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Nayara Energy hikes petrol price by Rs.5 Litre

MONEY MATTERS 9

Buzz: Pooja Hegde Is Back In Trivikram's Camp



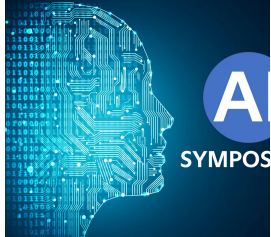
BOX -OFFICE 12



Mumbai: A glimpse of the Maharashtra State Cultural Department's three-dimensional digital LED drone show using around 2,000 drones to create various iconic images and saints of Maharashtra, in Mumbai on Thursday

MUMBAI

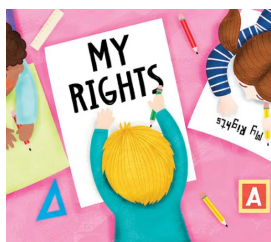
SHORT TAKES



CM TO ADDRESS HARVARD AI SYMPOSIUM VIRTUALLY TODAY

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy will participate virtually in an Artificial Intelligence Symposium hosted by Harvard University today.

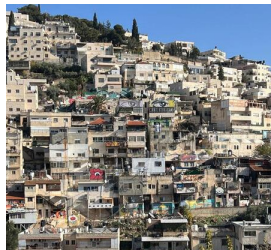
SPECIAL 02



GJU & C-LAB PROMOTE CHILD RIGHTS EDUCATION

The C-LAB and Guru Jambhwar University signed an MoU to launch courses and research in child rights, supported by India Child Protection and Just Rights for Children network across undergraduate postgraduate levels.

MONEY MATTERS 09

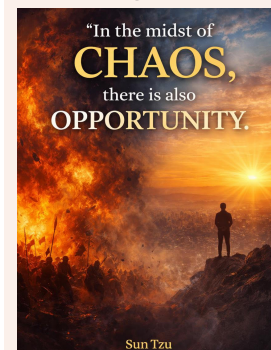


ISRAEL & PALESTINE NEW SECURITY ARCHITECTURE

Contrary to optimistic vision of stabilisation and economic development in the Middle East contained in Trump administration's US strategic documents, Israeli political elites appear to perceive the coming years as a period of systemic uncertainty.

OPINION 06

THE DAILY MANTRA
VISION@TACTICS.



"In the midst of CHAOS, there is also OPPORTUNITY."

- Chaos is not purely negative — it disrupts order, but it also creates openings.
- Opportunities emerge when others are confused, fearful, or unprepared.
- Those who can stay calm and think strategically during disorder gain an advantage.

Collected by

Venna Srinivasa Reddy

TIMS to Become Super Specialty Hubs

CM Revanth announces a slew of reforms in the Health sector

- ❖ CM Relief fund for teaching medical hospitals.
- ❖ Patients under Arogyasri will be provided treatment in teaching hospitals
- ❖ Irregularities in utilization of CMRF funds in the previous BRS government
- ❖ The last government put heavy burden by not paying Arogyasri dues to hospitals
- ❖ TIMS hospitals will be developed as Specialized hospitals
- ❖ Exclusive website for NRI doctors to serve people in Telangana state
- ❖ Indira Jeevitha Bima to 1. 15 crore families as per Caste Census report
- ❖ CM Revanth Reddy made a statement on the Health sector in the Assembly today.



HYDERABAD, MARCH 26

In a move to strengthen the health sector and ensure to access advanced medical treatment to the poor instantly, honourable Chief Minister Shri A Revanth Reddy announced that the government will introduce a slew of health reforms which included the sanction of CMRF funds to the Teaching medical hospitals, developing TIMS hospitals as the specialized

hospitals, prompt payment pending Arogya Sri dues to the government as well as private hospitals. Speaking in the Assembly on Thursday, the Chief Minister said that lack of adequate medical professionals was a major challenge to provide medical treatment to the poor. The government was formulating a plan to refer patients covered under the 'Arogyasri' scheme to the teaching hospitals. 35 medical colleges were

already functioning but the patients are not visiting these hospitals. In addition to Arogyasri, the government will also allocate funds from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) to the teaching hospitals. This initiative will lead to improved administration and management of the hospitals, the CM said that a Group one level officer will also be appointed for effective management of the teaching hos-

pitals. The state government disbursed ₹2,046 crore under the CM Relief Fund till the date. CM Revanth Reddy alleged that irregularities were reported in issuing CMRF cheques in the previous BRS government. Some individuals misused the CMRF and cases were also booked. The people's government took several measures to curb irregularities by introducing

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >



14 Killed in AP Bus-Tipper Collision

At least 14 passengers were killed and several others injured after a private travel bus collided with a gravel-laden tipper truck and caught fire near Rayavaram in Andhra Pradesh's Markapuram district early Thursday morning, with many victims reportedly burnt alive in the devastating accident.

NEXT DOOR 05

TG inks 44 MoUs worth Rs.2.19 lakh crore in Davos deals: Sridhar Babu

HYDERABAD, MARCH 26

Minister for IT and Industries Duddilla Sridhar Babu announced that during the visits to Davos in 2024 and 2025, the Telangana government has entered into a total of 44 Memoranda of

Understanding (MoUs) with various corporations, which encompass investments totaling ₹2.19 lakh crore. These investments are presently at various stages of implementation. Consequently, it is anticipated that 68,150 direct employment

opportunities will be generated in Telangana, he said. Giving a reply to the questions raised by members Katipalli Venkataramana Reddy, Payal Shankar, and Dhanpal Satyanarayana in the Assembly

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

"Bhu Bharati" to Launch in 5 Mandals from April 2

HYDERABAD, MARCH 26

The Telangana government will roll out the Integrated Bhu Bharati Portal on a pilot basis in five mandals from April 2, State Revenue, Housing and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy announced on Thursday. The new digital land records management system aims to replace the Dharani portal and simplify land-related services by integrating Revenue, Survey, and Stamps & Registration departments under a single platform.

Speaking after a review meeting at the Secretariat, the Minister said the initiative, envisioned by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, is designed to ensure

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Southern RRR Gets Fresh Push;

Centre Initiates DPR for Key Stretch

HYDERABAD, MARCH 26

The long-pending Southern Part of the Regional Ring Road (RRR) has moved a step closer to reality, with the Centre initiating preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR), following sustained efforts by Roads & Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy.

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, in a communication to the Minister Komatireddy, confirmed that the proposal submitted for the southern corridor is under consideration and that a consultancy has been appointed for DPR preparation, which is currently in progress. Welcoming the development, Minister Komatireddy expressed satisfaction over the Centre's positive response and thanked Gadkari for acknowledging the State's request made in the larger interest of Telangana.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

TRUMP'S SUPREME LEADER DRAMA:

A POWER PLAY SCRIPTED FOR APPLAUSE, NOT PROOF

A WAR BURNS. A LINE IS DELIVERED. AND THE WORLD IS EXPECTED TO CLAP

BY C SUBRAHMANYAM



A dramatic claim by Donald Trump that Iranian figures suggested him as Supreme Leader carries no evidence and collapses under structural and political scrutiny. Set against a volatile backdrop of conflict and leadership uncertainty in Iran, the remark operates as psychological messaging rather than diplomatic reality. Competing narratives from Washington and Tehran are shaping perception, but the ground truth remains unverified, and the risks of rhetorical escalation in an active

conflict are growing. In the middle of a live conflict that is redrawing fault lines across West Asia, Donald Trump has thrown a line that sounds less like statecraft and more like stagecraft. At a Republican fundraiser, he declared that Iranian figures, shaken by leadership turmoil, had informally sounded him out as their next Supreme Leader. He claims he declined.

It drew laughter. It drew headlines. It also drew a very serious question. Who benefits from such a claim when the region is already on edge?

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

CEMENTING DREAMS WITH SUPERIOR STRENGTH.

Bharathi CEMENT
SUPERIOR QUALITY. GUARANTEED.

ULTRAFAST
FAST SETTING CEMENT

3 TIMES BETTER

GERMAN TECHNOLOGY
ROBOTIC QUALITY CONTROL
TAMPER PROOF PACKING



BRS Working President KTR visited and consoled the family of former Chevella MP Ranjith Reddy



Hyderabad: Following the recent demise of Ranjith Reddy's mother, KTR went to their residence, met the family members, and expressed his condolences. He encouraged them to stay strong during this difficult time. On this occasion, KTR spent some time speaking with the family and prayed for the soul of Ranjith Reddy's mother to rest in peace.

