-castle abstractions like the rules-based international order". In the immediate aftermath of independence, India had adopted non-alignment as a strategy to avoid subservience to decisions made elsewhere in the two competing superpower-led military alliances. In the post-1990 unipolar phase in global affairs, the assertion of its strategic autonomy enabled India to ward off US-led attempts to universalise norms based on American preferences. These had included the indefinite extension of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 1995 and attempts to bring into force the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban

Treaty (CTBT) in 1996. Hedging, Not Isolation In the current context of India striving for productive relations with different poles in the international system, along with the growing weaponisation of dependencies by all major players, strategic autonomy can be sustained only if India builds up further its own economic, technological and military strengths. Given the competitive advantages that can be derived from cooperation and partnerships, isolation is not a viable strategy. But hedging certainly is. Each of our partners needs to be aware that India has other options, too. In the current situation, the effective multiplicity of options is under strain. Russia has been preoccupied with the Ukraine conflict for more than four years, straining its ability to provide supplies in time or be impactful in other international contexts. Russia was not able to do much to deter a US-driven "regime change" action in Venezuela, or the enhanced embargoes in Cuba. Europe and Japan caved in to maximalist US trade demands in 2025 because they continue to be security-dependent on it, through NATO or through bilateral alliances in the Indo-Pacific.

# CAUTION IS NECESSARY AGAINST THE BABAS CARRYING BAGS



DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH

The farmer's hard work will be protected only by avoiding the deception spread in the name of faith. In the villages of North India, wheat harvesting is not just a season, but a celebration of life. It's the time when a farmer's months of hard work, sun-burnt hands, cold nights of vigilance, and a battle with uncertain weather finally pay off. The golden ears of corn swaying in the fields are not just a scene of an ordinary harvest, but a symbol of hope, struggle, and self-respect. When this crop is harvested and piled up in the courtyard of the house, it's not just grain—it's security for the entire year, the foundation for children's education, support during illness, and strength to fight the uncertainties of the future. The women of the house collect, clean, dry, and carefully store the grain, knowing that these grains will strengthen the foundation of the home in the years to come. But alongside this golden and contented scene, a shadow descends upon the village streets, slowly diminishing this joy. This shadow is that of the so-called babas and swindlers who wander about with bags, waiting for this season. As soon as grain arrives in homes, these individuals suddenly appear in villages. Their clothing, their appearance, and their speech are all designed to make them appear worthy of reverence. A tilak on the forehead, a turban or cap on the head, colorful clothes, and a bag in hand—all this creates an image that easily captivates the average villager. They go from house to house, standing at the doorsteps, offering sweet blessings—"God bless," "May Mother Goddess bless"—and expect some grain or money in return. The tradition of charity and service has been prevalent in villages for centuries. This tradition is not only religious but also social, strengthening

the spirit of mutual cooperation and coexistence. Women, in particular, play a vital role in maintaining this tradition. They stand at the doorsteps of their homes, welcoming visitors and donating as much as they can. For them, this is not just a social duty, but a part of their faith. But this faith can sometimes become a weakness when some people take advantage of it. A handful of wheat donated by one household may seem like a small thing. The giver might think it won't make much difference. But when this process is repeated throughout the village, these small handfuls add up to a large pile. Grain collected from hundreds of households throughout the day adds up to a large amount by evening. This grain is then often sold in the market, and complaints arise that the proceeds are used for drugs, gambling, or other inappropriate activities rather than for essential needs. Thus, the grain that the farmer cultivated with his hard work and sweat gradually ends up in hands that are not respected. This isn't just about financial loss, it's also about a breakdown in trust. When someone exploits someone's hard work by invoking religion and faith, they not only steal resources but also undermine social values. Even more worrying is when some people resort to intimidation if donations are not made. "If you don't donate, there will be disaster," "There will be unrest in the home"—such words not only promote superstition but also create unnecessary fear in people's minds. This fear particularly affects women and the elderly, who are already deeply rooted in religious beliefs. However, there's another aspect to this whole picture that can't be ignored. There are people in society who are truly in need—the elderly, the disabled, or those without any means of subsistence. For them, begging isn't a choice, but a compulsion. Their faces reflect not pretense, but the reality of struggle and exhaustion. Therefore, it's unfair to treat every person carrying a bag with the same eyes. This is where both discretion and sensitivity are required. The solution to the problem lies not in mere protest, but in understanding. First, awareness is essential. It is important to explain to all family members that donations should be made thoughtfully, not based solely on emotion. Women, in particular, need

to be taught not to make decisions under any kind of fear or pressure. If someone tries to force or intimidate, they should be opposed, and if necessary, seek the help of neighbors or the Panchayat. The second important step is to channel donations correctly. If someone has a giving spirit, they should direct it to those truly in need. Villages contain many economically vulnerable families whose lives could be improved with help. Widows, the elderly, orphans, or those in need of education and health—these are where donations have a real impact. This not only ensures the proper use of resources but also strengthens mutual cooperation and trust in society. Third, it's important to understand the power of collective decision-making. If the entire village decides together to limit the practice of door-to-door distribution of grain, this problem can be solved naturally. It may be difficult for an individual to refuse, but when the entire community stands together, the situation changes. Collective awareness and solidarity are the most powerful weapons against such exploitation. Ultimately, the issue isn't just about grain, but about the respect a farmer earns through his hard work. The sweat shed in the fields is not just water, but a part of his life. Every grain grown from that sweat is precious, and it is the duty of every society to respect it. Letting it go to waste due to any kind of deceit, pressure, or superstition is not only a financial loss but also a loss of self-respect. Faith is an important part of our lives, but faith doesn't mean blind faith. True faith is one that is accompanied by reason, capable of distinguishing between right and wrong. When someone exploits our hard work in the name of faith, true wisdom lies in recognizing and avoiding it. Therefore, the times demand that we respect our traditions, but not blindly. We must remain vigilant and protect our society, our resources, and our hard work. Because, ultimately, only those societies that remain connected to their roots but also evolve their thinking with changing times will thrive. And when this understanding develops within us, perhaps this golden harvest of wheat will flourish not only in the fields, but also in our thoughts—with respect, awareness, and wisdom.

# A new milestone in Haryanvi short story: "Mhari Matti, Mhare Akhar"



Dr. Vijay Garg (Book Review)

For the first time, "Mhari Matti, Mhare Akhar" brings together 33 Haryanvi short story writers from India and abroad. This unique collection of 99 short stories offers a vivid glimpse of Haryana's soil, folk culture, and human sensibilities. This work is dedicated to the memory of Mr. Manumukt 'Manav', IPS, a youth inspiration. Published in 2026 under the guidance of Dr. Ramniwas 'Manav', compiled by Dr. Priyanka Saurabh, edited by Dr. Satyawan Saurabh, and with a cover designed by Surendra Bansal, this 121-page work is priced at ₹275. It is a must-have for lovers of Haryanvi literature. The true strength of every language lies in its soil, and from that very soil its letters are born. "Mhari Matti, Mhare Akhar" is a collection of short stories that captures this sweet fragrance, not only bringing to the fore the vibrant Haryanvi dialect but also strengthening the influential literary genre that has become the most relevant in today's fast-paced life—the short story. This collection, edited by Dr. Satyawan 'Saurabh' and compiled by Dr. Priyanka 'Saurabh', includes a total of 99 short stories by 33 short story writers. This number is not just a statistic, but an indication of the emerging form of the Haryanvi short story. For a long time, Haryanvi literature was largely limited to folk songs, raginis, and storytelling, but this collection shows that this dialect



is now making its strong presence felt in modern literary genres as well. The defining characteristic of a short story is its brevity, but reading this collection, one feels that the words are few, yet the impact is profound. Each work is centered on a single event, emotion, or social situation, instantly engaging the reader. These stories are not only read, but also felt—and this is the greatest success of this collection. The book's greatest strength lies in its diverse subject matter. It explores life's many shades—the sweetness of relationships, the harsh realities of society, the simplicity of rural life, and the complexities of changing times. "Tadakai Ki Maa" reflects the sensitivity of motherhood, "Izzat Ki Paribhasa" questions social norms, "Bahu Bihar Ki" exposes social prejudices, while works like "Mati Ki Sondh" and "Ghunghat Aur Ghadi" offer a vivid portrait of Haryana's connection to its cultural roots. The sim-

licity and straightforward nature of the Haryanvi language make these short stories even more impressive. There's no artificiality or pretense in the language, but rather a natural flow that reaches directly to the reader. This collection reinforces the belief that the depth of literature lies not in the complexity of language, but in its sensitivity. However, there is one aspect of this book that draws attention—the lack of linguistic uniformity. Since it includes works by many authors, different forms of Haryanvi emerge. In some places, the language is pure folk, while in others, the influence of Hindi is clearly visible. This diversity, on the one hand, makes the collection comprehensive, but on the other, it also lacks a uniform linguistic flow. Nevertheless, this should be seen as a natural condition of the evolving form of Haryanvi rather than a shortcoming. Many of the works in this collection

sharply attack social anomalies. Short stories like "Dogla," "Kagzi Samaj Seva," "Leader," and "Crowd and Leader" satirize the hypocrisy, pretense, and hollow leadership prevalent in society. Works like "Daughter's Honor," "Lioness Mother," and "Women's Rights" effectively present women's struggles, self-respect, and changing social roles. The hallmark of these stories is their straightforward portrayal of reality without unnecessary sentimentality. An important aspect of this book is that it features both new and experienced writers. This not only maintains literary balance but also provides new writers with an opportunity to express themselves. This effort is also important because the emergence of new talent is essential for the development of any language. Dr. Ramniwas 'Manav's' preface provides an ideological foundation for this collection.

## Mangaluru: Speaker Khader announces Rs 300-crore MESCOM underground cabling project



Mangaluru, Apr 15: The government has approved a major infrastructure project worth approximately Rs 300 crore for the installation of underground MESCOM cables across Mangaluru City Corporation, Ullal City Municipality and Someshwara Town Municipality, Karnataka Legislative Assembly Speaker U T Khader said. Addressing a press conference at the MESCOM office in the city on Wednesday, Khader stated that the project would be implemented soon. Within Ullal municipal limits

alone, the cable installation work will be carried out at an estimated cost of Rs 186.45 crore. Similar underground cabling works will also be undertaken in the Someshwara municipal area. Khader further stated that a proposal has been submitted for a permanent solution to coastal erosion in Ullal. He added that pending works in areas affected by sea erosion have now been completed. In another development, a new site has been sanctioned for the construction of an ACP office complex. The facility, to be built at a cost of Rs 20

crore, will house the ACP office, traffic police office and an AI cyber centre under one roof. Officials stated that the underground cabling project aims to enhance the city's aesthetics and eliminate issues caused by hanging electric wires in residential areas. The cables will be laid at a depth of 1.5 metres and are expected to function efficiently for up to 25 years. MESCOM chairman Harish Kumar, managing director Jayakumar and MUDA chairman Sadashiva Ullal were among those present at the press meet.

## High court directs K'taka govt to strictly implement mandatory menstrual leave

Bengaluru, Apr 16: In a landmark judgment aimed at upholding the health and dignity of women, the Karnataka high court has directed the state government to "strictly and faithfully" implement a policy providing one day of paid menstrual leave per month for women employees aged 18 to 52. The court noted that while the state government had previously approved the concept of menstrual leave, several companies and organisations remained hes-

itant to grant it to their female staff. Consequently, the High Court has ordered that the policy be made mandatory and implemented effectively across all sectors. The directive applies to all women employees working in registered organisations, including permanent, contract, and outsourced staff. The bench specified that this benefit should not be restricted to software firms or large corporations but must also reach women in the unorganised sector, including hotel workers and daily wage labourers.

