



Ensuring income, dignity & sustainability of weavers a top priority: CM Yogi

NATION | NEWS

Israel issues new warnings for Beirut as Iran says attacks breach ceasefire Capitol Hill has been empty for days now, with lawmakers out of town on their "spring break".

WORLD | NEWS

Actress Sreeleela Should Reset Before the Next Big Leap?

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SCAN FOR E-PAPER



OM NAMO VENKATESAYA



WEATHER
37°C | °F
Precipitation: 0%
Humidity: 35%
Wind: 6 km/h

GOLD RATE
24K ₹
1,54,700/-

IN BRIFS

ANGANWADI TEACHER TIED TO TREE IN TELANGANA, FIVE HELD

Hyderabad, April 9 (TSIT) : Five persons were arrested in Telangana's Sangareddy district on Thursday for tying an Anganwadi teacher to a tree over the alleged financial cheating by her husband, police said. The shocking incident took place in Rasole village in Kangti mandal on Wednesday. Few villagers tied

Vasanta Kumari to a tree with a rope and humiliated her as her husband, Prabhakar, had allegedly cheated them in the name of a finance company. Prabhakar had collected money from some villagers in Ramaragidda village under "HBM Finance" and fled. Angered over this, some villagers went to Rasole, where Vasanta Kumari was attending duty.

PARTH PAWAR TAKES OATH AS RAJYA SABHA MEMBER FROM MAHARASHTRA

New Delhi, April 9 (TSIT) Parth Ajit Pawar was on Thursday administered the oath of office by C P Radhakrishnan, Vice President of India and Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, as a newly elected Member of the Rajya Sabha from Maharashtra at Parliament House. The oath-taking ceremony, held in the presence of senior officials and members, formally marked Parth Pawar's entry into the Upper House of Parliament.

Assam sees over 84% polling, Kerala voter turnout at 75% & Puducherry 86%

Guwahati/Thiruvananthapuram/Puducherry (TSIT)

A groundswell of voter enthusiasm marked the high-stakes Assembly elections on Thursday, as voters turned out in huge numbers across urban and rural constituencies, with polling figures by 5 pm touching a striking 84.42 per cent in Assam, 75.01 per cent in Kerala, and 86.87 per cent in the union Territory of Puducherry.

No major untoward incident was reported in any part of the two states and the union Territory, and polling was held peacefully overall.

Over 5.3 crore electors queued up before the booths, reflecting robust participation as they cast their votes to shape the political future of the two states and the union Territory. Polling commenced at 7 am and is set to continue until evening across 140 constituencies in Kerala, 126 in Assam, and 30 in Puducherry. Officials said elaborate arrangements, including heightened security deployment, extensive webcasting, and drone surveillance in sensitive areas, were put in place to ensure free and fair elections. Over three-fourths of the 2.51 crore-plus electors across Assam cast their vote amid stringent security despite intermittent rains in the



POLLING LARGELY PEACEFUL, WITH NO MAJOR UNTOWARD INCIDENTS REPORTED

Over 5.3 crore voters participated across Assam, Kerala, and Puducherry

Voting held across: 140 constituencies in Kerala 126 in Assam 30 in Puducherry

single-phase Assembly elections that remained generally peaceful except for some sporadic incidents. According to police, polling has remained overall peaceful. Nine people were held for their alleged involvement in poll-related unrest at three places in the state. Some people also sustained minor injuries in clashes that broke out at polling booths after voting began. Among the prominent person-

alities who cast their votes are Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, state Congress president Gaurav Gogoi, Rajar Dal chief Akhil Gogoi and Rajasthan Royals captain Riyan Parag.

Sarma, accompanied by his wife and son, voted at a booth in state capital. He is contesting from the Jalukbari constituency. Gogoi voted in his home turf Jorhat, from where he is fighting his maiden Assembly election. A record turnout was witnessed in Puducherry, with an estimated 86.87 per cent of the total 9.53 lakh electorate pressing the EVM button till 5 pm, as the polling to elect the 30-member Territorial Assembly reached the final stretch, amid tight security.

Going by the unprecedented turnout, and with an hour's time left for the polling to end, the voting percentage was all set to cross the 90 per cent mark

and create history. The polling percentage in the 2021 Assembly polls was 83.4 per cent. Braving the spike in temperatures, voters thronged the polling booths in large numbers to exercise their democratic right in the southern state.

Of the 294 candidates, a total of 253 are testing their electoral fortunes in 25 constituencies in Puducherry district, comprising Puducherry, Mahe, and Yanam regions, while in the five constituencies of Karaikal district, 41 candidates, including 16 Independents, are vying for honours.

Voter turnout in the Kerala Assembly elections continued to rise steadily through the afternoon, with participation crossing the 75 per cent mark by around 5 pm, according to the Election Commission.

In a tragic incident, a 62-year-old voter collapsed and died shortly after casting his vote at a polling booth in Thrissur. In Assam, the contest is largely bipolar, with the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance seeking a third consecutive term under Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. The Congress-led opposition, spearheaded by Gaurav Gogoi, is aiming to return to power after ten years.

Regime change in Bengal inevitable, TMC's repository of sins full: PM Modi

ASANSOL (WB) (TSIT): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday asserted that a regime change in West Bengal is inevitable as the TMC's "repository of sins" has become full. Beginning his speech at this coal and industrial belt by invoking local deities Goddesses Kalyaneshwari and Ghagar Buri Chandi, Modi highlighted the state's "economic decadence", saying, "Bengal's contribution in national GDP has slid to mere five per cent from 12 per cent earlier".

"A regime change in Bengal is now cast in stone and sought by the people of Bengal. TMC's repository of sins is now full. Asansol is being ruled by syndicate raj, coal and sand mafia," the Prime Minister said. He asserted that West Bengal will scale new heights after the change in guard.

"Investment has taken flight from the once-thriving industrial belt of Asansol. Only the BJP's double-engine can rectify it," Modi said. He said the Centre allocated Rs 45,000 crore for the revival of industries in Asansol. The PM alleged, "The TMC has only given 'hirmamta' (cruelty) to Bengal, while the BJP has developed Asansol despite hurdles created by the ruling party."



A regime change in Bengal is now cast in stone and sought by the people of Bengal. TMC's repository of sins is now full. Asansol is being ruled by syndicate raj, coal and sand mafia,

-NARENDRA MODI, PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA

Modi stressed that both Asansol and Durgapur have the potential to become megacities, and assured that the BJP-led NDA government will bring that development. Claiming that "Bengal tops in acid attack cases", Modi said, "The TMC stands with those who torture women. Only the BJP can ensure women's safety."

Education key to progress, says Bhatti;

Announces key initiatives to improve quality of education

Khammam (TSIT)

Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu on Thursday said education is the true weapon for progress and stressed that only education can empower children and build an equal and progressive society.

Addressing after distributing free bicycles to students of government schools and colleges under Amma Foundation initiative at Bonakal here, Bhatti said students must shape their future by treating education as their strongest weapon and added that disparities in society can be eliminated only through education.

He said the recent socio-economic, educational, employment and caste survey conducted by the



state government has clearly shown that development is possible only through education.

He announced that the state government will launch a breakfast scheme for 20 lakh students studying in government schools from June 2, stating that no child should attend school hungry as it affects learning ability. He further

said free mid-day meals will also be extended to Intermediate students from the next academic year. Stating that the government is investing thousands of crores in education, he said every child in the state should be given an opportunity to study as far as they wish and develop into quality human resources.

Petroleum Minister Puri to visit Qatar to discuss LNG supply amid West Asia crisis

New Delhi (TSIT) : Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri is set to visit Qatar between April 9 and April 10 to discuss liquefied natural gas (LNG) supplies amid disruptions triggered by the ongoing Iran conflict, the ministry said on Thursday.

In a post on X, the Ministry said, "Union Minister for Petroleum &



Natural Gas, Hardeep S. Puri, will be on an official visit to the State of Qatar on April 9-10, 2026. India has been ensuring adequate gas availability for households,

as global supply chains remain under stress.

Earlier, state-run QatarEnergy last month declared force majeure on long-term LNG supply contracts for up to five years, affecting shipments to countries such as Italy, Belgium, South Korea and China. While India was not specifically mentioned, it remains one of the key buyers of LNG from Qatar.

India reviews preparedness amid West Asia developments

Visakhapatnam, April 10 (TSIT): In view of the evolving situation in West Asia, the Government of India conducted a comprehensive review of the country's preparedness during a high-level meeting of the Informal Group of Ministers (IGoM), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

The meeting was attended by senior Union Ministers including Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, and Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, among other key officials.

During the meeting, Rajnath Singh stressed the importance of continuous preparedness, strong inter-departmental coordination, and resilience to address emerging challenges. He noted that the government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is taking proactive steps to safeguard citizens from the impact of global ten-



sions. The government stated that India's energy supply remains stable despite disruptions in West Asia. LPG vessels have successfully navigated the strategic Strait of Hormuz, ensuring uninterrupted supply, with no shortages of domestic LPG cylinders reported.

To support vulnerable sections, the supply of smaller LPG cylinders has been increased, while public sector fuel outlets continue to meet rising demand. Industrial LPG allocation has been prioritised for critical sectors such as pharmaceuticals, agriculture, food processing, and manufacturing. Additionally, the government is promoting Piped Natural Gas (PNG), with a

rise in new connections to reduce dependence on LPG. The Centre assured uninterrupted availability of essential commodities, including petrol, diesel, fertilisers, and food items, with continuous monitoring mechanisms in place to prevent shortages.

Adequate buffer stocks of rice and wheat are available to meet both routine and emergency needs, and the Public Distribution System (PDS) is functioning smoothly. Under the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS), surplus food grains can be released to stabilise prices and control inflation if required.

Procurement for the Rabi Marketing Season 2026-27 has commenced under Minimum Support

Price (MSP) operations, with coordination between the Centre and states to ensure logistics and packaging support.

The government also reported comfortable availability of edible oils due to steady imports and improved domestic production, with mustard output expected to rise. The sugar sector remains stable with sufficient production and steady exports.

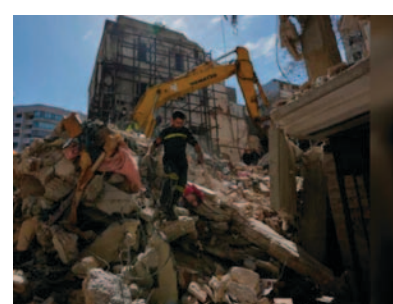
The Department of Consumer Affairs is monitoring prices of key commodities nationwide. While no major price volatility has been observed, a moderate rise in edible oil prices has been noted. The government is also preparing to procure onions to stabilise market prices and support farmers.

The IGoM concluded that India is well-prepared to handle any potential impact arising from the West Asia situation, with continuous monitoring, proactive decision-making, and coordinated efforts ensuring economic stability and uninterrupted supply of essential goods across the country.

Netanyahu orders direct Lebanon talks as Beirut death toll rises to 303

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he has instructed his Cabinet to begin direct negotiations with Lebanon, with a focus on disarming Hezbollah and establishing peace relations between the two countries. In a statement issued by his office on Thursday, April 9, Netanyahu said the move follows repeated requests from Lebanon to open direct talks with Israel and that negotiations should begin "as soon as possible". He added that discussions would centre on dismantling Hezbollah's military capabilities and advancing towards formalised relations.

Reacting to the development, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi criticised the Israeli leader, linking



the diplomatic push to his ongoing legal troubles. Writing on X, he said a region-wide ceasefire, including in Lebanon, could hasten Netanyahu's jailing as his corruption trial resumes. Direct talks between Israel and Lebanon are expected to begin next week, according to Barak

Ravid, with Washington likely to host the first Iran Supreme Leader outlines demands, signals tougher Hormuz stance. Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei said Tehran will seek compensation for losses and injuries caused during the conflict, signalling a firm negotiating position despite the ongoing ceasefire. In a statement carried by state media, he said Iran would "not back off" from pursuing what it described as its legitimate rights, including those of the wider "resistance front", referring to its regional allies. He also called on pro-Iran supporters to take to the streets, saying public mobilisation could influence the outcome of negotiations. round.

Vijay to campaign in Karaikudi on Friday amid tight security arrangements

Chennai (TSIT): Actor-turned-politician Vijay, leader of the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), is set to intensify his election campaign with a major public outreach programme in Karaikudi on Friday.

The visit is part of his ongoing statewide campaign ahead of the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, where he has been actively engaging with voters across key constituencies. During his visit, Vijay will campaign in sup-



port of his party candidates contesting in four constituencies -- Karaikudi, Manamadurai, Sivaganga,

and Tirupathur. In Karaikudi, he will specifically canvass votes for party candidate Dr D.K. Prabhu, with party lead-

ers expressing confidence that the event will draw significant public attention.

Party sources said that permission has been sought to conduct a public meeting near the Thevar statue in Karaikudi between noon and 4 p.m. In preparation for the event, officials from the Election Commission and the police department convened a coordination meeting to review arrangements and ensure compliance with election guidelines.

