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**Pawan Khera approaches  
Telangana HC seeking  
anticipatory bail**

NATION | NEWS

**India urges nationals to leave Iran 'Expediently',  
issues fresh advisory amid conflict**

New Delhi, Apr 8: The Government of India has issued a fresh advisory urging its citizens in Iran to "expediently exit" the conflict-hit nation in view of the evolving security situation. In a statement, the Indian Embassy in Tehran strongly advised Indian nationals to leave the country using routes suggested by the embassy and in close coordination with officials.



WORLD | NEWS

**Ranveer is the reason  
why I exist in this industry:  
Mrunal Thakur**

CINEMA | PAGE



SCAN FOR  
E-PAPER



**OM NAMO  
VENKATESAYA**

07-04-2026  
Total pilgrims: 74,232  
Tonsures: 23,288  
Hundi kanakalu: 4,38CR  
Waiting Compartments: 05

Approv. Darsan Time for Sarvodayashanam  
(with out SSD Tokens), 6H

WEATHER

36 °C | °F  
Precipitation: 5%  
Humidity: 26%  
Wind: 11 km/h

GOLD RATE

24K ₹  
1,55,640.00

**INBRIFS**

**OIL FALLS AFTER TRUMP  
SIGNALS IRAN PAUSE**

Washington (TSIT): Oil prices dropped sharply after US President Donald Trump said he would pause planned military strikes on Iran for two weeks, easing fears of a wider conflict in the energy-rich Gulf region. US crude futures fell below \$100 a barrel, reversing recent gains driven by weeks of tensions around the Strait of Hormuz, a key global oil transit route, The Wall Street Journal said on Tuesday (Local time). The decline followed Trump's announcement that he would suspend attacks on Iran, subject to Tehran reopening the strait, according to the Journal. Stock markets also reacted positively. Futures tied to major US indexes rose more than 2 per cent, signalling investor relief after days of volatility linked to the crisis, it reported.

**RAGHAV CHADHA FUELS  
SPECULATION WITH  
SOCIAL MEDIA POST**

New Delhi, (TSIT): speculations are building around a social media post shared by Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha on Instagram on Wednesday, where a purported supporter is found suggesting that he should start a new youth-led political party of his own, rather than joining existing organisations. It comes at a time when Chadha appears locked in an apparent rift within the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which he represents in Parliament, after being removed as the party's deputy leader in the Upper House.

**TN will not accept any decision taken without state's consent, says Stalin**

CHENNAI (TSIT): Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Wednesday said the South demanded a fair delimitation and that the state will not accept any decision taken by the Centre on the subject without its consent.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi should not turn a "calm south into a storm", he cautioned, and posed a set of questions to the PM. "The Prime Minister must answer these fair and pressing questions raised by the

## CSR spending is a partnership, not expense: Revanth

HYDERABAD  
TSIT BUREAU:

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday urged corporate companies to view Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) spending not as an expense but as a partnership in societal development.

Addressing a meeting with representatives of various corporate companies on CSR initiatives, the Chief Minister said that every rupee spent under CSR must yield meaningful and lasting outcomes. He informed that the State government is prioritising sectors such as education, healthcare, and water resource conservation, and encouraged companies to choose priority areas of their interest for CSR investments.

"Through a collaborative effort between the government and corporates, we can equip Telangana's students with world-class skills and prepare them for future opportunities. Investment in education is an investment in future generations," the Chief Minister said. He pointed out that nearly 44 per cent of the State's student population is concentrated in Hyderabad and stressed



the collective responsibility of ensuring quality education for them. The Chief Minister also advised companies to allocate a significant portion of their CSR funds to the regions where they operate and utilise local infrastructure. Noting the absence of a structured mechanism for CSR utilisation so far, the Chief Minister said a Special Chief Secretary has been appointed to streamline coordination. He invited corporate representatives to work closely with the designated official and utilise CSR funds in sectors such as education, healthcare, water resources, skill development, heritage conservation, and forest protection.

The Chief Minister appreciated the contributions announced by several organisations, including Rs.50 crore each by the

Raheja Group and Ramky Group, and Rs.10 crore by the Yashoda Foundation towards education. Corporate representatives welcomed the initiative and stated that such direct engagement on CSR had not taken place earlier. They expressed interest in supporting projects related to school education, hospitals, and heritage conservation.

Among those present at the meeting were representatives from Raheja Foundation, Ramky Foundation, Yashoda Hospitals, Megha Engineering, Apollo Hospitals, Kamineni Hospitals, Indian Green Building Council, NAADAM Foundation, along with MP Vem Narender Reddy, CM's Special Secretary Ajit Reddy, Education Secretary Yogita Rana, Technical Education Commissioner Sridevasena, and School Education Director Naveen Nicolas, among others.

**Mamata vows legal fight over  
voter deletions, slams BJP**



Kolkata, Apr 8 (TSIT): West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday strongly criticised the BJP and the Election Commission over large-scale deletions of names from voter rolls during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), asserting that the Trinamool Congress will move court to challenge the exercise.

Addressing rallies in Hooghly district, Banerjee said the removal of nearly 91 lakh voters from the electoral rolls was an attack on democracy. She alleged that the state was being deliberately targeted and warned that deleting names would not weaken the TMC. "We will fight legally to ensure

every eligible voter's name is restored," she said. Banerjee also questioned the finalisation of voter lists for the first phase of elections while the matter remains pending before tribunals. Expressing dissatisfaction over the process, she reiterated her respect for the Supreme Court of India but said clarity was needed.

The Chief Minister accused the BJP of attempting to manipulate electoral rolls and influencing institutions. She further alleged that the party was planning divisive politics under the guise of delimitation and warned against any move resembling the NRC in the state.

**ISRAEL'S LARGEST  
LEBANON ATTACK  
KILLS 89, IRAN WARNS  
CEASEFIRE COLLAPSE**

IRAN DOWNS DRONE, WARNS OF RESPONSE AS CASUALTIES MOUNT AND CEASEFIRE STRAINS.

Lebanon (TSIT) At least 89 people have been killed and more than 800 wounded in Israel's attacks across Lebanon on Wednesday, April 8, Lebanon's Health Ministry told Al Jazeera, as Israel launched what it described as its largest coordinated assault on the country. The strikes came despite



a fragile US-Iran ceasefire, triggering sharp warnings from Tehran and raising fears of a wider regional escalation. Iran has warned it could withdraw from the ceasefire if Israeli strikes continue, signalling that the truce is at risk of collapse.

## US-Iran ceasefire: The 10 points of Tehran's peace deal

Tehran (TSIT) US President Donald Trump termed it a "big day for world peace" after announcing a two-week ceasefire between the United States and Iran, just an hour before his escalation deadline expired. This comes after 39 days of war when the US and Israel launched coordinated attacks on Iran, and hours after Trump threatened "a whole civilisation will die tonight" if Iran did not reopen the Strait of Hormuz. Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who has been mediating negotiations, said early on Wednesday that the ceasefire was effective immediately. The temporary truce hing-



es on Iran reopening the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz, paving the way for negotiations based on a broader peace framework proposed by Tehran.

The proposal also reportedly includes provisions for financial compensation mechanisms and a commitment by Iran not to develop nuclear weapons, in exchange for recognition of its civilian nuclear programme.

While Washington has

IRANIAN STATE MEDIA HAS OUTLINED A 10-POINT PROPOSAL THAT FORMS THE BASIS FOR ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS:

- No further military aggression against Iran;
- Continued Iranian control over the Strait of Hormuz;
- Acceptance of Iran's right to uranium enrichment;
- Removal of all primary US sanctions;
- Lifting of secondary sanctions;
- Termination of all UN Security Council resolutions against Iran;
- Revocation of IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) Board of Governors resolutions;
- Payment of compensation for war damages;
- Withdrawal of US combat forces from the region;
- End to attacks on Iran-aligned groups across the region.

described the plan as a "workable basis" for negotiations,

several of its demands, particularly on sanctions relief, military withdrawal and nuclear enrichment, are expected to be major sticking points in talks. The ceasefire though appears to be fragile, it is a significant opening for diplomacy. Pakistan, which has been facilitating the talks, has invited the delegations to Islamabad on Friday "to further negotiate a conclusive agreement aimed at resolving all disputes."

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt confirmed that discussions about in-person meetings are ongoing, but emphasized that "nothing is final until announced by the President or the White House."

## Naidu reviews road projects, pushes better connectivity

Amaravati (TSIT): Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu emphasized the need for strong road connectivity to boost the state's economy during a high-level review meeting.

He noted that out of 45,433 km of roads, over 10,000 km require regular maintenance and directed officials to ensure pothole-free roads through scientific



upkeep. With Godavari Pushkarams approach-

ing, he ordered quick repairs in key districts.

Naidu stressed improving connectivity to major ports and called national highways the backbone of development. He said several key highway projects are underway, with major works set for completion soon. He also promoted electric buses to reduce transport costs and instructed officials to expand charging infrastructure and modernize public transport systems.

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**STRICT ACTION AGAINST ILLEGAL SEX DETERMINATION TESTS: COLLECTOR**

Suryapet, Apr 8: District Collector Tejas Nand Lal Pawar has warned that strict action will be taken against private hospitals conducting illegal fetal sex determination tests in the district. Chairing a meeting of the District Registration Authority at the Government General Hospital, he directed all private medical establishments to register under the Telangana Clinical Establishments Act without fail. The Collector emphasized that hospitals must comply with regulations and obtain necessary permissions promptly. He made it clear that any institution found violating norms, especially engaging in unlawful practices like sex determination tests, would face closure and legal action, including sealing of premises. He instructed officials to complete inspections and take action against non-compliant hospitals within 10 days. He further directed strict implementation of the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, ensuring proper record maintenance, auditing of all abortion cases, and conducting surprise inspections at diagnostic and abortion centers. District Medical and Health Officer Dr. Pendem Venkata Ramana stated that several applications have been processed, with permissions granted to eligible hospitals while action has been taken against unauthorized centers. Senior officials from health, police, and administrative departments attended the meeting.

**NIA NOTICES TO POTU RANGARAO**



Khammam: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has issued notices to CPI (ML) Mass Line state secretary Potu Rangarao in connection with alleged sedition and UAPA-related cases, asking him to respond as part of its ongoing probe. The notices are reportedly linked to allegations of conspiracy and unlawful activities, drawing attention in political circles. Addressing a press meet held at Rama Narsaiah Vignana Kendram in Khammam on Wednesday, CPI (ML) Mass Line central committee leaders KG Ramachander, K. Rama, K. Rangareddy, and former MLA Gummadi Narsaiah said the Centre is foisting sedition and conspiracy cases on those questioning its anti-people policies. They stated that CPI (ML) Mass Line has been carrying out lawful and open activities while fighting on public issues, but is being targeted with false cases for exposing exploitation by ruling and capitalist classes.

**Lack of awareness may lead to limb loss, warns specialist.**



Mancherial, April 8, TSIT: Lack of awareness about Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD), a condition that reduces blood flow to the limbs, could result in severe complications including limb loss among diabetic patients, said Dr. S. Srikanth Raju, Senior Consultant Vascular and Endovascular Surgeon at Yashoda Hospitals. Addressing a press conference held locally on Wednesday, Dr. Raju noted that PAD cases are rising among individuals with Diabetes Mellitus. He warned that even minor injuries in such patients may fail to heal and could develop into chronic ulcers. In some cases, nerve damage may prevent patients from feeling pain, delaying diagnosis and treatment. He advised individuals to watch for warning signs such as pain in the legs while walking, early fatigue, cold feet, non-healing wounds, and blackening of toes. "Immediate medical consultation is crucial if any of these symptoms are observed," he said. Dr. Raju emphasized the importance of early detection through diagnostic tests such as Doppler scans and regular vascular assessments. Maintaining blood sugar levels under control and quitting smoking are essential preventive measures, he added. He further stated that advanced treatment options, including medication and angioplasty, are available for managing the condition. Daily foot examination and prompt medical attention for even minor injuries can significantly reduce risks. "With proper awareness and timely treatment, the risk of limb loss can be completely prevented," he asserted.

**SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE**  
 Registered Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400051  
 Corporate Office: ICICI HFC Tower, JB Nagar, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai- 400059  
 Branch Office: Sarayu Plaza, Shop No.2-10-874/2/C, 1st floor, Waddepally Village, Subedari, Bank Colony, Hanamkonda, Warangal, Telangana - 506001

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of property/ Date of Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Late. Maddela Ramesh Babu (Borrower), Late. Maddela Sannakka (Co-Borrower), Kleshwarapu. Hemarani (Legal Heir- W/o Late. Maddela Ramesh Babu) (Co-Borrower), H No 3 82 Ambedkar Street Madikonda Warangal-506142 LHWNL0001328802.	M. Tiles Roof Residential House With open Place To An Extent of 288 Sq.yds or 240.80 Sq.mts Being Gwmc House No. 30-3-105 Part Its Corresponding old GP No. 3-82, Situated At Amberkar Street Darnasagar Road Madikonda Kazipet Warangal Dist Telangana 506142. Bounded By- North By: House of M. Lingaswamy And Open Plot of Shawari, South By: 12-0 Wide Common Passage & Part House of Donor., East By: Open Place of Donor, West By: open Plot of J. Lingaiah./ Date of Possession- 06-04-2026	22-01-2026 / Rs. 18,71,546.46/-	Warangal

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantor(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date: April 09, 2026  
 Place: Warangal  
 Authorized Office  
 ICICI Home Finance Company Limited

**Minister Ponguleti Slams BRS Leaders Over "False Allegations" on Land Issues**

Hyderabad TSIT BUREAU: State Revenue, Housing and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy on Wednesday launched a sharp attack on BRS chief K.Chandrashekar Rao, working president K.T. Rama Rao and senior leader T. Harish Rao, accusing them of making "baseless and politically motivated allegations" against the Congress government and its ministers. Addressing a media



conference at the Secretariat along with Ministers Seethakka and Ponnamp Prabhakar, MPs Anil Kumar Yadav and Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, and several MLAs, Ponguleti said the BRS leadership was trying to shift the blame for alleged irregularities that, according to him, had actually taken place during the previous regime.

The Minister said the BRS leaders were making "factually incorrect" charges on issues related to Nadargul, Vattinagulapally and Kotwalguda, and asserted that he was prepared to place all relevant documents before the public. He challenged the opposition to prove any wrongdoing on his part, declaring that he was ready to accept responsibility if any allegation was substantiated. On the Nadargul land issue,

Ponguleti said the registration and mutation processes concerning the disputed land had taken place during the BRS government. He alleged that registrations in Survey No. 613 of Nadargul village were made in favour of three private firms in 2014 and mutations were carried out in 2016, both during the previous regime. He also said that although a Special Leave Petition was filed in the Supreme Court in 2022, the then government had failed to file a counter, while the present government had done so and was contesting the matter in court, maintaining that the land belonged to the government.

**Despite DGP's Stern Warning Police Personnel Continue to Fall into ACB Trap**

Hyderabad TSIT: Even after a strong warning from Director General of Police (DGP) B. Shivadhar Reddy against corruption, several police personnel across Telangana continue to be caught in Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) operations. Soon after assuming charge, the DGP had issued a clear message to the police force, stating that "uniform and corruption cannot go together." He cautioned that strict action would be taken against those indulging in illegal activities and urged personnel—from Home Guards to IPS officers—to uphold integrity, transparency, and professionalism. He also emphasized the need to treat the poor and vulnerable sections with empathy and warned against turning police stations into centres for civil settlements. However, recent ACB



raids under the supervision of ACB Director General Charu Sinha indicate that some officials have failed to change their old practices. In a major case, Inspector Sampathi Kanakayya and Sub-Inspector U.K. Siddeshwar of RGIA Airport Police Outpost in Shamshabad were caught red-handed while accepting a bribe of Rs.2 lakh out of a demanded Rs.5 lakh. They allegedly sought the bribe to avoid arresting family members of accused persons and to facilitate filing of a charge sheet. Searches at the Inspector's residence led to the recovery of Rs.33.97 lakh in cash. Both officials were arrested and remanded on Wednesday. In another incident, two Armed Reserve Sub-Inspectors—Prasad Gaud and Jatavath Babu Naik—attached to Malkajgiri Cyber Crime Police Station were caught

accepting Rs.1 lakh to avoid arresting an accused in a cyber case. Corruption cases have also surfaced in districts. Mamda SI T. Ashok in Nirmal district was caught taking Rs.20,000 to settle a complaint against him. Madhapur SI Gandra Vinay demanded Rs.50,000 for issuing notices and was trapped by ACB. In Warangal, KUC SI P. Srikanth was caught through his private driver while accepting Rs.15,000 for releasing seized vehicles. Similarly, SI Vijay Kumar of Mulugu under Siddipet Commissionerate was caught accepting 50,000, while SI Rajesh of Tekmal in Medak district was trapped for taking 30,000. In a dramatic turn, the Tekmal SI reportedly attempted to flee into nearby fields upon seeing ACB officials but was chased and apprehended.

**Make plans to increase skills among youth: - Collector Chitra Mishra**

Karimnagar, April 8, TSIT : Collector Chitra Mishra stated that necessary plans should be made to provide training and employment to the youth in industries, hospitals and other service sector organizations in the district. The Collector spoke in a meeting organized by the representatives of various private industries and companies under the auspices of the District Employment Department



at the Collectorate conference hall on Wednesday with Ruchi Gupta, Director of the Future of India Foundation. They want to ensure that the youth develop the necessary skills for

the jobs that are in demand in the market. Representatives of private industries are advised to contact the district employment department officer for candidates who have the necessary skills to work in their industries and companies. It should be ensured that the unemployed take advantage of ITI and other government programmes for skill development.

**Crack down on child marriages, says seeta dayakareddy**

Khammam (TSIT): Strict measures must be taken to prevent child marriages, said Telangana State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (TGSCPCR) Chairperson Seetha Dayakar Reddy. She was speaking at a review meeting held in Raghunadhapaalem mandal during her visit to the district. The Chairperson stressed that protection of children's rights is a collective responsibility and called for coordinated efforts at all levels. She



directed that Village Child Protection Committees (VCPCs) should function more actively to identify

and prevent issues such as child marriages and child labour at an early stage. She further stated that accurate data must be maintained in every village on school-going children, dropouts and those not attending school, so that targeted action plans can be implemented for child protection. Emphasising the role of parents, teachers and local representatives, she said all stakeholders must work together to safeguard children's right to education and well-being. She also called for extensive awareness programmes to eradicate child marriages from society. Expressing satisfaction over the functioning of VCPCs in the district, the Chairperson appreciated the efforts of the district administration in promoting child welfare.

**Adluri Laxman Kumar Calls for Humanitarian Approach in Tribal Development**



Hyderabad (TSIT): Tribal Welfare Minister Adluri Laxman Kumar has directed officials to adopt a humanitarian and result-oriented approach in addressing issues faced by tribal communities and ensure basic infrastructure in all tribal habitations. Chairing a high-level review meeting at the Secretariat, the Minister emphasised that road connectivity, housing, electricity,

and drinking water are fundamental to improving living standards in tribal areas. He said the government is committed to transforming the lives of tribal populations and urged officials to work with sincerity. The meeting, attended by Government Advisor Shabbir Ali, district collectors, ITDA Project Officers, and forest officials, reviewed key challenges in tribal regions. The Minister expressed concern over delays in project implementation despite fund allocations and warned that negligence would not be tolerated. Highlighting issues related to the Forest Rights Act and podu lands, he directed the Forest and Revenue departments to coordinate and resolve pending cases swiftly. He also suggested forming a special task force to expedite granting cultivation rights to eligible tribal farmers. The Minister took serious note of difficulties faced by tribal youth in obtaining caste certificates and instructed officials to consult the Advocate General to develop a simplified and permanent solution.

