



**Mamata Banerjee warns women against BJP tactics ahead of West Bengal polls**

NATION | NEWS

**Bahrain says it has intercepted more than 450 drones since war began**

WORLD | NEWS

**Priyanka shares a glimpse of her morning**

Priyanka Chopra Jonas gave a peek into her morning routine as she headed to work in Hyderabad. Priyanka took to Instagram stories, where she shared a video of herself where she is seen prepping her skin with a hydrating face mask and a wand.

CINEMA | PAGE



SCAN FOR E-PAPER



**OM NAMO VENKATESAYA**

03-04-2026  
Total pilgrims: 68,445  
Tonsures: 31,383  
Hundi kankaluz: 3,79CR  
Waiting Compartments: Out side line at Sillathoram.  
Approv. Darsan Timms for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens) - 15 H

WEATHER

35°C  
RealFeel® 33°

GOLD RATE

24K ₹  
1,53,500.00

INBRIFS

'AM WOUNDED, THAT'S WHY I'M LETHAL'



New Delhi (TSIT) : Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Rajya Sabha member Raghav Chadha on Saturday rebutted "false and coordinated allegations" levelled against him by fellow party leaders, asserting that the accusations were aimed at silencing his voice in the Parliament. In a video on X, a defiant Chadha claimed that a "scripted campaign" had been launched against him, with repeated and identical accusations being circulated. "From yesterday, a scripted campaign is working against me. The same language and the same accusations are being used. This is not a coincidence, but a coordinated attack," he added. The AAP leader said that he initially chose not to respond but felt compelled to speak out.

**IRAN'S IRGC SAYS HIT ISRAEL-LINKED VESSEL, SHIP ABLAZE**

Tehran, April 4 : Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Navy said Saturday that it had hit an Israel-linked vessel with a drone, setting it on fire. The IRGC Navy said in a post on social media platform X that it hit the vessel in the Strait of Hormuz. Meanwhile, in a statement on its official news outlet Sepah News, the IRGC confirmed the attack, saying its forces had targeted an Israeli-owned commercial ship in a port in Bahrain. It said the ship, which was sailing under a third country's flag and identified as "MCS Ishika," was targeted by its Navy's "powerful projectiles" in Khalifa Bin Salman Port during the 95th wave of the attacks against the US and Israeli targets in the West Asia region. There was no immediate comment from the Israeli side, Xinhua news agency reported. The statement added that the Israeli targets were in cities including Tel Aviv and Ramat Gan, which were hit "heavily and continuously" by the multiple-warhead Qadr missiles.

## CM Revanth Reddy Plans Tirumala-Style Temple Rules; Reviews Basara Development



Hyderabad (TSIT): On the lines of the renowned Tirumala Temple, Hon'ble Chief Minister A.Revanth Reddy has directed officials to formulate and implement new regulations governing the functioning of temples across Telangana. Emphasizing the need to preserve spiritual sanctity, Chief Minister instructed that political meetings, flag hoisting, and demonstrations be strictly prohibited within temple premises.

Chief Minister conducted a high-level review meeting on the development of the famous Basara Gnana Saraswathi Temple. During the meeting, officials from the Endowments Department presented a detailed master plan outlining develop-

ment works estimated at 225 crore. Reviewing the proposals, the Chief Minister suggested several modifications and stressed that all development activities must strictly adhere to established rituals and traditions of the temple. He also directed officials to construct spacious roads to cater to the growing influx of devotees and pilgrims. Highlighting the importance of environmental aesthetics, the CM proposed large-scale plantation within the temple premises to ensure lush greenery with majestic trees in the future.

He also called for the establishment of a well-equipped healthcare centre with adequate doctors and medical staff

to serve devotees, particularly during major events like Godavari Pushkaralu. To address traffic congestion, the Chief Minister ordered that vehicles, including those of VIPs and dignitaries, must be parked outside the temple complex. Movement within the temple premises should be facilitated only through electric vehicles (EVs).

He also instructed officials to install solar rooftop systems at parking areas as part of sustainable initiatives. Reiterating the importance of maintaining sanctity during development, the Chief Minister warned that strict action would be taken against officials if quality standards are compromised in execution of works. State Endowments Minister Konda Surekha, Government Advisor Sudarshan Reddy, MP Vem Narendar Reddy, Chief Secretary K.Ramakrishna Rao, CM's Principal Secretary K. Srinivasa Raju, Principal Secretary (Endowments) Shaileja Ramaiyer, Commissioner Hanumantha Rao, and other senior officials attended the meeting.

## Rajnath Lays Foundation for Cavitation Tunnel at NSTL Vizag

Visakhapatnam (TSIT): In a major boost to India's defence self-reliance, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh laid the foundation stone for a state-of-the-art Large Cavitation Tunnel (LCT) facility at Naval Science and Technological Laboratory, a premier unit of Defence Research and Development Organisation.

Describing the project as a milestone in achieving Atmanirbhar Bharat, Singh said the facility would reduce India's dependence on foreign testing infrastructure and enhance indigenous capabilities in defence technology. He expressed confidence that the country would emerge as a global leader by designing and testing advanced systems domestically.

Following the ceremony, the Defence Minister visited the Seakeeping and Manoeuvring Basin and inspected advanced defence systems including torpedoes, autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs), naval mines, and decoys. He appreciated scientists after witnessing live demonstrations.

The LCT facility will serve as a strategic national asset, enabling advanced hydrodynamic research for both sur-



face ships and submarines at a single location. It is expected to significantly improve propulsion efficiency, reduce vessel noise, and enhance stealth capabilities, while supporting the design and development of major naval platforms such as warships and aircraft carriers.

The event was attended by Chief of Defence Staff Anil Chauhan, Chief of Naval Staff Dinesh K Tripathi, Eastern Naval Command Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla, and DRDO Chairman Sameer V Kamat, among other senior officials.

**PM Modi announces 3-day special Parliament session to push 33 per cent women's quota**

New Delhi (TSIT): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday announced that the government will extend the ongoing Budget Session of Parliament by three days - April 16, 17 and 18 - to fast-track steps for operationalising 33 per cent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state legislative Assemblies, with the aim of implementing it from the 2029 general elections. In a strong pitch centred on women's empowerment, PM Modi said his government had the resolve to enact the "Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam", which provides one-third reservation for women in legislative bodies.



"We want 33 per cent of the seats in Parliament to be occupied by our sisters starting from the 2029 Lok Sabha elections," he said.

The Prime Minister said the special sitting would focus on enabling provisions, including statutory and constitutional measures required to make the quota effective. He outlined two key objectives for the three-day session.

First, to provide a legislative assurance that no state will lose Lok Sabha seats due to population control efforts. He referred to concerns raised by southern states such as Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Goa, which have performed well in family planning and fear a reduction in representation. Second, the government is considering creating women-reserved seats as "additional seats", thereby increasing the overall strength of the Lok Sabha and state Assemblies. This, he indicated, would help preserve existing representation while expanding space for women. PM Modi appealed for unanimous support from all political parties, urging the Congress and other Opposition members, including those in the INDIA bloc, to participate constructively. "The rights of our mothers and sisters have remained pending for nearly 40 years. They should not be delayed again for the 2029 elections," he said.

## CM Naidu Reviews Amaravati Works; Pushes for Faster Completion



Amaravati (TSIT): Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu conducted a high-level review of capital city construction works in Amaravati, directing officials and agencies to accelerate execution and meet strict timelines.

At the meeting, attended by Minister P. Narayana, CRDA officials, and construction agencies, it was revealed that works worth Rs.57,821 crore are currently underway. These include housing, roads, trunk infrastructure, Land Pooling Scheme (LPS) works, and iconic structures such as the Assembly, High Court, and Secretariat.

Officials informed that issues related to stalled or cancelled works during the previous YSR Congress Party regime have been resolved, allowing construction to resume. Despite rising costs, tenders have been finalised and projects awarded.

Around 20,000 workers and

experts are currently engaged in the capital works. The Chief Minister reviewed project-wise progress, including manpower deployment and machinery utilisation, and directed agencies to set weekly and monthly targets to ensure timely completion, particularly ahead of the monsoon.

Emphasising the importance of the project, Naidu said building Amaravati is a historic opportunity and urged all stakeholders to contribute towards making it a world-class, future-ready capital. He stressed maintaining quality standards, adopting cost-effective practices, and leveraging green energy and advanced technologies. Reiterating his firm stance, the Chief Minister directed that all works must be completed within stipulated deadlines without compromise, instructing agencies to scale up manpower wherever necessary to ensure projects are completed and inaugurated on schedule.

## CM Stalin alleges Centre's 3-language formula 'covert' mechanism to impose Hindi

CHENNAI (TSIT): Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin, referring to the CBSE's recently unveiled curriculum framework, on Saturday alleged the "so-called three-language formula" is in reality a "covert" mechanism to expand Hindi into non-Hindi speaking regions. Youths surround Vijay's vehicle in Puducherry; police resort to mild lathi charge. Stalin, also the president of the ruling DMK, alleged the curriculum framework by the CBSE, aligned with the National Education Policy 2020, was not an innocent academic reform. It was a calculated and deeply concerning attempt at linguistic imposition that vindicates our long-standing apprehensions.

The chief minister alleged that under the guise of promoting "Indian languages", the BJP-led NDA government was aggressively advancing a centralising agenda that privileges Hindi while systematically marginalising India's rich and diverse linguistic heritage. "The so-called three-language formula is, in reality, a covert mechanism to expand Hindi into non-Hindi speaking regions," he alleged in a statement.

For students in southern states, this framework effectively trans-



lates into "compulsory Hindi learning." He alleged: "Yet, where is the reciprocity? Will students in Hindi-speaking states be mandated to learn Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam—or even languages like Bengali and Marathi? The complete absence of such clarity exposes the one-sided and discriminatory nature of this policy. The irony is stark and unacceptable."

The same Union government that has "failed" to make Tamil a mandatory language in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan schools—and has consistently failed to appoint adequate Tamil teachers, now seeks to lecture states on promoting Indian languages. "This is not commitment, this is rank hypocrisy," Stalin wondered if the

Union government had any understanding of ground realities; of availability of teachers, training capacity, and infrastructure? He asked: "Where are the qualified teachers to implement this sweeping exercise."

And crucially, where is the funding to support this enormous burden on the education system? Hence, this appears to be yet another ill-conceived policy announced without planning, resources, or accountability. This was not merely a question of language, it was a question of fairness, federalism, and equal opportunity. "By structurally privileging Hindi-speaking students, this policy risks creating entrenched advantages in higher education and employment, further widening regional disparities. At a time when the world is moving forward at an unprecedented pace, our children must be prepared for the future. The priority should be to equip them with skills in emerging sectors like artificial intelligence, AVGC (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comics), and to strengthen scientific temper and critical thinking. Instead, this regressive and rigid language burden threatens to derail their progress, the CM claimed.

## BJP is attempting snatch rights : Mallikarjuna Kharge

Bengaluru (TSIT): AICC President Mallikarjuna Kharge on Saturday accused the BJP of attempting to "snatch away" key rights introduced during the Congress-led UPA era, including the Right to Food, Right to Education, Right to Information, MGNREGA, and the Forest Rights Act.

Addressing a public gathering in Puducherry, Kharge urged voters to oust the ruling NDA government in the upcoming polls and elect a "clean and honest" Congress administration. He said the election presents an opportunity to counter what he termed as "divisive forces" led by the BJP-RSS.

Invoking leaders like Subramania Bharati, Bharathidasan, Periyar E. V. Ramasamy, and K. Kamaraj,



Kharge highlighted their contributions to social justice and equality. He alleged that Puducherry is facing "massive corruption" under the NR-BJP regime, claiming inflated project costs, misuse of public funds, and stalled development. He also criticised the

Centre over issues such as water scarcity, rising unemployment, and fishermen's distress, while raising concerns over law and order and women's safety. Kharge further alleged that public assets, including temple lands, are being misused, and accused the

government of promoting a liquor-driven economy. He pointed to rising youth unemployment and exam paper leaks as signs of systemic failure. Contrasting governance models, Kharge said Congress had built Puducherry's infrastructure, including healthcare and education institutions like Jawaharlal Institute for Postgraduate Medical Education and Research, while accusing the current regime of weakening public welfare systems.

Calling for full statehood to Puducherry, he alleged interference by the Lieutenant Governor in the functioning of the elected government. He urged voters to choose "accountability over corruption" in the upcoming elections.

## Iranian Minister says Tehran seeks 'conclusive, lasting' end to war

Tehran (TSIT): Iran's Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi said on Saturday that Tehran seeks to secure the terms of a "conclusive and lasting" end to the US and Israeli war imposed on the country.

He made the remarks in a post on social media platform X while highlighting one of Iran's main preconditions for an end to the ongoing conflict, and reacting to US media reports that the country has refrained from attending ceasefire talks with the United States in the Pakistani capital Islamabad.

Araghchi said that Iran's position is being misrepresented by the US media as it has not refused to attend the talks. "What we care about are the terms of a conclusive and lasting end to the illegal war that is imposed



on us," he stressed. The Wall Street Journal reported on Friday that Iran has officially told mediators that it is not willing to meet US officials in Islamabad in the coming days and considers US demands unacceptable. Iran's semi-official Fars news agency early Friday quoted an informed source as saying that Iran had rejected a US proposal for a 48-hour ceasefire sent through a "friendly" country the preceding day, Xinhua news agency reported.



Adluri Laxman Kumar Launches Skill Training for Transgenderers

Hyderabad TSIT: In a significant initiative towards inclusive growth, Minister for Scheduled Castes Development, Tribal Welfare, Disabled, Senior Citizens and Transgender Empowerment, Adluri Laxman Kumar, on Saturday inaugurated three major skill development training programmes for transgender persons at the National Institute of Tourism & Hospitality Management



(NITHM), Gachibowli. Addressing the gathering, the Minister said the Telangana government is committed to ensuring equal development opportunities for all sections of society. He noted that spe-

cial focus is being given to the transgender community, which has long faced social and economic challenges. The government is implementing targeted programmes to enhance education, skills, and employment opportunities, enabling them to lead lives with dignity, financial independence, and self-respect. Minister stated that as part of this initiative, three key training programmes have been launched:

T. JAGGA REDDY REVIEWS WATER SUPPLY IN SANGAREDDY



Sangareddy (TSIT) T. Jagga Reddy and Nirmala Jagga Reddy reviewed drinking water issues in Sangareddy constituency and directed officials to prevent summer shortage. They instructed immediate measures like new borewells, repairs, and better coordination under Mission Bhagiratha, assuring efforts to secure funds for both urgent and long-term works.

TPCC CHIEF MAHESH KUMAR GOUD VISITS UTNOOR ITDA INTERACTS WITH TRAINEE OFFICERS

Utnoor, April 4: TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud visited the Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) office in Utnoor on Saturday and reviewed its functioning. During his



visit, he interacted with Deputy Collectors undergoing training at the ITDA and enquired about their training experience, facilities, and administrative exposure being provided at the centre. Mahesh Kumar Goud also reviewed the overall functioning of the ITDA and sought details on the infrastructure and services available for both officials and beneficiaries. Expressing concern over the current state of affairs, the TPCC Chief stated that efforts would be made to restore the past glory of the ITDA and further strengthen tribal development institutions in the region.

He reiterated the importance of effective implementation of welfare schemes aimed at improving the livelihoods of tribal communities and assured continued support towards enhancing administrative efficiency and service delivery.

BRS INDULGING IN UNETHICAL POLITICS: FISHERIES CORPORATION CHAIRMAN METTU SAI KUMAR

Secunderabad TSIT: Fisheries Corporation Chairman Mettu Sai Kumar alleged that BRS party has resorted to unethical and opportunistic politics in the state. He criticised that BRS has "degenerated into political opportunism," citing instances of alleged alliances with the BJP at the local level. Referring to Ibrahimpatnam, he claimed that BRS had tied up with the BJP to secure victory, and individuals from BRS later assumed positions alongside BJP representatives. Sai Kumar further alleged that in Kothanapalli, BRS resorted to intimidation tactics and managed to win with the support of the CPI.

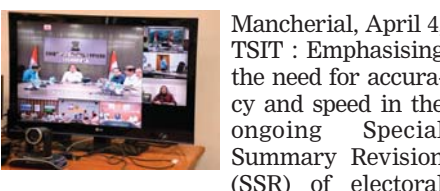


SNEHA SHABARISH WARNS ACTION AGAINST MARIJUANA CULTIVATION



Mahabubabad (TSIT) Collector Sneha Shabarish said that all departments should work in coordination at the field level to control drugs. The Collector said that all departments should work in coordination at the field level to control drugs. A district-level narco coordination meeting was held at the Collectorate with the concerned officials. The NDPS cases registered in the district, preventive measures against marijuana cultivation, measures to control drug use, department-wise work to be undertaken for drug prevention, and programs to be done to reduce the harm caused by drug use were discussed. Drug eradication wall posters and handbooks were unveiled. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that action should be taken to check where marijuana cultivation is taking place and take action. He said that pawn shops in the vicinity should be kept under surveillance when schools are closed. He said that alcohol should not be consumed in public anywhere in the district. In each mandal, the Tahsildar, MPDO, police, mandal agricultural officer and medical officer should hold a meeting with the panchayat secretaries and formulate a drug control plan.

Ensure Robust Voter Mapping Under Special Summary Revision: CEO Sudarshan Reddy.



Mancherial, April 4, TSIT : Emphasising the need for accuracy and speed in the ongoing Special Summary Revision (SSR) of electoral rolls, State Chief Electoral Officer Sudarshan Reddy on Saturday directed officials to carry out the voter mapping process in a systematic and time-bound manner. Chairing a review meeting via video conference from Hyderabad with district election authorities, Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), and Assistant EROs, he assessed the progress of key components of the revision exercise, including voter mapping, training of Booth Level Officers (BLOs), and appointment of Booth Level Agents (BLAs). The CEO stressed that officials must accelerate the mapping process and ensure that BLOs complete their assigned tasks expeditiously. He also instructed that meetings be held with recognised political parties to facilitate the appointment of BLAs and enhance coordination in the revision process. Further, he called for comprehensive training of BLOs and the distribution of training material to BLAs and representatives of recognised political parties.