Ensuring income, dignity and sustainability of weavers a top priority: Yogi

Lucknow, April 9 : Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, Yogi Adityanath, on Thursday said that ensuring the income, dignity and long-term sustainability of weavers remains a top priority for the state government, underlining the need for a comprehensive and coordinated approach to address challenges faced by the sector.



Chairing a review meeting of the Handloom Department, Chief Minister Adityanath said, "Weavers are not just carriers of tradition but also a strong pillar of the state's economy. Therefore, ensuring their income, dignity, and livelihood stability is among the government's top priorities."

He noted that weavers currently face challenges such as rising raw material costs, lack of modern design and technology, and limited market access. "Such challenges cannot be resolved through schemes alone. A robust, result-oriented and cluster-based system must be developed," he said, directing officials to prepare a practical action plan focussed on cluster-based

development.

During the meeting, officials informed that around 1.99 lakh weavers are engaged in the sector in the state, with Uttar Pradesh ranking sixth nationally.

The state has a leading position in the production of carpets, durries and mats, along with a strong presence in bedsheets, furnishings, and blankets.

In 2024-25, India's total handloom exports stood at Rs 1,178.93 crore, of which Uttar Pradesh contributed Rs 109.40 crore, accounting for about 9.27 per cent.

Emphasising the need to identify weaver-dominated regions, the Chief Minister directed the development of clusters that integrate production,

quality control, and marketing. He said these clusters should function on a value chain model, covering design, branding, packaging and market access rather than being limited to production alone.

The meeting also discussed cluster selection, baseline surveys, preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), implementation and monitoring. The Chief Minister suggested organising a limited number of weavers into registered units within each cluster to encourage collective production and marketing, while also linking them with modern technology, advanced tools and skill development programmes.

BotsIn LLC inks MoU with KITSW

WARANGAL, TSIT : Kakatiya Institute of Technology and Science, Warangal (KITSW), a premier institution committed to academic excellence, innovation, and industry-oriented learning, has formalised a collaboration with BotsIn LLC, Greenwood, Indiana, announced by the Principal Prof. K. Ashoka Reddy.

On this occasion, Principal Prof. K. Ashoka Reddy highlighted that the MoU was facilitated

advanced platforms, including Your Community 100, Your City 100, and the patent-pending City Pulse Engine, designed to provide real-time hyperlocal demand insights. These solutions aim to strengthen local economies, support SMEs, enhance tourism and event planning, and enable data-driven governance in cities across India and the USA. As part of this initiative, Your Community100 was introduced at KITS Warangal campus under the aegis of the



tated by Mr. Avinash Puli (B.Tech CSE, 1995-1999 batch), founder of BotsIn LLC and a distinguished alumnus of KITSW. With over two decades of international experience across manufacturing, IT, pharma, and government sectors, Mr. Puli has contributed to automation systems at scale, working with organisations such as the University of Dayton, Delphi Automotive Systems, Techmetals Inc., the State of Indiana, and Eli Lilly and Company. He has also developed

Centre for innovation, incubation, Research and Entrepreneurship (C-iRE). The centre plays a pivotal role in nurturing student talent by providing a structured environment for innovation and entrepreneurship, offering incubation support for student-led projects and start-ups, facilitating research collaborations with industry and academia, and creating pathways for internships and hands-on training in emerging technologies such as AI, automation, and digital governance.

Hyd: Women's Bill a post-dated cheque, BJP delaying implementation: Kavitha

Hyderabad (TSIT) Telangana Jagruthi President and former BRS MP, K. Kavitha on Thursday termed the Women's Reservation Bill a "post-dated cheque" and accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) led Centre of delaying its implementation through a deceptive framework. Addressing the media here, Kavitha said while the introduction of the Bill was a milestone, linking its implementation to the delimitation process had denied women the benefit of reservation in the recent parliamentary elections and Assembly polls in 12 states. She claimed the national momentum for the Women's Reservation Bill was the result of sustained efforts by Telangana Jagruthi and



said the organisation's protests in New Delhi, supported by 18 political parties, helped push the issue onto the national agenda. Kavitha objected to the proposal of using the '2011 Census of India' as the basis for implementation and said reservations should be based only on data from the 2027 Census.

SRM University-AP Sets Up India's First Quantum Reference Facility

Amaravati (TSIT): SRM University-AP has established India's first Quantum Reference Facility (QRF), marking a significant milestone in the country's journey into advanced quantum technology. The facility will be inaugurated on April 14, 2026, coinciding with World Quantum Day, by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, in the presence of IT Minister Nara Lokesh and university leadership. Developed under the Amaravati Quantum Valley programme, the QRF is India's first indigenous, open-access quantum computing platform aimed at promoting research, innovation, and skill development in the quantum domain.

DBS Safe Deposit Locker - Break open notice

It is notified for the information of the general public, that below mentioned Customers ("Locker Hirer") have hired safe deposit lockers ("Locker") in DBS Bank India Limited branch ("Bank"). The said Lockers have been inoperative for a period of 7 years and to check the reason for non-operation of the said Lockers, Bank has sent numerous reminder letters to the Locker Hirers but till date there is no response from the Locker Hirers.

Branch	Name of the Locker Hirer/S	Address of the Locker Hirer/S	Locker Number	Locker Hired Date
Gopalapatnam	Mrs. CH Srivalli & Mr. CH V S T Shankar	4-35-1, Laxmipuram Ganesh Nagar, Vepagunta, Visakhapatnam-530047 Andhra Pradesh	Unit 2 Locker no. 12	10.01.2008
Guntur	M/s. Sree Parasnath Rajendrasuri Jain Trust, R Agraharam, Guntur - 522003 Andhra Pradesh	Sree Parasnath Rajendrasuri Jain Trust, R Agraharam, Guntur - 522003 Andhra Pradesh	Unit 1 Locker no. 66	13-08-1996

As per the Reserve Bank of India revised guidelines on a safe deposit locker, we are initiating the process of break open of the said inoperative Lockers. Any person if having any claim in the contents of the said Lockers, please reach out to our branch within thirty (30) days from the date of this notice along with valid proof of the claim. In case, if no claim or any response from the Locker Hirers has been received, then Bank will proceed with the break open of the said Lockers. Bank shall not be liable to the Locker Hirers or to any other person for the break open and for disposing the contents of the said Lockers.

For DBS Bank India Limited, Authorized Signatory

ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL LIMITED
Registered Office : Indian Rayon Compound, Veraval, Gujarat-362266.
Corporate Office : 8-Tech Park, 12th Floor, Nirton Complex, off Western Expressway, Goregaon East -Mumbai - 400063.

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
15 Days E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (54 of 2002).

On account of the amalgamation between Aditya Birla Finance Ltd. and Aditya Birla Capital Ltd. vide the Scheme of Amalgamation dated 11.03.2024 duly recorded in the Order passed by the National Company Law Tribunal - Ahmedabad on 24.03.2025, all SARFAESI actions initiated by Aditya Birla Finance Ltd. in relation to the mortgaged property mentioned below, stands transferred to Aditya Birla Capital Ltd., the amalgamated company.

Accordingly the Authorized Officer of Aditya Birla Capital Limited / Secured Creditor has taken possession of the following secured assets pursuant to notice issued under sub. 13(2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI) for recovery of the secured debts of the secured creditor, for the dues as mentioned herein below with further charges and cost thereon from the following Borrowers and Co-Borrowers. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers and Co-Borrowers that e-auction of the following property for realization of the debts due to the Aditya Birla Capital Limited will be held on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis

Slr No	Name of the Borrower(s) & Co-Borrower(s)	Description of Properties /Secured Assets	Reserve Price (In Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (In Rs.) / Incremental Value (In Rs.)	Demand Notice Date & Total Amt (In Rs.)
1	1. M/S SRI MANIKANTA HOME NEEDS THROUGH ITS PROPRIETOR MR. ARABOLU DURGA PRASADA RAO 2. MR. ARABOLU DURGA PRASADA RAO S/O EDUKONDALU ARABOLU 3. ARABOLU VENKATA DEVI W/O MR. ARABOLU DURGA PRASADA RAO 4. ARABOLU KONDAMMA D/O ARABOLU EDUKONDALU Loan A/c no. ABS_05T500000011699	All That Piece And Parcel Of The Property Situated At Prakasham District, Ongole Sub-District, Maddipadu Mandal, Maddipadu Gram Panchayat, Maddipadu Village Survey No. 83/1 An Extent 242 Sq. Yards In That Site Constructed Rcc Building Door No. 2-164, Bounded On The : East : Road, West : Vacant Site Of Guptha, North : Arabolu Venakeswaralu, South : Rice Mill Belongs To Guptha, Admeasuring 2178 Sq. Fts Or 242 Sq. Yards Or 202.33 Sq. Mts. Of Site And That Site Constructed Rcc Building Admeasuring 1307 Sq. Ft. Along With Existing Construction And Building.	Rs. 45,00,000/- (Rupees FORTY FIVE LAKHS ONLY)	Rs. 4,50,000/- (Rupees FOUR LACS FIFTY THOUSAND ONLY) Rs. 25,000/- (Rupees twenty five thousand only)	06-JUN-2025 & RS. 54,47,585.76/- (RUPEES FIFTY FOUR LAKHS FORTY SEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED EIGHTY FIVE AND SEVENTY SIX PAISE ONLY) as on 05-JUN-2025

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Secured Creditor's website i.e. <https://abcl.adityabirlacapital.com/Pages/Individual/Properties-for-Auction-under-SARFAESI-Act.aspx> or <https://bit.ly/AdityaBirlaCapital>. Contact Details - Aditya Birla Capital Limited, Authorized Officer - Apoorva Danthi (9930909725), Komal Patil (986195795), Jahnil Laskar (9766003075), Hareesh Kumar (9176547103), Lingswamy Battinli (900001411) and Raghuvuera Neerukonda (9642298999)
Date: 10.04.2026, Place: Ongole
Authorized Officer, Aditya Birla Capital Limited

Kautilya School of Public Policy to Host Fourth Graduation Ceremony with Amitabh Kant as Chief Guest

Hyderabad, April 9, 2026 - The Kautilya School of Public Policy (KSPP), GITAM Deemed to be University, will hold its 4th Graduation Ceremony for the Batch of 2026 on Friday, April 10, 2026, at 10:00 AM onwards. The event will see 35 graduates step into the field of public policy and governance.

Shri Amitabh Kant, former CEO of NITI Aayog and India's G20 Sherpa, will grace the occasion as the Chief Guest. A renowned reformer and thought leader, Kant played a pivotal role during India's G20 Presidency, contributing to the landmark New Delhi Leaders' Declaration. His distinguished career includes leading transformative initiatives such as Startup India, Make in India, and Ease of Doing



Business reforms. The ceremony will celebrate the graduating cohort's achievements while reaffirming KSPP's commitment to nurturing future leaders dedicated to inclusive growth and nation-building.

Kannada Short Film 'Pankaja' Makes Global Waves with Sundance Nod & SXSW London Selection

Bengaluru/New York, April 9, 2026 - Young Kannada filmmaker Anooya Swamy is putting regional storytelling on the global map. Her short film Pankaja, deeply rooted in Kannada culture, has been officially selected for the SXSW London Film Festival (June 1-6) following earlier recognition at the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah. Anooya, a Master's student at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and a Teaching Assistant under acclaimed filmmaker Spike Lee, repre-

sents a new wave of Indian talent blending local narratives with global cinematic language. Selection at both Sundance—a premier platform for independent cinema—and SXSW—a major convergence of film, music, and technology—is rare for an Indian regional-language short film, highlighting the strength and universal resonance of her storytelling. With Pankaja, Anooya is carrying the voice of Karnataka to audiences worldwide.



Bhoomi Pooja Performed for Telugu Ganga Pipeline Shifting, Paving Way for Long-Stalled Mangalam- Renigunta Road

Tirupati, April 9, 2026 - The long-pending road construction project from Mangalam RTO Office via Settipalli to Renigunta Road took a major step forward as TUDA Chairman Dollars Divakar Reddy performed Bhoomi Pooja for the Telugu Ganga pipeline shifting works at Mangalam.

The 2.9-kilometre road project, originally sanctioned in 2019 by the then TDP government at a cost of Rs.19.5 crore, has remained stalled since 2019. TUDA has now allocated Rs.2.9 crore from its funds for the pipeline shifting, which is a prerequisite for the road construction to resume.



L&T Finance Limited
(Erstwhile, L&T Finance Holdings Limited)
Registered Office: L&T Finance Limited, Brindavan Building Plot No. 177, Kalina, CST Road, Near Mercedes Showroom Santacruz (East), Mumbai 400 098
CIN No.: L67120MH2008PLC181833
Branch office: Vijayawada

PUBLIC AUCTION FOR SALE OF MORTGAGED PROPERTY

The Authorised Officer of L&T Finance Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 [54 of 2002] and in exercise of powers conferred under the said Act is auctioning the following property on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS CONDITION" by way of "PUBLIC AUCTION" for recovery of its dues and further interest, charges and costs etc.