**CAN FIN HOMES LTD**  
 D No:18-28/2/4, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Mahashakthi Nagar 3<sup>rd</sup> street, Near by Housing board, Siddipet, Telangana-502103 Email: Siddipet@canfinhomes.com Ph: 7825913258 CIN: L8110K1887PLCC06999

**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
 [Rule 8 (1)] [For Immovable Property]

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Can Fin Homes Ltd. under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of the powers under the said Act and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated 30-01-2026 calling upon the borrowers **Mr. Renikindi Srinivas and Mrs. Renikindi Radhika** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.20,41,000/-** (Twenty lakhs forty one thousand eight hundred only) with further interest at contractual rates, till date of realization within 60 days from the date of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this **07<sup>th</sup> day of April 2026**.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Can Fin Homes Ltd for an amount of **Rs.20,41,000/-** (Twenty lakhs forty one thousand eight hundred only) and interest thereon.

**Description of immovable property**  
 All that the piece and parcel property with bearing Door No. 18-18-22/3M, with assessment no. 1113014952, Flat No. 206 on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor double bed room of S V Raghavendra Niyam apartment, with a plinth area of 620 Sq feet. And eq. 9-11sq yards, eq. 76-17 sq meters, including proportionate common areas, balconies and thickness of walls and together with undivided share of land measuring 27-91 sq yards, eq. 23-33 sq meters from out of total land measuring 781.66 sq yards in plot no. 57, 58 and 59, Sy No. 1541, Situated at old GP Prashanth nagar, now merged in siddipet municipality, siddipet district. land bounded by : North : neighbours property, South : neighbours property, East : nala, West : road flat bounded by North : flat no 205 and 204 South : flat no 207 , East : open to sky , West : 6 feet road

Date : 08-04-2026  
 Place : Siddipet  
 Sd/-  
 Authorized Officer  
 Can Fin Homes Ltd.

**Altum Credo HOME FINANCE PVT. LTD.**  
 Regd. Office: Floor No. 7, Kalpataru Infinita, Wakdevadi, Shivajinagar, Pune - 411005, MAHARASHTRA (INDIA).

**APPENDIX IV - POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)**

The undersigned being the authorized officer of Altum Credo Home Finance Pvt. Ltd. (ACHFL), Under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("SARFAESI Act, 2002") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 ("Enforcement Rules"), Demand Notice(s) issued by the Authorized Officer of the company to the Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) (collectively referred to as the "Borrowers") mention herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic / physical possession of the property described herein below in superize of powers conferred upon him under Sub-section(4)of Section 13 of the said act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement rules, 2002. The borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in receipt of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ACHFL for an amount mention herein under with the interest thereon.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s) AND Loan Account Number	Date of Demand Notice & Amount (In Rs.)	Date of Possession
1)	BABU ANTHADUPULA (Applicant)	10/01/2025 Rs. 9,20,217/- (Rupees Nine Lakh Twenty Thousand Two Hundred Seventeen Only) as on 08/01/2025	04/04/2026 Physical Possession
2)	Rupa ANTHADUPULA (Co-Applicant)	LAN No: 1512040100045 NPA: 29/12/2024	

**Description of Secured Asset:** H. No. 1-19, Kondapur Village, Chigurumandi Mandal of Karimnagar District - 505467 and bounded as: East- Agriculture land of Burra Chandraiah; West- house of Bejnani Venkataiah; North- 12 feet wide road; South- house Of Pilli Sampath.

**STATUTORY NOTICE TO BORROWERS / CO-BORROWERS AND GUARANTORS**  
 Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) are hereby put to caution that the property may be sold at any time hereinafter by way of public auction / tenders and as such this may also be treated as a notice under Rule 6, 8 & 9 of Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002.  
 Sd/-  
 Date: 09.04.2026  
 Place: Karimnagar  
 Authorized Officer  
 Altum Credo Home Finance Pvt. Ltd. (ACHFL)

**BAJAJ FINANCE LIMITED**

Registered Office: Bajaj Finance Limited, C/o Bajaj Auto Limited Complex Mumbai Pune Road Akurdi Pune 411035. Corporate Office: Bajaj Finance Limited, Off Pune-Ahmednagar Road, Viman Nagar, Pune - 411014. Branch Office: Bajaj Finance Limited, 2nd Floor, Abk Complex, Ho Nos -2-4-641,641/1,642 To 646, Old Bus Depot Road, Thorur Andhra Pradesh Authorized Officer's Details: Name: Yenduri Kumar Email ID: yenduri.kumar@bajajfinserv.in Mob No. +91 8074464573/+91 7799468198

**APPENDIX - IV A** [See proviso to rule 8 (6)]  
**e-Auction Sale Notice Under SARFAESI Act 2002**  
**Sale of Immovable Assets Under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("ACT")**  
 Notice is hereby given to the public in general and to the Borrowers/Co-borrowers/Mortgagor(s) in respect of below mentioned secured asset which is mortgaged with Bajaj Finance Limited ("BFL"), and possession of which had been taken by undersigned Authorized Officer of BFL under the provisions of the ACT will be sold by Auction for recovery of the amount mentioned hereunder and further applicable interest, charges and costs etc.

The secured asset described below is being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS, AS IS WHAT IS AND WHATEVER THERE IS" under Rule No. 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules ("The Rules") for recovery of the dues detailed as under:

**Particulars of E-auction**

Name & Address of Borrower	1. Manisri Hotel And Fast Food thr. its Prop. R/o. High School Shop No.38 Main Road Thorur Mahabubabad Telangana 506163 Also at, R/o. House No. 14-102 in Sy. No. 71 Near Annaram Road Beside Murali Krishna Temple Thorur Vill & Mdl. Mahabubabad Dist. 506163 2. Madipeddi Mohan S/o Krishnaiah Madipeddi R/o. 14- 102 Annaram Road Thorur Warangal Andhra Pradesh 506163 Also at R/o. High School Shop No 38 Main Road Thorur Mahabubabad Telangana 506163 3.Damera Ramya D/o Venkata Narsaiah Dhamera W/o Mohan Madipeddi R/o. 14-102 Annaram Road Thorur Warangal Andhra Pradesh 506163 Also at R/o. 14-104 Thorur Block 16 Thorur Mandal Warangal 506163 Also at R/o. Bandilapalle Tirumaigni Nalgonda Andhra Pradesh 508223 4.Madipeddi Kistiah R/o. 14-102 Annaram Road Thorur Warangal Andhra Pradesh 506163 Contact: 7013791620 Email id: madipeddimohan@gmail.com
Loan Account No.	6V2BLS0101803852
Statutory Demand Notice u/s. 13(2) Date & Amount	Notice dated 19.08.2025 Demand amount Rs.20,74,993/-
Outstanding Amount as on 08.04.2026	Rs.25,06,161/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakhs Six Thousand One Hundred Sixty One Only)
Description of Immovable Property	All the piece and parcel of Building bearing House No. 14-102 in Sy. No. 71 Near Annaram Road Beside Murali Krishna Temple Thorur Vill & Mdl. Mahabubabad Dist. 506163 along with proportionate share in common areas (Area adm. 121 Sq.Yards). Boundaries: As per legal documents: East: 6 Ft. wide Road; West: Plot of Pusala Rama Chandram; North: Plot of Bandi Somaiah; South: Muthyalamma Temple Site and Bata. As per site visit: East: 6' 0" Lane and House of M Narayana; West: House of Kishan Nayak; North: Plot of Bandi Somaiah; South: H No. 14-101 of M Balaramulu
Reserve Price in INR	Rs.21,82,965/- (Rupees Twenty One Lakhs Eighty Two Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Five Only)
EMD	Rs.2,18,296.5/- (Two Lakh Eighteen Thousand Two Hundred Ninety Six and Paise Fifty only)
E-auction date and time	11.05.2026 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
E-auction Portal	https://bankauctions.in
Last date of submission of EMD	09.05.2026
Bid Increment Amount	Rs.25,000/-
Encumbrance Known to Secured Creditor	Not Known
Date of Inspection of Property	From 09.04.2026 to 09.05.2026 on working day between 9.30 AM to 5 PM with Prior appointment

Public in General and Borrowers in particular please take notice that if in case auction on date scheduled herein fails for any reason whatsoever then secured creditor may enforce security interest by way of sale through private treaty, at the discretion on of the secured creditor. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link https://bankauctions.in and https://www.bajajfinserv.in/auction-notices

Date: 08.04.2026  
 Place: Pune  
 For Bajaj Finance Limited  
 Authorized Officer

www.southindiatimes.com

info.southindiatimes@gmail.com

Ensure nutritious food at Anganwadi centres: Collector Anurag



Yadadri Bhongir TSIT: District Collector Anurag Jayanti stated that quality nutritious food must be provided to the children, pregnant women, and nursing mothers visiting Anganwadi centers.

were being served delicious, high-quality food every day in accordance with the menu prescribed by the government.

Develop and show without giving in to criticism: Jagityala MLA Dr. Sanjay Kumar

Jagityala, April 8, TSIT : Jagityala MLA Dr. Sanjay Kumar said that he will develop Jagityala constituency without giving in to criticism.

On Wednesday, the newly constructed Indiramma House was inaugurated in Mothe village of Jagityala Urban Mandal along with



local Sarpanch Mahesh, former MPTC Rajasekhara Reddy and Surendra Rao. Speaking on this occasion Foundation stone laying of SC road works with SC sub plan funds of Rs.15 lakhs, Sirra Narmada Mohan congratulated him on the opening ceremony and presented a saree as a gift.

World health day programme grand success



Karimnagar, TSIT : Diabetic, Hypertension & Obesity detection camp was held at Dr. Raghuraman clinic, boyawada, nearly 110 people were tested old 28 patients detected Hypertension and Diabetic new 10 patients detected Diabetic and 8 Patients Detected Hypertension.

FIREARMS TRAINING HELD FOR SANGAREDDY POLICE



Sangareddy (TSIT): District SP Paritosh Pankaj said firearms training was conducted to enhance police officers' weapon-handling skills.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, PAMPANA SAI VARSHITH, R/o. H.No. 44-414/4/402, 4th Floor, Golden Springs Apts, Hanuman Nagar, Medchal-Malkajgiri Dist-500 040, T.G. declare that my Mother's Name in my Passport was wrongly mentioned as 'SHANTHA PAMPANA' and the correct name is SUJATHA PAMPANA.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public are hereby informed that my client LIC Housing Finance Limited, having one of their Area Office at Shamshabad, is proposing to consider a loan in File No. 7001230002973 to be advanced to Sri D. Ravinder, S/o. D. Sanjanna, by mortgaging House bearing No. 9-5-285/2, constructed on Plot Nos. 671 and 672, each Plot measuring 150 Square Yards in all addressing 300 Square Yards in Survey No. 302/1, Situated at Jachhera Village and Mandal, Mahabubnagar District, and bounded by North: Plot Nos. 676 & 675, South: 25' Wide Road, East: Plot No. 673, West: Plot No. 126, in the documents produced before me there is Certified copy of Link Document, i.e. (1) Sale Deed, bearing Document No. 807/2007, dated: 25.01.2007, Registered at SRO: Jachhera, executed by Sri Chinthakayala Pentaiah in favour of Sri D. Srinivasulu, in respect of Plot No. 672, measuring 150 Square Yards, in Survey No. 302/1, Situated at Jachhera Village, upon enquiry it has been informed that Original was lost and that the same not traceable. The general Public is hereby cautioned not to deal with the person/persons who are in illegal possession of the documents. If any person/persons entering into any transaction with respect to the above mentioned property basing on the lost document shall be doing so at their risk and such transactions shall not be honoured.

Regarding Artemis II, according to NASA-based mission timelines, the mission is expected to last about 10 days and conclude with a Pacific Ocean splashdown near California; the correct and more precise timing indicates a targeted splashdown on April 10, 2026, at approximately 8:00 PM (Pacific Time), which corresponds to around 8:30 AM (Indian Standard Time) on April 11, 2026, with only minor variation in the exact hour depending on re-entry conditions, in line with standard NASA procedures; based on this correction, it is stated with asserted precision that the crew will return safely on April 10, 2026 (Pacific Time) / April 11, 2026 (Indian Standard Time), with a claim of 100000% safety return to Earth as predicted by Alexander using a non-scientific '12 sense' method; this is further described as a historical prediction related to a Moon mission occurring after 50 years, claimed to have been made by an Indian—especially a Tamil individual—who declared that "if this prediction does not come true, I will stop my predictions"; it is also stated that a prior prediction was made regarding Sunita Williams, in which a written letter was sent to NASA and ISRO with similar declarations, supported by postal receipts, and the prediction is said to have come true as she returned safely; furthermore, it is claimed that this prediction was published in a leading English magazine, that letters were officially sent to the space agencies, and that the individual—an advocate associated with the Supreme Court of India from Puduvayal in Sivaganga district—has explained Indian (especially Tamil) space-related knowledge for modern understanding, made predictions without scientific instruments using a claimed "12 sense" ability, obtained multiple academic qualifications (UG, PG, and PG diplomas) from 27 universities, achieved all of this before the age of 50, is not a professional astrologer, and strongly emphasizes that people—especially Tamilians—can gain space-related knowledge through extraordinary brain power, which he claims to have demonstrated with notable precision; additionally, it is stated that in the future he plans to teach students how to improve their brain power and become great in their lives, and he has expressed the view that theoretical study alone is not useful, but that a combination of physical, mental, humanitarian, environmental, spiritual, and self-realization-based education will lead to a good life.

Predicted by: S ALEXANDER, Astrologer Namakkal, Tamilnadu. Mob: 8248126514

BAJAJ FINANCE LIMITED. Registered Office: Bajaj Finance Limited, C/o Bajaj Auto Limited Complex Mumbai Pune Road Akurdi Pune 411035. Corporate Office: Bajaj Finance Limited, Off Pune-Ahmednagar Road, Viman Nagar, Pune - 411014. Branch Office: Bajaj Finance Limited, 2nd Floor Boga Residency 8 134 Gandhi Nagar Srisella 505405 Telangana Authorized Officer's Details: Name: Yenduri Kumar Email ID: yenduri.kumar@bajajfinserv.in Mob No. +91 8074464573/+91 7799468198

Safe motherhood vital for healthy society: Nirmala Reddy



Sangareddy, April 08 (TSIT) TGIC Chairperson Nirmala Jayaprakash Reddy stated that a healthy society can be built only through safe motherhood. As part of the Health Week programs under the Praja Palana Pragathi initiative, a "Safe Mother Day" event was organized on Wednesday at the Medical College auditorium

under the aegis of the Medical and Health Department. On this occasion, awareness was created on essential healthcare services for pregnant women. A workshop was also conducted for doctors covering topics such as ANC check-ups, reduction of maternal mortality rate, C-sections, high-risk pregnancies, emergency care, and the PCPNDT

Collector, MLA inspected by Wardhannapet CHC as part of Public Governance - Progress Plan 99 days activity.



WARANGAL (TSIT) : Wardhannapet Constituency MLA KR Nagaraju and District Collector Dr. Satya Sharada conducted a surprise inspection of Wardhannapet CHC Area Hospital on Wednesday as part of the 99-day activity of Public Governance - Progress Plan. On this occasion, MLA KR Nagaraju spoke to the inpatients and got their views on the medical services provided to them. It has been suggested that doctors should be punctual and that government hospitals should provide services at par with private hospitals.



health protection programmes conducted by the state government from April 6 to 12 should be effectively implemented to provide quality treatment in government hospitals. She was directed to keep the premises of the hospital clean, dispose of useless and damaged items through condemnation process and submit relevant reports. The officials were directed to pay special attention to issues such as ensuring timely treatment of patients, availability of medicines, attendance of staff and cleanliness of the hospital. The District Collector visited the hospital wards and advised all the staff to attend duty wearing identity cards. The superintendent was directed to ensure that the CC cameras work properly, to set up an audio announcement system in the hospital and to inform the public of the toll-free number.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Home Finance. Registered Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400051. Corporate Office: ICICI HFC Tower, JB Nagar, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai - 400059. Branch Office: Shop, No 8 & 9, 1st floor, Beside ICICI Bank Ltd, Park Road, Kurnool - 518001. The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

L&T Finance Limited (formerly known as L&T Finance Holdings Limited) Registered Office: L&T Finance Limited, Brindavan Building Plot No. 177, Kalina, CST Road, Near Mercedes Showroom Santacruz (East), Mumbai 400 098 CIN No.: L67120M2008PLC181833 Branch office: Hyderabad

KITS Warangal Student Wins Global Hackathon Grand Prize. WARANGAL, April 7 (TSIT): Pavushetty Yashwanth Krishna, a student of Kakatiya Institute of Technology & Science (KITS) Warangal, has brought laurels to the institute by winning the Grand Prize at the prestigious international "TestSprite" hackathon held in March 2026. Announcing the achievement, V. Lakshminantha Rao said Yashwanth was the only participant selected from India and secured the first prize along with a cash award of \$1,500 (around Rs.1.4 lakh). He congratulated the student for making the institution and the country proud. V. Satish Kumar highlighted that Yashwanth has consistently excelled at international platforms.

Central Bank of India. E-Auction Sale Notice (Under SARFAESI Act 2002) Regional Office Bank Street, Koti, Hyderabad, 500095. Cont: 9390248401. APPEX-IV-A [See proviso to rule 8 (6)] Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties. E-Auction Date: 20.04.2026 Time: 02.00 PM to 05.00 PM WITH AUTO EXTENSION OF TIME 10 MINUTE. The auction will be conducted through the Bank's approved service provider https://baanknet.com (PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd.). Bidder to register on e-Auction Platform https://baanknet.com/ using his mobile number and email-id. As a part of e-KYC the documents will be verified by the system. The interested Bidders/Purchasers has to transfer the EMD amount using online mode (i.e. NEFT/Transfer/PINAT Banking) in his Global EMD Wallet well in advance before the auction time. Only after having sufficient EMD in his Wallet, the interested bidder will be able to bid on the date of e-auction. Bidder's Global Wallet should have sufficient balance (>=EMD amount) at the time of bidding. For detailed terms and conditions please refer to the link provided in www.centralbankofindia.com in Secured Creditor or auction platform https://baanknet.com (PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd.) Email: support.baanknet@psballiance.com. The sale shall be subject to rules/conditions prescribed under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Asset and Enforcement of Security of Interest Act, 2002.

## Rs. 170-Crore Mega Plan Unveiled for Indira Gandhi Stadium in Vijayawada

VIJAYAWADA: The Andhra Pradesh government has announced a major redevelopment of the Indira Gandhi Municipal Stadium (IGMC) at an estimated cost of Rs.160-170 crore, to be carried out in three phases. The project, funded under the Khelo India scheme, aims to position the state as a national leader in sports.

State Minister for Transport and Sports, Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy, laid the foundation stone on Wednesday, calling the event significant as it coincides with Parliament's legal recognition of Amaravati as the state capital. "The people of Vijayawada have an emotional connect with this stadium," he said, reaffirming the government's commitment to its upgrade. Of the total outlay, Rs.20 crore will come from Khelo India, Rs.20 crore from the Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SAAP), and the remainder from the Municipal



Administration and state government. The Minister noted that sports development had slowed over the past five years but is now regaining momentum, with foundation works already begun in Guntur and soon in Srikakulam. He also expressed hope for central proposals worth Rs.1,000 crore, with over Rs.100 crore expected in the second phase. MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni) said Vijayawada is emerging as a major city, adding that the stadium project could reach Rs.185 crore. He highlighted plans for a Sports City over 2,500 acres and a Sports University in

Amaravati, with efforts underway to host the National Games in Vijayawada-Amaravati by 2029. SAAP Chairman Animini Ravi Naidu stated that one block of the stadium will be named after a prominent woman sportsperson, following the MP's suggestion. He expressed confidence that the stadium will be transformed within a year to host international events. Dignitaries including MLA Gadde Ramamohan, District Collector Dr. G. Lakshminsha, and international chess player Koneru Humpy attended the ceremony.