HEALTH WEEK FROM APRIL 6 MINISTER DAMODAR RAJANARSIMHA ISSUES GUIDELINES

Hyderabad TSIT: Telangana government will organise a week-long Health Week from April 6 to 11 as part of the Praja Palana-Pragathi Pranalika, featuring a series of programmes to promote public health awareness and strengthen healthcare services. Health Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha on Saturday held a video conference with senior officials and reviewed the action plan for the Health Week. He directed



officials to ensure that all programmes are conducted effectively with coordination among departments and active participation of students, women, and youth. As part of the Health Week, April 6 will be observed as Food Safety Focus Day, with an Eat Right Walk at Necklace Road in the morning and a Millet Mela at Nature Cure Hospital in the afternoon. Training will be provided to food handlers, and hygiene certificates will be issued to street food vendors. Similar programmes will be held across districts. On April 7, marking World Health Day, the Minister will launch advanced LINAC services at NIMS to enhance cancer treatment.

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Indiramma Sarees Distribution Launched

Khammam (TSIT): The Telangana government's Indiramma sarees distribution programme for poor women was launched in Khammam. The programme was inaugurated by Division 11 corporator Saripudi Ramadevi Satish at Kaviraj Nagar, Road No. 15, near Sai Baba temple. Speaking on the occasion, the corporator said the state government is committed to the welfare of women and has been implementing several schemes for their upliftment. She stated that initiatives like the Indiramma sarees distribution provide much-needed support to women from economically weaker sections. She added that the government aims to ensure dignity



and better living standards for poor women through such welfare programmes. A large number of local women attended the programme and received sarees. They expressed happiness over the government's initiative and said such schemes offer relief to poor families. Keesara Padmaja Reddy, Saradhi, Suguna, Fareed, Ramesh, Swapna, Venkateswarlu and others were present.

Everest Organics Limited. SPECIAL WINDOW FOR TRANSFER AND DEMATERIALISATION OF PHYSICAL SECURITIES. Notice is hereby given that pursuant to SEBI Circular No. HO/38/13(11/2) 2026-MRSD-POD/13750/2026 dated January 30, 2026, all shareholders of the Company are hereby informed that another Special Window is open for a period of one year from February 05, 2026 till February 04, 2027 for transfer and dematerialization of physical securities which were lodged prior to the deadline of April 1, 2019 and rejected / returned / not attended due to deficiency in the documents / process or otherwise.

STATE BANK OF INDIA. DEMAND NOTICE (ABRIDGED). A notice is hereby given that the following Borrowers: Mr. Musham Ravi Kumar, S/o. Pullaiah, Mrs. Musham Madhavi, W/o. Musham Ravi Kumar, A/c Nos.: Home Loan Account No: 37376990154 have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the State Bank of India, Suryapet Main Branch-06316, and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). The notices were issued to them under Section 13(2) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 on their last known addresses, but they have been returned unopened and as such they are hereby informed by way of this public notice.

ALTIM CREDITO HOME FINANCE PRIVATE LIMITED. DEMAND NOTICE. The Securitization And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And enforcement of security interest Act 2002, read with Rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. The undersigned is the authorized officer of Altium Credo Home Finance Pvt.Ltd (ACHFL) Under Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (The said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, the authorized officer has issued demand notices under 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the borrower(s) [The "said borrower(s)"] to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective demand notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, notice is hereby given, one again, to the said borrower(s) to pay to Altium Credo Home Finance Pvt.Ltd (ACHFL), within sixty days from the publication of this notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said demand notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said borrower(s). As Security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to Altium Credo Home Finance Pvt. Ltd (ACHFL) by the said borrower(s) respectively.

"FROM HEALING HEARTS TO WINNING HEARTS: Dr. M.C Sandeep Redefines True Excellence CROWNED AS WINNER "MR. ASIA INDIA SEASON 6"

"A man who saves lives by profession—and inspires millions by passion."

In a remarkable celebration of talent, dedication, and purpose, Dr. M.C Sandeep, an accomplished heart surgeon, has been crowned as Mr. Asia India—proving that true greatness lies in balancing intellect, compassion, and charisma. He makes VRP PRODUCTIONS Platform Proud. Dr. Sandeep's journey is nothing short of extraordinary. By day, he stands in operation theatres performing life-saving cardiac surgeries, restoring hope to countless families. By night, he carries himself with confidence, discipline, and grace—qualities that have now earned him one of the most prestigious titles in the country. What sets Dr. Sandeep apart is not just his professional excellence, but his inspiring ability to break stereotypes. In a world where careers are often boxed into narrow definitions, he has shown that one can excel in both science and style, intellect and influence, service and self-expression. His victory at Mr. Asia India is more than a personal achievement—it is a message to the youth of the nation: you do not have to choose between your passion and your purpose. You can pursue both, and in doing so, create a legacy that goes beyond titles. Dr. Sandeep has expressed his vision to use this platform to promote health awareness, especially in the field of heart care, and to encourage young individuals to lead balanced, disciplined, and meaningful lives. As applause echoes across the nation, one thing is clear—Dr. MC Sandeep is not just a winner of a crown, but a champion of inspiration. Because some heroes don't just wear crowns... they wear scrubs and save lives.



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**Botsa Satyanarayana Alleges 'Loot' in Amaravati Development, Demands White Paper**



Visakhapatnam: Botsa Satyanarayana on Saturday launched a sharp attack on the coalition government, alleging large-scale corruption in the name of developing Amaravati. Addressing a press conference, Botsa said that while the YSR Congress Party is not opposed to Amaravati as the state capital, it strongly objects to the alleged misuse of public funds. He accused the government of using the Amaravati issue as a diversion from key public concerns. Highlighting various issues, he pointed to deteriorating law and order, farmers not receiving fair prices for maize, and delays in fee reimbursement affecting students. He also alleged that the AarogyaSri health scheme has weakened under the current regime. Questioning construction costs, Botsa said the government is spending nearly Rs.14,000 per square foot in Amaravati, far above the usual Rs.4,000-Rs.5,000 range. He added that key infrastructure works, including MLA quarters and roads, remain incomplete even after two years. Demanding transparency, he called on the government to release a white paper on Amaravati expenditures and urged for a Parliamentary resolution to grant Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh, stating it would boost development across regions. Botsa stressed that people expect real development rather than political rhetoric and urged the government to focus on completing pending works. Party leaders Gudivada Amarnath and Karanam Dharmasri were also present at the press meet.

**Late Naval Officer Deepak Kumar Awarded 'Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak' Posthumously**

Visakhapatnam: Late Petty Officer Deepak Kumar of the Indian Navy has been posthumously conferred the prestigious Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak by the President of India in recognition of his exceptional bravery and supreme sacrifice in saving lives. The award was received by his wife Roshni Kumari from the Chief of the Naval Staff at the Naval Investiture Ceremony held in Mumbai on April 1, 2026. Deepak Kumar displayed remarkable courage on September 14, 2024, at Sariya Waterfalls in Devarapalli, Andhra Pradesh, where he attempted to rescue a person being swept away by strong currents. In the line of duty and selfless service, he lost his life during the rescue attempt. Paying tribute, the Indian Navy hailed his indomitable courage and stated that his actions reflect the highest traditions of service, sacrifice, and commitment upheld by the force.

**Inter-Department Sports Meet 2026 Kicks Off in Waltair Railway Division**

Visakhapatnam: The month-long "Inter-Department Sports Meet-2026" was inaugurated in a grand and festive manner at the Waltair Railway Cricket Stadium under the aegis of the Waltair Railway Division. Divisional Railway Manager Lalit Bohra and East Coast Railway Women's Wing President Jyotsna Bohra graced the occasion as chief guests and formally inaugurated the event by lighting the ceremonial lamp. The opening ceremony witnessed international athletes carrying the Olympic torch, followed by the official declaration of the games. Addressing the gathering, the DRM highlighted that the division is excelling not only in freight operations and revenue but also in sports, calling it a matter of pride. He noted that such events align with the "Fit India" initiative and help build team spirit among employees. A total of 14 departments are participating in the sports meet, with enthusiastic involvement from railway staff across categories. The DRM expressed particular appreciation for the significant participation of women employees, noting that such large-scale sporting events are rare across divisions of Indian Railways. The event began with a football match, with the DRM performing the ceremonial coin toss. Senior officials, including Additional DRM (Infrastructure) E. Shantaram and other sports authorities, along with a large number of railway employees, were present at the inauguration.

**GITAM Scholar Earns Ph.D. in Chemistry for Advanced Pharmaceutical Research**

Hyderabad: GITAM Deemed to be University has congratulated Dr. Bujanga Rao Nagulancha on successfully earning his Ph.D. in Chemistry under the guidance of Dr. V. Koteswara Rao. His doctoral research focused on developing and validating stability-indicating analytical methods to detect genotoxic impurities, isomers, and degradation products in pharmaceutical formulations. The study utilised advanced techniques such as RP-HPLC, LC-MS, and LC-MS/MS, along with Analytical



Quality by Design (AQbD) and Design of Experiments (DoE), ensuring high accuracy and regulatory compliance. The research covered key pharmaceutical drugs including Baloxavir Marboxil, G l i p i z i d e , Chlorzoxazone, Abrocitinib, and Sertraline, enabling precise detection of trace-level impurities and enhancing drug safety and quality standards. The university leadership, including Prof.

**BRS Captures Kyathanpalli Municipality; Sandhya Rani Elected Chairperson.**



Mancherla, April 4, TSIT: In a closely contested and much-delayed election, BRS candidate Godisela Sandhya Rani was elected as the Chairperson of Kyathanpalli Municipality on Saturday, bringing an end to days of political suspense. Sandhya Rani secured a clear majority with the support of the BRS-CPI alliance. The Congress party suffered a setback in this election. As per the alliance agreement, the Vice-Chairperson post was allotted to the CPI, with Mittapalli Saritha being elected to the position.

**Congress Wave Will Sweep Away BJP MLAs TPCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud**



Adilabad TSIT: TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud launched a sharp attack on the BJP, expressing confidence in a Congress victory in upcoming elections. Speaking at a DCC meeting, he said BJP MLAs Payal Shankar and Harish Babu would be defeated in the "Congress wave." He accused the Centre of neglecting rural development and alleged irregularities in the previous regime, while stating that the current Congress government is ensuring welfare schemes and proper distribution of essentials. He asserted that all BJP MLAs in the undivided Adilabad district would lose, as people are shifting towards Congress.

**Humility Leads to True Greatness Rev. Dr. Sangala Paulson Raj**

Hanamkonda TSIT: Emphasising the value of humility, Rev. Dr. Sangala Paulson Raj, Founder and Prophet of Christ Jyothi Ministries, said that a humble nature elevates a person to greater heights and called upon people to follow the path shown by Jesus Christ. A solemn and spiritually enriching 'washing of disciples' feet' ceremony was conducted with devotion at Christ Jyothi Mandir in Karunapuram village of Dharmasagar mandal in



Hanamkonda district on Saturday. The programme was held under the Leadership of Society of Christ General Secretary Rev. Dr. Jayaprakash Gopu. Addressing the gathering, Rev. Dr. Paulson Raj said that despite being the Son of God, Jesus Christ demon-

strated unparalleled humility by washing the feet of His disciples, conveying a powerful message of service and love to humanity. He noted that in today's society, ostentation and ego should give way to compassion, unity, and mutual respect, urging people to lead lives rooted in love and togetherness. Recreating the historic moment, Rev. Dr. Paulson Raj personally washed the feet of 12 disciples as part of the ceremony.

**Vodithala Satish Kumar Condemns Gajwel Camp Office Attack**

Husnabad, April 4: Former MLA Vodithala Satish Kumar strongly condemned the attack on the camp office of K. Chandrashekar Rao in Gajwel, calling it inhumane. He alleged that Congress cadres were behind the incident and criticized the



state government led by A. Revanth Reddy, terming the situation as "goonda raj." Satish Kumar demanded strict police action against those involved and warned of protests if such incidents recur.

**'RUN FOR JESUS' RALLY HELD IN SANGAREDDY**



Sangareddy: A "Run for Jesus" rally was organized in Sangareddy under the United Christian Forum as part of Easter celebrations, promoting love and unity. Nirmala Jagga Reddy flagged off the rally, which began at Ambedkar statue and concluded at CSI Church. Participants sang hymns and performed devotional dances. Leaders and pastors, including Topaji Ananth Kishan and Rev. George Ebenezzer, attended the event.

**Illegal Security Agency Booked in Hyderabad**

Hyderabad TSIT: In a joint operation, the Intelligence Department and Kachiguda Police conducted inspections at the office of Krish Security Force (Fire Fighting Vigilance) in Tilak Nagar and found that the agency was operating without a valid license under the Private Security Agencies (Regulation) Act (PSARA), 2005. Based on the findings, a case has been registered against the agency owner under BNS Section 223(a) and Section 20 of the PSARA Act, with FIR No. 121/2026. Additional

Director General of Police (Intelligence) Vijay Kumar stated that the agency was functioning in violation of legal norms and warned that strict action will be taken against all unauthorized private security agencies across the state.

**D. K. Aruna Attends Vishwa Mangalya Sabha at Kanha Shanti Vanam**



RANGAREDDY (TSIT): Palamuru Member of Parliament D. K. Aruna attended the three-day Vishwa Mangalya Sabha as the chief guest at Kanha Shanti Vanam in Nandigama mandal of Rangareddy district on Saturday. Addressing the gathering, D. K. Aruna spoke about the significant role of mothers in contemporary society and elaborated on the social changes and value-based transformations taking place in the present generation. She emphasised that mothers play a crucial role in shaping families and strengthening the moral fabric of society. The event, organised at Kanha Shanti Vanam in Nandigama, saw the participation of several leaders and public representatives. Those present included Shadnagar in-charge Ande Babayya, State Council member Manohar Reddy, Palamuru district general secretary Kiran Kumar Reddy, district treasurer Narsimha Goud, Nandigama and Kothur mandal presidents Aravind Chari and Mahender Reddy, district council members Ramesh, Nagaraju Chari, Jollu Kumar, Mallesh, Vikranth, Aravind Sweet, Krishna Mohan, and others. The ongoing three-day Vishwa Mangalya Sabha has attracted a large number of attendees and is emerging as an important forum for spiritual discourse and discussions centred on family values, social awareness, and the well-being of society.

**Gajangi Nandaiah Targets Jeevan Reddy Over Party Issues**



Jagityala, April 4: District Congress President Gajangi Nandaiah criticized former minister Jeevan Reddy, alleging that party workers were restricted during his tenure. Speaking at a press meet, he said the Congress party revived under A. Revanth Reddy and questioned Jeevan Reddy's recent stance and remarks on BRS. He also raised issues regarding internal party matters and called for unity within the Congress. Local leaders and public representatives attended the programme.



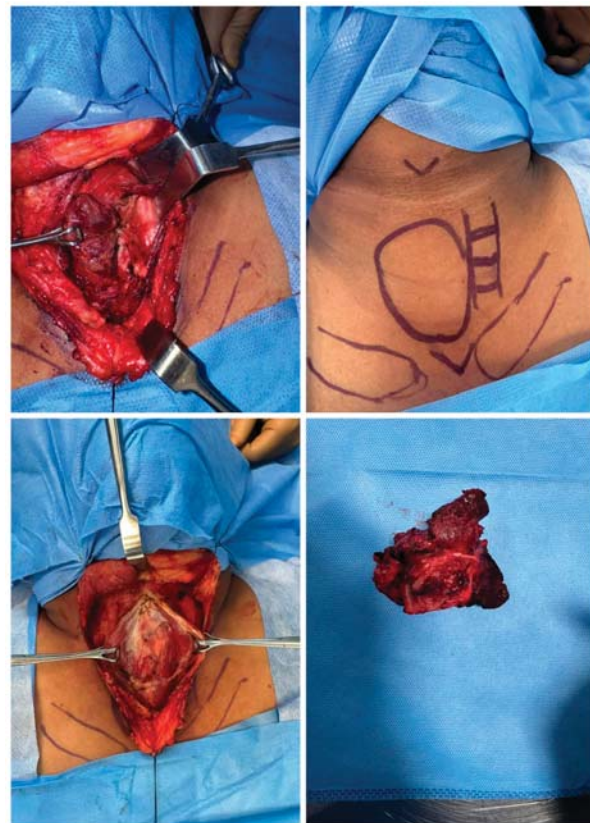
SRI V.S. RAVI KUMAR FROM ANANTAPUR DONATED RS.10.10 LAKH TO THE TTD SRI VENKATESWARA ANNAPRASADAM TRUST. ON THIS OCCASION THE DONOR HANDED OVER THE DONATION DD TO TTD ADDITIONAL EO SRI CH. VENKAIAH CHOWDARY AT THE ADDITIONAL EO CAMP OFFICE IN TIRUMALA.

**CARE Hospitals Performs Rare Airway Reconstruction Surgery to Save Young Thyroid Cancer Patient**

Hyderabad, 4th April, 2026: In a significant clinical achievement, doctors at CARE Hospitals successfully performed a complex and high-risk airway reconstruction surgery on a 30-year-old Mr. Manoj Bhanudas from Yavatmal, Maharashtra, diagnosed with advanced thyroid cancer that had extended into the trachea, leading to severe and potentially life-threatening breathing difficulty, restoring his ability to breathe and giving him a second chance at life.

Mr. Manoj had been experiencing worsening breathlessness for nearly a month. As his symptoms progressed, even routine activities became difficult. Detailed evaluation revealed a tumour in the thyroid gland that had infiltrated the tracheal wall and partially blocked the airway—turning the condition into a surgical emergency.

