



**Priyanka Gandhi targets Kerala govt, says MP role being undermined**

NATION | NEWS

**JD Vance backs Orbán's re-election bid in Budapest visit and hits out at EU**



WORLD | NEWS

**DISHA' MIDRIFF CHAIN OWNS THE WHOLE INTERNET**

CINEMA | PAGE



SCAN FOR E-PAPER



**OM NAMO VENKATESAYA**

06-04-2026  
Total pilgrims: 77294  
Tonsures: 26796  
Hundi kankaluz: 4.75CR  
Waiting Compartments: .07

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

**WEATHER**  
29°C  
RealFeel® 27°

**GOLD RATE**  
24K ₹  
1,52,640.00

**INBRIFS**

**Five drug peddlers held during raids**

Hyderabad, April 7: Hyderabad Narcotics Enforcement Wing (H-NEW) arrested four drug peddlers and seized contraband substances during raids at three places, a top official said on Tuesday. HNEW conducted joint raids in coordination with Chilkalguda, Sanath Nagar, and Adibatla Police Stations. During the operations, they apprehended one interstate drug peddler, one local drug peddler and three sub-peddlers and seized various contraband substances, vehicles, mobile phones, and cash, all collectively worth Rs 63.65 lakh. In the first case, under the limits of the Chilkalguda police station, police arrested 18-year-old student Sai Nikhil Yadav and seized 115 grams of MDMA worth Rs 11.50 lakh. According to Vaibhav Gaikwad, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Task Force / H-NEW, Nikhil Yadav, during his college days, developed a habit of consuming drugs. To sustain his addiction and earn easy money.



**BJP not a factor in Kerala Assembly polls, says Shashi Tharoor**

Thiruvananthapuram (TSIT): Expressing strong confidence ahead of the Kerala Assembly elections, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor on Tuesday asserted that the United Democratic Front (UDF) is headed for a "fairly clear-cut win", citing widespread anti-incumbency against the ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) government and growing public desire for change.

Dismissing the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) prospects in the state, Tharoor termed it a "zero-seat party" in the Kerala Assembly at present. "If at all they manage to get one, two or even three seats, it will be nothing short of a miracle. They are not a factor in government formation," he said. Taking a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his frequent rallies in Kerala, Tharoor said the BJP's national appeal does not translate into state-level gains. "People know he is not going to be the Chief Minister here. So whatever little gains the BJP may get in parliamentary elections are irrelevant when it comes to deciding who will govern Kerala," he remarked.



Thiruvananthapuram (TSIT): With the curtain set to fall on public campaigning at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Kerala's political theatre enters its decisive final act, marked by a palpable churn on the ground and a sharpening triangular contest. The Congress-led UDF appears to have seized the momentum at the fag end of

## Kerala's Growth Due to UDF, Not LDF: CM Revanth

Telangana CM challenges SDG rankings, poverty claims, and governance issues...

Hyderabad (TSIT): Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Tuesday asserted that the achievements claimed by Kerala are largely the result of the earlier UDF governments and not solely due to the present LDF regime. In a strongly worded reply to Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, he questioned the claims made by the Kerala government and sought clarity on several pending issues.

Responding to a letter from Pinarayi Vijayan stating that he was not interested in engaging in a debate, CM Revanth Reddy said he intended to respond in a dignified manner but expressed concern over the use of objectionable language in the Kerala CM's communication. He maintained that he would continue to uphold decorum and extend due respect to Vijayan whenever he visits Telangana.

**MISREPRESENTATION OF SDG RANKINGS**  
The Chief Minister criticized Vijayan for repeatedly citing the NITI Aayog SDG Index 2023-24 in a misleading manner against Telangana. He clarified that during that period, Telangana was under the previous BRS government and not the present "people's government." He



**Revanth Reddy Counters Kerala Claims, Highlights Telangana's Strong Growth and Governance Performance....**

urged the Kerala CM to assess Telangana based on the performance of the current government over the last 28 months. progress. Revanth Reddy stated that the State's GSDP reached Rs.16.12 lakh crore in 2024-25, recording a growth rate of 10.7%, higher than the national average of 9.9%. He added that Telangana's per capita income has risen to 3.87 lakh,

placing the State ahead of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Kerala, as per RBI Handbook 2024-25.

**QUESTION ON POVERTY ERADICATION CLAIMS**

Referring to Vijayan's earlier claim that Kerala would eliminate extreme poverty by the end of 2025, the Telangana CM pointed out that as of April 2025, over 64,000 families are still receiving welfare benefits. He questioned whether the poverty eradication claim had actually been achieved and why the November 1, 2025 announcement had not materialized. Revanth Reddy also raised concerns over unresolved issues in Kerala, including the gold smuggling case. He questioned why the case,

allegedly involving individuals linked to the Chief Minister's office, remains unresolved despite documentary evidence.

He further sought answers regarding allegations of illegal diversion of 4.5 kg of gold from the Sabarimala temple, asking why the Kerala government has not clarified the issue.

The Chief Minister emphasized that Telangana is progressing with a clear vision under "Telangana Rising 2047." He said major initiatives such as the proposed Future City near Hyderabad and the National Industrial Corridor at Zaheerabad aim to transform the State into a \$1 trillion economy within the next decade.

## Kerala heads into poll 'silence' amid charged triangular fight



Thiruvananthapuram (TSIT): With the curtain set to fall on public campaigning at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Kerala's political theatre enters its decisive final act, marked by a palpable churn on the ground and a sharpening triangular contest. The Congress-led UDF appears to have seized the momentum at the fag end of

the campaign, riding on what it projects as a growing undercurrent for change.

Feedback from across districts suggests that sections of the electorate are increasingly vocal about fatigue with the incumbent dispensation, with Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan personally leading an aggressive counter to retain control.

His campaign, however, has had to contend with a narrative that the opposition has successfully amplified, one centred on alleged administrative arrogance and disconnect. For the CPI(M)-led LDF, the stakes are unusually high.

A string of electoral set-backs, from the 2024 Lok Sabha polls to subsequent by-elections and the significant reverses in the December local body elections, has dented its aura of invincibility. Adding to its concerns is a steady trickle of defections. Veteran leaders such as G. Sudhakaran and Aisha Potti, along with influential Kannur figures like T.K. Govindan and V. Kunjikrishnan, shifting towards the UDF, have added to the perception of internal strain within the ruling front.

**World Health Day:**

## PM Modi extends greetings, expresses gratitude to healthcare workers

New Delhi (TSIT): Marking the occasion of World Health Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday expressed heartfelt gratitude to healthcare workers and all those committed to improving global well-being, while reiterating the need to build a healthier and more inclusive society.

Taking to social media platform X, PM Modi said, "On World Health Day, we express our gratitude to all those who dedicate themselves tirelessly to the service of others and work towards a healthier planet. We also reaffirm our commitment to building a healthier society. Let us all keep working together to strengthen healthcare systems and prioritise well-being of every individual."

Observed annually on April 7, World Health Day aims to highlight pressing public health concerns and encourage coordinated action at both individual and global levels. The day

traces its origins to the founding of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1948, with the first observance held in 1950 to commemorate its establishment. The theme for World Health Day 2026, "Together for health. Stand with science", underscores the importance of scientific collaboration in addressing global health challenges.

Launched by the WHO as a year-long campaign, it emphasises how research, innovation, and evidence-based policies play a crucial role in building resilient healthcare systems.

According to the WHO, "Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." This holistic definition highlights that true health extends beyond the absence of illness and encompasses the overall quality of life. World Health Day serves three key purposes.



## Indians in Iran advised to stay put for 48 hours as tensions rise

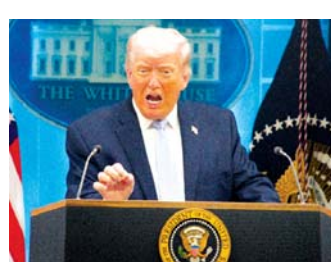
New Delhi (TSIT): As the West Asia crisis reaches a critical flashpoint following Washington's ultimatum to Tehran, India on Tuesday advised its nationals in Iran to stay wherever they are for the next 48 hours. In an urgent advisory, the Indian embassy in Iran urged Indians to remain indoors and strictly avoid military installations, power infrastructure and the upper floors of multi-storey buildings.

US President Donald Trump warned that a "whole civilisation will die tonight" if Iran does not meet his 8 pm Eastern Time deadline (5:30 am Indian time, Wednesday) to end its blockade of the Strait of Hormuz. "In continuation of previous advisories, Indian nationals who are still in Iran must stay where they are for the next 48 hours, avoiding all electric, military installations and upper floors of multi-storey buildings."

## Trump warns Iran: Whole civilization will die tonight

Washington (TSIT) US President Donald Trump on Tuesday warned that "a whole civilization will die tonight, never to be brought back again" as he signalled a "complete and total regime change" in Iran, framing the unfolding crisis as one of the most consequential moments in modern global history. In a post on his social media platform, Trump struck a stark and urgent tone, suggesting both imminent destruction and the possibility of political transformation.

"A whole civilization will die tonight, never to be brought back again. I don't want that to happen, but it probably will," he wrote. He then pointed to what he described as a decisive shift in Iran's



leadership. "However, now that we have complete and total regime change, where different, smarter, and less radicalized minds prevail, maybe something revolutionarily wonderful can happen, who knows?" Trump said. The remarks come amid an escalating US-Iran confrontation that has intensified over the past several days, with military operations expanding

and diplomatic signals narrowing. Trump framed the moment as historic in scale. "We will find out tonight, one of the most important moments in the long and complex history of the World," he said. He also delivered a sweeping critique of Iran's leadership since the Islamic Revolution.

"47 years of extortion, corruption, and death, will finally end," Trump added. He closed his message with a direct appeal: "God Bless the Great People of Iran!" The statement follows a series of developments in recent days, including US military strikes on Iranian-linked targets and mounting pressure on Tehran over its control of key regional waterways and infrastructure.

## Rahul alleges 'systemic exclusion' in public contracts, questions govt over data gaps

New Delhi (TSIT) Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday accused the Centre of enabling "systemic exclusion" of marginalised communities from major public contracts, claiming that the government lacks data on the participation of Dalit, Adivasi, and backward class entrepreneurs in large-scale public works. In a post on social media platform X, Gandhi said he had raised the issue in Parliament, seeking details on the allocation of Rs 16,500 crore worth of public works contracts awarded in the previous year. "I asked the government in Parliament — out of Rs 16,500 crore worth of public works contracts awarded last year, how many were given to businesses owned by Dalits, Adivasis, and backward classes?" he wrote.

## Amit Shah Slams Kharage's 'Poisonous Snake' Remark, Warns of Poll Repercussions

Guwahati/New Delhi (TSIT): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday criticised Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge's "poisonous snake" jibe at the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and RSS, stating that the grand old party was stooping to abysmal levels to "put India to shame".

Addressing a mega election rally in Patharkandi of Assam's Sribhumi district, the Home Minister said that Rahul Gandhi-led Congress was becoming a threat to the nation and termed the 'venomous' language as a danger to democracy. "On April 9, people of Assam should give a befitting reply to the Congress party. You will have to ensure that it is reduced to the margins in upcoming polls," Amit Shah said, evoking loud cheers and support from the crowd. HM Shah also stated that the BJP gov-



ernment in Assam has already identified infiltrators and vowed that they would be "removed one by one". The controversy over "poisonous snake" emanated from Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge's remarks, who, while addressing a public rally in Kerala, likened the BJP and RSS to "poisonous snake" and said that it should be crushed. Kharge's remark drew strong condemnation from the BJP, which took umbrage at the vitriolic remarks.

# Kejriwal appears in HC seeking recusal of judge; SG slams 'theatrics', 'contemptuous' allegations

**NEW DELHI:** Former chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday appeared in person in the Delhi High Court seeking recusal of Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma from hearing the CBI petition challenging the discharge of the AAP convenor and all other accused in the liquor policy case.

Justice Sharma took Kejriwal's application for her recusal on record and listed it for hearing on April 13, after she was informed that a plea for transfer of the case to another HC bench filed before the apex court has been withdrawn.

The court recorded that besides Kejriwal, the applications for recusal of the judge were also filed by AAP leaders Manish Sisodia and Durgesh Pathak.

In its order, the court also granted time till April 10 to Kejriwal and others to file their response on the main CBI plea as a "last and final opportunity".

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the CBI, argued that the court was not a forum for theatrics and Kejriwal should discharge his lawyer if he wanted to appear in person in the case.

This is not the first instance of the AAP leader himself making submissions in a court proceeding.

On March 28, 2024, when the trial court extended his custody with the Enforcement Directorate in the related case, Kejriwal directly addressed the trial judge, questioning whether there was enough material to arrest a sitting chief minister. He was permitted by the trial judge to make verbal submissions despite being represented by a senior counsel.