## Solution to parking problem at Kempegowda Bus Station Terminal-1: Ramalinga Reddy

Bengaluru: Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy said, that for the smooth movement of vehicles, the convenience of staff and passengers, a good parking area has been developed at a cost of Rs. 03.29 crore.



Speaking after inaugurating the redeveloped parking area at Kempegowda Bus Station Terminal-01, he said that the place near Terminal-01 at the bus station (rest house) was filled with potholes and during the rains, it was filled with

rainwater, causing a lot of trouble to the public passengers and the staff working at the said place. He said that as soon as this came to notice, he visited and ordered to urgently develop the parking area. A tender was called to

develop the two and a half acre area for parking and the work has been completed. This space can accommodate approximately 100 buses. 11 electric lamp posts and an electrical panel room have also been constructed at the parking lot. He said that parking space has been provided for buses of the Northwest and Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation. Managing Director Akram Pasha, Kararasa Corporation and officers and staff of the corporation were present at the event.

## Cancellation of Samar International Islamic School Registration: Order from the Department of School Education – Directive to Provide Alternative Arrangements for Students

Bengaluru: The registration of Samar International Islamic School in Thani Sandara has been canceled by the Commissionerate of the Department of School Education under Section 34 of the Karnataka Education Act, 1983. The school management had legally challenged the government's decision, but the High Court completely rejected their arguments. The court imposed a fine of Rs.25,000 on the school management for unnecessarily filing a writ petition, dismissed the petition, and upheld the government's action.

The institution, which repeatedly violated laws and misled the government with false information, has finally been ordered to shut down. On April 10, the government issued an official order. It directed that immediate alternative arrangements

must be made for students from classes 1 to 7 and classes 8 to 10 so their education is not disrupted.

Within seven days of receiving this order, the Deputy Director must take appropriate steps to transfer students to nearby schools under Rule 13(3) of the Karnataka Education Act, 1983 (amended in 1999). The school's academic records must be handed over to the nearest government primary school, and proper documentation maintained at the office of the concerned field education officer. The order clearly states that there is no scope for amendment or modification.

The institution failed to provide any documents related to the school land for departmental verification. Records showed the institution registered under two different names. False and forged documents were submitted for

approval, and even bank records contained suspicious alterations.

Various documents submitted at different stages were found to be tampered with, containing several discrepancies. In the application for renewal of recognition for classes 1 to 10, the institution was listed as Jamia Muhammadiyah Mansoor. After the case reached the High Court, the institution admitted the name was incorrect and requested correction.

Additionally, the order notes that while the institution is registered in Mumbai under The All Jamia Muhammadiyah Education Society, no registration exists under Jamia Muhammadiyah Mansoor or Jamia M u h a m m a d i y a Education Society. This shows the institution misled the Education Department at every stage.

## Hi Life Exhibition – Summer Edition Brings Designer Fashion to Bangalore

BANGALORE, April 16, 2026 – Fashion enthusiasts in Bangalore have a stylish date to mark on their calendars. The Hi Life Exhibition – Summer Edition is set to bring together the finest designer wear, elegant couture, statement jewelry, and stylish accessories under one roof. The three-day exhibition will be held on April 18, 19 & 20 at The Lalit Ashok, Bangalore. Visitors can explore exclusive collections from top designers across India and give their wardrobes the perfect seasonal update.



"Bangalore, it's time to refresh your style this season," the organizers said, inviting fashion lovers to step into a world of style and elegance. Event Details: What: Hi Life Exhibition –

Summer Edition When: April 18, 19 & 20, 2026 Where: The Lalit Ashok, Bangalore Hi Life Exhibition promises fashion at its finest. Entry is open to all fashion enthusiasts looking for exclusive designer wear and unique accessories.

## Eight devotees die in AP accident, Karnataka BJP demands compensation

Bengaluru, Apr 16 (UNI) Eight devotees from Karnataka were killed and 13 others injured in a tragic road accident near Mantralaya in Andhra Pradesh's Kurnool district in the early hours of Thursday.

According to reports, a Bolero vehicle carrying 21 passengers collided with a cement and gravel tanker near Kalludevakunta in Mantralaya taluk. The impact of the collision was severe, leaving the vehicle badly mangled and the tanker overturned.

Six people died on the spot, while two others succumbed to their injuries at a government hospital in Yemmiganur. The injured are currently undergoing

treatment at hospitals in Yemmiganur and Kurnool.

The victims, all hailing from Chikkaballapur district, were travelling for darshan. Police said the devotees were on a pilgrimage when the accident occurred. Authorities have cleared the damaged vehicles from the road to restore traffic movement.

The Mantralaya police have visited the spot and launched an investigation to ascertain the exact cause of the accident. The identities of the deceased are yet to be officially confirmed.

Meanwhile, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday urged the Karnataka government to announce immediate com-

penetration and relief for the families of the deceased.

Leader of Opposition R Ashoka expressed deep grief over the incident, stating that it has caused immense shock and sorrow, and demanded adequate compensation for the bereaved families along with proper medical care for the injured.

Former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai also consoled the deaths and echoed the demand for immediate financial assistance and support to the victims' families.

The BJP leaders further urged the state government to coordinate with Andhra Pradesh authorities to ensure all necessary assistance is extended to the affected families.

## Online Khata Correction Facility for Citizens to be Introduced Soon – Munish Moudgil

Bengaluru: The Special Commissioner, Revenue and IT, Munish Moudgil, stated that in a significant step towards improving citizen services and ensuring greater convenience, the Greater Bengaluru Authority will soon introduce an online khata correction facility for citizens.

Addressing the media at a press meet held at the GBA Head Office, he stated that this initiative is aimed at empowering citizens to easily rectify errors in their khata details without procedural delays, thereby making the system more efficient, transparent, and user-friendly. Except for the owner's name and property measurements, all other details will be made

available for citizen correction, including location, ward number, and related information. Around 25 lakh draft khata applications have been submitted online, out of which more than 10 lakh citizens have already received their final e-Khata. If all records are in order, the final e-Khata is being issued within an average of five days. The process of converting Draft Khata to Final Khata is progressing smoothly without major issues.

More than 1,000 applications are being received daily, reflecting the growing adoption of the system by citizens. On average, one e-Khata is issued every 30 seconds, demonstrating the efficiency and speed of the digital pro-

cessing system. Some challenges have been observed in khata rejection processes. To address this, a Rejection Audit Team has been constituted. The team is reviewing rejected applications, and in cases where rejections are found to be unfair, such decisions are being revoked.

To reduce delays in the mutation process, an automatic mutation system has been introduced. Transactions completed at Sub-Registrar offices will now be automatically mutated. After the mandatory notice period, mutation will be completed, and citizens will receive an SMS notification confirming the completion of mutation after the seventh day, he added.

Women's Reservation Linked with Delimitation: Concern Over Decline in Representation of Southern States — Dr. Prabha Mallikarjun



Davanagere: The move by the Central Government to link the implementation of the Women's Reservation Bill with the delimitation of constituencies is a matter of concern, as it may adversely affect the interests of the southern states, said Dr. Prabha Mallikarjun, Member of Parliament from Davanagere.

While the Congress party welcomes the implementation of the Nari Shakti Vandan Act, she emphasized that the legislation should ensure not only political representation for women but also improvements in education, healthcare, and safety. She urged the government to enforce strong and effective laws in this regard.

She noted that when the Women's Reservation Bill was passed in 2023, the Central Government had stated that it would be implemented after the next census. However, with the census process only recently initiated, the move to implement the reservation by 2029 based on 2011 census data raises concerns about lack of clarity and consistency. The proposal to increase the number of Lok Sabha constituencies from 543 to 850 is likely to disproportionately benefit Hindi-speaking northern states. After delimitation, the share of southern states in Lok Sabha seats may decline from the current 24.3% to 20.7%, leading to reduced political representation and imbalance in the federal structure.

## Call to Utilize CSR Funds for Developing Underutilized Spaces into Public-Friendly Areas – Lokhande Snehal Sudhakar



Bengaluru: The space beneath the Bellandur Flyover under the jurisdiction of the Bengaluru East City Corporation has been developed under the CSR initiative of Intel India, in collaboration with Rising India Trust (NGO). The project was inaugurated by BECC A d d i t i o n a l C o m m i s s i o n e r ( D e v e l o p m e n t ),

Lokhande Snehal Sudhakar. The A d d i t i o n a l C o m m i s s i o n e r stated that, through CSR funding, the underpass area has been transformed into a clean, attractive, and citizen-friendly leisure space. Bellandur Junction, located on the Outer Ring Road in the heart of Bengaluru's IT corridor, is a high-density and critical urban

node. This development aims to enhance pedestrian safety, urban aesthetics, and create safe public spaces for citizens.

This initiative has been designed in line with the Corporation's Pedestrian First principle, focusing on reclaiming space for pedestrians by providing resting areas, green spaces, and wider footpaths for public use.

Beautification of public spaces. Providing a clean and safe environment for citizens. Transforming underutilized areas into community-friendly spaces

Key Features Artistic installations and wall paintings in the underpass area. Creation of a clean and aesthetically appealing environment. Development of a leisure/resting zone for public convenience. Integration of safety and eco-friendly design elements

## Plumbex India 2026 Kicks Off with Focus on Water Security and Sustainable Urban Systems



Bengaluru: Plumbex India 2026 commenced with an inaugural ceremony graced by Mahesh Kumar Khaitan, Director, Sattva Group, Gurmit Singh Arora, National President of Indian P l u m b i n g Association along with other distinguished dignitaries. The opening day spotlighted critical urban water challenges and evolving policy frameworks. Eminent experts including Vikas

B r a m h a v a r (Transwater System Pvt. Ltd.), Dr. Shihabudheen M. Maliyekkal (IIT Tirupati), Dr. Pramod Kumar (IISc Bengaluru), and Ar. V. Vishwanath (YV Architects) led insightful discussions. Key conversations focused on strengthening water security, sustainable groundwater management, and building resilient urban water systems to address future challenges.

## NMIMS Collaborates with Salesforce to Transform Student Admissions and Engagement

Bangalore: Salesforce, the world's 1 AI CRM, announced a collaboration with SVKM's NMIMS (Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies), one of India's most respected and longstanding institutions of higher education, to digitally transform how it engages with prospective students and manages admissions at scale.

NMIMS is building a unified, AI-powered platform to eliminate data silos, streamline admissions workflows, and deliver personalised student experiences as it expands its multi-campus and digital footprint. By bringing together previously fragmented systems, the university aims to improve operational efficiency, gain real-time visibility into admissions performance, and set the foundation for a scalable, student-centric ecosystem.

Building a Connected Digital Foundation NMIMS has deployed Agentforce Education and Agentforce Marketing solutions, integrated with



MuleSoft, to transform its lead-to-admission process. The platform enables end-to-end lead management through automated capture, nurturing, and tracking of prospective students across digital channels, along with AI-driven personalised engagement tailored to individual interests and behaviours. It also streamlines admissions through unified application processing, document management, and onboarding workflows, while ensuring real-time data integration across systems for improved decision-making and operational visibility.