A multidisciplinary surgical oncology team led by Dr. Satish Pawar, Senior Consultant & Head - Surgical Oncology & Robotic Surgery, CARE Hospitals, Hitech City performed a total thyroidectomy with segmental tracheal resection and end-to-end airway reconstruction, a highly specialised procedure undertaken in advanced cases where tumour invasion compromises the airway. During surgery, a tumour measuring approximately 7 x 6 cm was carefully removed along with the affected portion of the trachea. The airway was then meticulously reconstructed to



restore normal breathing, while preserving critical structures such as the recurrent laryngeal nerves and parathyroid glands, essential for voice and metabolic balance. The surgery was completed successfully without complications. Post-operatively, the patient was closely monitored in the surgical ICU and showed steady recovery. Today, he is breathing normally and continues to recover well after being discharged in stable condition.

Dr. Satish Pawar said, "When thyroid cancers extend into the airway, the situation becomes life-threatening. The challenge lies not just in removing

the tumour, but in reconstructing the airway safely while preserving critical functions. With timely intervention and surgical precision, even such complex cases can have very good outcomes."

"These are not routine surgeries. They demand meticulous planning, multidisciplinary coordination, and high surgical expertise to ensure both survival and quality of life," he added.

Nilesh Gupta, Zonal Chief Operating Officer, CARE Hospitals, Hitech City, said, "This case reflects the strength of our clinical teams in handling highly complex and time-sensitive conditions with precision and coordina-

tion. At CARE Hospitals, we continue to invest in advanced surgical capabilities and multidisciplinary expertise to ensure that patients have access to safe, high-quality care even in the most challenging situations."

Expressing his gratitude, Manoj said, "There was a point where I felt I could not breathe normally anymore, and it was very scary. Even lying down was difficult. The doctors explained everything patiently and gave me confidence. Today, I feel relieved and can breathe normally again. I am thankful to the entire team for helping me through this."

Thyroid cancer incidence in India has been steadily rising, including among younger individuals. While most cases are highly treatable when detected early, delayed diagnosis can lead to spread into critical structures such as the airway, significantly increasing both risk and surgical complexity.

Such advanced cases require specialised surgical expertise, multidisciplinary coordination, and access to advanced infrastructure, capabilities available at centres like CARE Hospitals, which continue to strengthen their oncology and complex surgical programs.

This case highlights how early diagnosis, combined with advanced surgical expertise and multidisciplinary care, can make a life-saving difference, even in complex and advanced cancer presentations.

## Mamata Banerjee warns women against BJP tactics ahead of West Bengal polls

New Delhi, Apr 4: West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of attempting to mislead women voters, urging them not to share bank account details over fears of financial fraud. Addressing a public rally, Banerjee claimed that BJP workers could visit homes pretending to represent the West Bengal government or the Trinamool Congress (TMC), asking for bank account information under the guise of providing financial benefits.

"Mothers and sisters, stay alert. The BJP people will come to your homes in the name of the West Bengal government, in the name of the TMC government, and ask for your bank account number, saying they'll give you money. Don't give them your account number, even by mistake; they'll take away the money from your Lakshmi Bhandar. This is their trick," she said. Banerjee highlighted



the state government's Lakshmi Bhandar scheme, launched in 2021, which provides monthly financial aid—Rs 1,200 for women from SC/ST households and Rs 1,000 for others aged 25-60. She claimed the scheme had benefited

women and warned that BJP promises could be temporary and misleading.

The Chief Minister also criticised the Indian National Congress for failing to coordinate with TMC on electoral issues,

alleging that Congress did not join TMC in raising protests before the Election Commission.

Banerjee raised concerns about election-related cash circulation and urged voters to remain vigilant. During a previous rally in Purulia, she accused the BJP of interfering with Bengal's food culture and religious practices, claiming the party opposed the consumption of fish, meat, and eggs, and cited instances of exploitation and attacks in BJP-ruled states. She further criticised Union Home Minister Amit Shah, alleging that the BJP leadership had a history of communal violence, referring to past riots in Gujarat, and questioned their moral authority to accuse TMC of wrongdoing. Banerjee's remarks align with the TMC's broader campaign narrative portraying the BJP as culturally insensitive and disconnected from Bengal's traditions.

## Assassination Bid on Gaddar: A Turning Point in Revolutionary Cultural Politics

DR. G.V. VENNELA GADDAR,  
CHAIRPERSON, TELANGANA  
SAMSKRUTHIKA SARATHI

April 6, 1997 In a shocking incident that underscored the tense political climate of the time, revolutionary balladeer Gaddar survived an assassination attempt at his residence in Hyderabad. Unidentified gunmen opened fire on the poet-singer, leaving him critically injured with multiple bullet wounds one of which remained lodged in his spinal cord, becoming a lasting symbol of alleged state repression.

The attack is widely believed to have been politically motivated, with suspicions pointing toward state-backed elements or a covert police unit reportedly known as the "Green Tigers." Gaddar, known for his powerful songs that resonated with the marginalized, had been a vocal critic of the government and a supporter of the banned PWG.

### POLITICAL CONTEXT AND MOTIVE

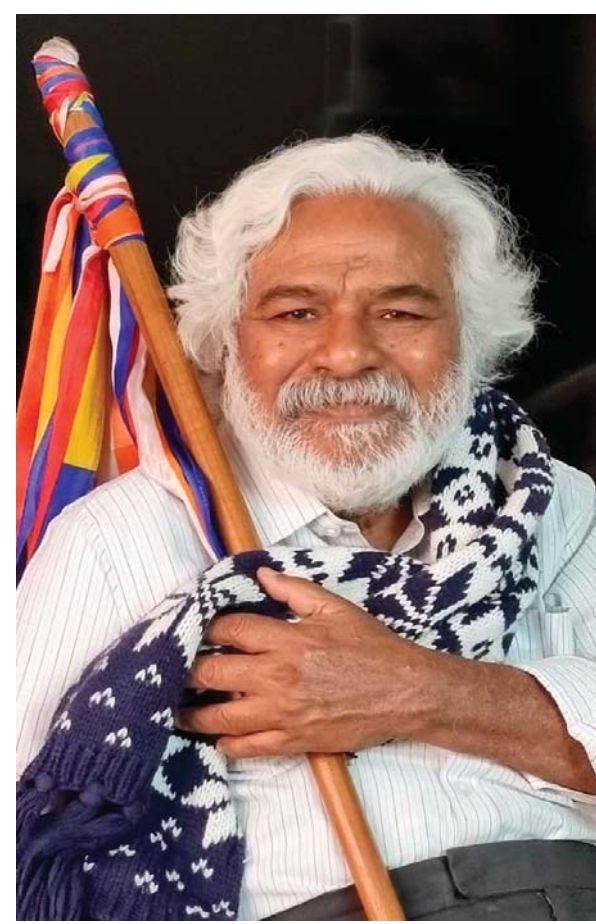
The incident occurred during the rule of the Telugu Desam Party, a period marked by intensified crackdowns on Naxalite movements and their sympathizers. Gaddar's cultural activism and mass appeal were perceived as a threat, as his songs inspired many to align with revolutionary ideologies.

**THE ATTACK AND AFTERMATH**  
Gaddar was shot multiple times, and although doctors managed to remove several bullets, one remained due to medical risks. Despite the severity of the attack, he survived, and the case was later categorized as "undetected," leaving many questions unanswered.

The assassination attempt triggered widespread outrage across intellectual and cultural circles. Hundreds of poets, writers, and activists condemned the attack, producing songs, poems, and essays in solidarity. A notable folk refrain, "Jamedari koyilo," echoed the collective grief and hope of the masses during his recovery.

### A VOICE THAT COULD NOT BE SILENCED

Far from silencing him, the attack amplified Gaddar's influence. He continued to champion the cause of the oppressed and later emerged as a promi-



nent voice in the Telangana movement. His performances marked by intense physical expression, rhythmic movements, and emotional depth transcended conventional artistic boundaries, making him a unique cultural force.

Scholars and contemporaries have described Gaddar as more than a performer he was a poet, composer, choreographer, political thinker, and above all, a communicator who connected deeply with the masses. His work drew inspiration not only from Marxist thought but also from Indian social reformers like B. R. Ambedkar, Jyotirao Phule, and Kabir.

### ENDURING LEGACY

Despite controversies and internal debates within revolutionary circles, Gaddar's adaptability and engagement with issues like caste and social justice only strengthened his bond with the people. His ability to evolve with changing socio-political realities made him a beloved figure across movements Dalit, tribal, and working-class struggles alike. The 1997 assassination attempt, rather than diminishing his spirit, cemented Gaddar's place as an enduring symbol of resistance and revolutionary cultural politics in India.

**THE CULTURAL CATALYST**  
The second phase of the

Telangana movement was not driven by politics alone; it was powered by culture, and Gaddar stood at its very heart.

While earlier phases relied primarily on political mobilization, the period from the 1990s to 2014 witnessed a massive cultural resurgence. Gaddar's songs transformed the demand for Telangana into a deeply emotional and collective aspiration rooted in identity, dignity, and self-respect.

A defining feature of this phase was the emergence of "Sabdham" cultural performances, led by Gaddar along with upcoming artists. These performances traveled extensively across villages and towns, carrying songs, skits, and speeches directly to the people. They transformed public spaces into vibrant arenas of resistance and awareness. Gaddar's electrifying presence in these programs made him the central mobilizing force of the movement. His performances attracted massive crowds and ignited political consciousness among students, workers, and rural communities.

His songs became the very soundtrack of the Telangana movement. They articulated issues such as water injustice, resource exploitation, unemployment, and cultural suppression. More importantly, they unified

people across caste, class, and regional divisions, creating a shared Telangana identity. Alongside him, several upcoming singers, artists further strengthened this cultural resistance, though Gaddar remained its most powerful and symbolic voice.

Gaddar played a decisive role in this transformation by turning folklore into a medium of revolutionary expression. The movement also drew strength from symbols like Amaraveerula Stupams, which commemorated martyrs and reinforced collective memory. Gaddar's songs immortalized these sacrifices, deepening emotional unity and resolve among the people.

### A LIFE OF RESISTANCE

Gaddar's life mirrored his art, marked by struggle and courage. He survived an assassination attempt in 1997, carrying a bullet in his body as a lasting symbol of state repression. In 2004, he acted as a mediator in peace talks between the Peoples War group and the government. Despite ideological associations, his appeal transcended divisions, reaching both rural masses and urban audiences alike.

### THE VOICE THAT MADE TELANGANA SING

Gaddar's contribution to the Telangana movement is immeasurable. In the second phase especially, he converted culture into a powerful political force, transformed songs into instruments of mass mobilization, and gave Telangana its emotional and cultural identity.

His revolutionary folk songs addressed a wide spectrum of social realities, including feudal oppression, caste discrimination, migration, farmer suicides, drought, and cultural alienation. These themes resonated deeply with the people and played a significant role in the eventual formation of Telangana state in 2014.

Gaddar was not just a singer; he was a movement, an ideology, and a cultural revolution. His era in Telugu literature and activism is rightly remembered as the "Age of Gaddar." As history will remember, politics may have demanded Telangana, but it was Gaddar's song that made people feel it, fight for it, and ultimately achieve it.

## Rare Heart Defect in Two-Month-Old Infant Successfully Treated at KIMS Cuddles, Kondapur



Hyderabad, April 4, 2026: Doctors at KIMS Cuddles, Kondapur, successfully performed a complex life-saving surgery on a two-month-old infant diagnosed with a rare congenital heart defect, giving the child a new lease of life. Sharing details, Dr. Aparna C., Clinical Director, Head of Neonatology and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), and Senior Consultant Neonatologist and Pediatrician, said that the infant, hailing from Khammam district, was brought to the hospital with symptoms of breathing difficulty and signs of heart failure.

Investigations revealed a defect in the heart. An echocardiogram performed by Pediatric Cardiologist Dr. Sudeep Varma identified a rare condition known as ARCACA (Anomalous Right Coronary Artery from the Pulmonary Artery). In this condition, the right coronary artery, which normally arises from the aorta and supplies oxygen-rich blood to the heart, originates abnormally from the pulmonary artery. The diagnosis was further confirmed through an aortogram.

The medical team proceeded with an open-heart surgery. During the proce-

dure, the right coronary artery was carefully detached from the pulmonary artery and reimplanted into the aorta using a specialized "hood" technique. This restored the normal flow of oxygenated blood to the heart.

Post-surgery, the infant received anticoagulant therapy to prevent blood clot formation. The baby was closely monitored in the NICU and was provided ventilator support, inotropes, and, when required, peritoneal dialysis as part of the critical care management.

Dr. Aparna noted that performing heart surgery on such young infants is

highly challenging due to the small size of blood vessels, limited physiological reserves, and the complexity of maintaining blood circulation and body temperature during the procedure. Despite these challenges, the surgery was successful, and the infant has now recovered well and has been discharged from the NICU.

The surgical team included Senior Pediatric Cardiac Surgeon Dr. Anil, Cardiac Anesthesiologist Dr. Nagarajan, and the neonatology team led by Dr. Aparna C., along with Dr. Vishwanath, Dr. Amit, Dr. Ishita, and Dr. Rajashekhar, all of whom played crucial roles in the treatment.

ARCACA is an extremely rare congenital heart anomaly, seen in approximately 0.25% of cases. In severe instances, it can lead to sudden infant death if not treated promptly.

This case highlights the importance of early diagnosis and timely intervention in congenital heart diseases. Dr. Aparna emphasized that with the availability of advanced neonatal cardiac care facilities, even critically ill infants can be successfully treated and saved.

## "DRAWING THE LINE: TELANGANA'S BID TO CURB HATE SPEECH"



AMARA VAJJI NAGARAJU

In an era where words travel faster than thought and misinformation can inflame divisions within moments, the Telangana government's move to introduce the "Telangana Hate Speech and Hate Crime Prevention Bill - 2026" marks a significant legislative intervention. Spearheaded by Chief Minister, the bill seeks to reinforce the foundations of social harmony by drawing a firm line against hate speech and its dangerous consequences.

The rationale behind such a law is rooted in contemporary realities. Social media platforms, while democratizing expression, have also become fertile ground for misinformation, communal provocation, and targeted vilification. Posts, videos, and speeches that incite hatred based on religion, caste, language, or ethnicity have increasingly posed threats to public order. In this context, the proposed legislation is not merely reactive it is preventive, aiming to curb the escalation of divisive rhetoric before it manifests into violence. At its core, the bill addresses two interlinked concerns: the regulation of hate

speech and the prevention of crimes arising from it. Its scope is notably comprehensive. Unlike traditional legal provisions that focus primarily on public gatherings or printed material, this bill extends its ambit to digital platforms, electronic media, and online communications recognizing the evolving nature of public discourse in the digital age.

The proposed penalties underscore the seriousness of the offence. A first-time violation could attract imprisonment of up to seven years along with a fine, while repeat offences invite harsher consequences. Importantly, the bill empowers state authorities to direct media platforms to remove hateful content, thereby enabling swift intervention in volatile situations. These provisions are designed to work in tandem with existing sections of the Indian Penal Code, such as those dealing with promoting enmity and outraging religious sentiments, while updating enforcement mechanisms for a digital-first society.

Legislation, however, is only as effective as its implementation. The Telangana government appears to have acknowledged this by backing the bill with substantial financial commitments. In the 2026-27 budget, increased allocations to the Home Department signal a clear intent to strengthen policing infrastructure, expand forensic capabilities, and improve surveillance mechanisms. Plans for reorganizing policing in urban centres and establishing new commissioner-

ates could enhance the state's ability to respond swiftly to hate-related incidents.

Parallel investments in the judicial system aimed at expanding court capacity and expediting trials are equally critical. Swift justice not only deters potential offenders but also reassures victims that the system is responsive and fair. Additionally, targeted welfare allocations for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes, and minorities reflect an understanding that communities most vulnerable to hate speech require both legal protection and socio-economic support.

Yet, no law that touches upon speech can escape scrutiny. Critics have raised concerns about potential overreach and the risk of infringing upon the fundamental right to freedom of expression guaranteed by the Constitution. These concerns are not without merit. The challenge lies in ensuring that the law distinguishes clearly between legitimate criticism an essential pillar of democracy and speech that incites hatred or violence.

The government, for its part, has emphasized that the bill is not intended to stifle dissent but to prevent harm. Whether this assurance translates into practice will depend on the integrity and transparency of enforcement. Safeguards against misuse, clear definitions of what constitutes "hate speech," and robust oversight mechanisms will be crucial in maintaining public trust.

From a broader societal per-

spective, the bill reflects Telangana's unique cultural context a region marked by linguistic diversity, religious plurality, and a shared historical legacy. Preserving this pluralism requires not just tolerance but active protection against forces that seek to divide. In this sense, the legislation can be seen as a normative statement: that coexistence is not incidental but essential. Equally important is the role of citizens. Laws can deter and punish, but they cannot by themselves cultivate empathy or responsibility. Public awareness campaigns, digital literacy initiatives, and community engagement will be vital in fostering a culture where individuals understand the impact of their words and the importance of respectful discourse. Ultimately, the success of the Telangana Hate Speech and Hate Crime Prevention Bill - 2026 will hinge on balance between authority and liberty, enforcement and restraint, law and ethics. If implemented with fairness and clarity, it has the potential to serve not just as a regulatory framework but as a moral compass for public communication. In a democracy, the freedom to speak is sacred. But equally vital is the responsibility to ensure that speech does not become a weapon. Drawing that line is never easy. Telangana's attempt to do so through legislation is both timely and consequential. Whether it becomes a model for others will depend, as always, not on intent alone but on execution.

## BOSCON 2026 Showcases Future-Ready Orthopaedic Care in Bengaluru

Bengaluru, April 4, 2026: BOSCON 2026, the 29th Annual Conference of the Bangalore Orthopaedic Society, concluded successfully in Bengaluru, bringing together leading orthopaedic experts, surgeons, and young clinicians for two days of intensive academic exchange and clinical discussions.

Organised in association with HOSMAT Hospitals, the conference was held on April 4 and 5 at The Koramangala Club. The event was inaugurated by Dr. Shantharam Shetty, Pro Chancellor of NITTE University and former IOA President.