Registrations open for NMDC Hyd Marathon 2026

Hyderabad: Registrations for the "NMDC Hyderabad Marathon 2026" are now open, marking the 15th edition of one of India's premier city marathons. The event, organized by the Hyderabad Runners Society, will accept entries until April 30. The Early Bird phase saw strong participation, highlighting the marathon's growing popularity. This year introduces a refreshed logo and will feature over 30 NGO partners as part of its charity initiative, with a dedicated Charity Window opening in May. With an expected turnout of over 32,000 runners, the marathon continues to promote fitness, inclusivity and community engagement. (NSS)

IIIT-H, NITI Aayog explore quantum leap in life sciences

Hyderabad: The IIIT Hyderabad, in collaboration with NITI Aayog, hosted a high-level roundtable on "Quantum Technologies for Life Sciences" at its campus. Experts highlighted quantum computing's long-term promise and immediate potential of quantum sensing in healthcare, diagnostics, and drug discovery. A roadmap and white paper are in the works. The workshop featured brainstorming sessions, invited talks, and panel discussions among experts from academia, industry, and government, with the broader vision of understanding the potential impact of quantum technologies on various life science challenges. "The convergence of quantum technologies and life sciences presents both immense opportunity and significant complexity. Our focus is on identifying realistic, high-value problems where quantum approaches can deliver tangible impact, while building a collaborative ecosystem to take these ideas forward," said Prof Deva Priyakumar, IIIT-H Dean of R&D. Prof Indranil Chakrabarty, Head of IIIT-H's Centre for Quantum Science and Technology added, "We are honoured by the opportunity to engage with NITI Aayog and look forward to continued collaboration in the future." "The initiative with IIIT Hyderabad is a key step in translating India's quantum ambition into tangible outcomes. By building a collaborative ecosystem across academia, industry, and government, we aim to translate high-impact use cases into deployable solutions—accelerating innovation in healthcare while strengthening India's technological leadership and sovereignty," said Rama Devi Lanka, Lead Architect, Frontier Tech Hub, NITI Aayog.

Revanth to participate in Harvard University's AI Symposium today

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy is scheduled to participate virtually in the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Symposium hosted by HKSEd at Harvard University on March 27 (Friday). This inaugural AI Symposium at Harvard University aims to convene distinguished representatives from government, industry, and academia to discuss the swiftly advancing global landscape of artificial intelligence. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, an executive education alumnus of the institution, has been invited to deliver the keynote address. In view of the ongoing Telangana Budget session, the Chief Minister will not be travelling to Boston and will instead deliver his address virtually as a special arrangement. The symposium will commence with opening remarks by Jeremy Wein-

stein, Dean of the Faculty, Kennedy School. Supported by the Business & Government PIC and the AI & Tech Policy Caucus at HKS, along with several Harvard-based think tanks, the event will be held in person at the HKS campus. The symposium will foster dialogue on Artificial Intelligence across governance, economic competitiveness, geopolitics, and human capital, followed by panel discussions on "The Race to AGI", "AI in Emerging Markets", "Geopolitics of Compute", and "The Future of Work and Education". The distinguished lineup of speakers includes Anousheh Ansari, CEO of XPRIZE; Illango Pachamuthu of the World Bank; GlobalFatema, from the Harvard Center for International Development; and LandrySigne of the Brookings Institution, among several other global experts and thought leaders.

MMTS services to be aligned WITH PASSENGER NEEDS

NEED TO INCREASE SELF-REVENUE SOURCES...

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy

HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy stated that MMTS services should be tailored to meet the needs of passengers in the core urban areas of Hyderabad. He reviewed the declining number of passengers using MMTS over the years. On Thursday, the Chief Minister conducted a review meeting on MMTS services at the Assembly Council Hall. He directed officials to increase the number of MMTS trains during office hours and ensure strict adherence to schedules.

The Chief Minister noted that RTC buses are unable to reach MMTS stations due to accessibility issues, as many stations are located inward. He suggested examining the possibility of introducing mini-bus



services to improve connectivity to these stations.

He also instructed officials to provide all necessary facilities at MMTS stations, stating that passengers would prefer MMTS only if better amenities are available.

The Chief Minister advised officials to explore ways to increase self-revenue sources. He also directed them to study and submit a report on improving last-mile connectiv-

ity, increasing passenger numbers, and upgrading facilities. The review meeting was attended by Transport Minister Ponnambal Prabhakar, Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao, MAUD Special Secretary Jayesh Ranjan, R&B official Vikas Raj, CM's Special Secretary Ajit Reddy, Secretary Manik Raj, GHMC Commissioner R.V. Karnan, HMDA MD Jeevan Babu, and South Central Railway DCM Charan Nayak.

Hyd braces for traffic curbs as Sri Rama Navami Shobha Yatra rolls out

HYDERABAD

The city will witness major traffic diversions on March 27 from 9 AM to 9 PM for the "Sri Ramanavami Shobha Yatra" from Seetharambath Temple to Hanuman Vyayamshala School, Sultan Bazar via., Bhoguda Kaman, Manghalhat PS Road, Jali Hanuman, Dhoolpet Puranapal, Gandhi

Statue, Jumerat Bazar, Chudi Bazar, Begumbazar Chatri, Barthan Bazar, SA Bazar Mosque, Shanker Sher Hotel, GowligudaChaman, Rammandir Kaman, Putlibowli X road, Andhra Bank X road, DMHS X road, Sultan Bazar X road, Royal Plaza T-Junction (Balaji Tiffin's). All commuters are requested to take note of above traffic arrangements and diversions,

and plan accordingly and cooperate with the Hyderabad Traffic Police. As and when the procession passes from the particular junction the traffic will be allowed. Commuters are requested to follow the traffic updates on our social media platform @ Hyderabad Traffic Police Facebook page (facebook.com/HYDTP) and @HYDTP (Twitter handle).

Harish Rao hits out at govt over health claims, alleges gagging in Assembly

HYDERABAD

Former minister and BRS MLA T. Harish Rao on Thursday launched a scathing attack on the Congress government over the state's health sector, accusing it of suppressing opposition voices in the Assembly. Expressing outrage, Rao alleged that his microphone was deliberately cut off in the Assembly, preventing him from presenting key facts. He criticized the government's claims on increased spending under the Aarogyasri scheme, calling them misleading. The BRS leader noted that monthly expenditure had already risen from Rs.32 crore in 2014 to Rs.68 crore in 2023, and said



these would have been completed had his party remained in power. He also highlighted that the previous government had strengthened the Chief Minister's Relief Fund by allocating additional excise revenue to support the poor.

the current Rs.89 crore spending reflects natural growth due to population rise and medical inflation - not policy achievement. He further accused the government of delaying hospital projects initiated during the BRS regime, asserting that

SI caught red-handed taking ₹20,000 bribe

NIRMAL: In a major anti-corruption operation, the ACB Adilabad Unit trapped and arrested T. Ashok, Sub-Inspector of Police at Mamada Police Station, for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs.20,000. According to ACB officials, the accused officer sought the bribe from a complainant in exchange for not registering a case against him based on a complaint received. Acting on the tip-off, ACB officials laid a trap and caught the SI red-handed at his quarters located behind the police station while accepting the bribe. The tainted amount was recovered from his possession at his instance.

Grand Sri Rama Navami celebrations in Telangana; ₹351 cr boost for Bhadrachalam Temple

HYDERABAD

On the auspicious occasion of Sri Rama Navami, Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy extended warm greetings to people of the state and the nation. He prayed that the blessings of Sri Sita Ramachandra Swamy bring peace, happiness and prosperity to all. Highlighting the government's commitment to spiritual heritage, the Chief Minister, in his message, announced a comprehensive master plan for the development of Bhadrachalam Sri Rama Temple, with an unprecedented allocation of Rs.351 crore. He stressed that Sri Rama Navami celebrations should be conducted on a grand scale, reflecting the temple's spiritual significance across the country. The Chief Minister also directed the officials to ensure seamless arrangements for devotees, aiming for a hassle-free and fulfilling festive experience.

CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

A power play scripted for applause, not proof

FROM PAGE 1

THE CLAIM THAT COLLAPSES UNDER ITS OWN WEIGHT

Let us examine this without emotion and without distraction. Iran's Supreme Leader is not a position that can be floated like a trial balloon. It is the apex of a system built on clerical authority, ideological continuity, and institutional control. The very framework of the Islamic Republic makes it impossible for an external political figure to even enter that conversation. There is no confirmation from Tehran. There is no signal from intermediaries. There is no intelligence trail that supports the suggestion. In short, there is no evidence. And in geopolitics, absence of evidence in such a dramatic claim is not a minor gap. It is the entire story.

POWER VACUUM OR POWER PROJECTION

The backdrop is combustible. Reports of targeted strikes and leadership disruption, including the reported death of Ali Khamenei and the controversial elevation of Mojtaba Khamenei, have created an atmosphere thick with uncertainty. Into this uncertainty steps Trump with a narrative that does three things at once: It signals that Iran is weakened and disoriented. It suggests that Tehran is quiet-

ly seeking relief from pressure. It places Washington, and more specifically Trump himself, at the centre of that imagined desperation. This is not information. This is positioning.

THE REAL BATTLE IS ALSO FOR PERCEPTION

Wars today are fought on multiple fronts. Missiles may strike territory, but narratives strike credibility. Trump's remark fits neatly into a pattern of psychological messaging. It is designed to project dominance without offering verifiable detail. It invites audiences to believe that the adversary is not just under pressure but is quietly bending. Tehran, on the other hand, has taken the opposite route. It has rejected the idea of talks. It has dismissed claims of outreach. It has framed itself as defiant and unyielding. Two narratives are now running parallel. Both cannot be true in their entirety. Neither can be ignored.

