



## Amit Shah pitches industry revival, jobs push in Bengal poll campaign

Kolkata (TSIT): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said that if the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) comes to power in West Bengal after the Assembly elections in the state this month, one of the top priorities of the new state government would be to bring back those industrial entities and business establishments which have shifted to other states during the last 15 years of the Trinamool Congress regime, allegedly because of the election syndicates run by leaders of the ruling party.

NATION | NEWS

## Iran says it has seized two cargo ships in Strait of Hormuz after three vessels attacked

WORLD | NEWS



## Real or robot? Alia Bhatt's fake fashion campaign goes viral

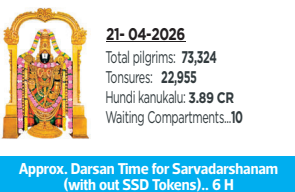
CINEMA | PAGE



SCAN FOR E-PAPER



OM NAMO VENKATESAYA



21-04-2026

Total pilgrims: 73,324

Tonsures: 22,955

Hundi Kankaluk: 3.89 CR

Waiting Compartments: 10

Approx. Darshan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens), 6 H

WEATHER



38 °C | °F

Precipitation: 10%

Humidity: 32%

Wind: 10 km/h

GOLD RATE



1,56,870/-

## BJP SEEKS EC ACTION AGAINST KHARGE OVER 'TERRORIST' REMARK ON PM MODI

New Delhi (TSIT): A Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) delegation led by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday approached the Election Commission of India (EC), seeking strict action against Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge over his "terrorist" remark targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The delegation, which also included Union Ministers Kiren Rijiju and Arjun Ram Meghwal, along with BJP national general secretary Arun Singh, submitted a complaint to the poll panel, terming the remark "outrageous" and "an insult to the democratic mandate". Addressing reporters after meeting the full Election Commission, Sitharaman said Kharge's statement was condemnable and unacceptable, particularly when made in an election-bound state like Tamil Nadu.

## MOBILE PHONES BANNED IN BIHAR SCHOOLS DURING CLASS HOURS

Madhubani (TSIT): District Magistrate Anand Sharma has announced a ban on the use of mobile phones during class hours in Madhubani district, warning that violators will face action under provisions of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita. The directive comes amid a viral video showing the 2013-batch IAS officer instructing teachers to refrain from using mobile phones during school hours and to focus on teaching. The announcement was made during a 'Census Festival' organised by the district administration on Tuesday, aimed at achieving "100 per cent self-enumeration" in the district, which shares a border with Nepal. Addressing school authorities, Sharma said, "It is essential that teachers devote class hours to imparting education and shun the use of mobile phones." He further stated that Section 163 has been imposed across the district, and any use of mobile phones during class hours would be treated as a violation of the order.

# Remember human impact in every decision: Bhatti to Group-1 officers

Hyderabad TSIT BUREAU:

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka urged newly recruited Group-1 officers to remember the human impact behind every administrative decision, stating that governance must be rooted in empathy and integrity.

Addressing the valedictory session of the six-week Group-1 Foundation Course (Batch-II) at the MCRHRD Institute of Telangana, the Deputy CM said, "Every file you sign carries the hopes of a common citizen. It is not just paper—it has the power to change someone's life."

Speaking to 214 officers who completed their training, he emphasized that while intelligence helps in clearing competitive exams, it is discretion and integrity that truly define an officer in the field. "Your decision is the face of the government to the citizen. More than intellect, purity of intent matters," he said.

He advised officers not to lose sight of people in the rush of files and reviews, noting that farmers' assistance, student scholarships, and patients'



well-being often depend on timely administrative decisions. He stressed that governance should be both lawful and humane.

Highlighting the importance of empathy, he remarked that systems may continue, but it is the compassion shown by individuals that brings real change. He encouraged officers to use modern technologies like

Artificial Intelligence and data analytics in governance, while reminding them that technology can never replace human sensitivity. The Deputy CM also called upon officers to play a key role in implementing flagship programmes such as Indira Mahila Shakti and to ensure inclusive growth reaches every section of society. He underlined that resisting pres-

sure and upholding ethical values would strengthen public trust in governance. "Integrity is your true identity. When faced with temptations or pressures, your judgment becomes your shield," he said.

Reaffirming the government's vision, he stated that the leadership under Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy is committed to using power as a tool to transform lives and build confidence among citizens. He noted that investments in education, health-care, and infrastructure are aimed at strengthening human resources, which he described as the State's greatest asset.

He further said Telangana aims to become a \$3 trillion economy by 2047 through sustained development and global competitiveness.

Congratulating the officers, he urged them to give back to the State that shaped their journey and contribute to making Telangana a leading state in the country. Senior officials including Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari, Course Director Arun Kumar, and Deputy CM's Secretary Krishna Bhaskar were present on the occasion.

## Rs.5,400 cr renewable energy mega-project set for Rambilli; CM NAIDU TO LAY FOUNDATION ON THURSDAY

Amaravati (TSIT)

Anakapalli district is poised to add another jewel to its industrial crown. Days after the foundation ceremony of the ArcelorMittal steel plant, the region is now gearing up for a massive renewable energy project that promises to put North Andhra firmly on the global clean energy map. Leading clean energy firm ReNew Energy Global will establish a large-scale energy plant in Rambilli with a total investment of Rs.5,400 crore. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu will lay the foundation stone on Thursday, marking a major step in the coalition government's push to make Andhra Pradesh a renewable energy hub.

The project includes a 6 GW solar ingot-wafer manufacturing unit (Rs.4,200 crore) and a 125 MW hybrid captive renewable power project (Rs.1,200 crore). Both are expected to be completed within two years and will generate employment for around 2,100 people, giving a significant boost to local youth. ReNew Energy Global, which already operates 19.2 GW of



## ENERGY PLANT TO GENERATE EMPLOYMENT FOR 2,100 PEOPLE

clean energy projects nationwide, had announced phased investments worth Rs.82,000 crore in Andhra Pradesh during the CII Partnership Summit in Visakhapatnam last November. As part of that roadmap, another mega hybrid renewable project with an investment of nearly Rs.22,000 crore is being planned in Anantapur district.

Since the coalition government took office, North Andhra has seen a surge in industrial activity. Major firms like ArcelorMittal and Cognizant have begun construction, TCS has started operations, and a major Google investment is expected to break ground this month. With the Bhogapuram International Airport nearing completion, the region is rapidly emerging as a hub for software, energy, steel, med-tech, and pharmaceuticals.

Chief Minister Naidu will depart Amaravati at 9:30 AM, reach Rambilli at 11:10 AM for the ceremony, and return to Amaravati by 2:35 PM.

## Trump extends US-Iran ceasefire; Iranian forces fire on 3 ships in Strait of Hormuz

WASHINGTON (TSIT):

US President Donald Trump extended the ceasefire with Iran indefinitely at the request of Pakistan to give Tehran's leadership more time to prepare a unified proposal to end the war, even as Iranian forces fired on three ships and seized two of them in the Strait of Hormuz on Wednesday. Trump's dramatic announcement, welcomed by Pakistan's top leadership, came just hours before the two-week ceasefire was set to expire.

Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency reported that Tehran has not issued any official statement confirming its agreement to extend the ceasefire. Pakistan had urged an extension of the truce due to uncertainty surrounding the second round of talks. There was still no clarity on the date of the



next round of talks.

On Wednesday, The New York Post quoted President Trump as saying that the second round of the US-Iran talks could take place as early as Friday. Such development was "possible" within the next 36 to 72 hours, the paper reported, quoting Trump. However, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Bagaei said Tehran has not yet decided whether to attend a new round of Pakistani-mediated talks in Islamabad. "We have made it clear that if we conclude that going to Islamabad is in our national interest.

## INDIA CAN GROW ABOVE 7 PC EVEN IF CRUDE OIL COSTS USD 90-100/BARREL: ASSOCHAM

NEW DELHI (TSIT): The Indian economy, largely driven by consumption, has the potential to grow over 7 per cent annually even if crude oil costs USD 90-100 per barrel, industry body Assocham said on Wednesday. India's resilience to high energy costs has increased significantly over the years, as the country has absorbed severe oil shocks while growth has remained strong, it said. Based on its analysis, the industry body said that India has demonstrated its ability to manage high energy prices without compromising its economic growth trajectory.

Kolkata/Murshidabad, April 22 (TSIT)

Armoured vehicles rumble along rural roads and Central Armed Police forces patrol through bazaars. Checkpoints dot the highways, where cars and busses are stopped and searched for cash or liquor meant to influence voters. A day before Bengal heads for a crucial election, and the unprecedented deployment by the Election Commission is supposed to curb possible political clashes and "vote buying." However, the "war zone movie set" scenario, belies the fact that the real battle for Bengal's ballot box may not be unfolding on these roads at all. It is being fought, more quietly but no less consequentially, in tribunals tasked with determining who has the right to vote in the forthcoming elections, and by implication who is an Indian.

Some 91 lakh people had their names removed from voter rolls, through an exercise called the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Out of these 91 lakh, some 27 lakh had their names struck off after being placed under adjudication by an Artificial Intelligence generated filter which felt their entry had "logical discrepancies".

Deletions based on "logical discrepancy" could be on as flimsy a ground as why a son's surname is spelled differently from his father's, such as Rai and Ray, Chhattopadhyaya (Sanskritised surname for Brahmmins from the Chattal region) and Chatterjee (Anglicised version of Chattopadhyay).

For Bengali Muslims, most of whom have no fixed surname, this has meant whole villages have been left out of the voter list. The deletions have impacted minorities, women and the poor the most say researchers work-

# Bengal's real poll battle: Not on streets, but over who gets to vote



ing with the data officially available.

The border districts of Malda, Murshidabad, North and South 24 Parganas, with huge Muslim and Dalit populations have been hit the hardest, with the number of deleted names ranging from 2.2 lakh (South 24 Parganas) to 4.6 lakh (Murshidabad).

However, the "privileged class" too have been hit by the role purification drive, often inexplicably. In Joka, where the appellate tribunal set up by the Supreme Court is sited to adjudicate cases arising from the mass deletions, the most famous building is that of India's first 'Ivy League' management school - the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta.

Nandita Roy who teaches at Joka's IIM, has discovered to her horror that her name is among those struck off. "I have given all the documents needed for what I assumed was a clerical error... but I still don't find my name on the voter's list," the 39-year-old IIM professor told UNI. "I am from a privileged background, an academic, my father is a retired Air Force officer, and I am facing this... imagine the plight of poor, semi-educated people who have to struggle with the bureaucracy to get back their voting rights," said Roy.

## Bengal CM Mamata put democracy in peril, says SC

criticises her for 'interference' in ED raids on I-PAC

New Delhi (TSIT)

On the eve of the first phase of polling in West Bengal, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday came in for scathing criticism from the Supreme Court which made strong remarks against her for alleged interference in the Enforcement Directorate's raids against political consultancy firm I-PAC in Kolkata in January this year.

While hearing petitions filed by the ED and its officers, a Bench of Justice PK Mishra and Justice NV Anjarlia said that constitutional stalwarts such as BR Ambedkar would not have conceived of such a situation created by her acts that put the democracy in peril.

"This is not a dispute between the State and the Union. A Chief Minister of any State cannot walk in the midst of an investigation, put the democracy in peril, and then say... don't convert this into a dispute between the State and the Union. This is per se an act committed by an individual who happens to be the Chief Minister putting the whole democracy in jeopardy," the Bench said.



The top court's comments came after senior counsel Menaka Guruswamy questioned the maintainability of the ED's petitions and sought to emphasise that a petition under Article 32 couldn't have been filed.

As senior lawyer Siddharth Luthra said the ED and its officers should have gone to a magistrate, the Bench said it can't ignore the ground situation in West Bengal.

Referring to the case where several judicial officers were held hostage, the Bench said, "And you say the petitioner should have gone to a magistrate under Section 200! We cannot shut our eyes to the reality of what's happening (in West Bengal). We cannot lose sight of the practical situation which is present in the state.

castes. Bengal's more than 2.53 million strong Matua community, many of whom come from the scheduled caste, have seen huge numbers of deletions and are up in arms against the SIR.

"We have already held protests and are waiting for the election to end and then we will decide our future course of action," said Dileep Matua, Secretary of the Matua Samaj, who says his village in South 24 Parganas alone has had 200 names deleted. Those who have shifted to Bengal for work have similarly faced deletion by a bureaucratic machinery that refuses to accept the paperwork they have provided. Mohd Shamim Akhtar who shifted from Madhubani in Bihar to teach at the Alia University on the outskirts of Kolkata, and had voted in the previous elections starting with 206, has produced "every possible document that I have including my passport" but finds his name excluded. "The Citizenship Act does not empower the Election Commission to determine questions of citizenship. Yet, in practice, Chief Election Commissioner appears to have steered the electoral machinery toward scrutinizing it," charged Jawhar Sircar, former IAS officer who resigned as an MP of the upper house protesting against TMC's policies.

Famously, while the Nawabs of Dhaka traditionally supported the demand for creation of a separate Pakistan, the Murshidabad Nawab family had favoured being part of India.

The TMC, which was facing an anti-incumbency wave in Malda and Murshidabad, has actually benefited because of Muslim vote consolidation rallying around the "known devil," even though the Congress and a Muslim party will probably manage to win a few seats this time round.