On Monday, Mehta strongly objected to the recusal application and said Kejriwal's allegations against the "institution" were frivolous and contemptuous.

"Some people in this country make a career out of making baseless allegations against everyone. That will have to be taken seriously. It is an allegation against the institution, and we will have to support that institution," Mehta said.



He also informed that a total of seven discharged accused have filed applications seeking the judge's recusal as part of a "well thought out design".

"If anyone else wants to file the application, please do it, so that I

can decide it once and for all," Justice Sharma said.

Kejriwal asserted that he would argue the recusal application himself and would exercise his "legal rights" on the aspect of being represented by a lawyer subsequently.

# Union Minister Kirti Vardhan Singh to represent India at inauguration of Myanmar's new president

**NEW DELHI:** Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh will represent India at the inauguration of Myanmar's new president Min Aung Hlaing at a ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw on April 10.

Singh will undertake a four-day visit to Myanmar beginning Wednesday to join the event as well as to attend bilateral engagements, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

Myanmar's parliament paved the way last week for Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to assume the presidency, following a general election that excluded major opposition parties.

The elections were held in December and January after years of protests against the ruling military-junta that seized power in a coup on February 1, 2021 overthrowing the democratically elected gov-



ernment of Aung San Suu Kyi.

Min Aung Hlaing was effectively running Myanmar for last five months helming the military rule.

"At the invitation of the Government of Myanmar (GoM), the Minister of State for External Affairs and Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Kirti Vardhan Singh, will visit Myanmar from April 8-11 to attend the inauguration ceremony of the new President

of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on April 10 in Nay Pyi Taw," the MEA said in a statement.

"During his visit, Singh is also expected to meet with concerned GoM dignitaries in Nay Pyi Taw, attend bilateral engagements related to ongoing trade, economic and developmental assistance initiatives, and interact with members of the Indian diaspora and Friends of India in Yangon," it said.

# Sathankulam custodial deaths: Nine police personnel sentenced to death by court

**MADURAI:** In a landmark judgment, a court here on Monday handed the death penalty to nine police personnel in the sensational 2020 Sathankulam custodial death case.

Father-sun duo P Jayaraj and J Bennix were allegedly assaulted by the convicted policemen in Sathankulam, Thoothukudi district, for allegedly keeping their mobile shop open in violation of COVID-19 norms.

First Additional District and Sessions Judge G Muthukumarann classified the case as the rarest of rare, observing that those entrusted with protecting the public had committed a crime that shook the collective conscience of society.

The court sentenced all nine convicted police personnel to death for the murders of Jayaraj and Bennix. The convicts include former inspector S Sridhar, former sub-inspectors Balakrishnan and Raghav Ganesh, and head constables Murugan

and Saamidurai.

In addition to the capital punishment, the court imposed a combined fine of Rs 1.40 crore on the convicts to be paid as compensation to the victims' family.

While pronouncing the quantum of sentence, the judge said the police are meant to protect the common man, and when they become the perpetrators of such brutality, the law must act as a deterrent.

It also noted that by killing both the father and the son at once, the police had uprooted the very foundation of a family.

The judge stressed that the punishment must be severe enough to ensure such horrors never recur.

The tragedy dates back to June 2020, when Jayaraj and Bennix were picked up for allegedly keeping their mobile phone shop open beyond permitted hours. They were subjected to extreme physical assault while in custody, leading to their deaths at a hospital days later.

# Rekha Gupta, BJP leaders celebrate party's 47th Foundation Day in Delhi

**NEW DELHI:** Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, along with senior leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), on Monday celebrated the party's 47th Foundation Day in Delhi with a flag-hoisting ceremony and speeches highlighting its organisational growth and ideological roots.

The event, held at the state party office, was attended by National General Secretary Arun Singh, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva, along with party workers and office-bearers. Similar programmes were organised across district offices in the capital.

Speaking at the occasion, Gupta said that the BJP functioned as a "medium of national service" and that its cadre continued to work towards making India a global leader.

She also took a swipe at opposition parties, contrasting what she described as the BJP's focus on governance with "power politics" elsewhere.

Addressing party workers, Singh described the BJP as the "world's largest democratic organisation" and said its growth was rooted in the "sacrifice, dedication and struggle" of its cadre. He urged workers

to renew their commitment to public service and nation-building.

Sachdeva said the party's journey from the Bharatiya Jana Sangh to its current position reflected continuity in ideology. He credited leaders such as Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Deendayal Upadhyaya, and Atal Bihari Vajpayee for shaping the party's foundations, and said it was now being carried forward under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He added that party workers were strengthening their resolve towards governance and public service.

# SC orders CBI inquiry into award of contracts to firms linked to Arunachal CM's kin

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Monday directed the CBI to register within two weeks a preliminary enquiry into allegations of preferential allotment of contracts for public works in Arunachal Pradesh to firms allegedly owned or related to the family members of Chief Minister Pema Khandu.

Observing that the State and its instrumentalities cannot confer benefits according to the "whims of any political or administrative functionary", the apex court said it was a fit case where an "independent investigation" was necessary.

A bench headed by Justice Vikram Nath said where a case concerns the integrity of public procurement and involves allegations of conflict of interest at the highest levels, an investigation must not only be fair but also must appear fair.

"Accordingly, we deem it appropriate that CBI shall register a preliminary enquiry forthwith and shall conduct a time-bound investigation into the award and execution of the public works contracts and work orders which form the subject matter of this writ petition and the affidavits filed in these proceedings," the bench, also comprising Justices Sandeep Mehta and N V Anjaria, said.

During the hearing in the matter, the apex court was told that government contracts and work orders worth around Rs 1,270 crore were awarded in the last 10 years in Arunachal Pradesh to four firms related to the family members of Khandu.

In its verdict, the bench said the preliminary enquiry and consequential investigation, if any, shall cover the award and execution of public works contracts and work orders in Arunachal Pradesh from January 1, 2015 to De-

ember 31, 2025, including the works and compilations placed on record in the proceedings before it.

The bench delivered its verdict on a plea filed by NGOs Save Mon Region Federation and Voluntary Arunachal Sena seeking a CBI or SIT probe into the matter.

"The record discloses repeated resort to non-tender methods in relation to public works, repeated absence of recorded reasons explaining why competition was dispensed with, and repeated non-production of vouchers and tender-related documentation in relation to projects of substantial value," the bench said.

It said such circumstances raise legitimate concerns not merely of administrative irregularity but of "possible abuse of public office", manipulation of procurement processes, and concealment or destruction of official records, matters which require probe by an independent agency vested with statutory powers of criminal investigation. The bench noted that the petitioners have alleged that a significant cluster of such awards has accrued to respondent numbers four to six (Pema Khandu, Rinchin Drema and Tsering Tashi) or to firms and individuals related to them, raising a serious question of conflict of interest and abuse of public office.

It said these are not matters that can be left to be answered by broad affidavits or by statistical summaries.

"They require a structured investigation into the decision-making process, the manner of selection of contractors, the justification for deviations from tender-based procurement and the integrity and custody of public records," the bench said.

# ANNADANAM... TTD AT THE FOREFRONT OF SPIRITUAL SERVICE

Vontimitta / Tirupati, April 07, 2026: On the day of the Kalyanotsavam at Ontimitta, food was served to 1.25 lakh devotees in 10 days, meals were distributed to 3.20 lakh devotees.



During the annual Brahmotsavams of Sri Kodandarama Swamy at Ontimitta, TTD once again demonstrated its spirit of service by providing special annaprasadam (sacred food) to devotees. Notably, on April 1st, during the divine wedding ceremony of Sri Sita Rama, annaprasadam was distributed to over 1.25 lakh devotees.

TTD made comprehensive arrangements to ensure that every devotee who came to witness the divine wedding received annaprasadam. In addition to the distribution center near the temple, a

special center was set up at the Kalyana Mandapam for the convenience of employees, ensuring efficient service.

On the day of the Kalyanotsavam, devotees were served pongal, upma, sambar, chutney in the mornings, and rice, sweet pongal, curry, chutney, sambar, rasam, and buttermilk during lunch and dinner.

and buttermilk — offering a convenient and wholesome service.

Similarly, throughout the Brahmotsavams, devotees were served pongal, upma, sambar, chutney in the mornings, and rice, sweet pongal, curry, chutney, sambar, rasam, and buttermilk during lunch and dinner.

# Govt scales up digital outreach for pensioners, generates record 1.91 crore certificates

**NEW DELHI:** In a major push to digitise pension services and expand last-mile delivery, the government's Digital Life Certificate (DLC) Campaign 4.0 has generated a record 1.91 crore certificates in 2025-26, driven by large-scale adoption of face authentication and doorstep services.

The campaign, led by the Department of Pensions and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW), is being seen as the biggest nationwide outreach for pensioners, covering 2,000 cities and districts and organising around 75,000 camps during November 2025.

A key highlight was the surge in use of face authentication technology, which accounted for over 1.16 crore DLCs nearly 60 per cent of total submissions marking a 220-fold jump from the previous edition.

The feature enabled el-

derly and infirm pensioners to complete verification without biometric hurdles.

To strengthen last-mile access, about 1.8 lakh postmen and Dak Sevaks were deployed to provide doorstep services, particularly benefiting super senior citizens, the sick and differently-abled. Over 14 lakh certificates were submitted by pensioners aged 80 and above.

Launched in November 2025 by Minister of State Dr Jitendra Singh, DLC Campaign 4.0 adopted a "whole-of-government" approach, bringing together 19 banks, India Post Payments Bank, UIDAI, MeitY, EPFO, Railways, Defence, Telecom and 57 pensioners' welfare associations.

More than 1,400 nodal officers monitored operations on the ground, while a national DLC portal enabled real-time tracking and targeted outreach in

underserved areas.

Banks emerged as key drivers of the campaign, with the State Bank of India alone generating nearly 26 lakh certificates. Pension disbursing banks collectively achieved over 63 per cent of their targets, supported by camps across 300 cities. Maharashtra led the tally with 25.86 lakh DLCs, followed by Uttar Pradesh (15.93 lakh), Tamil Nadu (15.31 lakh), and Karnataka (13.08 lakh), reflecting strong coordination and awareness drives.

Among departments, Defence topped with 32.92 lakh certificates, followed by Central Civil (9.57 lakh), Railways (6.91 lakh) and Telecom (4.67 lakh).

The campaign also bundled services such as health check-ups, Aadhaar updation and grievance redressal at camp sites, turning DLC centres into integrated welfare hubs.

# ADDITIONAL EO CONDUCTS INSPECTIONS IN TIRUMALA



**Tirumala :** The TTD Additional Executive Officer Sri Ch. Venkaiah Chowdary conducted inspections on Tuesday to identify a suitable place to construct a centralized TTD Administrative Building in Tirumala. On this occasion, he examined the site located opposite the Ram Bageecha Bus Stand. Later, the

Additional EO also visited the Akashaganga area, where he inspected shops and issued certain instructions to the officials concerned.

He also inspected the labour sheds situated adjacent to the Srivari Seva Sadan.

Subsequently, he reached the ATC area in Tirumala and reviewed

the site proposed for cottage allotment to the Revenue Department, and offered further directives to the officials. Tirumala Estate Officer Sri Venkateswarlu, VGO Sri Surendra, EEs Sri Srinivasa Rao, Sri Venu Gopal, DE Sri Chandrasekhar, and other officials participated in the inspections.

# Amaravati Restored As AP State Capital

## A Defining Moment for Andhra Pradesh

Vijayawada (TSIT) The formal reaffirmation of Amaravati as the capital marks not just an administrative decision, but the emotional closure of a prolonged chapter of uncertainty in Andhra Pradesh's post-bifurcation journey. For years, the question of the state's capital lingered as a source of anxiety, debate, and division. Today, that ambiguity has finally given way to clarity. Farmers' contribution of lands and conviction laudable The significance of Amaravati extends beyond its geographic or infrastructural promise. It is deeply rooted in the collective aspirations of the people—particularly the farmers who parted with their lands in an extraordinary act of trust, envisioning a world-class capital that would define the state's future. Their patience, tested over time, now finds validation. Policy uncertainty often comes at a heavy cost. It stalls investment, disrupts governance priorities, and weakens public confidence.



The prolonged indecision over the capital had precisely such consequences. Development momentum slowed, institutional frameworks wavered, and the state's image as an emerging growth hub suffered setbacks. In that context, the restoration of Amaravati is as much about rebuilding confidence as it is about rebuilding infrastructure. Real challenge begins now...

However, symbolism alone will not suffice. The real challenge begins now. The government must translate this renewed commitment into visible, time-bound progress. Amaravati must evolve not merely as a seat of power, but as a model of sustainable urban planning, inclusive growth, and administrative efficiency. Transparency in execution and continuity in policy will be crucial to prevent a relapse into uncertainty.