Name of Borrower and Co-Borrower	Secured Property Address	Loan Account Number(s)	Physical Possession taken	Earnest Money Deposit 10% or more of RP (In ₹)	Secured Debt	Reserve Price (In ₹)	Date of Inspection	Date and Time of Auction
1. Vijaya Kumari M 2. Ramesh Mikkkil 3. Bala Kotahaj Mikkkil	Item 1 An Extent Of 106.25 Sq.yds (88.83 Sq.mtrs) Of Site In Gramakhantam, Harijanavada, Gollapudi, Ibrahimpatnam, Sub Registry Krishna Dist. Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, 521225 Alongwith Door No. 9-86, Asst. No. 6941 And Bounded By East Site Of Mora Bhushanam West Site Of Kancharla Venkaiah North Bazar South Site Of Mora Bhushanam Item 2 An Extent Of 50 Sq.yds (41.83 Sq.mtrs) Of Site In Gramakhantam, Ward No. 5, Harijanavada, Gollapudi, Ibrahimpatnam, Sub Registry Krishna Dist. Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, 521225 And Bounded By East Site Of Mandala Lakshmi West Site Of Mikkkil Vijaya Kumari North Bazar South Site Of Kancharla Koteswara Rao.	H1750028 08210322 16, H0137019 08210309 53, H0137019 08210233 26, H0137019 0821149 49	16th September 2025	Rs. 6,56,789/-	As per Demand Notice dated 10-03-2024, Total outstanding of Rs. 88,71,371.08/- - As On Date 04/03/2025	Rs. 65,67,899/-	On 22-04-2026 from 10.00 A.M to 5.30 P.M with prior appointment.	29/04/2026 from 12:30 P.M. to 2:00 P.M

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF PUBLIC AUCTION

- The E-Auction Sale is being conducted online by the Authorised Officer through the website <https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net/EPROC/> under the provisions of SARFAESI Act with the aid and through public e-auction mode.
- The public E-auction will be conducted on the date and time mentioned herein above, when the secured assets mentioned above will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS" BASIS & "AS IS WHAT IS" CONDITION.
- For participating in the public E-auction, intending purchasers/bidders will have to submit the details of payment of refundable Earnest Money Deposit of 10% of the reserve price of the secured assets along with copies of the PANCARD, Board Resolutions in case of company and Address Proof on or before 28/04/2026.
- The EMD of all other bidders who did not succeed in the public E-auction will be refunded by LTF within 7 days of the closure of the public E-auction. The EMD will not carry any interest.
- The successful purchaser/bidder shall deposit the 25% (inclusive of EMD) of his/its offer by way of D.D./P.O favoring "L&T Finance Limited" payable at Mumbai on or before 18:00 hours on 29/04/2026 i.e., day of e-auction or on the next working day i.e., 30/04/2026, which deposit will have to be confirmed by L&T Finance Limited, failing which the sale will be deemed have failed and the EMD of the said successful bidder shall be forfeited. The balance amount i.e., 75% of purchase price payable shall be paid by the purchaser to L&T Finance Limited on or before the fifteenth day of confirmation of sale of immovable property or such extended period as per provisions of law.
- For inspection of property or more information, the prospective bidders may contact The Authorised Officer i.e L&T Finance Ltd, Brindavan, Plot no. 177, CST Road, Kalina, Santacruz (East), Mumbai - 400 098, Maharashtra, India, Contact No. 0222-68076666. At any stage of the E-auction, the Authorised Officer may accept/reject/modify/cancel the bid/offer or post-poned the E-auction without assigning any reason thereof and without any prior notice.
- The successful purchaser/bidder shall bear any statutory dues, taxes, fees payable, stamp duty, registration fees, etc. that is required to be paid in order to get the property conveyed/delivered in his/her/its favour as per the applicable law.
- The Borrower/Guarantors, who are liable for the said outstanding dues, shall treat this Sale Notice as a notice under Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, about the holding of above-mentioned public E-auction sale.
- The Borrower (s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) are hereby called upon to pay the entire loan outstanding dues as mentioned above before the said E-auction date failing which the L & T Finance Ltd shall sale the property as per the provisions laid down in the SARFAESI ACT, 2002.
- The Borrower (s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) public at large are hereby restrained from transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise with the secured assets referred to in the notice without prior written consent of L&T Finance Limited.

Date: 10.04.2026
Place: Vijayawada
Sd/-
Authorized Officer
For L&T Finance Limited

NORTHERN ARC CAPITAL LIMITED

Regd. Office: 10th Floor, Phase-I, IIT-Madras Research Park, Kanaganah Village, Taramani, Chennai - 600113, Tamil Nadu.

ANNEXURE-V-E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE (Under proviso to Rule 8(6))

SALE OF IMMOVABLE ASSETS CHARGED TO THE BANK UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002.

The undersigned as Authorized Officer of Northern Arc Capital Ltd has taken over possession of the following properties u/s 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act. Public at large is informed that e-auction of the charged properties under SARFAESI Act in the below mentioned cases for realization of NORTHERN ARC'S dues will be held on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and on the terms and conditions specified hereunder.

Name of Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Outstanding Dues for Recovery of which Properties/ies is/are Being Sold
1. Mr. Anakapalli Sudheer Kumar S/O Anakapalli Pyidi Lingam 2(A). Mr. Mounika Anakapalli W/O Nakapalli Sudheer Kumar	Rs. 22,47,788/- and interest thereon w.e.f. as on 10 th Sept. 2025 plus other charges

Description of the property: As Per Regd Partition Deed Bearing Doc No. 1110/2024 Dated 31/01/2024 of Sro Sabbanava, A Site of Extent of 130.Sq.Yards Or 108.69 Sq.Mts Rcc House 669.8 Sft Covered By Survey No. 313, Do No. 16-292, Assessment No. 3527 of Sabbanavaram Village, Sabbanavaram Mandalam Sabbanavaram S.r.o. Anakapalli Dist. Being Bounded By. A Site of Extent of 130.Sq.Yards Or 108.69 Sq.Mts Rcc House 669.8 Sft Having Boundaries: East: House of Anakapalli Trinadha Rao West: Site Belongs To Dendeti Baburao North: CC Road South: House of Dendeti Koteswara Rao

DETAILS OF SALE ARE AS BELOW:-

Reserve Price	Last date for submission of bid and EMD (10% of the Reserve Price)	Bid increment amount	Date and time of E-Auction Sale
Rs. 29,90,00/- (Rupees Twenty Nine Lakh Ninety Thousand Only)	9 th May 2026 Rs. 2,99,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Only)	Rs. 25,000/-	11 th May, 2026 Time 11.00 am to 01.00 pm

Date & Time of Inspection of the Property: 23rd April, 2026 11:00 am to 5:00 pm and upon request call to the Authorised officer Mr. Sunil Verma 9987030148.

Terms and Conditions of the E-auction are as under:

- E-Auction is being held on "AS IS WHERE IS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and will be conducted "Online". The auction will be conducted through Northern Arc Capital Limited's approved service provider M/S E-Procurement Technologies Ltd Auction Tiger Ahmadabad (Contact Person :- Mr. Ram Sharma Cell no. 800002397, Email ramprasad@auctiontiger.net & Contact Person - Mr. Sunil Verma Cell 9987030148 Email sunil.verma@nothernarc.com, Mr. Ramesh Rao 8978284555 and Sameer Suke Cell 9152910835 Email Sameer.suke@nothernarc.com at the web portal (<http://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net>), E-Auction Tender Document containing online e-Auction bid form is available in websites, <http://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net>
- The intending purchasers / bidders are required to deposit EMD amount either through NEFT/ RTGS in the Account No. 65252037994, Northern Arc Capital Limited : State Bank of India & IFSC Code: SBIN0009930 or by way of demand draft drawn in favour of Northern Arc Capital Limited, drawn on any Nationalized or Scheduled Bank.
- Bidders shall hold a valid email ID (e-mail ID is absolutely necessary for the intending bidder as all the relevant information and allotment of ID & password may be conveyed through email).
- The intending bidder should submit the evidence for EMD deposit like UTR number along with Request Letter for participation in the E-auction, self-attested copies of (i) Proof of Identification (KYC) viz. Voter ID Card/ Driving License/ Passport etc., (ii) Current Address-Proof for communication, (iii) PAN card of the bidder, (iv) valid e-mail ID, (v) contact number (Mobile/Landline) of the bidder etc. to Northern Arc Capital Limited by Date 9th May 2026 Time 11:00 AM to 02:00 PM Time. Scanned copies of the original of these documents can also be submitted to the e-mail Id of Northern Arc Capital Limited.
- Names of the Eligible Bidders will be identified by the Northern Arc Capital Limited to participate in online e-auction on the portal, <http://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net> (Auction Tiger) will provide User ID & Password after due verification of PAN of the Eligible Bidders.
- It shall be the responsibility of the interested bidders to inspect and satisfy themselves about the property before submission of the bid.
- The e-auction/bidding of above properties would be conducted exactly on the scheduled Date & Time. The bidder shall improve their offer in multiple of the amount mentioned under the column "Bid Increment Amount" against the property. In case bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the e-auction, the closing time will automatically get extended for 5 minutes. The bidder who submits the highest bid amount (not below the Reserve Price) on closure of e-auction process shall be declared as Successful Bidder and a communication to that effect will be issued through electronic mode which shall be subject to approval by Northern Arc Capital Limited /Secured Creditor.
- The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of the successful bidder shall be retained towards part sale consideration and the EMD of unsuccessful bidders shall be refunded.
- The Sale confirmation/Sale Certificate will be issued in the name of the purchaser(s) / applicant(s) only and will not be issued in any other name(s).

Dated: 8th April, 2026
Place: Visakhapatnam
Sd/-
Authorized Officer
NORTHERN ARC CAPITAL LIMITED

www.thesouthindiatimes.com

Naidu Mocks Jagan's 'MAVIGN' Proposal, Reaffirms Amaravati as Sole Capital

Amaravati, April 9 : Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, N. Chandrababu Naidu, on Thursday mocked YSR Congress Party President, Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, over his 'MAVIGN' proposal and also took a swipe stating "good that he didn't suggest Vatican as the state capital."



Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu (left) and Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy (right) during a meeting at the former Chief Minister's residence in Bapatla district, Vijayawada, Guntur corridor.

He made it clear that Amaravati will be developed as the only and permanent capital of Andhra Pradesh. "Amaravati will not stop even if 1,000 psychos like you try to stop it," said the Chief Minister. He said 49 parties in the Parliament supported the bill to give statutory recognition to Amaravati as the sole and permanent state capital. He said not just NDA partners but other parties also

supported it. Chandrababu Naidu said YSRCP was the only one party to oppose the Bill. "We use to call a leader a psycho but the entire party has become psycho," he remarked. The Chief Minister said YSRCP was talking about women's dignity and recalled that the same party insulted Amaravati women and indulged in their character assassination. He said they also abused his wife in the Assembly.



Tirupati District Collector Dr. S. Venkateswar, J.C.R. Govinda Rao, DRO Sri Narasimulu, MLA Sri K. Adimoolam and others warmly welcome Andhra Pradesh State Scheduled Castes Commission Chairman Sri K.S. Jawahar who arrived in Tirupati.

Advertisement for Altum Credo Home Finance Private Limited, featuring a table with borrower details and property information.

TDP Diverting Attention from 'Mavign' Proposal: Botsa Satyanarayana Slams Achchennaaidu

The South India Times, Visakhapatnam: Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council Bothsa Satyanarayana launched a strong attack on the TDP, accusing it of resorting to diversionary politics to avoid responding to the 'Mavign' capital proposal comprising Machilipatnam-Vijayawada-Guntur. Addressing a press conference at his camp office in Visakhapatnam, Botsa strongly condemned remarks made by Minister achennaaidu. He described the comments targeting former Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy and current



Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy (left) and Botsa Satyanarayana (right) during a press conference.

ensure faster and more accessible governance. He accused the TDP of deliberately avoiding a meaningful discussion on the proposal. He further criticized the minister for ignoring pressing issues like farmer distress while making provocative statements. "Instead of addressing farmers' suicides, attention is being diverted through baseless allegations," he remarked. Questioning the political culture of the TDP, Botsa asked former Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu whether such remarks reflected the party's values. "We too understand politics, but we maintain dignity and restraint," he stated. Botsa concluded by saying that the growing public discussion on the 'Mavign' proposal had unsettled TDP leaders, leading them to resort to diversion tactics instead of constructive debate. The press conference was attended by Araku MP Chetti Tanuja Rani, MLC Kumbha Ravibabu, coordinator Molli Appa Rao, and other leaders.

Advertisement for DBS Safe Deposit Locker - Break open notice, including a table with locker details and borrower information.

Legal notice from the Hyderabad Debts Recovery Tribunal regarding the recovery of Rs. 23,83,191/- against the respondent.