However, a reverse vote consolidation among Hindus who feel threatened by the rising Muslim population is unlikely given the way SIR has affected the scheduled

**PH.D. AWARDED TO BONDALA VENU MAHESWAR RAO, ECIE FACULTY, KITS WARANGAL**

WARANGAL, April 22, TSIT : Bondala Venu Maheswar Rao, Assistant Professor in the Department of Electronics Communication and Instrumentation Engineering (ECIE), Kakatiya Institute of Technology and Science, Warangal (KITSW), has been awarded the Ph.D. degree by Kakatiya University, Warangal, Telangana, as announced by the Principal, Prof. K. Ashoka Reddy. In a press



note issued on Wednesday, the Principal, Prof. K. Ashoka Reddy, stated that Dr. Bondala Venu Maheswar Rao submitted

his doctoral thesis titled "Signal Processing Methods for PPG Signal Enhancement and Analysis." He carried out his research under the supervision of Dr. K. Ashoka Reddy, Professor, Department of ECE and Principal, KITS Warangal. His research work focused on the development of an effective motion artifact suppression framework using wavelet transform and adaptive filtering techniques, eliminating

the need for additional motion sensors. He also designed an ensemble-based machine learning and deep learning model for accurate estimation of respiratory rate and blood oxygen saturation from PPG signals. In addition, he developed a hybrid deep learning-based model for obesity forecasting. His work has been published in reputed international journals and conferences.

**REVIEW MEETING WITH ENGINEERING OFFICERS ON SUDA WORKS**

Karimnagar, April 22, TSIT : Suda Chairman Komatireddy Narender Reddy, Suda Vice Chairman and Municipal Commissioner Praful Desai held a review meeting with engineering officials. The officials were directed to make arrangements for inviting tenders for new works to complete the pending works due to various reasons immediately. The first phase of the Suda Commercial Building has reached its final stage and once the tenders are called for the remaining works, the newly installed bronze statue of Rajiv



Gandhi at Rajiv Chowk and Rajiv Chowk beautification works IDSMT and vertical gardens etc. to be completed by May 21. Officials have been advised to inaugurate by chief guests on the occasion of Rajiv Gandhi's death on May 21.

**15 CCTV cameras installed in Madipelli; SP warns against drug use**



Mahabubabad, April 22: As part of the "Arrive Alive - Mana Ooru Mana Badhyata" programme, 15 CCTV cameras were installed in Madipelli village to enhance safety, while a bike rally involving around 200 participants was conducted to spread awareness. District SP Balne Suman, who attended the programme, emphasized the importance of community participation in ensuring a safe and secure environment. He urged villagers to cooperate with police initiatives aimed at making the village drug-free and crime-free. The SP also cautioned against the use of intoxicants such as ganja, stating that drug abuse can severely harm society. He announced a cash reward of Rs.5,000 for anyone providing information on the use or transportation of ganja, assuring complete confidentiality for informants. Appreciating the active participation of villagers, he said collective efforts are essential to build a healthy and secure community. He also commended police personnel for their dedication towards the development and safety of the village.

**Ensure quality food for students in welfare schools: Minister Laxman Kumar**

Jagityala, April 22: State SC, ST, Aged, Disabled and Transgender Empowerment Minister Adluri Laxman Kumar stressed that quality and nutritious food must be ensured for students in welfare schools. As part of the Welfare Week under the Public Governance Development Plan, the Minister, along with District Collector B. Sathyaprasad, visited the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule BC Welfare School in Velgatur mandal. During the inspection, he reviewed the mid-day meal system, interacted with students, and gathered feedback on food quality, taste, diet menu, hygiene, and water facilities. He also examined



kitchen cleanliness, storage practices, and overall management, later sharing a meal with the students. Addressing officials, the Minister said the government is implementing several welfare initiatives to bring administration closer to the people and emphasized that providing quality meals to students must be a top priority. The Collector echoed similar concerns, stating that meals should meet proper nutritional standards to safeguard students' health. Officials were instructed to maintain strict hygiene in kitchens and use quality ingredients in food preparation. Officials from various departments participated in the programme.

**Govt ensures support to farmers, women: MP Mallu Ravi**

Wanaparthy: Nagar Kurnool MP Mallu Ravi said the government is giving priority to farmers and women while inaugurating paddy procurement centres in Peddamandadi mandal. The MP, along with Wanaparthy MLA Thudi Megha Reddy and District Collector Adarsh Surabhi, inaugurated procurement centres at Peddamandadi mandal headquarters and Velturu village under the IKP initiative. They formally launched procurement by weighing paddy brought by farmers. Speaking on the occasion, Mallu Ravi said the government is supporting farmers by offering bonuses for Sannarakam paddy and ensuring smooth functioning of procurement centres so that farmers do not face any inconvenience. Later, the MP and MLA distrib-



uted grant documents to beneficiaries under the Indiramma Housing Scheme. He said the scheme aims to support the homeless poor by providing financial assistance of Rs.5 lakh for house construction. Additional Collector (Revenue) Vinod Kumar, former DCCB Chairman Vishnuvardhan Reddy, DRDO Umadevi, DCSO Kashi Viswanath, Agricultural Market Yard Chairman Srinivas Goud, public representatives, officials, and farmers participated in the programme.

**Six associate professors felicitated at Govt Degree College Hayathnagar**



Rangareddy, April 22: Six distinguished associate professors of Government Degree College Hayathnagar were felicitated for their academic excellence, research contributions, and dedicated service to the institution. The faculty members honoured included Dr. S. Subramaniam, Dr. P. Ramadevi, Dr. Sreepathi Naidu, Dr. D. Makla, Dr. Madhu Dharmapuri, and Dr. Balanarasimha. The programme was attended by Principal Dr. P. Suresh Babu, who congratulated the faculty and highlighted their contributions in teaching, research, and institutional development. He emphasized the importance of recognising educators who play a key role in shaping students' futures. Secretary of the Staff Club Dr. S. Subramaniam and other senior faculty members appreciated the awardees for their commitment and achievements. Vice Principal V. Srinivas Reddy, along with teaching and non-teaching staff, also participated in the event. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks, encouraging faculty members to continue striving for excellence in higher education.

**Speed up works, ensure results visible**



Khammam (TSIT): Development works in the district must be expedited and their results should be visible to the public, State Agriculture, Marketing, Handlooms and Textiles Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao said. Reviewing progress with officials at the Collectorate along with District Collector Anudeep Durishetty, the minister directed that the Munneru retaining wall works from the bypass to the cable bridge be completed on both sides by the first week of June without any gaps. He also instructed that key works including STP, underground drainage, ropeway and market development be finished before the monsoon. Tummala further asked officials to prepare proposals to develop Khammam as a sports hub at an estimated cost of Rs.92 crore over 20 acres with facilities like indoor and cricket stadiums, hostels and a convention hall, while mobilising at least 50 per cent funds from the Centre. He stressed proper maintenance of the synthetic running track. District Collector Anudeep Durishetty said the district has set a target to procure 217 lakh tonnes of maize and 2,37,500 tonnes of paddy, adding that procurement is progressing smoothly with sufficient gunny bags and storage capacity, ensuring no inconvenience to farmers.

**Avail bank services for growth, says MP Mallu Ravi at Union Bank branch launch**

Wanaparthy: Nagar Kurnool MP Mallu Ravi urged people to make the best use of banking services for economic growth while inaugurating a new branch of Union Bank of India in Buddharam village under Gopalpet mandal. The branch was inaugurated by MP Mallu Ravi along with Wanaparthy MLA Thudi Megha Reddy and State Planning Commission Vice Chairman Dr. Jillella Chinna Reddy. Speaking on the occasion, the MP appreciated the bank's services in Wanaparthy and Nagar Kurnool districts and termed the opening of the 694th branch in Buddharam as a significant step toward financial inclusion. He emphasized that banks should prioritize lending to farmers and MSMEs to generate employment and boost local development. He also advised borrowers to repay loans on time, stating that responsible repayment contributes to the strength and growth of the banking system. Additional Collector (Revenue) Vinod Kumar, Union Bank CGM Ravindra Babu, former RM Satyanarayana, and RM Venkateshwarlu were among those present at the event.



**RTC strike intensifies in Husnabad, workers vow to continue till merger**



Husnabad, April 22: Employees of the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation staged a protest outside the Husnabad depot as part of the statewide strike, asserting that the agitation will continue until the RTC is merged with the government. Leading the protest, MP Reddy, Chairman of the Joint Action Committee (JAC) for the united Karimnagar district, declared that the strike would not be called off until the government fulfills workers' demands, including

merger with the government and implementation of revised pay scales. The strike began at midnight, and by early morning, workers gathered at the depot gate, boycotted duties, and prevented buses from leaving the premises, effectively halting services. Addressing the gathering, MP Reddy said the demands were in line with promises made during elections and criticized the government for delaying action. He stated that lack of clarity from authorities had forced workers to resort to a strike and warned that the agitation would intensify until their issues are resolved. Due to the protest, buses remained confined to depots, causing disruption to public transport services. Leaders from various political parties extended support to the agitation, including BRS leaders Burra Srinivas Goud, Aileni Mallikarjun Reddy, and Suddala Chandrayya; CPI leader Gadapa Mallesh; BJP leader Kavva Venugopal Reddy; and BSP leader Pachimatla Ravinder Goud, among others.

**Norwegian Delegation Visits Visakhapatnam Port**

The South India Times, Visakhapatnam : A delegation from the Norwegian Embassy visited the Visakhapatnam Port Authority on Wednesday. The Ambassador of Norway to India, Her Excellency May-Elin, along with three officials, toured the port facilities. The Deputy Chairperson of the Port, Ms. Roshni Aparanji Korati, along with heads of departments and senior officials, extended a warm welcome to the Norwegian delegation. During the visit, officials briefed the delegation on the port's modern infrastructure and its strategic importance in maritime trade. The delegation was informed about cargo handling capabilities, modernization and mechanization initiatives, efforts to enhance operational efficiency, and the development of covered storage facilities contributing to environmental protection. Officials also highlighted various environmental initiatives, including solar power projects aimed at promoting renewable energy and reducing carbon emissions, as well as the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) and water recycling systems within the port. Through the interaction, the port authorities elabo-



rated on measures being undertaken to adopt advanced technologies, strengthen infrastructure, and align operations with international standards. The Norwegian delegation expressed gratitude for the hospitality extended by the port and appreciated its efficient management. Senior officials and department heads participated in the program. Port Secretary Mr. M. Shankar Babu shared these details with the media.

ciency, and the development of covered storage facilities contributing to environmental protection. Officials also highlighted various environmental initiatives, including solar power projects aimed at promoting renewable energy and reducing carbon emissions, as well as the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) and water recycling systems within the port. Through the interaction, the port authorities elabo-

**GITAM Wins National Fire Safety Excellence Award**

The South India Times, Visakhapatnam : GITAM (Deemed to be University) has been honoured with a prestigious National Fire Safety Excellence Award in recognition of its outstanding safety standards and initiatives. The award was presented during a national-level event organized as part of Fire Service Week observances. According to university officials, GITAM received the award in the Gold Category for its exemplary implementation of fire safety measures and continuous efforts to ensure a secure environment for students, faculty, and staff. The recognition highlights the

institution's commitment to maintaining high safety standards through regular awareness programs, training sessions, and emergency preparedness drills. The university has also established modern fire safety systems and response mechanisms to effectively handle emergencies. Officials stated that this achievement reflects GITAM's dedication to creating a safe and secure campus while promoting a culture of safety consciousness among its community. Senior faculty members and safety officials participated in the award ceremony and expressed pride over the university's accomplishment.



**Power Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar Visits Sri City; Pledges Quality Power & Tariff Cuts Ahead of Elections**

Tirupati, April 22 - Andhra Pradesh Power Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar visited the Sri City Business Centre today and held a crucial meeting with industrialists, reaffirming the coalition government's commitment to investors and employment generation. During the meeting, industrialists expressed their gratitude to the Minister for the allocation of a new sub-station to Sri City, which has already attracted investments from 31 countries and is providing direct employment to over 70,000 people. The government expects this number to rise to 1.50 lakh (150,000) in the coming days. Acknowledging the rise in power consumption alongside growing investments, Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar assured that



quality power is being supplied without increasing charges in proportion to usage. "We will go into the next general elections after reducing power charges," he stated. He highlighted that under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Andhra Pradesh has become the first state in the country to implement True Down of power charges. "We are

providing power concessions to investors for the sake of providing employment to local youth. The coalition government will always stand as a strong support to investors," the Minister added. The visit underscores the government's focus on strengthening infrastructure at industrial hubs like Sri City to sustain investment momentum and job creation across the state.

## Kharge must apologise for remarks on PM Modi: R. Ashoka



Bengaluru: Leader of Opposition R. Ashoka demanded an immediate apology from Mallikarjun Kharge for his alleged remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, stating that such comments are unacceptable in public discourse.

Addressing the media, Ashoka said Kharge's statement questioning the Prime Minister's patriotism was inappropriate and added that repeated criticism of Modi has only strengthened the BJP politically. He alleged that such remarks stem from Congress leaders' fear of electoral defeat.

He further criticised Congress leadership over past incidents, including alleged inaction on controversial statements and issues, and announced that BJP leaders would stage a protest in front of Vidhana Soudha on Thursday.

Claiming that Congress faces setbacks in upcoming elections, Ashoka said the BJP is gaining

ground in several states and that survey reports indicate growing support for the party.

He also raised concerns over alleged corruption, including e-Khata-related bribery in Bengaluru, and sought answers regarding investigations into the bitcoin scam. He accused the state government of financial mismanagement and warned of possible hikes in electricity, fuel, and other taxes after elections.

Ashoka criticised the condition of civic administration in Bengaluru, pointing to uncollected garbage and delays in BBMP elections, and alleged internal conflicts within the ruling leadership.

On other issues, he cautioned against the social impact of cricket betting and urged public representatives to set the right example. Referring to national security, he reiterated strong condemnation of terrorism and called for firm action to ensure peace.

## Mangaluru: Karnataka Bank partners with Pine Labs Ltd for Point of Sale (PoS) services

Mangaluru, Apr 21: Karnataka Bank, one of India's leading private sector banks, has entered into a strategic partnership with Pine Labs Ltd., a top provider of Point-of-Sale (PoS) solutions. Through this partnership, the Bank aims to strengthen digital payment options for its customers.