With the theme "Keeping PACE in Orthopaedics: Evolving with Evidence," the conference emphasised Practical Academic Case-based Education (PACE), focusing on real-world clinical learning backed by scientific evidence.

The two-day event featured subspecialty scientific sessions, case-based discussions on complex surgeries, expert-led panel debates, and academic plat-



GUEST OF HONOUR DR. SHANTARAM SHETTY, PRO CHANCELLOR, NITTE UNIVERSITY AND PAST IOA PRESIDENT, LIGHTS THE CEREMONIAL LAMP DURING THE INAUGURATION OF BOSCON 2026. ALSO SEEN ARE DR. SUBODH M SHETTY, PRESIDENT, BOS; DR. RAMESH B, GENERAL SECRETARY, BOS; DR. HEMANTH H P, ORGANISING TREASURER; DR. SHASHANK G, ORGANISING SECRETARY; DR. SACHIDANANDA RAI, PRESIDENT, KOA; AND DR. HARISHMURTHY, SECRETARY GENERAL, KOA.

forms for postgraduate students and emerging surgeons. Key topics included the growing role of robotics, artificial intelligence, biologics, and minimally invasive techniques in orthopaedic care, alongside the need for ethical and evidence-based adoption.

Dr. Subodh Shetty,

President of the Bangalore Orthopaedic Society, highlighted that modern orthopaedics stands at a crossroads of tradition and innovation, stressing responsible integration of advanced technologies.

Dr. Shantharam Shetty added that orthopaedic practice must balance clinical

expertise with scientific validation, ensuring patient-centric outcomes.

BOSCON 2026 reinforced the importance of such academic platforms in advancing orthopaedic education, research, and clinical excellence, contributing to improved healthcare outcomes across the country.

# EDITORIAL

## 450 Missile, 2,000 Drone Attacks Later, Why Is UAE Still Not Fighting Iran?

According to the latest statistics released by the UAE Ministry of Defence, the country's air defences have engaged 457 ballistic missiles, 19 cruise missiles, and 2,038 drones launched by Iran. This makes the UAE the biggest target of Iran since the joint US-Israel war on it began on February 28. In fact, on the very first day, Dubai airport, the city's famed Burj Al-Arab hotel, the landmark Palm Jumeirah, and Jebel Ali port were hit by missiles. Exasperated by these attacks, the UAE, reports say, has asked the US to continue the war in Iran and complete the job there. In the latest update, however, it has ruled out putting boots on the ground in Iran but has signalled its willingness to join any multi-nation endeavour to open up the Strait of Hormuz to international shipping. These developments spotlight a complex relationship between the two neighbouring states that share waterways, communities, and extensive trade links. The UAE is Iran's second-largest trading partner, with bilateral trade amounting to around \$25-27 billion annually. In 2024, Iran imported over \$20 billion worth of goods from the UAE, making it Iran's largest single source of imports. At the same time, Iranian non-oil exports to the UAE were more than \$6 billion. Around half a million Iranians live and work in the UAE, with the community having stayed there for decades, preceding the birth of the Islamic Republic in 1979.

### A Tense History

Yet, tensions have persisted - territorially since the UAE's birth in 1971, and ideologically since the Iranian Islamic revolution in 1979, spilling over into wider geo-strategic considerations. Territorially, Iran and the UAE are locked in a dispute over three tiny islands - Abu Musa, Greater Tumb and Lesser Tumb. The largest, Abu Musa, has a population of only around 2,000 people. But they occupy an extremely strategic location - sitting as they are at the entrance to the Strait of Hormuz, whose importance by now needs no further explanation. These islands serve as useful bases to monitor maritime traffic through the Strait and are critical to Iran's naval defence architecture. Britain had occupied the islands in 1908. When the UAE gained freedom from the British in 1971, the British withdrew from these islands. Iran, under Shah Reza Pahlavi, occupied the islands, citing old maps, including those by the British. The UAE, however, maintained that they are the rightful owner. Given Iran's size and its military muscle, the UAE has been restrained, relying mostly on diplomatic tools to manage the tensions. The UAE's size - 83,600 sq. km in total - and its population - the local Emirati population is only 1.33 million out of a total population of 11.57 million, comprising expatriates - has shaped its approach towards Iran, as also towards the region as a whole.

### The Revolution And The American Turn

The 1979 Islamic revolution in Iran, which overthrew the Shah and established a Republic, added another layer of complexity to regional politics. All five Gulf Sheikdoms, along with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, are hereditary monarchies, with some, like the UAE, also representing a federative union with a constitution, to give it some semblance of a democratic polity. But they all remain absolute monarchies. Furthermore, as Iran began exporting its revolutionary ideology, small sheikdoms sought to hedge themselves and their enormous oil wealth by constituting the Gulf Cooperation Council and investing in American security and defence procurement. Today, all GCC states house US air bases. Of them, the UAE hosts the Al Dhafra Air Base, which hosts American, French, and Emirati air forces, while the Jebel Ali port in Dubai hosts US Navy ships, making the UAE a key logistical hub. There are, besides the US, UK and French military bases as well.

# Limitations and questions of CBI



**PRIYANKA SAURABH**

(When the investigative agency becomes the center point of politics)

In India's federal structure, the jurisdiction of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) over the states has become a sensitive and multi-layered issue, not limited to legal debate but also involving political, constitutional, and ethical questions. The withdrawal of general consent granted to the CBI by various states—especially opposition-ruled states—over the past few years has further intensified this debate. The question is repeatedly raised as to whether the CBI is truly an impartial investigating agency or whether it is becoming a subservient entity under the influence of the central government. On the other hand, the central government claims that state governments are obstructing the investigation agencies' paths to suit their political convenience. The truth lies somewhere between these two extremes. To understand the powers and jurisdiction of the CBI, it is essential to understand the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946 (DSPE Act). This is the law that provides the CBI with its statutory basis. Section 6 of this Act clearly states that the CBI must obtain the consent of the state government to exercise its powers within a state. This provision reflects the spirit of Indian federalism, which respects the autonomy of states. However, it is equally important to note that this consent is not absolute and mandatory. The law provides several exceptions where the CBI can investigate without the state's consent. For example, if the Supreme Court or the relevant High Court orders a CBI investigation, the state government's consent is waived.



Furthermore, the CBI has the authority to take independent action in corruption cases involving central government employees, or in cases involving violations of central laws. A significant decision by the Supreme Court in 2025 is noteworthy in this context, clarifying that state consent is not required to register an FIR against central government employees under the Prevention of Corruption Act. This decision underscores the limited power of the state and its ability to yield to national interest and the judicial process. The federal structure of the Indian Constitution also plays a crucial role in understanding this entire controversy. India is considered an example of "cooperative federalism," but it is not fully decentralized. Law and order is placed in the State List in the Seventh Schedule, meaning that under normal circumstances it is a state subject. However, under Articles 246 and 254, the central government has primacy in special circumstances. This arrangement was designed to ensure that national unity and the rule of law are not undermined under any circumstances. This is where the conflict arises.

While states cite their constitutional autonomy, the central government argues that it should have the right to intervene to ensure national interest and a comprehensive justice system. Since 2018, West Bengal, Punjab, Telangana, Kerala, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, and several other states have withdrawn the general consent granted to the CBI. General consent meant the CBI could initiate investigations in the state without seeking permission each time. After its withdrawal, the CBI had to seek separate permission for each case, slowing and cumbersome the investigation process. States allege that the central government uses the CBI to target political opponents. In several cases, it has been alleged that investigations against opposition leaders are initiated abruptly, while cases involving ruling party leaders are lax. The West Bengal government expressed similar concerns when it withdrew general consent in 2019. Other states have similarly cited this move as a move to protect their autonomy. On the other hand, the central government argues that state governments are hindering investigations into cor-

ruption and crime by withholding consent. If political approval is required in every case, impartial investigations will be impossible. The Supreme Court also expressed concern about this trend in 2021, stating that the general withdrawal of consent by states hampers investigations into interstate and complex crimes. This observation indicates that the judiciary is viewing this issue not solely from a political perspective, but in the context of broader judicial interests. The most serious aspect of this entire controversy is that it is affecting the credibility of investigative agencies. When an investigative agency is accused of political bias, public trust is undermined. In a democracy, the credibility of institutions is their greatest asset. If the CBI is not seen as an impartial and independent agency, its investigations and actions will also be questioned. Additionally, the tendency for states to withdraw consent sets a dangerous precedent. If individual states begin restricting central agencies' entry based on their own political convenience, national crime control and anti-corruption efforts could be undermined.

## In Tamil Nadu, Vijay Attempts A Hostile Takeover Of AIADMK's Very Soul

Around 100 seconds into the election campaign song unveiled by the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) on April 1 come the images of CN Annadurai and MG Ramachandran, the two biggest icons of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK). They are immediately followed by the image of Vijay. It is no oversight or the work of an enthusiastic video editor. It is increasingly clear that the unobtrusive message being driven home is that Vijay is the natural political successor to Anna and MGR. Analyse the moves made by Vijay on Tamil Nadu's political chessboard, and it is very obvious that demolition of the AIADMK dream of a comeback to power is on the agenda before he battles MK Stalin on April 23. What is being undertaken is a less-than-hostile takeover of the AIADMK template, fundamentally replacing the party founded by MGR in the minds of the anti-DMK voter. Elections in Tamil Nadu have always revolved around the two-pole narrative. Vijaykanth, popularly referred to as 'Karuppu MGR' ('dark-complexioned MGR') was the last one to try to break the hegemony of the two fronts, but did not quite succeed. Vijaykanth's rugged appearance resonated with the rural masses and the working classes in Tamil Nadu, pitching him as the MGR of the dark-skinned Tamilian. But the 2006 election saw him not being able to go beyond 8% of the vote, which, though impressive, failed to translate into more than one seat. After Vijaykanth, the likes of Kamal Haasan faltered by trying to be the third player - an alternative to the two Dravidian majors - and failed miserably. Now, Vijaykanth's namesake is attempting the invocation of



the MGR legacy. By repeatedly stating that the contest is between the TVK and the DMK, he is attempting to render the AIADMK as a spent force and make the two leaves wilt on the EVM. The bid to appropriate the foundational icons of the AIADMK started last year, when an AI-generated video used a deepfake of Annadurai saying "Thambivaa, thalaimai thaanga vaa" ("Come brother, come to lead"), as if Vijay was being encouraged to lead the way. The TVK messaging was that the Palaniswami-led AIADMK, which has lost many of its leaders to other parties, is no longer the AIADMK of MGR and Jayalalithaa and that Vijay is now the real political successor to the AIADMK political stalwarts. By calling the BJP his "ideological enemy", Vijay has also indirectly accused EPS of diluting and compromising his Dravidian roots by allying with the saffron party. By

2016, the AIADMK's strength - monolithic leadership - was replaced by regional satraps. Though Palaniswami over the years has managed to get rid of his rivals in the party, he still has to prove himself as someone acceptable to all regions and caste groups and not be seen only as a Kongu belt Gounder leader. In contrast, Vijay offers the moniker alternative of the 'Thalapathy' (commander) who reigns supreme. But it won't be so easy to peel away at the AIADMK stronghold votebank in rural Tamil Nadu, particularly in western (Coimbatore-Salem) and southern (Madurai) regions. These belts are dominated by the Gounder and Thevar communities, respectively, and were the backbone of the party during Jayalalithaa's innings. That will be Vijay's challenge, and if he can woo much of the anti-incumbency vote towards himself, the AIADMK may find itself struggling, particularly in the urban pockets. What Vijay is offering is the AIADMK, rebranded. The party was, till 2016, led by charismatic actor-turned-politicians, and Vijay, by chipping away at the AIADMK base, is promising to go back to that era. Interestingly, he is trying to replace the AIADMK in an unconventional way. He is not taking the easy route of poaching leaders from the party. Barring a KA Sengottaiyan, and, to an extent, CT Nirmal Kumar, no senior leader has moved sides to the TVK. Vijay's bold attempt is to take away the voters of the AIADMK instead. In Tiruchy (East) to file his second nomination on April 2, Vijay garlanded the statue of MGR and delivered his speech with the statue in the background. The significance of Vijay hyphenating his politics with MGR was not lost on anyone from Tiruchy.

## THE DARK TRUTH of corruption in Haryana universities



**DR. SATYAWAND SAURABH**

(Financial scams, recruitment irregularities and abuse of power in four major universities have raised serious questions about the education system.)

The recent corruption scandal in Haryana's higher education sector not only tarnishes the reputation of the state's four premier universities, but also raises serious questions about the credibility of the entire educational system. The universities implicated in this controversy—Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak; Guru Jambheshwar University, Hisar; Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram University of Science and Technology, Murthal; and Shri Krishna Ayurvedic University, Kurukshetra—have all long been important centers of education in their respective regions. However, allegations of corruption, financial irregularities, recruitment scams, and abuse of power against the top vice-chancellors of these institutions have severely damaged their reputations. The investigation launched by the State Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau (SV&ACB) on April 1-2, 2026, has further exacerbated the matter. It is not limited to the alleged wrongdoings of a few individuals, but rather points to a broader systemic failure, where transparency and accountability are lacking even in a field as sacred as education. These allegations have made it clear how the future of students studying in higher education institutions can be affected if their leadership itself is questionable. The most shocking case involves Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram University of Science and Technology, Murthal. The Vice Chancellor is accused of embezzling approximately ₹50 crore from the student welfare fund. According to the allegations, instead of keeping this money safely in government banks at high interest rates, it was



invested in fixed deposits with private banks at low interest rates, resulting in significant financial losses for the university. This appears to be not just a case of financial negligence, but also a suspected systematic irregularity. If these allegations are proven true, it would be an example of not only administrative failure but also moral turpitude. Allegations of serious irregularities have also surfaced at Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak. A massive financial scam is being alleged in the name of tree plantation. Thousands of trees were shown to have been purchased and planted on paper, but in reality, none of them existed. Furthermore, allegations of favoritism and flouting of rules have surfaced in recruitment processes, where qualified candidates were bypassed and preferred individuals were given jobs. Large-scale irregularities have been uncovered in the recruitment of non-teaching staff at Guru Jambheshwar University, Hisar. There are allegations of violation of reservation rules, lack of transparency in the selection process, and appointments made without the required qualifications. This situation not only raises questions about the administrative capability of the institution but also violates the principles of social justice. Similarly, complaints of irregularities in the recruitment process and violations of reservation rules have surfaced at Shri Krishna Ayurvedic University, Kurukshetra. Such irregularities are deeply concerning at an institution established to promote traditional medical sciences like Ayurveda. All these cases reveal a similar pat-

tern—abuse of power, financial irregularities, and a lack of transparency in administrative decisions. This situation did not arise suddenly, but rather stemmed from a weak and politically influenced system that has existed for years. Vice-Chancellor appointments at universities in Haryana have long been subject to political influence, where proximity and loyalty have been prioritized over merit and experience. This has resulted in weakening accountability and ethics within the institutions. The action being taken by investigative agencies should be welcomed, but it is equally important that these investigations are fair and timely. It has often been observed that initial action is taken in such cases, but later, due to political pressure or administrative laxity, the cases are shelved. If this happens again, it will not only protect the guilty but will also severely undermine public confidence. The biggest impact of this entire issue is on students. Thousands of university students are worried about their future. When an institution's resources are misused, it directly impacts the quality of education. Lack of laboratories, unavailability of qualified faculty, and inadequate infrastructure hinder students' academic development. This leads to a decline in student morale and a crippling impact on their career prospects. In a state like Haryana, where unemployment is already a major problem, scams like this increase frustration and discontent among young people. It also leads to social imbalances when they feel that opportunities are not met fairly despite hard work and merit.

# Nara Lokesh Credits H. D. Kumaraswamy for Vizag Steel Revival

Raichur (Sindhaur): Andhra Pradesh IT and HRD Minister Nara Lokesh on Saturday credited Union Steel and Heavy Industries Minister H. D. Kumaraswamy for steering the revival of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) at Visakhapatnam, which had faced the threat of closure and privatisation.

Addressing a large gathering, Lokesh said the Vizag Steel Plant carries deep emotional value for the people of Andhra Pradesh, recalling the popular sentiment that it is their rightful asset. He noted that due to earlier policy decisions, the plant had



reached a critical stage before intervention by the Centre. Lokesh stated that upon assuming office, Kumaraswamy assured protection of the plant and fulfilled his promise. "Today, the plant is on the path to recovery and moving towards profitability," he said, expressing gratitude on behalf of the people of the state.

He also recalled his efforts through Visakhapatnam MP M. Sriharat to raise the issue with the Union Minister, including a direct phone interaction where Kumaraswamy assured support. "He stood by his word

and safeguarded the plant," Lokesh added.

Highlighting industrial growth, Lokesh pointed to a major green steel project at Anakapalli, being developed by ArcelorMittal and Nippon Steel, describing it as one of India's largest investments in the sector. He credited Kumaraswamy's role in facilitating the project in Andhra Pradesh.

Lokesh further reflected on the longstanding political association between his family and that of former Prime Minister H. D. Deve Gowda, while also acknowledging the contributions of his father N. Chandrababu Naidu.

# Impose fines on those encroaching on footpaths: Maheshwar Rao

Bengaluru : Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao instructed officials to take action against those who have encroached upon footpaths along Old Madras Road by imposing fines and clearing the encroachments, while also ensuring the development of smooth and accessible pedestrian pathways.

He gave necessarily instructions during an inspection conducted on foot today along Old Madras Road, from Swami Vivekananda Metro Station to Ulsoor Lake, within the jurisdiction of



detailed presentation should be prepared regarding the ongoing development works at Ulsoor Lake. He also instructed officials to install information boards to keep the public informed about the ongoing projects.

Comprehensive Development of Ulsoor Lake: Ulsoor Lake, spread across 106 acres, is undergoing comprehensive development at a cost of Rs.33.50 crore. The works include desilting, development of a two-tier walkway, installation of grills,

## H. D. Kumaraswamy Calls for Politics-Free Development; Inaugurates Sainik School in Raichur

Raichur: Union Minister H. D. Kumaraswamy on Saturday emphasised the need to rise above political differences to accelerate development in Karnataka, while inaugurating a new Sainik School at Sindhaur in Raichur district.