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy as baseless and politically motivated. Botsa asserted that he was an eyewitness to the events surrounding YSR's death and categorically denied claims that Jagan was abroad at the time. "Dragging YSR's name for selfish political gains is unacceptable," he said. He demanded that the minister immediately withdraw his remarks and tender a public apology. "Political differences are natural, but personal attacks and distortion of facts reflect poor political ethics," he added. Highlighting the 'Mavign' proposal, Botsa said it was a cost-effective and practical alternative to Amaravati, which would require enormous expenditure. He noted that Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy had proposed the model to

and students. Registrar R. Usha noted that the certification recognizes the institution's adherence to high-quality academic and administrative standards. The university secured multiple certifications, including ISO 21001:2018 (Educational Organizations Management System), ISO 14001:2015 (Environmental Management), and ISO 50001:2018 (Energy Management), along with a Q5 Star Quality Rating. Notably, its DST-CURIE Laboratory also received ISO/IEC 17025 certification in nanomaterial testing. Officials said the recognition strengthens SPMVV's global reputation, paving the way for enhanced research collaborations, academic excellence, and greater opportunities for students.

SPMVV Secures ISO Certification, Achieves Global Quality Standards

Tirupati: Sri Padmavati Mahila Viswavidyalayam (SPMVV) has achieved ISO certification, marking a major milestone in its pursuit of quality education, efficient administration, and continuous improvement. The certificates were presented by Alapati Sivaiah, who praised the university's commitment to transparency and best practices. Vice-Chancellor V. Uma expressed pride in the achievement, stating it reflects the collective efforts of faculty, staff,

and students. Registrar R. Usha noted that the certification recognizes the institution's adherence to high-quality academic and administrative standards. The university secured multiple certifications, including ISO 21001:2018 (Educational Organizations Management System), ISO 14001:2015 (Environmental Management), and ISO 50001:2018 (Energy Management), along with a Q5 Star Quality Rating. Notably, its DST-CURIE Laboratory also received ISO/IEC 17025 certification in nanomaterial testing. Officials said the recognition strengthens SPMVV's global reputation, paving the way for enhanced research collaborations, academic excellence, and greater opportunities for students.

Advertisement for Utkarsh Small Finance Bank, featuring a table with borrower details and property information.

Notice is hereby given under the securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement (Security) Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of Security Interest (enforcement) rules 2002, the authorised officer issued a Demand Notice on the dates against each account as mentioned hereinafter, calling them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the under noted borrowers having failed to repay the amount that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said act read with rule 8 of the said rules on the dates mentioned against each account. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealing with the properties will be subject to the charge of UTKARSH SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED for the amounts and interests thereon mentioned against each account herein below.

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Advertisement for Altum Credo Home Finance Private Limited, featuring a table with borrower details and property information.

Advertisement for DBS Safe Deposit Locker - Break open notice, including a table with locker details and borrower information.

Advertisement for Hinduja Housing Finance Limited, featuring a table with borrower details and property information.

EDITORIAL

The Real Reason China Stayed 'Quiet' About Its US-Iran Ceasefire Role

Pakistan's media is ecstatic. After all, it was the country's apparent mediation that paused a disastrous war, and it is probably going to host the first delegation as early as next week. This is Pakistan's moment in the sun, or so it seems. But a tweet posted by the Prime Minister exposed embarrassingly enough that there might have literally been a US handle working the mediation machine. Standing quietly in the shadows is China. Its Foreign Minister has been busy, having made some 26 calls recently. It is also to host the US President soon. Meanwhile, Trump acknowledged Beijing's intervention in a single line. That counts for something. From this mess, some will emerge as winners. Others will scramble to clean up the dust.

The Key Motivation To Mediate

At first sight, Pakistan's diplomatic cup seems to be overflowing. Iran's Foreign Minister, Abbas Araghchi, has expressed gratitude and appreciation on X for the 'brotherly country' of Pakistan, though not just praising Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif but also Field Marshal Asim Munir. That should cloud the former's already knitted brow a bit. But Munir has apparently been working the lines the whole night, talking to the US and Iranian negotiators, all of which adds considerably to his stature. That's a big plus for his longevity in a country where former political heads or even army chiefs have had a sticky end. Consider that former Chief of Army Staff Javed Bajwa died un-mourned and mysteriously recently. The biggest win for Munir, and for his country, however, cannot be publicised. And that is, keeping Pakistan out of the Iran-Saudi war, and thereby sliding out of implementing last year's 'Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement'. That was a black-and-white commitment that required Islamabad to aid the Saudis if they were attacked. When the first drone attack hit, the Saudis summoned the Field Marshal, with Defence Minister Prince Khalid posting pointedly that the two had discussed the attacks "and the measures needed to halt them within the framework of our Joint Strategic Defence Agreement". Any support to the Saudis would have had Iran venting its wrath on Pakistan, with a couple of missiles landing in its capital. An already enraged Shia population, which was told by an arrogant Munir to "go to Iran" if it so wished, would have risen up against the army. A catastrophe was averted through the mediation exercises. Danger again came perilously close when Iran recently hit the Jubail Petrochemical complex days ago, which led to Sharif yet again thanking Riyadh for its "restraint". It's not over, though. Even after the declaration of the ceasefire, a vital pipeline that bypasses the Hormuz has been hit. That could upset the apple cart.

Fronting For The US

Into all this desperation came the US. The New York Times story confirms that a tweet, posted ostensibly by the Pakistan PM, was in fact drafted in the White House. Trump couldn't be seen as asking for a ceasefire, so he got Pakistan to 'front' the exercise, while pulling the levers behind. Recall that the tweet was mistakenly posted as 'Draft: Pakistan PM's message on X' calling for an extension to the deadline to the US, and cooperation from "Iranian brothers". It was a dead giveaway. Then came another kerfuffle. Sharif again posted that Iran and the US, "along with their allies", would also implement the ceasefire in Lebanon. That was denied almost immediately by Vice President JD Vance, who said the ceasefire was Iran-focused. Yet another post earlier by Sharif, appealing for an end to attacks by all parties, was marked to everyone but Israel. Clearly, the perils of a mediation exercise are immense when the mediator doesn't recognise one of the central parties to the war. Pakistan's passport explicitly states that travel to Israel is barred. It seems then that a Prime Minister cannot acknowledge its existence in a post on X.

After all, what did the war bring?



PRIYANKA SAURABH

(Civilization, balance, and humanity in danger)

The world once again appears to be at a crossroads where the voice of humanity is drowned out by displays of power, threats, and military activity. Recent events have renewed the question of what war truly achieves. Is it merely a display of strength, or does it hold a lasting solution? History and experience both confirm that war does not end any problem, but rather gives rise to an endless series of new ones. Today, as instability in the global landscape grows, this question becomes even more pressing.

War is often initiated in the name of national security, self-defense, or honor, but its consequences are far more widespread and devastating. After a war, even the so-called victors are weakened from within. Their economies are severely strained, resources are wasted, and social structures begin to crumble. This has a direct negative impact on areas such as education, health, and development. On the other hand, defeated countries are already buried under the rubble of destruction, where the process of reconstruction can last for years, and generations pay the price. In this entire process, ordinary citizens suffer the most, who neither directly contributed to the war nor had any influence on the decision-making process.

War not only brings physical destruction, but it also leaves deep wounds at the psychological and cultural level. Displacement, fear, insecurity, and mental trauma are conditions that affect societies long after the war.



Children, women, and the elderly are most affected. Their normal course of life is disrupted, and they are thrust into an uncertain future. Civilizations that develop over thousands of years can crumble in a matter of days or months. Recent events also demonstrate that external attacks and pressure, rather than weakening a country, can make it more organized and aggressive. When a nation is constantly under pressure, nationalism becomes stronger. People set aside their internal differences and unite against the external threat. Thus, the very strategy adopted to subdue a country can ultimately empower it. It is one of the greatest ironies of war that it often

fails to achieve even its stated objectives. The impact of war is not limited to the belligerent countries; its effects are felt globally. Vital sectors such as the international economy, trade routes, and energy supplies are directly affected. A crisis in sensitive sea lanes such as the Strait of Hormuz can impact global economic stability. The consequences, such as oil price fluctuations, supply chain disruptions, and investment uncertainty, are felt globally. The impact is even more severe for developing countries, whose economies are already dependent on limited resources. When superpowers become involved in a conflict, the situation becomes even more complex. Their intervention is not

limited to the military, but also takes on diplomatic, economic, and strategic dimensions. This makes it difficult for small and medium-sized countries to articulate their positions. They often seek a balance that protects their national interests and avoids becoming involved in a larger conflict. However, maintaining this balance is not easy, as every decision has far-reaching consequences. West Asia is a prime example of such complex conflicts, where tensions persist for political, religious, and strategic reasons. The situation here suggests that even a small spark can escalate into a widespread conflict. The involvement of various countries and organizations has made the region even more sensitive. The impact of any development here is felt not only regionally but also globally. In this context, some countries have attempted to demonstrate balanced and mature diplomacy. They prioritized not only their own national interests but also global peace and stability. This is proof that solutions to complex situations can be found through dialogue and diplomacy. While this process may be slow and challenging, it is the most reliable path towards lasting peace. Another important dimension of warfare today is information and propaganda. War is no longer confined to the battlefield, but is also fought in the media and digital platforms. Information control, the spread of rumors, and attempts to influence public opinion have become integral parts of this conflict. This has made it even more difficult to distinguish between truth and falsehood. In the age of social media, even a small amount of misinformation can create widespread confusion and tension. Additionally, war has a serious impact on the environment. Bombing, the use of chemical weapons, and the destruction of industrial infrastructure cause long-term environmental damage. Water, air, and land pollution disrupt the natural balance. This has a negative impact on biodiversity, and this loss is often irreversible. Thus, war affects not only the current generation but also future generations. Ultimately, it is clear that war is not a permanent solution to any problem.

From Institution Builder to Life Mentor: The Journey of Dr. Vijay Garg

-Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

The world of education in India today is becoming increasingly entangled in a dazzling array of statistics, percentages, and rankings. The quality of schools and colleges is now judged by how many students top exams, secure prestigious jobs, and crack competitive examinations. But amidst this landscape, a fundamental question often goes unaddressed—is education merely a means to deliver results, or is it also a process of shaping human beings? A living answer to this question is Dr. Vijay Garg, whose life and work introduce us to the true meaning of education.

Dr. Vijay Garg's name cannot be remembered solely as an administrative officer or principal. He led educational institutions for nearly four decades, but his contributions transcended the boundaries of position or responsibility. He was one of those rare educators for whom education was not a profession, but a moral obligation. His personality embodies the simplicity of a teacher, the depth of a thinker, and the sensitivity of a guide.

His life is a testament to the fact that a true teacher is not merely a source of information, but one who ignites the fire of thought within students. He believed that the purpose of education was not to provide answers, but to cultivate the ability to ask questions. This was why students who came in contact with him not only passed exams but were also prepared to face life's complex questions. Dr. Garg's early life was spent in humble circumstances, but his thinking was extraordinary. He grew up in an environment where education was viewed not as a means to achieve social status, but as a responsibility. Despite limited resources, he pursued his education with dedication and commitment, ultimately earning a doctorate. However, he never made this achievement the center of his personality. For him, it was merely a stepping stone, not the ultimate goal.

It was this humility and constant learning that set him apart. He believed that knowledge is never complete and that a teacher should remain a lifelong student. When he assumed the position of principal, he brought with him the idea that the head of any institution should first and foremost be a dedicated learner. This philosophy was clearly evident throughout his administrative career. He would arrive at school first thing in the morning and stay late. For him, this was not just a duty, but a spiritual prac-



He understood every aspect of the school—classroom activities, teachers' problems, and students' needs. He approached problems not by issuing orders, but by understanding and solving them. His administrative style was characterized by sensitivity, not rigidity; by dialogue, not distance. He never considered teachers subordinates, but rather as colleagues. He never judged students solely by their roll numbers or results, but instead strived to develop them as complete individuals. For him, the measure of an institution's success was not exam results, but the character and thinking of the students who graduated. Dr. Garg's colleagues and students often recount his ability to recognize his students by name, even years later. This wasn't simply a matter of memory, but a testament to the deep connection he forged with them. He saw potential in every student and made every effort to fulfill that potential.

Often, he would quietly help students who were falling behind. Sometimes by offering a piece of advice, sometimes by providing an opportunity, he shaped the lives of many. For him, education meant more than just teaching, but also holding the hand of anyone who was on the verge of falling.

Over time, when his formal tenure ended, he didn't turn to retirement as a means of relaxation. For him, it was simply a change in his approach to work. He separated himself from administrative responsibilities, but never from the world of ideas and contemplation.

Today, he expresses his views on issues of education and society through his writings. His writings clearly reflect his depth of experience and clarity of thought. He writes on topics such as education policy, the challenges facing youth, and the decline of values, but his approach is always balanced and practical. He not only points out problems but also suggests solutions. His writing doesn't feel like a sermon, but rather like a dialogue. Readers feel as if they are talking to someone who has seen life closely, understood its complexities, and yet has not given up hope.

Dr. Garg's influence wasn't limited to his institutions. His students are now making their mark in various fields—some as doctors, some as engineers, some as teachers, and some as administrative officers. But his greatest achievement isn't that his students were successful, but that they became sensitive and responsible citizens.