Speaking at the launch, Raghavendra S Bhat, MD & CEO, of Karnataka Bank, said: "This partnership aligns with our vision of becoming the 'Digital Bank of the Future'. Pine Labs offers user-friendly and reliable PoS solutions that plays a vital role in



today's digital payment ecosystem. This collaboration will enable our Retail and MSME customers to seamlessly access advanced PoS terminals, thereby promoting digital adoption and driving mutual growth." Raja B S, chief operating officer, added, "Karnataka Bank

always works to meet the needs of our valued customers. With this new tie-up, we will be able to offer next-generation digital payment solutions. We encourage our customers to take advantage of this service, which will now be available at all our branches across the country.

## BITS Pilani WILP Inaugurates Smart Manufacturing Competency Centre in Bengaluru, Advancing India's Industry 4.0 Capabilities

Bengaluru : BITS Pilani, through its Work Integrated Learning Programmes (WILP), inaugurated its Smart Manufacturing Competency Centre (SMCC) in Bengaluru — the second in a planned series of Competency Centres that BITS Pilani WILP is establishing across India in 2026, following the successful launch of the Automotive Competency Centre (ACC) in Chennai in February. Designed as an integrated ecosystem that combines experiential learning, applied research, industry collaboration, and faculty development, the SMCC will enable working professionals, students, and faculty to engage with real-world engineering challenges and drive India's capabilities in smart manufacturing and digital industrial transformation.

Bengaluru has been strategically chosen as the home of



the Smart Manufacturing Competency Centre (SMCC), given its position as India's leading technology and industrial hub. With a dense ecosystem spanning aerospace, defence, electronics, automotive, and advanced manufacturing, the city brings together global leaders, Tier-1 suppliers, and agile MSMEs. This unique industrial landscape creates a powerful opportunity for deep industry-academia

collaboration, enabling the SMCC to function not just as a training centre, but as a problem-solving and innovation partner for industry.

A Hub for Next-Generation Manufacturing Skills

The SMCC is designed to directly address real-world manufacturing challenges through a combination of applied research, hands-on experimentation, and industry-driven projects.

## Mangaluru: Five sentenced to three years in prison for assault over road rage

Mangaluru, Apr 22: The FTSC-1 Additional District and Sessions Court has sentenced five individuals to three years of rigorous imprisonment and imposed a total fine of Rs 1.34 lac for assaulting a man following a dispute over giving side while driving.

The convicted individuals are Dinesh Shetty (27) from Kavalapadooru, Bantwal; Dhanraj Poojary alias Valachil Dhanu (22) from Arkula; Naveen (21) from Edapadavu; Prajwal Poojary (20) from Car Street; and Vasant Bala (53) from Tadambail.

Background of the case

According to the prosecution, the incident was triggered by a confrontation that took place two days prior to the assault. A



heated argument had broken out between Dinesh, Vasant, and the victim, Kishan Rao, over giving side to a car. Seeking revenge, Vasant Bala allegedly conspired with the other four accused to attack Rao.

On October 22, the accused, armed with lethal weapons, waited

for the victim at Vinayaka Mosaic Road in Kulai Hosabettu village. As Kishan Rao was travelling on his scooter, Dinesh Shetty deliberately intercepted and rammed into him with a car provided by Vasant Bala. The group then assaulted Rao and issued death threats.

## Fraudsters misuse Commissioner's identity on WhatsApp; public warned

Bengaluru: Authorities have issued a public advisory after unknown individuals allegedly misused the identity of Pommala Sunil Kumar, Commissioner of the Bengaluru North City Corporation, to send fraudulent messages via WhatsApp.

Officials said messages were sent from an international number, including one to Amaresh H., seeking financial assistance while posing as the Commissioner. There are concerns that fraudsters may be attempting to cheat citizens using his name, designation,



and photograph. Clarifying the issue, the Corporation stated that neither the

Commissioner nor any officials solicit money through personal WhatsApp messages. Citizens have been urged not to trust or respond to such communications. A complaint has been lodged at the Amruthahalli Police Station, seeking legal action against those involved.

The public has been advised to remain vigilant, avoid engaging with unknown numbers, and report any suspicious messages to the nearest police station immediately.

## BWSSB restores Bannerghatta Main Road surface; Municipal Corporation preparing DPR for comprehensive road development: Commissioner K. N. Ramesh

Bengaluru: Following observations that Bannerghatta Main Road (from Dairy Circle to Kalena Agrahara) had been damaged due to BWSSB and BMRCL projects, and that dust pollution was high because roads were not restored after the completion of works, instructions were issued during an inspection held on 08-04-2026 to have the road urgently repaired by the BWSSB.

Accordingly, the BWSSB, which had undertaken the work of laying sewage pipelines on Bannerghatta Main Road—resulting in damage to the road surface—has now restored the surface of approximately 1 km of the road, starting from Kalyani Choultry up to the IIMB Metro station.

Furthermore, the



BSMILE project has been initiated to undertake the comprehensive development of Bannerghatta Road from Hosur Road to the Kalena Agrahara junction, and the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for this is currently being

prepared.

In this stretch, the BMRCL (Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited) has handed over the road from Dairy Circle to Kalena Agrahara to the South Municipal Corporation

and has deposited Rs.12.50 crore with the Corporation. Since time is required to finalize the tender and award the work for the comprehensive development projects, the BSMILE project team has been instructed to expedite the preparation of the DPR to urgently carry out overlay work on the damaged parts of the road using the funds deposited by the BMRCL.

The 3.65 km stretch from Kalena Agrahara to Koli Farm is already being developed by the Corporation under the CMIDP scheme at a cost of Rs.11.50 crore, and the work is currently in progress. Officials of the Corporation have been instructed to complete the work in this stretch immediately under the existing tender and to maintain the quality of the road.

## Prevent flooding in Sai Layout, complete key works on priority: Maheshwar Rao

Bengaluru: Chief

Commissioner Maheshwar Rao directed officials to take urgent measures to prevent flooding in Sai Layout and expedite ongoing infrastructure works across the city. During a field inspection, he reviewed stormwater management works near Geddalahalli railway vent and instructed officials to complete the ongoing box pushing work by April 30. One vent has already been pushed up to 12 meters, with work progressing at about 2 meters per day, while another is expected to be completed by May 30. Parallel RCC retaining wall works are also underway.

To tackle potential waterlogging, he ordered immediate arrangements for a temporary pumping system and water storage



near Sai Layout, with coordination between civic authorities and BDA. He also stressed the need for complete desilting of stormwater drains in the Hebbal valley to ensure smooth rainwater flow during the monsoon. Reviewing road infrastructure, the Commissioner directed officials to speed up white topping works on the Hennur-Bagalur Road stretch and complete the

project by June 15. He warned of penalties against contractors for delays and instructed simultaneous development of footpaths and buffer zones. He further called for the use of trenchless technology to construct stormwater drains beneath the railway track without disrupting ongoing rail works. In the Sarvagnanagar Assembly constituency, where near-

ly 200 tonnes of waste is collected daily, officials were asked to strengthen waste segregation at source. The Commissioner also instructed release of funds to complete pending footpath works on Banaswadi 8th Main Road and ordered the removal of an unused public toilet on K. Narayanapura Road to ease traffic movement. During the inspection, he visited multiple locations including Prakash Garden and Babusapalya, directing officials to address drainage issues, clear debris, penalize illegal dumping, fill potholes, and improve road infrastructure. Senior officials, including Additional Commissioner Lokhande Snehal Sudhakar and other engineering staff, were present during the inspection.

## Pre-Monsoon Preparedness: Instructions to Expedite Works in Flood-Prone Areas – D.S. Ramesh

Bengaluru (TSIT): The Commissioner of Bengaluru East City Corporation, D.S. Ramesh, visited various locations identified as flood-prone during the pre-monsoon and monsoon seasons and conducted field inspections. During the visit, he reviewed the progress of ongoing stormwater drain development works and infrastructure projects, and issued necessary directions to the officials.

Inspection of Geddalahalli Railway Vent Work

While inspecting the major work at Geddalahalli Railway Vent, the Commissioner stated that, in coordination with the Railway Department, two girders have already been installed. A precast concrete box has been pushed up to approximately 10 meters, and the work of pushing two concrete boxes is scheduled to be completed by May 30.

Inspection of Stormwater



Drain Development Works

The Commissioner also inspected stormwater drain development works taken up under World Bank funding at key locations across the corporation limits, including: Gunjur Rajakaluve, Varthur Lake Kodi Rajakaluve, Rajakaluve near Manipal Hospital, Yemalur (Epsilon area), Challaghatta, Near SGR Dental College, Munnakkoll area. During the inspection, the following instructions were issued: To streamline

and organize existing kutcha drains to ensure smooth flow of rainwater prior to development. To remove silt, mud, and waste materials from drains to enable uninterrupted water flow. To immediately commence works where work orders have been issued and accelerate progress. To clear encroachments in drain areas before taking up development works. To complete works with speed and quality. To prioritize completion of critical connecting stretches before the monsoon.

## Bengaluru civic chief pulls up officials over poor sanitation in Sarvagnanagar

Bengaluru: Pommala Sunil Kumar, Commissioner of the Bengaluru North City Corporation, expressed strong displeasure over lapses in sanitation management during a field inspection in Sarvagnanagar division.

Reviewing sanitation activities, the Commissioner examined attendance records of pourakarmikas and directed officials to submit details of absentees and those on long-term leave. He also sought clarification on whether salary deductions were being enforced as per rules.

Noting that pourakarmikas, supervisors, and Junior Health Inspectors were not performing effectively, he attributed persistent sanitation issues to poor monitoring and warned of strict action against negligence. The



Commissioner instructed officials to submit daily data on solid waste management, including waste segregation, penalties imposed, and removal of garbage black spots. He also directed submission of division-wise and ward-wise workforce allocation details, including gang work, within two days. Emphasizing accountability, he ordered continuous monitoring of each sanitation worker and asked Junior Health Inspectors to ensure strict supervision. Reports on the performance of sanitation supervisors, link workers, and awareness programmes in commercial establishments were also sought.

## OPPO India Launches the F33 Series, the Mid-Range Selfie Champion

New Delhi : OPPO India announced the launch of the OPPO F33 Series in India, comprising the OPPO F33 Pro 5G and the OPPO F33 5G. The F33 Series marks the most significant evolution of OPPO's F line to date combining a segment-best 50MP Ultra-Wide Selfie Camera, IP69K durability, massive 7000mAh battery, ColorOS 16, and 5G+ connectivity. Commenting on the launch Goldie Patnaik, Head of Communications, OPPO India, said, "The F Series has earned its reputation as India's Durable Champion, a smartphone that is built for real life. The F33 series keeps that promise and raises the bar by adding a segment-best 50MP Ultra-Wide Selfie Camera with 100° FOV and a suite of AI imaging features. Our effort is that durability and great photography are not a trade-off. You should not



have to choose between a phone that survives a monsoon trek and one that captures every face in the group, shot at the top. The F33 Series does both, and we believe that is exactly what India's mobile-first generation deserves."

Segment-Best Selfie Camera with Smart Auto-Switch to 0.6x

OPPO's Selfie Champion, the F33 Series, comes with a 50MP Ultra-Wide Front Camera with 100° Field of View, the widest and highest-resolution selfie camera in its segment. Equipped with EIS, autofocus, and the

GC50F6 sensor (f/2.0, 18mm focal length, 5P lens), it captures approximately 30% more area at a one-metre distance compared to previous-generation framing, meaning more faces, more context, and more of the moment without anyone getting cropped out.

The F33 Pro's camera intelligence goes beyond resolution. OPPO's AI Groupie Expert automatically widens to 0.6x the moment more than two faces enter the frame, no tap, no fumble, no missed moment. A face distortion correction algorithm simultaneously tracks up to six subjects, preserving natural proportions even at the edges of a 100° field of view. The result is group selfies that feel effortless, whether you're packed into a rooftop in Jaipur or stretched across a viewpoint in Coorg.

EDITORIAL

When The Snack Becomes The Story

On the TV on April 19, the image arrived the way certain smells do in a city- unexpected, vivid, briefly undeniable. While barnstorming in West Bengal, Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a public stall in Jhargram, Purulia, eating jhalmuri: puffed rice crackling with spice, roadside heat, during the summer scorcher, meeting the language of the everyday. Ten rupees, the story insisted.

Ten rupees, maximum impact

Ten rupees for a bowl of pleasure that looked like it had been made not for cameras, but for hunger. Yet the true magic of such moments is that they don't feel manufactured. They pretend not to be politics at all. They borrow the rhythms of street life: chit chat at the dhaba with the young owner. Insisting that the owner take the money. Talk about eating onions or not. "Pyaz khata hun, dimaag Nahin" (I eat onions, nor brains), said PM Modi. The spontaneous laughter and mirth that doesn't quite match the choreography of a tight election campaign schedule, the hands that reach out in a way that suggests, Here - let me be part of this Bengali common folk tradition.

A symbolic gesture of proximity with the aam aadmi In Bengal, where public space is never just public space, but a stage for identity, the symbolism lands with extra weight. A man is judged not only by what he says, but by what he is willing to be seen doing. The point was not merely culinary. It was symbolic-almost liturgical-an enacted gesture of proximity with the aam aadmi. PM Modi's unique political grammar: The body as witness

There is, in PM Modi's political grammar, a long-running theme: the body as witness. One week, he is meditating in the Rudra Gufa near the Kedarnath Temple in May 2019, located at 12,250 feet, offering a tranquil view of the Kedarnath Temple. Another week, May 14, 2024, another place: PM Modi offers prayers at the Kal Bhairav temple in Varanasi. PM Modi visits to seek blessings from the "Kotwal of Kashi" (guardian deity of Varanasi) before filing his election nomination. Previously, on December 13, 2021, PM Modi had again prayed in the Kal Bhairav temple before inaugurating the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor.