The school, established at the Shri Krishnadevaraya Education Society, was inaugurated in the presence of Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth and Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Lokesh. The initiative is aimed at strengthening defence-oriented education and creating opportunities for youth to join the armed forces.

Addressing the gathering, Kumaraswamy said



that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is making significant strides in the defence sector. He thanked Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Sanjay Seth for supporting the establishment of the school, fulfilling a long-pending demand of the region.

Stressing that "develop-

## Please find below quotes from RCB's Jitesh Sharma at the Pre-Match Press Conference ahead of their clash against CSK on 5th April 2026.

Bengaluru: RCB's Jitesh Sharma Speaking on team approach vs CSK "I think it's very simple, we are just focussing on our own process rather than thinking about what they have done in the last one week. We are just focusing on our preparation, that's it, that's the simple thing." Jitesh speaking at the Pre-Match Press Conference ahead of their clash against CSK

Speaking on leadership responsibility as Vice-Captain and batting impact:

"I think whenever you get the responsibility, you feel grateful and privileged and I take extra effort to give something to my team. Whatever possible, how I



can contribute to the win, I think that gives you extra responsibility when you are in the leadership role."

Speaking on record (3-0 vs CSK) and pressure:

"After coming here, I came to know about the 3-0 equation. As a player, as a unit, we always focus on one game at a time rather than thinking about the records. We are just trying to be present

## Ashoka Slams Congress Over 'Cuts' to BC, SC Corporations; Questions Vote Outreach

Bagalkot : Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Congress leaders, who have cut grants to Backward Classes and Scheduled Castes Corporations, are now holding meetings with backward class and Dalit leaders ahead of the elections. Opposition Leader R. Ashoka questioned: "With what face are they going to these people and begging for votes?"

Speaking at a press conference along with MP Basavaraj Bommai, Ashoka said that during the BJP regime under Basavaraj Bommai's leadership, Rs.100 crore was allocated to the Ambedkar Corporation's self-employment scheme. But the current Congress government has given only Rs.45 crore.

- For the Tanda Development Corporation, BJP had given Rs.110 crore, while "community champion" Siddaramaiah has given Rs.60 crore.
- For the Bhoji Corporation,



BJP allocated Rs.95 crore, Siddaramaiah gave Rs.45 crore.

- For the Devaraju Arasu Corporation, BJP gave Rs.190 crore, Congress gave Rs.100 crore.
- For the Sangolli Rayanna Corporation, Siddaramaiah (whom he sarcastically called "Kuladevaru") gave Rs.50 crore, whereas BJP had given Rs.106 crore.

Siddaramaiah's own seat is not guaranteed. Dr. G. Parameshwara is going to Dalit colonies saying 'make me CM', he added.

Ashoka alleged that ever since Congress came to power, there has been infighting for the Chief Minister's chair and as many as 30 scams have occurred in three years. These include the Valmiki Corporation scam, allegations of 60% commission to contractors, and ministers sending crores of rupees to Delhi through the liquor lobby, among others.

He said that when Basavaraj Bommai was CM, four medical colleges were established. Now, instead of building medical colleges, doctors are being transferred from community health centres. No tenders have been called for medicine supply. "He promised to wipe the tears of Krishna (referring to the Krishna river basin), but has

not released funds for any irrigation projects," he charged.

Siddaramaiah who ate biryani in Badami and disappeared

"Siddaramaiah came to Badami, ate biryani, contested the election and won. He did not develop his home turf Mysuru and lost by 30,000 votes. At that time, Badami supported him. But he abandoned Badami and ran away. Now he has come back to Bagalkot, campaigning and promising to shower development. For so many years Congress MLAs were here but no development happened. When Basavaraj Bommai was Irrigation Minister, he had sanctioned Rs.700 crore for irrigation. Former MLA Veeranna Charantimath also brought improvements. But now they say there is no money in the government for

## MP Dr. C. N. Manjunath Releases 'Palliative Care in India Book', Calls for Patient-Centric Cost Effective Treatment

Bengaluru: In a significant milestone for the medical community, the textbook Palliative Care in India, edited by eminent medical expert Professor Dr. Athama Prasanna, was ceremonially released at Sri Shankara Cancer Hospital & Research Centre.

The event was graced by Chief Guest Padmashri. C. N. Manjunath, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), Bengaluru Rural, who formally unveiled the book and addressed the gathering. In his address, Dr. Manjunath praised the editor for his outstanding effort in compiling a comprehensive volume with contributions from over 100 experts. He described the publication as a remarkable and timely contribution to the advancement of palliative care in India, especially at a time when structured care systems are still evolving.

Recalling his long-standing association with Dr. Athama Prasanna during their academic years at KMC Manipal (1985-1988),



he appreciated his dedication, academic excellence, and lifelong commitment to the medical profession. He noted that bringing out such a monumental work reflects exceptional perseverance and vision.

Emphasizing the core purpose of healthcare, Dr. Manjunath stated that the objective of treatment is not only to cure disease but also to ensure dignity, comfort, and quality of life for patients, particularly in cases where complete recovery may not be possible. He also commended the efforts of Sri Shankara Cancer Hospital in providing quality and affordable cancer care to the public. Highlighting the rising cost of treatment, he stressed the importance of making healthcare more accessible and patient-centered.

Referring to recent policy initiatives, he noted that the Government of India has exempted customs duty on several essential cancer drugs, a progressive step aimed at reducing the financial burden on patients. He also mentioned his efforts in raising this

## FIR should be filed against Pratap Simha and strict action should be taken: Surjewala

Bengaluru: AICC General Secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala has demanded that an FIR should be filed against Pratap Simha and strict action should be taken. Taking to social media, he alleged that Pratap Simha's derogatory "cut" statement about Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in Bagalkot has once again exposed the BJP's nefarious politics.

It is now clear that Pratap Simha's anger is born out of frustration. The BJP is deliberately using Pratap Simha to insult Siddaramaiah, the most senior leader of the backward community.

With the sole intention of sending a message that they see the backward classes, Scheduled Castes and minorities as inferior and subordinate according to their Manuwadi perspective. He said that such behavior exposes the complete bankruptcy of the ideology, morality and leadership in the BJP.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar have also



received life threats from these divisive forces in the past, including the despicable threat of "killing and stuffing the body in the fridge". This is not the whim of one person, this is the political culture of the BJP. This is the same Pratap Simha who, on the instructions of the BJP central leadership, has repeatedly called the Congress Karnataka government, elected by the people, a "Taliban government".

BJP leaders are repeat offenders in spreading poisonous speech. Former MP Ananth Kumar Hegde, when he was a Union Minister, openly insulted the wife of Minister Dinesh Gundurao.

Disturbed by this and angry at the Kannadigas, the state and central BJP leadership has now entrusted the task of heaping insults and humiliation on the leadership of the poor and the exploited — Chief Minister Shri Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar — to people like Pratap Simha.

The ultimate irony is — the BJP leadership first expelled Basanagouda Patil Yatnal from the party for six years and refused to do so. Yatnal openly calls BJP state president B.Y. Vijayendra and former Chief Minister Shri B.S. Yediyurappa a "corrupt family". BJP and its candidate in the Bagalkot assembly, Shri Veeranna Charantimath, have now appointed Yatnal as their "star campaigner". The party, which has broken into a thousand pieces and cannot even fix its own house, is now insulting the backward classes, Scheduled Castes and minorities and their leaders, Chief Minister Shri Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

## TVK nominee gets bail in sexual abuse case

CHENNAI: The Madras High Court granted conditional anticipatory bail to Prakash alias Kutty, a TVK candidate from Poonamallee, in a sexual harassment case raised by a party colleague, on April 4. Youths surround Vijay's vehicle in Puducherry; police resort to mild lathi charge. A woman associated with the party's women's wing had filed a complaint alleging sexual harassment. Based on the complaint, Tiruvallur Town police registered a case under six sections, including charges of harassment, obscene speech and criminal intimidation. Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK)



Poonamallee candidate Prakash alias Kutty, a TVK candidate from Poonamallee, in a sexual harassment case raised by a party colleague, on April 4. Youths surround Vijay's vehicle in Puducherry; police resort to mild lathi charge. A woman associated with the party's women's wing had filed a complaint alleging sexual harassment. Based on the complaint, Tiruvallur Town police registered a case under six sections, including charges of harassment, obscene speech and criminal intimidation. Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK)

## 2026 TN ELECTIONS | 100-YEAR-OLD CASTS VOTE FROM HOME IN KARAİKAL

PUDUCHERRY: A 100-year-old voter cast his vote from home in Karaikal on April 3, as part of the Election Commission's home voting facility for senior citizens and persons with disabilities, officials said. 2026 TN elections | Actor-director Sundar C files nomination from Madurai Central. Rajagopal, a resident of Muppaithangudi in Thirunallar constituency, exercised his franchise at his residence in the pres-



ence of election officials and general observer Anoop Kinchi. The home voting initia-

tive, aimed at ensuring inclusive participation, was implemented across five constituencies. Nedungadu (SC), Thirunallar, Karaikal North, Karaikal South and Neravy-TR Pattinam. District Collector and District Election Officer Ishita Rathi flagged off the exercise at Arignar Anna Government Arts College campus, along with general observers Harshika Singh and Saritha Bal Om Prajapati. 2026 TN elections | FCRA Bill targets Christians; introduced during Easter to cause fear: DMK MP Wilson.

## Youths surround Vijay's vehicle in Puducherry; police resort to mild lathi charge



CHENNAI: Tension prevailed during actor-politician Vijay's campaign in Puducherry on Saturday after police resorted to a mild lathi charge to disperse youths who surrounded his vehicle, according to Daily Thanthi.

Vijay, who is campaigning in support of candidates contesting on behalf of the TVK, held a roadshow in Thattanchavadi. During the campaign, a large number of youths gathered and attempted to get close to his vehicle, leading to congestion and security concerns.

According to sources, the situation intensified during the roadshow from Kalapattu

to Thattanchavadi, where Vijay's campaign vehicle was surrounded by enthusiastic supporters and moved only inch by inch. Some youths were also seen dangerously trailing the vehicle on bikes.

As the crowd became difficult to control, police personnel on security duty carried out a light baton charge to disperse the youths and clear the crowd. The crowd was subsequently chased away, and Vijay's campaign continued. Earlier in the day, Vijay had left his residence in Panayur, Chennai, by road for Puducherry, with volunteers gathering along the route to catch a glimpse of him.

## Political tensions rise in Tamil Nadu as leaders trade sharp accusations

Chennai, Apr 4: A fresh round of political confrontation has unfolded in Tamil Nadu, with leaders from rival parties strongly criticising recent remarks made by Edappadi K. Palaniswami against Chief Minister M. K. Stalin.

Vaiko and M. Veerapandian accused the AIADMK chief of lowering the tone of political debate at a crucial time ahead of elections. They argued that such remarks divert attention from pressing public issues and undermine meaningful political engagement.

Vaiko launched a strong critique, alleging that Palaniswami's statements were driven by political motives rather than substantive concerns. He claimed that the AIADMK was attempting to regain its footing through personal attacks instead of focusing on policy matters. He also accused Palaniswami of aligning with the BJP under pressure, suggesting that central agencies had influenced his political stance.

Calling the comments against Stalin "malicious"



and "baseless," Vaiko cautioned that such rhetoric could trigger a significant political backlash. He defended Stalin's political career, highlighting his long-standing grassroots involvement in the DMK and his experience in key administrative roles.

Vaiko further referenced developments following the death of former Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi, noting that Stalin had to approach the courts to secure a burial site for his

father near the memorial of C. N. Annadurai. He alleged that permission had initially been denied by the government led by Palaniswami before judicial intervention allowed it. Echoing similar concerns, Veerapandian criticised what he described as an "opportunistic" alignment between the AIADMK and the BJP, attributing it to pressure from central investigative agencies like the Enforcement Directorate and the Central

Bureau of Investigation. He said such developments had weakened the party and shifted attention away from its internal issues. Veerapandian also condemned the personal nature of the allegations against Stalin, calling them inappropriate for a leader who previously held the office of Chief Minister. He urged Palaniswami to focus on constructive, issue-based discussions as the state heads toward an important electoral phase.

## MADRAS HIGH COURT QUASHES CASE AGAINST 46 PROTESTERS IN OOTY TAR PLANT ISSUE

CHENNAI: The Madras High Court has quashed the criminal proceedings initiated against 46 persons for allegedly staging a protest against a tar mixing plant near Ooty.



The case pertains to a protest held in 2023 at Devala village, near Panthalur in the Nilgiris district, where a tar mixing plant (PRCC) has been in operation. It was alleged that local residents were reporting higher rates of serious illnesses, such as cancer.

Residents of the locality had raised concerns over pollution caused by smoke and dust emissions from the plant and demanded its relocation. They alleged that the tar-mixing plant was the primary reason for such illnesses. In this regard, a group of local residents conducted a demonstration at Devala Bazaar.

Subsequently, the Devala Police registered a case against 46 individuals,

including Jameela, Shamma, Gopinathan, and Saleem, alleging that they had unlawfully assembled, conducted a protest, and caused public nuisance (offences under Sections 143 & 188 IPC).

Aggrieved by the registration of the case, all 46 accused approached the Madras High Court seeking to quash the proceedings pending before the Pandalar Court. Justice M. Nirmal Kumar, who heard the matter, relied on a precedent laid down by the Madurai Bench of the High Court, which held that initiating criminal proceedings against individuals for democratically expressing dissent against the government amounts to a violation of fundamental rights.

## Tamil Nadu: Four youths drown at Thalaiyuthu Falls near Oddanchatram; one still missing

CHENNAI: Four youths from Karur district drowned while bathing at the Thalaiyuthu Falls near Oddanchatram in Dindigul district on Friday evening, despite restrictions in place due to safety concerns. According to a Daily Thanthi report, a group of 11 friends from Pallapatti had entered the forest area near the falls. While bathing, four of them — identified as Adil, Saddam Hussain, Ayaz and Bayaz — were swept away and drowned. Rescue teams and police rushed to the spot and launched a search operation. Bodies of three youths have been recovered so far,



while efforts are on to trace the fourth person who remains missing. Officials said Thalaiyuthu Falls, located near Viruppachi, is fed by surplus water released from the Parappalaru dam. The area is known for dangerous whirlpools and deep pits, and bathing has been strictly prohibited following several past fatalities.

## A delicate balance of prevention and early intervention can prevent cardiovascular disease



New Delhi, May 6 (IANS/ife): Cardiovascular disease continues to be a major global health concern, with heart attacks and strokes ranking as leading causes of death worldwide. However, these conditions are not inevitable. Individuals can take proactive steps toward safeguarding their heart health with conscious lifestyle adjustments and medical interventions. Dr. Niranjan Hiremath, Senior Consultant Cardiac and Aortic Surgeon at Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, New Delhi, said, "Heart health is a delicate balance of prevention and early intervention. Small, consistent lifestyle changes can drastically reduce risk over time."

Check out the 12 essential heart health tips by Dr. Hiremath:

**Adopt a balanced diet:** A healthy diet is fundamental to maintaining a healthy heart. Aim for a balanced intake of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, and healthy fats. Avoid saturated fats, trans fats, and excessive sugars, which can contribute to obesity, high cholesterol, and other cardiovascular risks.

**Exercise regularly:** Regular physical activity is vital for a healthy heart. The American Heart Association recommends at least 150 minutes of moderate exercise or 75 minutes of vigorous exercise per week. Activities such as brisk walking, jogging, cycling, or swimming can boost cardiovascular fitness, strengthen the heart muscle, and improve circulation. Even light activities like gardening or taking the stairs can contribute to heart health by burning calories and reducing chole-

sterol levels. **Manage stress effectively:** Chronic stress has been shown to contribute to heart disease by raising blood pressure, causing unhealthy behaviours like overeating or smoking, and increasing inflammation in the body. Developing stress management techniques such as meditation, deep breathing exercises, or yoga can help to relax the mind and body. Engaging in hobbies or activities that bring joy, such as reading, painting, or spending time in nature, can also help mitigate stress levels.

**Monitor your blood pressure:** High blood pressure, or hypertension, is often called a "silent killer" because it may not present symptoms but significantly increases the risk of heart attacks and strokes. Regularly monitoring blood pressure at home or with a healthcare professional can help identify any issues early on. If necessary, medications and lifestyle changes such as a low-sodium diet, regular exercise, and stress management can help maintain healthy blood pressure levels.

**Get regular check-ups:** Routine medical check-ups are essential for catching potential heart issues early. Regular cholesterol screenings, ECGs, and other tests can help monitor cardiovascular health and identify issues before they escalate. Early detection allows for timely intervention, reducing the risk of more severe complications.

**Quit smoking:** Smoking is a major risk factor for heart disease, damaging blood vessels, raising blood pressure, and contributing to atherosclerosis. Quitting smoking is one of the most effective

steps one can take to improve heart health. Seek support from smoking cessation programs, counselling, or medication to aid in breaking the habit.

**Limit alcohol consumption:** Excessive alcohol consumption can raise blood pressure, increase triglyceride levels, and contribute to heart disease. The American Heart Association recommends a maximum of one drink per day for women and two drinks per day for men. Opting for non-alcoholic beverages, moderating consumption, or seeking support from health professionals can help reduce alcohol-related cardiovascular risks.

**Maintain a healthy weight:** Obesity is a significant risk factor for cardiovascular disease, high blood pressure, and diabetes. Maintaining a healthy weight through a balanced diet and regular exercise can significantly reduce these risks. For sustainable weight management, avoid crash diets and seek guidance from healthcare professionals or nutritionists to develop a plan tailored to your needs.

**Sleep well:** Lack of sleep has been linked to various health issues, including heart disease. Aim for 7-8 hours of quality sleep per night. Developing a consistent sleep routine, avoiding electronic devices before bed, and creating a relaxing bedtime environment can help improve sleep quality.