Equally important is the need for reconciliation. The capital debate, at times, created regional fault lines and competing narratives of development. Moving forward, the focus must shift from contestation to cohesion—ensuring that growth radiates beyond the capital region and benefits all parts of the state.

The return to Amaravati, therefore, is both an end and a beginning. It ends a phase of indecision, but also inaugurates a new responsibility—to justify the faith

of the people with decisive action and equitable governance.

In Amaravati's revival lies an opportunity for Andhra Pradesh to reaffirm its identity, restore its momentum, and redefine its future with clarity and confidence.

Thanksgiving  
In this connection, the All India Newspaper Employees Federation (AINEF) National Vice President and Andhra Pradesh Journalists' Union for Print and Electronics Media (APJU) General Secretary Chaladi Purnachandra Rao and Amaravati Capital Region President Pokkuluri Subbarao wholeheartedly congratulate the Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Dy. Chief minister Pavan Kalyan, the Prime minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, President Draupadi Murmu for playing their respective roles in the realisation of the AP Capital Amaravati through Gazette Publication .

## Triguna Country Homes Named "Farmland of the Year 2025"; Delivers 200% Appreciation Since 2020

Bengaluru: Triguna Country Homes has been named "Farmland of the Year 2025" at the 11th India Property Awards & Summit, a prestigious recognition of its commitment to sustainable land development and hospitality led countryside living. The award arrives alongside a major business milestone: the company has sold out over 100 acres across the first three phases of its flagship project.

A Track Record of Wealth Creation: 200% Appreciation Since its launch in 2020, Triguna Country Homes has stayed true to the brand's promise of "Appreciation Guaranteed". Early investors have seen their land values delivering a whopping 200% appreciation in just five years.

This performance has been driven by a combination of strategic location, close to the upcoming Hosur Airport and the SIPCOT industrial hub, and sustained investment in high-quality internal infrastructure. While the broader Bengaluru real estate market remains robust, Triguna's differentiated approach has enabled it to outperform conventional land investments.

Redefining Countryside Realty What truly sets Triguna Country Homes apart is its hospitality-integrated countryside asset model. Unlike typical farmland developments that focus only on shared amenities, Triguna Country Homes is strengthened by a full-scale hospitality ecosystem, going far beyond a conventional clubhouse.

Plot owners enjoy the openness and calm of nature, clean air, green landscapes and expansive open spaces while also having access to five-star resort-style amenities and professionally managed hospitality services. This seam-



less blend of rural tranquillity and modern comfort offers a rare lifestyle experience, combining the charm of the countryside with the sophistication of luxury.

Our flagship project's success is built on several other key project features: Eco-Engineered Landscapes: Utilizing the Miyawaki technique to create dense native forests, the project also features water harvesting tools to ensure long-term environmental health.

Ready-to-Enjoy Landscapes: Each individual plot comes with over 450 pre-planned plants. The company handles the professional upkeep of both private plots and common green spaces.

High-Spec Infrastructure: The community is connected by dust-free roads and durable CC pathways, all illuminated by solar-enabled streetlights

to minimize the carbon footprint. The sell-out of the first 100 acres reflects a clear market demand for managed, sustainable assets that offer both peace of mind and financial security.

"While being named 'Farmland of the Year' is a prestigious honor, the true measure of our success lies in the 200% appreciation our investors have realized. This extraordinary growth validates our unique blueprint: the fusion of high-end hospitality with sustainable forestry in high-growth locations, we can create an asset class that consistently outperforms the broader market. As these trees mature, so does the wealth of our community. That is exactly what we mean when we promise 'Appreciation Guaranteed', says Raghunath Bhattagiri, Founder of Triguna Projects.

## Only CM's and My Words Count On Power Transfer Issue: DCM D K Shivakumar

Hubballi : Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar categorically stated that only CM's and his words carry weight with respect to power transfer and comments of others do not count.

Speaking to reporters at Hubballi airport, the DCM, who is also the KPCC President, said, "I am the President of KPCC. On the matter of a power transfer, only my statements and the CM's statements count and words of others do not carry any weight."

When asked about Minister Parameshwara's statement that Siddaramaiah would remain CM until 2028, he said, "I will not respond to statements made by others."



asked whether a leadership change would be discussed after the elections, he replied, "You need not trouble yourself over this matter." When pointed out that there was speculation that he

would become the CM after the elections, he said, "Time will answer everything."

Victory in Both Constituencies Is Ours

When asked about the by-elections in the state's two constituencies, he said: "I have visited both Davanagere South and Bagalakote. Campaigning is going very well, we will win in both constituencies. People are satisfied with our government's programmes. The BJP is staying silent on price rise, and the Central Government has announced no relief whatsoever. Our five guarantee schemes have provided people support. We will win both seats — there is no doubt about it."

## By-Election Between the Poor and the Rich: Congress Will Lose, Says BJP Opposition Leader R. Ashoka

Bengaluru : In this by-election, there will be a contest between the poor and the rich. Congress will lose this election, and the future of the state will be decided, said Opposition Leader R. Ashoka.

Speaking at a press conference, he said that in Davanagere and Bagalkote, the election is being fought between the poor and the rich. Since Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has said "Make the poor win," the BJP has fielded poor candidates. In Davanagere, if the Congress candidate wins, it is understood that Muslims will not get opportunities in the future, and therefore Muslims are opposing the Congress party. Minister Zameer Ahmed has run away without

campaigning in his constituency, and there are differences of opinion about him.

Ashoka said that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who talks about backward classes uniting, has not given even a single ticket to backward class candidates.

In Davanagere, the BJP has given a ticket to an ordinary person, whereas Congress has given tickets to powerful and influential people. In Bagalkote, there is a very good opinion about the BJP candidate. Congress has given space to dynastic politics in both places. Therefore, the BJP has a strong chance of winning in both constituencies. Congress leaders have indulged in rowdiness in Bagalkote and a com-

plaint has been filed regarding this. Due to the government's corruption and the poor implementation of guarantee schemes, an anti-incumbency wave has been created. After presenting the budget, they are now imposing taxes on everything, he alleged. The administration in the state has collapsed. No development projects are being taken up. DK Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah are fighting with each other for the Chief Minister's chair. Siddaramaiah has returned because he has no confidence of winning the Kerala Assembly election. This by-election will expose the real face of Congress. Congress is trying to convert minorities into a vote bank, he said.

## H. D. Kumaraswamy Inaugurates SRTMI R&D Connect, Pushes for Industry-Driven Innovation

New Delhi: Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries H. D. Kumaraswamy inaugurated the SRTMI R&D Connect workshop in New Delhi, calling for stronger efforts to translate research and innovation into tangible industrial outcomes.

Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Specialty Steel, the National Green Hydrogen Mission, and the proposed Green Steel Mission as major steps towards sustainability and technological advancement. Emphasising outcomes, he



The workshop, organised by the Steel Research and Technology Mission of India, brought together stakeholders from industry, academia, startups, and government to strengthen India's steel sector through collaborative innovation.

Addressing the gathering, Kumaraswamy highlighted the strategic importance of the steel sector in India's growth and reiterated the government's vision of building a self-reliant and globally competitive industry. He credited Narendra Modi for driving the push towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat, stressing the need to reduce import dependence and enhance domestic capabilities.

The Minister pointed to key initiatives such as the

said innovation must move beyond discussions to real-world implementation, urging industries to adopt emerging technologies at scale. He identified areas like circular economy, waste utilisation, startup-driven solutions, and green steel technologies as national priorities. The workshop featured startup pitch sessions and technical discussions involving major industry players such as Steel Authority of India Limited, Tata Steel, and JSW Steel. Calling for collective efforts, the Minister urged all stakeholders to work together to build a resilient and future-ready steel sector, with the SRTMI initiative seen as a key step in aligning research, policy, and industry for innovation-led growth.

## People's Recognition is Greater than Any Award: MP Basavaraj Bommai

" BECOMING A LEADER THROUGH PEOPLE IS WHAT TRULY MATTERS "

Mandya: Former Chief Minister and MP Basavaraj Bommai said that the recognition and respect given by people are greater than any award and such honour inspires one to make every sacrifice. The people of Mandya had bestowed upon him a respect even greater than an honorary doctorate.

He was speaking after being felicitated at a programme held in Elechakkanahalli village of Mandya taluk. The event was organised to honour him for facilitating the plan to fill water from the Lokapavani River under the Elechakkanahalli lift irrigation project during his tenure as Water Resources Minister and later as Chief Minister.

Bommai noted that no one invites individuals into public life; people come forward on



their own. Once the public recognises and honours a leader, it brings responsibility. He credited the people of the region for their persistent efforts in getting the project implemented.

He recalled how Vijayalakshmi Bantisidda Gowda tirelessly visited Vidhana Soudha with petitions, even mobilising people to protest until the work was

assured. There are two paths in politics: power politics and people-centric politics. While lobbying for power is easy, becoming a leader through the people is more important. Authority earned through people benefits society, whereas power politics focuses on retaining authority. To overcome arrogance in power, one must stay connected with the

people.

KRS Dam Repair

The MP recalled that during his tenure as Water Resources Minister, there was leakage in the KRS Dam gates. Temporary measures like gunny bags had been used for years. Despite warnings and superstitions against touching the historic structure, he insisted on repairs. Engineers initially resisted, but he brought in experts who had worked on the Tungbhadra Dam and ensured repairs were completed. Though criticised at the time, the issue has now been resolved with no leakage.

He emphasised that water is a right and must be used wisely. Referring to the irrigation legacy of the region, he said that dams built by earlier rulers continue to irrigate thousands of acres, and he was fortunate to contribute to their maintenance. Honorary Doctorate Rejected Bommai

revealed that he declined an honorary doctorate offered by Haveri University, stating that such recognitions are sometimes given to please those in power. However, he accepted the honour given by the people of Mandya, calling it far more meaningful.

Success Amid Opposition

He highlighted that Mandya has had irrigation for over 600 years and has contributed significantly to the state's food production. Despite legal and administrative hurdles in implementing irrigation projects in the Cauvery basin, he pursued solutions after consulting legal experts like Fali Nariman. Based on advice, projects were implemented in Mandya, Hassan, Tumakuru, and Channarayana regions.

Even in the face of opposition, including resistance from the forest department, he ensured that 98 lakes were filled by negotiating solutions.

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

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

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



People had already suffered during demonetization and the COVID pandemic. Now, conflicts in Middle Eastern countries have triggered another disaster. Auto drivers are in deep distress: unable to pay loan installments, struggling to afford children's school fees, and even daily meals have become difficult. Therefore, each auto driver's family should be given 10,000 as immediate relief. Steps must be taken to prevent further LPG price hikes. Bank loan interest should be waived, and repayment of loan installments should be deferred for one year. India imports up to 90% of LPG, PNG, and CNG requirements from West Asia. Lack of foresight and precaution has led to this crisis.

# Hamdard Laboratories Unveils Nationwide 'Holistic Healing' Campaign on World Health Day 2026

CAMPAIGN TO STRENGTHEN INTEGRATIVE HEALTHCARE THROUGH PRACTITIONER ENGAGEMENT AND AYUSH-FOCUSED PROGRAMS ACROSS INDIA

India, April 7, 2026: Hamdard Laboratories, one of India's leading and most trusted health and wellness companies, has launched its nationwide campaign 'Holistic Healing' on the occasion of World Health Day 2026, reaffirming its commitment to accessible, integrative, and community-centered healthcare.

Through this campaign, Hamdard Laboratories aims to promote preventive wellness and holistic care, combining research, education, and community engagement. The idea of holistic healing aims to address the root causes of illness along with aligning the mind, body, and environment to achieve optimal health.

With non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular conditions, and lifestyle-related disorders emerging as a major public health challenge in India, responsible for nearly 5.87 million deaths, as per the

India State-Level Disease Burden Initiative, holistic healing is vital for prevention, early intervention, and long-term wellness.

Rooted in this idea, the campaign is designed to integrate Hamdard Laboratories' ongoing knowledge, industry collaboration, and practitioner engagement efforts under a unified 'Holistic Healing' framework. As part of the campaign, Hamdard Laboratories is leveraging social media to share informative and educational content, thought-provoking visuals, and practical tips guiding people on preventive health, lifestyle management, and early intervention, particularly in addressing NCDs, and reinforcing the critical role of integrative healthcare in daily life. Going ahead, the campaign will expand into immersive and collaborative events across multiple cities in India, including Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Chennai, Srinagar, Lucknow, Jaipur, Patna,



Kolkata, Calicut and others. The campaign will include Continuing Medical Education (CME) programs to enhance the knowledge and capabilities of practitioners and academicians; Unani and AYUSH conclaves and summits to encour-

age research exchange along with wider awareness of traditional medicine systems; and recognition programs and ceremonies to celebrate and motivate individuals contributing significantly to community health and well-being.