## Delimitation will make us second-class citizens, warns CM Stalin

CHENNAI / COIMBATORE: Stepping up the attack on the Centre-ruling BJP over the proposed delimitation exercise, Chief Minister and DMK president MK Stalin warned on Wednesday that it would significantly weaken Tamil Nadu's voice at the national level and appealed people to rise above political difference to stage a united, cross-party protest.

This is not a protest for any one party; it is about Tamil Nadu and the rights of Tamils. Stalin exhorted the people and party cadre to mark their opposition through black flags and symbolic kolams on



Thursday morning, turning their homes and streets into spaces of protest. Emphasising that the issue transcends political affiliations, he said, "Let us raise our voice cutting across party lines. If we fail to speak out now, our voice may lose its value."

Addressing a campaign

rally in Dharmapuri earlier in the day, Stalin said the restructuring of parliamentary constituencies based on population would be disproportionately disadvantageous states like Tamil Nadu that had successfully implemented population-control measures. Differently abled student

falls into gorge, rescued near Kerala border if Parliamentarians from Tamil Nadu lose their strength, decision-makers in Delhi will not prioritise Tamil Nadu. We risk becoming second-class citizens in our own country. The situation was a grave danger, he said, urging people to recognise the long-term implications of delimitation on the State's political influence. Tamil Nadu and other southern states had effectively controlled population growth through family planning initiatives at a time when the country faced widespread poverty and hunger after independence.

## TN teachers face double burden of poll duty, answer sheet correction

CHENNAI: Teachers in Tamil Nadu are facing increased workload as they are simultaneously engaged in election duties and evaluation of public examination answer sheets, according to a Daily Thanthi report.

Thiruvananthapuram: Woman gets 5-year jail for child abduction. Teachers have already undergone the first-phase training on handling electronic voting machines and election procedures, while second-phase training is scheduled in some districts over the weekend.

At the same time, evaluation of Class 12 public exam answer sheets has been underway since April 6 and will continue till April 21.

Teachers are also expected to begin correction of Class 10 (SSLC) answer sheets soon, following the completion of exams.

Additionally, exams for Classes 6 to 9 are currently being conducted in schools and will conclude shortly, after which summer holidays begin. However, teachers involved in election duty may have to delay evaluation work until after the polls.

Teachers' associations have pointed out that Assembly elections in Tamil Nadu are often scheduled during summer vacation, leading to recurring workload issues, and have urged the Election Commission to revise the schedule in future.

Polling for the Assembly elections is scheduled on April 23, with about 75,032 polling booths set up across 234 constituencies. Around 14 lakh teachers and government employees have been deployed for election-related work.

### BREAKING SELF IMPOSED EXILE, RAHUL TO CAMPAIGN IN TN ON APR 18, MEETING WITH STALIN UNLIKELY

Chennai, Apr 16 : Breaking what appeared to be his self-imposed exile, top Congress honcho and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi will be undertaking a day long campaign blitz in Tamil Nadu for the April 23 Assembly elections, but a meeting with Chief Minister and ruling DMK President M K Stalin, heading the multi-party coalition, appeared unlikely.

With just five days left for campaigning to come to a close, non visit of top National Congress leaders to campaign for the candidates of the DMK-led coalition, in which the National party, was a key ally, and has to settle for the numbers far less than it was expecting, seats after hectic bargaining in seat sharing negotiations, raised doubts whether they would indeed visit the State for campaigning, indicating that all was not well between the two parties.

The 'brotherly' bonhomie between the two leaders has been missing of late. Their messages on X posts, including greetings, remained a formal ritual as both of them, who used regularly address each as brother, refrained from using it. Despite campaigning extensively in Assam, neighbouring Kerala and making an appearance in Puducherry—which had went to polls on April 9—the Congress Leader and star campaigner was yet to hit the campaign trail in Tamil Nadu as the last day for electioneering is fast approaching. According to earlier reports, Rahul was likely to have shared the dais with Stalin at an election meeting in Salem last evening, but it has not happened. Neither his sister, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who is a crowd puller in the state—who was scheduled to campaign with Rahul—has stepped in this high-octane campaign.

## DMK's delimitation protests driven by fear of poll defeat : EPS

Chennai, Apr 16 (UNI) Opposition AIADMK General Secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami, heading the NDA and the CM face of the Front, on Thursday said the ruling DMK's black flag protest demonstration condemning the proposed delimitation exercise by the BJP-led union government stems from the fear of defeat in the next week's Tamil Nadu Assembly elections.



campaigning for the polls.

As part of its state-wide protest, leaders of the DMK and its allies, hoisted black flags at their respective party offices and also at their residences, shouting slogans denouncing the Centre and burnt the draft copies of the Delimitation Bill, while women cadres drew Rangolis in front of their residences condemning the Centre. Mr Stalin led the agitation at Namakkal, where he was

Referring to the DMK protests earlier in the day, Mr Palaniswami, who is also the Leader of the Opposition, addressing campaign rallies in Coimbatore and Mettupalayam said the ruling party's appeal to hoist black flags had failed to gain traction, even as Mr Stalin was attempting to project an image of widespread opposition across Tamil Nadu.

He further claimed that the protests were aimed at indirectly obstructing the proposed Women's Reservation Bill, which seeks to provide 33 per cent reservation for women in Parliament and

State Legislatures. "The introduction of the Women's Bill will enhance the Centre's popularity among the women voters. Hence the DMK is trying to stall it," he said.

Referring to assurances given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and union Home Minister Amit Shah that none of the southern states, including Tamil Nadu would not be affected by the delimitation process, which would only result in proportionate increase in Lok Sabha seats from the present numbers, the AIADMK leader accused Mr Stalin of staging protests with a political motive. "If the delimitation exercise proceeds without impacting the state and turned out to be beneficial, then the Chief Minister will claim credit by portraying it as a result of his pressure on the Centre," he said.

## TN Assembly election: Vijay releases TVK manifesto, urges women supporters to draw 'whistle kolam' in front of their homes

Chennai (TSIT) Releasing the final manifesto of the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) for the Tamil Nadu assembly elections, actor and party founder-president Vijay on Thursday appealed to the women supporters to carry on a novel campaign by drawing 'whistle kolam' in front of their homes.

"Barely a week is left for polling (April 23). I have a small request to my mothers, sisters—both elder and younger. Please draw the whistle kolam in front of your homes which will be a great support extended to me," he said speaking after releasing the party manifesto, christened as 'People's Manifesto' containing the pledges he had announced earlier during his rallies which included six free LPG cylinders for



every family, Rs 2,500 a month for women family heads, 8 gram gold for the marriage of girls along with a silk saree, and Rs 25 lakh health insurance cover every family among others.

Further, the TVK promises abolition of NEET, bringing Education to the State List from the Concurrent List, protection of the Two-Language policy and a caste survey

to ensure proportional representation of each community according to its population. The party will oppose the One Nation One Poll and the Delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies as both are anti-constitutional. Striving for a Supreme Court Bench in Chennai, it promised to implement Tamil as the language of the High Court. Taking a clear stand on

Centre-State relations, the TVK made it clear that it would strive for the abolition of the office of Governor, a colonial relic, fight for the state's legitimate rights in financial devolution from the Central Pool and work towards securing citizenship for the Sri Lankan Tamil refugees living here for over four decades.

Speaking on the occasion, Vijay expressed confidence of winning both the seats he is contesting from — Perambur in Chennai and Trichy East adding that he would visit his constituency every month and he would be accessible to the people. "Whatever, I may be for Tamil Nadu, for the constituency, I am the MLA. For my home, I am the son and the representative for the constituency."

# How can you maximise wealth with MSM REITs investments

Real estate as an asset class has long been a mainstay for investor portfolios, both small or large. While it has mostly been focused on residential real estate, the turn of the century brought in another sub-asset class in the form of commercial real estate, which became the go-to product for high net-worth individuals (HNIs), since the rental yields were far higher than residential real estate. However, the large ticket size meant that the asset class was always exclusive to HNIs or institutional investors. Over the last half a decade, with the advent of tech platforms and listing of Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), this asset class has become more accessible to the general public due to smaller ticket sizes in which investors can invest. In order to further stimulate the growth of this asset class, SEBI plans to introduce MSM REITs—a new way to invest into commercial real estate.



What are REITs and why is there a need for MSM REITs?

In simple terms, REITs own a portfolio of commercial properties and investors can purchase units of REITs to gain exposure to this portfolio. Similar to investing in units of a mutual fund scheme, investors gain exposure to the portfolio of assets the scheme owns. REITs manage those properties and collect rentals from the tenants occupying them, which is further distributed to its investors.

Currently, there are four listed REITs in India, 2 sponsored by top developers namely Embassy REIT and Mindspace REIT and 2 sponsored by investment managers namely Brookfield REIT and Nexus REIT. Each of these 4 REITs have a diversified portfolio of underlying properties across Tier 1 and Tier 2 cities in India.

However, certain investors want to gain exposure to specific assets, where they know the entire characteristics like the property, tenant, lease structure, yield profile etc. This is where MSM REITs will enable investors to make property specific investments. Extending our example of regular REITs being equivalent to owning units of a mutual fund scheme, MSM REITs can be thought of as being equivalent to owning a share of a single company. It would allow investors to create their own customized portfolio based on their own unique require-

ments, just like investors can create their own portfolio by picking up shares in multiple stocks. How can one find the right MSM REIT to invest in? An investor should understand and research extensively the underlying asset held by a MSM REIT. To get an investor started on the research, have listed a few parameters which an investor should look for:

**Quality and location:** These two are arguably the most important features, which an investor needs to assess before investing as the best quality tenants occupy the best buildings in the best locations. Therefore, it is important to visit the asset physically, which enables the investor to ascertain the asset quality as well as the surrounding micro-market. Grade A properties are usually located in Central or Secondary Business Districts of the city. They come with quality amenities, impressive lobbies, LEED or IGBC certification, high ceiling heights and are built by Grade A developers. In case an investor is unable to visit physically, the location of the building along with the quality of the developer and tenant (like Fortune 1000 or Indian top 100 companies) can serve as a good proxy to assess the quality and location.

**Lease structure:** In a typical commercial lease, the tenant has lock-in for only a small duration of the lease (3-5 years), while the landlord is 'locked-in' for the entire lease period (5-15 years). During the lock-in period, the party which is 'locked-in' can't terminate the contract. An attractive MSM REIT would be one in which the remaining lock-in period is at least 2-3

years and the remaining lease period is at least 5 years. Moreover, it is important to also understand who has invested in the fit-outs. One should prefer an asset where the fit-outs are done by the tenant, as that improves the stickiness of the tenant and reduces the chance of vacancy by the tenant.

**Demand/supply dynamics:** A good quality asset with a good tenant, has to be understood along with the expected demand and upcoming supply in the location. When compared to the demand, if a micro-market sees a much larger upcoming supply, it pushes the vacancy higher, which puts a significantly downward pressure on the rentals as it gives the bargaining power to the tenants to renegotiate the rents.

Hence, an investor should look for markets which have a vacancy below 10% and favorable demand and supply characteristics. The vacancy and demand/supply data are published regularly by research teams of large IPCs (International Property Consultants) like JLL, CBRE and Knight Frank which can be a good starting point for research.