CELEBRATION OF SERVICE ON DAUGHTER'S BIRTHDAY



(A gamut of emotions filled with blood donation at the Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Barwa)

Bhiwani/Hisar (Dr. Satyawan Saurabh), April 9.

While society often remains silent on the birth of a daughter, a family in the village of Barwa redefined this thinking. A blood donation camp was organized, turning the birth of Arvi, daughter of Pawan Lakhera, not just a celebration but a festival of service—and this initiative gave a new voice to the sentiments. That day, the Government Girls High School campus became not just a place, but a platform filled with the heartbeat of humanity. Organized jointly by the National Social Organization Bhiwani branch and the Shivalik

Yuva Mandal, 36 units of blood were collected at this camp. It was as if each blood donor had come to ignite the flame of an unseen life by extracting a drop of life from within themselves. Guests at the event

certificates and plants—as if service had been accompanied by nature's blessings.

On this occasion, the sentiments of Mahendra Lakhera, a well-known social worker

WHILE SOCIETY OFTEN REMAINS SILENT ON THE BIRTH OF A DAUGHTER, A FAMILY IN THE VILLAGE OF BARWA REDEFINED THIS THINKING.

described this initiative as an inspiration for society. In their words, the event was not limited to blood donation, but also a message of respect for daughters, equality, and social awareness. Blood donors were honored with

from Barwa, were particularly vocal. He said that the blood donation camp and Jalwa Pujan program organized to celebrate the birth of his granddaughter were successfully completed with everyone's sup-

This event isn't just news, it's a message—that when joy touches the lives of others, it goes beyond celebration and becomes an inspiration. This initiative to donate blood upon the birth of a daughter reflects the changing face of society, where daughters are no longer just a responsibility, but a symbol of pride and compassion.

(Dr. Satyawan Saurabh, PhD (Political Science), is a poet and social thinker.)

Oil prices rise again on the fragile Iran ceasefire

Hong Kong: Oil rose again to above USD97 a barrel and Asian stocks were trading lower Thursday, April 9, on skepticism over a fragile ceasefire between the US and Iran. Investors were closely watching whether a two-week ceasefire between the United States and Iran was already slipping after a round of deadly Israeli strikes on Lebanon that killed and injured hundreds. Iran again closed the Strait of Hormuz, in response to the attacks in Lebanon. Tokyo's Nikkei 225 dropped 0.9% to 55,824.30, while South Korea's Kospi lost 1.6% to 5,776.03. Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell 0.4% to 25,801.87. The Shanghai Composite index was down 0.7% to 3,965.70. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 edged down 0.1%, while Taiwan's Taiech was also 0.1% lower. US futures were down more than 0.1%. Oil prices were up Thursday, reversing an earlier plunge on optimism over the temporary ceasefire agreement. Brent crude, the international standard, was up 2.4% to USD97.02 per barrel. It previously fell briefly to below USD92 a barrel following the temporary ceasefire announcement.



Benchmark US crude was 3.3% higher on Thursday at USD97.50 a barrel. Uncertainties over global energy supply remained. The Strait of Hormuz, a chokepoint for energy transport where a fifth of the world's oil typically passes, was largely closed even though the US repeatedly demanded that the strait must be reopened. Talks to pursue a permanent end to the war could be taking place as soon as Friday in Pakistan, and US Vice President JD Vance is expected to be leading the negotiating team for the United States. Wall Street closed

higher Wednesday following US President Donald Trump's announcement of a two-week ceasefire with Iran late Tuesday. The S&P 500 jumped 2.5% to 6,782.81. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 2.9% to 47,909.92. The Nasdaq composite was up 2.8% to 22,635.00. Following renewed hopes over deescalation of the war, shares of United Airlines surged 7.9% on Wednesday, American Airlines was up 5.6%, while cruise ship operator Carnival jumped 11.2%, trimming losses since the Iran war began on concerns over

rising fuel costs. In other dealings, gold and silver prices fell. Gold's price dropped 0.7% to USD4,743.20 an ounce. The price of silver fell 1.6% to USD74.18 per ounce. The US dollar rose to 158.66 Japanese yen from 158.57 yen. The euro was trading at USD1.1668, up from USD1.1663. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said Israel's continued strikes on Lebanon amount to a "flagrant violation" of the ceasefire and could undermine ongoing negotiations. In a post on X, he said the repeated attacks were a "dangerous indicator

of deceit and lack of commitment" to potential agreements, warning that continued strikes would render diplomacy meaningless and that Iran would not abandon Lebanon. Latest updates here UAE reports no aerial threats as ceasefire takes effect ahead of talks The UAE Ministry of Defence confirmed that on April 9 the country's airspace remained free of any aerial threats, with no ballistic missiles, cruise missiles or drones originating from Iran detected in recent hours. The update comes after the United States and Iran agreed to a two-week ceasefire on April 8 and are expected to hold peace talks in Pakistan on April 11. Since the start of Iran's attacks, UAE air defences have intercepted 537 ballistic missiles, 26 cruise missiles and 2,256 drones. Authorities said 224 people have been injured and 13 killed. Iran nuclear chief rejects limits on enrichment Iran's atomic energy chief Mohammad Eslami said the country's uranium enrichment programme will not be curtailed, asserting that external pressure will not succeed in limiting it.

Eat Smart This Summer With This Protein-Packed Diet

Highlights
■ Summer has arrived early, and with beach trips on the horizon, now is the perfect time to kickstart your fitness routine.



Summer has arrived early, and with beach trips on the horizon, now is the perfect time to kickstart your fitness routine. While gym sessions are essential, diet plays an equally vital role in sculpting and maintaining a healthy body weight. Ritika Samaddar, Regional Head of Dietetics at Max Healthcare - New Delhi, recommends this straightforward, protein-rich plan featuring California Almonds, Greek Yoghurt, and Salmon. Morning Kickstart: California Almonds and Boiled Eggs Begin your day with a few California Almonds. Rich in protein, healthy fats, vitamin E, and magnesium, they help sustain energy levels without sudden spikes. They are an excellent addition to any fitness-

focused diet. Pair them with two boiled eggs for complete protein. This combo is portable, filling, and perfect for busy mornings.

LUNCH: GRILLED CHICKEN BREAST SALAD

Opt for grilled chicken breast tossed with mixed greens, cherry tomatoes, and cucumber. This meal delivers lean protein, fibre, and hydration from veggies, keeping you light yet satisfied through the afternoon.

EVENING SNACK: GREEK YOGHURT WITH CHIA SEEDS

Recharge in the late afternoon with Greek yoghurt topped with a teaspoon of chia seeds. This snack delivers probiotics for gut health,

sustained energy, and a refreshing, cooling effect.

DINNER: BAKED SALMON WITH QUINOA

End your day with a baked salmon fillet served alongside cooked quinoa and steamed broccoli. This nutrient-rich plate offers omega-3 fatty acids for skin health, anti-inflammatory benefits, and complete proteins to support overnight muscle repair. This simple routine emphasises supporting muscle building, controlling hunger, and aiding weight management. Avoid heavy carbs in the afternoons as they are difficult to digest. Aim for portion control, good hydration and light exercise. These easy, practical tips can help you stay fit and energised during the summer heat.

Project Glasswing: The cybersecurity arms race India cannot afford to ignore

Anthropic, the American artificial intelligence (AI) company behind the Claude assistant, has built an AI model so sharp at reading software code that it found security flaws hiding in major operating systems and web browsers for over two decades — flaws that the best human experts and automated tools had missed. The model is called Claude Mythos Preview, and Anthropic has no plans to release it to the public. Instead, it has pulled together Amazon, Apple, Google, Microsoft, NVIDIA, Cisco, CrowdStrike, JPMorganChase and others into a coalition called Project Glasswing to use Mythos defensively, hunting down and fixing vulnerabilities before attackers find them. Anthropic is backing this with USD 100 million in credits and USD 4 million in donations to open-source security bodies. What Mythos actually did Mythos found a 27-year-old bug in OpenBSD, an operating system considered unbreakable. It found a 16-year-old flaw in FFmpeg video software used by almost every streaming app



on your phone in a line of code that automated scanners had tested 50 lakh times without catching. It chained together multiple Linux kernel flaws to show how an attacker could seize full control of a server. It did most of this without human guidance. Why this matters in India Every UPI transaction you make, every Aadhaar verification at a ration shop, every IRCTC tatkal booking, every medical record stored at a government hospital — all of it runs on layers of the same open-source software that Mythos is now scanning. Linux powers your Android

phone and bank servers. A serious vulnerability in any of these systems is not some faraway American problem. It is our problem. Why Anthropic will not release this model The same capability that makes Mythos brilliant at defence makes it equally dangerous for attack. If freely available, ransomware gangs, state-backed hackers and freelance criminals would have a tool that finds exploitable flaws faster than any human. Cybercrime already costs the world an estimated USD 500 billion a year. Whether Anthropic's intentions are noble or not,

the fact that this capability exists at all changes the game permanently. The real danger: When open-source catches up Mythos is locked away today. But AI capability spreads fast. Open-source models have been closing the gap with proprietary ones for years. When an open-source model reaches this level, anyone with a laptop will have it. Picture what that means for India. A coordinated attack on UPI could freeze digital payments for crores of people. An exploit targeting Jio or Airtel's network software could knock out communications across states.

PARAGON INTRODUCES CASHBACK OFFER ON WOMEN'S FOOTWEAR, STRENGTHENS FOCUS ON FASHION-FORWARD STYLES

Amaravati, April 2026: Paragon, India's most trusted footwear brand, has announced a cashback offer on its women's footwear collection, as part of a key initiative to encourage purchase among women consumers and increase accessibility to its fashion-forward styles. Under the offer, consumers receive an assured ₹30 instant cashback through a simple QR-based process. Each product comes with a scratch-enabled QR code on the tag, which can be scanned to access the cashback page. By entering the voucher code and basic details, consumers can quickly claim the cashback, creating a seamless experience while accessing Paragon's fashion-forward styles with added value. Paragon's women's collection is strongly anchored in fashion-forward, trend-driven and appealing designs, closely aligned with evolving buying preferences of women consumers who seek not just comfort and



durability, but also variety, style and relevance to current trends. Through this initiative, Paragon aims to make its women's footwear range more accessible to a wider set of women buyers. Currently contributing 15-20% of overall sales, Paragon aims to scale the women's footwear segment to 40% within the next three years, highlighting the

brand's continued focus on strengthening its presence in the category. Commenting on the initiative, Sachin Joseph, Executive Vice President - Marketing & IT, Paragon Footwear, said, "The women's footwear category represents a key focus area for Paragon as we continue to strengthen our portfolio with designs that balance

style, comfort and everyday functionality. The cashback initiative has been introduced to enable greater access to the collection and encourage more consumers to explore our expanding range of contemporary styles across occasions. Our continued focus is on making fashion-forward footwear more accessible to a broader set of women consumers across markets." With a diverse portfolio spanning multiple categories, Paragon continues to focus on offering relevant design, everyday comfort, and dependable quality to meet varied consumer preferences. The women's category is expected to play a pivotal role in driving both topline growth and brand repositioning in the coming years. **About Paragon** Paragon was founded in 1975 and since then it has emerged as a marquee brand in the footwear industry, for its steadfast dedication to excellence, durability, and fashion.

Mahindra University Launches B. Tech LL.B. (Hons.) Programme Bridging Law and Emerging Technologies; Admissions Now Open

In response to the rapidly evolving intersection of law and technology, Mahindra University has announced the launch of its B. Tech LL.B. (Hons.) programme, a future-focused offering designed to equip students with a deep understanding of both legal frameworks and emerging technological domains. As industries increasingly navigate complex regulatory environments shaped by advancements in artificial intelligence, data protection, cybersecurity, fintech, and digital ecosystems, the demand for professionals with interdisciplinary expertise has grown significantly. The newly introduced programme seeks to address this gap by integrating core legal education with technological literacy and practical exposure. The B. Tech LL.B. (Hons.) programme at Mahindra University offers a comprehensive curriculum that combines



foundational legal principles with specialized insights into technology-driven sectors. Students will gain exposure to contemporary areas such as AI governance, privacy laws, cyber regulations, and financial technologies, enabling them to engage meaningfully with modern legal challenges. A key highlight of the programme is its emphasis on experiential learning. Students will participate in internships, moot courts, hackathons, and industry-led engagements,

ensuring they develop not only academic knowledge but also practical skills and real-world perspectives. This approach aims to prepare graduates for diverse career pathways across law firms, corporate legal teams, regulatory bodies, and technology-driven enterprises. Speaking on the launch, E.R. Jayaram, Professor & Dean, School of Law, Mahindra University, said: "The future of law lies at the intersection of legal reasoning and technological understanding. With the B.Tech LL.B. (Hons.) programme, we are creating a new generation of professionals who are not only grounded in legal fundamentals but are also equipped to navigate and shape the regulatory frameworks of emerging technologies. Our focus is on building future-ready lawyers who can engage with innovation responsibly and effectively."