In addition, Hamdard Laboratories' Unani Ki Kahani initiative complements the campaign by presenting Unani medicine through storytelling tailored for younger audiences. Coinciding with Hamdard completing 120 years and air-

ing on Discovery Channel, the initiative highlights the relevance of natural, preventive healthcare while bridging perception gaps through a contemporary and culturally rooted narrative.

In addition to this, there will be outreach and awareness initiatives, in collaboration with the Ministry of AYUSH, to engage the public on preventive health and lifestyle management. "True health extends beyond the absence of illness; it lies in achieving harmony between the body, mind, and environment, and in the ability to flourish at every stage of life," said Abdul Majeed, Chairman and Managing Trustee, Hamdard Laboratories. "For over 120 years, Hamdard has remained deeply committed to advancing preventive healthcare, working closely with the AYUSH ecosystem to promote time-tested, holistic approaches to wellness. Through the 'Holistic Healing' campaign,

we are creating meaningful platforms for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and community engagement. All our engagements are aimed at bringing together students, healthcare professionals, policymakers, and communities, ensuring a collaborative approach to health awareness. Our goal is to empower individuals and communities with the understanding and tools to prevent diseases, manage lifestyle risks, and embrace wellness in its fullest sense."

Through these initiatives, Hamdard Laboratories aims to drive awareness of preventive health, address lifestyle-related challenges, and inspire communities to embrace healthier, more mindful habits. At the same time, the campaign demonstrates the value of integrative healthcare, showcasing how holistic approaches can create lasting, positive change in the well-being of individuals and society.

# EDITORIAL

## 'Holy' Orders? Why US Fighters Are Now Being Told Iran Is 'God's War'

The daring rescue of a downed American airman deep inside Iran over the weekend was cast by the US President and his team in strikingly biblical terms. Donald Trump described it as an "Easter miracle", while officials noted the pilot transmitted the message "God is good" after activating his beacon. Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth highlighted that the airman spent hours concealed in a cave before being rescued over Easter weekend - a comparison that invited an unmistakable parallel to resurrection imagery. Hegseth went further, urging Americans to pray for victory "in the name of Jesus Christ", while reports from within the ranks suggested that some personnel were told the conflict formed part of "God's plan". Religious references, once peripheral, are now moving closer to the centre of the rhetoric surrounding the war on Iran.

Against that backdrop, Trump's threat that he would "send Iran back to the Stone Age" reads less like conventional deterrence and more like civilisational language. Is it the language of modern diplomacy? It is the one that echoes eras when wars were framed as moral struggles between faiths. That mix of threat, moral superiority and religious symbolism is increasingly shaping the tone of the ongoing conflict. Look beneath the missiles and bombs, and a familiar, older script begins to emerge. For the US, it carries echoes of 'evangelical' conviction and apocalyptic imagination. For Israel, it draws on Jewish history, scripture and destiny. For Iran, it has long been framed in the language of Islamic resistance, even 'jihad'. The common thread is their shared Abrahamic lineage and a history where theology and geopolitics have often intertwined.

Trump's War Secretary, Pete Hegseth, told Americans to take a knee and pray for victory "in the name of Jesus Christ"; a non-commissioned officer described being told the conflict is part of "God's plan" and that the President was "anointed by Jesus to light the signal fire in Iran". Already, the Military Religious Freedom Foundation has received over 200 complaints from active-duty personnel.

### A Holy Mission?

I am often asked by my Hindu Indian friends why the followers of Middle Eastern religions seem perpetually locked in cycles of conflict. By Middle Eastern, they mean Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Together, they belong to the Abrahamic family. Why, they ask, do these societies slip so easily into the language of 'destiny', 'prophecy', 'jihad' and 'final battles'? Why do war cries sound like scripture? Perhaps the answer lies not in any single moment but in the way history, belief and power overlap in this region, shaping how conflicts are both fought and explained. A month into the US-Israel war against Iran, there appears to be no immediate end in sight. What is becoming increasingly visible, however, is not just the scale of military engagement but the language accompanying it. American and Israeli officials have repeatedly used rhetoric that frames the campaign in moral, even theological terms. The Council on American-Islamic Relations has warned that such language is "dangerous" and "anti-Muslim". Reports from a US watchdog group suggest that some American troops were told the war could be linked to biblical end times. Senior officials have not shied away from such stark language. Secretary of State Marco Rubio described Iran as being run by "religious fanatic lunatics". At a Pentagon briefing, Hegseth went further, saying, "Crazy regimes like Iran, hell-bent on prophetic Islamic delusions, cannot have nuclear weapons," before invoking scripture: "Blessed be the Lord, my rock, who trains my hands for war." Individually, such remarks may appear rhetorical excess. Taken together, they form a pattern. A narrative architecture where war is not simply justified but moralised, even sanctified. The tone shifts subtly from strategy to destiny.

# LITERATURE BECOMES 'CONTENT' IN REEL CULTURE

(Literary values diminish in the race



PRIYANKA SAURABH

for momentary popularity)

So-called poets are promoting a presentation primarily focused on attraction, using superficial or artificial lines as a guise of literature. While poetry should be a genuine expression of emotions, it is often reduced to a mere means of attracting attention. This not only compromises the credibility of poetry, but also marginalizes serious and meaningful literary endeavors. When presenting a serious subject like literature, a balance and decency are required. Unfortunately, this balance is often lost in the pursuit of mere attention, compromising the seriousness of the literature. The digital age has given unprecedented speed and breadth to forms of expression. Today, every person has a platform at their fingertips—a platform where they can instantly reach millions. This democratization is a significant achievement in itself. But with every power comes a responsibility. Unfortunately, this balance of responsibility often seems to be disturbed, especially when the objective becomes popularity rather than expression.

Reel culture is a prime example of this imbalance. The race to create impact in a few seconds of video has made expression quick, concise, and often superficial. Literature, which fundamentally demands patience,



depth, and contemplation, is finding itself at odds in this culture of instant consumption. Incomplete lines, out-of-context quotes, and artificial expressions—all of these are turning literature into a "product" whose sole purpose is to attract attention. Today, "going viral" has become the yardstick for success. This mindset has affected the creative process. Writers now write based on whether their content will immediately resonate with people, rather than

whether the idea is meaningful to society. As a result, flashiness has replaced depth, and performance has replaced empathy. This trend is not only unfair to literature but also impacts the intellectual level of society. The primary purpose of literature is not merely entertainment. It is a mirror of society, reflecting its realities and exposing its contradictions. Kabir attacked social evils through his couplets, Tulsidas conveyed the message of faith and dignity,

Premchand exposed the reality of society, and Mahadevi Verma gave words to the subtleties of emotion. The works of all these authors have stood the test of time because they possessed depth, honesty, and social commitment.

In contrast, a large segment of society today views literature as merely a medium of presentation. Performance is increasingly prioritized over the beauty of the words. Poems presented on Reels are often neither original nor deeply meaningful. They are created solely to captivate viewers for a moment and prompt a "like" or "share." Another worrying aspect of reel culture is the decline in decency of expression. The quality of language, clarity of diction, and dignity of presentation—all these elements are crucial components of any literary expression. But when these are ignored, the form of the literature becomes distorted. Sometimes, the situation is so severe that the essence of the original work is completely altered. The debate over costumes and visual presentation has also intensified. It must be acknowledged that freedom of expression is a right of every individual, but every right comes with dignity and responsibility. When presenting a serious subject like literature, a balance and decency are required. Unfortunately, this balance is often lost in the mere attempt to grab the audience's attention, compromising the seriousness of the literature. However, it's equally important not to view this situation from a simplistic perspective. Social media has provided a platform for many talented creators who previously couldn't access the traditional publishing system. Today, even people from small towns and villages are sharing their work and gaining recognition. This is a positive change that cannot be denied. In fact, the problem isn't the medium itself, but rather its use. Reels can also be an effective medium if used to present meaningful literature.

## 155 Aircraft For One Man - And Other Mysteries About US' Iran Rescue Op

US President Donald Trump's press interaction on April 6, Easter Monday, was awaited with great anticipation, with possibilities of announcements ranging from a possible ceasefire or a declaration of victory or even a reiteration of his threat to bomb Iran to the 'Stone Age' by knocking out its power plants and bridges. Flanked by the CIA Chief, the Secretary of War and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, he, however, chose to focus primarily on the massive operation launched to rescue the American officer from the downed F-15 Eagle aircraft, giving minute details of how the operation unfolded and how the US military lived up to its motto of never to leave any personnel behind enemy lines. Yes, he did reiterate his threat of bombing Iran, saying that "the entire country can be taken out in one night", with some analysts saying that this was perhaps a veiled threat at a possible nuclear strike into Iran. The developments in the war zone in Iran, especially related to the downing of the F-15 aircraft and the subsequent rescue, however, raise serious questions. One, how did Iran successfully target the F-15 when its air defences had been completely destroyed? Two, why did a rescue mission require a package of more than 100 aircraft to support it? Why was the extraction site so near to the Isfahan nuclear site? Also, while examining the whole event, it is important to understand the configuration and role of the F-15 Eagle fighter aircraft. The Shooting Down Of The Eagle



The entire episode owes its origin to the shooting down of an American F-15 Eagle on April 2; the aircraft was on a deep strike mission in Northwestern Iran (per-

haps in Isfahan province) when it was shot by an Iranian missile. Initially, Iran claimed to have scored a hit on the stealth fighter F-35, but the debris later confirmed that it was an F-15E Strike Eagle from the Fighter Squadron deployed from RAF Lakenheath in the UK. This was the first time in 20 years that an American-manned fighter aircraft was shot down in enemy territory. When the fighter came down, both occupants, the pilot and the Weapon Systems Officer (WSO), ejected safely. As they ejected from the fast-moving aircraft at an interval of a few seconds, they landed in separate locations, kilometres apart, in hostile and mountainous terrain. The pilot was rescued in the next few hours in broad daylight by the US special operations forces, who located him first and launched a rescue mission with a full package, including two HH-60W Jolly Green II combat rescue helicopters. The extraction was, however, not easy. Facing direct fire from Iranian ground forces, one Blackhawk helicopter, which was carrying the recovered pilot, was shot, and a few crew members on the helicopter, too, were wounded by the missile strike. But the helicop-

ter managed to fly out of Iran into friendly territory, with all members, including the rescued pilot, safe. During this mission, another US aircraft, an A-10 Warthog, which specialises in providing close ground support, was hit by Iranian fire. Once again, the pilot managed to fly the aircraft back into Kuwaiti airspace before ejecting safely. The A-10, however, crashed. The Rescue of the WSO It is the rescue of the second officer that is shrouded in mystery and the details of which have posed questions. As per the official version, the WSO, a Colonel-ranked officer, landed 20-30 kilometres away from the pilot and, despite being seriously injured, evaded Iranian forces and tracked for over 30 kilometres overnight, climbing mountainous features of altitude up to 1,700 metres, before being rescued in a daring mission. Detailing the mission himself during the press briefing on April 6, President Trump said that 21 aircraft were deployed to help with the search-and-rescue in the first wave, flying for hours under "very, very heavy enemy fire". The WSO was "bleeding profusely" but was able to climb and contact US forces to com-

## Pak's 'Global Power' Act Is Fooling No One - Least Of All Its Gulf 'Creditors'

Pakistan's repeated attempts to project itself as a rising global power continue to collapse under scrutiny, revealing a stark gap between narrative and reality. Structural constraints - economic dependence, geopolitical limitations, and strategic inconsistencies - puncture Islamabad's grand narrative that it is emerging as a significant player on the global stage. This narrative has been amplified through sections of international media, projecting Pakistan as a hub of global diplomacy, capable even of mediating complex conflicts such as the ongoing US-Israel-Iran war. While Islamabad did attempt to position itself in such a role by proposing a ceasefire framework and engaging in diplomatic outreach, these efforts have quickly unravelled. Crucially, the initiative lacked meaningful participation from key stakeholders: Iran showed little willingness to engage on Pakistan's terms, and no direct negotiations between Washington and Tehran materialised. As a result, the much-publicised diplomatic push failed to gain traction, producing neither a concrete agreement nor a credible roadmap for conflict resolution. The meeting in Islamabad with Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Turkey aimed at de-escalating the crisis, thus amounted to little more than a symbolic exercise, underscoring Pakistan's limited capacity to influence outcomes in high-stakes geopolitical crises.



### An Old Pattern

This is not a new phenomenon. Previously, a similar narrative was aggressively promoted - that Pakistan's JF-17 fighter jets were experiencing a surge in global demand; in fact, Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif went so far as to assert that the country would no longer require IMF loans or external borrowing, confidently

stating that "we may not need IMF loans in the next six months" based on anticipated revenues from defence exports, particularly the Chinese-origin JF-17 aircraft. This assertion, like others before it, proved hollow. Before that, there was yet another claim: that Pakistan had discovered massive oil reserves in the Arabian Sea. That, too, proved to be misleading. Even Donald Trump, while recently backing this narrative, remarked that Pakistan has "massive oil reserves" and that it could one day even "sell oil to India".