Yet another week, on April 6, 2025, PM Modi offered prayers at the Ramanathaswamy Temple in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu. During this visit, he also inaugurated the new Pamban rail bridge. He also visited the same temple on January 20, 2024, ahead of the Ayodhya Pran Pratishtha ceremony. The temple is a sacred site associated with Lord Ram and is one of the Char Dham and 12 Jyotirlingas.

Eat, pray, meditate: Three styles, same impulse Varanasi, Uttarakhand, Rameswaram - PM Modi meditates, prays in places that confer a certain spiritual weather on whoever enters them. Then comes another season of the same doctrine, now expressed as street realism: eat where others eat; meet where others meet. Three styles, same impulse-an effort to collapse the distance between leader and led. In earlier eras, proximity was achieved through speeches and promises; in this era, proximity is performed through images that look spontaneous. Social media did what it always does with such performances: it translated them into fellowship. The views multiplied into something like a digital bonfire, millions gathering around an act that, in any other context, would have been ordinary. But in politics, ordinariness is the rarest currency.

The moral math of the Jhalmuri stall

The Jhalmuri stall scene offered a kind of moral math: if he can lower himself to the street, perhaps the street will rise for him. If he eats the same spicy, noisy snack, perhaps he will also share the same fate.

Mamata Banerjee critiques it as "drama"

His opponents have tried to puncture the spell. The West Bengal Chief Minister called it "drama," suggesting secret cameras, a set of invisible eyes making the whole thing feel staged. The accusation has a familiar shape: if you planned it, then it isn't real. And this is the problem with symbolic politics-its critics must either accept its image as political labour, or reject it as deception. But here the question becomes less "Is it genuine?" and more "What does it feel like to the viewer?" Political meaning is often an emotion with a caption. In sharp contrast, Mamata Banerjee's stopover at a public tea stall at Kolkata's Collin Street on April 21, during her election campaign, appeared strained. Mamata Banerjee, sitting on her plastic chair, surrounded by her party leaders, appeared tense and, in fact, looked positively worried. There was no banter with the tea stall owner, no chit-chat, no mirth, no laughter.

Parallel with Trump's McDonald's moment

There is also a broader pattern, one that transcends party lines. In the American campaign imagination, Donald Trump's story of working and eating for a day at a McDonald's became a kind of parable-an act of solidarity with white working-class MAGA supporters. It was less about hamburgers than about dignity: the insistence that a president should be able to stand in the same light as the people who wipe tables. Whether one agrees with Trump's politics is almost irrelevant beside the mechanism: the image signalled belonging and respectability at once. PM Modi in Jhargram invokes a Bengali sensory memory Bengal, for all its worldliness, has always been sensitive to this mechanism. A leader seen as too distant becomes suspect; a leader seen as touching the everyday becomes intimate. Bengal loves cleverness, but it also loves the performance of simplicity, especially when simplicity carries an unmistakable scent of Bengali life. Jhalmuri isn't just food; it is sound and texture: the crackle of puffed rice, the tang, the street-side abundance, the spice that clings. It is the kind of snack that carries a regional intimacy. By eating it in Jhargram, PM Modi is not simply imitating folk culture; he is invoking a Bengali sensory memory and claiming it as a shared one. Will Jhalmuri snack fetch votes for the BJP in Bengal?

Still, the question is a million-dollar one: will such tricks fetch votes in Bengal for the BJP? Here, the answer must be split into two layers: the magnet and the machine.

How A War Destroyed America's Strongest Financial Weapon, Built Over 50 Years

In 1977, Danish chess grandmaster Bent Larsen was asked whether he preferred to be lucky or good. "Both," he replied. Kenneth Rogoff, in his recent book, *Our Dollar, Your Problem*, deploys this anecdote to make a point about the American dollar that Americans rarely acknowledge - that the dollar's extraordinary post-war dominance was the product of skill and luck in roughly equal measure. Had Russia liberalised its economy in the mid-1960s, had Japan not been browbeaten into a destabilising currency appreciation in the mid-1980s, had China floated its exchange rate in the 2010s, the dollar would still be on top, but less so. Interest rates would have been higher. The exorbitant privilege would have been less exorbitant.

The title of Rogoff's book comes from a remark by Nixon's Treasury Secretary, John Connally, to his foreign counterparts in the early 1970s: "It's our dollar, but your problem." For obvious reasons, the statement was the epitome of American arrogance. It also described, precisely, how the system worked. America issues the currency. The rest of the world absorbs the consequences.

The Saudi Deal

In 1974, Henry Kissinger struck one of the most consequential financial deals in modern history. Saudi Arabia would price its oil in dollars and park the surpluses in US Treasuries. America would provide security guarantees. The rest of the Gulf Cooperation Council followed. As recently as 2023, JP



Morgan Chase estimated that roughly 80% of global oil transactions were still settled in dollars.

The elegance of the petrodollar system lay in its circularity. Oil importers paid in dollars. Those dollars flowed to Riyadh and Abu Dhabi. From there, they flowed back into American government debt. This structural demand for Treasuries subsidised Washington's borrowing costs for fifty years and cemented the dollar as the world's reserve currency. It also handed Washington an extraordinary weapon: by controlling SWIFT, the messaging infrastructure connecting banks worldwide, the US could freeze a country out of the international economy almost overnight. This happened to Iran starting 2012, and to Russia in 2022. The Russian sanctions were,

in retrospect, a turning point, though not the kind Washington intended. The United States demonstrated to every other government on earth that dollar reserves were not savings by simply freezing approximately \$300 billion in Russian central bank assets. They were hostages. Much had changed before the first American strikes on Iran this February. The shale revolution had made the United States energy-independent, which meant Saudi Arabia was now selling four times as much oil to China as to its American security guarantor. Eighty-five percent of Middle East crude flows to Asia. The foundational premise of the 1974 deal (that America was the indispensable customer) had quietly expired. More concretely, Saudi Arabia had joined Project mBridge, a

blockchain-based platform developed with the People's Bank of China, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, and the central banks of Thailand and the UAE. It allows settlement in central bank digital currencies without touching SWIFT or dollar-correspondent banking. Deutsche Bank's research team, writing in March 2026, noted with some precision that mBridge is already at "minimum viable stage". The rails to transact outside the dollar system have been built. They were not yet busy, but they were ready.

The War As Catalyst

The US-Israel war on Iran has cost the United States roughly \$12 billion a week. It has also broken the petrodollar loop at both ends simultaneously. On the importing side, central banks in

Turkey, India, Thailand, and other oil-importing nations have been selling US Treasuries to defend their currencies against an oil-driven dollar surge. Holdings at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York dropped approximately \$82 billion to \$2.7 trillion, the lowest level since 2012. The 10-year Treasury yield rose from 3.9% at end-February to above 4.4% within weeks. In every major crisis of the past two decades - the Russia-Ukraine war, the Silicon Valley Bank collapse, the Hamas attacks of October 2023 - money had flooded into Treasuries, not out. This time, yields rose. The safe-haven playbook has failed. On the exporting side, Gulf producers cut output by at least 10 million barrels per day in March. Qatar declared force majeure on LNG exports after strikes on its

Ras Laffan facility. Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE collectively held approximately \$300 billion in Treasuries as of January. They are now earning less, spending heavily on defence, and examining force majeure clauses in their investment commitments to Washington. There are no surpluses to recycle when there is no oil to ship. For the first time since 1996, global central banks hold more gold in aggregate than US government bonds.

Into this vacuum, Iran has inserted a toll booth. Ships transiting the Strait of Hormuz are being charged approximately \$2 million per vessel, denominated in Chinese yuan. Lloyd's List confirmed it. China's Ministry of Commerce acknowledged it in a social media post. Iran's embassy in Zimbabwe declared the era of the "petroyuan" had arrived. (One notes the choice of venue for this announcement with some curiosity.) The larger point still remains relevant despite Iran agreeing to open the Strait of Hormuz for commercial traffic for the rest of the ceasefire.

Right Answers, Wrong Questions

The sceptics deserve a hearing. Diana Choyleva of Enodo Economics argues in the Wall Street Journal that the war has actually reinforced the petrodollar: the Gulf states backed Washington, the security guarantee was tested and held, and China's years of patient infrastructure-building have been disrupted. Dan Alamaris of Alpine Macro calls the petroyuan "far-fetched".

LOSING IDENTITY BEHIND FILTERS



Priyanka Saurabh

(How simplicity, self-respect and real life are being lost in the race for likes and validation)

Listen, girls—this isn't a sentimental appeal, but an essential truth. The worry that you might lose yourself in this race to look beautiful is no longer personal; it's becoming a social crisis. Today, the mirror resides not on the wall of our room, but on our mobile screens. And this mirror doesn't reflect reality, but rather what it wants to show. In this virtual world, beauty is no longer natural, but a project—edited, filtered, and measured by likes and views. It would be wrong to assume that social media is merely a medium of entertainment. It has now become a psychological construct, gradually shaping our thoughts, our preferences, our self-confidence, and our identity. For young women in particular, it creates such pressure that they unconsciously begin to mold themselves into someone else's mold. Looking at someone else's "perfect" photo every day and finding flaws in their own face, wondering after each story how many people saw it, how many praised it—all this is turning into a dangerous habit. This hunger for validation is subtle. At first, it seems normal—a little compliment, a few nice comments, a few likes. But gradually, it becomes a need. When compliments aren't received, it leads to anxiety, self-doubt, and a faltering self-esteem. This is the moment when a girl, who could have been strong and self-reliant from

within, becomes dependent on external reactions. This dependence leads to mental exhaustion and depression, but ironically, it's all hidden behind a smiling face. What you see on social media isn't the whole truth. Everyone here only shows the best parts of their lives. No one posts pictures of their loneliness, no one shares their fears or failures. So when you see someone always happy, in love, or successful, it's important to understand that that's not the whole story. It's just a chosen frame, with the rest of the truth deliberately cut out. The biggest danger is that this virtual comparison makes you underestimate yourself. You think you're not as beautiful, not as happy, not as successful. The truth is, you're complete in your own right. Your simplicity, your thinking, your nature—all of these make you unique. But when you try to be like someone else, you weaken your own identity. In today's world, "trend" has become the new religion. Whatever's trending is considered right. But not every trend is meant for you. Sometimes, these trends take a toll on your health, your self-esteem, and your peace of mind. Strange beauty standards, unnatural lifestyles, and a habit of showing off—all of these slowly lead you in a direction where you drift away from your true self. It's also true that social media has opened up new avenues for expression. But when this expression turns into comparison and competition, it loses its positivity. When every post becomes a performance, every photo a message saying "I'm happy," it's no longer natural life, but an act. And constantly acting is exhausting. The most important thing in this entire scenario is to connect with yourself. Understanding that your true worth isn't determined by likes and comments. Your identity is bigger than any trend or filter.

DIGITAL MEMORIES AND THE RIGHT TO BE FORGOTTEN

The clash between privacy and transparency in the digital world



DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH

The "right to be forgotten" (RTBF) has become one of the most complex and multifaceted legal-ethical debates of today's digital age. The expansion of the internet and digital technology has made information permanent, accessible, and global, making it permanent, and once published, it remains online for a long time, continuously impacting a person's life. In such a scenario, RTBF grants individuals the right to demand the removal, or at least the limitation of the visibility, of outdated, irrelevant, misleading, or harmful information. This right becomes particularly important in situations where information about a person's past is negatively impacting their current life, employment, social standing, and mental state. At first glance, this right appears essential to protect human dignity, privacy, and self-respect, but when it conflicts with freedom of the press and the public's "right to know," it creates a serious constitutional and ethical dilemma that is difficult to resolve. The concept of RTBF gained global traction in 2014 with the famous EU case "Google Spain," where the Court ruled that search engines may, under certain circumstances, remove information from their search results that is no longer relevant or unnecessarily infringes on an individual's privacy. This decision opened a new chapter in the field of digital rights and resulted in the legal recognition of the right to erasure in Article 17 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). However, the European model made it clear that this right is not absolute and must be balanced with important exceptions such as freedom of expression, public interest, historical records, and scientific research. Thus, RTBF was developed as a conditional right that seeks to strike a

balance between individual privacy and the broader interests of society. While no clear and dedicated legal framework for RTBF has yet been developed in India, its foundation can be traced to the right to privacy enshrined in Article 21 of the Constitution, which was recognized as a fundamental right by the Supreme Court in the landmark 2017 Puttaswamy judgment. Furthermore, the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (DPDP Act) provides a limited right to data erasure, but it remains inadequate in providing clear guidelines for matters related to media reports, public records, and journalism. The Information Technology Rules, 2021, also provide a framework for grievance redressal, but they are unable to effectively handle this complex balance. As a result, judicial decisions on the application of RTBF in India are inconsistent and ambiguous, underscoring the need for a coherent policy. The concept of "informational self-determination" is crucial to understanding the conflict between RTBF and freedom of the press. This principle grants individuals the right to control their personal data, digital identity, and online presence. This right becomes even more relevant today, when a person's online image impacts their professional opportunities, social relationships, and personal life. For example, if a person was once charged with a crime but was later acquitted by a court, old news reports available on the internet can still negatively impact their lives. In such cases, RTBF can serve as a means of providing a "second chance," allowing them to move forward in the present, free from the shadows of their past. On the other hand, freedom of the press, enshrined in Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution, is a fundamental pillar of democracy. It embodies not only the right to expression but also the public's "right to know." The role of the media is not only to provide information but also to monitor power, expose corruption, and ensure transparency in public life. If RTBF is widely used to suppress news reports, investigative journalism, or information of public interest, it could seriously undermine democratic accountability. This could become a dangerous trend for society, especially if influential individuals or public officials use this right to suppress inconvenient information related to their past. In recent years, gag orders have

been issued in the name of RTBF in some judicial cases, preventing the media from publishing or disseminating specific information. These orders often take the form of "prior restraints," which are preventive restrictions on freedom of expression and are considered highly questionable from a constitutional perspective. The problem is further exacerbated when such orders are passed unilaterally, without hearing the media or other stakeholders. This also raises questions about the transparency and impartiality of the judicial process. While in some cases, courts have ruled in favor of acquitted individuals and ordered the removal of old information, in other cases, such orders have been overturned, prioritizing press freedom. These contradictory decisions have made it clear that a consistent and clear legal framework on this subject is urgently needed in India. The potential for misuse of RTBF is also not insignificant. Influential individuals, politicians, or those involved in economic crimes could use this right to "cleanse" their past and control public memory. Furthermore, lawsuits such as Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPP) could become a means of exerting legal pressure on journalists and media outlets, preventing them from reporting on sensitive issues. Furthermore, there is the risk of the "Streisand effect," where attempts to suppress information only lead to greater publicity, further complicating the situation. Considering all these challenges, it is essential that India develop a well-thought-out statutory balancing test that strikes the right balance between RTBF and press freedom. This test should include key elements such as the nature of the information—whether it is purely private or clearly related to public interest; the role of the individual involved—whether they are a private citizen or a person engaged in public life; the status of the case—whether it is merely the accusation stage or a final verdict has been reached; and an assessment of actual harm—whether the availability of the information is causing concrete and proven harm to the individual. Furthermore, the principle of "least restrictive alternative" should be adopted, whereby information can first be revised, contextualized, or simply removed from search results, rather than removed entirely.