**Management quality:** The performance of a MSM REIT will be heavily influenced by the quality of its management team. Poor decision-making, lack of experience, or ineffective property management can impact returns. Therefore, an investor is advised to invest in a MSM REIT, whose management team has a proven track record in investing and exiting assets.

Is diversification necessary in MSM REITs?

Just like in any other investment, diversification is important in MSM REITs as well. However, the diversification will now be under the control of individual investors. We have suggested a couple of ways in which an investor can diversify:

**Based on asset class:** As the industry matures, there will be MSM REITs available across multiple asset classes like office, retail, warehousing, industrial, hospitality, etc. An investor should be able to invest in assets across all of these and benefit from the upward movements of any particular asset class in a cycle. For example, we are beginning to see asset class diversification in regular REITs as well—the first three REITs to be listed were office, post which the first retail REIT got listed last year. MSM REIT can also be expected to follow a similar trend.

**Based on geography:** Another way to diversify would be investing across multiple cities and minimizing the city risk at a portfolio level. In fact, this risk is present in some of the listed REITs as well. For example, Embassy REIT has a significant majority of its portfolio in Bangalore. Having this flexibility to diversify, would allow the investor to pick and choose markets with strong fundamentals like low vacancy and consistent rental growth.

**What are the risks involved?** Like any other financial investment, the MSM REITs will come along with its own set of risks which an investor must be aware of before investing. Some important ones are listed below: **Tenancy:** Given that the MSM REIT will have only a single or maybe a handful of tenants, the risk of the tenant vacating the property will always be there. To mitigate this, we recommend investors to conduct a thorough research about the market, tenant, as well as the lease structure. **Diversifying across multiple MSM REITs** will reduce this risk over time as it is unlikely that all of the tenants vacate at the same time.

**Interest rate:** Similar to any yield oriented product, MSM REITs also have an underlying interest rate risk. When interest rates go up, an investor would expect higher yield as safer investments like FDs and government bonds start offering higher returns. This leads to fall in REIT prices as prices move inversely to yields.

# AI Signals Mirror Human Brain's Speech Processing, New Research Finds



Chennai: Providing possible insights into how artificial intelligence (AI) systems operate, a new research showed that they can process signals in a way strikingly similar to how the brain interprets speech. Researchers from the University of California, Berkeley, US, measured the brain waves as participants listened to a single syllable - "bah". They then compared that brain activity to the signals produced by an AI system trained to learn English. A side-by-side comparison graph of the two signals was found to show a striking similarity. The researchers said that this was raw data and that the data had not been tweaked.

Mirror neurons are one of the most important discoveries in the last decade of neuroscience. These are a variety of visuospatial neurons which indicate fundamentally about human social interaction. Essentially, mirror neurons respond to actions that we observe in others. The interesting part is that mirror neurons fire in the same way when we actually recreate that action ourselves. Apart from imitation, they

are responsible for myriad of other sophisticated human behavior and thought processes. Defects in the mirror neuron system are being linked to disorders like autism. This review is a brief introduction to the neurons that shaped our civilization. Mirror neurons represent a distinctive class of neurons that discharge both when an individual executes a motor act and when he observes another individual performing the same or a similar motor act. These neurons were first discovered in monkey's brain. In humans, brain activity consistent with that of mirror neurons has been found in the pre-motor cortex, the supplementary motor area, the primary somatosensory cortex, and the inferior parietal cortex. Originally discovered in a subdivision of the monkey's premotor cortex, area, mirror neurons have later been also found in the inferior parietal lobule (IPL). IPL receives a strong input from the cortex of the superior temporal sulcus (STS), a region known to code biological motion, and sends output to ventral pre-motor cortex including area. Neurophysiological (EEG, MEG, and TMS), and brain-imaging (PET and fMRI) experiments provided

strong evidence that a fronto-parietal circuit with properties similar to the monkey's mirror neuron system is also present in humans.

As in the monkey, the mirror neuron system is constituted of IPL and a frontal lobe sector formed by the ventral premotor cortex plus the posterior part of the inferior frontal gyrus (IFG). Human infant data using eye-tracking measures suggest that the mirror neuron system develops before 12 months of age, and that this system may help human infants understand other people's actions. Two closely related models postulate that mirror neurons are trained through Hebbian or associative learning. A recent experiment by Christian Keysers and colleagues have shown that, in both humans and monkeys, the mirror system also responds to the sound of actions. Functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) can examine the entire brain at once and suggests that a much wider network of brain areas shows mirror properties in humans than previously thought.

# Can Iran Legally Charge Ships To Cross Strait of Hormuz?

Iran has floated the idea of charging vessels for passage through the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow and strategically vital waterway linking the Gulf with the Gulf of Oman. Why The Strait Matters The strait is about 167 kilometres long and, at its narrowest point, consists of two 2-mile channels separated by a 2-mile buffer zone. It remains one of the world's most important energy chokepoints: in 2024 and the first quarter of 2025, flows through Hormuz accounted for more than one-quarter of total global seaborne oil trade and about one-fifth of global oil and petroleum-product consumption, while roughly one-fifth of global LNG trade also transited the passage. What Law Says The key legal framework is the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, or UNCLOS, which entered into force in 1994. Under its Article 38, ships and aircraft enjoy the right of transit passage through international straits, and that passage "shall not be impeded". Article 44 goes further, saying states bordering straits "shall not hamper transit passage" and that there "shall be no



suspension" of it. Meanwhile, UNCLOS does allow coastal states to regulate certain matters in their territorial seas, including safety, pollution control, and customs or immigration rules. But Article 42 says those laws cannot have the practical effect of denying, hampering or impairing transit passage. That is why legal experts generally view a toll regime as highly vulnerable to challenge. Can Iran Do It Anyway? Roughly 170 countries and the European Union have

ratified UNCLOS, while Iran and the United States have not. That creates a legal argument over whether the strait rules are binding only on treaty parties or have become customary international law. Experts generally see UNCLOS's navigation rules as customary law, while Iran argues it has objected consistently enough to avoid being bound. The United States disputes Iran's authority to impose tolls. That is why the legality of any toll would likely be con-

tested immediately, even before the question of enforcement arose. What Happens Next Even if Iran goes ahead with the plan, the greater issue is enforceability. UNCLOS does not provide a direct enforcement mechanism, and any dispute would likely be handled through diplomacy, shipping rerouting, sanctions pressure, or multilateral maritime coordination. The Strait's significance is amplified by the limited alternatives available: Saudi Arabia and the UAE

do have some bypass capacity, but it is far from enough to replace Hormuz at full scale." Israel isolates Litani region in south from Lebanon's north - state media Lebanese state media is reporting that Israel's fatal strike on a key bridge in Lebanon has isolated the southern Litani area from the northern region, citing the nation's army. According to Lebanon's National News Agency, the Qasmiyah bridge - which connects the Tyre area with Sidon - was destroyed, killing one person and injuring two. Israel's destruction had "the aim of separating the southern Litani region from its north and isolating it", the army says. Israel has previously said its forces target bridges in the country to stop Hezbollah using Lebanon's state infrastructure. A short while ago, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, General Dan Caine, said 13 ships had turned around since the US implemented its blockade of Iranian ports on Monday. In an new update, US Central Command (Centcom) says 14 have turned round over 72 hours.

## Wipro's Rs 15,000-Crore Buyback: How Retail Investors Will Be Impacted By Promoters' Participation

Wipro Ltd. on Thursday approved Rs 15,000 Crore buyback, with the promoter group intending to participate, the IT giant said in an exchange filing. The participation of the promoter group comes after they did not participate in the Rs 18,000-crore share buyback announced last year. According to one of India's largest software services exporter, buyback is expected to be completed in the first quarter of fiscal 2027, with the company looking to acquire the shares at Rs 250 per piece. The buyback price is at a premium of 19% to Thursday's close of Rs 210 per share. The proposed buyback announcement was expected to be between Rs 16,000 crore to Rs 18,500 crore, based on past trends, according to brokerages tracked by NDTV Profit. The buyback will be done via the tender route and all shareholders on the record date will be eligible to take part in the corporate action. This also includes all those who received the equity shares after cancelling their American Depository Receipts (ADR). What's In It For Retail Shareholders? From the announced buyback 15% or 9 crores is reserved for retail share-



holders. With the promoters and the promoter group intending to tender offers during the buyback, the entitlement ratio for retail investors may decrease. As on December 31, 2025, promoters and promoter group of the company held 72.63% stake in the company, showed BSE data. It's also important to note that gains for retail shareholder completely depends on acceptance ratio. For those not aware, acceptance ratio is how many shares company actually bought back. In past acceptance ratio has been in the range of 53%-100%. However, if all retail shareholders participate, then acceptance ratio could be as low as 25%. So if the

acceptance gains is 25% then retail shareholders could see a gain of 4.8%, however if it is at 50% then the acceptance gains will be at 9.5%. With an acceptance gain of 75% retail shareholders can expect gains of 14.3% and a 100% acceptance gain could lead to gains of 19%. Market History Morgan Stanley said Wipro shares have often responded after buyback announcements. "During the past five buybacks, Wipro has outperformed the Sensex post a formal buyback announcement in four out of five instances over one week, and in three out of five instances over one month," the brokerage said.

## Hyderabad home registrations remain stable in Mar'26, recorded 4% YoY rise in revenue collection: Knight Frank India

Hyderabad, April 2026: According to Knight Frank India's latest assessment, residential property registrations in Hyderabad sustained momentum in March 2026 after a recovery seen in the previous month. A total of 6,386 residential properties were registered in March reflecting a 1% year-on-year (YoY) and 3% month-on-month (MoM) increase. In value terms, homes worth INR 4,637 crore were registered, marking a 4% YoY and 12% MoM growth, further strengthening sales trend in higher-value transactions. Homes priced above INR 1 crore (cr) accounted for 20% of total registrations, further underscoring the growing prominence of the premiumisation in the city's residential market. The Hyderabad residential market spans four districts namely Hyderabad, Medchal-Malkajgiri, Rangareddy, and Sangareddy and includes transactions from both the primary and secondary real



estate markets. Shishir Bajjal, International Partner, Chairman and Managing Director, Knight Frank India said Hyderabad's residential market continues to demonstrate stability, building on the recovery seen in the previous month reflecting the depth and resilience of the market, especially during in the wake of the current geopolitical challenges. The 1% year-on-year increase in registrations reflects steady underlying demand, even as monthly trends remain dynamic. What stands out is the growing share of higher-value transactions, with homes priced above INR 1 cr gaining traction. This indicates a more discerning buyer base and underscores the depth of demand in the

market, positioning Hyderabad as a consistently stable and evolving residential destination." In March 2026, Hyderabad's residential registration trends reflected a continued strengthening of demand for premium properties alongside relatively stable activity in the affordable segment. Registrations of homes priced above INR 1 cr increased by 8% YoY, marking a sustained uptick in high-value transactions and reinforcing the segment's recovery momentum observed in the previous month. The affordable segment (homes priced below INR 50 lakh) also recorded a marginal 2% YoY increase in volumes, indicating steady but subdued demand at the lower end of the market.

Despite this divergence in growth trends in March 2026, the premium segment further consolidated its dominance in value terms. Homes priced above INR 1 crore accounted for 53% of the total transaction value registered in the month, up from 50% a year ago, while their share in overall registrations inched up from 19% to 20%. Meanwhile, the mid-segment (INR 50 lakh-INR 1 cr) remained under pressure, with registrations declining by 5% YoY and its share in total volumes moderating by 1 basis point to 24%. The segment's contribution also fell in value terms from 25% to 23% over same time last year underscoring an ongoing squeeze as buyers increasingly gravitate toward either premium upgrades or relatively affordable options.