### Debt Comes Calling

Time and again, such narratives are floated to project Pakistan as an emerging power, but within days, they collapse under scrutiny. The pattern reflects a deeper issue. There has been a consistent habit of manufacturing exaggerated claims about Pakistan's global standing, when the fact remains that the country is structurally, economically, and geopolitically constrained. Its decision-making is not entirely autonomous and is shaped and influenced by external actors, such as Washington, Beijing, Riyadh, Abu Dhabi, and institutions like the IMF, on which it remains heavily dependent. A country that

survives on loans and IMF bailout packages cannot claim complete strategic independence. There were also claims that Pakistan is performing a "master balancing act" in West Asia - that it is maintaining close ties with all sides amid ongoing regional conflicts. Surprisingly, some voices in India even suggested that India should learn from Pakistan's approach. But recent developments expose the ground reality. Reports indicate that the UAE has demanded repayment of around \$3.5 billion, a clear sign of deep frustration with Pakistan's stance during the ongoing regional tensions. The UAE reportedly believes that at a time when it has faced severe challenges in the Middle East crisis - including being among the hardest hit by Iranian missile and drone strikes - its ally Pakistan has failed to extend even basic support and has instead chosen to remain diplomatically evasive toward Iran. Pakistan has now reportedly decided to repay its entire \$3.5 billion debt to the UAE by the end of April. Similarly, Saudi Arabia is also reportedly seeking repayment of its financial support and has asked Islamabad to immediately repay a \$6.3 billion loan, signalling deep frustration in

a relationship long portrayed as ironclad. This is particularly significant in light of a mutual defence understanding between the two countries, under which an attack on one is effectively treated as an attack on both. Contrary to that commitment, Pakistan, instead of standing firmly with Riyadh during the Iran crisis, has chosen to project itself as a 'mediator'.

### China's Concerns

China, often described as Pakistan's "all-weather friend", has also begun to display some unease. During a recent visit to China, Ishaq Dar, Pakistan's Foreign Minister, sought Beijing's backing for Islamabad's self-styled mediation efforts. To this, according to some Pakistani analysts, Pakistan was advised by Chinese officials to first resolve contradictions in its own regional policies - particularly its actions in Afghanistan. Beijing is reportedly concerned that Pakistan's contradictory approach jeopardises China's strategic interests in Afghanistan, including security concerns in Xinjiang, access to Afghanistan's mineral resources, and broader economic and connectivity ambitions under the Belt and Road Initiative.

IRAN 'STOPS NEGOTIATIONS' WITH US;

# Pakistan Role Under Cloud As Tehran Snaps 'Indirect Channels'

Iran has reportedly severed all diplomatic and indirect channels of communication with the United States, signalling a sharp escalation in tensions and casting doubt over ongoing mediation efforts, including those involving Pakistan. According to Tehran Times, all message exchanges between the two sides have been suspended, effectively shutting down backchannel diplomacy at a critical juncture. "Any and all message exchanges have also been suspended." Also Read: 'Iran Will Respond By 8 PM Tonight': JD Vance Hopeful Of Truce Even As Trump Ups War Rhetoric The development comes in the backdrop of increasingly aggressive rhetoric from Washington, with Trump claiming a "whole civilisation may die tonight". US Vice President JD Vance reiterated that the "ball is in Iran's court," expressing confidence that a response would be received by the set deadline, even as he warned that the US still has "tools in its toolkit" that it has not yet deployed. While maintaining hope for negotiations, Vance



acknowledged delays in communication and stressed that talks would continue until the deadline expires. However, Iran's latest move suggests a breakdown in even indirect engagement. Iranian state-linked media also cited a statement from the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), warning that Tehran would respond decisively to any US attack on civilian infrastructure. The statement further cautioned that retaliation could extend beyond the region, targeting critical

energy interests of the US and its allies. Also Read: 'Whole Civilisation Can Be Wiped Out Tonight': Trump Warns Iran Of Annihilation If Truce Deadline Lapses Trump has escalated pressure, warning of imminent strikes on Iranian infrastructure, including power plants and bridges, if Tehran fails to comply with demands related to the Strait of Hormuz. In a stark message, he also spoke of potential "complete and total regime change," describing the moment as pivotal in global history. The

US President issued another threat to Iran on Tuesday as his deadline to open the Strait of Hormuz looms. "A whole civilization will die tonight, never to be brought back again", he said, in a post on his Truth Social platform. He warned that US stands by its Tuesday deadline to wipe out Iran. "I don't want that to happen, but it probably will. However, now that we have Complete and Total Regime

Change, where different, smarter, and less radicalized minds prevail, maybe something revolutionarily wonderful can happen", he continued. "WHO KNOWS? We will find out tonight, one of the most important moments in the long and complex history of the World. 47 years of extortion, corruption, and death, will finally end. God Bless the Great People of Iran!". This comes after Trump on Monday hinted at a potentially big attack on Iran ahead of Tuesday's ceasefire deadline, amid the ongoing Middle East war. During his address to the media, Trump claimed that the whole country could be taken down in a single night, and that this night could be Tuesday night. "Iran can be taken down in one night, maybe tomorrow. Entire country of Iran can be taken down in one night", Trump stated on Monday.

Iran has reportedly severed all diplomatic and indirect channels of communication with the United States

## LIC MULLS FIRST-EVER BONUS SHARE ISSUE; BOARD TO MEET NEXT WEEK



Life Insurance Corporation of India is considering its first ever bonus share issue, the company informed in a regulatory filing on Tuesday. Accordingly, the Board of Directors is slated to meet on April 13 to mull issuance of bonus shares, as per the filing. "It is to inform that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Life Insurance Corporation of India ("the Corporation") is scheduled to be held on Monday, April 13, 2026 to inter-alia consider and recommend a proposal for issue of Bonus shares," the filing stated. However, the proposal is subject to approval from the share-

holders of the Corporation and will be done in accordance with the applicable provisions. Further, LIC reiterated that the trading window for dealing in the equity shares of the Corporation is closed and said that it shall remain closed till 48 hours after the announcement of financial results for the quarter and year ended March 31, 2026. LIC Q3FY26 State-owned life insurer LIC reported a 17% jump in net profit at Rs 12,958 crore in the third quarter ended December 2025. The country's biggest insurer, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), earned a net profit of Rs

11,056 crore in the year-ago period. During the quarter, the net premium income of the insurer rose to Rs 1,25,613 crore from Rs 1,06,891 crore in the same period a year ago, LIC said in a regulatory filing. The total income also improved to Rs 2,33,984 crore in the latest December quarter compared to Rs 2,01,994 crore in the same period a year ago. LIC Share Price LIC's stock ended 0.23% lower at Rs 743.20 apiece on the NSE on Tuesday. This compared to a 0.68% advance in the Nifty index. The stock has fallen 13.07% year-to-date, and 3.13% in the last 12 months.

## IDBI Stake Sale: Govt Not Inclined To Scrap Existing Bids; LIC Buyout Among Alternatives

**Highlights**  
The government is not in favour of scrapping existing bids for the disinvestment of IDBI Bank and is instead exploring ways to move forward with the current process



The government is not in favour of scrapping existing bids for the disinvestment of IDBI Bank and is instead exploring ways to move forward with the current process, sources told NDTV Profit. The issue was discussed in a high-level meeting chaired by the Cabinet Secretary on Monday, where multiple options were deliberated to revive momentum in the long-pending stake sale. According to sources, the government is keen to

proceed with existing bids but is simultaneously re-evaluating key aspects of the transaction, particularly valuation. Departments involved in the process have pushed for factoring in the "unaffected" market price, essentially stripping out temporary volatility, to arrive at a fair valuation. LIC Buyout Option Under Consideration Among the options discussed, one possibility being explored is for Life Insurance Corporation of India to

acquire the government's proposed 30.48% stake in IDBI Bank. LIC is already the largest shareholder in the bank, holding a 49.24% stake, while the government owns 45.48%. The current disinvestment plan involves selling a combined 60.72% stake, including both government and LIC holdings, to a strategic buyer. Officials indicated that a final decision on the way forward is likely to be taken once market conditions stabilise. The recent

volatility, partly driven by global geopolitical tensions and rising crude prices, has weighed on valuations and investor sentiment. The government's approach suggests a balancing act—ensuring that the disinvestment process is not derailed while also safeguarding value for stakeholders. Shares of IDBI Bank closed 0.6% lower at Rs 69.64 on the NSE, compared to a 0.68% advance in Nifty 50. The stock is down 35% year-to-date.

## D-Street Braces For Gap-Down Start As Gift Nifty Dips Over 1% On Trump's Ominous Iran Threat

Indian equity markets are looking at a gap-down opening as GIFT Nifty, the country's early market indicator fell as low as 1.5% to 22,785 on Tuesday evening. As of 9 p.m. IST, the market indicator showed 0.82% or nearly 200 points lower opening at 22,948. The fall came as US President Donald Trump's deadline for Iran to open the Strait of Hormuz approached its end. Trump has warned of massive escalation in the war, if Tehran does not comply to the demand. Jitters of Trump's hardening war rhetoric were felt by Wall Street investors as well as the US stock market opened in the red on Tuesday. As of 11 a.m. EST, tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite had slumped sharply by 1.55% to 21,656.35, wider index S&P 500 traded 1% lower at 6,546.37, and the Dow Jones Industrial Average shed over 300 points or 0.75% to trade at 46,320.41. Middle East On The Boil Besides the obvious dangers of the conflict, spiking crude oil prices, vul-



**Highlights**  
Indian equity markets are looking at a gap-down opening as GIFT Nifty, the country's early market indicator fell as low as 1.5% to 22,785 on Tuesday evening. As of 9 p.m. IST, the market indicator showed 0.82% or nearly 200 points lower opening at 22,948. The fall came as US President Donald Trump's deadline for Iran to open the Strait of Hormuz approached its end.

nerable air spaces, and shifting economic concerns; a crucial lever has been statements made by the warring parties.

Mixed signals have consistently emerged regarding the war, with the US administration claiming that the ongoing ceasefire

negotiations with Iran have been "positive" so far. While, at the same time, the Iranian side has reportedly stopped all negotiations with Washington. Trump has given Iran until 8 p.m. ET to accept an agreement that includes reopening the Strait of Hormuz. During a phone interview with Fox News, Trump remarked that "8 p.m. is happening." A senior US official told Fox News that, although negotiations for a ceasefire have been positive thus far, it remains to be seen "whether an agreement can be made in time to meet President Donald Trump's deadline." In case Tehran rejects the agreement, Trump has threatened to "drastically" escalate the conflict by targeting the nation's power plants and transportation infrastructure. To retaliate, Iran's IRGC warned that they will target US-affiliated infrastructure "in a manner that will deprive America and its allies of the region's oil and gas for years."

## FLIPKART EMPHASIZES INCLUSIVE, PERSONALIZED WELLBEING ON WORLD HEALTH DAY

On the occasion of World Health Day, a Flipkart Spokesperson said, "Wellbeing isn't built through policies alone; it shows up in the everyday choices we make for our people. That means rethinking benefits to reflect how our employees actually live their lives today, and the many different family structures that they are a part of. For us, that includes extending coverage to part-

ners across diverse relationships, supporting LGBTQ+ employees more meaningfully, and enabling access to gender affirmation care, because inclusion has to be tangible to matter. At the same time, we've tried to make support more accessible and continuous, whether it's 24/7 mental health and nutrition support, or creating spaces like the Zen Garden in our office, which is equipped with global and

indigenous healing techniques, where people can pause and rejuvenate in the middle of a busy day. On World Health Day, it's a reminder that care works best when it is personal, flexible, and relevant. When people feel seen and supported in ways that reflect who they are, they're able to bring their best selves to work, and that's what we're continuing to build at Flipkart.