# Trump buys time for Iran deal after frantic day of diplomacy

Tuesday began as a frantic day of diplomacy in Washington, with Air Force Two ready to fly Vice President JD Vance to Islamabad for another round of peace talks between the US and Iran. Several hours later, Air Force Two hadn't taken off and the negotiations were postponed. President Donald Trump announced that he would extend the ceasefire with Iran, set to expire on Wednesday evening, to allow the regime more time to create a "unified proposal" to end the war. In between, Trump weighed his options as the world waited to see if the countries were any closer to ending the war. Trump's decision marked the second time in as many weeks that he has backed off a threat to escalate the war, buying himself more time to wind down a conflict as it approaches the two-month mark. Vance never officially announced the Islamabad trip, leaving Washington guessing. And Iran never officially committed to attending the talks, leaving the White House in the difficult position of deciding whether or not to send Vance with no assurance that Tehran would even come to the table. As the day



were on, signs of a postponement emerged. Special envoy Steve Witkoff and Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner, senior members of the US negotiating team led by Vance, flew to Washington from Miami instead of heading straight to Islamabad. Soon after, Vance made his way to the White House for "policy meetings" as the president and his senior advisers debated what to do next. In the end, Trump announced the ceasefire extension on Truth Social, his preferred means for war updates since it began in late February. The president said he made

the decision at the request of Pakistan, which has mediated talks between Tehran and Washington. "We have been asked to hold our Attack on the Country of Iran until such time as their leaders and representatives can come up with a unified proposal," Trump said. Notably, Trump this time did not specify how long the ceasefire might last. Earlier this month, he set a two-week deadline for the first ceasefire. That came after conflicting comments in press interviews, during which he said the talks were going well but also warned that he would

consider resuming the war if Iran refused to negotiate. "There is no clear formula" for ending wars, James Jeffrey, a former US ambassador to Iraq and Turkey, told the BBC. Trump isn't the first US president to "threaten significant military escalation," Jeffrey added, "while also putting a good deal on the table." Trump's open-ended statement on Tuesday was more measured than his past social media attacks on Iran. That may signal Trump's desire to end a war that has roiled the global economy and is unpopular with anti-interventionist

supporters in Trump's MAGA base. "This is a pragmatic decision based on what are quite obvious fractures in the current leadership of the Iranian government," said Brian Katulis, a senior fellow at the Middle East Institute. But Katulis said Trump's decision also created more uncertainty about how long the war will last. "This move begs the question though for Trump about how he can deal with the economic pain that Americans are experiencing and the political pain he's experiencing from his base," Katulis said. "He hasn't answered the questions that are still driving this crisis." With the ceasefire extension, the US and Iran now have more time to make a durable peace deal. But major questions remain. Iran has said that the US blockade of the Strait of Hormuz is an act of war. While Trump chose not to restart the war immediately, he gave no indication he would end the blockade, which the US hoped would pressure Tehran to back down. So far that hasn't happened, leaving Trump with fewer options other than ramping up the military campaign.

## Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL) Vizag & Vijayawada Lead JEE Main 2026 Performance: 14 Students Excel; Betha Sai Aashik Tops with AIR 197



**Vijayawada, April 2026:** Students of Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL) from Vijayawada have delivered an outstanding performance in JEE Main 2026, reflecting strong academic consistency and a high level of preparedness across centres. In JEE Main 2026 (Session 2), students from Aakash Institute across Vizag and Vijayawada secured impressive results, with several students achieving above the 99-percentile benchmark. Leading the cohort is Betha Sai Aashik, who secured an exceptional 99.99 percentile and achieved an All-India Rank (AIR) of 197, emerging as the top performer from the region. Apart from Betha Sai Aashik, other top performers include Vemuri

Saisandeep (99.91 percentile), Pravam Kumar (99.69 percentile), Sunit Sen (99.68 percentile), Pragada Phalguni Maanya (99.65 percentile), Boreddy Jagan Mohan Reddy (99.56 percentile), and Surya Lokesh Kallari (99.24 percentile), along with several other students achieving strong percentile scores. Students from centres including Vizag (Dwarka Nagar, Madhurawada, Gajuwaka), Vijayawada (Benz Circle), Kakinada, and Tirupati contributed to this strong performance, reflecting AESL's consistent academic outcomes across Andhra Pradesh. According to the National Testing Agency (NTA) results released on 20th April 2026, students from Aakash Institute across Vizag and

Vijayawada delivered an excellent performance in JEE Main 2026 (Session 2). Commenting on the results, Mr. Dheeraj Kumar Misra, Chief Academic & Business Head, AESL said: "The performance of our students across India reflects their dedication, discipline, and the strength of the Aakash learning ecosystem. Their consistent efforts, supported by structured academic programmes and expert mentoring, have enabled them to achieve outstanding results. We congratulate all our students and wish them continued success." Students credited their success to consistent practice, rigorous training, timely mentoring, and regular assessments, which helped them identify gaps early and steadily improve their performance.

## Apparel Group Introduces Triptii Dimri as the Brand Ambassador for Victoria's Secret India



**Hyderabad, April 2026:** Apparel Group, a leading global fashion and lifestyle conglomerate, announces a defining new chapter with the appointment of Triptii Dimri as the first Brand Ambassador for Victoria's Secret India. Today, Victoria's Secret, comprised of market-leading brands, Victoria's Secret and PINK, that strive to inspire confidence, spark joy, and celebrate sexy, announced the launch of their Summer Signature campaign in India, starring acclaimed Indian actress and new local brand ambassador, Triptii Dimri. The Summer Signature collection includes comfortable and easy-to-wear lingerie and sleepwear, featuring the

brand's iconic, heritage stripe design. Inspired by the collection's ease and glamour, along with Triptii's effortless confidence, the new campaign encapsulates the essence of the Summer Signature styles. The collection features the Signature Stripe Logo T-Shirt, Wireless Bra, and Signature Stripe Logo panty, perfect for everyday comfort. Sleepwear within the collection includes the Signature Striped Satin Slip, as well as the Signature Striped Satin Long Pajama Set, for a casual, yet luxurious lounge look. Launching alongside Signature Summer, and also starring local brand ambassador, Triptii, is the Cool Air collection and campaign -

including the CoolBra™, which has innovative fabric that features breathable, cool-to-the-touch padding and supersoft wicking fabric that dries in a flash and can be worn from day to night. Speaking on the announcement, Abhishek Bajpai, CEO, Apparel Group India, said: "India continues to be a high-growth and strategically important market for Victoria's Secret. Triptii Dimri represents a new generation of consumers who value confidence, individuality, and global fashion sensibilities." Speaking on the partnership, Triptii Dimri shared, "I'm excited to partner with Victoria's Secret—a brand that celebrates individuality and empowers

women to feel confident in their own skin. The Signature CoolBra and Summer Signature collections are all about comfort and ease, and that really resonates with me." Over the past few years, Apparel Group is steadily expanding Victoria's Secret presence in India, strengthening its retail footprint across key metropolitan cities while building a robust omnichannel experience through its website and app. The appointment of Triptii Dimri reflects the brand's continued investment in the Indian market and its ambition to build deeper cultural relevance among the country's fashion-forward consumers.

## META TO TRACK WORKERS' CLICKS AND KEYSTROKES TO TRAIN AI

Meta will start tracking the way employees work, including their keystrokes and mouse clicks, to train its artificial intelligence (AI) models. The company, which owns Instagram and Facebook, told workers on Tuesday that a new tool will run on Meta's computers and internal apps, logging their activity to be used as training data for AI technology. A Meta spokesman told the BBC: "If we're building agents to help people complete everyday tasks using computers, our models need real examples of how people actually use them." "The data is not used for any other purpose," he said, adding that the tool has "safeguards in place to protect sensitive content". But one Meta employee, who asked not to be identified, said having their smallest actions on a computer being used to train AI model as workers expect a slew of additional job cuts feels "very dystopian". "This company has become obsessed with AI," they told the BBC. Another per-



son who recently left the company said the tracking tool is "just the latest way they're shoving AI down everyone's throat". Meta has already laid off around 2,000 employees this year in smaller rounds of cuts, but employees have been expecting deeper job losses in the coming months, as the BBC previously reported. Last month, the company enacted a partial hiring freeze which now appears to be more far-reaching. A website that Meta uses to advertise all of its jobs hosted about 800 listings in March. Now, it is advertis-

ing just seven jobs. Meta's spokesman declined to comment on the company's removal of job listings or plans for cuts. Meta's new tracking tool is called Model Capability Initiative or MCI, according to Reuters which first reported the move. The BBC has been told that an employee's activity on a Meta computer would have been accessible to the company before, however tracking and logging specifically for the purpose of training and improving AI tools is new. Mark Zuckerberg, Meta's co-founder and chief executive, recently pledged to

ramp up spending on AI projects this year and is attempting to position the firm at the forefront of the technology. Meta plans to spend roughly \$140bn on AI in 2026, almost double the amount it invested in the technology a year ago. In 2025, it took over nearly half of Scale AI with a \$14bn (£10.3bn) investment, and brought some executives of the data-labeling firm into Meta to help it build out its AI models and tools. The first significant launch from the company's reformed Meta Superintelligence Labs group emerged last month with the AI model Muse Spark. With the data gathered from the new employee tracker, Meta is hoping to train new AI models that will come out of the lab. In January, Zuckerberg said that 2026 will be "the year that AI dramatically changes the way we work". "We're starting to see projects that used to take big teams now be accomplished by a single, very talented person," he said at the time.

## THINK Gas Swiftly Restores City Gas Supply After Pipeline Damage

COMPANY URGES 'DIAL BEFORE YOU DIG' AWARENESS FOR SAFETY

**Kadapa, April 2026:** A city gas pipeline laid by THINK Gas (formerly AG&P Pratham) was damaged during un-intimated JCB excavation work carried out for water pipeline work near MEDA Convention Hall, Ramanjaneyapuram, Kadapa. The THINK Gas emergency response team acted promptly by isolating the affected section and restoring the gas supply within a short time, ensuring public safety and minimizing inconvenience to residents. THINK Gas has established a robust pipeline infrastructure in Kadapa, district to supply Piped Natural Gas (PNG) for households and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) for transport users. Despite the presence of visible route markers,

**Highlights**  
 ■ A city gas pipeline laid by THINK Gas (formerly AG&P Pratham) was damaged during un-intimated JCB excavation work carried out for water pipeline work near MEDA Convention Hall, Ramanjaneyapuram, Kadapa.

excavation work must inform the City Municipal authorities or the City Gas Distribution company through the 'Dial Before You Dig' contact number. The incident occurred without prior intimation to the company, prompting THINK Gas to file an official complaint against the party responsible. As per the current legal provisions under IPC Sections 285 and 336, such unauthorized damage constitutes an offense punishable by imprisonment of up to 3 years and a fine of up to ₹25 crores. THINK Gas urges all contractors, agencies, and individuals to comply with this safety requirement. The toll-free number to contact THINK Gas before any digging activity is 1800 2022 999.