### THE KEYS TO YOUR FUTURE:

## Handover Commences for A2A Homeland, Balanagar's Largest Luxury Gated Community

Hyderabad, April 16th Thursday, 2026: The wait for a lifestyle defined by balance and brilliance is nearly over. Raghuram Infrastructure is proud to announce that A2A Homeland, the landmark 12 acre premium residential project in Balanagar, is moving toward its final stages, with handovers for its luxury 3BHK residences fast approaching ( Blocks I,C,B,J-Phase ) are getting ready to hand over. Homebuyers who have sought a blend of urban connectivity and natural serenity are now one step away from stepping into their dream homes. As the skyline of Balanagar transforms, A2A Homeland stands as the crown jewel of the area. This isn't just a delivery of apartments; it is the handover of a meticulously crafted "Urban Oasis" designed to elevate the standard of living for many families.



Balanagar Metro Station, A2A Homeland offers the ultimate connectivity advantage. With the Kaithalapur Flyover providing a direct artery toHITEC City and Madhapur, residents are moving into a hub that balances professional proximity with residential peace.

projects. The 7-Chakra Experience: Residents will soon have access to a landscape designed around spiritual and physical wellness, featuring meditation decks, lotus ponds, and butterfly gardens. Unrivaled Scale: Spread across 12 acres, the project features a \*\*Vehicular-Free Podium\*\* at Ground Level, ensuring a safe environment for children and seniors. The 1 Lakh SFT Advantage: Two massive, fully-loaded clubhouses are ready to become the social heartbeat of the

community, offering everything from preview theatres and temperature-controlled pools to business lounges and salons.

- **Built on a 40-Year Legacy of Trust**

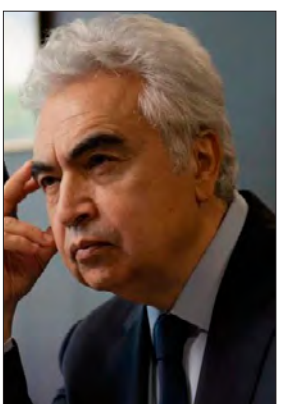
Promoted by Global Homes and Heights LLP—a part of the renowned Raghuram Infrastructure —A2A Homeland carries the hallmark of Quality, Innovation, and On-Time Delivery\*\*. As a prominent member of CREDAI, Raghuram Infrastructure has completed over 40 projects, and A2A Homeland represents their most ambitious residential marvel to date. "We understand that a home is the biggest investment a family makes," said a spokesperson for Raghuram Infrastructure. "As we approach the handover phase, our focus remains on ensuring that every detail—from the 7-chakra landscaping to the massive balconies of our 3BHK units—exceeds the expectations of our homeowners."

- **Why A2A Homeland is the Smart Move Today:**

Ready for Life: With handovers on the horizon, buyers can bypass the long wait times of typical under-construction

## IEA Chief's Big Warning Amid US-Iran War: Europe Has Maybe Six Weeks Of Jet Fuel

Europe may have only six weeks of jet fuel supplies left before shortages begin to disrupt air travel, according to the head of the International Energy Agency (IEA), as the prolonged US-Iran conflict continues to strain global energy markets. Fatih Birol, executive director of the IEA, warned that flight cancellations could begin within weeks if oil supplies from the Middle East are not restored. Also Read | US-Israel-Iran War News Updates: US Says 13 Ships Turned Around Due To Blockade "I can tell you soon we will hear the news that some of the flights from city A to city B might be cancelled as a result of lack of jet fuel," Birol told the Associated Press. The US-Israel conflict with Iran, which began in late February, has caused major disruption across global oil and fuel markets. In response to the attacks, Iran has effectively shut the Strait of Hormuz, a critical route for oil exports from the Gulf region. Although the US and Iran agreed to a two-week



ceasefire last week, efforts to negotiate a broader end to the conflict stalled over the weekend. Indirect talks, reportedly being brokered by Pakistan, are still underway. Brent crude prices remain more than 30% higher than pre-war levels, adding pressure on fuel markets and driving up petrol prices globally. So far, Europe has avoided outright shortages because fuel shipments that departed before the conflict escalated continued to arrive. However, those final cargoes have now reached Europe, raising fears that the region could

soon face supply gaps. Birol said Europe had "maybe six weeks or so" of jet fuel left. His comments follow a warning from Airports Council International Europe, which wrote to European Union energy and transport commissioners last week saying the bloc was only three weeks away from shortages. Under normal circumstances, airports and airlines generally maintain around six weeks of fuel reserves. Also Read | US Says Won't Renew Sanctions Waiver On Iranian, Russian Oil However, industry officials say the prolonged conflict has forced companies to dip into emergency stockpiles, while alternative suppliers do not have the capacity to fully replace Gulf-origin fuel supplies. "In the past there was a group called Dire Straits," Birol said. "It's a dire strait now, and it is going to have major implications for the global economy. And the longer it goes, the worse it will be for the economic growth and inflation around the world."

## Signature global and tonino lamborghini announce the new luxury branded residential project in gurugram

16th April 2026: Signature Global, one of India's leading real estate developers, has announced its strategic collaboration with the iconic Italian lifestyle brand Tonino Lamborghini to develop a landmark premium residential project in Sector 71, Gurugram. This exclusive development will introduce an iconic Italian residential experience under the prestigious Tonino Lamborghini brand, globally synonymous with craftsmanship, design excellence, and luxury living. The partnership marks Tonino Lamborghini's significant entry into India's residential real estate market, setting a new benchmark in branded residences. Spread across approximately 12.40 acres, the development will feature 812 premium residences in 3, 4 and 4.5 BHK configurations, strategically located on Sector 71, Southern Peripheral Road - one of Gurugram's fastest-growing real estate corridors. The branded residences segment continues to gain

strong global traction, with the total number of schemes projected to grow from 764 in December 2024 to 910 by the end of 2025, marking a robust 19% year-on-year increase, according to Savills India. India, ranked among the top 10 globally, is rapidly strengthening its position - currently standing sixth worldwide and contributing nearly 4% to global supply, as per Knight Frank's "The Wealth Report". Within this landscape, Gurugram has emerged as the clear frontrunner, leading the country's branded residences growth on the back of rising affluence, a maturing luxury ecosystem, and increasing demand for globally benchmarked, hospitality-led living experiences. The partnership brings Tonino Lamborghini's iconic Italian craftsmanship, design excellence, and brand prestige to the forefront of Indian urban living. Rooted in the Lamborghini heritage, the project is envisioned as a seamless blend of Italian ele-

gance and Indian ambition, where global design sensibilities meet the dynamic growth of Gurugram. The design intervention by Tonino Lamborghini will extend across key lifestyle and architectural elements through the Creative Direction of Mrs. Angela Krieger - Tonino Lamborghini Total Living Creative Director - including a grand reception lobby and a fully curated clubhouse featuring a café, restaurant, banquet spaces, yoga, swimming-pool and gym facilities, spa & sauna, salon and a gaming arcade - creating a holistic luxury ecosystem. Wellness will be interpreted as a refined lifestyle philosophy, where spaces, atmosphere, and the brand distinctive design converge to elevate the quality of everyday living. A sensorial approach to well-being will define the experience, fostering energy and inner balance through curated environments conceived for restoration and timeless comfort. The brand's signature design language

will also be reflected in the façade, lending the development a distinctive and iconic visual identity. The architectural vision emphasizes a curated approach to luxury, featuring a design philosophy that prioritizes volume and natural light. With generous floor-to-floor heights creating a sense of openness and towers positioned to maximize views of the surrounding greenery, the development incorporates biophilic-designed landscapes that effortlessly integrate nature into the everyday living experience. Commenting on the collaboration, Mr. Pradeep Aggarwal, Founder and Chairman, Signature Global (India) Ltd., said, "Our vision has always been to redefine the standards of urban living in India by bringing world-class innovation to our home soil. By partnering with a global icon like Tonino Lamborghini, we are not just building apartments; we are creating a lifestyle statement that resonates with the ambi-

tions of the modern Indian achiever. This project in Sector 71 is a testament to our commitment to excellence, combining Signature Global's expertise in integrated community building with the timeless Italian craftsmanship that only Tonino Lamborghini can provide." At the heart of the development is a signature clubhouse that offers world-class amenities envisioned through Tonino Lamborghini's distinct design philosophy. Residents will be immersed in a series of curated experiences, starting from a grand reception lobby and extending to a designer café, a fine-dining restaurant, a grand banquet, and a high-end gaming arcade. The wellness facilities are equally comprehensive, featuring state-of-the-art gym, swimming-pool and yoga spaces, a luxury spa and sauna, and a premium salon, all thoughtfully crafted to deliver an elevated lifestyle experience from the very moment of arrival.

# Blockade of Iranian ports will last 'as long as it takes', US defence secretary says

Israel isolates Litani region in south from Lebanon's north - state media Lebanese state media is reporting that Israel's fatal strike on a key bridge in Lebanon has isolated the southern Litani area from the northern region, citing the nation's army. According to Lebanon's National News Agency, the Qasmiyeh bridge - which connects the Tyre area with Sidon - was destroyed, killing one person and injuring two. Israel's destruction had "the aim of separating the southern Litani region from its north and isolating it," the army says. Israel has previously said its forces target bridges in the country to stop Hezbollah using Lebanon's state infrastructure. A short while ago, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, General Dan Caine, said 13 ships had turned around since the US implemented its blockade of Iranian ports on Monday. In an new update, US Central Command (Centcom) says 14

have turned round over 72 hours. "US forces are focused, vigilant, and highly motivated as they execute a blockade on vessels attempting to enter or exit Iranian ports," Centcom says. Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz has warned that his country will launch "even more painful" strikes against Iran if it does not agree a deal in negotiations with the United States. "Iran is facing a historic crossroads. This is their moment of choice - between a bridge to the future and an abyss of isolation and destruction," he says. He says if Iran chooses the latter option, it will "very quickly discover" that targets Israel has not yet struck are "even more painful than the ones we have already attacked". "The choice is in their hands and the consequences are on them," he concludes. Earlier today, an official from Lebanon's presidential office told the BBC it wasn't aware of any upcoming contact with Israel. It



came after Donald Trump said Lebanon's President Joseph Aoun and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu were speaking today, which has since been echoed by an Israeli cabinet minister. Now, official Lebanese sources tell the BBC that there won't be any talks between the two leaders for the moment. Aoun has informed US Secretary of State Marco Rubio he won't take the call, they say. The president's office has been careful not to put out the above in a statement, perhaps for fear of antagonising Trump. Speaking to Netanyahu as Israel's operations continue may have further strained Aoun's relations with both Hezbollah and a large part of Lebanese society. The Lebanese president is advocating for dialogue with Israel, but says a ceasefire is key. Israel has so far refused to stop its mili-

tary campaign here. US President Donald Trump will head to Las Vegas later today, where he will turn his attention towards domestic issues after weeks spent largely focusing on Iran. In the early afternoon, Trump will leave the White House and head to nearby Joint Base Andrews, from where he will fly to Nevada to deliver remarks on his "No Tax on Tips" policy at an event marking Tax Week in the US. That policy was one of his campaign promises, and administration officials - such as Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent - have been busy speaking about its impact on American workers. The policy is particularly important in Nevada, home to thousands of hospitality sector workers. Aside from that event, there is little on the president's public schedule. At 11:00 EST/ 16:00 BST, the president is scheduled to receive his intelligence briefing, which is likely to focus heavily on Iran.