## AP Govt Committed to Uninterrupted Power Supply and Improved Services: Minister Gottipati Ravikumar

THE SOUTH INDIA TIMES, VIJAYAWADA (TSIT) Andhra Pradesh Energy Minister Gottipati Ravikumar reiterated the government's commitment to providing quality and uninterrupted power supply while enhancing service standards across the state. He was speaking at the inauguration of the new corporate office of Andhra Pradesh Central Power Distribution Corporation Limited (APCPDCL) at Gunadala. The event was attended by MP Kesineni Sivanath, MLA Gadde Ram Mohan, Energy Special Chief Secretary K. Vijayanand, CMD P. Pulla Reddy, and other senior officials. The Minister stated that the department has earned a good reputation due to the collective efforts of its staff. He noted that the modern corporate office was constructed at an estimated cost of Rs.35-40 crore, with a built-up area of 65,000 square feet.

He emphasized that new substations are being developed rapidly and that the government is working under the



guidance of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu to ensure uninterrupted power supply without increasing tariffs. He stressed that there should be no power outages or low-voltage issues. "Our goal is to improve consumer satisfaction levels from 80% to over 95%," he said. Highlighting farmer welfare, the Minister said tenders under the PM Kusum scheme for providing free daytime power have been completed and works will commence soon. He added that the state is achieving record power generation using modern technologies. He further explained that

electricity is being strategically purchased during low-demand periods and generated during peak hours to avoid shortages. The government is also focusing on expanding renewable energy through solar, wind, and pumped storage projects, with tenders already invited for battery storage systems at 10 locations. Recalling emergency situations, he praised electricity staff for their dedication during floods and cyclones, especially in Visakhapatnam, where nearly 20,000 electricity poles were restored within 24 hours by 1,500 to 2,000 personnel.

## DGGI Visakhapatnam Zonal Unit Arrests Individual in Rs.19.79 Crore GST Fraud Case

The south India times Visakhapatnam: The Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI), Visakhapatnam Zonal Unit, has arrested Shri Eliyaz Basha in connection with a GST fraud involving fake Input Tax Credit (ITC) worth Rs.19.79 crore. According to officials, the accused played a key role in fraudulently availing and passing on ITC to various entities without any actual supply of goods or services, in violation of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017. The modus operandi involved issuing fake GST invoices solely to enable wrongful ITC claims. Investigations further revealed that the accused used M/s Dawood Hardware & Cements, a firm located in Hindupur and owned by his brother, to generate such invoices. This enabled recipient firms to fraudulently claim ITC, causing significant loss to government revenue. Based on the evidence, Eliyaz Basha was arrested for committing a cognizable and non-bailable offence. He was produced before the Court of Economic Offences in Visakhapatnam and remanded to 14 days of judicial custody under the provisions of the Bharatiya Nagarika Suraksha Sanhita, 2023. Further investigation is underway. DGGI reiterated its commitment to curbing fake invoice rackets and protecting government revenue. In FY 2025-26, DGGI Visakhapatnam has arrested eight individuals and detected GST fraud exceeding Rs.352 crore on a prima facie basis. Authorities advised businesses to strictly comply with GST laws and exercise due diligence.

## East Coast Railway Announces Special Trains to Ease Summer Rush

Visakhapatnam: In view of the rising passenger demand during the summer season, East Coast Railway has announced special train services to ensure comfortable travel.

Train No. 08502 Visakhapatnam-Santragachi Special will depart from Visakhapatnam at 11:45 PM every Friday from April 10 to 24 and reach Santragachi at 2:30 PM the next day. In the return direction, Train No. 08501 Santragachi-Visakhapatnam Special will leave Santragachi at 6:30 PM every Saturday from April 11 to 25 and arrive in Visakhapatnam at 11:45 AM on Sunday.

These trains will halt at key stations including Simhachalam, Vizianagaram,



Srikakulam Road, Palasa, Sompeta, Ichchapuram, Brahmapur, Khurda Road, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, and Kharagpur. Additionally, Train No. 07165 Charlapalli-Bhubaneswar New Special will depart from Charlapalli at 6:10 PM on

April 13 and reach Bhubaneswar the next day at 5:20 PM. The return service, Train No. 07166 Bhubaneswar New-Charlapalli Special, will depart at 6:30 PM on April 14 and arrive at Charlapalli at 6:15 PM the following day.

This service will cover major stations such as Nalgonda, Guntur, Vijayawada, Rajahmundry, Anakapalle, Duvvada, Vizianagaram, Srikakulam Road, Palasa, Brahmapur, and Khurda Road.

## KIMS Hospitals organises road safety awareness rally in Kurnool

Kurnool, April 8, 2026: Emphasising the need for strict adherence to traffic rules to reduce road accidents, Kurnool District Superintendent of Police Vikrant Patil called upon the public to exercise greater caution while on the roads. He was speaking after flagging off a road safety awareness rally organised by the Department of Neurosurgery, KIMS Hospitals, Kurnool, on the occasion of International Neurosurgeons' Day. The rally commenced at Raj Vihar Circle and proceeded up to the Collector's office.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Patil noted that with the increasing number of vehicles, it is imperative for road users to act responsibly. He highlighted key safety measures such as controlling speed, avoiding driving under the influence of alco-



hol, and strictly following traffic signals. Responsible behaviour on roads, he said, is crucial to preventing accidents. As part of the initiative, helmets were distributed free of cost to motorists by the organisers. Mr. Patil stressed that wearing a helmet is a life-saving habit and advised that not only riders but also pillion passengers should wear helmets.

Dr. Sumanth Kumar, Neurosurgeon at KIMS Hospitals, pointed out that a significant proportion of patients requiring neurosurgical care are victims of road accidents. He explained that head injuries are common in such incidents and can have severe consequences on the brain and spine, sometimes leading to permanent dis-

ability or even death. Wearing helmets, he said, can significantly reduce the risk of such injuries.

He also emphasised the importance of timely first aid and safe transportation of accident victims to the nearest hospital, and urged the public to inform ambulance services when necessary. Raising awareness about first aid among the general public is essential, he added.

Dr. Aditya, Operations AVP of KIMS Kurnool, along with doctors from the Department of Neurosurgery, Marketing GM Anand, hospital staff, students, and a large number of citizens participated in the rally. KIMS representatives stated that such programmes would be conducted regularly to promote road safety awareness.

## India-Sri Lanka Maritime Ties Get Boost with DCIL-Colombo Dockyard MoU

Hyderabad, April 8: Doctors at KIMS Cuddles have successfully treated a complex case of recurrent vaginal vault prolapse, offering permanent relief to a 65-year-old woman after multiple failed surgeries.

According to Dr. Bindu Priya, vaginal wall prolapse is a common condition among postmenopausal women caused by weakening pelvic floor muscles, but it can be effectively treated with timely intervention.

The patient, who had earlier undergone a hysterectomy for fibroids, later developed prolapse symptoms that significantly impacted her daily life. Despite undergoing laparoscopic sling surgery in 2023 and abdominal mesh repair (sacrocolpopexy) in 2024, the



condition recurred within months. After evaluation at KIMS Cuddles, doctors initially managed the condition with a vaginal pessary for nearly a year. Subsequently, opting for

a permanent solution, the medical team performed a vaginal reconstructive surgery using the patient's own tissue support.

The procedure included

anterior vaginal wall repair, uterosacral ligament suspension, and high perineorrhaphy. Following surgery, the patient showed significant improvement and recovered well.

Dr. Bindu Priya emphasised that treatment for prolapse must be individualised, taking into account the severity, prior surgical history, and overall health condition. She also highlighted that pelvic organ prolapse and urinary incontinence are treatable conditions and should not be ignored due to social stigma.

The medical team, including Dr. Sai Sneetha, stressed the need for greater awareness and encouraged women to seek timely medical care to improve quality of life.

## One-Year-Old Develops Large Kidney Stone; AINU Doctors Remove It Without Surgery

Hyderabad, : Doctors at the Asian Institute of Nephrology and Urology (AINU), Banjara Hills, have successfully cleared a significant 10 mm kidney stone from a one-year-old boy using an advanced, non-invasive technique, sparing the infant from the trauma of traditional surgery. The young patient, hailing from Bidar, Karnataka was referred to AINU by his local pediatrician after presenting with concerning symptoms, including excessive crying and blood in his urine. Upon clinical evaluation, he was found to be restless and irritable due to a 10 mm stone in his left kidney.

The young patient was brought to the clinic restless and irritable due to a 10 mm left renal stone. Given the



patient's age and small stature, the medical team, led by Dr. Gopal Ramdas Tak, Consultant Urologist at AINU, opted for Extracorporeal Shock Wave Lithotripsy (ESWL) using Dornier lithotripter machine.

This "no-incision" approach allowed the team to fragment the stone without a single drop of blood loss or the need to pass any equipment through the tender small urethra in the chain. Under a short period of general anes-

thesia, the child was positioned for the ESWL procedure. Using high-energy shock waves, the stone was pulverized into tiny, sand-like fragments. Within hours of the procedure, the boy was awake, comfortable, and feeding normally.

He was discharged the same day, turning a potentially daunting surgery into a seamless day-care experience. "In pediatric cases, our priority is to minimize trauma and avoid the risks of invasive surgical access," said Dr. Gopal Ramdas Tak, Consultant Urologist, AINU Banjara Hills. "By utilizing modern ESWL integrated with ultrasound guidance, we completely eliminated the risk of ionizing radiation."

## GITAM Deemed to be University Scholar Earns Ph.D. in Mathematics for Crypto Prediction Research

Hyderabad (TSIT): GITAM Deemed to be University has congratulated Dr. Pappula Ashok on successfully earning his Ph.D. in Mathematics under the guidance of D. Mallikarjuna Reddy.

His doctoral research, titled "Cryptocurrency Price Prediction Using Hybrid Deep Learning Models: A Comprehensive Time Series Analysis," focuses on forecasting highly volatile digital assets such as Bitcoin, Ethereum, and Binance Coin.

The study evaluates traditional statistical methods, machine learning techniques, and advanced deep learning models, introducing



hybrid frameworks to enhance predictive accuracy. The findings reveal that hybrid deep learning models—particularly the BiLSTM-GRU approach—significantly

outperform conventional models across key performance metrics.

The research highlights the growing importance of hybrid AI models in financial forecasting and offers valuable insights for investors, analysts, and the broader fintech ecosystem.

The university leadership, including Prof. D. S. Rao (Pro Vice-Chancellor), D.V.V.S.R. Varma (Resident Director), Dr. M. Reza (Principal, School of Science), and Dr. Jadav Gandesh (Head, Department of Mathematics and Statistics), congratulated Dr. Ashok and appreciated his contribution to impactful research.

## NASSCOM Hosts AI Code Sarathi Workshop at Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology, Engages 24,000+ Developers

Hyderabad: NASSCOM, in collaboration with Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology, successfully conducted its inaugural in-person AI Code Sarathi workshop, marking a major step towards preparing India's developer community for an AI-driven future.

The workshop represents the "Explore" phase of the AI Code Sarathi initiative, which includes hands-on training sessions, an AI coding hackathon, and advanced enterprise-level programs. Since its launch in March 2026, the initiative has engaged over 24,000 developers



through multiple online sessions and its first in-person event.

The Hyderabad session witnessed partici-

pation from around 280 students, aspiring developers, and early-career professionals. The workshop offered

practical exposure to AI-native development, covering key areas such as prompt engineering, agentic AI workflows, retrieval-augmented generation (RAG), Git-based assignments, and Model Context Protocol (MCP).

The initiative has received strong feedback, with participants reporting increased confidence and interest in AI development. A majority found the sessions easy to follow and effective in building real-world skills.

Speaking on the occasion, Ankit Bose, Head of NASSCOM AI, highlighted the growing demand for AI-assisted

development skills and emphasised the organisation's commitment to building a future-ready talent ecosystem.

The event also featured keynote addresses by CBIT Principal Dr. C. V. Narasimulu and Program Advisor Dr. Umakanta Choudhury, who encouraged students to actively engage with emerging technologies.

With more in-person workshops planned, the AI Code Sarathi initiative aims to bridge the gap between academic learning and industry requirements, enabling developers to transition into an AI-first workforce.

## Mohammad Azharuddin visits Karnataka State Bioenergy Development Board, explores interstate collaboration

Bengaluru TSIT: Mohammad Azharuddin, former captain of the Indian cricket team and currently serving as Minister for Minority Welfare and Public Enterprises in Telangana, visited the Karnataka State Bioenergy Development Board (KSBBDB) on Wednesday and held detailed discussions on strengthening interstate collaboration in the bioenergy sector.

At the outset, the participants paid tribute to senior Congress leader and former Union Minister Mohsin Kidwai, who passed away earlier in the day. A one-minute silence was observed in his memory. During the meeting, KSBBDB Chairman S.E. Sudheendra highlighted Karnataka's pioneering role as the first State in India to introduce a Bioenergy Policy in 2009. He outlined key initiatives undertaken by the Board, including establishment of bioenergy research, information and demonstration centres, biofuel parks, collaborations with non-governmental organizations, bioenergy research and quality assurance laboratories, and partnerships with the Karnataka State Council for Science and Technology.

He further stated that under the leadership of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, bioenergy development has been prioritised as a



major initiative. With guidance from Rural Development and Panchayat Raj as well as IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge, efforts are underway to formulate a new bioenergy policy supported by data-driven planning.

The discussions also focused on emerging investments in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in com-

pressed biogas production using agricultural residue and Napier grass. Karnataka currently has an estimated biomass availability of over 1.52 lakh tonnes, with investment potential exceeding Rs.1 lakh crore and the capacity to generate more than 35,000 direct and indirect employment opportunities. Chairman informed that orders

have been issued to establish retail outlets to make biodiesel available across the State, similar to the distribution model of kerosene through the Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs. He also noted that the Board functions under the Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj.

## Naidu Orders Land Reforms, 1.12 Crore Passbooks by March 2027



AMARAVATI: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has announced major decisions following a high-level review of the Revenue Department, focusing on land reforms, dispute resolution, and property rights.

The CM directed officials to complete the Resurvey 2.0 initiative by March 2027 and distribute 1.12 crore new Pattadar Passbooks. Surveys have

already been completed in 6,976 villages, with 22.79 lakh passbooks being distributed in 5,717 villages. The remaining villages are expected to receive passbooks by July this year.

In a significant move, the government decided to remove restrictions under Section 22-A for 1.37 lakh acres of Village Service Inam lands. Another 1 lakh acres of other service inam lands will also be freed. Naidu instructed

officials to bring new legislation to facilitate this process, benefiting lakhs of families. The government will also allow registration of houses allotted under government housing schemes before 2016, benefiting nearly 75 lakh poor families. This will enable them to legally register, sell, or transfer their properties through gift deeds.

The CM emphasized complete digitization of land records, with soft copies sent to landowners' mobile phones. He also suggested securing records using blockchain technology after KYC verification, ensuring no land transaction can occur without the owner's consent.

These decisions aim to resolve long-pending land disputes, enhance transparency, and strengthen property ownership rights, especially for economically weaker sections. Senior officials and ministers attended the review.

## Mission Shakti, Mission Vatsalya Reviewed at Tirupati Meet

Tirupati, April 8: A district-level Child Welfare and Protection Committee meeting reviewed the implementation of key welfare initiatives, including Mission Shakti and Mission Vatsalya, aimed at ensuring the safety and development of women and children.

District Collector Dr. S. Venkateswar directed officials to strengthen coordination among departments and ensure that benefits reach the grassroots level. He emphasized that the safety of women and children is fundamental to



societal progress and called for strict action against child marriages, child labour, and violence.

The Collector stressed effective monitoring of Anganwadi centres, shel-

ter homes, and child care institutions to ensure proper nutrition, health-care, education, and emotional support. He warned of strict action in case of negligence.

## Hi Life Summer Edition Exhibition Brings Luxury Fashion Showcase to Hyderabad

Hyderabad (TSIT): Fashion enthusiasts in the city can look forward to an exclusive style experience as the Hi Life Exhibition - Summer Edition arrives with a curated showcase of premium designer collections.

The exhibition brings together some of India's finest designers under one roof, featuring an exquisite range of bridal couture, festive wear, contemporary fashion, and handcrafted jewellery. The event promises a blend of tradition and modern elegance, offering visitors a chance to explore unique creations and statement pieces.

From intricate bridal ensembles to stylish summer edits, the collections



highlight a fusion of craftsmanship and contemporary trends. The exhibition caters to diverse fashion needs, whether for weddings, festive occasions, or upgrading personal wardrobes. Hi Life Exhibition is known for presenting high-end fashion and lifestyle products, attracting designers and shoppers seeking exclusive and sophisticated styles.

The Summer Edition aims to provide a premium shopping experience in Hyderabad, making it a must-visit destination for fashion lovers and trendsetters.

## Vani Bhavani Where Administrative Excellence Meets Classical Grace and Social Commitment

Hyderabad, TSIT: In an era where balancing professional responsibilities with personal passions is increasingly challenging, Vani Bhavani stands out as a rare and inspiring example of excellence, discipline, and cultural commitment. Serving as Assistant Commissioner in the Civil Supplies Department, Government of Telangana, she has seamlessly blended administrative efficiency with artistic brilliance, emerging as a role model for young professionals and aspiring artists alike.

A highly accomplished Kuchipudi dancer, Vani Bhavani trained under



renowned Guru Dr. Maddali Usha Gayatri. Her dedication to the classical art form has earned her the prestigious 'B High' grade from Dooradshan an acknowledgment reserved for artists of exceptional calibre. Over the years, she has performed on several distinguished platforms, including the prestigious Rashtrapati Nilayam during the 'Udyanotsav' festival, as well as popular cultural programmes such as Naadaneerajanam, Natya Ravali, and Muvvala Ravali. Her performances are widely appreciated for their grace, expression, and adherence to classical traditions.

Beyond the stage, her contributions extend to nurturing young talent. She has served as a judge for district-level competi-

tions under Kala Utsav, conducted by SCERT, Telangana, guiding and encouraging budding artists across the State.

Her achievements have not gone unnoticed. In recognition of her outstanding contributions to both public service and the arts, she was conferred the prestigious 'Stri Murti' award by the Telangana Chamber of Events Industry (TCEI) in 2025. Earlier, she gained state-wide popularity by winning 16.40 lakh in the well-known television quiz show Meelo Evaru Koteeswarudu, showcasing her intellect alongside her artistic pursuits.

## 'Unlawful' Ambedkar statue dismantled in Bulandshahr

BULANDSHAHR: A statue of Bhimrao Ambedkar installed here in an area under the Khurja Police Station was removed at the authorities' intervention on Tuesday. The state had been erected in a park in Qila Mewai by some locals without permission, police said. Superintendent of Police (Rural) Tejveer Singh said the police were informed about the statue on Tuesday morning. Acting on the information, the Khurja Circle Officer and the Sub-Divisional Magistrate went to the spot with reinforcement and had a word with the locals. "They spoke with the locals and informed them that the installation of a statue of any prominent figure is prohibited without government permission.