## BitDelta India Launches Institutional-Grade Virtual Digital Asset (VDA) Infrastructure for the World's Largest Crypto Market

**Bangalore, 22nd April 2026:** BitDelta India, a security-first and user-centric virtual digital asset trading platform, today announced its official launch in India. Registered as a Virtual Digital Asset Service Provider (VDASP) with the Financial Intelligence Unit - India (FIU-IND), the company enters the market with a clear focus on enabling more secure, disciplined, and reliable participation. India represents one of the largest and fastest-growing virtual digital asset markets globally, with an estimated 119 million registered users and a growing share of participation emerging from Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities. As the market evolves, there is a visible shift from access-driven adoption to trust-led participation, with users increasingly prioritising platform reliability, security, and governance. Commenting on the launch, Mr. Vikaas M Sachdeva, Chief Executive Officer - BitDelta India, said "India's virtual digital asset market is moving into a more mature phase, where participation will increasingly be shaped by trust, structure, and long-term reliability. BitDelta India has been built for this shift, with a security-first architecture, disciplined



infrastructure, and a compliance-led approach designed to enable users to engage with greater confidence over time." The exchange offers a unified, INR-native trading environment across spot and derivatives markets, powered by a high-performance, ultra-low latency matching engine designed to maintain stability during periods of market volatility. It supports API-based access for advanced users, structured onboarding for new participants, and 24/7 customer support focused on resolution and continuity. At the core of BitDelta India is a multi-layered

security architecture designed to meet institutional standards of asset protection and operational resilience. The platform integrates Fireblocks-powered MPC custody, cold storage infrastructure, multi-level authorisation controls, and real-time risk monitoring. Its security framework has been independently validated with an AAA rating by Hacken, along with ISO 27001 and SOC 2 certifications, and globally aligned penetration testing. Present in India for the launch, Dr. Demetrios Zamboglou, Group CEO - BitDelta, said, "Every financial category that matures concen-

trates trust around platforms that demonstrate dependability before conditions are favourable. India is entering that phase with one of the strongest participation foundations globally. As expectations shift from access to accountability, decisions around custody, security, transparency and governance become critical. BitDelta India has been built with that discipline at its core, combining institutional-grade infrastructure with globally benchmarked custody systems to support long-term, reliable participation in digital asset markets." Operating as an independently structured, India-focused entity, BitDelta India leverages BitDelta's global digital asset expertise, enterprise-grade technology, and institutional-grade security infrastructure, while aligning its compliance and user experience with local market requirements. With its India launch, BitDelta India is focused on building for the long term, with an approach that evolves in response to changing user expectations and market dynamics. The company aims to expand platform capabilities and enable more consistent, secure, and confident engagement with virtual digital assets.

# Iran says it has seized two cargo ships in Strait of Hormuz after three vessels attacked

The Greek-owned container ship *Epaminondas* has "not been detained" by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), according to Greek Foreign Minister Giorgos Gerapetritis. Speaking to CNN earlier, he said it was attacked and has faced "extensive damage". Greek media is reporting that the shipping ministry also denies that it has been detained. Earlier, the IRGC said that the ship, along with the *MSC Francesca*, was "seized" and directed towards the Iranian coast, Iranian media reported. The UK Maritime Trade Operations Centre said it was approached by an IRGC gunboat, which opened fire and caused significant damage to the bridge. Donald Trump says "it's possible" that a second round of peace talks with Iran could begin by Friday, according to the New York Post. The newspaper says it was told by Pakistani officials that talks might be possible within the next "36 to 72 hours". When the Post put this to Trump, the US president replied in a text message: "It's possible! President DJT." Yesterday, Trump announced that he would extend the ceasefire with Iran, set to expire on Wednesday evening, to allow the regime more time to create a "unified proposal" to end the war. The first reactions here to President Trump's ceasefire extension, by spokesmen on social media, was predictable, sceptical, defiant. Mahdi Mohammadi, an adviser to Iran's lead negotiator, dismissed it as meaningless, a ploy to buy time for a surprise attack. It underlines the deep distrust here about US diplomacy. Previous rounds of talks - last year and this year - were shattered by surprise Israeli-American attacks. Iran has its own commitment to keep as part of this ceasefire. But it's making it clear it won't open the



strategic Strait of Hormuz, on its conditions, until the US lifts its naval blockade and releases its seized vessel - that's the political logjam now. And there's no clear sign of how and when it will be resolved. When we speak to Iranians here, we hear a range of views, not surprisingly. Iranians taking to the main squares in this city every night in response to the government's call to show solidarity, are also defiant. Others tell us they're just trying to get on with their lives, exhausted by years of failed nuclear talks, spiralling prices, tightening security and surveillance, and all the many restrictions on their lives, their futures. A second French peacekeeper has died after being seriously wounded by Hezbollah fighters, says French President Emmanuel Macron. In a statement on X,

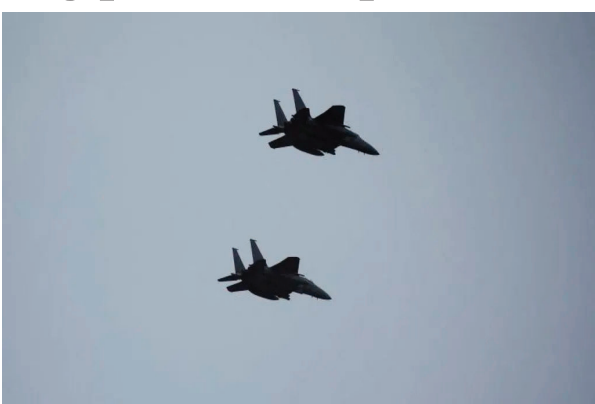
Macron says Corporal Anicet Girardin was repatriated yesterday and died this morning. On Saturday, a French peacekeeper who was serving with the UN mission in southern Lebanon, Unifil, was killed after a patrol came under fire. Macron blamed Hezbollah for the attack, though the Iran-backed armed group denied "any connection" to the incident. Two other peacekeepers have been injured. Macron said earlier that he "fully" supports the ceasefire between Hezbollah and Israel, and is concerned that it may "already be undermined by the continuation of military operations". He called for Hezbollah to renounce its weapons and for Israel to respect Lebanese sovereignty. The company which owns an Indian-flagged tanker that was attacked in the Strait of Hormuz over the weekend, despite its captain saying the ship had been granted clearance by Iran, has denied the

## UAE-backed Colombian mercenaries provided support to Sudan paramilitary, report says



A network of Colombian mercenaries backed by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) provided critical support to Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) enabling it to capture the western city of el-Fasher last year, a new report says. The investigation, by security analysis organisation the Conflict Insights Group (CIG), used data obtained from tracking the mobile phones of the Colombian fighters. The UAE has long denied supporting the RSF, which has been fighting Sudan's regular army for three years. El-Fasher's fall was one of the most brutal chapters of the conflict, which has led to the world's worst humanitarian crisis with tens of thousands killed and millions forced from their homes. The CIG has been closely following evidence of extensive Emirati military assistance to the RSF, but "this is the first research where we can prove UAE involvement with certainty", says director Justin Lynch. "We are making public what governments have long known - that there is a direct link between Abu Dhabi and the RSF." The report "shows mercenaries involved with drones travelling from a UAE base to Sudan before the RSF takeover of el-Fasher", he says.

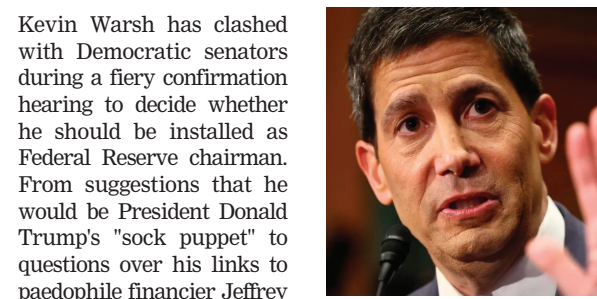
## South Korean fighter jets collided due to pilots taking pictures, report finds



South Korean authorities have found that two fighter jets collided mid-air in 2021 because the pilots were taking pictures and videos. The incident took place while the jets were on a flight mission in the central city of Daegu, according to Seoul's Board of Audit and Inspection. The pilots survived with no injuries, but the collision damaged the planes, costing the military 880 million won (\$596,000; £440,500) in repairs. One of the pilots, who has since left the military, was made to pay a fine of 88 million won. The incident took place because that pilot had wanted to take photos to commemorate his last flight with his military unit. Taking photos of significant flights was "a widespread practice among pilots at the time", the audit board said in a report published on Wednesday. The pilot had declared his intent to do so in a briefing before the flight, according to the report. He was flying the wingman aircraft and was following the lead aircraft during the mission. While flying back to their base, he started taking pictures using his personal

mobile phone. Upon noticing this, the pilot of the lead aircraft then asked another pilot on his plane to film a video of the wingman aircraft. The wingman pilot then abruptly flew his jet up higher and flipped it so that it could be better captured on camera. This manoeuvre brought the two planes very close to each other. To avoid a crash, the lead aircraft tried to rapidly descend. But the two F-15K jets eventually collided, damaging the lead aircraft's left wing and the wingman aircraft's tail stabiliser. South Korea's air force suspended the wingman pilot, who has since left the military to work for a commercial airline. Subsequently, the air force sought to fine the wingman pilot 880 million won to cover the full amount of the repair costs. When the pilot appealed against the fine, it prompted an investigation by the audit board. The wingman pilot acknowledged his sudden manoeuvre led to the collision, but argued that the lead aircraft's pilot had "tacitly consented" to the manoeuvre since he was aware that filming was taking place.

## From Epstein to sock puppets: Key takeaways from Kevin Warsh's Fed confirmation hearing



Kevin Warsh has clashed with Democratic senators during a fiery confirmation hearing to decide whether he should be installed as Federal Reserve chairman. From suggestions that he would be President Donald Trump's "sock puppet" to questions over his links to paedophile financier Jeffrey Epstein, here are the key takeaways from Tuesday's showdown in the Senate. Warsh denies being Trump's "sock puppet" Senator Elizabeth Warren, the ranking Democrat on the banking committee that is overseeing his confirmation, said Warsh would be little more as Fed chairman than Trump's "sock puppet". Trump has suggested that, if confirmed, Warsh would conform to his agenda and lower interest rates, which

the president argues is necessary to boost the US economy. Trump has repeatedly clashed in public with the current Fed boss, Jerome Powell - especially on the issue of interest rates. Powell's term expires in May. In Tuesday's hearing, which considered Warsh's suitability to replace Powell, Warren said that "having a sock puppet in charge of the Fed would give the president access to the Fed's powerful authorities to enrich himself.

## EU approves €90bn loan for Ukraine as pipeline is turned on ending deadlock

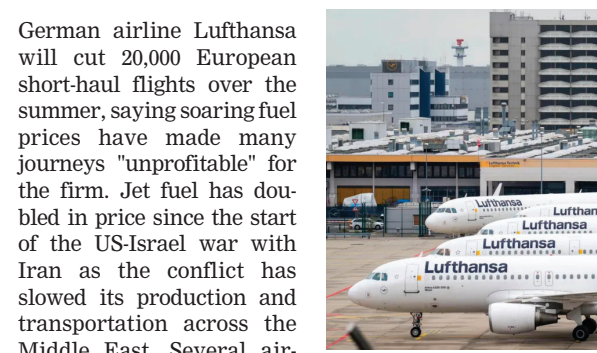
Ukraine says it has resumed pumping Russian oil through a pipeline into Hungary and Slovakia, bringing to an end months of deadlock over a 90bn (£78bn) loan seen as vital European Union support for Kyiv. Soon afterwards, EU ambassadors meeting in Brussels gave preliminary approval to the loan, as well as a 20th package of sanctions on Russia, officials said. It is now expected to be signed off on Thursday. Although the funding was agreed last December, Hungary's Viktor Orbán slapped a veto on the payment in February after Ukraine said damage caused by a Russian attack had brought supplies to a halt. Ukrainian oil and government sources told officials in



Hungary and Slovakia that pumping had restarted, hours after the EU ambassadors began discussing the loan. Orbán had demanded the oil start flowing again before the loan could be paid out, and Ukraine confirmed the repairs had been completed on Tuesday. His election defeat last Sunday also cleared the air for the EU, bringing to an end his 16-

Deputy Prime Minister Taras Kachka as "a matter of life and death" for Kyiv, and two-thirds of it will be spent on bolstering Ukraine's defence needs while the rest will go on broader financial assistance. Slovak Economy Minister Denisa Sakova said she had been told by energy operator Ukrtransnaft, which looks after the Druzhba pipeline in Ukraine, that pressurising of the pipeline had begun on Wednesday morning and crude oil would start flowing into Slovakia on Thursday, for the first time since 27 January. The volume of pumping was not yet clear, but a Ukrainian government source was quoted as saying that the transit of oil had begun at 12:35 local time (09:35 GMT).

## LUFTHANSA CUTS 20,000 SUMMER FLIGHTS AS FUEL PRICES SURGE



German airline Lufthansa will cut 20,000 European short-haul flights over the summer, saying soaring fuel prices have made many journeys "unprofitable" for the firm. Jet fuel has doubled in price since the start of the US-Israel war with Iran as the conflict has slowed its production and transportation across the Middle East. Several airlines, including KLM-France and Delta, have also temporarily cut some flights while others have raised ticket prices as they pass on expenses to customers. Analysts have warned that travellers should expect further ticket price rises and more cancelled flights as the

conflict continues. The Gulf is a major source of aviation fuel, accounting for about 50% of Europe's imports. The bulk of it comes through the Strait of Hormuz, which Iran has effectively closed in response to US and Israeli attacks. Lufthansa said on Tuesday it would save

roughly 40,000 metric tons of jet fuel through its flight cuts, the majority of which will come from the closure of its CityLine service. It said this means it will temporarily stop flying to and from Heringsdorf, Cork, Gdansk, Ljubljana, Rijeka, Sibiu, Stuttgart, Trondheim, Tivat, and Wroclaw. The firm will either refund affected passengers or book them on to alternative flights with one of its other airlines - SWISS, Austrian Airlines, Brussels Airlines, and ITA Airways - where possible. Some of the flight cuts could become permanent. Lufthansa said it was reviewing its whole European schedule and would release more details later in April. Shortage concerns The International Energy Agency warned last week that Europe could run out of jet fuel in weeks, though the UK government and airlines say they are not seeing a disruption in supply.