Not wearing helmets can now lead to 3-month driving license ban

Hyderabad: Riders caught without a helmet in Hyderabad will face a three-month suspension of their driving licence under stricter traffic rules being implemented by the city traffic police to curb violations and improve road safety. The proposed penalties, part of a broader crackdown on traffic offences, include a fine of Rs 100 for the first helmet violation, while a second offence will attract a fine of Rs 1,000 along with suspension of the licence, officials said. According to a News 18 report, India records nearly 5 lakh road accidents annually, resulting in approximately 2 lakh deaths. Other proposed changes include higher penalties for over-speeding, with Rs 2,000 for the first offence and Rs 20,000 for the second. Jumping a traffic signal will invite Rs 500 for the first offence and Rs 5,000 for the second. Allowing a minor to



drive will attract a fine of Rs 25,000 and three years in jail. Not giving way to an ambulance will cost Rs 1,000 for the first offence and Rs 10,000 for the second. Under digital enforcement measures, vehicles may be blacklisted if challans for offences committed over the past five years are not cleared within 45 days. Offenders' registration certificates (RC) and driving licences could also be frozen. Once

frozen, the vehicle cannot be sold, insurance renewal will be blocked and driving with a cancelled licence will lead to seizure of the vehicle. Officials said vehicles may also be blocked in the online database if pending challans remain unpaid beyond the 45-day deadline. The digital enforcement methods will include black listing of vehicles if the challans of less than five years aren't paid in 45 days.

Amazon expands Counterfeit Crimes Unit to India combat fake goods



New Delhi: E-commerce major Amazon on Thursday, April 9, announced the expansion of its Counterfeit Crimes Unit (CCU) to India, aimed at strengthening consumer protection and intensifying the crackdown on the sale of fake goods. The unit will bring together local experts to work closely with Indian brands, sellers, and law enforcement agencies to dismantle counterfeit operations and safeguard intellectual property rights in the country's fast-growing e-commerce sector. "The

unit will focus on proactively detecting and removing counterfeit listings, safeguarding intellectual property, and enabling coordinated enforcement action against bad actors, while deepening collaboration with industry bodies and government stakeholders. This effort is in line with Amazon's broader long-term commitment to India, including its plan to invest more than USD 35 billion across its businesses in the country through 2030," Amazon said in a statement.

Israel issues new warnings for Beirut as Iran says attacks breach ceasefire

Capitol Hill has been empty for days now, with lawmakers out of town on their "spring break". There's been bipartisan frustration, with politicians away from their desks at a time when the US is engaged in a war with Iran. That concern reached a peak on Monday when President Donald Trump threatened to end a "whole civilization". Democratic lawmakers were furious at the president and dozens called for the 25th Amendment to be invoked - a method to remove a president from office. The key check lawmakers have on the president in times of war is via the War Powers Act, which attempts to limit a president's ability to wage war. The measure, if approved by Congress, would stop military operations against Iran until the Trump administration could obtain congressional approval. Early in March, just after Trump announced that Israel and the US had invaded Iran,



both the senate and the house voted on war powers resolutions. They both failed. Today, in a symbolic gesture, House Democrats will try once again to pass a war powers measure. They're trying to show Americans that they want to rein in the president. It will almost certainly fail. But it may give Americans who want the war to end a glimmer of hope. Israel's Defence Minister Israel Katz

says his country's operation in Lebanon has dealt a "very strong blow to Hezbollah's face, leaving it stunned and confused by the depth of the penetration and the scope of the blow". The defence minister says the Israel Defense Forces is "prepared and ready to act forcefully if Iran fires at Israel". As a reminder, Iranian officials have said that the Israeli strikes on Lebanon are a violation of the ceasefire agreement - and the president has warned Iran's hands will "remain on the trigger". Katz says that over 200 people, who he describes as terrorists, were killed on Wednesday in Lebanon, bringing the total number of those killed during the operation to over 1,400. Earlier, Lebanon's health ministry said 203 people were killed in Israeli strikes on Wednesday

and officials have said more than 1,700 people have been killed since Israel launched its latest campaign in Lebanon last month. Lebanon's Prime Minister Nawaf Salam has asked his Pakistani counterpart, Shehbaz Sharif, for his country's support in putting an end to Israeli strikes against Lebanon, according to a readout of a phone call between the pair released by Pakistan's Prime Minister's Office. Pakistan acted as a mediator for the US-Iran ceasefire agreement. The readout reports that Sharif told Salam he "strongly condemned Israel's ongoing aggression". It says Salam "sought Pakistan's support for bringing an immediate end to the attacks targeting Lebanon and its people". The head of Iran's nuclear agency has ruled out any restrictions on uranium enrichment, a key demand of the United States, adding to concerns that the current ceasefire

may not result in a peace deal. It's unclear who's making the big decisions in Iran - after its leadership was decimated - but a number of top officials have been making comments that put in question the foundations on which the talks due to take place with the US in Islamabad this weekend are based - at least according to Washington. Throughout the war, the US and Israel have insisted that their key aim was to end Iran's ability to build a nuclear weapon for good. The US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth said that Iran must either hand over its enriched uranium or the US will take it. The remarks by the head of Iran's nuclear agency clearly contradict this - a preview of just how difficult negotiations are likely to be. One view is that President Trump could make Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accept Lebanon's inclusion in the Iran ceasefire deal.

Twenty-one managed to get out, but four were trapped. José Alejandro Cástulo was rescued after five days under ground, and another miner died, but it took rescuers a full 13 days to locate Francisco Zapata. Following more than 300 hours of searching, divers finally spotted the blinking of the miner's torch light, which Zapata had turned on and off to alert them to his location. "How are you, how are you?" rescuers asked as they reached him. Once they had identified themselves as specialised military divers, they tell the miner that "your torch-light helped us a lot".

TRAPPED MINER RESCUED FROM FLOODED MEXICAN TUNNEL AFTER 14 DAYS



Mexican army divers have rescued a miner from a flooded underground tunnel two weeks after he was first trapped. Francisco Zapata Nájera, 42, was stuck 300m (985ft) below ground after an embankment collapsed at the gold mine in the northern Mexican state of Sinaloa. Video of the rescue shows him standing in waist-deep water, telling his rescuers that he never lost faith during his ordeal. The search continues for another miner who is still missing. Twenty-five workers were inside the gold mine when the tailings dam - a structure which holds mining waste - burst on 25 March.

Hezbollah to stop attacking Israel, Khatibzadeh responded that Hezbollah was a "Lebanese freedom movement" which he was "not shy to say" received "support" from Iran. He said the deal that was reached - "which Trump called a workable framework" - meant Iran, Washington and each of their allies were to adhere to the ceasefire, and claimed Hezbollah had "very much abided by that". The minister was also asked about Tehran's warning that ships passing through the Strait of Hormuz without its permission "would be targeted and destroyed" despite the ceasefire, during which ships are meant to be allowed through the vital waterway - and whether this could be considered an act of war.

TRUMP CRITICISES NATO AS ALLIANCE CHIEF DESCRIBES MEETING AS 'VERY FRANK'



Donald Trump has again attacked Nato for not supporting the US in the Iran war, following a private meeting with its Secretary General Mark Rutte at the White House. In a post shared to Truth Social after the meeting, the US President said: "NATO WASN'T THERE WHEN WE NEEDED THEM, AND THEY WON'T BE THERE IF WE NEED THEM AGAIN." Meanwhile, Rutte has described his meeting to CNN with Trump as "very frank" and "very open", despite clear disagreements. Ahead of the talks on Wednesday, Trump had toyed with the idea of quitting the trans-Atlantic military alliance after several Nato countries resisted his calls to help reopen the Strait of Hormuz to ease rising global oil prices. The White House did not disclose details of the talk. The Secretary General was at the White House for over two hours on Wednesday, although it is unknown how long the meeting with Trump was. The meeting was expected to cajole and convince Trump that it's in his interest, and America's, to stay in the Nato alliance.

What is clear, however, is that Trump still has deep misgivings about the alliance and the member countries that he believes did not help the US enough before and during Operation Epic Fury. In recent weeks, Trump has threatened to withdraw from the 32-member transatlantic alliance. Asked about Nato's role in the ongoing conflict with Iran, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt on Wednesday said in a direct quote from the president that Nato was "tested and they failed". Leavitt said Nato countries had "turned their backs on the American people," who fund their nations' defense, and that Trump would have a "very frank and candid conversation" with the Nato chief. Meanwhile, much of Rutte's message to Trump appears to be that many European countries did not stand in the way. The Secretary General told CNN that he pointed out that "the large majority of European nations has been helpful with basing, with logistics, with overflights". "It's therefore a nuanced picture," Rutte said.

BEST-SELLING THE HOUSEMAID AUTHOR FREIDA MCFADDEN REVEALS TRUE IDENTITY

One of the biggest mysteries in publishing has been solved, after the best-selling US author known to millions of readers as Freida McFadden revealed her true identity. McFadden has been one of the world's most popular authors of recent years, thanks to thrillers like *The Housemaid*. The author has never made a secret of the fact Freida McFadden is a pseudonym, and that she also works as a doctor, but had never revealed her real name. She has now told USA Today she is actually Sara Cohen. "I'm at a point in my career when I'm tired of this being a secret," she explained. "I'm tired of people debating if I'm a real person or if I'm three men. I am a real person and I have a real identity and I don't



have anything to hide." Under the name McFadden, she was the second best-selling author of 2025 in the UK, selling 2.6 million books, and sold six million print copies in her home country. Those sales were fuelled by the success of *The Housemaid*, which was first published in 2022 and was turned into a film last year starring Sydney Sweeney and Amanda Seyfried.

Israeli strikes in Lebanon 'grave violation' of ceasefire, Iran minister tells

An Iranian minister has told the BBC that Israeli strikes in Lebanon on Wednesday constituted a "grave violation" of the US-Iran ceasefire agreement. Deputy Foreign Minister Saeed Khatibzadeh said Lebanon was covered by the two-week deal agreed on Tuesday - something the US and Israel dispute - and said the US must choose "between war and ceasefire". The Lebanese health ministry has said at least 203 people were killed on Wednesday in air strikes on what Israel called Hezbollah command centres and military sites. Pressed on whether Tehran would likewise ask Hezbollah to stop firing rockets toward Israel, Khatibzadeh claimed the Iranian-backed militant group had "abided" by the



ceasefire. Hezbollah said on Thursday that it had fired at Israel overnight in response to what it called ceasefire violations. It has also threatened to keep up its attacks until "Israeli-American aggression" against Lebanon comes to an end. Speaking to BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme, Khatibzadeh said Tehran had sent a "crystal clear" message to the White House

late on Wednesday which could be summarised as "you cannot have cake and eat it at the same time". "You cannot ask for a ceasefire and then accept terms and conditions, accept all the areas that a ceasefire is applied to, and name Lebanon, exactly Lebanon in that, and then your ally just starts a massacre." Pressed on whether this meant Iran would also ask

BTS DELIGHTS FANS WITH FIRST SHOW IN \$1BN WORLD TOUR

Tonight felt defined less by perfection and more by emotion. The early tension - anticipation over the comeback's success, worries about the weather, and the spotlight on the members' recent comments about pressure - gradually gave way to something lighter, warmer. Despite earlier concerns, RM appeared on stage without a cast, a reassuring sight for fans. While the rain may have limited the kind of powerful, tightly synchronised choreography that BTS are famous for, it didn't dampen the connection between the group and their audience. Throughout the show, all seven mem-



bers repeatedly expressed how grateful they were - not just for the support, but for the chance to perform in front of fans again. That feeling was clearly mutual. As concertgoer Park Su-bin tells us: "The 360-degree stage was so refreshing and brilliant, and the staging

tailored to it. It's a shame it rained, but I think it'll still be a special memory." Besides their chart-topping hits, BTS has achieved a longevity rarely seen in the K-pop world, where groups have come and gone, and where member exits are common. Many say close-

knit chemistry is what's powering BTS - despite having taken time off for solo projects and mandatory military service, all seven of them are committed to staying together, often referring to one another as "family". In recent interviews, the band's members have shared their desire to continue performing together in their older years. "We're still here because we love each other so much. With fans and no reason to quit this precious brand and family, these people are my youth itself," leader RM told an Apple Music Radio programme a day after their latest album dropped.