That briefing takes place behind closed doors. Trump, however, may take to Truth Social to deliver comments on the ceasefire, the blockade, or a potential longer-term end to the conflict. Since Monday, the United States has said it's been enforcing a blockade on all vessels either entering and exiting Iranian ports. Chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, General Dan Caine, says a total of 13 ships have been ordered to return to Iran by the US Navy - up three on the total given yesterday. However, it's not clear if the navy has turned away any vessels suspected of heading toward Iranian ports, rather than departing them. Caine detailed the warning being given to commercial vessels in breach of the blockade, which reads: "Turn around or prepare to be boarded. If you do comply with this blockade, we will use force." So far, he says, the US Navy has not needed to board any vessels.

## South African opposition figure Malema sentenced to five years in prison for firing a gun



Leading South African opposition politician Julius Malema, 45, has been sentenced to five years after being found guilty of the illegal possession of a gun and firing it in public. But Magistrate Twanet Olivier allowed the leader of the Economic Freedom Fighters and MP to appeal against the sentencing, meaning that he was not immediately be taken to prison. Earlier, standing in court in a dark suit and red tie, Malema showed little emotion as Olivier read out the sentence even though his political future was at stake. Last year, he was convicted of five offences, including the unlawful possession of a firearm, discharging it in public and reckless endangerment. The charges related to an incident in 2018 when a video emerged showing Malema using a semi-automatic rifle to fire several shots in the air during his party's fifth anniversary celebrations held in the country's Eastern Cape province. During the trial in KuGompo City, which is the new name for East London, Malema told the court that the firearm was not his and that he had fired the shots to rouse the crowd, South African news site SowetanLIVE reported at the time.

## Satellite images reveal scale of Israeli demolitions as Lebanese villages destroyed



Towns and villages in southern Lebanon are being levelled by Israeli demolitions, satellite images and videos obtained by BBC Verify reveal. BBC Verify analysis found more than 1,400 buildings had been destroyed since 2 March based on verified visual evidence. This is just a snapshot of the overall damage caused by Israeli air strikes and demolitions, because of limited access on the ground and available satellite imagery. The true scale is likely to be much higher. Israel's levelling of these structures comes after Defence Minister Israel Katz's order on 22 March to "accelerate the destruction of Lebanese homes" near the Israeli border based on the "model in Gaza" as part of its campaign against Hezbollah. The systematic demolition of these towns

and villages may amount to a war crime, international law experts told BBC Verify. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said that it operates in accordance with the Law of Armed Conflict and does not allow the destruction of property unless there is an imperative military necessity. It added, without providing evidence, that Hezbollah has embedded military infrastructure within civilian areas in the region. On 2 March the Iranian-backed armed group Hezbollah launched rockets and drones into Israel in retaliation for the killing of Iran's supreme leader at the start of the war with Israel and the US. The IDF responded with a wave of strikes across Lebanon, targeting what it said was Hezbollah infrastructure, and launched a ground invasion of southern Lebanon.

## Wanted activist arrested in South Africa over support for Benin coup plot

South African police say they have arrested "wanted fugitive" French-born Beninese activist Kemi Seba while he was allegedly attempting to flee to Europe through Zimbabwe. Seba, whose real name is Stello Gilles Robert Capo Chichi, is wanted in Benin on charges of "inciting rebellion" after supporting last year's foiled coup there. He was arrested on Monday alongside his 18-year-old son in a sting operation at a shopping centre in Pretoria. A "facilitator" who had allegedly been paid to help them illegally cross to Zimbabwe was also detained. Seba, 45, is known for opposing French influence in Africa, backing West Africa's military leaders and has been



accused of spreading Russian propaganda. "Preliminary investigations have revealed that the father (Seba) is allegedly a wanted fugitive in France and Benin for criminal activities relating to crimes against the state," South Africa's police said in a statement on Thursday.

## Pope criticises 'tyrants' who spend billions on wars after Trump spat

Pope Leo has criticised leaders who spend billions on wars and said the world was "being ravaged by a handful of tyrants" in unusually forceful comments during a visit to Cameroon. The pontiff blasted those he said had manipulated "the very name of God" for their own gain, while touring a region ravaged by a deadly insurgency. The remarks come just days after a high-profile spat with US President Donald Trump, who posted a lengthy attack on the Pope, a vocal critic of the US-Israeli military operation in Iran. The Pope had voiced his concern about Trump's threat that "a whole civilisation will die" if Iran did not agree to US demands to end the war and open the Strait of Hormuz. Leo, who last year became the first US-



born Pope, has previously also questioned the Trump administration's approach to immigration. "Leo should get his act together as Pope," Trump wrote in a Truth Social post at the time. The Pope told reporters at the start of his Africa tour that he did not want to get into a

debate with Trump but would continue to promote peace. Speaking in Cameroon, the Pope criticised leaders who "turn a blind eye to the fact that billions of dollars are spent on killing and devastation, yet the resources needed for healing, education and restoration are nowhere to be found". "The masters of war pretend not to know that it takes only a moment to destroy, yet often a lifetime is not enough to rebuild," he said on Thursday. The Pope also condemned "an endless cycle of destabilisation and death" in a "bloodstained" region of Cameroon that has been gripped by insurgency for nearly a decade. "Those who rob your land of its resources generally invest much of the profit in weapons, thus perpetuating an endless cycle of destabilisation and death," he told those gathered at a cathedral in the north-western city of Bamenda - the centre of the violence that has left at least 6,000 people dead and displaced many more.

## Turkish police detain 162 people over online praise for school shootings

Turkish police have arrested 162 people accused of posting controversial content online about two deadly school shootings that took place this week. They were "found to have engaged in posts and activities praising crime and criminals and negatively affecting public order", police said. At least 16 people were injured in a shooting at a high school in the country's south-east on Tuesday, before another nine were killed in a shooting at another school in the city of Kahramanmaraş on Wednesday. Hundreds have gathered near the city's main mosque for the funerals of the young victims, which are being held on Thursday. One victim has been identified as



10-year-old Zeynep. Her uncle, Mahmut, told the BBC that she was a clever girl who respected others. He said: "Now she is an angel, she flew away." He said he wanted more protection in schools following the attack. The aunt of another victim, Shura, told the BBC she had learned that

her 10-year-old niece had been killed when her name was read out on the news. Three Turkish government ministers are also expected to attend the funerals, the BBC understands. Eight students and one teacher were killed in the shooting in Kahramanmaraş, Turkish officials said, with 13

others wounded, including six in critical condition. A 14-year-old attacker was also killed during the incident, which took place at Ayser Calik Secondary School. The suspect had planned the attack in advance, the local prosecutor's office said in a statement. "During the examination of digital materials, a document dated April 11, 2026, was found on the suspect's computer indicating that he intended to carry out a major operation in the near future." The suspect had referenced US mass killer Elliot Rodger in a photo on his WhatsApp profile, according to police. Rodger murdered six people before taking his own life in California in 2014.

## BRAZIL'S FORMER SPY CHIEF RELEASED FROM ICE DETENTION



Brazil's fugitive former spy chief Alexandre Ramagem has been released from custody by the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency (ICE). ICE confirmed it had detained Ramagem on Monday, but has not said why. The 53-year-old's name no longer appears on the agency's list of those in its custody, BBC News Brasil has confirmed. He is wanted in Brazil, where he was sentenced to 16 years in prison for his role in an attempted military coup aimed at keeping former President Jair Bolsonaro in power after he lost the 2022 election. Ramagem, who led Brazil's intelligence agency (Abin), fled to the US in September 2025 before he could be jailed by Brazilian authorities. Bolsonaro's son Eduardo, who lives in the US, said on Thursday that the former intelligence chief was "out and home". In a post on social media, he thanked US President Donald Trump and Secretary of State Marco Rubio for "the sensitivity with which they dealt with this true national hero, who does not give up even when he is being persecuted". Referencing Ramagem's

reported request for sanctuary in the US, Bolsonaro added that the ex-spy chief deserved being granted "asylum in the land of liberty". Brazilian media reported he had been let go on Wednesday. ICE has not commented on his release following his detention in Orlando, Florida. A close ally of former President Bolsonaro, the 53-year-old was one of seven co-conspirators convicted alongside him over the military coup plot. He is also under investigation for allegedly using his position at Abin to illegally spy on Bolsonaro's critics, which he has denied. Brazilian judicial authorities have declared him a fugitive, and in December the country's Supreme Court asked the US to extradite him. Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva said before Ramagem's release that he must "return to Brazil to serve his sentence". Trump has in the past said Bolsonaro had been "a good president of Brazil" and called the trial over the attempted coup a "witch hunt". He also described Bolsonaro's 27-year jail sentence as "very surprising" at the time.

## 'UNPRECEDENTED' FIRE AT AUSTRALIAN OIL REFINERY TO AFFECT NATION'S PETROL SUPPLIES

A major fire at one of Australia's two oil refineries has been extinguished, but the damage has deepened fears over the nation's petrol supplies amid a global fuel crunch. Emergency crews rushed to Viva's Corio oil refinery in Geelong, south-west of Melbourne, just before midnight local time (14:00 GMT) on Wednesday, after reports of explosions and flames. The blaze was put out on Thursday after burning for 13 hours. No one was injured, with dozens of workers on site when it broke out evacuated safely. The refinery - which produces 50% of Victoria's fuel and 10% of the nation's - is still partially operational but the government has warned



of impacts to petrol production. Energy Minister Chris Bowen said the fire was "not great timing" with Australia's fuel supplies under pressure since war

broke out in Iran, creating a global oil crisis. The price of diesel in Australia has doubled in recent weeks, with fuel stations reporting shortages amid reports of panic

buying, while airlines are cutting back some services as jet fuel costs rise. "This is not a positive development, but obviously there's a long way to go in terms of work-

ing out just what the impact is," Bowen told Nine's Today show on Thursday, adding that he was working closely with the company. "This is very early days." The cause of the fire was due to "equipment failure", Fire Rescue Victoria said, adding that there will be an investigation. The refinery processes about 120,000 barrels of oil per day and employs over 1,100 people. Viva Energy chief executive Scott Wyatt said earlier on Thursday that the fire had affected two petrol production units, though others were undamaged. "But naturally petrol will be one of the products that are potentially impacted," he said. Jet fuel and diesel were also being made

at reduced levels as a safety precaution. "We'll only start increasing production again once we're confident we can do that safely," Wyatt said. Australia relies heavily on imported refined fuels - primarily from countries like Singapore, South Korea and Malaysia - which should mean any impact the fire has on domestic fuel availability is limited, experts say. "This diversified supply chain provides a degree of resilience against short-term domestic disruptions," Yuan Chen, a professor of chemical engineering at the University of Sydney, said. "[It] doesn't mean people will run out of fuel tomorrow, but it does narrow the buffer we have to absorb shocks."