THE RISK OF RHETORIC IN A REAL WAR

There is a deeper concern here. When rhetoric outruns reality, it does not remain harmless. It shapes expectations. It alters diplomatic space. It can even harden positions on both sides. If Iran is publicly portrayed as desperate, it has every incentive to prove the opposite. If

the United States projects overwhelming leverage, it raises the stakes of any eventual negotiation. In such a climate, even a single exaggerated claim can narrow the path to de-escalation.

THE HARD TRUTH THAT MUST BE STATED

No system in Tehran is inviting an American political figure to lead it. Not informally. Not hypothetically. Not under pressure. The remark is not a diplomatic signal. It is a political line delivered with theatrical timing. The danger is not in the line itself. The danger lies in mistaking theatre for reality at a moment when reality is already volatile.

THE SILENT RULES OF IRAN'S POWER STRUCTURE

The office of Supreme Leader is not open to improvisation. It is anchored in a system where religious legitimacy and political authority are fused. Control flows from ideology to institution to enforcement. Any suggestion that this structure can be casually reimagined ignores the very architecture of the Iranian state. In moments of crisis, such systems do not experiment. They tighten.

A war burns. A line is delivered. And the world is expected to clap.

"Bhu Bharati" to Launch in 5 Mandals from April 2

FROM PAGE 1

transparency, efficiency, and ease of access for farmers and landowners. "From survey to registration, all services will be available under one roof, with complete land details accessible in a single click," he said. The pilot will be implemented in Kosgi (Narayanpet), Amangal (Rangareddy), Vatpally (Sangareddy), Kusumanchi (Khammam), and Aswaraopeta (Bhadradi Kothagudem) mandals. Based on feedback and evaluation, the system will be expanded statewide in the second phase.

Under the new system, each survey number will be assigned a unique "Bhudhar number," similar to Aadhaar, to streamline land identification. Survey maps will also be mandatorily attached during agricultural land registrations to reduce disputes. The portal will offer a range of services, including land information, survey and correction services, appeals, registration, and citizen dashboards. Users can access features such as Record of Rights (ROR), mutation details, encumbrance certificates, market values, village and survey maps, and pass-book corrections.

Officials said the platform will provide real-time updates via SMS at every stage, from application to completion of services. The Minister noted that while the Dharrani portal had 36 modules, Bhu Bharati consolidates all services into a single, user-friendly system aimed at improving public access and transparency.

TG inks 44 MoUs worth Rs.2.19 lakh crore in Davos deals: Sridhar Babu

FROM PAGE 1

on Thursday, the Minister said that during these visits, land has already been allocated to 6 companies that signed MoUs involving investments worth ₹81,800 crore.

Through this process, the state government has generated ₹1,540 crore in revenue. Additionally, land has been identified for allocation to 3 more companies, with a proposed investment of around ₹30,000 crore, he said. The Minister said the Nizamabad IT tower has a total seating capacity of 681. Currently, 11 companies are operating from the facility and a total of 276 employees are working there.

Sridhar Babu said the malicious propaganda by the opposition regarding investments is completely unjustified and alleged that opposition parties are unable to tolerate the fact that we are bringing investments into

the Telangana state. "For the sake of selfish politics, spreading such false narratives out of anger against us is not good for the State," he said. "I am fully committed to transparency in the portfolios I oversee. Not just today—even in the future, I will stand by this commitment and act accordingly. We are ready to release a White Paper on MoUs, investments, companies, and related aspects. We are also open to a short discussion on the subject," Sridhar Babu said.

The Minister said the government is working with complete sincerity to ground every MoU signed during Davos visits and other occasions and there should be no doubt about our commitment in this regard.

Davos edition - MoUs & Investments (₹ in crore):
2024 - 18 MoUs - ₹40,232 crore ; 2025 - 26 MoUs - ₹1,78,950 crore ; Total - 44 MoUs - ₹2,19,182 crore

TIMS to Become Super Specialty Hubs

FROM PAGE 1

an on-line application system to provide CMRF benefit to the needy. Stating that Arogyasri due to private hospitals very low, the Chief Minister said that the present government was burdened due to non payment of dues by the BRS government. As of 7.12.2023, we have been burdened with Rs 627 crore pending dues. An average of 89 crores is being spent every month for Arogyasri. The CM explained that the government paid Rs 2408 crores Arogyasri bills till today. Out of this, Rs 927 crores were paid to government hospitals and Rs 1480 crores to private hospitals. The outstanding dues till today are only Rs 727 crores.

Clarifying that the Arogyasri payments are being made from time to time, CM Revanth Reddy took strong exception to the misconceptions created regarding Arogyasri payments. The number of patients availing medical treatment under Arogyasri has increased. The CM highlighted that the government has allocated a total of ₹4,500 crore towards medical care for the poor.

Announcing that 10,000 additional beds capacity will be developed, CM Revanth Reddy said that the TIMS hospitals located in Warangal, Alwal, L.B. Nagar, and Sanath Nagar will be developed as specialized medical care centers. Funds will also be provided through Aarogyasri and the CM Relief Fund to these hospitals.

Constructing a new Osmania Hospital in Goshamahal, spanning 30 acres, at a cost of ₹3,000 crores will be another big medical care facility in the state. We are expediting the construction work on the TIMS hospitals and also rectifying the errors that occurred in the past.

The Chief Minister emphasized that every family should be provided security and financial assurance. Based on the census data collected as part of the Caste Census, the government will launch 'Indiramma Jeevitha Bima' (life insurance) coverage to 1.15 crore families.

In view of thousands of doctors from Telangana are working in different countries, the CM said that the government is developing a dedicated website specifically for NRI doctors. Through this website, a facility will be developed to enable the NRI doctors to provide medical services in local hospitals during their visit to their hometown. This website is being established under the aegis of the Department of Medical and Health.

Commending the services of state Health minister Damodara Raja Narasimha, CM Revanth Reddy stressed that the new challenges in the medical sector should be addressed and it was a big task for the Medical and Health department. Apart from healthcare, the Chief Minister said that education was also being given top priority. Adequate funds will be provided to the education and health sectors.

Southern RRR Gets Fresh Push

FROM PAGE 1

Minister Komatireddy described the update as a timely boost, coinciding with the Sri Rama Navami occasion. Minister Komatireddy noted that while the Northern Part of the RRR has already received approval and is in the tendering stage, progress on the Southern stretch strengthens prospects for completing the entire ring road project. Stating that the project is poised to transform the State's infrastructure landscape, Minister Komatireddy said the RRR, under the

leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, would emerge as a "game changer" for Telangana's economy. He pointed out that the project would ease traffic congestion around Hyderabad and catalyse industrial growth in peripheral districts. With both northern and southern corridors expected to be integrated, the region is set to witness significant expansion in connectivity and infrastructure. The State Government would continue close coordination with the Centre to expedite execution of the project he added.

Hyderabad Hosts Ekaa: The One

A Rare Showcase of the Complete 64 Yogini Artworks

HYDERABAD

Ekaa: The One – The 64 Yogini Trail, a national travelling painting exhibition by Dr. Beena Unnikrishnan, will be showcased in Hyderabad from March 26 to 28, 2026, at Gallery 78, Silpa Hills, Khanamet, near HITEX.

Bringing together the complete collection of 64 Yogini artworks, the exhibition offers a rare and immersive artistic experience that reinterprets India's ancient spiritual traditions through a contemporary lens. Rooted in the philosophy of Shakti—the primordial feminine energy—the works explore themes of feminine power, balance, consciousness, and transformation.

Ekaa: The One is not a reproduction of temple imagery or an academic reconstruction, but a contemporary artistic interpretation that places the Yogini tradition within today's cultural and social discourse. For the first time globally, all 64 Yoginis have been envisioned and painted as a cohesive body of work



by a single artist, making this exhibition a significant cultural milestone.

The exhibition has been developed over a period of five years, reflecting an intensive artistic and research-driven engagement with the Yogini tradition. Conceived as a non-commercial public initiative, the exhibition is open to all and none of the artworks are available for sale, reinforcing its focus on cultural access and dialogue over commerce.

The exhibition is part of a larger national journey spanning 16 states over 81 days, covering more than 10,000 kilometres, positioning it as

one of India's most ambitious travelling art showcases. The journey began earlier this year in Kochi and has travelled across multiple cities before arriving in Hyderabad, building a pan-India cultural narrative around the Yogini tradition.

At its core, the exhibition reflects the deeper understanding that every individual embodies both feminine and masculine energies, and that the wisdom of the feminine is essential for balance, empathy, creativity, and inner strength. The artworks serve as a visual narrative of these archetypes—each Yogini symbolising distinct as-

pects such as intuition, courage, healing, and renewal. Drawing inspiration from Yogini temples dating back to the 9th–12th centuries—known for their circular, open-air architecture that challenged traditional ideas of power and gender—the exhibition reinterprets these philosophies for contemporary audiences.

A distinctive element of Dr. Beena Unnikrishnan's artistic process is her approach of beginning each painting with the eyes, establishing an emotional connection before completing the form, giving each work a unique depth and identity.