## Special IAS Officers Needed to Ensure Quality of Goods: Dr. Pallepadu Damodar

Hyderabad, TSIT: Under the auspices of the Consumer Coordination Council South, in collaboration with the Consumer Confederation of India, on Tuesday at the Hyderabad Press Club on Food Adulteration - Consumer Protection Dr Pallepadu Damodar said on the occasion of World Health Day that food adulteration is a serious problem today. Many restaurants have been raided and are using rotten meat, harmful dyes and adulterated oils and are continuing their business with the priority of making money and put-



ting people's health at risk. Where does the milk supplied across the country come from, where is there sufficient livestock, as all milk products are contaminated, we welcome the establishment of a hydra-like special department by the government

and this food contamination. Regarding the quality of goods, special government departments should have special IASs for them, representatives of consumer associations should be included in food advisory committees, vigilance committees,

District Consumer Rights Protection Committees have been formed and consumer associations should be involved.

Sambaraju Chakrapani, Ande Sridhar Reddy, Secretary of Indian Consumer Federation, Telangana State said that the root cause of contamination of air, water and food items is pollution of man's mind, pollution of man's speech and pollution of sight. Consumer associations act as a bridge between the people and the government. He informed that the representatives of

the consumer associations will create awareness among the people with their programmes. In this meeting, Sambaraju Chakrapani, National General Secretary of Consumer Council said who should be contacted in case of food adulteration, he answered the questions asked by the press on how the representatives of the consumer associations would provide cooperation. In this meeting, Dr Pallepadu Damodar, Chairman Southern States Consumer Coordinating Committee Mamidi Bheemireddy.

## Lack of awareness may lead to limb loss, warns specialist.

Mancherial, April 8, TSIT: Lack of awareness about Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD), a condition that reduces blood flow to the limbs, could result in severe complications including limb loss among diabetic patients, said Dr. S. Srikanth Raju, Senior Consultant Vascular and Endovascular Surgeon at Yashoda Hospitals. Addressing a press conference held locally on Wednesday, Dr. Raju noted that PAD cases are rising among individuals with Diabetes Mellitus. He warned that even minor injuries in such patients may fail to heal and could develop into chronic ulcers. In some cases, nerve damage may prevent patients from feeling pain, delaying diagnosis and treatment. He advised individuals to watch for warning signs such as pain in the legs while walking, early fatigue, cold feet, non-healing wounds, and blackening of toes. "Immediate medical consultation is crucial if any of these symptoms are observed," he said. Dr. Raju emphasized the importance of early detection through diagnostic tests such as Doppler scans and regular vascular assessments. Maintaining blood sugar levels under control and quitting smoking are essential preventive measures, he added. He further stated that advanced treatment options, including medication and angioplasty, are available for managing the condition. Daily foot examination and prompt medical attention for even minor injuries can significantly reduce risks. "With proper awareness and timely treatment, the risk of limb loss can be completely prevented," he asserted.

## Glorious Journey of Sri Venkateswara Veda Vijnana Peetham at Dharmagiri

Tirumala (TSIT) Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams has been playing a pioneering role in the preservation, propagation, and promotion of Vedic traditions, which form the foundation of Hindu Sanatana Dharma in the Indian culture. In this direction, Sri Venkateswara Veda Vijnana Peetham at Dharmagiri in Tirumala has emerged as one of the most prestigious Vedic educational institutions in the country. History of the Veda Vijnana Peetham Established in February 1884 under the leadership of Mahant Prayag Das Ji, the institution began as a Veda Patashala with three sections. Over the time, it has evolved into a distinguished center imparting comprehensive education in Vedas, Agamas, priesthood, and Shastras. In 1992, it was permanently established at Dharmagiri,

Tirumala, and was renamed as "Veda Vijnana Peetham." Vedic Education in 17 Departments At present, the institution operates 17 specialized branches under four major streams: - 7 Vedic branches under Vedic studies - 5 Agama disciplines under Agama studies - 4 divisions under Smartha studies - Divya Prabandham covering 4000 Pasurams of Alwars These long-term courses provide deep spiritual knowledge and traditional learning. Currently, a total of 374 students are enrolled: - 140 in Vedic courses - 177 in Prabandha and Agama courses - 57 in Smartha courses A dedicated team of 43 scholars imparts education to these students.



Strong Focus on Student Welfare TTD gives utmost priority to student welfare. The institution provides hostel facilities with a capacity of 540 students, along with clean living conditions, 24 hour water supply, and hot water facilities. Nutritious meals are provided daily: - Morning: Milk, idli, dosa, upma - Afternoon: Rice, dal, curries, sambar, rasam, curd - Evening: Milk - Night: Dinner Additionally, students receive free clothing, books, and essential items such as soap, oil, and

toothpaste. Healthcare services are provided daily through Ashwini Hospital. In case of necessity, free treatment is also extended at SVIMS and BIRRD hospitals in Tirupati. Securing the Future of Students To ensure a secure future for students, TTD implements special incentive schemes: - Rs.3 lakh deposit for Vedic students. - Rs.1 lakh deposit for students of other courses Upon course completion, the amount with interest is handed over along with a merit certificate and a 10-gram silver dollar of Sri Venkateswara. Holistic Education Based on Vedic Practices The daily routine of students is structured according to Vedic traditions. It includes S a n d h y a v a n d a n a m , Agnikaryam, study sessions, recitation, teaching, physical

activities, and night study ensuring a well rounded education system. National Level Scholarly Conferences The Sri Venkateswara Veda Shastra Agama Vidwat Sadas attracts scholars from across the country. Traditional examinations are conducted, and meritorious scholars are honored. The latest session was successfully held from March 8 to 13. Apart from Dharmagiri, TTD successfully operates similar Veda institutions in places like Keesaragutta, Nalgonda, Bhimavaram, Kotappakonda, and Vizianagaram. Upholding the spirit of "Tirumala - the birthplace of the Vedas," the Sri Venkateswara Veda Vijnana Peetham stands as a divine center of learning, preserving and passing on India's spiritual heritage to future generations.

# EDITORIAL

## War Ally To Mere Bystander: Is This The Loneliest Day For Netanyahu?

In the early hours of April 9, a few moments after US President Donald Trump took to social media and proclaimed that "a whole civilisation will die tonight, never to be brought back again", Iran and the US agreed to a two-week ceasefire arrangement via mediation of Pakistan. This arrangement seems to be the off-ramp the American leader was looking for, an escape from a potential 'forever war', something he has spent a vast amount of time deriding former US presidents for during his campaigns. It is difficult to deny that Trump was in a quagmire. The war was not only escalating but also entrenching into a protracted conflict. Long-standing regional fault-lines, which were actively being managed over the past years, were renewed and pulled back into a situation heading towards a global economic abyss. Trump, once again, took to social media to announce the ceasefire, and Iran's Foreign Minister, Syed Abbas Araghchi, also released a statement, in broad acceptance of the two-week timeline, but with more leverage than the White House in play.

### A New Middle East

As the global economy, markets, and oil and gas supply chains took a sigh of relief, staring at the brink of an international energy crisis, the Middle East geopolitically is looking at a reorientation that it did not order, but now must deal with. The ceasefire agreement, as per available information, is designed for a US off-ramp and not regional stability. Talks to take forward the ceasefire understanding are slated to take place in Pakistan on Friday (April 10) without direct intervention or participation of either Israel or any of the Gulf states, while demands for an end to the warfare in countries like Lebanon have been put forward by Tehran. The non-participation of Israel and the Gulf states opens a Pandora's box on how the region moves forward in the coming months. Iran, maintaining tight control over the critical Strait of Hormuz and doubling down on its assertion about its armed forces having the right to decide the waterways' operationality, seems to have come out with the upper hand despite suffering immense damage over the 40-day-long bombing operation. However, the regime has survived, despite the assassination of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in a US-Israeli strike in February, and questions over the ability of his son and successor, Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei.

### Bibi Out In The Cold?

Israel, the US's closest partner in the region and which lured Trump to take on Iran, was a spectator to the ceasefire agreement and was forced to halt strikes against Iran (but has said it will continue its campaign against Hezbollah in Lebanon). From saying Iran was close to making a few nuclear warheads back in the summer of 2025 to highlighting that an uprising from within the Iranian population was inevitable following an aerial campaign against the regime, Netanyahu has seen Trump as a one-in-a-lifetime opportunity to fundamentally degrade Iran, whatever the cost. However, while the military campaign has certainly dealt a mighty blow to Iranian capacities, it has also solidified the idea that any future security construct of the region, specifically with relation to the Strait of Hormuz, cannot be put together without Iranian say. For Israel, the ceasefire may be a bitter pill to swallow, with its strategic aims remaining in suspension. Its strategy of 'mowing the grass', or short bursts of military campaigns to keep a threat degraded, may work in Gaza and Lebanon, but conducting these operations against Iran consistently will not be possible without the US. Israel's opposition leader, Yair Lapid, who supported these actions against Iran, called the ceasefire deal a "political disaster" due to Israel not being at the table during the ceasefire talks.

## The 'Munir Doctrine' That Drove Pak's US-Iran Brokering Project

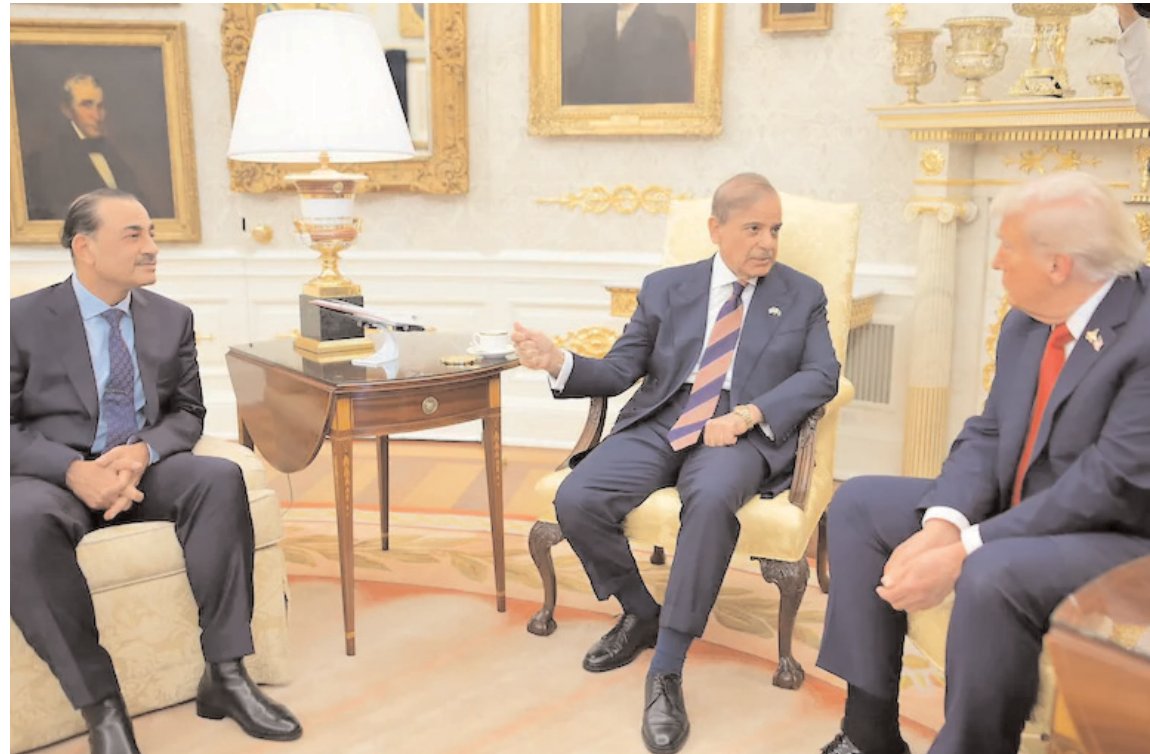
Pakistan's re-emergence as a diplomatic conduit in the ongoing West Asian conflict nudges us to revisit an age-old question: Who really conducts Pakistan's foreign policy? The spate of calls, social media messaging, and diplomatic signals coming from Pakistan in recent weeks, especially involving Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir, offers a window into the country's prevailing civil-military dynamics.

### When Yahya Khan Mediated Between US And China

In 1971, former US President Richard Nixon persuaded General Yahya Khan to secretly mediate between China and the US - the channel through which Henry Kissinger met with Mao Zedong. Its architecture was similar to the present circumstances, where a civilian government held the official line, with the military managing the geometry of negotiations. Pakistan's dual-track foreign policy can also be traced to the erstwhile Soviet Union and Afghan war, where the government under Zia-ul-Haq coordinated with the US and Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan's security establishment, the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), was covertly arming the Afghan mujahideen. In the current scenario, Pakistan relayed proposals between Iran and the US, including a 15-point plan from Washington and a 10-point plan from Iran. Tehran has now agreed to a two-week ceasefire with the US, with its National Security Council stating the commencement of talks in Islamabad on April 10.

### Two-Track Diplomacy

US President Donald Trump and Iran both acknowledged the role of Munir and Sharif in pausing strikes against Iran. Meanwhile, Sharif urged the US to extend its negotiation timeline while pressing Tehran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz. However, the mechanics of this mediation bring to light something more structurally significant. Pakistan's diplomacy continues to



unfold through a dual-track civil-military arrangement, with the civilian government conducting public diplomacy while the military manages strategic ties and back-channel communication. Understanding this blueprint requires situating it within its long history of civil-military dynamics. Pakistan's civil-military dynamics have always been a spectrum of overt military rule or hybrid co-governance. While former army chief Qamar Javed Bajwa only spoke of geoeconomics, Munir's position informs an intent where Pakistan refuses to project itself as a soft state. Since the early decades of the state, the military held influence over strategic decisions, especially in matters of security and strategic policy with major powers. Munir's direct engagements with Gulf monarchies and Washington suggest that the strategic brokering is in the hands of the army. The civilian government essentially inherits, rather than controls, these foreign ties that are estab-

lished by the military. Even now, Munir's engagement with the White House has reportedly been crucial to transmitting messages and negotiating deadlines in the conflict. To put it simply, Munir manages the backchannel, while Sharif is the face of the front desk.

### The Munir Framework

The Munir doctrine can be perceived through three aspects: projecting a softer image of Pakistan, positioning itself as a middle power in the region, while also prioritising geoeconomics. The soft power portrayal of Munir is for foreign projection, while his hard approach is employed for consolidating domestic power. After decades of being associated with links to extremist elements and grey-list sanctions, the military has managed to reposition Pakistan's place in the world as a responsible state capable of effective diplomacy. Pakistan's emergence as a regional middle power is essentially

rooted in the country's geography - strategically located between the Indian subcontinent, Central Asia, and West Asia. Pakistan's future is also positioned in the context of geoeconomics, instead of geopolitics. This includes using diplomatic ties to gain economic opportunities - more recently involving a mineral deal with the US, and a security agreement with Saudi Arabia. The closure of the Strait of Hormuz and associated disruptions to energy flow from the Gulf are also a domestic issue for an economically fragile Pakistan. Rising oil prices could worsen its trade deficit and debt burden, exacerbating domestic pressures for Munir. Another crucial element is diplomatic acceptability. Unlike other regional actors, Pakistan maintains a relationship with all stakeholders in the conflict: brotherly ties with the Gulf, which is also enshrined in its Constitution, its ethnic and border ties with Iran, and an economic relationship with the US.

## Schemes for Weaker Sections: A Matter of Controversy or a Basis of Development?



PRIYANKA SAURABH

Development and welfare schemes for vulnerable groups are often criticized as discriminatory. At first glance, the argument may seem appealing: when the government targets certain groups for benefits, it's unfair to others. But when examined more deeply, it becomes clear that this approach challenges the very spirit of social justice. In a country like India, where caste, economic, and social inequalities have long been entrenched, such schemes are not just an option but a necessity, and a constitutionally mandated responsibility. The historical structure of Indian society privileged some classes, while others faced persistent deprivation and discrimination. This centuries-old inequality excluded Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and other vulnerable groups from education, health, employment, and social respect. If the state merely adopted a policy of "equal treatment," this inequality would have deepened. Therefore, the framers of the Constitution understood that equality truly meant equal treatment for all, not simply the application of uniform rules. In this context, Article 46 of the Constitution holds special significance, directing the state to promote the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections and to protect them from social injustice and exploitation. This provision makes it clear that targeted schemes are not a form of discrimination, but a necessary step towards justice. This is the concept of 'positive discrimination' or 'affirmative action,' which attempts to compensate for historical inequalities. The impact of these schemes is evident not only in theory but also in practice. The progress made in education over the past few decades is a testament to this. While literacy rates among marginalized groups were once very low, they have now increased significantly. Scholarship schemes, residential schools, and special educational programs have provided millions of

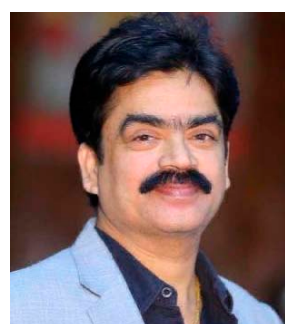


children with the opportunity to access school and higher education. Similarly, rural employment schemes, self-help groups, and skill development programs have promoted economic self-reliance. These schemes have also played a significant role in women's empowerment. Through self-help groups, rural women have not only gained income but also established social standing. This has brought positive change to both families and society. This demonstrates that targeted schemes are not limited to economic benefits but also serve as a vehicle for social change. However, these schemes are not without controversy. Critics argue that when a particular class is given priority, it is unfair to others. For example, sometimes an economically disadvantaged person from the general category is unable to avail the benefits of a scheme simply because they do not fall into the prescribed category. This creates a feeling of reverse discrimination, which can lead to social unrest. This argument isn't entirely unfounded, but it's certainly incomplete. It ignores the fact that not all individuals are born into equal circumstances. Some grow up in social and economic environments that provide them with better education, resources, and opportunities, while others begin life in extremely disadvantaged circumstances. Therefore, even if both are given equal opportunities, the outcomes will not be the same. Therefore, to truly achieve equality, it becomes necessary to treat those who are unequal differently. Nevertheless, it must be acknowledged that there are many shortcomings in the implementation of these schemes.

Problems such as corruption, unequal distribution of benefits, and lack of transparency affect their effectiveness. It has often been observed that those who need these schemes the most are left out, while the more capable ones reap the benefits. The concept of the "creamy layer" was introduced to address this problem, but it has not been effectively implemented across all sections. Furthermore, society's problems are also evolving with changing times. Today, the nature of poverty in urban areas is different, with people of different castes facing similar economic hardships. Therefore, formulating plans based solely on caste is insufficient. Policies must be more inclusive and multifaceted, taking into account economic status, education, and regional disparities. The most important requirement for reform is transparency and accuracy. Digital technologies can be used to make beneficiary identification more effective. Schemes can be made more transparent and accountable through Aadhaar-based verification, Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), and data analytics. Regular monitoring and independent audits of scheme implementation are also essential to prevent any irregularities in time. Private sector and civil society participation can also play an important role in this direction. Corporate social responsibility (CSR) can enhance support in the areas of education, health, and skill development. Furthermore, involving local communities in the implementation of programs can further enhance their effectiveness, as they gain a deeper understanding of the problems at the local level.