## Taiwan president cancels trip after African countries revoke flight permits

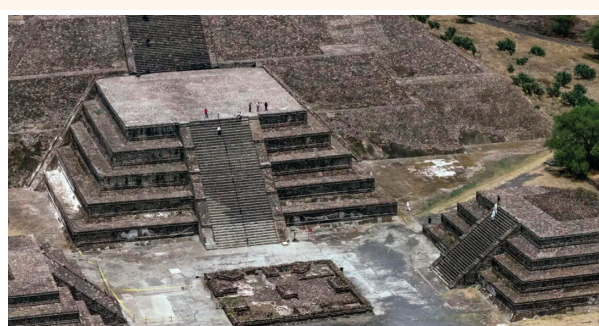


Taiwan President Lai Ching-te has cancelled a trip to the southern African nation of Eswatini, accusing China of putting pressure on other countries to bar his aircraft from flying over their territories. Seychelles, Mauritius and Madagascar revoked Lai's flight permits after "intense pressure" and economic coercion from China, said a Taiwan official. China denied coercion, while praising the three Indian Ocean nations saying it had "high appreciation" for them. This is the first publicly known instance where Taiwan's leader has had to cancel a trip due to revoked flight permits. Eswatini is one of 12 nations which are diplomatic allies of Taiwan and the only one in Africa. According to news agency Reuters, Seychelles and Madagascar said they took the decision because they do not recognise Taiwan. Taiwanese officials claimed that the three African countries revoked the flight permits "unexpectedly and without prior notice". China adheres to the "one China" principle in which Beijing asserts sovereignty over Taiwan, though many in

Taiwan consider themselves to be a sovereign nation. Beijing sees the self-governed island as a breakaway province that will eventually be part of the country, and has not ruled out the use of force to achieve this. The Chinese government has been vocal in its dislike of Lai, whom it has previously described as a "troublemaker" and a "destroyer of cross-strait peace". In a statement on X, Lai criticised China's "coercive actions", saying that it "exposed the rights authoritarian regimes pose to the international order". "No amount of threats or coercion will shake Taiwan's resolve to engage with the world." The government of Eswatini, formerly known as Swaziland, said it was regrettable that Lai was unable to visit, but that this would not "change the status of our longstanding bilateral relationship", according to reports. Lai was due to spend 22 to 26 April in Eswatini to attend celebrations marking the 40th anniversary of King Mswati III's accession and the king's birthday. Taiwan said that a special envoy will be appointed to attend the celebrations on Lai's behalf. China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs also said that it was "clear...[that] the so-called 'President of the Republic of China' no longer exists in the world", in a reference to Lai's official title in Taiwan. Some in the US have criticised Seychelles, Mauritius and Madagascar, with the House Foreign Affairs Committee Majority saying they "stood with Taiwan against this blatant coercion" in a post on X.

## Mexico officials say Teotihuacán gunman carried material related to US mass shooting

The gunman who opened fire atop Mexico's ancient Pyramid of the Moon appeared to have been influenced by other violent shootings and showed signs of psychological problems, the country's president said on Tuesday. Julio César Jasso Ramirez, 27, a Mexican national, carried a handgun, dozens of cartridges, a knife and literature referencing acts of violence, officials said on Tuesday. Mexico's top prosecutor said Jasso Ramirez planned and carried out the attack alone. The gunman fatally shot himself after a standoff with police. A Canadian woman was killed and 13 others were injured at the popular tourist site northwest of Mexico City.



"Based on everything indicated by the prosecutorial authorities, this person showed signs of psychological problems and was influenced by incidents that occurred abroad," President Claudia Sheinbaum said during a Tuesday media conference. The gunman carried documents that apparently referenced the 1999

Columbine High School massacre in the US, according to José Luis Cervantes Martínez, attorney general of the State of Mexico, which is home to the Teotihuacán pyramid complex. "Among his belongings, authorities also found ... literature, images and documents allegedly related to acts of violence that ... may have occurred in the United States in April 1999," he said. A tourist who witnessed the shooting told Reuters news agency that visitors heard Jasso Ramirez refer to the notorious Columbine shooting, which took place exactly 27 years prior. During the media conference, Cervantes and Mexican authorities said that Jasso Ramirez had repeatedly visited the archaeological site - about 50km (31 miles) from Mexico City - and arrived there on Monday just before noon local time. "This act was not spontaneous," said Cervantes Martínez. After the gunman scaled the ancient pyramid, he began shooting from one of its platforms.

## LOS ANGELES BECOMES FIRST MAJOR US SCHOOL DISTRICT TO LIMIT CLASSROOM SCREEN TIME

Los Angeles' education board has voted to restrict student screen time in classrooms, making it the first major US school system to do so. The resolution requires staff to develop screen-time policies based on grade level and bans first-grade and younger students from using devices. It comes as the district, which serves about half a million students, sought to reduce its reliance on tablets and laptops, which was prompted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Nick Melvoin, a board member who brought forward the resolution, said student devices were a "lifeline" in 2020, but that "years later, it's time that we reset". "I believe that we have the opportunity to lead the nation, to establish comprehensive, developmentally grounded screen-time limits that puts students before screens," Melvoin said at a meeting on Tuesday. "This is not about going backwards. This is about rethinking screen time in schools to make sure we are doing what actually helps students learn best." The restrictions, which are expected to be implemented in the next school year, will ban YouTube and other video-streaming platforms on school-issued devices. They will also allow parents to opt their children out of using specific digital tools. The resolution cited research indicating that children aged 8 to 11 who exceed screen-time guidelines are at higher risk for obesity and depressive symptoms and have scored lower on cognitive assessments.



## IPL 2026: Rajasthan Royals Set 159/6-Run Target for Lucknow Super Giants

A terrific bowling effort from Lucknow Super Giants restricted Rajasthan Royals to 159 for 6 in their IPL 2026 match against Rajasthan Royals at the Ekana Cricket Stadium in Lucknow tonight. Mohammed Shami set the tone with wickets on consecutive deliveries in the third over of the innings. Mohsin Khan struck in the very next over, and LSG put RR under immense pressure. Rishabh Pant and Co. kept the noose tight with wickets at regular intervals. Ravindra Jadeja scored 43 not out off 29 to give RR something to fight. Earlier, LSG captain Rishabh Pant won the toss and opted to bowl first. Twenty runs came off the final over of Mayank Yadav! Ravindra Jadeja smashed the pacer for two fours and a six. The southpaw ended with a score of 43 not out off 29 balls. Rajasthan Royals have something to fight for. They have posted 159 for 6. Twelve



came off the final over of Prince Yadav. He bowled a good yorker to Shubman Dubey, but the batter opened the face of his bat and earned a four through the gap between backward point and short third. Prince finishes with figures of 2 for 29. Eleven came off the final over of Digvesh Singh Rathi. He ends without a wicket. The right-arm leg-spinner

finishes with figures of 0 for 26. Two overs remain for Rajasthan Royals. They should aim to cross 150 to give their bowlers something to fight for. Ravindra Jadeja is playing a slow knock. He is 18 not out off 19 balls. The southpaw has failed to hit a single boundary so far. Meanwhile, Mohsin Khan ends his quota of four overs with figures of

2 for 17. On the fifth ball of the over, Ravindra Jadeja hit the Mayank Yadav delivery on the leg side. The southpaw took the first run quickly and then returned for the second. After taking a couple of strides, Jadeja pulled back. The miscommunication saw Donovan Ferreira also ending up at the non-striker's end. However, a poor throw from

the deep gave Ferreira a chance to run back and save his wicket. Mohammed Shami conceded only six runs in his final over. He was unlucky on the first ball as Mayank Yadav misjudged a catch at deep backward square leg. The veteran pacer finishes his quota with figures of 2 for 30. After receiving treatment, Rishabh Pant continued with his wicketkeeping. Only four runs came off the over from Mohsin Khan. He has bowled exceptionally well so far, conceding 11 runs and picking up two wickets in three overs. 10.4-Rishabh Pant has taken a blow on his face. He was collecting a throw behind the stumps and the ball bounced abruptly. Pant was not wearing a helmet and the ball hit his nose. The physio is currently checking the LSG captain. Mohsin Khan strikes again! He has dismissed Shimron Hetmyer, who was dangerous in the middle.

### 'I CRIED SO HARD' - THE KENYAN WNBA STAR WHO BEAT US VISA HEARTBREAK



On the night that changed her life, Madina Okot sat quietly. The Kenyan was waiting, hoping and praying that her name would be called at the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) draft in New York. "I was so nervous," she told BBC Sport Africa, reflecting on those moments inside the venue on 13 April. "When I heard my name, it was like a dream. Am I here? Am I really doing this?" The 21-year-old did not have to wait long - she was selected in the first round, and 13th overall, by the Atlanta Dream. The third Kenyan to be chosen in the WNBA draft, Okot is the highest pick ever from her country.

### Mentor Yuvraj Singh's Message For 'Sir' Abhishek Sharma After 5th Highest Individual IPL Score

Delhi Capitals learned Abhishek Sharma's prowess the hard way on Tuesday. The Sunrisers Hyderabad opener butchered a listless Delhi Capitals into submission with a brilliant 68-ball 135 not out as his team catered to an easy 47-run victory in an IPL match in Hyderabad on Tuesday. On a placid Uppal track, Abhishek scythed through Delhi bowling attack with 10 sixes and as many boundaries in Sunrisers' mammoth score of 242 for 2. The chase was out of question but Sri Lankan Eshan Malinga (4/32 in 4 overs) and Sakib Hussain (1/29 in 4 overs) scripted a middle-order collapse with DC reduced to 107 for 4 from a comfortable 107 for 1. DC



never recovered from thereon. In the end, Axar Patel's men managed only 195 for 9 to lose the game comprehensively as SRH consolidated their position in the points table moving up to third place. "Let the bat do the work! getting better each day well played sir Abhishek! keep up with the process," Yuvraj Singh,

Abhishek's mentor, wrote on X. The match will be remembered for some serious tactical mistakes made by the DC 'Brains Bank' comprising Director of Cricket Venugopal Rao, head coach Hemang Badani and skipper Axar. Using a part-time off-spinner Nitish Rana's (0/55 in 4 overs) full quota simply because the top three of SRH

consists of southpaws beggared belief. Equally baffling was frontline spinners Axar (1/23 in 2 overs) and Kuldeep Yadav (0/30 in 2 overs) only bowled half their quota of overs trying to escape the onslaught from Abhishek. Three pacers Mukesh Kumar (0/53), Lungi Ngidi (0/44) and T Natarajan (0/40) were also rendered ineffective. On the other hand, SRH pacers led by Malinga and Hussain used clever variations of pace-on and pace-off deliveries to get wickets at regular intervals save Rana's half-century which was pale in comparison to Abhishek's innings. Even with a relatively off-colour Travis Head (37 off 26 balls), Abhishek added 97 for the opening stand.

### Vaibhav Sooryavanshi "Demigod": Ajit Agarkar Sent Selection Plea, With Sachin Tendulkar Reference

The cricketing world has its one and only 'God' in the form of Sachin Tendulkar, but former India cricketer Krishnamachari Srikkanth feels 15-year-old Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is a 'Demigod' in the making. Srikkanth, who has been a vocal advocate for the Rajasthan Royals opening batter's national selection, urged the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) selection committee chief Ajit Agarkar to fast-track Sooryavanshi into the Indian team. In fact, Srikkanth, a member of India's 1983 World Cup-winning team under Kapil Dev, believes Sooryavanshi should have been part of the national squad for this year's T20 World Cup. "This



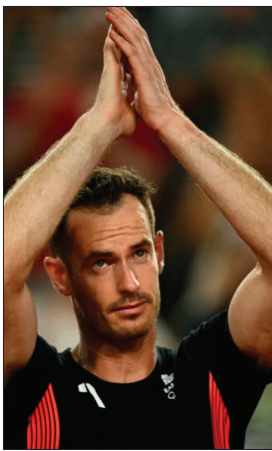
guy, Sooryavanshi... imagine someone playing such shots. That boy is simply outstanding and brilliant. Ajit, I'm telling you, you need to fast-track him. The next series, he should be playing. I've been saying this since last year. He should have been fast-tracked, even into the T20

World Cup squad. He doesn't need to be in the XI straight-away-first let him be in the 15, understand the environment, and get a feel for international cricket," Srikkanth told The Week. "I think Sooryavanshi should be fast-tracked. No question of 'give him time, let him be consistent.' No chance. That

guy can win matches for you just like that. Imagine, first ball, he hits Bumrah for a six. Hazlewood gets hammered-he's not bothered about who the bowler is. He's a prodigy," he added. Srikkanth, who has also captained the Indian national team, recalled his experience leading the great Sachin Tendulkar in 1989 when the latter was just 16 years old. For Srikkanth, Tendulkar's early introduction to the Indian team helped him become the 'God of Cricket.' Similarly, Sooryavanshi could go on to become the 'Demigod of Cricket.' "When I went as captain in 1989, there was a prodigy-a 16-year-old Sachin Tendulkar. Today, he's the God of Cricket.

### Tennis Great Andy Murray Opens Up On Coaching Plans In Future

British tennis great Andy Murray has opened up about his coaching journey after retirement, revealing he remains open to returning to the role in the future while also backing Novak Djokovic in his pursuit of a historic 25th Grand Slam title. Murray, who briefly worked with Djokovic following his retirement from professional tennis, reflected candidly on the experience and the lessons it offered him from a completely different perspective within the sport. "Djokovic probably learned nothing (from me). No, I learned a lot and honestly, I would coach again but probably not right now. I've had a few opportunities to coach but I don't really want to do loads of travelling right now unless it's with my family,"



Murray told Sky Sports. The Brit, who joined Djokovic's team in late 2024, described the transition from player to coach as a significant shift, especially after years of competing at the highest level against the Serbian. "I knew lots about

Novak's game. I played against him for years and studied his game. It was interesting to see what his day to day looked like in comparison to what I might have been doing and how those things differ," said the former world No 1. Murray emphasised that communication and understanding are central to coaching, admitting that his personal life has shaped his approach in this regard. "From a coaching perspective, it's about how you communicate your message to the player that you're working with and how to listen to them. I really think that having kids has helped me with that - learning to be more understanding and seeing something from another person's point of view and perspective.