## Gold, Silver Falter As Iran War Enters Critical Phase: Will Bullion Prices Plunge?

Mixed signals on the Iran war are keeping non-yielding assets like gold and silver on edge. Till Monday, indications of a potential ceasefire and end to war had lifted buyer sentiment for these precious metals. On Tuesday, however, both gold and silver prices tumbled amid no clear resolution for the Middle East crisis, while crude oil prices continuing their climb. Gold

went as low as \$4,616.92 an ounce in the spot market on Tuesday, 0.7% lower than its previous day close at \$4,650.56 an ounce. The MCX futures for the yellow metal, which had initially held steady around Rs 1.5 lakh per 10 grams, also slipped to Rs 1.49 lakh. Amid elevated volatility, the yellow metal is expected to find immediate support at \$4,613.4 an ounce, according

to analysts at Kotak Securities. However, in the case of further downside, the support levels can slip to \$4,575.5 and \$4,452.9. On the flipside, with geopolitical cues in favour, gold spot gold prices may rise to find immediate resistance at \$4,736.1 an ounce. Any further upmove will open up \$4,774 and \$4,896.7 levels for the precious metals, as per analysts.<

## AR/VR Workshop at SRM University-AP Advances Indo-US Science Technology Collaboration

Advancing the nation's emerging technologies ecosystem, SRM University-AP, Amaravati hosted an AR/VR Innovation Workshop along with the Young Innovators Stem Lab (YISL), in collaboration with the Indo-US Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF) and STEAM Varsity, with support from the GeeksforGeeks (GfG) Campus Body, SRM AP. The workshop introduced immersive technologies through a practical, project-based approach and learning by doing method, enabling participants to actively engage with cutting-edge tools and technologies. 200+ students registered for the workshop from schools, colleges and universities from across Amaravati and the surrounding regions. Mr Dharam Raj Panwar (Co-founder STEAM Varsity), Mr Paras Deshmukh (Makerspace Officer STEAM Varsity), Mr Mohammad Mustafa Ghazi (RD Head



STEAM Varsity), Mr Devanand (STEAM Facilitator), and Mr Shashank Chandel (STEAM Facilitator) mentored students on building AR/VR apps, exploring AR/VR and WebXR technologies and design thinking methodologies. Dr Ashok Kumar Pradhan, Associate Professor and Faculty Convener, welcomed the participants and noted that the

workshop will enhance skill proficiency, the startup studio model and a framework of design thinking principles to develop a professional ecosystem among the students. Student Coordinator Mr Mahesh Babu Chittem encouraged students to collaborate, innovate, and push boundaries using AR/VR tools to solve real-world challenges. Prof. Jayaseelan Murugaiyan, Associate Dean

School of Engineering and Sciences, encouraged participants to develop a strong aim, focused objective and drive for innovation that will elevate India to the forefront of advanced technology. In his welcome address, Prof. Ch Satish Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SRM AP stated that workshops like these provide students with hands-on exposure to cutting-edge technologies, equipping them

with the skills needed to thrive in a rapidly evolving digital landscape. He appreciated the young dynamic team from STEAM Varsity and encouraged them to visit the one-of-a-kind Quantum Computer being assembled on campus. Registrar (i/c) Dr Vinayak Kalluri remarked that immersive technologies like AR/VR are redefining education by bridging the gap between theory and real-world experience. Mr Dharam Raj Panwar gave an overview of STEAM Varsity stating that, "At STEAM Varsity, we focus on Learning through tinkering, peer mentoring and research-driven learning that will foster a culture of innovation in India." Mr Paras Deshmukh also presented the aims and objectives of YISL, the mobile, technology-enabled initiative designed to deliver immersive, hands-on learning experiences on emerging technologies and tools for Indian students.

# Trump says 'a whole civilisation will die tonight' if Iran doesn't make deal, as US hits Kharg Island

Further explosions have been reported in Iran on Tuesday, as Trump's deadline to reopen the Strait of Hormuz looms. Here are some of the latest pictures from the Iranian capital: Two previously detained French nationals Cécile Kohler and Jacques Paris have been allowed to leave Iran. In a post on X, French President Emmanuel Macron thanks authorities for their support in mediation. Kohler and Paris were handed lengthy prison sentences by a court in Iran last year after being convicted of espionage. They were released from detention in November. They were arrested in May 2022 during a tourist trip. France previously accused Iran of holding Kohler and Paris arbitrarily and keeping them in conditions akin to torture. Iran denied the claims. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says that Israel have struck railways and

bridges used by Iran. In a message shared on X, he says that "yesterday we destroyed transport aircraft and dozens of helicopters. Today we attacked the train tracks and bridges used by the Revolutionary Guards." Meanwhile, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) says it has struck "eight bridge segments" that it claims were used by Iranian armed forces. The IDF says these strikes took place across cities, including Tehran, Karaj, Tabriz, Kashan, and Qom. This comes after earlier reports from Iranian state media that two people were killed following an attack on a bridge in Kashan, hours after Israel warned Iran's residents not to take trains "for the sake of your security". Donald Trump is never shy about using apocalyptic language in his social media posts - but even by his standards the threat that "a whole civilization will die tonight, never to be brought



back again" is brutal. He has set a deadline of 20:00 US Eastern Time for Iran to agree a deal - including reopening the Strait of Hormuz - or to face the destruction of much of its civilian infrastructure, including all its bridges and power plants. But the president has set similar deadlines in the past, only to back down and extend his time frame. His latest social media post suggests that he

intends to stick to his deadline this time. Referencing the possibility of a devastating attack on Iran, he writes: "I don't want that to happen, but it probably will." Negotiations are taking place, but do not appear to be going well. Trump also suggested in his Truth Social post that the new leadership in Iran may agree to a deal - saying "maybe something revolutionarily wonderful

can happen, WHO KNOWS?" But this latest post does not indicate that he is optimistic about reaching an agreement before his deadline tonight. Donald Trump has issued a fresh threat to Iran on Tuesday, warning that a "whole civilization will die tonight" ahead of this evening's looming deadline to reach a deal on the Strait of Hormuz. This is how things have moved on through Tuesday so far: "A whole civilization will die tonight" unless "smarter and less radicalized minds prevail", Donald Trump has warned Iran. "I don't want that to happen, but it probably will," he says Trump's threats come as we near a deadline he's imposed on the Iranian regime to reopen the Strait of Hormuz by 20:00 EDT Tuesday (00:00 GMT / 01:00 BST on Wednesday) Meanwhile, his Vice President JD Vance - speaking at a press conference in Budapest - says that it's up to

## Earthset and a solar eclipse: Nasa releases first images from Moon fly-by



Nasa has released the first photographs taken by the Artemis II astronauts during their fly-by of the Moon. The first image, above, shows an 'Earthset' as the astronauts glimpsed our home planet peeking out beyond a cratered lunar landscape. The second photograph, below, shows the spectacular solar eclipse to which the astronauts were treated as the Moon blocked out the Sun. Nasa did not say which of the astronauts, who are on their return journey to Earth after the fly-by, took the photographs. The Earthset photo carried echoes of the famous Earthrise photograph taken by Bill Anders aboard Apollo 8 in 1968 in the moon fly-by that preceded the historic first human landing the following year. The view of a vulnerable blue planet against the background of the depths of space is still seen as one of the most iconic environmental photographs ever taken. The astronauts took the photos during a six-hour flyby, including a period of radio silence when their capsule was behind the Moon. Nasa said in its description that the Earthrise photograph was captured through the Orion spacecraft window at 18:41 Eastern Daylight Time (2341BST) on Monday.

## JD Vance backs Orbán's re-election bid in Budapest visit and hits out at EU



Five days before Hungarians vote in elections that could bring down Viktor Orbán after 16 years in office, US Vice-President JD Vance has intervened in the campaign to give the Hungarian prime minister a ringing endorsement, while delivering another blistering attack on the EU. Standing beside Orbán, Vance said he was in Budapest "to help him in this campaign cycle" although he conceded the US would "work with whoever wins this election". Orbán's main rival Péter Magyar is well ahead in most opinion polls. The veteran prime minister is a key European ally of the Trump administration, as well as being Russian President Vladimir Putin's closest partner in the EU. After winning four elections in a row since 2010, Orbán faces the toughest

challenge in a political career going back almost 40 years. In a last-ditch bid to boost the prime minister before the 12 April vote, Vance and his wife Usha arrived in Budapest for the first top-level US visit to Hungary for 20 years. They were welcomed by Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó, who said Orbán's friendship with President Donald Trump had created a "new golden age" in relations. Péter Magyar responded to the visit by welcoming Vance to Budapest, and posting on social media that when his party came to office it would consider the US as a prominent partner, both as a Nato ally and as an economic partner. Following talks with Orbán, Vance launched a bitter attack on the European Union and Ukraine.

## ONE DEAD AS TRAIN TRAVELLING 99MPH COLLIDES WITH LORRY IN FRANCE



A train driver has died after his high-speed passenger train collided with a lorry at a level crossing in France while travelling at an estimated 160km/h (99mph). The incident took place shortly before 07:00 (05:00 GMT) on Tuesday morning between Béthune and Lens in the northern Pas-de-Calais region. Two people initially deemed to have sustained critical injuries following the crash were "doing well", while 13 others sustained minor injuries, local authorities said. The driver of the lorry, which was carrying military equipment at the time, is in police custody, but officials said it was too early to determine the cause. An investigation into potential aggravated manslaughter is under way. The vehicle belonged to a commercial haulier and the driver was not a member of the military, officials said. The train had been travelling from Dunkirk to Paris when the collision occurred.

## One gunman killed and two injured in shooting at Israeli consulate in Istanbul

A gunman was killed and two were injured in a shootout near the Israeli consulate in Istanbul, which Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan called a "heinous act of terrorism". Two policemen were "slightly injured" in the gun fight, Turkish Interior Minister Mustafa Ciftci said. Ciftci said the attackers had come to Istanbul from the city of Izmit by rental car and that two of them were brothers. In a statement on X, the interior ministry named the gunman killed as Yunus E.S., who it said was "connected to the terrorist organisation that exploits religion". That is understood to be a reference to the Islamic State group, though no group has said it was behind the attack. "We will



not allow the climate of trust in Turkey to be damaged by such vile and timed provocations as today's," Erdogan said. Police were initially quoted as saying two attackers had died, but local governor Davut Gul later clarified that only one had been killed. The two injured attackers were named as Onur Ç and Enes Ç, who the interior ministry said were brothers.

attackers had used rifles and pistols in the assault. He also said that no Israeli diplomatic personnel were in the consulate, which is located in Istanbul's main business district in the Besiktas area. The gunfight happened in broad daylight. Video on social media appears to capture the moment when one armed attacker was shot by police and fell to the ground. Reuters news agency quoted a witness at the scene as saying that gunfire sounds had been "loud" and continued to increase "for 15-20 minutes". Unverified videos circulating online showed several police vans and a heavy police presence around the building, which was cordoned off for several hours after the attempted attack.

## VIETNAM'S LEADER TO LAM STRENGTHENS POWER IN UNANIMOUS ASSEMBLY VOTE

Vietnam's communist-dominated general assembly has elected To Lam, the party leader, to be the country's president and head of state, an unusual concentration of power in one person. He was elected unanimously by the 500 seat assembly which started sitting on Monday, following the Communist Party Congress in January, which makes all the big decisions about the country's future direction. This makes To Lam the most powerful leader in Vietnam in recent decades. To Lam rose over the last decade by serving as the powerful Minister for Public Security, enforcing a nationwide anti-corruption drive which saw many of his



potential rivals disgraced and purged. In 2024, he took over the jobs of both general secretary of the communist party and president temporarily, after the resignation of then-president Vo Van Thuong and the death of party boss Nguyen Phu Trong. There is reported to be opposition,

especially within the military, to To Lam keeping these two top jobs after the party congress. The Communist Party of Vietnam has always preferred collective leadership shared among the four most senior national positions, now expanded to five, known as the "five pillars".

However, To Lam has now secured enough backing to take the two top jobs for the next five years, inviting comparisons with China, where President Xi Jinping has also concentrated power in his hands. Xi congratulated To Lam in January, when he successfully retained his job as secretary general of Vietnam's communist party. Xi said at the time that he would work with To Lam to "carry forward the traditional friendship" between the two socialist neighbours. There is historical anti-Chinese sentiment expressed by the Vietnamese population, but relations between the two communist parties are close.

## Chilean woman accused of Pinochet-era kidnaps loses extradition battle



A 72-year-old Chilean woman suspected of having kidnapped and tortured dissidents during the military rule of Gen Augusto Pinochet has lost her lengthy legal battle against being extradited from Australia. Adriana Rivas moved to Australia in 1978, where she worked as a nanny and a cleaner in the Sydney's Bondi suburb. Chile requested her extradition 12 years ago, alleging that before she emigrated to Australia she had been involved in the disappearance of seven people, which she denies. More than 40,000 people were politically persecuted and some 3,000 were killed during the Pinochet era, which lasted from 1973 to 1990. Rivas was first arrested during a visit to her home country in 2006 but returned to Australia while on bail. Chile filed an extradition request in 2014 and, on Monday, a federal judge dismissed her lawyers' arguments that the request was legally flawed. Rivas could try to appeal against the decision at the full federal court, Australian media reports, but it is unclear whether the grounds for such an appeal would be met. A

lawyer representing the relatives of the victims of the Pinochet regime said the families were "truly, truly delighted" by Monday's ruling. Barring another appeal, Rivas will be sent back to her home country to stand trial on charges of aggravated kidnapping. Rivas was the personal secretary for Chile's infamous secret police chief Manuel Contreras from 1973 to 1976. Rights activists have long alleged that she was personally involved in the kidnapping and torture of dissidents. They say that she became an active agent for the National Intelligence Directorate (Dina), the secret police force founded by Pinochet to hunt down his political opponents after he seized power in a military coup in September 1973. Dina agents abducted, tortured, killed and forcibly disappeared thousands of people before the agency was replaced by the equally brutal CNI, an army intelligence battalion. Rivas described her years at the Dina as "the best of my life" in a 2013 interview with Australian broadcaster SBS, but denied any wrongdoing.