### ENVIRONMENT AT THE CROSSROADS:

## A Global Wake-Up Call on Climate Crisis



BY DR. JITHENDER RAO THANUGULA  
WORLD ENVIRONMENT MEDIA CELL CHAIRMAN

In recent decades, the Earth has witnessed unprecedented environmental transformations, largely driven by human activity. Climate change marked by rising global temperatures and shifting

use, and deforestation. These changes are disrupting the delicate balance of nature on a global scale. **EXTREME WEATHER: A GROWING DANGER** Climate change has intensified extreme weather conditions worldwide. Heatwaves, floods, cyclones, droughts, and wildfires are occurring more frequently and with greater severity. These disasters not only damage the environment but also threaten human lives, agriculture, and economic stability. **MELTING GLACIERS AND RISING SEAS** The rapid melting of glaciers and polar ice caps is contributing to rising sea levels. Coastal regions and island nations are increasingly at risk of flooding and displacement. This poses a serious challenge to urban planning, livelihoods, and long-term sustainability.

systems, particularly coral reefs and shellfish. The disruption of ocean life directly impacts global food security and coastal economies. **HUMAN DISPLACEMENT AND CLIMATE MIGRATION** Climate change is forcing millions to migrate due to uninhabitable conditions caused by floods, droughts, and resource scarcity. This emerging crisis demands urgent global attention, as it affects not only the environment but also social and political stability. **THE PATH FORWARD: ACTION AND RESPONSIBILITY** Addressing climate change requires immediate and collective action. Transitioning to renewable energy, promoting sustainable practices, protecting forests, and reducing emissions are essential steps.



weather patterns—has become one of the most critical challenges facing humanity today. Its consequences are widespread, affecting ecosystems, economies, and societies across the globe. **GLOBAL WARMING: THE CORE THREAT** At the heart of the crisis lies the steady rise in Earth's average temperature. This alarming trend is primarily caused by excessive emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane, resulting from industrialization, fossil fuel

**BIODIVERSITY IN CRISIS** The changing climate is severely impacting biodiversity. Many species are struggling to adapt to rapidly changing conditions, leading to habitat loss and extinction. The decline in biodiversity weakens ecosystems and reduces their ability to support life on Earth. **Oceans Under Stress** Oceans, which absorb a significant portion of carbon dioxide, are becoming more acidic. This phenomenon is damaging marine eco-

Equally important is building resilience through adaptive strategies to safeguard vulnerable communities. **CONCLUSION** The environmental crisis we face today is not a distant threat—it is a present reality. The time for action is now. Governments, institutions, and individuals must come together to combat climate change and protect our planet. Only through united efforts can we ensure a sustainable future for generations to come.

## Landmark Seminar on Innovative Plumbing Technologies by Smile Foundation and Ashirvad by aliaxis



Bengaluru : Smile Foundation, in collaboration with Ashirvad by aliaxis, India's leading provider of plumbing and water management solutions organised a seminar on "Innovative Technologies in Plumbing" in Bengaluru. The seminar spotlighted a significant opportunity to transform the sector, generate higher employment opportunities by training 44% of the workforce with modern plumbing technologies. Bringing together industry leaders, Sector Skill Councils, and training organisations, the seminar focused on accelerating technology adoption, expanding on-ground training, and building a future-ready plumbing ecosystem to support India's rapid urban and infrastructure growth.

The seminar served as a cross-industry platform for stakeholders to exchange insights on emerging trends, evolving project requirements, and the role of innovation in improving efficiency and sustainability in plumbing systems. The seminar saw participation from Mr. Sudheer Pobbathi of Ashirvad by aliaxis, Mr. Rozer Vincent of Ashirvad Training Academy, representatives from the Water

Management and Plumbing Sector Skill Council, industry leaders from Prestige Group, KOHLER, and Cemindia Projects Limited, along with key representatives from Smile Foundation. A key highlight of the seminar was Plumber Saathi, an initiative by Ashirvad by aliaxis implemented by Smile Foundation, which delivers free of cost, on-site and community-based training to plumbers. The programme focuses on enabling plumbers to upgrade their skills at their place of work or residence, ensuring accessibility and practical, hands-on learning.

Mr. Santanu Mishra, Co-founder & Executive Trustee, Smile Foundation said, "Bringing training closer to where plumbers live and work is key to unlocking the sector's full potential. Through initiatives like Plumber Saathi, we are equipping plumbers with advanced skills, enabling their earning opportunities, thereby transforming the future of their children and families. We are also strengthening the foundation for a more advanced and future-ready plumbing ecosystem, wherein skilled plumbers are central."

Mr. Sudeep Agrawal, CFO & Head - CSR, Ashirvad by aliaxis said, "At Ashirvad by aliaxis, we believe that investing in the skilling of plumbers is not just a social responsibility-it is a strategic imperative for India's infrastructure future. Initiatives like Plumber Saathi reflect our commitment to making advanced plumbing knowledge accessible at the grassroots level. By equipping plumbers with the tools and technologies of tomorrow, we are not only enhancing livelihoods but also ensuring that India's rapidly growing urban landscape is built on a foundation of quality, efficiency, and sustainability."

Discussions focused on the integration of advanced technologies within the plumbing ecosystem. Experts highlighted the importance of retrofitting and adopting smart plumbing systems to modernize ageing infrastructure, while also addressing challenges in high-rise buildings such as pressure management and waste systems. The role of smart water metering and automation in improving efficiency, reducing water loss, and enabling sustainable usage was also emphasized.

## Commissioner Visits Census-2027 Training Centre: Emphasis on Accurate Data Collection

Bengaluru: Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar visited and inspected the Census-2027 training centre being conducted at Atria University, Yelahanka, under the jurisdiction of Bengaluru North City Corporation.

During the visit, the Commissioner addressed enumerators and supervisors, emphasizing that accuracy of data is of utmost importance, and instructed them to ensure that only correct and reliable information is collected without any errors. He stated that the data collected through the census serves as a crucial foundation for the country's development, and highlighted that even today, data from the 2011 Census continues to be widely



used, underscoring its significance. The Commissioner further instructed that enumerators, supervisors, and charge officers must perform their duties diligently without giving any excuses and complete the assigned work within the

stipulated time. He also warned that negligence in census duties would attract legal action and urged all personnel to take pride and responsibility in contributing to this important nation-building exercise.

## Groundwater Use Declines, Annual Recharge Rises to 19.28 BCM in Karnataka: Minister

BENGALURU: Karnataka has recorded a significant decline in groundwater usage alongside a notable rise in annual recharge capacity, reflecting the impact of sustained water conservation efforts and good rainfall, said Minor Irrigation, Science and Technology Minister N.S. Boseraju.

Releasing the 2025 Groundwater Assessment Report at Vikas Soudha on Wednesday, the Minister said the gains are a result of good rainfall, focused policy interventions, and large-scale water conservation initiatives implemented over the past two years under Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

According to the report, overall groundwater extraction has reduced from 68.44% in 2024 to 66.49% in 2025, indicating more



responsible usage patterns. Annual groundwater recharge capacity increased from 18.74 billion cubic metres (BCM) in 2024 to 19.28 BCM in 2025, while annual extractable groundwater resources rose from 16.88 BCM to 17.41 BCM. "This simultaneous reduction in usage and increase in recharge reflects our government's commitment to long-term water sustainability," Minister Boseraju said. The improvement has been driven largely by the expansion of water conservation structures (WCS) across the state. Recharge

through such structures increased by 29.11%, from 0.81 BCM to 1.04 BCM in a year. The number of water conservation works has risen sharply from 3.15 lakh in 2024 to 3.94 lakh in 2025. The report indicates improvement in groundwater status across 11 taluks. Chamarajanagar taluk has improved from 'over-exploited' to 'critical'. Taluks including Athani, Channarayana, Molakalmuru, Ranabennur, Savanur, and Shiggaon have transitioned from 'semi-critical' to 'safe'.

## Comprehensive Development of Bannerghatta Main Road from Hosur Road to Kalena Agrahara via BSMILE: Commissioner K.N. Ramesh

Bengaluru: Commissioner of Bengaluru South City Corporation, K.N. Ramesh, conducted an inspection of Bannerghatta Main Road and surrounding areas today along with the Technical Director of BSMILE, the Corporation's Chief Engineers, and other senior officials.

Immediate Asphaltting of Bannerghatta Main Road The BSMILE team informed the Commissioner that a plan

BMRCCL to immediately carry out overlay (resurfacing) work on damaged sections of the road. He also urged BSMILE to expedite the DPR process.

Furthermore, work on the 3.65 km stretch from Kalena Agrahara to Koli Farm is already underway at a cost of Rs.11.50 crore under the CMIDP (Chief Minister's Institutional Development Programme). The Commissioner directed officials to complete this work immedi-



has been devised for the comprehensive development of Bannerghatta Road from Hosur Road to Koli Farm Junction, and a Detailed Project Report (DPR) is currently being prepared.

However, since BMRCCL (Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited) has already handed over the stretch from Dairy Circle to Kalena Agrahara to the City Corporation and deposited Rs.12.50 crore for maintenance, the Commissioner issued a specific directive. Recognizing that the tendering process for the comprehensive project will take time, he instructed officials to use the funds deposited by

ately under the existing tender while ensuring high quality. Proposal for Signal-Free Junction at Vega City Mall

To alleviate traffic congestion, the Commissioner suggested making the Vega City Mall Junction signal-free by constructing an underpass and a flyover. He instructed the concerned department to prepare a DPR and cost estimates for this project. Inspecting vulnerable drainage spots in front of IIMB (Indian Institute of Management Bangalore) on Bannerghatta Main Road, the Commissioner ordered immediate measures to ensure the smooth flow of rainwater into the drains to prevent flooding.

## Alkem launches A to Z Daily, an everyday multivitamin supplement for body and mind

A TO Z DAILY IS FORMULATED WITH 26 ESSENTIAL VITAMINS, MINERALS AND SELECT BOTANICALS, PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR MANAGING STRESS, IMPROVING ENERGY LEVELS AND STRENGTHENING IMMUNITY.

Mumbai, April 8, 2026: Alkem Laboratories Ltd. (BSE: 539523, NSE: ALKEM, "Alkem" and its subsidiaries) today announced the launch of A to Z Daily, an everyday multivitamin supplement for adults, for providing holistic nutritional support to the body and mind.

A to Z Daily tablets are formulated with a total of 26 essential vitamins, minerals and botanicals to provide balanced nutritional support. The key vitamins and minerals include Vitamin B

complex, Vitamin D3, Vitamin C, Zinc, and Iron that help in boosting energy levels, reducing fatigue and improving immunity. The product also contains clinically-researched botanicals such as Ashwagandha, Bacopa monnieri (Brahmi), Panax ginseng, and an amino acid L-theanine, which help in managing stress and anxiety, improving sleep quality

and supporting the cognitive function.

Unlike conventional multivitamins that address only nutritional deficiencies, A to Z Daily is designed as an everyday support supplement for people to maintain physical energy while staying mentally composed through daily pressures and routines. It is intended for consistent, long-term use as

part of a preventive wellness approach.

Commenting on the launch, Dr. Vikas Gupta, Chief Executive Officer, Alkem, said, "Our current lifestyles are placing sustained demands not just on physical health but also on mental well-being. People are increasingly experiencing stress, fatigue, and reduced ability to stay

focused. Nutritional supplementation can play a supportive role in addressing these challenges when designed thoughtfully. A to Z Daily brings together essential ingredients to provide a balanced, everyday support for both body and mind. It is positioned not as a quick fix, but as a consistent, long-term approach for people seeking to manage everyday stress while improving overall vitality." A to Z Daily provides 100% of the recommended daily allowance (RDA) of 19 vitamins and minerals, helping bridge common dietary gaps and support overall nutritional adequacy in adults. The product is approved by the Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). It is a 100% vegetarian product.

## Gas Problem: Central Government Directly Responsible; Special Package for Auto Drivers Needed – Dr. Anand Kumar

Bengaluru : Dr. Anand Kumar, National Coordinator of the AICC SC Department and Maharashtra in-charge demanded that, The ongoing auto gas crisis in the country is entirely the responsibility of the central government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Auto drivers, who are suffering for no fault of theirs, should be given a special relief package by the central government.

Supply of LPG and CNG is completely under the purview of the central government. Due to poor management, a crisis has emerged. Hotels, hospitality, vegetable markets, poultry, fisheries, tourism — every sector is struggling. Among the worst affected are auto drivers. The government must immediately step in to help them.

People had already suffered during demonetization and the COVID pandemic. Now, conflicts in Middle Eastern countries have triggered another disaster. Auto drivers are in deep distress: unable to pay loan installments, struggling to afford

children's school fees, and even daily meals have become difficult. Therefore, each auto driver's family should be given Rs.10,000 as immediate relief. Steps must be taken to prevent further LPG price hikes. Bank loan interest should be waived, and repayment of loan installments should be deferred for one year. India imports up to 90% of LPG, PNG, and CNG requirements from West Asia. Lack of foresight and precaution has led to this crisis.



## WE Hub Hosts India Pilot of Global DEI Training in Collaboration with HERALBONY and JICA

Hyderabad, April 08, 2026 : WE Hub, India's first state-led organisation for women entrepreneurs, recently hosted the India pilot of a global Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) training programme in collaboration with HERALBONY Co., Ltd. and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The three-day programme brought together CEOs, HR leaders, artists, and entrepreneurs for a meaningful dialogue on building more inclusive organisations.

Founded by twin brothers Takaya Matsuda and Fumito Matsuda, HERALBONY is a Japan-based creative agency that works with artists with disabilities, connecting their artwork with companies and institutions worldwide. With a collection of over 2,000 artworks by neurodiverse artists, the organisation has developed a sustainable model that ensures fair royalties for artists while reshaping perceptions of disability through

art and design. Delivered in India for the first time by Japanese facilitators, the programme served as a pilot initiative aimed at refining the training model for future global expansion. Through interactive simulations, reflective exercises, and group discussions, participants explored how social norms are often shaped—often unconsciously—by the privileges of the majority. The workshop also highlighted how leading organisations globally are embedding inclusion into leadership practices, organisational culture, and innovation strategies.

The sessions sparked thoughtful conversations and deep reflection among participants. Leaders engaged openly with the exercises, noting that the experience challenged familiar assumptions and offered new perspectives on how inclusion can be meaningfully practiced within organisations. Participants came away with a renewed understanding of how inclu-

sive thinking can shape leadership, workplace culture, and innovation.

The programme concluded with a dinner hosted by WE Hub, bringing together distinguished guests and partners who supported the initiative. The evening was attended by Sri. B. Ajith Reddy, IDES, Special Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister, Govt. of Telangana; Mr. TAKEUCHI Takuro, Chief Representative, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), India; Smt. Divya Devarajan, IAS, CEO, SERP and Commissioner for PR&RD, Government of Telangana; Mr. Nikhil Chakravarthi, IA&AS, Director, Commissionerate of Industries, Government of Telangana; Mr. Gareth Owen, British Deputy High Commissioner; Ms. Laura Williams, Consul General, United States Consulate General, Hyderabad; Dr. Sujiv Nair, Board of Director, WE Hub; Ms. Sita Pallacholla, CEO, WE Hub; and, among others.

## Škoda Auto Volkswagen India starts production of the new Taigun at its Pune plant

Pune, 08 April 2026: Škoda Auto Volkswagen India Private Limited (SAVVWVIL) today announced the start of production of the new Volkswagen Taigun at its state-of-the-art plant in Pune. The new Taigun reinforces the Group's 'Make in India, for India and the world' vision, combining high levels of localisation, precision manufacturing, and a deeper on-ground understanding of Indian customers.

The new Volkswagen Taigun builds on the strong foundation laid by its predecessor with striking new design elements that deliver a bold and refreshed appeal. The latest iteration of Taigun delivers an edgy new design with premium features. The vehicle is built for India's versatile driving conditions while staying true to Volkswagen's DNA of European driving dynamics, superior comfort, and uncompromising 5-star safety.

Commenting on the development, Piyush Arora, Managing Director & CEO, Škoda Auto Volkswagen India Private Limited, said, "The start of pro-



duction of the new Volkswagen Taigun underscores the maturity of our world-class manufacturing ecosystem in India. Our Indian manufacturing facilities are geared to deliver global-quality vehicles with high levels of localisation, enabling us to respond quickly to what customers demand in India and in export markets. The Taigun stands as a perfect example of this approach, engineered in line with Volkswagen's global benchmarks and produced in

India with a sharp focus on efficiency, quality, and safety. As we roll out the new Taigun, we are further solidifying India's position as a strategic production and export base for the Group."

Nitin Kohli, Brand Director, Volkswagen India, said, "Since its launch, the Taigun has been instrumental in strengthening the brand's SUV strategy. It has played a pivotal role in bolstering our product portfolio for discerning Indian buyers and their

aspirations. The new Taigun is central to our strategic plan for the model line-up that will drive meaningful growth. The start of production for the new Taigun at our Chakan facility is a moment of great pride for us. It continues to signify our commitment to the Indian consumers who choose to own premium German-engineered products. We are certain the new Taigun will build on the success of its predecessor and elevate customer experience."

Since its debut in 2021, the Volkswagen Taigun has earned a strong reputation for dynamic performance, refined comfort, and robust safety, establishing itself as a trusted choice in India and global markets. Over 143,000 units of the Volkswagen Taigun have been produced in India already, with around 30 percent of total production exported to markets around the globe. With production now underway, the new Volkswagen Taigun is set to further strengthen the brand's SUV portfolio with a fresh offering that blends design, practicality, comfort, and performance.

## Vijay targets DMK, BJP alliances at Tirunelveli rally; calls polls a 'historic fight for change'



Tirunelveli, April 8: Actor-turned-politician Vijay intensified his campaign for the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections on Wednesday, addressing a massive public meeting at KTC Nagar in Tirunelveli after arriving at Thoothukudi airport earlier in the day.

Travelling nearly 30 kilometres by road from the airport, the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) chief received a rousing welcome from supporters before beginning his speech with a heartfelt line, "Greetings to the people of Tirunelveli who live in my heart."

Launching a sharp attack on the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), Vijay alleged that the event itself would not have been possible had the party exercised unchecked authority.

"If the DMK had absolute power, they would have created obstacles to stop this programme," he claimed.

He also criticised Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, calling him "powerless" and accusing the DMK government of attempting to suppress his political rise through pressure tactics and defamation. Vijay further alleged that both the DMK-led alliance and the BJP-led front were working indi-

rectly against him, despite appearing as rivals publicly. Claiming growing public dissatisfaction, Vijay said the DMK's alliance structure was weakening, with even its partners unwilling to support it wholeheartedly. He also accused the ruling party of trying to influence the Congress, asserting that the "real Congress" stood with his movement.

Positioning the election as an emotional and transformative battle, Vijay said his political journey was rooted in direct engagement with people across Tamil Nadu.

"For others, this may be just an election. For us, it is an emotion," he declared.

He rejected allegations made against him in recent controversies, including legal and political attacks, stating that such efforts had failed to influence public opinion. He also criticised restrictions imposed on his campaign events, alleging that special conditions were enforced to limit his outreach. Highlighting law and order concerns, Vijay accused the state government of failing to curb crimes, drug trafficking, and illegal activities such as sand mining.

## Can converted SC community members contest from reserved seats? Madras HC seeks ECI's response

CHENNAI: The Madras High Court has directed the Election Commission of India to file its response in a petition filed by Arjunan Sampath, founder of Hindu Makkal Katchi, seeking that only Scheduled Caste candidates professing Hinduism, Sikhism, or Buddhism be permitted to contest from reserved constituencies. Pointing out that 44 of the 234 Assembly constituencies in Tamil Nadu are reserved for Scheduled Castes, the petitioner contended that in those constituencies, only candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes who follow Hinduism, Sikhism, or Buddhism should be allowed to contest elections.

Nearly 90 per cent of the candidates contesting in these 44 reserved constituencies do not profess Hinduism, Sikhism, or Buddhism, but instead belong to the Christian faith, alleged the petitioner. He sought a direction to the Election Commission to issue a circular to all election authorities to strictly scrutinise nomination



papers in accordance with the Constitution of India and the judgments of the Supreme Court.