### REAL MADRID'S TCHOUAMENI ON MAN UTD RADAR

Real Madrid's Aurelien Tchouameni has emerged as one of the international midfielders Manchester United are monitoring as they look to address their priority position this summer. After focusing on their forward options and, eventually, the goalkeeping position last year, United want to target midfield reinforcements at the end of the current campaign. Nottingham Forest's Elliot Anderson, Carlos Baleba of Brighton and Crystal Palace's Adam Wharton are three players who have been mentioned regularly. They have the Premier League experience that has proved so successful this term through the arrivals of Mathews Cunha from Wolves and Bryan Mbeumo from Brentford. However, doubts have been cast over Wharton's suitability as his playing profile is similar to that of Kobbie Mainoo, who is close to agreeing terms over a lucrative contract extension. United are also looking overseas and, among a number of players, Tchouameni is one of those on their radar. The 26-year-old's contract is not due to expire until 2028 and Real are reportedly keen on extending that.



However, in what promises to be a summer of change at the Bernabeu following a disappointing campaign that looks certain to see them end without a trophy, they could be open to a sizeable offer. United were interested in Tchouameni when he left Monaco in 2022, but the player opted to join Real, where he has become one of the most effective midfield players in the world.

### WING DAVID TO MAKE ENGLAND DEBUT AGAINST WALES



Bristol Bears wing Millie David will win her first international cap against Wales in the Women's Six Nations on Saturday as England shake up their selection once more. David has been rewarded for her fine form in the PWR as England continue to search for a long-term back-three combination in the wake of World Cup winner Abby Dow's retirement. The 20-year-old, who also qualifies for Australia through her father, finished joint top of the English top flight's try-scoring standings last season and has shone despite her club's disappointing campaign. Claudia Moloney-MacDonald is on the other wing with Ellie Kildunne, who scored two tries from the wing against Scotland, restored to her usual full-back role. Elsewhere, England are

down to a near fourth-choice second row combination, with Lillie Ives Campion, who has suffered a knee injury, becoming the latest lock to be sidelined. Zoe Stratford, Abbie Ward and Rosie Galligan are all pregnant, while Morwenna Talling has been ruled out of the tournament with a leg injury sustained in the opening-weekend win over Ireland. Abi Burton, a back row, and Delaney Burns, who won the most recent of her three previous caps back in 2023, will be paired in the engine room. The fly-half shirt changes hands once more with Holly Aitchison back in at 10 in place of rival Zoe Harrison. Props MacKenzie Carson and Sarah Bern are promoted off the bench and into the starting line-up along with 113-cap flanker Marlie Packer.

## CRISTIANO RONALDO TO PLAY WITH HIS SON? AL NASSR CONTEMPLATE HISTORIC MOVE

Saudi Pro League giants Al Nassr are reportedly considering a sensational move to promote Cristiano Ronaldo's son to the senior squad, potentially setting up a historic father-son pairing next season. According to Al Weeam, as quoted by Goal.com, the 15-year-old has been making a strong impression in the club's youth system and is being lined up for a possible inclusion in the first-team setup ahead of the next campaign. The teenager has already been part of several elite academies worldwide, having

followed his father's career path through clubs like Real Madrid, Juventus, and Manchester United before arriving in Saudi Arabia. At just 15, a promotion would reflect significant confidence in his development, both physically and technically. The Portugal legend, who remains the central figure of the Al Nassr side at 41, is believed to be motivated by the idea of sharing the pitch with his son—a long-cherished personal dream. The club is expected to evaluate the youngster's readiness at the end of the season before making a



final call. While Ronaldo continues to chase his historic 1,000 career strikes,

having his son assist one or more of those goals would provide a fairy tale

ending to an already storied career. The hype surrounding Ronaldo Jr is backed by staggering statistics that suggest he has inherited his father's relentless eye for goal. As per Goal.com, as quoted by The Sun, the 15-year-old has netted 58 goals in just 23 matches for Juve's U-9 side and has maintained that form in the Gulf state, scoring 56 goals in 27 games for the Al-Nassr U-15 team. However, a step up to senior football in the Saudi Pro League would mark a major leap, given the physical and competitive demands of the profes-

sional game. Meanwhile, Ronaldo moved one step closer to the historic 1000-goal milestone by netting his 969th career goal, leading Al-Nassr to a commanding 4-0 victory over Al-Wasl in the quarter-finals and sealing their place in the AFC Champions League Two semi-finals. Al-Nassr delivered a dominant performance from start to finish, combining attacking sharpness with midfield control to overwhelm their opponents. The breakthrough arrived early, with Ronaldo striking in the 11th minute.

## 'Jaitley' will be like Mission Impossible with Satya. Jaitley will give you a new experience in action and comedy: Director Ritesh Rana at the trailer launch event"



Mythri Movie Makers Presents- Satya, Ritesh Rana, Clap

Entertainment's 'Jaitley' Unlimited Fun, Stylish Action Trailer Launch Satya, who has made a special mark for himself as a comedian, is now teaming up with director Ritesh Rana again in the film 'Jaitley'. This film, which is coming in the combination of the two, promises to provide quirky and different entertainment once again. Chiranjeevi (Cherry) and Hemalatha Peddamallu are producing it under the banner of Clap Entertainment, while Mythri Movie Makers are presenting it. The film is gearing up for release on May 1. On this occasion, the makers

launched the trailer. The role played by Satya in this story stands out. As a man who has lost his memory, he finds himself in strange situations. But instead of finding answers to his questions, he encounters satire from those around him. The main strength of this film is that it runs this concept on a completely comedic track, rather than an emotional one. Another interesting aspect seen in the trailer is the contrast between reality and perception. Even though Satya seems like a joke to everyone, he behaves like a big action hero. This mismatch makes the entire movie a laughing stock. The action scenes are also not serious, but have a touch of parody, which is a special attraction. Satya brought out the laughter with his natural style of underplayed performance.

Mythri Movie Makers Presents- Satya, Ritesh Rana, Clap Entertainment's 'Jaitley' Unlimited Fun, Stylish Action Trailer Launch Satya, who has made a special mark for himself as a comedian, is now teaming up with director Ritesh Rana again in the film 'Jaitley'.

## I want 'Vaala ?' to be the biggest blockbuster in Telugu too: Superhero Teja Sajja at pre-release event

Malayalam sensation 'Vaala', which registered a tremendous success at the Kerala box office, is now getting ready to come to Telugu audiences. Directed by Savin SA, the film features young actors like Hashir H, Alan Bin Siraj, Ajin Joy, and Vinayak V. Produced by Sahu Garapati under his 'Shine Screens' banner, in association with Vipin Das, Harris Desam, PB Anish, Adarsh Narayan, and Icon Studios, the film has already become a huge blockbuster in Malayalam with a gross collection of 200 crores. The Telugu version trailer has received a wonderful response. 'Vaala 2' will be released in theaters in Telugu on the 24th. On this occasion, the makers organized a pre-release event. The event was grand, with superhero Tejasajja and director Gopichand Malineni attending as the chief guests. Speaking at the pre-release event, superhero Tejasajja said, "Hello everyone. The trailer and teaser of this film are as passionate as the boys here. This is the welcome we give to Malayalam actors. When we watch some Malayalam films, we feel that they have been made very crazy. The love given by the Telugu audience is unmatched. Our audience anchors every film regardless of the language. I am very happy to be a part of such an audience and to be an actor at this time. The main reason I came to this event is because of producer Sahu. He is a very good person and heartfelt. He has the heart to wish every-



one well. That is why such successes keep coming his way. This year, he scored the biggest blockbuster with Shankara Varaprasad. Now this film has also become a big blockbuster in Malayalam. I wish him to do many more such good films. Sahu's move into other languages and making films is a very good development. Thank you so much to Vipin Das garu who helped him in this regard. Congratulations to the director and the entire team. It is very rare to achieve such a huge hit with the first film. On April 24, everyone should go to the theaters and watch 'Waala 2'. Let us introduce to all of them the love that our Telugu audience shows. When we went to Kerala for promotions, the audience and media there welcomed us

very warmly. I also thank them on this occasion. Since this is already a successful film, this ceremony also feels like a success celebration. We are all very happy to be a part of the success of the Shine Screens banner. Thank you so much to everyone. Producer Sahu Garapati said, "Greetings to everyone. When I met Vipin Das garu, I watched his films. I felt that if we associate with such people, we can also make good films. I was not in their 'Vaala 1', I said that it would be good if we met in 'Vaala 2'. Everyone responded positively and gave me good encouragement. That's how I entered the Malayalam industry. We made a very good film, everyone shed tears when they saw the climax of this film. The director did a wonderful job. We are dubbing

this movie thinking that our Telugu people will support such films. Thanks to Teja Sajja garu and Gopichand garu who came to support us. Everyone will connect with this film. Director Gopichand Malineni said: "Greetings to everyone. Congratulations to Sahu garu. You have scored the biggest Telugu blockbuster of the year. You have achieved a big blockbuster in Malayalam. I am very happy. Congratulations to all the young stars who acted in this film. This film talks about the emotions in life. Telugu audiences watch any language film with their hearts. They encourage talent wherever it is. The brother emo-

tion and friendship emotion are very good in 'Waala 2'. I wish this film to be a big hit here too. It is being released on April 24, I am sure everyone will like it. Alan said: "It is a great pleasure to come here. We love Telugu films. I have seen many Telugu films. All Arjun's films and 'Jersey' are my favourites. 'Vaala 2' is coming to you on April 24. It was a big success in Malayalam. I believe the same will be repeated in Telugu too. Hashir said: 'Waala 2' will definitely be liked by all of you. Go and watch it in theaters on April 24. This movie was a huge hit in

## Jennifer Winget sparks wedding rumors with viral Instagram comment



A single Instagram comment has turned into one of the biggest entertainment talking points this week. Popular television star Jennifer Winget has sparked fresh wedding rumours, leaving fans curious and excited. The Comment That Started It All It all began when Jennifer reacted to a bridal dance reel on Instagram. What seemed like a light and playful comment quickly caught the attention of fans. Within hours, screenshots began circulating, and social media was flooded with speculation. For many, it wasn't just a comment. It felt like a hint. Fans started wondering if the actress was dropping clues about her personal life. Fans Turn Detectives As the buzz grew, fans began connect-

ing dots. Some linked her to a "mystery man," reportedly William Ishmael. Though there is no official confirmation, that hasn't stopped the internet from building its own story. From decoding emojis to revisiting old posts, followers are closely watching every move. The excitement is especially high among young fans, including many in Hyderabad, where Jennifer enjoys a strong fan base. Silence Adds to the Mystery Interestingly, Jennifer has chosen to stay silent. Known for keeping her personal life away from the spotlight, she has not addressed the rumours. This silence has only made fans more curious. Is she really planning a wedding, or is this just another case of social media overthinking a simple moment?

## Real or robot? Alia Bhatt's fake fashion campaign goes viral

Bollywood star Alia Bhatt has become the centre of an unexpected controversy, and this time, she did not even sign up for it. A Pakistani clothing brand recently shared glamorous images of the actor seemingly promoting their latest ethnic collection. The pictures looked real at first glance, but the truth behind them shocked fans across the internet. The illusion that fooled many The viral images showed Alia dressed in beautiful traditional outfits, posing like she was part of a professional brand campaign. But social media users quickly noticed something felt off. It was soon revealed that the photos were created using

artificial intelligence. The brand had reportedly taken her old images and digitally edited the outfits to match their designs, creating a completely fake endorsement. What matters worse was that the posts suggested Alia admired the collection, giving the impression that she was officially associated with the brand. This led to confusion among fans and raised serious concerns about misuse of a celebrity's identity. Internet Reacts

Strongly As the truth came out, the internet did not stay silent. Fans rushed to the comment section, calling out the brand and demanding accountability. Many warned that using a celebrity's face without permission could lead to legal trouble. Some even directly tagged Alia, hoping she would notice and take action. Comments like "She will sue you" quickly began trending under the posts,

showing just how strongly people felt about the issue. A Bigger Question Around AI This incident is a clear reminder of how powerful and risky AI technology has become. While it opens doors for creativity, it also makes it easier to blur the line between real and fake. In industries like fashion and entertainment, where image and identity matter deeply, such misuse can damage trust. As AI continues to grow, this controversy highlights the urgent need for clear rules. Because in a world where anything can be created digitally, consent and authenticity matter more than ever. As the truth came out, the internet did



not stay silent, fans rushed to the comment section, calling out the brand and demanding accountability.

## Jasmine Sandlas goes viral for this bold concert moment

Popular singer Jasmine Sandlas, who has been riding high on the success of 'Dhurandar Part 1 and 2', is once again in the spotlight, this time for a controversial on-stage moment. During a recent live concert, the singer was seen pouring an entire bottle of water over herself mid-performance, leaving the internet both surprised and divided. The clip quickly went viral, with many netizens drawing comparisons to Sunidhi Chauhan, known for her electrifying live performances. While some called it a performance gimmick to hype the crowd, others were more critical and called it "cringe". Several users pointed out that Jasmine appeared to be lip-syncing during the act, contrasting her with Sunidhi.



## The pre-release event of the film "Gedela Raju" was held grandly, and the movie is set for a grand theatrical release on the 24th of this month



The film "Gedela Raju," starring Raghu Kunche in the title role, carries the tagline "Kakinada Taluka Cinema." Along with Raghu Kunche, the film features Ramachandram Punyamurthula, Vikas, Tina Shwavy, Mounika, Ravi Chinnibilli, and others. The teaser, trailer, and songs of the movie

have already received a good response. Produced under the Moturi Talkies banner and presented by Raghu Kunche, the film is directed by Chaitanya Moturi and produced by Vani Ravikumar Moturi. The movie is scheduled for a grand theatrical release on the 24th of this month. The pre-release event was held today in Hyderabad with promi-

nent guests including directors V.V. Vinayak, V.N. Aditya, and producer-writer Kona Venkat. Director V.V. Vinayak said - Raghu Kunche is a friend to everyone in the industry and has earned many friendships. He entered the industry even before us and tried as an artist and hero. He gained recognition as a musician and singer.