# IPL 2026: Mumbai Indians Set 146-Run Target for Punjab Kings

Quinton de Kock slammed his third IPL century as Mumbai Indians posted 195 for 6 in 20 overs against Punjab Kings in their IPL 2026 clash at the Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai, tonight. Arshdeep Singh struck in consecutive deliveries reducing MI to a poor start (12 for 2 in 2.2 overs). De Kock and Naman Dhir then stitched a 122-run stand, leading Mumbai's comeback in the game. While de Kock remained unbeaten on 112 off 60, Dhir also contributed with 50 off 31. Earlier, PBKS captain Shreyas Iyer won the toss and opted to bowl. Deepak Chahar has leaked 21 runs in his first over! This is not the start Mumbai Indians wanted from the bowler. Prabhsimran Singh smashed Deepak for two fours, and Priyansh Arya too joined the party with a six and a four. Priyansh Arya takes the strike,



Prabhsimran Singh is at the other end. Deepak Chahar will bowl the first over. Here we go... Chahar starts with a fuller ball and Arya drives it down the ground for a single. Nine runs and a wicket came off the final over from Vijaykumar Vyshak. The pacer ran Tilak Varma out on the fifth ball of the over as the MI batter tried to steal a run. This wicket is not a beller, and Mumbai Indians would feel that they have some good runs on the

board. MI vs PBKS Live: BOWLED! OUT! That is a terrific yorker from Arshdeep Singh and Sherfane Rutherford fails to dig it out. The southpaw goes for his shot and ends up being bowled. Mumbai

Indians are five down. That is the third one for Arshdeep. He is having a superb night!

Sherfane Rutherford b Arshdeep Singh 1(5) SShreyas Iyer has done a sensational job here!!! Hardik Pandya mistimed the Marco Jansen delivery towards long-on. Shreyas Iyer jumped, took the catch and threw the ball towards his partner, Xavier Bartlett, before falling at the other end of the rope. Excellent effort from the PBKS captain, though Bartlett will have his name on the catch officially. Rohit Sharma is missing the Mumbai Indians vs Punjab Kings IPL 2026 match at the Wankhede Stadium on Thursday. The former MI captain had to retire hurt with a hamstring issue during Mumbai Indians' previous match against Royal Challengers Bengaluru.

## "PAKISTAN CRICKET BOARD IS SO POLITICISED": LALIT MODI DROPS MAJOR BOMBHELL

Former Indian Premier League (IPL) chairman Lalit Modi said that there is no chance of India and Pakistan playing any bilateral series in the near future considering the political tensions between the two nations. In a recent interview, he was asked whether India and Pakistan could play a series at a neutral venue but Lalit Modi made it clear that the 'politicisation' of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) means that it will not be a possibility. He explained that the PCB has been under the control of 'powers' beyond the cricket field and even said that he was afraid for the players considering the high emotions surrounding the matches. "I was the one that brought Pakistani players into the IPL and then I had to move them after the 26/11 massacre in Bombay. The problem is if the Pakistan Cricket Board was independent and ran independently, if it wasn't politically influenced, we



would have some traction. But today the Pakistan Cricket Board is so politicised by the powers that be and they are pulling the levers and making it political. We have tension at that level, political level and that is not going away. It's only going to get worse. So I fear for the players," Lalit Modi said in a podcast with former England captain Michael Vaughan. "I fear that it may not be possible

in the near future primarily because of the politicisation by the Pakistan Cricket Board in Pakistan and unfortunately that's the way it is," he added. Lalit Modi also commented on Bangladesh missing out on participation in T20 World Cup 2026 after refusing to travel to India citing security concerns. He clearly said that the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) should not have taken such a decision.

## Krunal Pandya Puts To Rest All Social Media Buzz About Brother Hardik Pandya With One Reply

Krunal Pandya and Hardik Pandya are the only star brother duo playing in the IPL 2026. While Krunal plays for defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Hardik is the skipper of five-time winners Mumbai Indians. Ahead of IPL 2026, there was social media speculation about an alleged rift between the two brothers. However, there was no official communication regarding the same. Interestingly, a reply by Krunal during a rapid-fire round may have put all speculation to rest. In an interview with Cricbuzz, Krunal was asked a series of questions, and his replies were as follows. He named Hardik Pandya and Kieron Pollard among the best finishers. Best batter: Chris Gayle



Best captain: Rohit Sharma, MS Dhoni Best fielder: Kieron Pollard Best away ground: Right now, Wankhede Stadium, because I played for Mumbai Indians Best cover drive: Virat Kohli Best fast bowler: Jasprit Bumrah Best death-over bowler: Lasith Malinga Best spinner: Sunil Narine, Rashid Khan Best finisher: Kieron Pollard, Hardik Pandya Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) player Krunal Pandya emphasised that playing for India

remains his ultimate goal. However, for now, he is focused on delivering strong performances and contributing to team victories, trusting that opportunities will follow. Pandya last represented India during the July 2021 tour of Sri Lanka, featuring in the third ODI on July 20 and the second T20I on July 25 at Colombo (RPS). He has not made an international appearance since then. "The ultimate goal is to represent the country, and I don't dwell too much on it. I want to keep doing what is in my control, which is to go out there and perform and win games. And in that process, if I get that opportunity, I'll be really glad because that's the ultimate goal - playing for the country," Pandya told reporters.

## Lalit Modi Predicts 'New Face Of Indian Cricket'. Not Abhishek Sharma Or Shubman Gill

Former Indian Premier League (IPL) chairman Lalit Modi was all praise for Vaibhav Sooryavanshi and he claimed that the 15-year-old will become the "face of Indian cricket" in the future. The young sensation has been enjoying a brilliant run of form in the IPL 2026 and his performances have played a big role in handing Rajasthan Royals an impressive start to their season. Sooryavanshi has already scored 2 half-centuries and currently enjoys a strike rate of 263.16. In a podcast with ex-England skipper Michael Vaughan, Lalit Modi said that he was impressed by the confidence on display by a youngster like Sooryavanshi. "Look at the young kid. Look at (Vaibhav



Sooryavanshi. I can tell you now that kid is going to go out there and be the new face of Indian cricket in the future. The confidence in the kid. Look at the confidence in the kid and his face. 14 years old! My son is 14 years

old." Lalit Modi also advised that it will be important to manage a young talent like Sooryavanshi as he has encountered fame at a very young age. He added that he has seen many cricketers turning into 'monsters' in

similar situations. "This is going to be the next journey for cricketers is how we manage them, how we groom them and how we make sure that it's not about the next watch and the next Ferrari and it's happened to a lot of the players. You could see it in the IPL. It's created lots of monsters but it has created some great players. The Sooryavanshi kid. I saw this kid hit. [I thought] 'Not possible, I am dreaming. It's not possible that this kid is 14. Seriously?' I am Googling it. I am calling out people, [asking], 'Is this real or is somebody making this up?' And I am getting these messages, and I tell them I am watching. Not once, not twice, this guy has outperformed everybody," he said.

## WADA Flags India As Key Hub In Global Doping Crackdown, Pushes Stronger Laws and Enforcement

The global fight against doping zoomed its focus on India this week as World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) President Witold Banka visited the capital for a high-level conference and a series of meetings with Indian authorities. The visit had both concerns and cautious optimism over the country's anti-doping efforts. Banka was in New Delhi for the concluding conference of the expansion phase of WADA's Global Anti-Doping Intelligence and Investigations Network (GAIIN) across Asia and Oceania. The visit comes at a time when India continues to figure prominently in global doping statistics, with recent WADA reports placing the country among the highest for doping violations. A key takeaway from the visit is a strategic shift in anti-doping enforcement. Authorities are moving beyond traditional testing toward intelligence-led investigations, aimed at dismantling the ecosystems that enable doping. NADA has begun strengthening its intelligence and investigation units, investing in training, and expanding whistleblower mechanisms such as its Speak-Up portal. Officials stressed that future efforts will focus on disrupting supply chains, rather than solely penalizing athletes. WADA also under-



lined that coaches, doctors, and support staff often central to doping networks will face stricter sanctions under an updated anti-doping code. "More cases may mean better enforcement" In a notable remark, Banka suggested that a rise in positive doping cases could indicate a more effective system, as it reflects improved detection and targeted enforcement. Conversely, a sharp decline in cases may signal weak testing or oversight. WADA has encouraged India to consider stronger legal frameworks.

## Philadelphia 76ers Top Orlando Magic To Book NBA Playoff Clash With Boston Celtics

The Philadelphia 76ers held off the Orlando Magic 109-97 on Wednesday to book an NBA playoffs first-round meeting with the Boston Celtics. Tyrese Maxey had 31 points to lead five Philadelphia players to score in double figures. Rookie VJ Edgecombe added 19 points and 11 rebounds and Andre Drummond came off the bench to score 14 points with 10 rebounds, three steals and three blocked shots. The 76ers' play-in victory - with star big man Joel Embiid sidelined as he recovers from an appendectomy - secured the seventh seed in the Eastern Conference and a first-round series against the second-seeded Celtics. The Magic, led by 34 points



from Desmond Bane, will have a last chance to grab the East eighth seed on Friday when they host the Charlotte Hornets, who knocked out the Miami Heat in a 127-126 overtime thriller on Tuesday. The reward for the winner of Friday's game will be a first-round series against East top seeds Detroit.

Philadelphia led most of the night but the Magic cut an 11-point deficit midway through the third quarter to one early in the fourth. Orlando trailed by four with four minutes remaining, but the Sixers pulled away with a late spurt capped by Drummond's three-pointer with 41 seconds left.

## 'It's not like my ovaries are fighting'



Ronda Rousey has hit back at critics who have questioned her age before her first MMA bout in 10 years against Gina Carano, saying: "It's not like my ovaries are fighting." The 39-year-old, the first woman to be signed by the UFC in 2012 and one of the biggest MMA stars of all time, will fight fellow American Carano at the Intuit Dome in California on 16 May. With Carano, 44, competing for the first time in 17 years, critics have questioned how competitive the bout will be. Rousey pointed to 38-year-old former UFC champion Jon Jones, who last fought 17 months ago, as an example where the same principles are not applied. "I never hear Jon Jones' age being brought up

as a disqualifying factor. Why are we even talking about this?" Rousey told CBS Mornings. Jones retired in 2025 but UFC president Dana White has shut down repeated questions from journalists in recent months about his potential return. Rousey defended the UFC bantamweight title six times during a historic reign, but retired in 2016 following defeats by Holly Holm and Amanda Nunes. Rousey has acknowledged that she was forced to retire because of repeated concussions, and she and Carano will have extra neurological tests before their bout, which will take place under Jake Paul's promotional outfit MVP and be broadcast live on Netflix.