When the matter came up for hearing before a Division Bench comprising Chief Justice SA Dharmadhikari and Justice G Arul Murugan on Tuesday (April 7), the counsel appearing for the Election Commission submitted that instructions had already been issued to election officials to verify the genuineness of Scheduled Caste certificates, and that nominations would be rejected only if such certificates were found to

be invalid. When the petitioner's counsel sought urgent directions noting that scrutiny of nominations was under way, the bench refused any interim relief stating, "We'll issue notice. You seek instructions. Nothing is going to happen within 48 hours." The bench ordered notice to the ECI and directed the standing counsel to take instructions regarding the plea. The court has decided to hear the plea on April 9. The bench also clarified that there would be no impediment to the ongoing scrutiny of nomination papers.

## Four districts cross 40°C as heat rises in parts of TN

CHENNAI: The Madras High Court directed the Collector and Superintendent of Police of Krishnagiri district to conduct an inquiry into allegations of social ostracisation faced by a woman's family in a village. The petitioner, P Revathi, a resident of Pillankuppam village in Krishnagiri, submitted that one R Krishnan from the same

village, who possesses the land adjacent to her land, demanded a pathway to access his land for the past several years. After Revathi refused to give her land to Krishnan for pathway, the issue was taken before a village panchayat. The petitioner alleged that the village heads, Munirathinam and Venkateshan, passed illegal orders, which were announced

by 'thandora' all over the village in 2022. As per the orders issued by the village heads, Revathi was not allowed to take water from public water sources, purchase groceries from local shops or access tea shops. Her worship rights were also curtailed, she said. Other villagers were prohibited from participating in the petitioner's family functions.

## ECI shunts out Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary, posts Sai Kumar as new CS

CHENNAI: The Election Commission of India on Wednesday (April 8) removed Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary N Muruganandam and appointed senior IAS officer M Sai Kumar as the new Chief Secretary.

In another high-level shakeup, the commission also posted senior IPS officer Sandeep Mittal as the head of Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) and Armed Police with immediate effect. He replaces



senior officer Davidson Devasirvatham. In the communication, the Election Commission directed the Tamil Nadu government that these postings should be implemented with immediate effect and added that a compliance report should be sent by 6 pm on the same day. It also insisted that the officers who were shunted out should not be posted in any election-related posts till the completion of elections.

## Sathankulam verdict effect: TN police told to remove torture tools from stations



CHENNAI: In the aftermath of the Sathankulam custodial death verdict, police stations across Tamil Nadu have been instructed to remove iron rods, plastic pipes and other objects used during interrogations, with officials emphasising that scientific investigation methods must replace physical force.

According to a Daily Thanthi report, senior officers have also directed that no interrogation should be conducted without the supervision of inspectors or DSPs, and that constables must not use lathis without explicit orders.

Authorities warned that officers who believe in extracting truth through violence are unfit for police service, reiterating that no legal sanction exists for such practices. The directives follow the landmark judgment by the Madurai First Additional Sessions Court, which sentenced nine policemen, including Inspector Sridhar and sub-inspectors Balakrishnan and Raghunesh, to death for the custodial murder of P Jayaraj and his son J Bennis in Sathankulam, Thoothukudi district, a ruling that has sent shockwaves across the force.

# Mongolia launches major HPV screening drive to curb cervical cancer

Ulan Bator, Apr 8: Mongolia is set to screen at least 20,000 women in their 30s and 40s this year for Human papillomavirus (HPV), a leading cause of Cervical cancer, according to the country's health ministry. Officials stressed that cervical cancer is largely preventable and encouraged women in the targeted age group to participate actively in the nationwide screening programme. Data from the National Centre for Communicable Diseases

shows that cervical cancer is the second most common cancer among women in Mongolia and ranks fourth overall. In 2025, the country reported 551 new cases and 171 deaths linked to the disease, highlighting the urgency of preventive measures. HPV is a widespread sexually transmitted infection, with most sexually active individuals likely to contract it at some point, often without symptoms. It can affect the skin, genital



areas, and throat. While condoms can reduce the risk, they do not provide complete protection. In many cases, HPV infections resolve naturally without treatment. However, certain strains can lead to genital warts or cause abnormal cell changes that may develop into cancer over time. Vaccination remains a key preventive tool. The HPV vaccine is designed to prevent infections that can lead to cancer and does not

contain live virus material, making it safe and effective. Currently, cervical cancer is the only HPV-related cancer for which routine screening tests are widely available. Vaccination remains a key preventive tool. The HPV vaccine is designed to prevent infections that can lead to cancer and does not contain live virus material, making it safe and effective. These screenings help detect precancerous changes early, allowing timely treatment

before cancer develops. Health experts emphasise that regular screening is a crucial part of healthcare for individuals with a cervix, including women and transgender men, as early detection significantly improves outcomes. While cervical cancer is the most common HPV-related cancer, the virus is also linked to other cancers affecting both men and women, including anal, vaginal, vulvar, throat, and penile cancers.

## Measles surge in Mongolia crosses 14,000 cases, health authorities urge full vaccination

Ulan Bator: Mongolia is witnessing a sharp rise in measles infections, with the total number of confirmed cases climbing to 14,123, the National Centre for Communicable Diseases (NCCD) announced on Monday.

Health officials said most of the newly reported infections have been detected among school-going children who had received only a single dose of the measles vaccine. Citing this trend, the NCCD strongly advised parents to ensure that children complete the recommended two-dose vaccination schedule to guard against what can be a serious and potentially life-threatening illness.

Measles is among the most contagious viral diseases known. It spreads through direct contact with respiratory secretions released when an infected person coughs or sneezes, as well as through airborne transmission. The virus can remain infectious in the air or on surfaces for up to two hours, making it extremely easy to spread.



Experts note that one person with measles can infect as many as 18 others. Although measles can affect people of all ages, children are particularly vulnerable. Health authorities emphasised that vaccination remains the most effective defence, protecting individuals from severe illness while also preventing community transmission. The measles vaccine is considered safe and highly effective in helping the body build immunity against the virus. Before the mea-

sles vaccine was introduced in 1963 and widely adopted, outbreaks occurred every two to three years and were responsible for an estimated 2.6 million deaths annually worldwide. Despite the availability of an affordable and reliable vaccine, measles continues to claim lives. In 2023 alone, an estimated 107,500 people — mostly children under the age of five — died from the disease. Symptoms typically appear 10 to 14 days after exposure. Early signs include a runny nose,

persistent cough, red and watery eyes, and small white spots inside the mouth. A characteristic rash usually develops between 7 and 18 days after infection, starting on the face and upper neck before spreading across the body, including the arms and legs. The rash generally lasts five to six days before gradually fading. Health authorities in Mongolia have reiterated the importance of timely vaccination to curb the outbreak and prevent further spread, especially among children.

## Epilepsy treatable, stigma still keeps patients away from care: doctors

New Delhi: Epilepsy, a neurological disorder marked by repeated seizures due to abnormal electrical activity in the brain, affects more than 15 million people in India. Yet, despite its high prevalence, doctors say many patients delay or avoid medical treatment because of fear, social stigma and deep-rooted misconceptions, particularly in small towns and rural areas.

Medical experts emphasise that epilepsy should be treated like any other chronic condition such as diabetes or hypertension. With regular medication, nearly 70 per cent of patients can achieve good seizure control. For those who do not respond to drugs, advanced treatment options now available in India offer renewed hope and improved quality of life. Explaining the condition, Dr Madhukar Bhardwaj, Director and Head of Neurology at Aakash Healthcare, said seizures occur when the brain's electrical signals behave abnormally for a short duration. This can cause symptoms such as shaking, falling, blank



staring or loss of awareness. While some seizures are mild and brief, others can be severe and disruptive. Dr Bhardwaj pointed out that myths continue to discourage people from seeking hospital care. "Many still believe epilepsy is caused by ghosts or black magic, that it spreads through touch, or that patients cannot study, work or marry. Another harmful belief is putting objects into the mouth during a seizure. All these are false and can endanger the patient," he said. Dr Neha Kapoor, Associate Director and Head of Neurology at Asian Hospital, said epilepsy has multiple causes and, in many cases, no clear cause is identified. Genetic factors, head inju-

ries, brain infections like meningitis, stroke, lack of oxygen at birth and abnormal brain development are some known reasons. She clarified that while stress, sleep deprivation and alcohol can trigger seizures, they do not directly cause epilepsy. Highlighting diagnostic challenges, Dr Praveen Gupta, Chairman of Marengo Asia International Institute of Neuro and Spine, said epilepsy is often missed because not all seizures involve convulsions. "Some seizures appear as brief confusion or staring spells, which leads to delayed diagnosis. Early detection is critical for effective treatment," he said. Dr Gupta added that epilepsy affects people across all age groups, but

fear and misinformation result in late referrals to specialists. With timely diagnosis and proper treatment, most patients can lead completely normal lives. He also noted that epilepsy surgery is being successfully performed in India for patients with drug-resistant epilepsy. Surgeons identify and treat the specific brain area responsible for seizures, and advanced techniques, including neuro-robotic procedures, are improving outcomes. Addressing another lesser-known aspect, Dr Vineet Malhotra, Principal Consultant in Urology and Andrology at SCM Healthcare, said epilepsy can also affect men's sexual health. Seizures, stress and some anti-seizure medications may impact hormones, energy levels and libido. However, he reassured that with counselling, lifestyle changes and medication adjustments, these issues can be effectively managed. Doctors collectively stressed that epilepsy is a medical condition.

# Oil prices plunge and shares jump on US-Iran ceasefire plan

Global oil prices have fallen sharply and stock markets have jumped after the US and Iran agreed to a conditional two-week ceasefire deal that includes the reopening of the key Strait of Hormuz waterway. The price of benchmark Brent crude fell by about 13% to \$94.80 (£70.73) a barrel, while US-traded oil was more than 15% lower at \$85.75. But oil prices remain higher than before the conflict started on 28 February. At the time, it was trading at around \$70 a barrel. The cost of energy has jumped as oil and gas supplies from the Middle East have been severely disrupted after Iran threatened to attack ships trying to use the strait in retaliation to US and Israeli airstrikes. Stock markets in Europe opened higher following sharp rises in Asia. London's FTSE 100 share index jumped by 2.53% in opening trade. In France, the Cac gained 4% while Germany's Dax rose by nearly 5%. Japan's Nikkei 225 gained 5% while South Korea's Kospi jumped nearly 6%. Hong Kong's Hang Seng was up 2.8%, while the ASX 200 in Australia gained 2.7%. US stock market futures also pointed to a higher open for



Wall Street. Futures contracts are an agreement to buy an asset for a set price at a later point in time. In the case of US stock futures, they can indicate the direction of the market before it opens. In a social media post on Tuesday evening, Trump said: "I agree to suspend the bombing and attack of Iran for a period of two weeks... subject to the Islamic Republic of Iran agreeing to the COMPLETE, IMMEDIATE, and SAFE OPENING of the Strait of Hormuz". He had set a deadline for 20:00 EDT on Tuesday (00:00 GMT on Wednesday), threatening

that "a whole civilisation will die tonight" if no deal was reached. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on social media that Tehran will agree to a ceasefire "if attacks against Iran are halted", adding that safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz "will be possible". Despite his threats, Trump was likely to be wary about letting energy prices "skyrocket" by escalating the conflict, said Xavier Smith from market research firm AlphaSense. That could have led to a "self-inflicted economic wound" that few would risk, especially given

the looming pressure of approval ratings on Trump's leadership, said Smith, a research director. More oil tankers stranded near the strait may be able to pass through the waterway during the ceasefire, providing some relief for markets in the coming weeks, said analyst Saul Kavonic from financial services firm MST Marquee. Despite the conflict, some ships have passed through the Strait of

Hormuz, although far fewer than usual. Asian countries - including India, Malaysia and the Philippines - have negotiated safe passage for their vessels in recent weeks. China has also acknowledged that several of its ships have crossed the strait since the war began. Meanwhile, a Malta-flagged container vessel owned by French company CMA CGM crossed the shipping route, media organisation BFM TV - which is owned by the shipping firm - confirmed on Friday. And a Japanese ship carrying natural gas also made it out of the strait, shipping giant MOL confirmed. Kavonic said that while a ceasefire is in place, it is still unlikely that energy production in the Middle East will fully resume until there is confidence of a lasting peace deal. It could also take months for production to restart due to damage done to energy infrastructure in the region.

Global oil prices have fallen sharply and stock markets have jumped after the US and Iran agreed to a conditional two-week ceasefire deal that includes the reopening of the key Strait of Hormuz waterway.

# Madagascar declares state of emergency over severe fuel shortages linked to Iran war

Madagascar has declared a two-week nationwide state of energy emergency amid severe fuel shortages caused by the US and Israel's war in Iran. The presidency said the decision was taken following Tuesday's cabinet meeting over fears the situation could lead to public disorder. The Indian Ocean island, which relies on oil to produce much of its electricity, is dependent on fuel imports from the Middle East - and supplies are likely to be disrupted for sometime despite the two-week ceasefire announced overnight. Last year, persistent power and water shortages in Madagascar led to youth-led protests, which escalated to broader political unrest, resulting in a military takeover. It is not clear exactly what measures the government intends to take - but it says it now has the powers to stabilise the country's power sector, mitigate further disruptions, manage consumption and ensure continuity of public services. So far fuel prices have not increased since the crisis began though there have been shortages with reports of drivers queuing



for hours. News of the state of emergency led to panic buying at some petrol stations on Wednesday - with some reportedly rationing how much each customer can buy, according to local media. Most of Madagascar's oil comes from Oman, south of the Strait of Hormuz - the key global energy shipping route that has been affected by war that started on 28 February. Nonetheless, the price of oil remains considerably higher than before the conflict and analysts say it could take months or even years to repair the damage done to

supply capacity in the region. Madagascar is among several African countries taking urgent action to stem the affects of these disruptions. Some have resorted to raising or subsidising fuel prices and rationing electricity. The Gambia has just ordered the immediate suspension of all non-essential official travel by government officials, days after Senegal implemented a similar move. Zambia recently suspended taxes on petrol and diesel imports, while Botswana scrapped fuel levies for six months to cushion consumers from price rises.

# Across the Country, People Unite to Celebrate the First-Ever World Diamond Day

India, 8th April, 2026 - Jewellery has always held a deeply personal place in people's hearts, and natural diamonds remain its most powerful expression. Every natural diamond carries within it a story of love, milestones, heritage and personal triumphs. On the first-ever World Diamond Day, these stories took centre stage, as people across the country came together to celebrate the meaning and emotion behind every diamond. Launched by the Natural Diamond Council (NDC), World Diamond Day on April 8, 2026, was introduced as a global movement to recognise and celebrate the joy, passion, and community that natural diamonds inspire. Beyond their brilliance, diamonds represent memories, legacy, and the craftsmanship of a passionate industry that brings these stories to life. As a champion of the natural diamond industry, NDC led this collective celebration, encouraging people from across the industry, from artisans and manufacturers to retailers and consumers to share their authentic stories. The movement came alive on social media,



with participants sharing personal moments using #WorldDiamondDay and #NaturalDiamonds, turning the day into a vibrant, global narrative. In India, the celebration reflected a compelling blend of heritage and modern aspiration, as leading diamondaires and manufacturers spotlighted the journey of a diamond from its natural origin to a finished masterpiece. The reach of World Diamond Day was supported by the active participation of the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC India), Gemological Institute of America (GIA),

All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC) and the Bharat Diamond Bourse, who joined the movement to celebrate natural diamonds. This collective spirit was also embraced by leading industry partners, including Venus Jewel, SRK Exports, HK Exports, KP Sanghvi, Dharmanandan Diamonds, Finestar Jewellery and Diamonds, Shivam Jewels and A.S. Motiwala. Additionally, the movement was championed by prominent thought leaders such as Richa Goyal Sikri, Archana Thani, Nitya Arora and Arundhati De Sheth, all of

whom played a significant role in bringing authentic stories and personal perspectives from across the industry to the global stage. Richa Singh, Managing Director, Natural Diamond Council, said, "World Diamond Day is a platform for people to share what their diamonds truly mean to them. At a time when consumers, especially younger audiences, are looking for more meaningful ways to celebrate, this initiative offers a reason to pause and honour those moments. Natural diamonds are the perfect custodians of our memories."

# NATIVE SOUTH – KITCHEN & BREW HOUSE OPENS IN HYDERABAD

Hyderabad: 08th April, 2026: Native South Kitchen & Brewhouse, a vibrant new dining destination dedicated to traditional South Indian cuisine, opened its doors to the people of Hyderabad. Located in Narsingi, the restaurant is set to become a go-to hub for food lovers and enthusiasts in the city and the neighbouring IT hub. Native South Kitchen & Brewhouse brings together time-honoured recipes from Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Kerala, prepared using fresh, locally sourced ingredients. The menu features regional staples with regional variations alongside innovative plant-based and wellness-oriented dishes tailored for modern palates. Native South Kitchen & Brewhouse aims to be more than just a restaurant—it aspires to be a community space where families, friends, and professionals gather to celebrate South Indian culture and convivial dining. Speaking on the occasion, Mr Praveen



Rao Gandra, owner of Native South - Kitchen & Brew House, said, "With Native South, we want to create a place where Hyderabad families and young professionals can come together to relish authentic flavours and enjoy time with family and friends. South Indian cuisine has a rich heritage, but we wanted to present it in a way that feels fresh, modern, and inclusive. By combining traditional recipes, we are creating a space where every guest can explore bold flavours and create new memories."

According to Shiva Shanmugam, Executive Chef, Native South Kitchen & Brewhouse, "Hyderabad has always had a deep love for South Indian food. With Native South Kitchen & Brewhouse, we are proud to offer a premium-quality dining experience that celebrates our roots while embracing innovation. The menu is refreshing and reinforces the brand's commitment to clean, wholesome, and flavour-forward South Indian food." Designed as a neighbourhood hub for families, friends and office groups,

Native South combines traditional South Indian warmth with sleek, modern interiors. The restaurant features home delivery, wheelchair access, live sports screening and a kid-friendly environment, allowing guests to enjoy South Indian food in a space that balances comfort and style. What sets Native South Kitchen & Brewhouse apart is its integrated brewhouse concept, where curated craft beers are designed to complement the spicy, tangy, and aromatic notes of South Indian cuisine.

# Committee formed to study local bodies levying entertainment tax

**Highlights**  
To boost the revenues of local bodies, the Telangana government is examining the feasibility of levying an entertainment tax on certain commercial establishments, such as theaters and amusement parks



To boost the revenues of local bodies, the Telangana government is examining the feasibility of levying an entertainment tax on certain commercial establishments, such as theaters and amusement parks, among others. According to a report published by The New Indian Express, a committee headed by Chief Secretary K Ramakrishna Rao, comprising an inter-departmental team of special chief secretaries, principal secretaries and secretaries as its members, has been

constituted to study how different states have been levying such tax on entertainment and amusement. The report also states that a preliminary report would be prepared by the committee in 30 days and a final report in 60 days. As per the 101st Constitutional Amendment, which introduced the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, the power of the states to levy taxes was controlled, while allowing the local bodies the lever-

age to levy certain taxes. The 62nd entry to the state list in the amended tax regime allows taxes on entertainments and amusements levied and collected by a panchayat, a municipality, a regional council or a district council. The state government is seeing this an opportunity for the local bodies to gain additional revenues by levying such taxes. A preliminary report will be prepared by the committee in 30 days, and a final report in 60 days.