Speaking about the exhibition, Dr. Beena Unnikrishnan, artist and curator, brings over three decades of experience at the intersection of art, culture, and community development. Known for her work in reviving India's sacred feminine narratives, her practice extends beyond art into cultural leadership, filmmaking, and social impact initiatives. Alongside the exhibition, visitors will also have the opportunity to engage with the documentary Y64: Whispers of the Unseen, which traces the journey of India's Yogini temples and their cultural relevance today.

No fuel shortage in Hyd; govt supplies exceed daily demand

HYDERABAD

The Consumer Affairs, Food and Civil Supplies Department of Telangana has assured citizens that there is no shortage of petrol, diesel or domestic LPG cylinders, with supplies significantly exceeding daily demand.

According to official data, petrol supply reached 10,799.5 KL against an average requirement of 5,883 KL, while diesel stood at 11,327.5 KL compared to 7,348 KL.

Overall fuel supply touched 22,127 KL, far above the daily average of 13,231 KL. LPG distribution also remained stable, with 2.19 lakh cylinders delivered—surpassing the average daily requirement. Of these, Indian Oil Corporation supplied 92,799 cylinders, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited 81,979, and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited 45,202.

The department urged the citizens to avoid panic buying and hoarding, warning that such actions could disrupt the smooth distribution system. A 24/7 command and control centre has been set up, and consumers can dial 1967 for assistance.



TG NPDCL hits all-time high power demand of 6,457 MW amid rising summer heat

HYDERABAD

The Telangana Northern Power Distribution Company Limited (TGNPDCL) has set a new record by registering its highest-ever peak power demand of 6,457 MW on Thursday, surpassing the previous high of 6,441 MW recorded on March 3, 2026, reflecting an additional 16 MW surge, marking a new benchmark for the company.

Announcing the milestone, TGNPDCL chairman and managing director Karnati Varun Reddy described the achievement as a reflection of the utility's operational strength and commitment to delivering reliable and uninterrupted power supply.

He attributed the sharp rise in power consumption primarily to the onset of summer and the steadily increasing temperatures across the region. With maximum temperatures in Telangana currently exceeding 36 degrees Celsius, electricity usage has risen significantly across all sectors: residential households, commercial establishments, industries and agricultural pump sets. In particular, the unprecedented surge in the usage of air conditioners, coolers

and fans among domestic consumers has been a major contributing factor to this record demand.

The CMD reaffirmed ensuring continuous power supply without any inconvenience to consumers—regardless of how high the demand rises remains the organization's primary objective. He outlined the key measures taken by TGNPDCL to meet this challenge:

TGNPDCL has taken proactive steps to manage the growing demand efficiently:

- Upgraded infrastructure including substations, transformers and feeder lines
- 24x7 monitoring systems for real-time fault detection
- Rapid response teams to quickly restore power during disruptions

With peak summer months approaching, the CMD expressed confidence in the company's readiness to handle even higher loads in April and May without service interruptions.

Commending the staff, Varun Reddy credited their dedication for achieving this milestone and reiterated that consumer satisfaction and quality power supply remain top priorities. (NSS)

Bandi Sanjay turns singer, RSS songs create buzz

HYDERABAD

Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar has debuted as a singer, lending his voice to Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)-themed songs marking its centenary. The promos are trending online, with the official release slated for Sri Rama Navami celebrations.

Having earlier been associated with the RSS, Bandi Sanjay is deeply influenced by the ideals of nationalism and Hindutva. He rendered these songs with the objective of taking RSS ideology to the masses. A promotional video



featuring his performances has been released and is gaining traction across social media platforms. The songs are set to be officially launched in Karimnagar on the occasion of Sri Rama Navami.

MosChip CSR Boosts Infrastructure Facilities for Smart Learning at ECE, OUCE

Under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, MosChip Technologies Limited

HYDERABAD

has extended continued infrastructural support to the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE), University College of Engineering, Osmania University (OUCE).

MosChip Technologies Limited agreed to provide Four Smart Intelligent In-

teractive Flat Panels (86"), which are AI-integrated and designed to enable advanced digital and interactive learning in the newly constructed Singareni Classroom Complex along with 60 new Godrej model dual desks.

Earlier, in 2025, MosChip Technologies Limited contributed 60 Godrej model dual desks for the Same Classroom Complex and a 3 KVA online UPS system to the e-Conference Room of the Department of ECE, OUCE. Previously, In 2024, Mos-

Chip Technologies Limited supported the department for creating an Open Learning Area in front of the Department.

With these contributions, the Singareni Classroom Complex of the Department is now equipped with comprehensive infrastructure facilities, including a total of 120 Godrej dual desks & modern smart classroom technology. The cumulative value of these contributions for the Classroom Complex amounts to approximately ₹22 lakhs,

significantly enhancing the academic environment.

The Principal Prof.P.Chandra Sekhar, expressed sincere gratitude to MosChip Technologies Ltd. for its continued support towards infrastructure enhancements of the Department of ECE, Osmania University. The Vice Chancellor of Osmania University, Prof. Kumar Molugaram, appreciated the Department of ECE and University College of Engineering for maintaining strong and meaningful industry relations.

Workshop on AI & ML for Business Decision-Making at GITAM

HYDERABAD

GITAM School of Business, will organize a five-day online hands-on workshop (Management Development Programme – MDP) on "Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning for Business Decision-Making" from 25 to 29 May 2026, daily from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

The programme aims to familiarize participants with the growing role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) in modern business decision-making. As AI-driven analytics increasingly supports areas such as customer acquisition, demand forecasting, risk management, and personalized marketing. The workshop seeks to equip participants with practical insights into applying these technologies for data-driven decisions.

Designed primarily for faculty members from Manage-



ment, Commerce, Economics, Computer Applications, and Engineering disciplines. The workshop will focus on business-oriented use cases, hands-on demonstrations, and interpretation of model outputs rather than treating ML as a purely technical subject. Practical datasets, visualization-based explanations, and

an easy-to-use analytics interface will be used to make AI and ML concepts accessible to participants.

Dr. M. Kamakshiah, an academican and researcher with extensive experience in Business Analytics, Data Science, and AI/ML applications, will serve as the resource person. He has conducted sever-

al training programmes and workshops in analytics, AI, and decision sciences.

The programme will cover key topics such as supervised and unsupervised learning, recommender systems, and ensemble models, linking each technique to real-world managerial questions including customer churn prediction, market segmentation, product recommendation, and fraud detection.

Upon completion of the programme, participants will gain conceptual clarity and hands-on exposure to AI/ML techniques, enabling them to apply these methods to business decision problems and design AI-enabled case studies and student projects.

For registration and further details, interested participants may contact Dr. Joseph Paul, Chairperson, Executive Education, Center for Business Engagement, at jpaul@gitam.edu.

SMAM 2025-26 powers farm mechanization in Jangaon, boosts small farmers



HYDERABAD

The Government of India's Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) 2025–26 is driving a significant shift towards modern farming in Jangaon district, enabling farmers especially small and marginal to access advanced agricultural equipment at subsidized rates.

With a total outlay of Rs.2.73 crore, the scheme has sanctioned benefits to

334 farmers, approving machinery worth Rs.88 lakh. So far, 138 farmers have received equipment, enhancing farm efficiency and reducing dependency on manual labor.

Modern implements such as rotavators, cultivators, sprayers, straw balers, and power weeders are helping farmers cut costs, save time, and improve productivity.

Devarupula mandal has set an example in effective implementation. A man-

dal-level committee led by the Mandal Agriculture Officer, along with MPDO and Tahsildar, ensured transparency in beneficiary selection.

Farmers owning at least one acre qualified for heavy machinery, while even those with less land were eligible for smaller equipment. Subsidies of 50% are extended to SC, ST, women, and small / marginal farmers, while others receive 40%.

In Chilpur mandal, distribution of tractor-mounted implements has reduced workload and expanded cultivation capacity. Training programmes have further helped farmers use machinery efficiently.

FARMERS SHARE POSITIVE IMPACT K. Sirisha, a farmer from Malkapur, said the rotavator she received reduced land preparation time and costs, improving crop yield. K. Sampath Raju from Ghanpur Station noted that the scheme eased labor burden for small farmers.

B. Ram Singh from Chinna Pendyal highlighted improved speed, accuracy and cost savings, calling it a step towards modern agriculture.

By addressing labor shortages and promoting mechanization, SMAM 2025–26 is strengthening the rural economy and making farming more profitable, marking a steady transition towards technology-driven agriculture.

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SHORT TAKES

CM Revanth Reddy expresses shock over the Markapuram bus accident

HYDERABAD: Chief Minister Shri A. Revanth Reddy expressed deep shock over the bus accident at Markapuram in Andhra Pradesh. The Chief Minister was deeply saddened by the loss of lives and several injured in the ghastly road mishap. Wishing speedy recovery of the injured persons, the CM conveyed deep sympathies to the bereaved families in the difficult times. Noting that the bus was proceeding from Nirmal to Nellore when the accident occurred, CM Revanth Reddy ordered Chief Secretary K Ramakrishna Rao to get the details of the victims- both deceased and injured in the accident.