## Australia's most-decorated living soldier charged over alleged war crimes

Australia's most-decorated living soldier has been charged over allegations he committed war crimes in Afghanistan. Ben Roberts-Smith - who left the defence force in 2013 - was arrested at Sydney airport on Tuesday and will face court over five counts of the war crime of murder. He will spend the night in a cell, before a bail hearing on Wednesday. A defamation judgement in 2023 found the former corporal in Australia's Special Air Service Regiment (SAS) had killed several unarmed Afghans. The 47-year-old Victoria Cross recipient denies all wrongdoing, and has previously said the allegations against him - which

have not yet been assessed at a criminal standard - were "egregious" and "spiteful". The civil trial was the first time in history any court has examined claims of war crimes by Australian forces. Roberts-Smith argued the alleged killings occurred legally during combat or did not happen at all, and last year lost an appeal against the Federal Court finding. At a news conference in Sydney on Tuesday, the Australian Federal Police (AFP) confirmed a 47-year-old former soldier had been arrested and said he would be charged with killing unarmed detainees while serving in Afghanistan between 2009 and 2012.

WHO suspends Gaza medical evacuations after contractor killed by Israeli troops



## Virat Kohli Gives His Review Of Dhurandhar 2, Has A Message For Ranveer Singh

Indian cricket team star batter Virat Kohli took to social media to give his review of the blockbuster film Dhurandhar 2. He praised director Aditya Dhar and lead actor Ranveer Singh before saying that this was his best 'cinematic experience'. "Saw the film today and dare I say that I've never ever seen a cinematic experience like this made in India. It brought out every kind of emotion to the surface and I didn't flinch once for almost 4 hours. @adityadharfilms your talent and conviction is reflected in what you've created. Hats off to you. You're a genius. And although all actors were great in their roles BUT @ranveersingh you have attained a different level after this movie and your performance was beyond brilliant. Absolutely WOW," he posted on his Instagram story. After two weeks and three weekends, Dhurandhar 2



has minted Rs 1622 crore (gross) worldwide as per Jio Studios numbers. As per Jio Studios numbers, the film minted Rs 394 crore overseas till April 6. The domestic collections stand at Rs 1228 crore (gross), while the net stand at Rs 1041 crore. On Day 18, Dhurandhar: The Revenge collected a net of Rs 28.75 crore across 14,229 shows in India. Making the most of the extended weekend,

Dhurandhar: The Revenge started its box office journey with Rs 102.55 crore on March 19. The numbers were consolidated by Rs 80.72 crore on March 20 and Rs 113 crore on March 21. On March 22, the film was allotted 21,633 shows in India and made Rs 114.85 crore. On March 23-the first Monday since the film's release-the numbers dropped to Rs 65 crore. Throughout the first week,

collections ranged between Rs 40 crore and Rs 60 crore before stepping into the weekend. From paid previews on March 18, the film minted Rs 43 crore. On Monday, Virat took to Instagram Stories to share his review after watching Aditya Dhar's spy thriller, giving a special shoutout to Ranveer Singh for his performance in the film "Saw the film today and dare I say that I've never

ever seen a cinematic experience like this made in India. It brought out every kind of emotion to the surface and I didn't flinch once for almost 4 hours," Virat wrote sharing a poster of the film. The cricket icon continued, "@adityadharfilms your talent and conviction is reflected in what you've created. Hats off to you. You're a genius. And although all actors were great in their roles BUT @ranveersingh you have attained a different level after this movie and your performance was beyond brilliant. Absolutely WOW."

Aditya was overwhelmed by Virat's glowing review of his film and went on to repost the Story on his Instagram handle along with a heartfelt note. Calling Virat a "once-in-a-generation legend," the filmmaker admitted that receiving appreciation from him "just hits different."

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

Shah Rukh Khan, Kolkata Knight Riders' co-owner, was present at Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Monday for his side's match against Punjab Kings. KKR opted to bat against PBKS. The start to the innings was not good for KKR, as they lost Finn Allen (6 off 7 balls) and Cameron Green (4 off 2 balls) in the second over bowled by Xavier Bartlett. Soon after, rain stopped play. It was at this time that the camera showed Khan talking with KKR CEO Venky Mysore. "The Badshah of Bollywood, Shah Rukh Khan, the owner of KKR having an intense chat with KKR CEO Venky Mysore," said the Star Sports host on commentary, as the visuals showed Khan and Mysore. Three-time champions Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) won the toss and decided to bat against Punjab Kings (PBKS) in the 12th match of the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) tournament. The high-voltage encounter is being played at the iconic Eden Gardens in



Kolkata on Monday. After winning the toss, Rahane revealed that Varun Chakravarty suffered an injury while taking a catch during the last game. "We are going to bat first. It looks like a good wicket, a little bit on the drier side, but it's a very good wicket with slightly less grass covering as well. It's all about having that belief and confidence. It's about winning those small moments. We are confident. Two changes, forced. Varun Chakravarty got injured

while taking a catch in the last game, and Narine isn't playing. Powell and Saini are in," Rahane said. Punjab skipper Shreyas Iyer confirmed that they were fielding the same XI. "Not at all. I was supposed to bowl as well, so I'm kind of happy with the decision he took. Our (Shreyas and Ponting) chemistry blossomed during our Delhi Capitals days. He gives freedom to all the youngsters, and he is an inspiration himself. Same team for us," Iyer said.

### "LO, DITTA EK POINT":

## PBKS Captain Shreyas Iyer's Sister Shresta's Hilarious Post After KKR Get 1st Point After Abandoned IPL 2026 Game

Rain had the last laugh in the Kolkata Knight Riders vs Punjab Kings IPL 2026 match in Kolkata on Monday. KKR had gone two down, losing the wickets of Finn Allen and Cameron Green, when rain forced the match to be stopped at around 7:50 pm. The match never resumed and was eventually called off at 11 pm. Kolkata Knight Riders bagged their first point of the season courtesy of the no-result. After the shared points, Punjab Kings captain Shreyas Iyer's sister Shresta, who is a professional dancer and choreographer, put up a hilarious video, she said, "Saade Punjabiyen da dil vadda hunda ae. Lo, ditta ek



point. (We Punjabis are big-hearted. So, we gave you a point)." When the initial spell of rain fell on Eden Gardens, KKR were struggling at 25 for 2 in 3.4 overs. The proceedings never

restarted despite the cut-off time being pushed to 11.14 pm. PBKS too received a point and moved atop the table for the time being with five points from three games. The Kolkatans now

have one point from three matches, ahead of Gujarat Titans and Chennai Super Kings, who are yet to open their account. Incidentally, the fixture between KKR and PBKS here during IPL 2025 was also called off due to rain. KKR have a third consecutive home match, facing Lucknow Super Giants on Thursday, but rain is predicted on that day as well. Cutting back to the day's match, rain and strong winds lashed the venue from 9 pm, gradually turning into a thunderstorm. The wind was so intense that the unique 'hanging' Eden press box, supported by iron beams, shook under the gale force, resembling an earthquake. "

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

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



patterns, Little Andaman offers ideal conditions for high-performance surfing. The reef break at Butler Bay, in particular, is increasingly being recognised as one of the most promising surf locations in the country, capable of hosting top-level competitions and attracting surfers from

across India and beyond. The initiative is expected to not only elevate the standard of competitive surfing in India but also provide a major boost to tourism in the islands by positioning Andaman as a premier destination for ocean sports and adventure travel. Speaking on the initiative, Shri

Vinayak Chamadia, IAS, Director (IP&T), A&N Administration, said, "The Andaman Islands have always been known for their natural beauty, and surfing is a natural extension of that identity. By hosting the Little Andaman Pro 2026, we aim to showcase the region's immense potential as a surfing destination while promoting sustainable and experience-driven tourism. This is a long-term vision to put Andaman on the global surfing map." The move reflects a growing emphasis on leveraging sports as a driver for tourism, with destinations increasingly investing in niche sporting events to attract new audiences and create unique travel experiences.

## Kevin Pietersen Responds After 'Request' To Make Him Mentor Of Struggling Chennai Super Kings

Chennai Super Kings are currently last in the 10-team Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 points table. In three matches, they have lost all, including a heavy defeat against defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru. The road ahead looks bleak for the five-time champions unless there is a sharp turnaround. In the midst of this, former England star Kevin Pietersen, who is in the IPL commentary, has 'received' an interesting proposal. A social media user requested CSK to hire Pietersen as mentor: "Dear @ChennaiIPL please bring @KP24 as a Mentor." Pietersen had a hilarious take on the proposal. "Yes please. It's closer to Maldives. Easier travel for me." Meanwhile, head coach Stephen Fleming down-



played Sanju Samson's underwhelming run in IPL 2026, saying the wicketkeeper batter is "going through the process of connecting" with Chennai Super Kings and he is "desperate" to score runs and contribute to the team's success. Samson, who joined the Super Kings from Rajasthan Royals amid much hype ahead of IPL 2026, has so far managed 6, 7, 9 in the first three matches. "It's

difficult when you've been at a franchise (RR) for some time and even though he probably feels pretty comfortable there's still an element of belonging and he's going through the process of connecting with this team," said Fleming in the post-match press conference. Samson's modest outings at the top have robbed CSK of the desired quick beginning in this IPL, but Fleming said the Kerala man is "desperate" to find his rhythm. "The team (CSK) has got five or six changes. So, it's not like it's a set team. There's a little bit of work to be done off the field that we're doing just to make the bonds a bit tighter but he's fine. He's fitted in really well. He's desperate for some runs and to contribute along with the senior players.

## Arjun Tendulkar Bowls Inch-Perfect Yorkers In Nets, Leaves Everyone Stunned

Moved from Mumbai Indians to the Lucknow Super Giants in the search of more games but Arjun Tendulkar, son of the legendary Sachin Tendulkar, is yet to find a place in the franchise's XII in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 season. While selection isn't something that is in a player's hand, Arjun is doing all he can to leave a big impression on the management, push his case for selection in the match-day team. While performance in a match is pivotal to continued selection, Arjun is making heads turn with his inch-perfect bowling in the nets for LSG. The 26-year-old has set social media ablaze with a viral video showcasing his pinpoint accuracy and lethal yorkers during a practice



session. In a clip shared online, Arjun is seen hitting the blockhole with remarkable consistency, leaving established batters like skipper Rishabh Pant struggling to find an answer. The intensity of the session was evident as Arjun didn't hold back against his own teammates. Even Pant was kept on his toes, literally, as Arjun unleashed a barrage of yorkers that required the

veteran batter to be at his most defensive. The accuracy of his deliveries has sparked a wave of support from fans on social media, many of whom are questioning why the left-arm is still on the bench. Arjun, who joined LSG ahead of the 2026 season following a stint with Mumbai Indians, has been working closely with coaching staff and senior players to refine his skills.

## LALIT MODI SLAMS BCCI ON RS 2,400 CRORE IPL 'LOSS': "THIS IS NOT WHAT WE SOLD"



Former IPL commissioner Lalit Modi has made a significant revelation, claiming that the league is missing out on an additional revenue of Rs 2,400 crore by failing to adhere to the originally agreed format. Modi, who expressed delight at the league's soaring valuation after two franchises - Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) and Rajasthan Royals (RR) - were sold for a combined fee of approximately Rs 31,000 crore, wants the board to return to a full home-and-away format to recoup these perceived losses. According to Modi, every side was originally intended to play each other twice. With the league expanding to 10 teams in 2022, such a structure would result in a 90-match league phase followed by four knockout games. However, the IPL has continued to operate with only 74 matches by altering the home-and-away system. "For every game, the BCCI gets 50 per cent, and the remaining 50 per cent is distributed to teams. Consequently, teams are

now losing out on 20 games. It is a contractual obligation, given the fees they are paying, to provide them with home-and-away fixtures," he said in an interview with Sportstar. "The home-and-away format is where the value lies. If there is no space in the calendar, do not increase the number of teams. It is as simple as that. That is not what we sold. Has everybody signed off on this? I guarantee they have not," he added. "Why are they not playing home and away? There are excuses, but it is a contractual obligation and a commercial transaction for the teams." Modi believes the reduction in matches directly impacts the valuations of both the franchises and the league itself. "If there were 94 matches today on a home-and-away basis at Rs 118 crore per game, the media rights alone would be worth an extra Rs 2,400 crore. That is Rs 2,400 crore in additional revenue for the BCCI," he explained. "Of this, Rs 1,200 crore would have gone to the 10 teams, Rs 120 crore each, and team values would automatically have been higher."