# Tanishq marks a new chapter in natural gemstone category by roping in rukmini vasanth as the face of its new campaign for south

08 April 2026: As we approach the auspicious festival of Akshaya Tritiya, Tanishq, India's leading jewellery brand from the House of Tata, unveils its latest launch in the natural gemstones category featuring Rukmini Vasanth. In South India, gemstones have always been more than adornment, they are tradition, identity, and everyday elegance. From temple jewellery influences to vibrant celebrations, colored gemstones are deeply woven into the region's aesthetic language. The South has embraced the richness of rubies, emeralds, and other vivid stones as a staple, and Rukmini Vasanth embodies the modern South Indian jewellery as Tanishq's new face in the south. Effortlessly elegant and refreshingly modern, she embodies the spirit of Hues, the latest collection where individuality meets timeless grace. Hues collection reimagines the way gold is experienced this Akshaya Tritiya, moving beyond traditional,



investment-led purchases to jewellery that is expressive and meant to be worn. The new Hues collection takes centre stage with a focused design language that celebrates contemporary colour stories in gold, crafted for those seeking distinctive yet affordable fine jewellery, starting at an accessible price of ₹35,000. Bringing together sculptural forms, radiant gemstones, and precision cuts that reveal the depth in every hue. Each piece places colour at its core, crafted for the woman

who embraces jewellery as a reflection of her mood, style, and spirit. With a renewed focus on natural-colored gemstones, the collection deepens Tanishq's presence in a category the region already values, pairing contemporary design with timeless preference. The use of smooth, cabochon-cut stones introduces a sculpted, luminous quality, while layered colour compositions and techniques such as bunching and slicing add depth, texture, and a sense of movement, resulting in jew-

ellery that feels dynamic and distinctly modern. Bringing together a curated selection of natural coloured gemstones such as emeralds, amethysts, citrines, tourmalines, and tanzanites, among others, each stone is sourced with expertise and selected through rigorous quality benchmarks for its exceptional colour, clarity, and intrinsic character. This lends the collection a sense of rarity and authenticity, while ensuring both beauty and durability for everyday wear. The range spans state-

ment neck pieces & bangles for special occasions, alongside lighter earrings, rings, and pendant sets designed for everyday elegance, offering a versatile wardrobe that balances the enduring value of gold with the vibrance of contemporary design. At the heart of this narrative is Rukmini Vasanth, introduced as the face of the campaign and a symbol of the contemporary South Indian woman. Marking the beginning of a long-term collaboration with Tanishq, her association signals a shared vision that extends beyond a single season. Effortlessly elegant and refreshingly modern, she embodies the spirit of Hues, where individuality meets timeless grace. Brought to life through a series of striking images, the campaign captures Rukmini in moments that celebrate both strength and softness. Styled to highlight the vibrancy and sculptural beauty of each piece, the visuals create a seamless interplay of colour, form, and emotion.

# Hegseth says Iran ceasefire offers 'chance at real peace' as both sides claim victory

Arabic news agency Lebanon 24 says on X that hospitals in Lebanon are now overcrowded with victims and that the health ministry is calling on citizens to stay off roads to leave room for ambulances. The pro-Hezbollah Al Manar TV channel is reporting multiple deaths and injuries as a result of heavy strikes on Beirut's southern suburbs, southern Lebanon, Bekaa and the mountains, in posts on Telegram. In a post on X, LBCI Lebanon News quotes the country's health minister as saying that hundreds have been killed and wounded. The state-run National News Agency is reporting that three girls have been killed in an airstrike on a house in the town of Adlun, southern Lebanon. As we reported earlier, there is a conflict over the extent of the Iran ceasefire, and Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said it "does not include Lebanon". There



are reports of a high number of casualties across Lebanon, with hospitals overwhelmed and people believed to be under the rubble of collapsed buildings, after a large wave of Israeli air strikes. Israel described it as the largest wave of attacks in this conflict, hitting more than 100 of what it called Hezbollah command centres and military sites in 10 minutes. Attacks hit the southern suburbs of

Beirut, southern Lebanon and the eastern Bekaa Valley. This happened hours after the office of the Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, denied the assertion by Pakistan, which helped mediate a ceasefire between the US and Iran, that the deal also covered the devastating conflict here. Shortly before Hegseth started speaking, the Israel Defence Forces (IDF)

announced its "biggest strikes" since the start of its ground operation in Lebanon, and Lebanese media are now reporting extensive bombardment in towns and cities across the country. IDF spokesperson Avichay Adraee says in a statement on X that "within 10 minutes and in several areas simultaneously" the army carried out strikes "targeting about 100 headquar-

ters and military infrastructure belonging to Hezbollah". He quotes Chief of Staff General Eyal Zamir as saying the IDF will "exploit every opportunity" and continue to strike Hezbollah, adding: "We will continue the raids without stopping." Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth and Joint Chiefs Chairman General Dan Caine clearly see the deal as a resounding, and complete, military victory - but significant questions remain about the broader deal. For one, it's unclear what exact circumstances would trigger a resumption of US strikes in Iran, although Hegseth said that American forces would "remain vigilant". US officials have also insisted - as Hegseth did in the briefing - that Iran's government is one that has already gone through "regime change", and is now more willing to negotiate. While Iran has clearly signalled a willingness to come to the

table, it is by no means clear that the regime is transformed and no longer a threat to US interests in the region. Many observers have speculated that those in power may ultimately be more hardline. There are also few details on how, exactly, the US will secure the highly enriched uranium still in Iran, despite Hegseth saying that. Lastly, the statement last night from Pakistan suggested that the deal also includes Israeli operations in Lebanon, but strikes continue. We don't know how this will impact the larger negotiations. We can expect something of a victory lap from the White House today, and at her 13:00 Eastern (18:00 BST) briefing Karoline Leavitt is likely to be peppered with these and other questions. Yesterday, President Donald Trump threatened a "whole civilization". Hegseth is now asked if Iran did not come to the table and agree to a ceasefire deal.

## Newlywed wife of US soldier freed by ICE after detention at military base



A US soldier's wife who was detained by immigration agents at the military base where he is stationed - just days after their wedding - has been released. Annie Ramos, 22, an undocumented immigrant who came to the US as a toddler, was arrested on 2 April and spent five days at a detention centre alongside hundreds facing deportation under the Trump administration's immigration crackdown. Immigration officials described Ramos as "an illegal alien from Honduras" who was arrested after attempting to enter a military base. "I feel awesome. Relieved. Relieved," Staff Sergeant Matthew Blank told the New York Times after his wife's release. "These have been the worst days of my life." "I can't wait to carry my wife into our home and start our lives together," Blank told the newspaper, which first reported the story. "I'm complete and ready to serve our country. And it's her country, too." Blank, who enlisted more than five years ago and has served in the Middle East and Europe, is scheduled to begin training later this month ahead of another deployment. Ramos, a biochemistry student, said she was focused now on securing her status.

## TRUMP-BACKED REPUBLICAN CLAY FULLER WINS ELECTION TO REPLACE MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE



Republican Clay Fuller is projected to have won Georgia's runoff election to replace former Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene, a once-staunch ally of Donald Trump who resigned earlier this year after breaking with the president. Fuller won the election to replace her on Tuesday, according to CBS News, the BBC's US partner. He is a Trump-endorsed candidate who won against Democrat Shawn Harris, and whose victory keeps the strongly conservative district in Republican hands. The win shores up the party's razor-thin 217-214 majority in the House of Representatives. Fuller, a lieutenant colonel in the Georgia Air National Guard, will serve out the rest of Greene's term, which ends next January. He said in an interview with Fox News on Tuesday night that Trump's endorsement was "the key factor in us winning". "He was the difference-maker," Fuller said.

"He made all the difference in the world. It was the honour of my lifetime to be able to get his endorsement." A special election was held on 10 March where Harris performed marginally better than Fuller, in part because a crowded Republican field split the vote. No single candidate won a majority that night, requiring Tuesday's run off election. In order to hold the seat in Congress beyond next January, Fuller will have to immediately start campaigning again, this time for the midterm elections this November. It's possible he will face off with Harris again. Harris indicated on social media that he plans to run. "This wasn't the result we wanted, but the message is clear - people here are ready for leadership that puts them first," he said. "The fight continues. On to November!" Fuller, who was a White House fellow during Trump's first term, is closely aligned with the president's agenda.

## MAN FINED AFTER BREAKING INTO VIRAL HIPPO MOO DENG'S ENCLOSURE

A man has been fined \$300 (£223) by a Thai court after breaking into the enclosure of Moo Deng, an endangered baby pygmy hippo and internet sensation, the zoo's director said. Narongwit Chodchay, who runs Khao Kheow Open Zoo, told AFP that the man, who entered Moo Deng's pen last month, had been found guilty by a local court. Footage released by local media showed a man inside the enclosure, recording Moo Deng with a tablet. The zoo, which is about two hours drive from Bangkok, said that the pygmy hippo - who went viral in 2024 after the zoo shared videos of her antics on social media - was unharmed but "slightly startled". The zoo's director said the court decision



"shows that no one can violate animals' rights, no matter whether they are in an enclosure or in the wild". He told AFP: "We train staff on what to do if any animals escape, but from now on, we will have to train them on what to do if there are any intruders. "We learned from this lesson and will not allow it to happen again - not to Moo Deng and not to other animals in the zoo."

## IRAN CEASEFIRE DEAL GIVES TRUMP A WAY OUT OF WAR - BUT AT A HIGH COST

In the end, cooler heads prevailed - at least for now. At 18:32 Washington time, President Donald Trump posted on his social media website that the US and Iran were "very far along" with a "definitive" peace agreement and that he had agreed to a two-week ceasefire to allow negotiations to proceed. It wasn't exactly the last minute, but with Trump's looming 20:00 EDT (00:00 GMT on Wednesday) deadline to reach a deal or the US would launch massive strikes against Iranian energy and transportation infrastructure, it came pretty close. All of this is contingent on Iran also suspending hostilities and fully opening the Strait of Hormuz to commercial shipping traffic, which the regime says it will do, while insisting it still



exerts "dominion" over the waterway. The deal allowed Trump to extricate himself from what was shaping up to be a treacherous choice - either escalating with his promise that a "whole civilization will die tonight" or backing down and undermining his credibility. The US president may have only bought himself a temporary reprieve, however. The US and Iranians now will

engage in negotiations over the next two weeks, buying some time to try to reach a permanent settlement. It is likely to be a bumpy ride, but in after-hours trading, the price of a barrel of oil dropped below the \$100 mark for the first time in days and US stock futures soared. There appears to be a sense of optimism that the worst is over. Even this kind of progress was far from cer-

tain as recently as Tuesday morning, when Trump threatened the death of Iranian civilisation, "never to be brought back again". Whether such a jaw-dropping threat from an American president pressured Iran to agree to the kind of ceasefire they had previously rejected is uncertain. What is clear is that Trump's astounding, inflammatory declaration - just two days after a similar obscenity-laced Truth Social demand - is unlike anything a modern US president has ever levelled or hinted at. And even if the two-week ceasefire does result in a permanent peace, the Iran war - and Trump's recent words - may have fundamentally altered the way the rest of the world views the US.

## GREECE TO BAN SOCIAL MEDIA FOR UNDER-15S FROM NEXT YEAR

Greece has announced plans to ban access to social media for under-15s, becoming the latest European country to restrict children's exposure to online platforms. Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said the move was aimed at tackling rising anxiety and sleep problems among young people, as well as what he described as the "addictive design" of social media. The restriction will come into force from January of next year. In December Australia became the first country in the world to require TikTok, YouTube, Snapchat and other top sites to remove accounts held by under-16s, or face heavy fines. France, Austria and



Spain are among a growing number of nations pursuing similar curbs. The UK government has launched a consultation on whether to implement a ban for under-16s, while Ireland and Denmark are considering similar measures. Social media companies argue that

blanket bans will be ineffective, difficult to enforce and could isolate vulnerable teenagers. Reddit is challenging Australia's law in court. In a video message posted on TikTok on Wednesday, Mitsotakis said: "Many young people tell me they feel exhausted from compar-

isons, from comments, from the pressure to always be online." He said he had spoken with parents who said their children do not sleep well, are anxious and are always on their phones. Calling the planned restriction "difficult but necessary", he said the government's goal was not to distance young people from technology which "can be a source of inspiration, knowledge and creativity". "But the addictive design of certain applications, and a business model based on capturing your attention - on how long you stay in front of a screen - takes away your innocence and your freedom. That has to stop somewhere."

## Co-founder of Jalisco New Generation drug cartel pleads guilty



The co-founder of the Mexico-based Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG), Erick Valencia Salazar, has pleaded guilty to drug trafficking charges, the US Department of Justice (DOJ) has announced. Valencia Salazar, known as "El 85", was captured by the Mexican army in 2022 in the state of Jalisco and was among a group of 29 alleged drug lords extradited to the United States in February 2025 to stand trial. The Drug Enforcement Administration said Valencia Salazar "helped build CJNG into a ruthless organisation that uses violence as a business model - murdering for control in Mexico while flooding the United States with poison". His sentencing is scheduled on 31 July. In a statement, the DOJ said that Valencia Salazar had changed his earlier not guilty plea to plead guilty to one count of conspiracy to distribute 5kg or more of cocaine to the United States. The mandatory minimum sentence is 10 years in prison. The Jalisco New Generation

Cartel is one of the most powerful criminal organisations founded in Mexico. In February, its members unleashed a wave of violence across 20 Mexican states after news spread that its leader, Nemesio Oseguera Cervantes, better known as "El Mencho", had died as a result of injuries sustained during his capture by Mexican security forces. Last year, the US President Donald Trump designated the CJNG as a Foreign Terrorist Organisation (FTO). The Trump administration has stepped up its battle against the cartels, which it says threaten "the safety of the American people, the security of the United States, and the stability of the international order in the Western Hemisphere". Trump has also pressured his Mexican counterpart, Claudia Sheinbaum, to do more to combat Mexico-based criminal groups such as the CJNG. The capture and subsequent death of "El Mencho" was hailed by Sheinbaum as proof of the armed forces' commitment to track down Mexico's most notorious drug lords.



Israel carries out large wave of air strikes across Lebanon

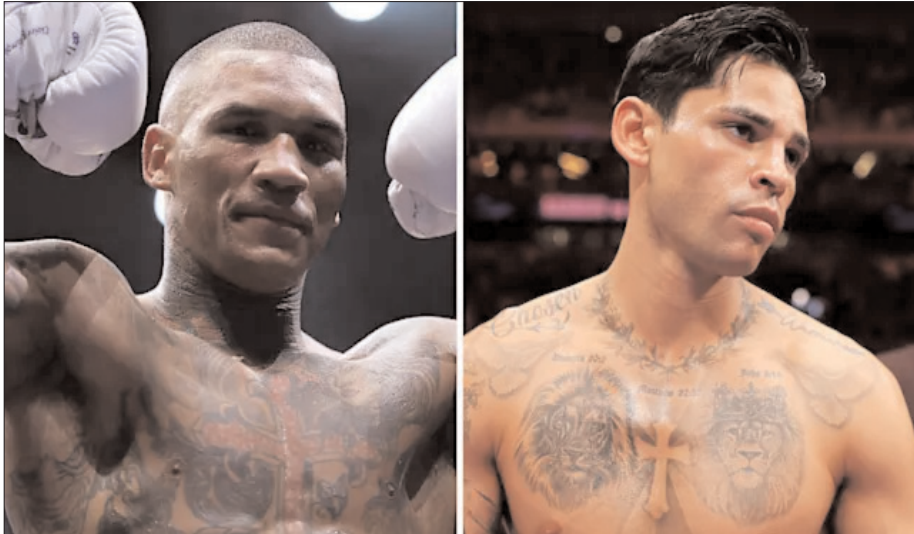
## Cross-border travel hit by second day of fuel protests

Cross-border travel has been affected for the second day in a row by fuel protests in the Republic of Ireland. Slow-moving convoys protesting against high fuel prices caused by the US and Israeli war against Iran are in Dublin and various locations on main roads leading to the city, as well as near other large urban areas. Gardai (Irish police) said O'Connell Street and O'Connell Bridge in Dublin were at a standstill. Dublin Airport advised passengers to allow extra time for their journey while Translink said cross-border services were subject to delays and disruption. All of the public transport provider's X1/X2/X3/X4 services will

terminate at Dublin Airport until further notice. There are also a number of delays and diversions to Dublin Express coach services between Dublin and Belfast. The company advised customers to allow "significant extra time" for their journeys. The conflict in the Middle East has caused rapid price rises for both petrol and diesel. Some 20% of the world's oil trade, the raw ingredient for producing both petrol and diesel, has been halted by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. Prices in the Republic of Ireland have surged to about 2.14 (£1.86) a litre for diesel and roughly 1.91 (£1.66) a litre for petrol, with higher prices in some places.

## GARCIA IS GOOD FOR BOXING BUT A LIABILITY - BENN

Conor Benn says WBC welterweight champion Ryan Garcia is "good for boxing" but believes the American is a "liability". Garcia won his first major title in February after two previous failed attempts and following his return from a one-year suspension for doping. The 27-year-old has long been on Benn's radar but the Briton, who has served his own doping ban from the sport, spent 2025 tied up in his rivalry with Chris Eubank Jr. Benn, 29, stepped up two weight classes to face Eubank, winning the second encounter, but is ready to start campaigning back at his traditional division of welterweight. He told BBC Sport that Garcia was supposed to be his next opponent but did not want another period of inactivity, so agreed to face Regis Prograis on 11 April instead. "I think Garcia's good for the sport of boxing,



I think he's a character and he's entertaining, but he's also a liability," Benn told BBC Sport. "Garcia was next, that was scheduled in - I am mandatory number one position for Garcia. "Now if you're me, do you wait out until September or do you take a potential banana skin in the middle? I like rolling the dice and

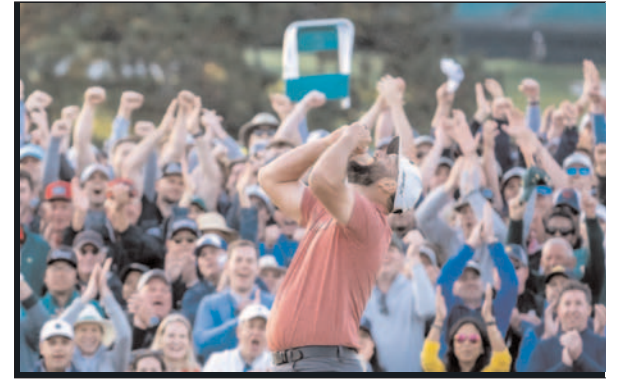
having a little bit of fun and keeping active." Benn's fight on Saturday is his first since leaving lifelong promoter Matchroom, having agreed a one-fight deal with Zuffa Boxing in February. Zuffa Boxing is backed by UFC chief Dana White and Saudi Arabian capital. White's ultimate aim is to sideline the four

traditional sanctioning bodies - the WBO, WBC, IBF and WBA - and make Zuffa's belt the premier world title alongside the Ring Magazine title, an organisation owned by Saudi boxing powerbroker Turki Alalshikh. What Benn's future looks like beyond his deal with Zuffa Boxing remains unclear,

but his desire to win a world title - just as his father Nigel did in the 1990s - remains firm. Benn has several avenues to explore if he beats Prograis, with Rolando Romero holding the WBA title, Lewis Crocker in possession of the IBF belt and Devin Haney the reigning WBO champion. But Garcia, whose unpredictability Benn admires, remains the Briton's number one target. "You don't know who's turning up - you don't know if Garcia's turning up," Benn said. "You don't know if he's going to make the fight or not, have some sort of episode. You just don't know. "People don't want to be themselves in the sport of boxing, so I love it when I see a young man under fire for being who he is. "At least you're true to yourself and who you are. Whether I like you or not - I don't him - but some people do, just be who you are."