CM extended Sri Rama Navami greetings

HYDERABAD: CM A. Revanth Reddy extended Sri Rama Navami greetings to all the people of the state. He prayed that, with the blessings of Lord Sri Sita Ramachandra of Bhadrachalam, people across the country should live in happiness and prosperity. He stated that the people's government has prepared a master plan for the comprehensive development of the Bhadrachalam Sri Rama temple. He mentioned that ₹351 crores have been allocated, which is unprecedented. He said that the Sri Rama Navami celebrations should be conducted grandly in a way that highlights the significance of the Bhadrachalam temple across the country. He also instructed officials to make proper arrangements to ensure that devotees do not face any inconvenience.

Governor greets people on Sri Rama Navami

HYDERABAD: On the auspicious occasion of Sri Rama Navami, Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla has extended his best wishes to the people of Telangana. In a statement here on Thursday, the Governor said that Sri Rama Navami is celebrated nationwide with profound devotion, on the auspicious "Punarvasu" - the Janma Nakshatra of Lord Sri Rama, who is revered for embodying the essence of righteousness and ideal virtues. He stated that the celestial Kalyana Mahotsavam of Sri Rama and Sita is celebrated on this holy occasion of Sri Rama Navami, epitomising divine love and harmony. "As we observe Sri Rama Navami, let us draw inspiration from the exemplary life of Lord Rama, embracing principles of righteousness for a fulfilling existence.

Telangana Government is committed to provide quality education and nutrition for children

HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has said that the State Government was taking all necessary measures to provide quality education and nutritious food to every child in the state. Renowned economist Karthik Muralidharan met with CM Revanth Reddy at Legislative Council Hall today.



During the meeting, Muralidharan drew the Chief Minister's attention to several reports regarding nutritional deficiencies and learning outcome gaps among children aged 0 to 10 years in Telangana state. The economist also highlighted the health issues that may arise in the future due to nutritional deficiencies at a young age. They also discussed psychological distress among the students in their life if they do not receive proper instruction at the early stage. Muralidharan made

some valuable suggestions to overcome all such big challenges. Welcoming the economist's advice, CM Revanth Reddy said that the government has already been paying special attention to these specific issues.

Further, the Chief Minister said that the government allocated sufficient funds to provide breakfast in schools, in addition to the midday meals. Muralidharan suggested to appoint an additional person in Anganwadi centres exclu-

sively for the distribution of nutritious food to the children regularly. The Officials said that the additional person designated as a 'Poshan Sakhi' facilitates the provision of nutritious food to children in Anganwadis.

The CM directed officials to examine the feasibility of implementing Muralidharan's suggestions on a pilot basis at all 29 schools in Core Urban Region Economy (CURE) area and also prepare a special report on this particular issue in

consultation with the famous economist and submit the government.

Deputy Chief Minister Malu Bhatti Vikramarka, Women and Child Welfare minister Seethakka, Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister V. Seshadri, Secretary to the CM Manik Raj, Special Secretary to the CM Ajith Reddy, Principal Secretary of the Finance Department Sandeep Kumar Sultania, Secretary of the Education Department Yogita Rana, Secretary of the Women and Child Welfare Department Anita Ramachandran, Secretary, Planning Department Dr. Gaurav Uppal, SERP CEO Divya, Secretary to the Deputy CM Krishna Bhaskar, Director of the Women and Child Welfare Department Shruti Ojha, Director of School Education Naveen Nicholas, and OSD to the CM Vemula Srinivasulu were also present.

Karimnagar Mahashakti Temple set for grand celebrations on the lines of Bhadrachalam

- Elaborate arrangements in place for the Sita Ramachandra Swamy Kalyanam
- Temple decked up magnificently
- Union Minister Bandi Sanjay spearheads large-scale preparations, comparable to Bhadrachalam
- Food prasadam being prepared to serve around 25,000 devotees at once and coolers arranged for the comfort of devotees
- LED screens installed for better viewing of the celebrations
- Buttermilk to be provided for devotees
- Sri Rama Navami celebrations to commence from 9 AM
- Bandi Sanjay along with his spouse to attend the celebrations
- Union Minister calls upon devotees to participate in large numbers in the Sita Rama Kalyanam

KARIMNAGAR

In the Telugu states, the mention of Sri Rama Navami celebrations immediately brings Bhadrachalam to mind, where the celestial wedding of Lord Sita Ramachandra Swamy is conducted with great splendour. Every year, thousands of devotees travel there, enduring the heat, to witness the sacred ceremony in person. Now, following the tradition of Bhadrachalam, Karimnagar is emerging as a new venue for hosting similar grand celebrations. Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar has initiated arrangements to conduct the Sita Rama Kalyanam on a magnificent scale, similar to traditional weddings celebrated among the public.

With the blessings of Sri Sri Sri Vidyanaya Bharati Swamiji of the Hampi Peetham, the Sri Mahashakti Temple, where the three goddesses are enshrined, is being beautifully adorned for the occasion.



Grand arrangements in place

Large shamanias have been set up across the temple premises, reflecting the festive spirit of a traditional wedding. Ceremonial items and musical arrangements are all in place. LED screens have been installed to enable around 25,000 devotees to watch the celebrations simultaneously. Devotees attending the ceremony will receive talamburalu along with blessings from Vedic scholars. The wedding rituals are scheduled to begin at 9 AM, and priests will explain each stage of the ceremony in a simple and understandable manner. Devotional music performances will also be held intermittently, adding to the spiritual atmosphere.

Grand wedding pavilion... beautifully adorned with flowers

The Sri Mahashakti Temple is being elegantly decorated for the Sita Rama Kalyanam with a rich variety of flowers. The entire temple is being enhanced with vibrant floral arrangements and illuminated with decorative lighting, creating a festive and divine ambience. A spacious wedding pavilion has been set up and tastefully decorated for the occasion.

Coolers, buttermilk, and drinking water arranged

Keeping the summer heat in mind, special arrangements have been made to ensure the comfort of devotees, especially chil-

dren. Coolers have been installed, and ample drinking water along with buttermilk will be provided to all attendees.

Meals for 25,000 devotees being prepared

Extensive arrangements are underway to serve food and prasadam to devotees attending the celebrations. With an estimated turnout of around 25,000 people, the organizers are preparing sufficient quantities of food. In line with traditional wedding feasts, a variety of dishes—including multiple curries, sambar, curd, sweets, pulihora, and other special items—will be served. To avoid overcrowding, five serving counters are being set up. A dedicated kitchen has been arranged, and cooking preparations will begin from tonight.

All are invited to witness the Sita Ramachandra Swamy Kalyanam

Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar has called upon devotees to gather in large numbers for the Sita Ramachandra Swamy wedding celebrations at the Sri Mahashakti Temple in Karimnagar. He assured that comprehensive arrangements have been made to ensure a smooth and comfortable experience for all attendees during the Sri Rama Navami festivities. He further stated that devotees will receive talamburalu along with blessings from Vedic scholars.



Centre pushes water reforms at regional meet in Hyd

HYDERABAD,

V. L. Kantha Rao, Secretary, Department of Water Resources under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, chaired a Regional State Water Secretaries Conference here at Dr. MCR HRD Institute. The conference has brought together senior officers from the Water Resources Departments of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Puducherry, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands together at a single platform to discuss wide array of matters pertaining to the water sector. Officials of DoWR, RD&GR, New Delhi and 15 heads of major organizations of the department also participated in the day-long conference.

The key objectives of the conference encompassed review of the implementation of ongoing schemes of the department in the participating States/UTs; works done by the organizations of the Department in these States, understanding concerns of the States/UTs with respect to ongoing schemes/projects and inter-state matters; and de-

tailed deliberations on these aspects to further strengthen thrust areas of Centre-State coordination and partnerships.

Senior officials from southern states and Union Territories reviewed implementation of key water schemes and discussed inter-state concerns. The focus remained on improving Centre-State coordination, timely project execution, and reforms for the next Finance Commission cycle. Key issues like flood forecasting, sediment management, salinity ingress, dam safety, and public participation in water conservation were also deliberated. The Centre urged states to fast-track implementation of critical advisories.

In his concluding remarks, the Secretary reiterated the significance of the meeting in formulating and executing integrated strategies for sustainable and effective development of water resources in the region. He reaffirmed the department's commitment to providing comprehensive support for the planning, development, and management of water resources projects/schemes across the Country. (NSS)

BEATS THE HEAT



With day temperatures soaring, a tiger chills in a moat in Nehru Zoological Park on Wednesday, taking long dips to beat the intense afternoon heat. Visitors watched as the big cat spent several minutes in the water, a common behaviour among zoo animals during the peak summer spell.

TG Government to introduce new policy for CSR funds

- Dedicated Telangana CSR portal to monitor fund flow and utilization
- CM Revanth Reddy is serious about the poor flow of CSR funds from Telangana industries
- Spending more CSR funds in other states by Telangana companies is not good
- Special mechanism to monitor allocation and utilization of CSR funds.
- CM Revanth Reddy holds a review meeting on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds at the Legislative Council Conference Hall today.

HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Shri A Revanth has announced that the State Government would introduce a special policy for the effective utilization and seeking more Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds from the corporate companies and Industries. In a move to encourage the companies for giving more CSR funds, the Chief Minister ordered the officials to organise annual events to felicitate the managements and representatives of the companies



which contributed more CSR funds to the state. The arrangements for the felicitation ceremony should be made as part of the State Formation Day celebrations. The Chief Minister also decided to establish a dedicated CSR cell at the state level with a separate office. The state-level cell is responsible for coordinating CSR initiatives currently being implemented by corporate companies within the state, as well as compiling information on projects available across various government departments that are suitable for execution through CSR funding. The creation of a dedicated 'Telangana CSR Portal' was also approved in the review of CSR funds held by the CM here

today. The portal will serve as an important link between the government and corporate entities. The portal will also feature comprehensive details of various projects—spanning across different government departments—that are open for corporate funding through CSR contributions. CM Revanth Reddy emphasized that the portal should be designed in an engaging and user-friendly manner, enabling corporate firms to easily connect with the government and select projects that align with their specific interests and objectives.

During the meeting, the Officials apprised the Chief Minister that the state's share of CSR contributions currently stands at a mere 3 percent of the na-

tional total. Expressing unhappy with the poor flow of CSR funds from the state industry, the CM stressed that there is a need for the state to receive a greater share of CSR funds and also the utilization. The officials were ordered to take strict measures in this direction. CM Revanth Reddy emphasized the need for the state to receive a greater share of CSR funds. The officials were directed to take measures to ensure corporate companies and industries in the state provide more CSR funds and spend the same within Telangana.

The Chief Minister further instructed officials to study the strategies adopted by other states for mobilizing CSR funds. The CM stressed that the new policy should be formulated to facilitate an increase in the share, advocating for the adoption of approaches designed to attract corporate entities.

Chief Secretary K Ramakrishna Rao, Special Chief Secretary Ghosh, Principal Secretary to the CM Seshadri, Special Secretary to the CM Manikaraj, Yogita Rana, Shashanka, Bhavesh Mishra, Nikhil Chakravarthy, and other officials were present.

Train Trials Boost Hope in MP's Panna, Dhar

PANNA/DHAR (MP):
(MAR 26)

The railways carried out trial runs on the Panna-Dhar route in Madhya Pradesh before the launch of full services that will connect the two stations to the vast network of the public transporter, an official said on Thursday. The trial runs, held in Dhar on Monday and in Panna on Tuesday, were a joyous occasion in the region with people lining up along the route on several stretches and also showering flowers on the engine as it reached the stations, he added. The trial runs, between Nagaud and Phulwari in Panna district, were held in the presence of the Commissioner of Railway Safety.

14 killed as bus catches fire after colliding with tipper truck in Andhra Pradesh

AMARAVATI, MARCH 26

In a horrific accident, at least 14 people were burnt alive, and 15 others were injured as a private travel bus caught fire after colliding with a tipper truck in Andhra Pradesh's Markapuram district on Thursday, police said.



The accident occurred near Rayavaram around 6.30 a.m. when the bus collided with a tipper truck near a stone quarry. Both vehicles were completely gutted in the fire. There were 35 passengers in the bus belonging to Harikrishna Travels at the time of the collision. Fifteen

passengers were injured. They were shifted to the government hospital at Markapuram. The death toll is likely to go up as the condition of some of the injured is stated to be critical. The deceased and injured include women and children. Ten passengers had

managed to get off the bus immediately after the fire broke out. The bus was coming to Pamuru in Prakasam district from Hyderabad. The victims were residents of Kanigiri and Pamuru. The tipper was heading to Markapuram from Chimakurthy with a concrete

load. On receipt of information, police and firefighting personnel rushed to the spot and launched rescue and relief. Three fire engines were pressed into service to douse the flames. Markapuram MLA K. Narayana Reddy, along with senior officials, visited the spot and supervised relief operations. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has expressed shock over the bus accident. He spoke to officials and enquired about the mishap. He directed district authorities to ensure the best possible treatment for the injured. The Chief Minister directed officials to conduct a thorough probe into the accident and submit a report. Transport Minister Manipalli Ramprasad Reddy also

expressed grief over the mishap. He conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased. The minister directed officials to ensure the best treatment of the injured. Minister for Human Resources Development and Information Technology Nara Lokesh also expressed shock over the loss of lives in the bus disaster. He assured the families of the victims that the government will render all possible assistance.

State govt announces Rs 5 lakh ex gratia

The Andhra Pradesh government has announced financial aid of Rs 5 lakh each for the families of those killed in the bus fire accident in Markapuram district on Thursday.



Karnataka man slits wife's throat on road, runs her over after dispute

KALABURAGI, MAR 26, 2026

28-year-old woman was brutally killed by her husband in Karnataka's Kalaburagi district, where he allegedly slit her throat in broad daylight and then ran a car over her following a dispute.

In a gruesome broad daylight murder, a 28-year-old woman was killed by her husband, who slit her throat and then ran a car over her in the middle of a road in Karnataka's Kalaburagi district on Thursday, police said.

The victim has been identified as Saanvi, a native of Maharashtra. According to police, the accused, her husband Akshay, reportedly took her in an Ergiga car, forcibly dragged her out

onto the road, and brutally attacked her. The footage, which has now surfaced online, purportedly shows Akshay attacking Saanvi in public as she screamed for help. The incident occurred as she was walking on mobile phones by locals present at the scene. Visuals of the incident show bystanders recording the attack instead of intervening to save the woman. Police said Saanvi died on the spot due to her injuries. After committing the crime, the accused fled the scene in the vehicle. Preliminary information suggests the murder followed a family dispute, though further details are yet to be confirmed.

A case of murder has been registered at police station, and efforts are underway to catch the accused. Police have launched an investigation into the incident.

AP Bus Tragedy: PM Announces ₹2 Lakh Ex-Gratia for Victims

NEW DELHI, MARCH 26

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday condoned the loss of lives in the Andhra Pradesh bus accident and announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakhs for the grieving families. At least 14 people were burnt alive, and 15 others were injured as a private travel bus caught fire after colliding with a tipper truck in Andhra Pradesh's Markapuram district earlier in the day. In a post on X, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said, "The mishap in Markapuram district, Andhra Pradesh, is tragic. Condolences to those who have lost their loved ones. May the injured recover at the earliest." "An ex-gratia of Rs. 2 lakh from PMNRF would be given to the next of kin of each deceased. The injured would be given Rs. 50,000," the statement further read.

The accident occurred near Rayavaram around 6.30 a.m. when the bus collided with a tipper truck near a stone quarry. Both vehicles were completely gutted in the fire. There were 35 passengers in the bus belonging to Harikrishna Travels at the time of the collision. Fifteen passengers were injured. They were shifted to the government hospital at Markapuram. The death toll is likely to go up as the condition of some of the injured is stated to be critical. The deceased and injured include women and children. Ten passengers had managed to get off the bus immediately after the fire broke out. The bus was coming to Pamuru in Prakasam district from Hyderabad. The victims were residents of Kanigiri and Pamuru. The tipper was heading to Markapuram from Chimakurthy with a concrete load.

Andhra Pradesh Cabinet approves resolution for legal sanctity to Amaravati

AMARAVATI, MARCH 26

The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet on Thursday approved a resolution to be passed in the special session of the Legislative Assembly on March 28, urging the Union Government to grant legal sanctity to Amaravati as the capital city of Andhra Pradesh. Section-5 of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 will be amended for this purpose. The Cabinet meeting presided over by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu decided to pass the resolution in the Assembly after a debate of four hours. It was also decided to incorporate the word 'Amaravati' in place of new State capital in the Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) Act Chief Minister Naidu had already requested



the Centre to provide legal sanctity to Amaravati as the capital of Andhra Pradesh.

The Centre has asked the State government to send a resolution in this regard after adopting it in the State Assembly. The Centre wants a fresh resolution on the State capital to avoid any technical or legal complications in the future.

After receiving the resolution passed by the State Assembly, the Union Cabinet will give its nod and an announcement declaring Amaravati as the capital city of Andhra Pradesh is expected to be made during the current session of Parliament. Farmers who provided land for the capital city, have also sought legal sanctity for Amaravati. During his meeting with Union Home Minister, Amit Shah, in New Delhi in January, Chief Minister Naidu had urged the Centre to accord statutory status to Amaravati as the permanent capital of the State. The Chief Minister urged the Centre to grant statutory status to Amaravati by introducing a Bill in Parliament, terming it vital for the state's long-term development and stability.

Emphasising the need for policy certainty, the Chief Minister said formal legislative recognition of Amaravati would accelerate development and fulfil the aspirations of the people of Andhra Pradesh, while also strengthening investor confidence. After the TDP-led coalition government came to power in 2024, it decided to revive the development of Amaravati as the state capital. Prime Minister Narendra Modi last year relaunched the capital development works. PM Modi had laid the foundation stone for Amaravati on October 22, 2015, when TDP was in power in the state. After YSR Congress Party came to power in 2019, it stopped the capital works and announced its plans to develop three state capitals with Amaravati mooted as only a legislative capital.