**Stay hydrated:** Dehydration can thicken the blood, increasing the risk of blood clots and heart strain. Ensure adequate hydration throughout the day, especially in hot weather or during exercise. The recommended daily intake varies depending on individual needs, but generally, adults should aim for 8-10 cups of water per day. Proper hydration helps maintain cardiovascular function and overall health.

**Control cholesterol levels:** High cholesterol contributes to plaque build-up in the arteries, increasing the risk of heart attacks and strokes. Regular cholesterol screenings can help monitor levels and catch any issues early. A diet rich in fiber and low in saturated fats, alongside regular exercise and medication, if necessary, can help maintain healthy cholesterol levels. Consult your healthcare professional for personalized advice on managing cholesterol.

**Manage diabetes:** Diabetes can increase the risk of cardiovascular disease by damaging blood vessels and nerves. Managing diabetes through diet, exercise, and medication can help reduce these risks. Regular monitoring of blood sugar levels and consulting a healthcare professional for comprehensive diabetes management is crucial for overall health. Taking proactive steps to care for your heart can drastically reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease. Dr. Niranjan Hiremath reiterates, "Preventive measures and lifestyle modifications play a crucial role in maintaining a healthy heart. It's important to take charge of your health before it takes charge of you."

## Anti-acidity medications linked to a high risk of migraine, says expert



New Delhi, May 6 (TSIT): Taking acid reflux medications may raise the risk of migraines in individuals already suffering from the debilitating headache, according to a top neurologist. Dr Sudhir Kumar from Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, said this, citing a recent study published in the journal Neurology Clinical Practice. Led by researchers from the University of Maryland in the US, the study showed that acid-reducing drugs, including proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) such as omeprazole and esomeprazole, histamine H2-receptor antagonists (H2RAs), H2 blockers such as cimetidine and famotidine, and antacid supplements, are linked to a higher risk of migraines and other severe headaches than people who do not take these medications.

"In people who are suffering from migraines or other severe headaches, and are taking PPIs or H2RAs for treating gastrointestinal symp-

oms, it may be worthwhile stopping these medicines to see if their headaches reduce," the doctor wrote in a post on X.

The study found that PPIs use was associated with a 70 per cent higher risk of migraines and other headaches, while H2RAs use was associated with a 40 per cent higher risk.

"It is possible that these observed associations are related to comorbidity between gastrointestinal (GI) conditions and migraine disease and symptoms, Dr Sudhir explained.

He noted that several studies have observed associations between the presence of migraine and GI conditions, including Helicobacter pylori infection, irritable bowel syndrome, celiac disease, peptic ulcers, gastro-paresis, and GERD.

"New cases of migraine have been noted after starting PPI/H2RA therapy. Therefore, further studies are needed to establish the cause-effect relationship," Dr Sudhir said.

# Faced with new energy shock, World asks if reviving nuclear is the answer

With a pit in their stomachs, families and industries across Europe are watching gas prices and the cost of filling vehicles with petrol spiral. While the UK government has told voters pretty much to keep calm and carry on, the European Commission - the EU's executive arm - has called on people to work more from home and to travel a lot less. Policymakers warn things could get much worse - depending on what happens next in the Middle East. Yet it feels like only yesterday that Europeans faced a cost-of-living crisis on the back of spiralling energy costs and inflation following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. This means conversations in Europe are turning (again) to the issue of energy independence. And nuclear energy seems to be back in fashion as part of a home-grown European energy mix - in the UK as well as the EU. But how quick a fix can nuclear be - and how safe and reliable is it really? At the recent European Nuclear Energy Summit in Paris, European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen, who perhaps forgot she was a minister in the German government



when it took the decision to phase out nuclear power plants in 2011, described Europe broadly turning its back on nuclear as a "strategic mistake". In 1990, Europe produced around a third of its electricity from nuclear power. That has now fallen to an average of 15%, leaving the continent "completely dependent on expensive and volatile imports" of fossil fuels, she said, putting Europe at a disadvantage compared with other regions of the world. Europe imports more than 50% of its energy. Mainly oil and gas. This leaves the continent vulnerable to unexpected reduc-

tions in supply, as was the case with Russia after Europe imposed energy export sanctions, or price increases on the global market, as we are now seeing because of Iran's strangling of energy exports via the Strait of Hormuz. Gas prices rise at a similar rate across Europe but the impact on electricity prices varies depending on each country's energy mix. In Spain - which has invested heavily in wind and solar power - the average electricity price for the rest of 2026 is forecast at around half of Italy's, where gas sets the electricity price 90% of the time. France is Europe's

largest nuclear producer. It generates about 65% of its electricity from nuclear power. Based on future contracts, German electricity prices for next month are five times those of France - an eye-watering contrast. Germany phased out nuclear power following the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster in Japan. This left the energy-hungry industries that traditionally power the German economy - cars and chemicals - hugely gas-dependent. This week, Berlin's top economic research institutes more than halved their growth forecasts for 2026 to a predicted 0.6% of GDP because

of global price hikes for gas. A renewed enthusiasm for nuclear power is palpable in Europe: Italy is preparing draft laws to repeal its longstanding ban Belgium seems to be making a complete U-turn after years of reluctance about investing in nuclear energy Greece, historically cautious because of seismic concerns, has opened a public debate on advanced reactor designs Sweden reversed a four-decade old decision to abandon nuclear technology In the UK, Chancellor Rachel Reeves recently announced streamlining regulation to help advance nuclear projects. "To build national resilience, drive energy security and deliver economic growth, we need nuclear," said Reeves. New polling from YouGov suggests growing support for nuclear energy in Scotland, with the majority of people now backing it as part of the country's energy supply. No prizes for guessing that France is the loudest nuclear cheerleader. President Emmanuel Macron is ever eager to point to the industry's credentials as a low carbon-emitter, potentially helping the EU towards its net zero goals.

# Trump seeks \$1.5tn for defence alongside domestic spending cuts



The White House is asking Congress to boost the US defence budget to \$1.5tn (£1.1tn), a sweeping rise that would mark the largest expansion in military spending since World War Two. It includes funding for the Trump administration's proposed Golden Dome missile defence system, as well as a boost in domestic production of naval vessels, including new Trump-class battle-ships. The administration said it would pair the proposed increase with a call for cuts across domestic agencies, including eliminating some climate, housing and education programmes. The request, which will need to be approved by the US

Congress, is separate from the \$200bn that the Pentagon has sought for the war in Iran. A summary of the budget posted online notes that the cuts will be achieved by "reducing or eliminating woke, weaponised and wasteful programmes, and by returning local responsibilities to their respective governments". US President Donald Trump has long signalled a desire to increase the defence budget and boost domestic defence manufacturing. At a private event at the White House earlier this week - which was caught on camera - Trump said that military spending should be a national priority going forward. "It's not

possible for us to take care of daycare, Medicaid, Medicare, all of these individual things, they can do it on a state basis," the president said, adding that the focus should be on "military protection". Non-defence spending in the proposed budget has fallen by 10%, or about \$73bn. Trump's proposed budget would mark a 42% increase over the previous fiscal year, totalling \$445bn. Of the total, approximately \$1.1tn would be in discretionary spending for the Pentagon, the highest on record. Another \$350bn - specifically for the industrial defence base - would come from a process known as budget reconciliation.

# How Canada's largest gun control effort in decades is missing the mark

Heidi Rathjen has been calling for a ban on assault-style rifles since 1989, when a gunman opened fire on her classmates at Montreal's École Polytechnique. The shooting, in which 14 women were killed and more than a dozen injured, was a turning point for Canada, changing how the country viewed gun violence. More than two decades later, after another deadly mass shooting in 2020, Ottawa did roll out a ban on some 2,500 models of such "assault-style" weapons. But a scheme designed to buy back these now-prohibited guns from their owners has had a bumpy roll out, and the programme looks likely to miss the mark. Many legal gun owners are distrustful of the process, two provinces have refused to take part, and even gun control activists like Rathjen say the federal efforts, though a win for public safety, are flawed because the ban does not apply widely enough. "Without a com-



prehensive ban on assault weapons, there is no ban... and the money will be wasted," said Rathjen, a spokesperson for gun control advocacy group PolySeSouvient. Even Canada's own minister of public safety, Gary Anandasangaree, was caught criticising his government's plan in an audio clip leaked to the Toronto Star. "Don't ask me to

explain the logic to you on this," he told a Toronto man in a secretly recorded conversation late last year, when pressed on programme's value when most gun crimes in Canada are committed with illegal weapons. Anandasangaree later said his comments were "misguided", and that he believes in the programme's importance. So why is Canada struggling

with a measure that saw success in places like Australia - where 650,000 firearms were bought back and destroyed after the Port Arthur massacre in 1996, according to figures by the Australian government - and New Zealand, which collected around 56,000 firearms after the Christchurch mosque shooting in 2019? Joel Negin, a professor of public health at the University of Sydney, said Australia's measures in 1996 largely worked because they were part of a broad suite of measures implemented "very quickly" after the massacre. Australia's programme was also well-funded thanks to a short-term levy that was placed on taxpayers, he noted. "The situation in Canada is that the gun buy-back has been proposed, but it's not necessarily linked closely to other interventions," Negin said, adding its roll out, along with other gun-related laws after the 2020 Nova Scotia mass shooting, has been fragmented.

# Power-washing, pool-cleaning and mowing: Why millions are playing games about mundane jobs

PowerWash Simulator sees players don their cleaning gear and hose down a variety of filthy in-game locations until they're sparkling and spotless. While it may seem like an unusual premise, the original game from 2021 has sold more than 17 million copies. The sequel, released in 2025, has just been nominated for two Bafta Games Awards. Both fall under the category of "mundane job simulations", an ever-growing gaming genre in which people carry out routine and - on the face of it - not very exciting tasks. "We want to make the Graham Norton of video games," says Kirsty Rigden, the chief executive of Brighton-based FuturLab, which makes PowerWash Simulator. Aspiring to emulate a talkshow host who has a reputation for being affable rather than for setting pulses racing is perhaps an unusual ambition for a gaming studio. But she says there is a big market for lower-octane entertainment. "Graham Norton doesn't make you feel stupid, but you also don't have to think too hard," Rigden told BBC



News. "It engages the right amount of brain and at the end of it you go, 'Oh, that was really pleasant.'" One of the core characteristics of the simulation genre is its soothingly repetitive jobs. In PowerWash Simulator's case that means cleaning through one mucky area - say, a fun house or a roller disco - after another; quite literally rinse and repeat. "I think it's really struck a chord with how people are feeling in the world right now - the world is in quite a stressful place," Rigden said. "With the game you are able to focus in on one thing, which kind of blocks all the

other distractions out - it's a pure form of meditation." The initial idea came from a personal interest Rigden had in watching YouTube videos of people power washing and the "simplicity of seeing dirt turn to cleanliness". Social media is awash with influencers - some with hundreds of thousands of followers - making content about cleaning or clearing up, and FuturLab's series is not the only simulator to have tapped into the trend. In Lawn Mowing Simulator players "experience the beauty and detail of mowing the Great British countryside" by running a lawn care

business, using "real-world licensed lawnmowers". A sequel, promising to take players to the "trailer parks and town hall gardens" of America, is currently in the works. David Harper, managing director and founder of Liverpool-based developers Skyhook Games said players often use the game as an "escape" from the pressures of everyday life. "It's basically about the satisfaction of starting with something untidy, learning the skills to bring order to the scene, then looking back at a job well done," he said. The relaxed nature of mundane job simulators has made them a particular hit with YouTube and Twitch streamers, who can strike up a conversation with viewers without needing to pay too much attention to the game. A video of US creator Markiplier playing PowerWash Simulator from 2021 now has more than nine million views. Comedian and games journalist Ellie Gibson started streaming the game to her Twitch community after a friend recommended she try it.

# 18,000 building, land permits granted through 'BuildNow' portal in Hyderabad



Hyderabad: A total of 17,957 building and layout permissions were granted by the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) through the "BuildNow" portal in the 2025-26 financial year. During this period, 2,427 occupancy certificates were also issued. Out of the total 15,536 building permissions granted, 12,014 were issued under the instant approval category, 2,515 under the single-window system and 972 under

instant registration. Revenue generated through building permissions and occupancy certificates amounted to Rs 1,172.08 crore, marking an increase compared to Rs 1,138.44 crore collected in the previous year. Out of the revenue generated, the Cyberabad Municipal Corporation (CMC) collected Rs 538.09 crore, the GHMC collected Rs 436.47 crore and the Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation (MMC) collected Rs 198.24

crore. The "Build Now" portal was officially launched by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy in March 2025. The applications were scrutinized and permissions were subsequently granted under three distinct mechanisms called instant registration, instant approval and the single-window system. The GHMC stated that the permissions process has been accelerated and transparency has increased through the BuildNow portal.

# X<sup>3</sup> Tech Fest 2026 Celebrates Student-Led Innovation at SRM University-AP, Amaravati

The spirit of innovation lit up the APJ Abdul Kalam Auditorium as students took centre stage to bring X<sup>3</sup> Tech Fest 2026 to life - a three-day celebration of technology, collaboration, and ambition organised by the AWS Cloud Club at SRM University-AP, Amaravati. The inaugural ceremony began with the traditional lamp lighting, setting the tone for a journey driven not just by technology, but by student leadership and shared vision. What followed was more than a formal event - it was a story of students building something meaningful together. With over 200 participants forming 40 teams from across Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and beyond, the fest unfolded as a vibrant platform where ideas met execution. Designed as a continuous hackathon blended with workshops, developer talks, robotics sessions, live prototype demonstrations, and a tech expo, the event offered a prize pool of



₹3,00,000 - fueling both competition and creativity. At the heart of this initiative stood Arpan Pramanik, Cloud Club Captain, whose opening address captured the essence of X<sup>3</sup> as a unified platform for innovation and collaboration. He emphasised how the fest aimed to foster creativity, meaningful connections, and real-world problem-solving among participants. Supporting this vision was

Avantika Singh, a student volunteer, along with a dedicated team of student organisers, and Naman Parichha, an MBA student, reflecting a truly interdisciplinary effort. Guiding the student-led initiative, Mr Ajay Kumar Sahu, Faculty Advisor to the AWS Cloud Club and Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, welcomed participants and

highlighted the fest's focus on Artificial Intelligence and Robotics. He underscored how such platforms empower students to learn, create, and grow beyond classrooms. The event was graced by Mr Chand Gudi, CEO of Vybotics, as Chief Guest, who inspired participants with insights into entrepreneurship, robotics, and accessing global funding opportunities. In his inaugu-

ral address, Prof. Ch. Satish Kumar, Vice Chancellor, appreciated the evolution of hackathons into holistic learning ecosystems that combine competition with knowledge exchange and industry exposure. He encouraged students to think beyond conventional boundaries and embrace emerging technologies, while also highlighting the university's ongoing technological transformations. Adding to the occasion, Mr Pankaj Belwariar, Director-Communications, urged students to explore not just the campus but their own potential, aligning with the ethos of "explore, exhibit, and evolve." The presence of Prof. C. V. Tomy, Dean, School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, further strengthened the academic support behind the initiative. More than just a fest, X<sup>3</sup> Tech Fest 2026 stands as a testament to what student communities can achieve when given ownership.

# Bahrain says it has intercepted more than 450 drones since war began

Trump is threatening to rain down "hell" on Iran if it doesn't "make a deal" or open the Strait of Hormuz within 48 hours. He's given many deadlines during the war, with this latest threat matching the 10-day pause in attacks on energy infrastructure he announced on 27 March. Here's a timeline: 21 March: Trump said he would "hit and obliterate [Iran's] various power plants, starting with the biggest ones first" if Iran didn't reopen the Strait of Hormuz within 48 hours 23 March: He then said the two countries had had "very good and productive conversations" and said he would postpone any and all military strikes against energy infrastructure for five days 27 March: Trump said he would pause attacking Iranian energy plants for 10 days, in response to what he called a request from the Iranian government, bringing the deadline to 6 April



Today: He repeats his 27 March deadline, telling Iran it has 48 hours before "all Hell will reign down on them" US President Donald Trump says Iran has 48 hours to "make a deal" or open the Strait of Hormuz before "Hell will reign [sic] down on them". In a post on Truth Social, he writes: "Remember when I gave Iran ten days to MAKE A DEAL or OPEN UP THE

HORMUZ STRAIT. Time is running out. "48 hours before all Hell will reign down on them. Glory be to GOD! President DONALD J. TRUMP." On 27 March, Trump announced he was pausing any attack on Iranian energy plants for 10 days from then. In another post a moment earlier, mostly talking about the benefits tariffs have brought the US economy, he signed off with:

"All of this and, simultaneously, getting rid of a Nuclear Iran. MAGA!!!!" Iran's top joint military command has credited new Iranian air defence systems with the downing of two US warplanes on Friday, according to Iran's state-affiliated IRNA news agency. Iran is claiming to have shot down two US warplanes - one F-15E flying over the southwest of the

country and a second plane - an A-10 Warthog - involved in a mission to rescue the F-15's crew. Spokesperson Ebrahim Zolfaghari says Friday was a "humiliation" for the US and Israel, crediting new "domestically-produced" air defence systems, reports IRNA. He adds that Iran will "surely achieve full control of our country's skies" as these new systems are rolled out "one after another". US Central Command has not confirmed the details surrounding the downing of any aircraft. The search for a missing US airman after a warplane was shot down in southern Iran has continued into its second day. Here's the latest. Search operation continues US and Iranian forces are both searching for the missing weapon systems officer, after a US F-15E was downed in southern Iran. Iranian officials are offering rewards of about £50,000

(\$66,100), state media reports. US media says an A-10 Warthog was shot at during the rescue mission, with the pilot reportedly ejected over the Gulf before being rescued. BBC Verify has mapped what we know based on video footage. Stakes raised for US This moment is fraught with risk and political peril, our chief international correspondent writes. If the airman is taken hostage and images circulated, it will be a propaganda victory for Iran, she adds. Strikes across region Meanwhile, strikes have continued. Iran says the area around the Bushehr nuclear power plant has been attacked and one person killed - it is the fourth time the site has been hit during the war. It also says a major petrochemical complex was targeted. Videos show overnight Iranian strikes on the Israeli city of Bnei Brak, and Israeli strikes on Beirut.