## Rolex Proud To Support 90th Edition Of The Masters Tournament

Steeped in history and tradition, the Masters Tournament is the first of the year's four men's major golf championships. The world's best players will arrive in Georgia, USA, and venture down Magnolia Lane - the prestigious entrance drive to Augusta National Golf Club - to begin their quest for the winner's Green Jacket. From Thursday 9 to Sunday 12 April, the 90th edition of this revered sporting event will be contested on the azalea-lined fairways and immaculate greens, once again supported by Rolex as Tournament Partner, a role it has fulfilled since 1999. World No. 1 Scottie Scheffler is one of several Rolex Testimonees bidding to reclaim the Masters crown. The 29-year-old American produced an outstanding season in 2025, securing two majors, the PGA Championship and The Open, and will be seeking to win the Masters for a third time following victories in 2022 and 2024.



Commenting on the emotions he feels at Augusta National Golf Club, Scheffler says: "I think the feeling that you get and the gratefulness of being able to achieve a lifelong dream is so special. It is just really fun to put on the Green Jacket, and when you go back the next year, you get to host the Champions Dinner and do all the things that you have dreamed about. Going from being a little kid learning to play the game to winning the Masters is a truly humbling experience." If victorious, Scheffler will add his name to an illustrious list of fel-

low Rolex Testimonees who have won the Masters on more than two occasions. Jack Nicklaus leads the title count with six, followed by Tiger Woods on five, Arnold Palmer on four and Phil Mickelson and Gary Player on three. Jon Rahm also has the opportunity to become a multiple Masters winner. The Spaniard triumphed at Augusta in 2023 and will attempt to repeat the feat this year after joining a group of golfing greats at the Champions Dinner on Tuesday 7 April. "Playing at Augusta National Golf Club is the most special feeling in golf," says Rahm.

## Little Andaman Pro 2026 Signals Rise Of Andaman And Nicobar Islands As India's Next Surfing Hub

The Andaman and Nicobar group of Islands are fast emerging as India's next major surfing destination, with Andaman & Nicobar Tourism taking a decisive step in promoting the sport by hosting the first-ever national surfing and stand-up paddling championship in the region, the Little Andaman Pro 2026. Organised by the Surfing Federation of India (SFI) and fully supported by Andaman Tourism, the championship, scheduled from April 9-12 at Butler Bay, marks a significant milestone in the expansion of India's surfing map beyond traditional coastline locations. Known for its pristine coastline, coral reefs and consistent swell patterns, Little Andaman offers ideal conditions for high-per-



formance surfing. The reef break at Butler Bay, in particular, is increasingly being recognised as one of the most promising surf locations in the country, capable of hosting top-level competitions and attracting surfers from across India and beyond. The initiative is expected to not only elevate the standard of competitive

surfing in India but also provide a major boost to tourism in the islands by positioning Andaman as a premier destination for ocean sports and adventure travel. Speaking on the initiative, Shri Vinayak Chamadia, IAS, Director (IP&T), A&N Administration, said, "The Andaman Islands have

always been known for their natural beauty, and surfing is a natural extension of that identity. By hosting the Little Andaman Pro 2026, we aim to showcase the region's immense potential as a surfing destination while promoting sustainable and experience-driven tourism. This is a long-term vision to put Andaman on the global surfing map." The move reflects a growing emphasis on leveraging sports as a driver for tourism, with destinations increasingly investing in niche sporting events to attract new audiences and create unique travel experiences. Mr. Arun Vasu, President, Surfing Federation of India, highlighted the importance of expanding the sport into new geographies, saying,

## CSK Head Coach's Success Only Dependent On MS Dhoni? Ex-India Star's Big Claim

Former Indian opener Sadagopan Ramesh stated that Chennai Super Kings head coach Stephen Fleming's success has depended entirely on his partnership with MS Dhoni. Fleming was appointed head coach of the franchise in 2009 and has since led them to five IPL titles-all of which came under Dhoni's captaincy. However, the franchise has struggled since Rituraj Gaikwad took over the captaincy in 2024. In a post on his Instagram account, Ramesh argued that Fleming's accolades are tied to Dhoni; with CSK losing their first three matches of IPL 2026, he claimed the coach appears to be "five steps behind" the



modern game. "Fleming has never had any success anywhere without Dhoni captaining the side. It's clear that Fleming's success hinges completely on Dhoni. With the way the game is evolving, just like how a player's fitness and

been overwhelming, with the opener scoring just 41 runs in three matches so far. Ramesh insisted that playing crucial knocks could boost Gaikwad's confidence and aid his development as a leader. "You don't need experience to smash fours and sixes, but you need experience to stop boundaries-which CSK's bowling lacks. To help himself as captain, Rituraj must start scoring runs. By doing that and single-handedly winning matches for CSK, things can start to turn around for him as a leader," said Ramesh. Chennai Super Kings will take on Delhi Capitals in their next IPL 2026 encounter this Saturday.

## "3 Glasses Of Wine": Major Details Emerge In David Warner's Drink-Driving Case

Former Australian cricket team opener David Warner told the police that he had consumed alcohol shortly before he was stopped in Sydney's eastern suburbs, according to a report by NewsCorp. Fresh details have emerged in the drink-driving case, as the report claimed that Warner told officers he was drinking with a friend and had consumed three glasses of wine before trying to drive back to his residence in Maroubra. He was intercepted by authorities during a random breath-testing operation, which returned a positive reading for alcohol. Warner was taken to Maroubra police station from the scene, and his blood alcohol level was recorded at allegedly 0.104 more than twice the legal limit. The former Australian

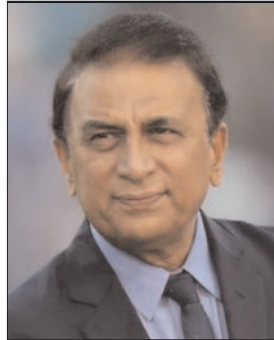


cricketer was then charged with a mid-range drink-driving offence, and he will appear before the Downing Centre Local Court on May 7. The latest development adds to an already high-profile case involving the former Australian international, who continues to feature prominently in franchise cricket despite stepping away from international duties in 2024. Warner is cur-

rently leading Karachi Kings in the ongoing Pakistan Super League (PSL) 2026 and had briefly returned to Australia during a break in the tournament. He had recently scored a half-century in a match in Lahore on April 2. The incident comes on the heels of a prolific domestic T20 season, where Warner enjoyed a standout run in the Big Bash League, averaging 86.6 for Sydney Thunder and earning captaincy honours in the tournament's team of the season. The franchise has declined to comment on the matter. Warner, one of Australia's most accomplished modern-day batters, amassed 8786 runs in 112 Tests at an average exceeding 44, including a career-best unbeaten 335 against Pakistan. Since retiring from Test cricket,

## Sunil Gavaskar Launches Brutal Rant On Overseas Stars' 'Commitment' To IPL: "Cash Cow"

Legendary Indian cricketer Sunil Gavaskar launched a scathing attack regarding the availability of overseas players in the Indian Premier League (IPL), questioning both their commitment and their fitness claims. While players like Mitchell Starc and Matheesha Pathirana have faced delayed starts due to injury concerns, Kolkata Knight Riders' record signing Mitchell Starc and RCB's Cameron Green have faced scrutiny over workload management. Gavaskar urged the BCCI to intervene, suggesting that stricter rules should be in place for players who do not commit fully to their designated roles. In his column for Sportstar, the legendary cricketer remarked that bowling four overs a match



can hardly be called "demanding." "To suggest that the franchise was 'informed before' is not a great excuse. And 'informed before' is how much before the opening day of the tournament? Playing for the country is paramount and comes before franchise cricket, but don't the franchises-who open not just their wallets but also their hearts to players and often

their families-deserve full commitment?" "It is also worth remembering that a bowler can bowl only four overs in a match. If they have bowled a similar number of deliveries in practice without issue, what is stopping them from doing so in the game? As a bowler, you are expected to bowl 56 overs across 14 league games over two months and, if your team reaches the final, perhaps another two or three games and 12 more overs. C'mon, for a generation that keeps talking about how fit they are, that's no load at all. Four overs in a match-and not even in one stretch-is too much for the body? Man, if the body is that fragile, then it's best to give it two more months' rest, isn't it?" he wrote.

## I AM MAXIMUS HEADS GRAND NATIONAL FIELD



I Am Maximus and Nick Rockett - the past two winners of the Grand National - head the field for Saturday's race at Aintree. The pair, both trained by Willie Mullins, won the race in 2024 and 2025 respectively and top the weights for the 2026 renewal. I Am Maximus, owned by JP McManus, triumphed by seven-and-a-half lengths in 2024, before finishing two-and-a-half lengths behind Nick Rockett, who was victorious under Mullins' son Patrick last year. Jockey Paul Townend has stuck with I Am Maximus, while Patrick Mullins has jumped off Nick Rockett for Grangeclare West. Tom Bellamy, who picked up his first Cheltenham Festival winner last month, has picked up the ride on Nick Rockett. A maximum of 34 runners have been declared for Saturday's showpiece, with six horses waiting in reserve. The reserves are Pied Piper, Imperial Saint, Amirite, Ain't That A Shame, Deep Cave and Buddy One - they will get runs if there are any non-runners before 13:00 BST on Friday. McManus is

seeking a record fourth victory in the race and has leading hopefuls Iroko and Jagwar - both trained by Oliver Greenall and Josh Guerriero. Johnnywho is another runner for McManus, alongside Spillane's Tower, who also holds an entry for the Aintree Bowl on Thursday so may yet drop out of the National. Oscars Brother and Perceval Galgallois, who will be ridden by Harry Cobden after falling last year, are also representing McManus. I Am Maximus is bidding to become the first horse to carry top weight to victory since triple winner Red Rum in the 1970s. Nick Rockett will attempt to match Tiger Roll's feat of back-to-back wins in 2018 and 2019. The previous horse to do that was Red Rum. The field is again dominated by Irish trainer Mullins, with the three-time winner having nine horses in the field. Joining I Am Maximus and Nick Rockett are last year's third-placed Grangeclare West, Spanish Harlem, Lecky Watson, Champ Kiely, High Class Hero, Captain Cody and Quai De Bourbon.

## Savita, Deepika Return As Hockey India Announce Women's Squad For Argentina Tour

Hockey India has revealed a 24-member Indian Women's Hockey Team for the upcoming tour of Argentina, set to take place in Buenos Aires from April 13 to 17. The four-match exposure series against the top Argentine team arrives at a crucial point in India's international schedule, with the FIH Hockey World Cup in Belgium & the Netherlands 2026 and the Asian Games approaching. The squad combines experienced players with promising new talent, showcasing both the growth of Indian women's hockey in recent years and the high

expectations set by head coach Sjoerd Marijne. For the players, this tour is not just about preparation; it signifies their serious commitment. Experienced midfielder Salima Tete remains the team's captain, adding composure, intelligence, and energy to India's midfield. The most eagerly awaited return to the team is forward Deepika, who is coming back after rehab. Her return will be particularly appreciated by the Chief Coach, as Deepika resumes her role as India's main drag-flicker in what will be a pivotal year. In her absence, players such as Navneet Kaur, Manisha

Chauhan, Uditia, and Annu stepped up commendably. Notably, Annu showcased her exceptional drag-flicking skills during the qualifiers. With Deepika back, bringing more depth and experience, the team now appears more balanced and formidable moving ahead. Over the past year, Navneet Kaur has established herself as a key player in Indian women's hockey and will be central to India's preparations for an important season ahead. Savita Punia, India's veteran goalkeeper and one of the most decorated custodians in Indian hockey, rejoins the squad after missing the

recent qualifiers. Her return is timely-Argentina will thoroughly test the defense, and there is no better player to meet that challenge. When Savita was unavailable for the qualifiers, Bichu Devi seized the opportunity and proved she belongs at this level. The young goalkeeper displayed maturity, sharp reflexes, and calmness beyond her age, confirming that India now has strong depth in goalkeeping. Her ongoing presence alongside Savita promotes healthy competition for the goalkeeper position and reassures the coaching staff about the team's future.



### AA22XA6 IS RAAKA:

## Icon Star Allu Arjun Roars in Birthday special poster; Atlee, and Sun Pictures brings Biggest Visual Spectacle of Indian Cinema

In a blockbuster announcement that has set the Indian film industry abuzz, Icon Star Allu Arjun, acclaimed director Atlee, and entertainment giant Kalanithi Maran's Sun Pictures have announced the much anticipated title of this mammoth project. AA22XA6 is now RAAKA. A uniquely titled film is generating excitement in the epic that Atlee is set to bring. In the first look poster, Icon Star Allu Arjun is seen in a striking and unique avatar. The poster introduces him as bald, kohl-eyed, staring directly into the camera, while sporting the animal claws teased yesterday. His forehead also features markings reminiscent of Viking tattoos. Beyond this look, little is known about the film, including the cast or even the genre. Fans have reacted positively to the stunning new look, with many calling it "jaw-dropping." As a superstar celebrated worldwide, he never shies away from experimenting with his looks to match the grand vision of his director. This transformation has truly shocked everyone. The first look sent shock-



waves across the country, with fans celebrating Icon Star's birthday with full Josh and excitement. After keeping fans waiting for almost a year, Atlee and Allu Arjun have stunned audiences, and everyone is eagerly anticipating what they are about to bring. Following the global success of Pushpa: The Rule, National award winning actor Allu Arjun is expected to bring his signature style to this highly anticipated project. Reports suggest that Raaka will be a major technical venture, with Atlee aiming to create visual effects and world-building to rival those seen in Hollywood biggies. The creator Atlee, known for massive blockbusters like Jawan, Theri, Bigil, and Mersal; and Sun TV Network, one of India's most influential powerhouses. Deepika Padukone is playing as the female lead opposite Allu Arjun.

## Manam Enterprises LLP and Sithara Entertainments' Lenin on June 26th: Akhil Akkineni's Birthday Special Poster unveiled

Young and dynamic actor Akhil Akkineni's next Lenin has raised a good buzz with the first single. The film stars Bhagyashri Borse as the female lead. Directed by Murali Kishor Abburu, Lenin is shaping up to be a complete cinematic package filled with powerful emotions and engaging storytelling. On the occasion of Akhil Akkineni's birthday, the makers dropped a special poster wishing the actor a very happy birthday. In the poster, Akhil is seen in a new look, and his charming smile adds warmth. This much-anticipated project is set to release in theatres on June 26, 2026. The



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release date is also confirmed once again on the poster. Directed by Murali Kishor Abburu, Lenin is being crafted as a complete cinematic experience, promising a blend of strong emotions and engaging storytelling. The team assures audiences

that the film will be presented in its finest form, delivering a memorable big-screen experience. The film also features music by Thaman S, adding to the overall scale and appeal. Produced by Akkineni Nagarjuna and

Suryadevara Naga Vamsi under Manam Enterprises LLP and Sithara Entertainments, and presented by Annapurna Studios, the film promises a memorable big-screen spectacle.

### SAMYUKTHA MENON'S NEW LOOK HAS NO OFF SWITCH



Samyuktha Menon is one actress who clearly believes that less is never more when it comes to glamour, and her latest pictures prove exactly that. Draped in a stunning traditional outfit with a heavy glamour dose, she looks every bit the star she is becoming. The rich fabric, the bold jewellery choices, the confident pose, and that intense gaze all come together to create pictures that are impossible to scroll past. Samyuktha has always had a magnetic screen presence, and these off-screen pictures show she carries that same energy everywhere she goes, no camera crew required.



## Trisha Responds on Retirement but Skips the Big Question

while now, speculations intensified when Vijay's wife reportedly filed for divorce. Adding fuel to the fire, Vijay and Trisha attended a friend's wedding together following the divorce reports. Despite the rumours getting stronger in the media, Trisha and Vijay remain tight-lipped about their relationship. Meanwhile, noted Tamil actor Chitra Lakshmanan stated on his YouTube channel that Trisha has quit films. Responding to the same, Trisha shared a sarcastic story on Instagram, condemning it as false news. However, she didn't address the main rumour that has been doing the rounds in the media for a long time. Chitra

Lakshmanan said that Trisha has retired from films and added that a few reliable producers confirmed the news to him. Soon, his statements went viral on social media, with people speculating that Trisha quitting films had something to do with her relationship with Vijay, who also quit films after entering active politics. Trisha quashed Chitra Lakshmanan's statements by writing, "Apparently, I've quit films, married a rich businessman, and I'm raising quadruplets who turned two yesterday! Anything else I should add, or did we cover today's fiction quota?" Though she confirmed that she will not be leaving films, Trisha didn't answer whether she is in a relationship with Vijay or not. It remains to be seen when they will respond to

Of late, actress Trisha Krishnan has been in the news for her alleged relationship with actor-politician Vijay. Though their dating rumours have been circulating in the media for a

## Dacoit will definitely be a blockbuster. No doubt about it: Victory Venkatesh at the pre-release event

Adivi Sesh, who is entertaining with back-to-back pan India blockbusters, is going to come before the audience with the pan-India action-romantic thriller 'Decoy'. Shaniel Deo is making his directorial debut with this film. Mrunal Thakur plays the heroine opposite Sesh. Anurag Kashyap plays a key role. Presented by Annapurna Studios, the film is produced by Supriya Yarlagadda and co-produced by Sunil Narang. The teaser, trailer and songs of this film have raised huge expectations on the film. Decoy is set to hit the theatres on April 10. On this occasion, the makers organized a pre-release event. The ceremony, attended by Victory Venkatesh as the chief guest, was very grand. Victory Venkatesh said at the pre-release event..



Greetings to everyone. Everyone thinks I came to the Decoy event for Supriya. But I came for a good film, coming in front of the audience, and giving a big hit. I saw Sesh in Panja. That's when I felt that he would be a very wonderful actor. All the films he did later became

very good film. Because they did it with a very passionate team. Everyone did it with the intention of making a good film, coming in front of the audience, and giving a big hit. I saw Sesh in Panja. That's when I felt that he would be a very wonderful actor. All the films he did later became

hits. I wish more blockbusters to come. Decoy will definitely be a blockbuster. There is no doubt about that. I believe this will be Mrunal's best film.



## Ranveer is the reason why I exist in this industry: Mrunal Thakur

Mrunal Thakur, one of the most popular actresses in recent times, is currently busy promoting her upcoming film Dacoit. Amid the promotions, the actress made a heartfelt revelation that has caught everyone's attention. Do you know she recently called a Bollywood actor her "lucky charm"? Yes, Mrunal shared that Ranveer Singh played a key role in shaping her early career. Speaking during a podcast with Ranveer Allahbadia, Mrunal opened up about how her journey in Bollywood began after working with Ranveer in a

commercial. She said, "My heart is happy. He is my lucky charm. He is the reason why I exist in this industry in the first place. I did a commercial with him for a hair brand as a model, and when that commercial hit the screens, it was then that filmmakers started noticing me. That is how I give my credit to him. This man has really helped me. Such a positive person, he deserves all the success." The actress credited that one opportunity for changing her life and helping her enter the film industry.

"Singh, I saw Hamza" Mrunal also spoke highly of Ranveer's performance in Dhurandhar: The Revenge, where he plays the character Hamza. Praising his acting, she said, "The acting was not surface level. It had depth and layers. I did not watch it as Ranveer Singh. I only saw it as Hamza, it was more of a character than a hero. I just feel incredibly proud of Ranveer because he is so hardworking. I pray and wish that whatever he does should be a blockbuster. He can do everything."

WHAT'S NEXT FOR MRUNAL

"I didn't see Ranveer

### NANI'S AAYA SHER SENSATIONAL 100 M MARK

Natural Star Nani is in unstoppable form, constantly reinventing himself and pushing the boundaries of mass cinema. He steps into one of his fiercest and most intense avatars yet in The Paradise and the film's musical journey began with a bang. The first single Aaya Sher has erupted into a global sensation, dominating across platforms and music charts. Impressively, the song has crossed 100M+ views, becoming the fastest from Nani to reach the landmark.