Changes in the Pattern of Train Services

CHENNAI, MARCH 26:

South western Railway has notified change in pattern of train services due to Pre-Non interlocking work carried out for commissioning of yard remodeling at Channasandra as given below:-

Diversion of Train Service:

Train No.12647 Coimbatore - Hazrat Nizamuddin Kongu Express scheduled to leave Coimbatore at 16.30 hrs on 19th & 26th April, 2026 will be diverted to run via Krishna Rajapuram, SMVT Bengaluru, Yesvantpur, Yelahanka, and Dharmavaram

Regulation of Train Services

Train No. 22602 Sainagar Shirdi - Dr MGR Chennai Central Superfast Express scheduled to leave Sai Nagar Shirdi at 08.55 hrs on 17th & 24th April, 2026 will be regulated for 1 hour 30 mins enroute.

Train No. 22602 Sainagar Shirdi - Dr MGR Chennai Central Superfast Express scheduled to leave Sai Nagar Shirdi at 08.55 hrs on 01st May, 2026 will be regulated for 4 hours 30 mins enroute.

HC Summons Jharkhand PCCF in PTR Tiger Case

RANCHI: (MAR 26)

The Jharkhand High Court on Thursday expressed annoyance at the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (PCCF) for not filing an affidavit in a public interest litigation (PIL) pertaining to the conservation of tigers in the Palamau Tiger Reserve (PTR) in the state.

Narcotic substances worth Rs 50 lakh seized, two arrested in Jharkhand's Khunti

KHUNTI (JHARKHAND), MARCH 26

Under an ongoing crackdown against narcotics in Jharkhand's Khunti district, police have achieved a major success for the second consecutive day on Thursday. Acting on a tip-off, a police team conducted a raid in the Arki police station area and recovered a large quantity of illegal 'doda' (raw material used in the production of opium), while arresting two accused. The operation was carried out based on secret information received by Superintendent of Police Manish Toppo. The input indicated that a substantial quantity of 'doda' had been concealed at the residence of Ankit Hajam and Lalu Hajam in Babu Toli of Naudhi village under Arki



police station limits. After verification, a raiding team was formed under the leadership of Station House Officer Praveen Kumar Tiwari. The police team reached the spot around 1 p.m. on Thursday, cordoned off the house, and launched a search operation. During the raid, a youth present at the spot identified himself as Ankit Hajam alias Saju Thakur. During interrogation, he confessed to being involved in the illegal trade of doda

along with his brother Lalu Hajam. Based on his disclosure, police recovered a total of 330.21 kg of doda packed in 21 sacks from the house. The estimated value of the seized material is around Rs 49.53 lakh. Subsequently, police conducted another raid and arrested the second accused, Lalu Hajam. A case has been registered at Arki police station (Case No. 07/26) under various sections of the NDPS Act, 1985.

Karnataka man arrested by Andhra Police for 'promoting extremist ideology'

BALLARI (KARNATAKA), MARCH 26

A 36-year-old man from Ballari was arrested by Andhra Pradesh Police on charges of spreading extremist propaganda through social media and maintaining links with suspected terrorist networks, police stated on Thursday. The accused, identified as Abdul Salam, a resident of Abdul Kalam Street under the jurisdiction of Kaul Bazaar police station, was taken into custody near Dhara Mill following specific intelligence inputs. Police said a team from Andhra Pradesh tracked Salam's movements before arresting him in the city. Subsequently, with the assistance of local Kaul Bazaar police personnel, a panchanama was conducted at his residence. He was later produced before a court and taken to Andhra Pradesh for further investigation.

According to police sources, the case originated on March 22 when the Vijayawada Second Town police received information about individuals using social media platforms to spread extremist ideology and maintain links with banned terrorist organisations. Based on this, an FIR was registered on March 23, following which search operations were launched. During the operation, the main accused, 23-year-old Mohammed Rehmatullah Sharif, was apprehended in the Winchpet area of Vijayawada. He allegedly confessed to being influenced by extremist ideologies propagated online and expressed intentions aligned with establishing a caliphate in India.

Investigators revealed that Sharif had established contacts with several individuals across the country, including Abdul Salam from Ballari.

Bengaluru among top 10 global tech hubs, I don't want to compare it with Hyderabad: K'taka Deputy CM

BENGALURU, MARCH 26

Responding to comparisons between Bengaluru and Hyderabad, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, stated that he does not wish to compare Bengaluru, which stands in sixth position as a global tech hub with Hyderabad, which is placed 26th. Speaking in the Legislative Assembly on Thursday, Dy CM Shivakumar, who also handles the Bengaluru Development portfolio, said, "According to a recent report, Bengaluru is among the top 10 global tech hubs. San Francisco ranks first, followed by London in second place. Bengaluru stands in sixth position, just behind Beijing, which is ranked fifth, while Hyderabad is placed 26th." "I do not want to compete with Hyderabad," he added.

Former Deputy Chief Minister, C.N. Ashwath Narayan, intervened, stating that they, too,

do not want Bengaluru to be compared with Hyderabad.

"In our country, there is no city that can be compared to Bengaluru. Our request is that, in certain aspects such as cost of living, Hyderabad may be around 50 per cent cheaper, and facilities may be better there. However, the cosmopolitan nature and talent pool available in Bengaluru cannot be found anywhere else. It must be preserved and its growth ensured," he said. "In reality, the role of the government in all this is minimal. All governments have neglected Bengaluru. Normally, discussions about Bengaluru do not take place," Ashwath Narayan added. At this point, Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said that Bengaluru attained a special status due to the establishment of public sector industries, as well as educational and academic institutions by successive governments. This



later paved the way for the IT revolution, hence, the government had played a significant role in its success. Leader of the Opposition R. Ashoka said that Hyderabad is being used as a point of reference because the media often compares the two cities. "If you (Shivakumar) choose not to speak about Hyderabad, it may be perceived as being in favour of it. Bengaluru was not built by us; it grew naturally. The interest of Karnata-

ka is paramount, otherwise the matter may take a political turn, especially since the Congress is in power there under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy," he said. Shivakumar said, "Bengaluru has given me everything, and I want to contribute. I cannot do it alone; everyone must cooperate. There are 250 engineering colleges and 70 medical colleges in Bengaluru. Nowhere else in the country can you see this. Every year, 13,940 doctors graduate from medical colleges in Karnataka—where are they going? Much of this talent is moving abroad." He added that the Prime Minister of the Netherlands had shared with him that the country saved 40 per cent of costs by opting for services from Bengaluru compared to other global cities. Shivakumar further said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had recently visited Bengaluru and referred to it as a global city. He recalled

that former Prime Minister, late Atal Bihari Vajpayee had once observed that there was a time when foreign leaders would first visit Delhi and then travel to other states. "Now, world leaders are coming to Bengaluru first and then going to Delhi," he said, referring to visits by prime ministers from China, Japan, the United Kingdom, Poland, and other countries within a short span. "All sections of society, including students and technocrats, have contributed to this growth. Today, Bengaluru has 26 lakh IT professionals. Out of the Fortune 500 companies, around 400 have a presence in Bengaluru. The American Ambassador has requested that Bengaluru develop 10 world-class schools. In California's Silicon Valley, there are about 1.35 million engineers, whereas Bengaluru has around 26 lakh engineers. This is the strength of Bengaluru," he said.

Gadag-Hotgi Doubling Project Completed: Almatti-Wandal Section Commissioned

HUBBALLI, MARCH 26:

South Western Railway has commissioned the newly laid Broad Gauge double line between Almatti and Wandal covering a total length of 9.60 km. The section was opened for public carriage of passengers on 25.03.2026 as part of the Gadag-Hotgi Doubling Project of South Western Railway.

The newly commissioned section includes construction of an important open web girder bridge across the Parvatikatti River consisting of 9 spans of 45.72 metres each. In addition, one minor bridge, one Road Over Bridge (ROB) and other associated infrastructure have also been completed.

The track has been laid using 60 kg rails on PSC sleepers with adequate ballast cushion, suitable for a maximum permissible

speed of 110 kmph. Required signalling arrangements, station facilities and safety measures have also been provided to ensure safe and efficient train operations. Almatti-Wandal section was one of the important pending links in the doubling project and its completion marks the final milestone of Gadag-Hotgi Doubling Project of South Western Railway. With the commissioning of this section, the entire Gadag-Hotgi doubling project stands completed. This will significantly enhance line capacity, reduce train delays, improve punctuality and facilitate faster movement of passenger and freight trains. The project will also ensure safer and smoother train operations and provide a major boost to rail connectivity and freight movement in the region.

EDITORIAL

FROM TEHRAN TO HAVANA:
THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S
GLOBAL POLICY OF IMPUNITY

Even as the world is feeling the pinch of the ill-thought-out and cruel attacks by the United States and its West Asian loose-cannon ally, Israel, on Iran, an equally heinous imperial act is under way in the Caribbean, drawing little attention. The Trump administration has effectively blockaded Cuba's fuel supplies to pressure regime change. In actions taken since December 2025, interdicting Venezuelan oil shipments, threatening punitive tariffs on any country supplying fuel and deterring Russian diesel and crude oil supplies, the U.S. has strangled a petroleum-dependent country, where oil drives 83% of power generation. The consequences have been devastating. There have been three grid collapses in March 2026, even as garbage is piling up in Havana and other cities, perishable food is rotting, and industry and government offices have shut. Donald Trump's actions are criminally illegal by international law. He claims that Cuba is "seeing the end", boasts that he will have the "honour" of "taking" Cuba, and has called on the Cuban government to "make a deal before it's too late", without specifying any terms.