## Chaos Was Real Madrid's Weapon, Control Became The Answer For Bayern Munich

Trailing 1-2 from the first leg of the UEFA Champions League quarter-finals at home, Real Madrid arrived at the Allianz Arena ready to prove why they are the kings of the competition. The 15 European championship titles they have in their cabinet haven't come from comfort, but rather the willingness to find answers even when their backs are against the wall. Against Bayern, that is how Real Madrid started, thanks to a loose pass by Manuel Neuer, widely recognised as the greatest goalkeeper of the modern era. Real Madrid thrived in

chaos for 45 minutes, scoring three first-half goals in a breathless encounter, but a tactical shift from Bayern manager Vincent Kompany after half-time transformed the match and ultimately swung momentum in Bayern's favour. In a high-tempo opening period at the Allianz Arena, Real Madrid capitalised on defensive transitions and minor leaks in structure, converting chances efficiently to take a 3-2 lead into the break. In matches like these, there are no real winners or losers, but rather players who are just willing to struggle, sacrifice, and ultimately survive a lit-

tle more. The first half unfolded at relentless speed, with both teams committing numbers forward and leaving space behind. Defensive organisation struggled to keep pace with the tempo, and transitions defined the rhythm of play. Real Madrid were particularly effective in those conditions. Rather than dominating possession, they focused on exploiting moments-attacking quickly after turnovers and finishing chances with precision. It was Real Madrid's Arda Guler who converted Manuel Neuer's misguided pass into a first-time shot, putting Real Madrid level in

the aggregate scoreline in the first minute. Aleksandar Pavlovic equalised from a crafty free-kick by Joshua Kimmich in the 6th minute to give Bayern the aggregate lead, levelling scores in the second leg. Guler struck again from a brilliant free-kick right outside the penalty box in the 29th minute before Harry Kane showed the world once again why he is widely considered the greatest No. 9 in the modern era. The 38th-minute strike from the former Tottenham Hotspur man was also his 50th goal of the season (including strikes for Bayern in all competitions).



### “Pochamma” would be a success the moment we heard its story: aha Content Head Kavitha



**P**ochamma will be available for streaming on aha in Telugu and Tamil on April 17th. The new web series “Pochamma” is set to stream in Telugu and Tamil from the 17th of this month. It is a mystical thriller featuring Ambati Arjun, Ramesh Indira, Priya Shatamarshan, Shehal Kamat, Shruti Naidu, and Sri Pooja in key roles. Gold subscribers will get access 24 hours early. The series is produced by Shruti Naidu under her banner, with Ramesh Indira as the director.

A special premiere and press meet were today. Actress Snehal Kamat said she played the character Jessie in the series, which was entirely shot in Chikmagalur. She thanked producer Shruti Naidu for selecting her and said working with director Ramesh Indira was a great experience, both as a filmmaker and co-actor. She added that working with the entire cast was memorable and encouraged audiences to watch the series. Actress Sri Pooja shared that from the very first day, she believed the series would be a success because everyone involved was extremely dedicated. She said that where such hardworking people come together, failure has no place. She added that the series will engage audiences and streams in both Tamil and Telugu from the 17th.

Kavitha from aha said they were confident about the success of “Pochamma” as soon as they heard the story. She also mentioned that during the shoot, it felt as though the goddess Pochamma herself guided the team, as they frequently came across temples and idols related to her.

The team collaborated closely on every scene, which turned out very well, and the music also came together nicely. She assured that the series would captivate viewers. She also noted that aha is bringing several interesting titles this year, including Chiranjeeva, Three Roses Season 2, Dhoolpet Police Station, Sarkar, and Chef Mantra. Actor Ambati Arjun said some content may appear quiet initially but creates a strong impact after release, and “Pochamma” falls into that category. He added that the poster and title have already attracted attention. He praised the cinematographer and music director as the real heroes of the series and said the aha team has brought it forward with great passion. He highlighted that all actors, including child artists, delivered excellent performances. He concluded by saying that such good content doesn’t need excessive promotion and will succeed once it starts streaming, urging audiences to watch “Pochamma” on aha from the 17th.

### Trailer Launch of “Atu Friend Itu Lover” Produced by Prince Film Productions under Fashion Hunt Presentation



**T**he film “Atu Friend Itu Lover”, directed by Nazim S under the banner of Prince Film Productions and presented by Fashion Hunt, is introducing Prince and Sanchi Kashyap as a fresh on-screen pair. The trailer of this different-concept movie was launched on Tuesday. At the event..

**Prince said:** “We all worked very hard on Atu Friend Itu Lover. With everyone’s support, we were able to complete the film. The director has presented the movie wonderfully. This

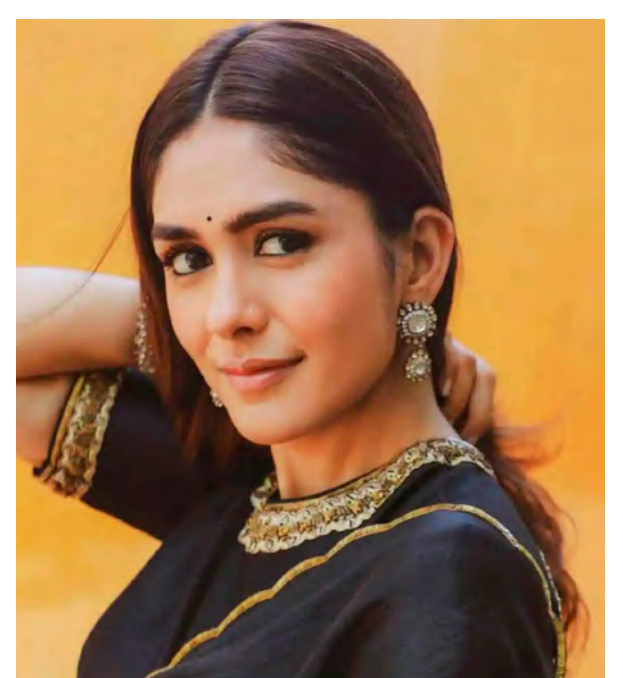
film will definitely impress everyone. I thank each and every person who supported us. Telugu audiences always encourage good films. I am happy to have acted alongside Sanchi. I hope everyone continues to support our movie.”

**Sanchi Kashyap said:** “I thank everyone who gave me the opportunity in Atu Friend Itu Lover. I’m very happy to be part of this film. We all worked very hard for it. Thanks to everyone who attended our trailer launch event.”

**Director Nazim S said:** “We all came together and made Atu Friend Itu Lover really well. Prince and Sanchi supported us a lot. Even though I am a new director, they stood by me like a backbone in every aspect. Thanks to everyone who worked on this film. I will share more during the success meet.”

**Music Director Praneeth said:** “I’m happy to have composed music for Atu Friend Itu Lover. It’s a different story, and the film will surely impress everyone.”

### MRUNAL BURSTS OUT AT DATING AND MARRIAGE RUMORS

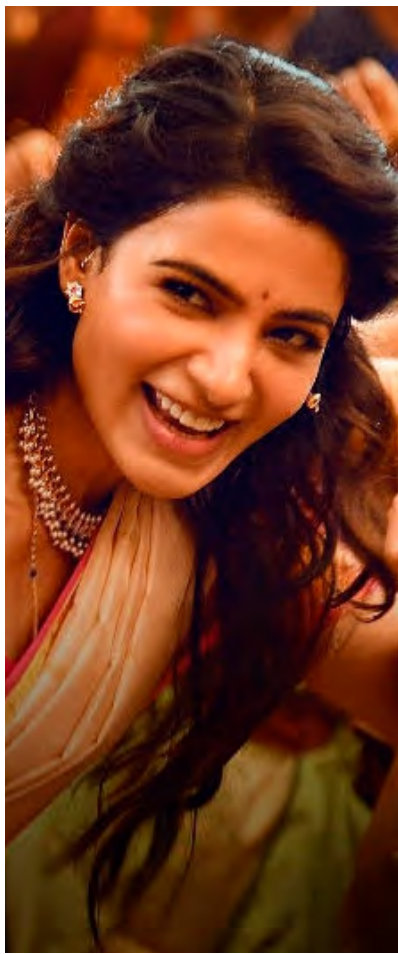


**P**It is very common to see speculations and media reports surrounding actors and actresses across the country. A similar scenario is observed in the case of actress Mrunal Thakur, who is active in Telugu cinema. Just a few months back, there were extensive campaigns that Mrunal would be marrying South Indian actor Dhanush and the two of them had been in a relationship for a long time. This got diluted later with time as both of them laughed away at the rumors. And even after that, there have been rumours about Mrunal Thakur being in a relationship with her co-star in a recent Hindi film.

This also gained some traction before eventually fading away. And finally, when this question was asked in front of Mrunal herself, she had a pretty interesting reaction to the same.

The actress said she simply doesn’t have the time for relationship or marriage at this point in time as she is so busy with her acting career.

“I recently had a ligament tear, and I am not even in a position to treat my leg properly due to my busy schedule. If that is the situation, then where would I have the time for relationship? Moreover, I must be known for the kind of work that I am doing rather than who I am dating.”



### Tralala Moving Pictures Drops First Single 'Thassadiya' from Samantha's Action Comedy Family Drama 'Maa Inti Bangaaram' — In Cinemas May 15

**T**ralala Moving Pictures has released the first single from its upcoming production Maa Inti Bangaaram, ahead of its worldwide theatrical release on May 15, 2026.

The track, “Thassadiya”, is a high-energy wedding celebration number composed by Santosh Narayanan, with lyrics by Rehman and vocals by Chinmayi Sripada and Punya Selva. Samantha brings the song to life with commanding screen presence and sharp choreography — setting the tone for what the film promises to deliver. The beats, lyrics, choreography and composition brings to life a vibrant energy and a distinctive festive vibe. Santhosh Narayanan kicks off the chartbuster album with a groovy dance number that celebrate love, life and family

Maa Inti Bangaaram is a family action comedy drama created by Raj Nidimoru & directed by Nandini

Reddy who reunites with Samantha after their smash hit Oh! Baby. The film stars Diganth and Gulshan Devaiah in key roles, with a supporting cast featuring Sree Mukhi, Gautami, Anand, Lakshmi, Srinivas Gavireddy, and Manjusha. Samantha leads with a performance built on commendable physical preparation — anchoring a film that balances emotional depth with high-stakes action across age groups. This song follows a well received teaser that has not set high expectations of the film and of Samantha and it looks like it’ll deliver on all counts.

The film is produced by Tralala Moving Pictures who producers are Samantha, Raj Nidumoru & Himank Duvvuru, featuring a technical crew of immense repute

With ira strategic May release, Maa Into Bangaaram is positioned to be the highlight of Summer 2026’s cinematic calendar.



### “Vanajeevi Ramaiah” Wins Top Award; Ravindranath Eyes Next Filma

**I**nspired by the philosophy “If we protect trees, trees will protect us,” the life of Daripalli Ramaiah, who dedicated his entire life to planting trees and became known as “Chettla Ramaiah” (Vanajeevi Ramaiah), has been brought to the screen as “Vanajeevi Ramaiah.” He was honored with the prestigious Padma Shri by the Government of India. This 40-minute short film, produced by Busam Ravindranath under the B.R. Movies banner and directed by Nandi Award-winning director Vemuganti, carries the tagline “Vruksho Rakshati Rakshitah.” The film won the First Best Short Film award in the Short Films category at the Gaddar Awards presented by the Telangana Government. It also received a cash prize of ₹5 lakh and drew attention from



audiences across both Telugu states. Encouraged by the success of his debut production, Ravindranath is now gearing up for his second film. He currently serves as an MPTC from Proddatur in Kadapa district, representing the YSR Congress Party, and is also a real estate businessman by

profession. With a deep passion for cinema since childhood, he even appeared in a small role in “Vanajeevi Ramaiah.” At present, Ravindranath is actively engaged in story discussions for his next project and is planning to take it to the sets soon. He expressed heartfelt

gratitude to everyone who contributed to the making of the film, especially senior actor Brahmaji, who impressed audiences in the title role. Ravindranath also shared that receiving appreciation from Megastar Chiranjeevi after winning the Gaddar Award.