He's Australia's most decorated soldier. Now he's at the centre of a historic war crimes case



One of the most significant moments in Australian military history unfolded without fanfare on a tarmac at Sydney airport, when Ben Roberts-Smith was calmly escorted off a plane and into a waiting police car. The country's most-decorated living soldier and the most famous of his generation, Roberts-Smith was on Tuesday charged with five counts of the war crime of murder. It follows a high-profile civil defamation case, which three years ago found that the former Special Air Service (SAS) corporal and Victoria Cross recipient had unlawfully killed several unarmed Afghan detainees. Roberts-Smith, who left the Australian Defence Force (ADF) in 2013, denies all wrongdoing and says the allegations are "egregious" and driven by spiteful and jealous peers. His case - now set to be tested to a higher, criminal standard - has become the face of Australia's reckoning over the country's alleged conduct in Afghanistan, which has cast a pall over its much-mythologised military legacy. "For Roberts-Smith to

now be charged with war crimes - and not just one, but multiple war crimes - is a very significant cultural and social moment for a country that, for much of its history... has placed a lot of store in the exploits and contributions of the members of its defence forces." Professor Donald Rothwell told the BBC. But the prosecution of such a highly-decorated veteran is also an extraordinary moment for the globe. "We've never seen this before," says Deane-Peter Baker, a special forces ethics scholar. When Roberts-Smith came home from Afghanistan in 2013, he was considered a national hero, having been awarded Australia's highest military honour for single-handedly overpowering Taliban fighters attacking his SAS platoon. Plum speaking engagements and board gigs, magazine covers and massive portraits, accolades and awards - like Father of the Year - followed. But in 2018, Nine newspapers began publishing a series of articles alleging misconduct during his time with the SAS - claims of unlawful beatings and killings of prisoners.



Artemis crew returning to Earth with 'all the good stuff' from Moon discoveries

ARGENTINA PASSES BILL LOOSENING PROTECTION OF ITS GLACIERS

Argentina's Congress has passed a controversial amendment making it easier to mine in glacier regions, a move environmentalists say weakens protections for crucial water sources. The pioneering Glacier Law, approved in 2010, prohibited all mining and exploration activities in glacier regions by protecting them as water reserves. The reform shifts the responsibility of defining protected glacier areas from the Argentine Institute for Snow, Ice and Environmental Sciences (Ianicla) to the provincial governments. President Javier Milei, who backed the reform, said the change

"empower[s] the provinces to utilise their resources" and allows mining activities "where there was nothing to protect". Argentina's Senate had already approved the bill in February 2026, so approval by the lower house was the last major hurdle left. Opponents of the reform argued that it would put a fundamental resource - water - at risk. "Without water, we can't even think about a growth and development project," Congresswoman Natalia de la Sota said. But a backer of the bill, Congresswoman Nancy Picón Martínez, said that the mining industry was being portrayed "as if it were a monster".



Tyson Fury Faces Bear-Wrestling Arslanbek Makhmudov In His Latest Comeback

Tyson Fury's latest comeback has revived the prospect of a long-awaited showdown with Anthony Joshua. First, though, the self-described "Gypsy King" needs to deal with a Russian-born heavyweight who wrestled a bear for fun. Arslanbek Makhmudov is Fury's opponent in their 12-round fight Saturday at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium. Fury, the former two-time heavyweight champion, came out of retirement for the fifth time because he wants to "punch men in the face and get paid for it." The 37-year-old Fury had called it quits shortly after losing to Oleksandr Usyk in December 2024 for a second time - his only two professional defeats. Usyk holds the WBC, WBA and IBF titles and at age 39 has indicated he only has a few fights left in him. The Ukrainian's next bout, though, has taken everyone by surprise - he's set to face kickboxing star Rico



Verhoeven in May at the Pyramids of Giza in Egypt. Also in May, WBO title holder Fabio Wardley faces Daniel Dubois in Manchester. Usyk told The Associated Press in a recent interview he foresees a trilogy bout with the charismatic Englishman: "In my head, Tyson Fury, it's the last dance." In their first meeting, Fury had lost his WBC

title to Usyk via split decision in May 2024. The rematch was a unanimous decision for Usyk. Fury (34-2-1, 24 KOs), if he can take care of business Saturday, has his sights set on Joshua, telling DAZN: "That's the fight we're looking to make next." The 36-year-old Joshua had called out Fury after breaking Jake Paul's jaw in a stoppage victory in

December. Days later, though, Joshua was involved in a fatal car crash in Nigeria. He was a passenger in the vehicle and two of his close friends were killed. Fury has said the tragedy is part of what motivated him to come out of retirement. Joshua appears set to resume fighting. Last weekend, he attended the Deontay

Wilder vs. Derek Chisora bout in London and had a brief exchange with Wilder after the American beat Chisora. The 36-year-old Makhmudov (21-2, 19 KOs) has created some buzz by posting a video that showed him wrestling a bear. He explained in a Feb. 21 social media post that "the goal was to overcome the threshold of fear and learn to control yourself in critical situations." Makhmudov hails from the Russian southern republic of Dagestan but lives in Canada. His most recent fight was a 12-round unanimous decision over Dave Allen in October. Makhmudov's left eye was swollen shut in a loss to Guido Vianello in 2024. He was felled by Agit Kabayel's body shots in a fourth-round stoppage in 2023. Conor Benn (24-1, 14 KOs) returns to Tottenham after two middleweight slugfests there against Chris Eubank Jr. in 2025.

Babar Azam, Marnus Labuschagne's 'Peace Gesture' During PSL Brutally Trolled By Internet

A "peace gesture" was made before the start of a Pakistan Super League (PSL) 2026 game between Peshawar Zalmi and Hyderabad Kingsmen on Wednesday, as team captains Babar Azam and Marnus Labuschagne, along with PSL CEO Salman Naseer, released a white dove during the toss. The act came in the aftermath of the two-week ceasefire between the United States and Iran concerning geopolitical tension in the Gulf region. However, the PSL's "peace gesture" received criticism from several users on social media. Meanwhile, Babar Azam found himself at the centre of a heated moment off the field after dismissing comparisons with Virat Kohli during a post-match press conference in the Pakistan Super League 2026. The Peshawar Zalmi skipper, who guided his side to a tense last-ball



victory over the Hyderabad Kingsmen, appeared visibly displeased when questioned about his ability to finish games in comparison to Kohli. While Babar contributed a measured 43 off 37 balls in the chase of 146, he was not at the crease at the end, prompting the query. Responding in a seemingly frustrated manner, Babar brushed aside the suggestion and urged the journalist to move on from such debates. "Finish these things. Keep these things

to yourself. End the comparison and move on. It's your misconception that I have not finished matches," he said. The exchange quickly gained traction, once again highlighting the scrutiny surrounding cross-border comparisons between leading cricketers. Widely regarded as Pakistan's premier batter, Babar has often been praised for his consistency, though his approach in T20 cricket has drawn criticism, particularly around strike rate and finishing ability.

Bangladesh Cricketers 'Highly Underpaid', New BCB Head Tamim Iqbal 'Reportedly Shocked'

There has been a big change in Bangladesh cricket since the change in government. Former Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) chief Aminul Islam Bulbul has been removed, while former captain Tamim Iqbal is now leading the organisation. Reflecting on the decision to substantially increase domestic match fees and the salaries of men's and women's cricketers, Tamim said players had long been "highly underpaid" and warranted better financial acknowledgment. This decision marks the first move by the Tamim-led ad hoc committee, which began its work earlier this week, providing much-needed relief to Bangladesh's domestic cricketers, especially those



in the women's league. Although there was a hike, Tamim recognised that the updated figures represent only progress in the right direction. "This may not be ideal, but it is certainly an improvement, considering there are limits to how much can be increased at once," he told

ESPNcricinfo. Tamim was reportedly shocked, according to the ESPNcricinfo story, to learn that women cricketers earned as little as BDT 1,000 per match in domestic one-day competitions, a figure that has increased only slightly in recent years. As per the BCB's new salary

structure, match fees have been raised across different formats, with women players now earning BDT 10,000 for T20 matches, BDT 15,000 for 50-over games, and BDT 20,000 for first-class fixtures. Additionally, the monthly retainers for the top 36 women cricketers have been raised from BDT 30,000 to BDT 40,000, highlighting a wider effort to enhance financial stability within the system. The overhaul extends beyond women's cricket. Male domestic players have also received a salary increase, with Category A players now earning BDT 65,000 per month, while those in Categories B and C will receive BDT 50,000 and BDT 40,000 respectively.

'Dead Ball' Rule Row Strikes IPL After Delhi Capitals' 1-Run Defeat vs Gujarat Titans. Internet Reacts

Gujarat Titans pulled off a thrilling one-run win over Delhi Capitals with Kuldeep Yadav getting run-out on the final ball of the IPL 2026 encounter on Wednesday. With 2 runs needed off 2 balls, David Miller refused to take a single in order to stay on strike and that decision backfired massively as his team fell short of the target by the smallest of margins. However, there was another decision in the match that has the social media buzzing. In the 10th over of the DC innings, Nitish Rana was struck on the pads by a delivery from Rashid Khan and while the batters completed a single, the umpire raised his finger. DC went for the review



and although the decision was eventually overturned by the third umpire, the ball was deemed dead and the run did not count. At 9.2 overs, Nitish Rana completed a single, but the run wasn't counted because the umpire had initially given

him out, even though DRS later overturned the decision in his favour. DC eventually lost the game by 1 run@ashwinraviv99 what do you think of this rule, April 9, 2026 This has been one of the contentious rules in modern cricket as

MCC Law 20.1.1.3 states that "a ball is considered dead after a batter is dismissed. The ball will be deemed to be dead from the instant of the incident causing the dismissal". Nitish Rana was given lbw but DRS showed there was a contact, they had taken a single but as umpire had given it as out the run was nullified and it became a dot ball. That foolish rule need to go out, it costed Delhi the match Law 20.6 doubles on the concept and makes it clear that the ball will remain dead even if the original decision is revoked - "Once the ball is dead, no revoking of any decision can bring the ball back into play for that delivery".

SEVEN GAMES TO GO - HOW WILL DE ZERBI TRY TO SAVE SPURS?

Clubs at risk of relegation tend to hire pragmatic coaches. But that is not how you would describe new Tottenham boss Roberto De Zerbi. The Italian is known for his attacking style of possession-based football, and has stayed true to his footballing ideas throughout his managerial career. Three years after starting in management in Italy's fourth division, De Zerbi was in charge of Serie A side Palermo, where he struggled to showcase his initial potential. When he was sacked, newly promoted Benevento hired him, but relegation followed. Despite that, De Zerbi's reputation was boosted - and he has enjoyed much success since. The 46-year-old's quality is clear but his system relies on smart and technical play-



ers more than most tactical plans. So what tactics will De Zerbi implement at Spurs, and will this relegation-threatened group of players be able to execute them? Looking at De Zerbi's Brighton and Marseille sides, you soon notice how often they repeat certain patterns of play. When building up, the idea is to draw opponents towards defenders on the ball before

using quick passing routines to find free players facing forward. They are better positioned to play the ball up the pitch quickly into the attackers. When it works, De Zerbi's sides turn possession in their own half into shots near the opposition's goal within a few seconds. It's an electrifying watch - but the level of potential attacking reward comes with great risk. De Zerbi's approach requires defensive players to take responsibility with the ball - delaying actions until they have forced opponents to press them. In a recent training clip, external he was seen coaching his new players through concepts to make his tactics easier to implement. For central defenders under no pressure, the advice was to take many touches.

Strategic Shift In Dhaka: Bangladesh Makes Fresh Attempt To Repair Cricketing Relations With India

The appointment of former Bangladesh captain Tamim Iqbal as the interim president of an 11-member ad-hoc committee has offered the board fresh hope of reviving relations with India. Under his leadership, the board has formalised its interest in touring India while simultaneously inviting the BCCI to Bangladesh for a bilateral series later this year. This move carries significant weight, as India is already scheduled to visit Bangladesh under the current World Test Championship cycle. The development appears to be a clear diplomatic effort by the new administration in Dhaka to mend fences and move beyond recent friction between the two nations. Cricketing relationship between the two countries



hit an all-time low after Bangladesh pulled out of the T20 World Cup 2026 over 'security concerns' in India. Bangladesh were replaced by Scotland in the tournament after ICC refused to entertain the former's 'venue change' request. The BCB ad-hoc committee has also been tasked with conducting fresh elections within the next 90 days, marking a transition phase

in Bangladesh's cricket administration following the removal of chairman Aminul Islam Bulbul. Aminul Islam Bulbul Appeals to the ICC The ousted Bulbul has written to the International Cricket Council (ICC) seeking intervention after being removed by the National Sports Council. However, the plea is unlikely to gain much traction.

YUVRAJ SINGH OPENS UP ABOUT HIS CANCER DIAGNOSIS



One of the biggest match-winners in Indian cricket, Yuvraj Singh's story is one that would inspire several generations of cricketers. From winning Player of the Series awards in the 2007 T20 World Cup and the 2011 ODI World Cup to making a return after battling cancer, Yuvraj's life is a true cricketing hero's memoir. The man who beat cancer and made a comeback to the Indian team opened up on his battle with the deadly disease, revealing that he was told he had only three to six months left to live. Yuvraj was battling cancer during the 2011 World Cup, but he chose to fight the pain and doubt to deliver some of the finest performances of his career. After the World Cup ended, however, the former all-rounder realised how much his health had deteriorated. "It was hard to accept. At the peak of your career, you're on top of a mountain and then you fall into a ditch. I was in Delhi. We were going on tour to the West Indies and England. Ganguly had retired and my Test spot had just opened. I was waiting seven years for that spot. I said, 'I don't care if I die, I need that spot.' But I got sick-

er and sicker. "Dr Nitesh Rohatgi said to me, 'The tumour is sitting between your heart and lung. Either you go and play cricket or you might have a heart attack. You've got three to six months left to live if you don't do chemotherapy.' That's when I realised I needed to think," Yuvraj said during a chat with Michael Vaughan on The Overlap Cricket. This is when Yuvraj moved to the USA for treatment and was told that he might never get to play cricket again. But the winner's mentality in him didn't let him lose hope. "I went to the US to see Dr Einhorn, who treated Lance Armstrong. It took a whole year to come to terms with the fact that I might never play again. Mentally, it was harder. I needed something to motivate myself. If I don't play cricket, who am I? I'm no one. That's what I believed," he said. Yuvraj added that he kept watching cricket videos while undergoing treatment. During this period, the likes of Anil Kumble and Sachin Tendulkar paid him a visit to see him. Kumble even advised him to take rest and not put strain on his mind by watching videos.