## FOOTBALL RALLY IN PERU LEAVES ONE DEAD AND DOZENS INJURED



An incident ahead of a local football derby in the Peruvian capital Lima has left one fan dead and dozens injured. Officials are investigating the cause. Initial reports suggested parts of the stadium's wall and structure had collapsed, which has since been disputed. Confirming the death, Peruvian Health Minister Juan Carlos Velasco Guerrero told media at a Lima hospital that 47 people were hurt - three of whom are in a critical condition. Hundreds had gathered around Alejandro Villanueva Stadium wearing football shirts and waving flags of the home team, Alianza Lima, ahead of a

match against local rivals Universitario de Deportes. Fire Chief Marcos Pajuelo told reporters that the structure of the southern stands appeared to be in good condition. "There are no collapsed walls or sections fallen into the pit," Pajuelo said. Saturday night's match will still go ahead as planned, the football league said. Earlier, the interior ministry published on X that 40 firefighters responded to an emergency at the stadium "involving people trapped in a structure". However, Alianza Lima later published a statement, also on X, that said: "According to the preliminary information available.

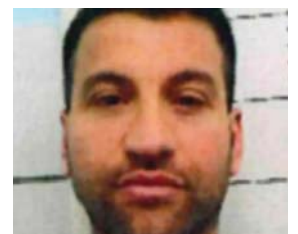
## TRUMP SEEKS \$152M TO REOPEN NOTORIOUS ALCATRAZ PRISON



US President Donald Trump is seeking \$152m (£115m) to reopen the infamous Alcatraz prison as part of his proposed budget for the 2027 fiscal year. Located near San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge, the site, also known as The Rock, was once regarded as one of America's most notorious prisons, but has served as a tourist attraction in recent years. The budget request is seeking money "to rebuild Alcatraz as a state-of-the-art secure prison facility", with funds covering the first year of costs. The plan has been met with scepticism by a number of politicians in California, with questions raised about the final cost of the project and the challenges of running Alcatraz as an active prison. The maximum security facility was closed in 1963. As a tourist site, it is currently run by the National Park Service. Former speaker for the US House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi, said the budget proposal from the Trump administration was "absurd on its face and should be rejected outright". "Rebuilding Alcatraz into a modern prison is a stupid notion that would be nothing more than a waste of tax-

payer dollars and an insult to the intelligence of the American people." The request will need to be approved by the US Congress. Previous criticism of Trump's plan has pointed to the lack of running water and sewage on the island, and the fact all supplies are required to be brought in by boat. By the time Alcatraz closed, it was three times more expensive to operate than any other federal prison, according to the US Bureau of Prisons. Pelosi also raised a concern echoed by other San Francisco politicians, that turning Alcatraz back into a functioning prison would mean the loss of an iconic landmark. According to the National Park Service, the facility currently brings in \$60m (£45m) in revenue as an attraction. Money being sought to reopen the prison as an active facility is part of a \$1.7bn (£1.3bn) investment into the Bureau of Prisons. Announcing his plans on Truth Social last year, Trump said was directing "the Bureau of Prisons, together with the Department of Justice, FBI, and Homeland Security, to reopen a substantially enlarged and rebuilt ALCATRAZ".

## FUGITIVE MAFIA BOSS WANTED FOR MURDER ARRESTED IN AMALFI COAST LUXURY VILLA



A mafia boss wanted for murder has been arrested at a luxury villa on the Amalfi Coast after more than a year on the run, Italian police have said. In a statement, Italy's Carabinieri military police force said Roberto Mazzarella had escaped last January when he was supposed to have been arrested on murder charges. The 48-year-old, arrested in the town of Vietri sul Mare, is considered a powerful figure within the Camorra

organised crime group in Naples, and is listed as one of Italy's most dangerous fugitives. Police said Mazzarella was with his wife and two children at the time of his arrest, and did not resist arrest. The Mazzarella clan is famed for its involvement in counterfeiting in Naples, which has long been associated with banknote forgery. A number of patrol boats were also involved in the arrest, positioning themselves off the coast. Footage of the arrest was released by the Carabinieri, showing heavily armed officers entering the villa. Police last month detained 16 people allegedly linked to the Mazzarella clan on charges of cyber fraud.

## Rescue team in Iran face 'harrowing and dangerous' search for US crew member

Early reports indicate that the pilot of a US F-15 fighter aircraft downed over Iran was rescued - which, if confirmed, would be the latest in the long history of US combat search-and-rescue missions over decades. The search operation is ongoing deep inside Iran for a second crew member, according to CBS, the BBC's US partner. Combat search and rescue (CSAR) missions are considered among the most complex, time-sensitive operations that US and allied militaries prepare for. In the US, elite units of the air force are specially trained for CSAR missions and are often pre-emptively deployed near conflict areas where aircraft could be lost. What is Combat Search and Rescue? Put simply, CSAR missions are military operations aimed at find-

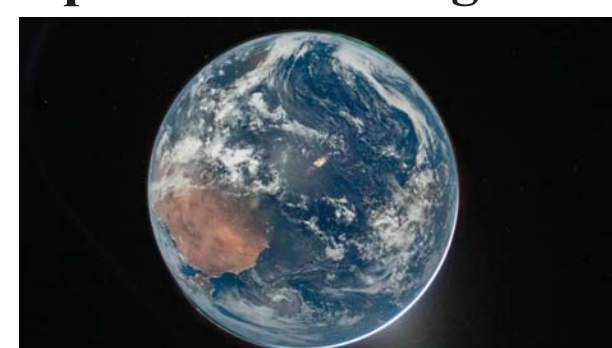


ing, aiding and potentially rescuing personnel in need, including downed pilots and isolated troops. In contrast to conventional search-and-rescue efforts - which could take place during humanitarian operations or after disasters - CSAR missions occur in hostile or contested environments. In some cases - as in Friday's reported recovery effort in Iran - the operations may happen deep in enemy

territory. CSAR missions are often conducted by helicopters, with refuelling aircraft in support and other military aircraft on hand to conduct strikes and patrol the area. A former commander of a pararescue jumpers squadron told CBS News that a rescue operation like the reported one in Iran would involve at least 24 pararescue jumpers scouring the area in Black Hawk helicopters. They added the team would be prepared to jump from planes if needed, and once on the ground their priority would be to contact the missing crew member. Upon locating them, the pararescue jumpers would deliver medical aid if necessary, evade the enemy and get to a place where they can be rescued, according to CBS News. "Harrowing and massively dangerous is an understatement," the former commander told CBS News. They added: "This is what they train to do, all over the world. They are known as the Swiss Army knives of the Air Force." Verified video that emerged from Iran on Friday appeared to show US military helicopters and at least one refuelling aircraft operating over Iran's Khuzestan province.

## Artemis II crew now halfway to Moon as they take 'spectacular' image of Earth

Nasa has shared the first high-resolution images of the Earth taken by the Artemis II crew as they pass the halfway point between the Earth and the Moon. The mission's commander, Reid Wiseman, took the "spectacular" images, Nasa says, after the crew completed a final engine burn that set them on a trajectory towards our closest celestial neighbour. At about 07:00 BST, Nasa's online dashboard showed the Orion spacecraft was now 142,000 miles (228,500 km) from Earth, and 132,000 miles from the Moon. Astronaut Christina Koch said the crew had a collective "expression of joy" upon

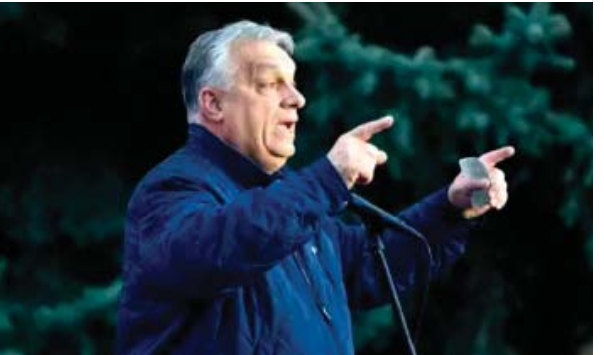


being told of the milestone, which was hit around two days, five hours and 24 minutes after blast off. The first image, called Hello, World, shows the vast expanse of blue that is the Atlantic Ocean, framed by a glow of the atmosphere as the Earth eclipses the Sun and green

auroras at either pole. The Earth appears upside down, with the western Sahara and Iberian peninsula visible to the left and the eastern portion of South America to the right. Nasa identified the bright planet to the bottom right as Venus. The images were taken after the crew

successfully completed a trans-lunar injection burn in the early hours of Friday. The burn took the Orion spacecraft out of Earth orbit as the four astronauts aboard aim to travel the more than 200,000 miles to the Moon. Artemis II is now on a looping path that will carry the crew around the far side of the Moon and back again. It is the first time since 1972 that humans have travelled outside of the Earth's orbit. The spacecraft blasted off from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, and the crew should pass around the far side of the Moon on 6 April and return to Earth on 10 April with a splashdown in the Pacific Ocean.

## After 16 years in power, could Viktor Orban finally be unseated?



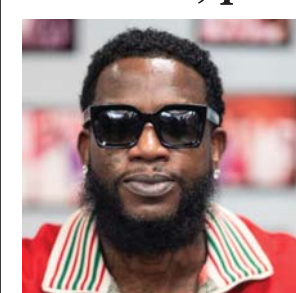
"All they stand for is anger, hatred, and destruction," roared a hoarse Viktor Orban. The Hungarian prime minister was speaking at a mass election rally in Győr in western Hungary on 27 March, referring to opposition protesters who chanted "Filthy Fidesz" during his speech. For just a moment, his carefully cultivated image as the voice of calm navigating his country through stormy seas was shattered. His bad-tempered outburst showed a different side of a man used to cracking jokes and charming even his critics. Most opinion polls put the opposition Tiszta party and its leader Peter Magyar far ahead of Orban's Fidesz - the latest by 58% to Orban's 35%. And he is doing everything he can to close the gap. After 16 years of virtually unchallenged rule, Orban has been forced to take to the road again. In the past three elections, he gave few rallies. Now Europe's longest-serving leader is trying to mobilise his supporters and reach the undecided. He has just a week left to rescue his government, and the international populist move-

ment he embodies, from a crushing defeat. In power since 2010, Orban has had the support of both US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin. He has long been a thorn in the side of the EU - and one of the few EU leaders not supportive on Ukraine. For Europe's growing band of nationalist parties, in power or on the brink of it, he is the model. The 12 April Hungarian parliamentary election is being watched closely all over the world. "We can notice a big change in public perception," said Endre Hann of the Median agency, a public-opinion research firm. In January, 44% of those asked said they thought Fidesz would win, compared with 37% for Tiszta. By March, 47% believed Tiszta would win, while 35% believed Fidesz would. "This reflects a huge change of trust. People believe that it can be changed," he says. An intriguing dynamic is playing out in this election - the same voter anger against those seen as "corrupt ruling elites" across Europe, is now working against him.



Russian attack on Ukraine market kills five

## Rapper Gucci Mane kidnapped and robbed by fellow artist, prosecutors say



Rapper Gucci Mane was allegedly kidnapped at gunpoint in Dallas earlier this year, leading to the arrests of eight men, including a fellow artist signed to his label, officials say. Prosecutors allege rapper Pooh Shiesty, born Lontrell Williams Jr, led the ambush under the guise of a meeting, holding

Mane captive inside a recording studio and forcing him to sign papers releasing him from his contract. Mane is an Atlanta-based artist who has collaborated with Usher, Doja Cat, Drake and other stars. He founded his label, 1017 Records, in 2007 and Williams Jr signed as an artist in 2020. The defendants, who are yet to enter their pleas, could face life in prison if convicted. Eight of the nine defendants were arrested on Wednesday in Dallas, Memphis and Nashville, and charged in federal court with kidnapping and armed robbery.



# Virat Kohli Breaks Silence On Being Called "Overseas Player"

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) stalwart Virat Kohli doesn't need many reasons to become a topic of intense chatter on social media. Even though he only plays one format for the Indian national team at present, fans find a way to drag him to a conversation, even when he has not been active for weeks. Kohli, who spends most of his time with wife Anushka Sharma and his children in London, has unfortunately seen even his move to England questioned by many. Already making his bat do the talking for RCB in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL), Kohli was asked about the joke "RCB playing 5 overseas players this season". His reaction said it all. The joke stems from the fact that no franchise is allowed to field more than 4 overseas players in the team. With Kohli now spending most of his time in England,



fans often joke that he is also an 'overseas player'. When asked about his take on this joke by Mr. Nags in a video shared by RCB on social media, Kohli was left in splits. As the host said, "I am not understanding what they are asking actually"

Kohli responded: "I don't know why are you asking me? Ask the overseas players. I am not an overseas player". He further asked the host if he thinks he is an overseas player. "Am I an overseas player?" Kohli asked. The host replied,

"no". Kohli commenced the IPL 2026 season in imperious form, reinforcing his reputation as the "Chasemaster" during the tournament opener against Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH). Chasing a target of 202 at the M. Chinnaswamy

Stadium in Bengaluru, Kohli anchored the innings with a brilliant unbeaten 69 off 38 balls, striking five boundaries and five sixes. His clinical performance guided the Bengaluru side to the fastest 200-plus chase in IPL history, completing the task in just 15.4 overs. Other than the match-winning impact, this season has already seen Kohli reach multiple milestones. During his opening knock, he surpassed Shoaib Malik to become the Asian cricketer with the most T20 runs. He also became the first player in IPL history to accumulate over 4,000 runs specifically in run chases. Kohli, opening the innings for RCB, appears primed to challenge his own record-breaking legacy as he eyes the 9,000-run mark in IPL history and further consolidates his legendary status at his home ground in Bengaluru.

## Mumbai's Stasya Pandya Clinches Dual Team Medals at Delhi Horse Show 2026

Rising equestrian talent Stasya Pandya from Mumbai delivered an outstanding performance at the Delhi Horse Show 2026, securing two team medals in the prestigious Young Champion category. Competing against a field of over 200 equestrians across multiple categories, Stasya demonstrated exceptional skill across disciplines. In Dressage, she rode Consul, earning a Team Silver medal with a composed and technically refined performance. Building on this success, she went on to secure a Team Bronze medal in Show Jumping astride Cougar De Fees. Navigating a challenging course of 12 jumps set at a height of 1.10 metres, Stasya showcased precision, control, and competitive grit. The event, held at the Army Polo and Riding Club, Brar Square, Delhi Cantt, from March 25 to April 5, 2026, is regarded as one of India's premier equestrian competitions. Training at the Amateur Riders' Club under the guidance of coach Bobin Tshering, Stasya's



performance reflects her consistent dedication and disciplined training. Speaking on her achievement, Stasya Pandya said, "The Delhi Horse Show is one of the most competitive platforms in the country, and I'm really proud to have contributed to the team results in both Dressage and Show Jumping. Riding Consul and Cougar De Fees was an incredible experience, and I'm grateful for the trust and partnership I share with both horses." Her

coach, Bobin Tshering, added, "Stasya has shown tremendous growth as a rider. Her ability to stay composed under pressure and adapt across disciplines is commendable. These results are a reflection of her hard work and commitment, and this is just the beginning for her." Stasya's dual podium finishes mark a significant milestone in her equestrian journey, reinforcing her position as a promising young talent in India's competitive equestrian circuit.

## PAT CUMMINS LEAVES SRH CAMP AND RETURNS TO AUSTRALIA

Will will IPL 2026 see Pat Cummins? The designated skipper of Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) in the Indian Premier League, has left the camp and returned to Australia to undergo a final scan on his back injury, according to ESPNcricinfo. Cummins' scan is a planned procedure to be carried out under the supervision of Cricket Australia (CA), the report added. Cummins left India after Sunrisers Hyderabad's most recent match against Kolkata Knight Riders in Kolkata on Thursday. He is expected to rejoin the squad on April 17, subject to clearance from CA. Cummins, who has been largely inactive since July last year-



apart from featuring in a single Ashes Test in Adelaide, earlier said that he has resumed bowling in the nets and is gradually building up his workload as part of a structured rehabilitation plan. Speaking on the Business of Sport podcast, as quoted by ESPNcricinfo,

Cummins said, "I'm still recovering from a back injury, but it's good. I'm back bowling in the nets." The fast bowler has acknowledged that he is set to miss the initial phase of the IPL but remained optimistic about making a timely comeback. "The IPL is starting

soon. I won't make the start of that, but it shouldn't be too long before I'm back out there playing," Cummins said. In Cummins' absence, Indian wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan is leading SRH during the 2026 season. SRH began their IPL 2026 campaign on a poor note, suffering a six-wicket defeat against Royal Challengers Bengaluru in their campaign opener, but bounced back strongly in their second game, defeating Kolkata Knight Riders by 65 runs at Eden Gardens. SRH will next face Lucknow Super Giants in their third match of IPL 2026 at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium on April 5.

## "Shreyas Iyer Was No.1": Ricky Ponting On How PBKS' Auction Masterstroke Built An Ideal Team

Punjab Kings, a franchise that often pressed the reset button in the Indian Premier League auctions, finally seems to have found a squad that it can bank upon. With head coach Ricky Ponting at the helm, the Punjab Kings went all the way to the final last year and have gone unbeaten in the first couple of games this season. The shift in the Punjab Kings' fortunes, as visible through, under the guidance of Ponting, has been built over a high-calibre Indian spine over the traditional reliance on overseas superstars. By making skipper Shreyas Iyer the focal point of their auction strategy and surrounding him with the proven international pedigree of Arshdeep Singh and Yuzvendra Chahal, Punjab



have insulated themselves against the unpredictability of the IPL. During a chat on JioHotstar, Ponting opened up on how retaining just two players before the IPL 2025 mega auction allowed him the opportunity to work with the players of his choice, with the No. 1 choice being Iyer. "The toss went our way again, and we were

really keen to chase on that pitch. It looked like a better of a wicket with a little bit of grass on it, something that we're not used to seeing in Chennai," Ponting said on the victory against the Chennai Super Kings. PBKS raised a few eyebrows by retaining just two players - Shashank Singh and Prabhshimran Singh - in

ahead of the mega auction. But, Ponting said that is exactly what he wanted. "Some of our young Indian talent, the guys at the top of the order, are pretty special. To build some of those Aussie guys around them, we had a really clear strategy going into the auction last year about trying to rebuild this whole team from the bottom up, and change and be different as a franchise. By just keeping Prabhshimran and Shashank, it gave us an opportunity for me to pick the guys that I wanted to work with. Shreyas was obviously number one on the list. But it was really important to get the highest-quality Indian players into our team with Arshdeep and Yuzi. So far, so good.