## 'Lost My Career Because Of IPL': Kevin Pietersen Drops Major Bombshell

Former England captain Kevin Pietersen made an explosive allegation that his international career came to a premature end due to a dispute with authorities over his participation in the Indian Premier League (IPL). In an interview with YouTuber Ranveer Allahbadia, Pietersen alleged that the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) used the media to launch a "witch-hunt" against him during the early years of the IPL. The ECB barred centrally contracted players from participating in the inaugural edition of the tournament in

2008; Dimitri Mascarenhas was the only English player to feature that year. In 2009, England allowed players to participate within a limited three-week window. Pietersen joined Royal Challengers Bangalore (now Bengaluru) in 2009, and his decision to prioritize the league allegedly resulted in severe tensions

with the ECB. "I made big sacrifices. I lost my career. That's the reason why everybody in that establishment went against me," he said. "I was 33 when my England career finished, after 104 Test matches. I should have played 150-160 Tests and scored 12,000-13,000 runs. That's what I should have

achieved." "The ECB used The Telegraph to go after me... I don't want to go too deep into it. It was well-publicized, and I live a very happy, peaceful life now," Pietersen added. Pietersen finished his Test career with 8,181 runs, including 23 centuries and 35 half-centuries. While the former cricketer's career was allegedly impacted by his stance, Pietersen believes it helped future generations of England players gain the freedom to take part in franchise cricket. "I interviewed Jos Buttler a few days ago, and he also said thank you! Because of the sacrifices I made, these guys can enjoy the fruits now.



## “DIAMOND DECOYIT” TO RELEASE ON APRIL 10 — FREE SHOWS ANNOUNCED FOR WOMEN



The much-awaited complete family emotional drama **Diamond Decoyit** is set for a grand theatrical release on April 10 across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Adding to the film's buzz, legendary filmmaker **R. Raghavendra Rao** watched the trailer and appreciated the efforts of the film's team. On this special occasion, the makers have announced an attractive offer for women audiences. Four shows of the film will be screened free of cost for women in theatres where the movie releases across both Telugu states. The team has invited women viewers to make use of this opportunity and enjoy the film on the big screen. The

film features **Partha Gopal** as the lead actor, who has also produced the project, while **Meghana Reddy** plays the female lead. Written and directed by **Surya G. Yadav**, the movie is presented as a heartfelt family entertainer packed with strong emotional elements. According to the makers, the film has already received encouraging feedback from several film personalities during preview screenings. Speaking about the film, hero-producer **Partha Gopal** said that **Diamond Decoyit** is a complete family emotional drama with a story that every family can relate to. He added that the scenic locations of Kadapa district, where the film was extensively shot, will be a

special visual attraction. He also reiterated that four free shows have been arranged for women audiences and invited everyone to watch the film in theatres. Director **Surya G. Yadav** stated that the film carries strong emotional depth and has been crafted to connect with all sections of the audience. He expressed pride in the fact that the movie was shot entirely in Kadapa district and requested viewers to support and bless the film. One of the major highlights of **Diamond Decoyit** is that it was filmed across more than 60 picturesque locations in Kadapa district, promising audiences a fresh visual experience along with touching emotional storytelling.

## DISHA' MIDRIFF CHAIN OWNS THE WHOLE INTERNET

**D**isha Patani is everywhere right now and for very good reason. **Bombay Times Fashion Week 2026** turned up the heat on Day 2 as she took centre stage, closing the **Bagline x Juicy Couture** showcase with undeniable star power at the iconic **Grand Hyatt Mumbai**. But it is her off-ramp pictures in



the same all-black **Juicy Couture** look that are truly breaking the internet. A sleek fitted zip-up crop top plunging daringly low, paired with signature wide-leg black track pants with the iconic "Juicy" lettering, the outfit is bold, body-hugging, and completely unforgettable and with flashed beautiful silver midriff chain and dropped every jaw at the event. Her long wavy dark hair, silver hoop earrings, crystal bracelets, and that intense, effortless gaze make



these pictures look like they belong on a global fashion magazine cover, not just a social media post. **Disha Patani** has always been known for her fitness and fashion sense, but 2026 is clearly her year to shine brightest. Her walk was not just stylish, it was commanding, playful, and packed with attitude, making her the perfect face to bring the Y2K theme alive. On the worksite, she

is coming up with a couple of Bollywood movies soon. When **Disha Patani** steps into the spotlight, she always manages to make a fashion statement. At the **Grazia Millennial Awards 2023** held last week, she gave us a red carpet fashion moment worthy of admiration. The beautiful actress graced the event in a pink gown that screamed glamour. The plunging sweetheart neckline added a touch of allure to the look

with narrow straps delicately hanging on her shoulders. With her midriff highlighted by a daring cutout detail, the star wore a draped skirt featuring a thigh-high slit. A floor-sweeping train added an extra touch of elegance. The actress' centre-parted wavy tresses cascaded down her shoulders. With minimal jewellery and soft glam makeup, **Disha Patani** proved once again that she can own every red carpet.

## Love Insurance Company is a full-length entertainer. Pradeep Ranganathan and SJ Surya's performances are amazing. The audience will definitely enjoy it a lot: Producer Sivaprasad

**Y**oung sensation **Pradeep Ranganathan**, who is enjoying a string of blockbuster successes, is starring in the crazy love story 'Love Insurance Company', directed by **Vignesh Sivan**. The film is produced by **Nayanthara** and **Kriti Shetty** is the heroine. **S.J. Surya** and **Yogi Babu** play key roles in the film. The Telugu teaser and trailer, which have already been released, have received a wonderful response. The film will be grandly released in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana on April 10 through **Sri Padmini Cinemas**. On this occasion, producer **Siva Prasad** shared the features of the film in a press conference.

### WHAT ABOUT YOUR JOURNEY AS A PRODUCER?

First we produced **Matru** with **Sriram**. Then we produced **Raa Raja**. We are doing a film called **Mahathi** with **Suhasini Mani Ratnam**. There is still 10% balance left in the shooting of that film. We distributed **Vijay Sethupathi's Ace**. We made a film in **Marathi**, which is ready for release. I

am the director and producer of that film. Now we are releasing the movie **Love Insurance Company**. **Geetanjali** and **Mithun Chakraborty's Disco Dancer** is ready for re-release. We made a film called **Rangoon Raja** introducing my younger brother. The film is currently in post-production. We plan to release it in July.

### WHAT ABOUT THE MOVIE LOVE INSURANCE COMPANY?

-We signed an agreement for this film last year. Many people tried for this film. But since we committed first, they gave it to us. The film has been very successful. I am sure it will be a great success. It will be released in about 500 screens. We are safe in terms of distribution. This is a story designed based on the current situation and future technology. The main theme of this film is how technology affects human relationships and emotions. Due to technology, relationships between people become artificial rather than heartfelt. **Pradeep Ranganathan** is in excellent form.



## Grand Launch of "Ahom" Movie Held with Producer K.S. Rama Rao and Director V.V. Vinayak as Chief Guests

**"A**hom," starring **Vivek Mishra** and **Shrutika** as the lead pair, has been officially launched in a grand ceremony held today in Hyderabad. The film is being produced by **Dasarath** under the **Eagle Eye Studio International** banner and directed by **Prasad Raju**. The movie will be made as a pan-India project in Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam. The launch event was attended by prominent guests including producer **K.S. Rama Rao** and director **V.V. Vinayak**. Speaking at the event, producer **K.S. Rama Rao** said that director **Prasad Raju** is an experienced filmmaker and expressed happiness that the film is being made in multiple languages. He added that making films in just one language is no longer sufficient today, and suggested dubbing the film into **Bengali, Marathi, and**



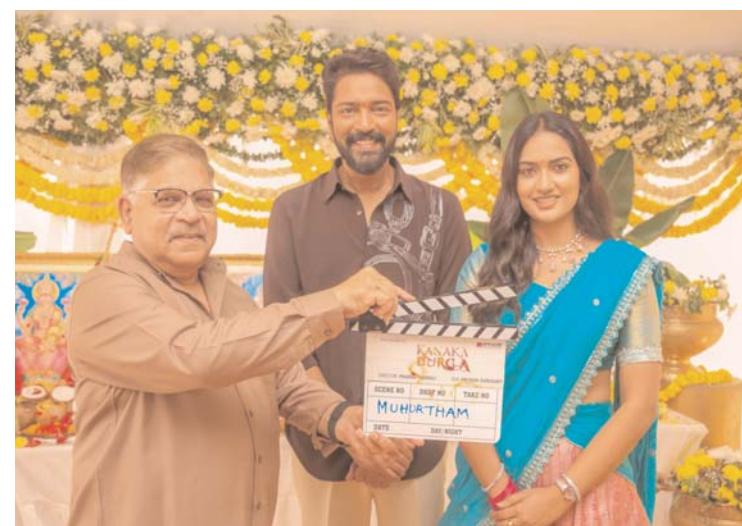
even English. He congratulated producer **Dasarath** and emphasized that encouraging new producers helps generate more films and employment in the industry. He wished "Ahom" great success. Heroine **Shrutika** expressed her over being selected as

the lead actress and thanked director **Prasad Raju** for the opportunity. She said she is committed to working hard for the film and requested everyone's support. Hero **Vivek Mishra** said Hyderabad is famous for movies and music concerts and expressed happiness

about being part of a film here. He noted how cinema has evolved from being regional to becoming global and thanked the director and producer for giving him this opportunity. **Model Deepti** thanked director **Prasad Raju** for inviting her to the launch and wished the film great success. **Actor Azad** said the film has a strong title and appreciated the lead pair. He expressed confidence that **Prasad Raju** would deliver a successful pan-India film. **Actor Vishwa** mentioned that **Prasad Raju** had been waiting for a long time to direct and has now received a good opportunity. He added that the title itself carries positive vibes and said he is happy to be part of the film in an important role. **Actor Kotakonda Krishna** said **Prasad Raju** had given him his first acting opportunity in "Mahanandi," and after acting in 25 films.

## Kanaka Durga Launched with Grand Puja Ceremony; Surekha Konidela Attends as Chief Guest

**S**urekha Konidela is the chief guest and the movie **Kanaka Durga**, directed by **Pradeep Maddali** under the banners of **Allari Naresh** and under the banners of **Temple Town Pictures**, will be launched with the puja programs. **Applause Entertainment**, a leading content studio successful in the Tamil film industry, has now made its Tollywood entry. As part of that, the movie 'Kanaka Durga', which is going to be made in association with **Temple Town Pictures**, was launched on Saturday with puja programs. Versatile star **Allari Naresh** is playing the lead role in this movie and **Kajal Chaudhary** is the heroine. **Actor Subbaraju** is playing a key role in this movie. **B.V.S. While Ravi** is providing the story. **Pradeep Maddali** is directing. **Sameer Nair, Deepak Sehgal, Ajith Thakur** and **BVS Ravi** are the pro-



ducers. Unveiling a divine world based on Indian deities, the film will provide an amazing cinematic experience to the audience with all aspects of devotion, action, emo-

tions and music. Produced by **Temple Town Pictures** under **Applause Entertainment**, this film is very special for both these companies. Along with **Surekha Konide-**

famous producers **Allu Arvind, Shyam Prasad Reddy, Harish Shankar, Mikkilineni Sudhakar, Kona Venkat, Prashanth Verma, Mathura Sridhar, Swapnadath, Supriya, Vidya Koppinidu, Padma Kasturi Rangan, Anuradha Guduru, Divya Vijay, Hansita Reddy, Janhvi Narang, Sravanti Chokkarapu, Vaigha Reddy, Virupa** and others appeared as guests.

Reflecting the sentiment of the film, the divine feminine power of Goddess **Kanakadurga** was specially commemorated at the end of the puja. The women present together honored **Amma's** power, compassion and majesty. Producer **Allu Arvind** clapped for the moment scene and **Surekha Konidela** switched on the camera. **Swapna Dutt** was the Honorable Director. **Shyam Prasad Reddy** provided the script.

### KRITHI STRAPLESS GLAM TURNS HEADS IN EVERY FRAME

**K**rithi Shetty recently impressed everyone with her heartfelt speech at the pre-release event of her upcoming movie **L.I.K.** She shared her excitement about returning to a straight love story after **Uppena**, saying she had been waiting for a role like 'Deema' for many years. She appreciated the effort put into creating the film's futuristic world and spoke warmly about her bond with Producer and actress **Nayanthara**, calling her like an elder sister.