Sania Mirza Academy Serves Big: Elite High-Performance Programme Launched With Portuguese Coach

The Indian tennis ace has announced a landmark collaboration with internationally renowned coach Marco Seruca to launch a High Performance Tennis Programme starting May 1. It is an initiative aimed at reshaping India's tennis pipeline with global standards. This is a structured system designed to produce elite competitors. The impact will be on technique, fitness, game awareness and mental conditioning. It promises a 360-degree approach to the sport of tennis. Sania's partner in the project, Seruca, is a former Portuguese Davis

Cup player with over 35 years of coaching experience. He steps in as the Head Coach. His resume spans continents, including his stint as Technical Director at the Chandigarh Lawn Tennis Association and a founder of the MS Star Academy. Seruca talks about his reason for joining hands with Sania, "India has extraordinary raw talent. What has been missing is a structured, high-performance environment to channel it," Seruca said. "The Sania Mirza Tennis Academy provides exactly the right platform to do that." For Mirza-a six-time

Grand Slam champion and former World No.1 in Doubles, this move is a natural extension of her long-term vision. Since stepping away from professional tennis, she has focused on building pathways for the next generation. Mirza says, "Bringing Marco Seruca to Hyderabad gives Indian players access to the standard of coaching they deserve." The programme will operate six days a week, blending high-intensity on-court sessions with professional fitness regimes and competitive match play. Each player will receive individualized development plans, regular per-

formance tracking, and guidance on tournament pathways-mirroring systems seen in top global academies. Hyderabad, already a proven sporting hub, now adds another layer to its high-performance ecosystem. Notably, Olympic medallist Gagan Narang has built a similar pathway in shooting through his elite "Gun For Glory" academies, across 11 states and 15 academies. Mirza becomes the second Hyderabad sporting icon to invest deeply in structured, world-class training infrastructure-signalling a broader shift from individual excellence to institutional legacy.



The trailer of the film “Thimmarajupalli TV” was launched by Victory Venkatesh

Watch our film Thimmarajupalli TV to experience technical brilliance, strong performances by the artists, and the beautiful village atmosphere: Hear Kiran Abbavaram Encouraging new talent, hero Kiran Abbavaram is producing the film “Thimmarajupalli TV” under his KA Productions in association with Sumaira Studios. Teja Velpucharla is the co-producer. Sai Tej and Veda Jalandharr are being introduced as the lead actors with this film. V. Muniraju is making his debut as a director. Set against a village backdrop, this period drama is gearing up for a grand theatrical release on the 17th of this month. The trailer launch event was held grandly in Hyderabad.



Actor Saikrishna said, “I played a character named Dakshinam in this film. We shot the movie on the borders of three states. Without mobile phones, we lived among the locals while filming. It reminded us of our childhood memories. You will feel the same when you watch the film.” Actor Balraj said, “Though I have acted in many films, no one has recognized me like this and invited me onto the stage. Kiran gave me that opportunity. I play the role of Uttaram. Saikrishna and I will entertain you in the roles of Uttaram and Dakshinam.” Actor Chitti said, “I played

the role of the hero’s friend. This is a rooted story based on village life. Our director Muniraju has presented it in an engaging way.” Actress Karishma said, “I played the role of Gangoji. I feel lucky to get such a good role. Please watch our film in theaters and share your response.” Actress Swati said, “This is my debut film, so it is very special to me. The story revolves around the drama that unfolds in a village where there is only one TV. You will see an engaging narrative throughout.” Actress Rajashree said, “I played the role of Roja. The film is set in the 1990s. You

will see how simple life was back then. It’s a film that can be enjoyed with family.” Actor Anil said, “Back then, TV itself was the biggest celebrity in our lives. Today, we are forgetting TV. People from villages miss that atmosphere when they move to cities, which is why many now go to villages for vacations. This summer, come to theaters to watch our film.” Actor Lathish said, “I played a character named Lathish. Watching this film will take you back to your past, which is very beautiful. We were excited on the first day of shooting, and we

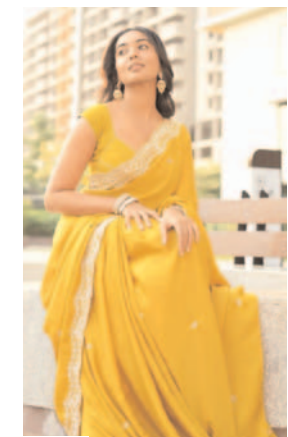
feel the same excitement even today.” Actor Teja Vihan said, “I played the character TV Kumar. The story is set in a village located at the borders of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka. Our director has created an interesting story around this setting. Watch our film in theaters on the 17th.” Actor Amma Ramesh said, “It was my mother’s dream to see my photo on a poster, and today that dream has come true. I’ve been in the industry for 28 years. I remember the early days of television, when we used to visit houses that had TVs to

watch programs. Kiran has built this film on that backdrop. He will earn a good name from day one. Director Muniraju guided us with discipline like a teacher.” Actor Satyanarayana said, “TVs were once an important part of our lives. The happiness we experienced back then is unknown to this generation. To understand that joy, they should watch our film.” Art director Sudheer Macharla said, “This is my seventh film with Kiran. Our journey started with ‘Raja Vaaru Rani Gaaru.’ Just like our first film, we worked on this one with the same honesty and inno-

cence. That innocence creates magic, and you will see that in this film.” Actor Pradeep Kotte said, “Just as good as the trailer is, the film will be equally impressive. This movie will appeal not only to people from the 80s and 90s but also to the current generation because emotions are universal. Whether it’s buying a TV for the first time or a mobile phone, the joy is the same. You will see freshness in our film.” Director V. Muniraju said, “Things that are disappearing are usually preserved in museums. If you want to see such a museum on screen, watch our film on the 17th. Our movie is like a museum that showcases fading culture, memories, and emotions related to television. This is not just the story of Thimmarajupalli, but of people from both Telugu states. Nearly 50 million people aged 40+ in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana will connect with this film and enjoy it with their families.” Heroine Veda Jalandharr said, “You liked the three songs released from our film. The content in the movie goes beyond what you saw in the trailer. The purity and emotions will be even more impactful. We shot for 35 days and created many memories. We all worked with dedication and love for cinema to live up to Kiran’s trust. Watch our film with your parents and grandparents on the 17th.”



SHIVATHMIKA GLOWS BRIGHT IN SAREE



Shivathmika Rajashekar, daughter of the veteran actor duo Rajashekar and Jeevitha, began her cinematic journey with the critically acclaimed Telugu film Dorasaani in 2019. Following her

debut, she appeared in a handful of projects such as Panchathantram and Rangamarthanda, which earned her respect for her performance despite not becoming major commercial blockbusters. While she showed early promise, she has struggled to maintain consistent momentum in the Telugu industry, with her last notable appearances in the region occurring roughly three years ago. Meanwhile, in her recent pictures, Shivathmika exudes a classic and elegant charm, wearing a vibrant mustard-yellow saree adorned with delicate silver embroidery and a scalloped border.

“Diamond Decoyit” Promises an Emotional Experience That Will Move Audiences to Tears

The much-discussed Tollywood family emotional drama “Diamond Decoyit” is all set for a grand theatrical release across the Telugu states on Friday (April 10). Ahead of the release, the film’s pre-release event was held at the Telugu Film Chamber, where the team shared key highlights and special announcements about the movie. One of the major attractions announced by the makers is a special offer for women audiences. The team revealed that four shows of the film will be screened free of cost for women in theatres across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The makers invited women viewers in large numbers to experience the film on the big screen. The film stars Partha Gopal as both hero and producer.



with Meghana Reddy as the female lead. Directed by writer-director Surya G. Yadav, the film is described as a complete family emotional drama packed with heartfelt moments and strong sentiments. According to the team, the climax of the movie is especially powerful and is

expected to leave audiences deeply moved. The promotional content of the film has already received encouraging responses. Veteran filmmaker K. Raghavendra Rao appreciated the trailer after watching it, while several film personalities who attended preview screen-

ings reportedly praised the movie. Speaking at the event, hero-producer Partha Gopal said: “Diamond Decoyit is a complete family emotional drama that every family can connect with. The beautiful locations in Kadapa district are a special highlight of the film. We have arranged four free shows for women and invite everyone to watch the film in theatres.” Director Surya G. Yadav added: “Thirty-three years ago, Matrudevobhava touched the hearts of audiences deeply. With Diamond Decoyit, we are making an attempt to recreate that level of emotional connection for today’s generation. This is not just a movie—it reflects love, pain, sacrifice, and relationships found in every family.

‘Sarkar Bai’ Movie Launch Ceremony Held Grandly at Secunderabad Ganesh Temple

The upcoming film Sarkar Bai, set against a Telangana social backdrop, was formally launched with a grand pooja ceremony at the Ganesh Temple in Secunderabad. The film stars Sriram Nimmala and Sai Keerthana in the lead roles and is being directed by Lara. As part of the muhurat ceremony, producer Tummala Praful Ram Reddy switched on the camera, while director Lara directed the first shot. The muhurat clap was given by Telangana Income Tax Officer Dasaram. On the occasion, guests conveyed their best wishes to the film unit. Speaking at the event, director Lara said that the film is based on real-life water-related incidents and caste discrimination issues that took place in 1985. She expressed confidence that



the film, which reflects people’s struggles and social realities, will receive strong support from audiences in both Telugu states. She also appealed to viewers to encourage meaningful cinema with socially relevant themes. The film features Sriram Sriram

Nimmala as the hero and Sai Keerthana as the heroine. The supporting cast includes Baahubali Prabhakar, Naga Mahesh, Dil Ramesh, Chalaki Chanti, Chittibabu, Shivani Reddy, Nupur Mukherjee, Atidhi, and others in important roles.

The remaining cast members will be finalized soon, and the shooting of the film is expected to commence later this month, the makers announced. The launch event at the Ganesh Temple was attended by the film team in a festive atmosphere.

‘Bigg Boss’ fame Ambati Arjun’s Paramapadha Sopanam to release on April 24

Ambati Arjun, who impressed audiences with films like Arddhanaari, Theppa Samudram, and Wedding Diaries, became more popular with Bigg Boss. He is also playing an important role in Ram Charan’s Peddi. Now, he is coming as a hero with Paramapadha Sopanam. Jennifer Emmanuel is the heroine. The film is produced by Ganaparthi Narayana Rao and Telaprolu Prasanna Anjaneyulu under Swayambhu Creations, with Pulagam Supriya as co-producer. It is directed by Naga Shiva, a former assistant of Puri Jagannadh. Music is composed by Dave Jand, who worked on Eagle. Songs and the teaser got good



response. The film has completed all works and will release on April 24th. A

new poster showing Arjun’s intense look is getting good attention.

Sreeleela Should Reset Before the Next Big Leap?

Sreeleela made a striking debut in Tollywood with the 2021 romantic drama, Pelli Sandadi. Later, she scored a super hit with Dhamaka and soon became an A-list actress in the South. However, none of her films since 2022, barring Bhagavanth Kesari, have become successful at the box office. Despite scoring consecutive flops, Sreeleela has been grabbing some big offers. According to the latest buzz, the young actress will play the female lead in Ajith Kumar’s upcoming film with Adhik Ravichandran. However, people feel that instead of signing films on a

trot, it is time for the actress to take a breath and reset her career. As per reports in the Tamil media, Ajith will start shooting for his next film, AK 64, in May. Sreeleela will be seen alongside him for the first time in this movie. Anirudh Ravichander is composing the music for this film. AK 64 will be Sreeleela’s second film in Tamil, after Parasakthi. This year, she already faced two consecutive flops in the form of Parasakthi and Ustaad Bhagat Singh. Both are big films featuring star heroes. Still, due to the disappointing story and screenplay, they ended up as flops.

Despite scoring such big flops, Sreeleela is jumping onto other films without taking a pause. People on social media opined that though she has good charm and dances well, she needs to concentrate more on her strengthening her acting skills. Thus, they felt it would be better if she takes a pause, instead of signing new films on a streak. Off screen, her journey has been equally remarkable. Amid a packed acting schedule, Sreeleela recently achieved a significant personal milestone by earning her MBBS degree, reflecting a discipline that extends far beyond cinema.