## Yuvraj Singh Namedrops Virat Kohli, Questions Shubman Gill's T20 World Cup Axe

Former Indian cricket team all-rounder Yuvraj Singh gave his honest verdict on Shubman Gill not getting selected for the T20 World Cup 2026 despite being the captain in Tests and ODIs. Gill was excluded from the squad, with Ishan Kishan, Sanju Samson and Abhishek Sharma getting selected as the openers. While Gill performed well in red-ball cricket, his performances in white-ball cricket were not as good, and the team management decided to go with a wicketkeeper-batter who can bat at the top of the innings instead of the star batter. Yuvraj said that it is extremely difficult for any batter to perform consistently in all three formats and pointed out that it is a "tough call" to exclude someone who has played in T20s for India



for the entire year. "To perform consistently in all three formats is very difficult and also to remain as captain." "Virat Kohli is the only player in the last generation who has performed consistently in all three formats and has also been a successful captain. In between, we had Rohit Sharma also. But I feel

if you have put someone in the T20i team and he has played in that format the entire year and then in the last moment, he doesn't make the team because of performances, then that's a tough call". Yuvraj said in conversation with Sports Tak. Yuvraj also called for greater clarity over the futures of senior batters Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli as the team begins shaping its plans for the 2027 ODI World Cup, which will be played in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia. Both Rohit and Kohli have stepped away from Test and T20i, but the veteran duo remain integral to India's 50-over setup. However, their long-term roles continue to be a subject of discussion amid an ongoing transition phase in the national side.

## With MS Dhoni Out, CSK Coach Says: "Don't Think There's A Thing Called Finishers"

With MS Dhoni missing the first couple of games of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 season, the Chennai Super Kings have lacked the 'finisher' that can take them to bigger totals. Dhoni, who developed a reputation of being one of the finest finishers in the game, isn't someone around whom CSK's season can be built. In fact, head coach Stephen Fleming doesn't even think the traditional 'finisher's role' exists in modern T20 cricket anymore. He cited the shift towards all-out aggression from the outset, but expressed confidence in his side's resources. CSK have overhauled their squad, with the batting unit dominated by top-order specialists, leaving gaps in the middle and lower order, particularly in the finisher's role.



"Look, I don't think there is a thing called finishers anymore. It's right from ball one, everyone is going at a rate of knots. It's not build up to the 16th over and then go harder. Everyone's going hard from ball one," Fleming told reporters after CSK's five wicket loss to Punjab Kings. "So, the run rates of 10, 11, 12 all the way through are what's expected, and you're not really getting the big

peaks towards the end. It's just a more aggressive approach to get to 40. So, you actually have to have players all the way through that are going to be aggressive, and that's certainly the team that we've got. "Keep in mind, we've got Brevis on the sideline, and we've got one of the best finishers in MS who's injured, so there's some power there, but Brevis through the middle.

## 'SHELL OF A FIGHTER' - CHISORA V WILDER PREDICTIONS



Heavyweights Derek Chisora and Deontay Wilder will reach a combined 100 professional fights when they meet at London's O2 Arena on Saturday. British veteran Chisora, 42, made his professional debut in 2007 and has recorded 36 wins and 13 defeats.

Former world heavyweight champion Wilder, 40, was once considered the most feared puncher in boxing. However, he has lost four of his last six bouts, leaving his record at 44-4-1. Chisora says this will be his final fight. If he is to be believed, can he bow out on a high? And with Wilder no longer at his peak, could a win on the road reignite his career? BBC Sport asks figures from across the boxing world for their predictions. Joe Calzaghe - former world champion

"It's a tough fight to call. I really like 'Del Boy', I still remember him coming and training in our gym and my dad making him very ill doing runs up and down our steps. I'm not sure how much either of these guys have left in the tank if I am honest, I think it is one of

those fights that could go either way and will probably end with one punch. I'm going to side with Derek on this one." **Prediction - Chisora** Natasha Jonas - former two-weight world champion "Surely it's ending in a knockout. I'd love to see Derek get the win but I also do fear a win keeps him in the mix and he stays for more fights. I do think, for safety reasons more than anything, that this should be his last fight. But I feel like I say that every time. "Both men have got a chance. Chisora has been through the harder fights and more longevity in his career, but then again Wilder isn't coming off the best results. If I was pushed to make a decision, I'd go with Chisora." Harlem Eubank - welterweight boxer "I am going to edge t Chisora on Saturday. At this stage of their careers, he is a bit more compact and I think he will be able to grind Wilder down, sit on his chest, and let heavy shots go. I think it'll be Chisora, by stoppage, in the second half of the fight."

## Erling Haaland hat-trick helps Man City thrash Liverpool

Erling Haaland scored a superb hat-trick to help Manchester City continue their formidable FA Cup run under Pep Guardiola by booking a record-extending eighth consecutive semi-final with a ruthless dismantling of insipid Liverpool. Manager Guardiola had to watch from the stands as he served the second game of a touchline ban and he witnessed his team take apart toothless Liverpool in a result that will increase the pressure on boss Arne Slot. City's previous game was at Wembley, when they triumphed over Premier League leaders

Arsenal in the Carabao Cup final, and the hosts backed that up with another impressive victory to close on a domestic cup double. City had done little to threaten Giorgi Mamardashvili's goal until taking the lead on 38 minutes when Haaland converted from the penalty spot, just as he did at Anfield in the league this season, following Virgil van Dijk's clumsy trip on Nico O'Reilly. The Norway striker had been on a relatively barren run in front of goal before this game but he then added a second by guiding a header into the far corner from Antoine Semenyo's cross on

the stroke of half-time. Liverpool had played fluently earlier in the game at Etihad Stadium - with Florian Wirtz prominent - but their inability to convert the chances they created proved costly. City failed to deal with a long ball over the top but Mohamed Salah, playing for the first time since announcing he will leave Anfield this summer, hesitated when through on goal and his effort was blocked wide. He also later had a penalty saved by James Trafford while Hugo Ekitike's strike from inside the area flew wastefully over. City were much more

clinical, as Semenyo clipped in a delightful finish early in the second half to make it 3-0 before Haaland completed his treble to seal City's serene progression to the last four. City have made the national stadium their second home under Guardiola and two huge banners reading 'Wembley again, ole ole' were unfurled at the Etihad after they secured their return visit. With top-flight teams including Arsenal, Chelsea, Leeds United and West Ham United all still remaining in the competition, a tantalising tie awaits for City later this month.



## Sri KlinKaara Celluloid's 'Aasmaan' Launched Grandly – Meghamsh Srihari Leads a Suspense-Driven Mythological Thriller



Sri KlinKaara Celluloids marked a grand beginning with the auspicious launch pooja of its Production No. 1, Aasmaan, setting the tone for an ambitious and exciting cinematic venture. Produced by Kondaru Venkatesh and Srikanth Mannem, the film is directed by Ram Nandhan and stars in the lead role.

The launch ceremony was held in a vibrant atmosphere with several prominent guests in attendance, including Sai Durgha Tej, Sundeeep Kishan, Niharika Konidela, Roshan Kanakala, and Narne Nithin. Sai Durgha Tej gave the ceremonial first clap, while Sundeeep Kishan switched on the camera. Ram Nandhan directed the first shot, and Niharika Konidela formally launched the script. Aasmaan is being crafted as an edge-of-the-seat mythological thriller, blending suspense with rooted storytelling and high-concept

narrative elements. The film stars Meghamsh Srihari in a role expected to showcase him in a new and intense avatar. Ram Nandhan wrote and directed the film, making his Telugu debut with Aasmaan. Having previously directed two commercially successful Arabic films, he brings a fresh cinematic perspective to the project. He has also worked as an assistant to Kodi Ramakrishna, adding to his grounding in the genre. Produced by Kondaru Venkatesh and Srikanth Mannem, the film marks Sri KlinKaara Celluloids' maiden venture, with plans to back multiple projects going forward. The technical team includes music by Prashanth R Vihari, cinematography by Shoyab, and art direction by Krishna Mohan Talluri. Swapna Kondaru serves as CEO, while Praveen Gundlathoti is the Executive Producer. Publicity designs

are handled by Dhani Aelay, with SK Naidu - Phami Kandukuri as PRO. Director Ram Nandhan said, "Aasmaan marks my debut opportunity in the Telugu film industry. I would like to thank producers Venkatesh and Srikanth for placing their trust in me and giving me this opportunity. It has been a pleasure working with Meghamsh. We plan to complete the film across three schedules. We are coming up with a seat-edge thriller; it is going to be something truly fresh and unique." Speaking at the event, producer Srikanth Mannem said, "I wholeheartedly welcome all the media who attended the launch ceremony of Sri KlinKaara Celluloids." I sincerely thank all the chief guests who graced the occasion. I'm happy to begin this journey along with my brother Venkatesh, and together, we are planning to line up multiple exciting projects.

## The trailer of "Gedela Raju", starring Raghu Kunche, was launched by journalist friends. The movie is set for a grand theatrical release on the 17th of this month

Music director, actor, and singer Raghu Kunche plays the title role in "Gedela Raju." The film also stars Ravi Anand Chinnibilli, Ramachandram, Shravy, Vikash, and Mounika in key roles. Presented by Raghu Kunche under the Moturi Talkies banner, the movie is directed by Chaitanya Moturi and produced by Vani Ravikumar Moturi. The trailer launch event was held grandly in Hyderabad today with journalists.

Actress Shravy said - "We are happy to have our trailer released by journalist friends. We hope you take our film to the audience. Acting alongside Raghu Kunche was a great experience. My character in this film will impress everyone." Actress Mounika said - "The movie is even better than how interesting the trailer looks. Raghu Kunche has given great music for this film. I played an important role. Please watch the movie in theaters on the 17th and share your response."

Actor Ravi Anand Chinnibilli said - "Our entire team worked very passionately on this film. Most of the crew are from Kakinada. Raghu Kunche guided us well and led from the front. We hope for your support for newcomers like us." Co-producer Tadala



The film also stars Ravi Anand Chinnibilli, Ramachandram, Shravy, Vikash, and Mounika in key roles.

Veerabhadra Rao said - "Along with great music, Raghu Kunche will impress everyone with his acting. 'Gedela Raju' has all the elements audiences expect and will entertain thoroughly in theaters." Producer Vani Ravikumar Moturi said - "Director Chaitanya Moturi is my son. We produced this film to encourage his passion for cinema. The trailer is receiving great appreciation. We hope you bless him as a director and support our film." Actor Ramachandram said - "I've known director Chaitanya since working as an assistant director. This is my first film as an actor. We are very confident about the movie, which is why we released the trailer

with the media. Please come to theaters on the 17th—you will definitely enjoy it." Actor Kishatya said - "Is there anything Raghu Kunche cannot do? You will see his versatility in this film. He reminds one of legends like SVR and Kaikala Satyanarayana in acting, and singers like SP Balasubrahmanyam and Ghantasala in voice. His composing reminds me of Ilaiyaraaja." Actor and Presenter Raghu Kunche said - "Everyone says they worked hard on their film and that it's good. But ultimately, only content brings

audiences to theaters. If the audience feels the film has good content, they will support it. We believe our film has strong content. If you like the trailer, please come to theaters on the 17th and make our film a success." Director Chaitanya Moturi said - "Our tagline says, 'One truth if you watch, a hundred doubts if you don't.' That itself reflects the story. It's a murder mys-

## DIAMOND DACOIT TRAILER UNVEILED, WINS PRAISE AHEAD OF APRIL 10 RELEASE

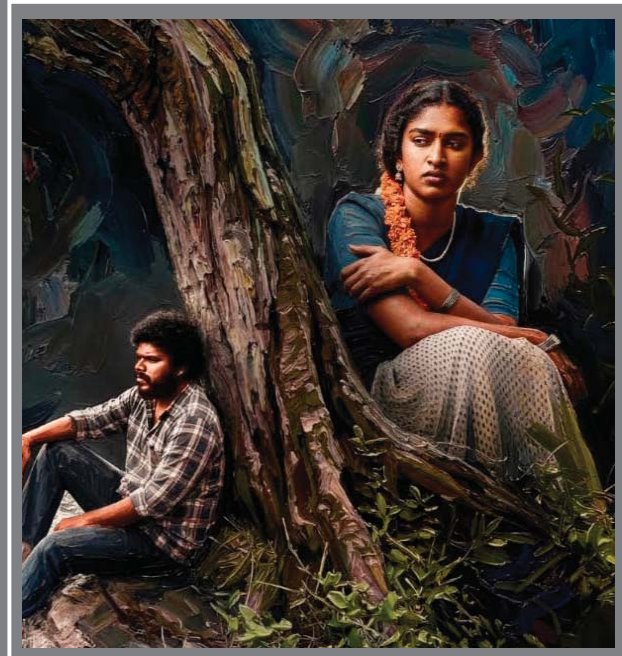
The trailer of "Diamond Dacoit" was officially launched by Chintakayala Ayyannapatru, Speaker of Andhra Pradesh, and noted producer and FDC Chairman Dil Raju, drawing attention within the Telugu film industry. The film Diamond Dacoit, produced by and starring Partha Gopal and directed by Surya G. Yadav, is already creating buzz.



as a suspense-thriller entertainer. After watching the trailer, both Ayyannapatru and Dil Raju appreciated the efforts of the film's team and extended their best wishes. The event was attended by senior producer and distributor Vakada Appa Rao, Shivaji Raja, and Prithvi Raj, popularly known as "Thirty Years Industry" Prithviraj, along with several other film personalities who conveyed their congratulations to the team. As a special guest, star producer Shirish Reddy also appreciated the

trailer, stating that Diamond Dacoit appears highly gripping. He noted that the visuals, background score, and the thrilling elements of the storyline create a strong impact and expressed confidence that the film would entertain audiences effectively. Speaking on the occasion, producer-hero Partha Gopal expressed his happiness over the trailer being unveiled by Ayyannapatru and Dil Raju. He thanked them for their encouragement and said the positive response to the trailer has been very motivating.

## Kiran Abbavaram's KA Productions and Sumaira Studios "Thimmarajupalli TV" next song "Nijamena" lyrical video out Now



Encouraging new talent, Hero Kiran Abbavaram is backing the upcoming project Thimmarajupalli TV, with Teja Velpucharla serving as co-producer under KA Productions and Sumaira Studios banner. The film introduces Sai Tej and Veda Jaladharr as the lead pair, while V. Muniraju makes his debut as a director. Set against a rural backdrop, "Thimmarajupalli TV" is a period drama gear-

## DARING SAREE STYLE STEALS EVERY EYE



Payal Rajput, known for her bold roles in Mangalavaaram and many other films, looked stunning in a traditional saree at the Teach for Change event. Even in a saree, she carries a glamorous aura, and this time she was clicked walking gracefully, turning heads with her style and confidence. The actress wore a stunning maroon and gold silk saree that featured a rich, traditional zari border, giving her a regal look. However, the highlight of her outfit was the contemporary styling of her blouse. She paired the saree with a daring low-neck blouse that featured a deep, plunging neckline, adding a high-fashion edge to the classic drape. To complement the look, she wore exquisite emerald and diamond jewelry, balancing the bold cut of the outfit with sophisticated accessories. Payal was last seen on screen two years ago in the movie Rakshana, which unfortunately flopped. Since then, she has been waiting for strong movie offers, and fans are hoping she will make a big



## Priyanka shares a glimpse of her morning

Priyanka Chopra Jonas gave a peek into her morning routine as she headed to work in Hyderabad. Priyanka took to Instagram stories, where she shared a video of herself where she is seen prepping her skin with a hydrating face mask and a wand. The actress was heard saying in the clip: "Goodmorning. On my way to work. Skin prep. Its a beautiful day for a beautiful sheet mask. What's your morning routine. #Morningroutine #Hyderabad." Priyanka is in Hyderabad to shoot for Varanasi. Directed by S.S. Rajamouli Varanasi, the film also stars Mahesh Babu, and Prithviraj Sukumaran. The plot follows the adventures of Rudhra as the city of Varanasi in India faces the impending arrival of an asteroid. The narrative spans across several time-

lines and continents. Rajamouli reportedly conceived the film as a globetrotting adventure rooted in Indian cultural themes, drawing inspiration from the structure and emotional tone of classic adventure cinema. Filming took place extensively in Hyderabad, Odisha and Kenya. With a budget of Rs. 1,000-1,300 crore, it is set to become one of the most expensive Indian films ever made. Varanasi is scheduled to be theatrically released in April 2027. Priyanka, who has been feted with two National Film Awards and a Padma Shri, has also been roped in for the latest instalment in the popular franchise "Krrish 4", marking Hrithik Roshan's debut as a director. Priyanka made her acting debut in 2002 with the Tamil film Thamizhan fol-

lowed by her first Bollywood feature in The Hero: Love Story of a Spy in 2003. She was then seen in hits such as Andaaz and Mujhse Shaadi Karogi, and had her breakout role in the romantic thriller Aitraaz. Priyanka gained major stardom by starring roles in the top-grossing productions Krrish and Don,

and later reprised her role in their successful sequels Krrish 3 and Don 2. For playing a troubled model in the drama Fashion, she won a National Film Award. She gained further praise for portraying a range of characters in Kaminey, 7 Khoon Maaf, Barfil, Mary Kom, Dil Dhadakne Do, and Bajirao Mastani.