The actions against Cuba must be seen against a six-decade long U.S. embargo — but what Cubans term a blockade — ever since the revolution nationalised U.S.-owned enterprises in the early 1960s. The U.S.'s trade embargo in 1962 was progressively strengthened as the Helms-Burton Act of 1996 effectively conscripted the global business community into enforcing it. Meanwhile, Cuba's designation as a state sponsor of terrorism — removed by Barack Obama but restored by Mr. Trump and lacking any rational basis — has cut the country off from international banking. That these coercive measures persisted much after the Cold War reveals that their true purpose is not U.S. national security, but the appeasement of the right-wing Cuban-American community in Florida, led by U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, son of Cuban émigrés, for whom regime change in Havana is a lifelong ambition. Mr. Trump's military intervention in Venezuela, including capturing a sitting President and seizing control of its oil, was itself partly designed to sever Cuba's primary fuel lifeline under the doctors-for-fuel arrangement. The pattern is clear: impunity in Venezuela emboldened the Trump administration to asphyxiate Cuba and impunity in Cuba has accompanied America's war on Iran. Each unchallenged act of imperial overreach normalises the next, threatening not just vulnerable nations in the U.S. orbit but also the very framework of international order. The world, including India, must not remain silent and have the gumption to condemn these actions and provide humanitarian assistance, under the aegis of the United Nations, for the people of Cuba.



THE GRAND EPIC OF SILENT



In torn scrolls of time, a trembling truth takes birth,
In whispers of darkness, fall the soft rains of worth;
Between faded pages, a hidden pulse still breathes,
In layers of language, a lingering fragrance weaves.

A river of silence where unseen melodies flow,
A smile on the surface, a storm buried below;
Time melts the paper, yet cannot erase the light,
For dreams rise as embers that outlive the night.

Between broken words lie the wounds never told,
In folds of the heart, silent sorrows take hold;
Each atom of language, a soul set aflame,
Each scar of experience—a sacred unnamed.

Life is an ocean of memories cascading deep,
Where wisdom awakens from slumbers we keep;
In moonlight of meaning, emotions softly gleam,
And pain turns to poetry—like a half-forgotten dream.

Even when time wields its merciless blade,
True verses endure, they never will fade;
In fragments of ruin, new consciousness grows,
From ashes of feeling, eternity flows.

At last—
A torn book still whispers its timeless decree:
"Words may fall silent, yet essence stays free;
Though feelings turn to ashes in destiny's flame,
Their light writes forever what time cannot claim."

... Dr. Peruka Raju ...
7810032847

Israel & Palestine

NEW SECURITY ARCHITECTURE

Contrary to optimistic vision of stabilisation and economic development in the Middle East contained in Trump administration's US strategic documents, Israeli political elites appear to perceive the coming years as a period of systemic uncertainty. From their perspective, Israel is at a historic turning point that justifies pursuing policies that maximize strategic goals, even at high international cost. The goal is to gain acceptance for the vision of a single state in the Palestinian territory.

Regardless of whether the Palestinians will have a broader or more limited scope of presence and self-government in West Bank, it should be assumed that by 2028 the strategy of the government of Benjamin Netanyahu will be focused on three aims.

One, the annexation process of parts of West Bank, while maintaining limited Palestinian representation in selected areas, could be seen as a strategic goal. A permanent change in the status of this territory could be seen as a strategic goal, assuming the most densely populated Palestinian areas would remain under the control of their inhabitants and function under a formula of limited self-rule. Such a solution would also have a political and image-building dimension, allowing, on the one hand, to limit pressure from the international community and, on the other, to present the existence of Palestinian enclaves as an alternative to a full two-state solution.

Two, the voluntary or forced relocation of a portion of the Palestinian population from the West Bank. In conditions of international instability, this process could be staggered and hybrid, combining elements of forced migration with formally voluntary migration, implemented through both direct and indirect actions. Strategically, this would mean striving to reduce the Palestinian population in Judea and Samaria.

Three, pursuing an offensive-defensive policy towards the Gaza Strip, the nature and intention of which will depend on the evolving security situation in the area. It can be assumed that the Israeli government's policy will largely depend on development of the situation in the area. If the presence of international military forces reduces the terrorist threat, stabilises the situation, and creates conditions for infrastructure investments, Israel may allow implementation of the so-called Trump Plan. However, if the developments are deemed unfavourable from a national security perspective, the possibility of renewed, controlled military escalation should be considered, which will effectively block the reconstruction process in this territory.

The pursuit of a lasting resolution of the status of the territories of historic Palestine should be viewed as a central element of Israel's strategic calculation. West Bank is crucial for Israel, both from a security perspective and in terms of historical and identity considerations, and its formal or de facto integration into the Israeli political and spatial system remains a fundamental goal of the current policy of Netanyahu's government.

The Gaza Strip occupies a more ambivalent position within this strategy. On one hand, its permanent integration into Israeli security system cannot be ruled out, but on the other, under favourable conditions, it could become part of a broader regional and international agreement. Maintaining it in a state of controlled uncertainty, however, seems more likely, limiting political and strategic costs while simultaneously maintaining full freedom of action. The long-term prospects for Gaza's potential reconstruction must also be borne in mind. Repairing the infrastructure damage alone is estimated to take 10-15 years, meaning that the implementation of more extensive economic and spatial projects would have to be spread over at least a dozen years.

Consequently, Israeli strategic planning assumes a functional separation of two theaters: the Gaza Strip and West Bank. While

the former remains a space for conflict management and an instrument in regional relations, the latter represents a fundamental priority in geopolitical, cultural, and religious dimensions, as well as a key area for long-term transformation of the territorial reality.

Many indications suggest that Israeli strategic planning is currently being conducted within the timeframe set by Trump's second term. This period can be viewed in Jerusalem as a window of opportunity, enabling fundamental territorial and structural changes with relatively limited political costs in relations with US.

At the same time, Israeli security elites must assume a scenario in which, after 2028, Washington will no longer play the role of guarantor of regional security to the same extent as before. This stems from both the evolution of American strategic doctrine and changes in public opinion in US. Support for Israel's policy in Gaza Strip remains low, which will influence the long-term calculations of subsequent administrations, regardless of their party affiliation.

At the same time, a gradual erosion of Israel's relations with some European countries is visible. Although it maintains relatively stable relations with selected Central European countries, as well as with Germany and Austria, in the long term, the political directions of Israel and the European Union may increasingly diverge. This necessitates a redefinition of the current security model, which is largely based on the American strategic umbrella and political support from the West. In this context, Israel's new security architecture must consider a scenario of partial strategic autonomy, understood as the ability to function with limited support from US.

This is not just about increasing military self-sufficiency, but also about building regional security systems that could function independently of the Palestinian component and creating physical buffer zones that would strengthen

the state's strategic depth. In this context, maintaining control over the Golan Heights, the recurring concepts in Israeli debate of re-establishing a security zone in southern Lebanon, activity in unstable Syrian areas, and the strategic role of the Jordan Valley are particularly important.

A key element of Israel's strategy is relations with India, maintaining channels of communication with Russia, especially in context of Syria and Moscow's relations with Tehran, and deepening cooperation with Persian Gulf states are gaining importance. In the long term, Saudi Arabia's position will be crucial, as it remains the main variable determining the durability of a regional security system based on logic of Abraham Accords.

From Israel's perspective, the most desirable scenario would be the creation of a regional security system focused on containing Iran, functioning independently of a resolution to the Palestinian issue. However, the greatest barrier to implementing such a model remains Riyadh's current policy, which makes full normalisation of relations contingent on progress on Palestinian issue.

The process of shaping a new security architecture includes actions aimed at eliminating the strategic threat to Israel, which remains the Islamic Republic of Iran and its network of affiliated non-state actors (so-called proxies). Elements of this strategy have been visible over the past two years: in actions against Hamas, in strikes against Hezbollah's military infrastructure in southern Lebanon, and in attacks on nuclear and military installations in Iranian territory.

The escalation at the turn of February and March 2026, however, goes beyond the need for tactical neutralization of the threat. It has strategic and psychological significance. Its goal is, of course, to reduce Iran's military capabilities, but also to demonstrate to Muslim states of Middle East that Israel aspires to be the dominant military power in the region. The strategic base thus built is intended

to act both as a real projection of power towards Arab states and as a tool of deterrence.

The second dimension of this strategy remains the continuation and expansion of the Abrahamic Agreements, albeit within a modified political logic. Until now, the normalization process has been characterized by relations between formally equal partners. In the current geopolitical situation, this dynamic may change. Arab states may find themselves under increasing psychological pressure stemming from the belief that remaining outside the system of regional agreements with Israel will have tangible consequences for their security. From a different perspective, regional states may seek to deepen strategic relations, including in military and defense dimensions, with powers such as China and India.

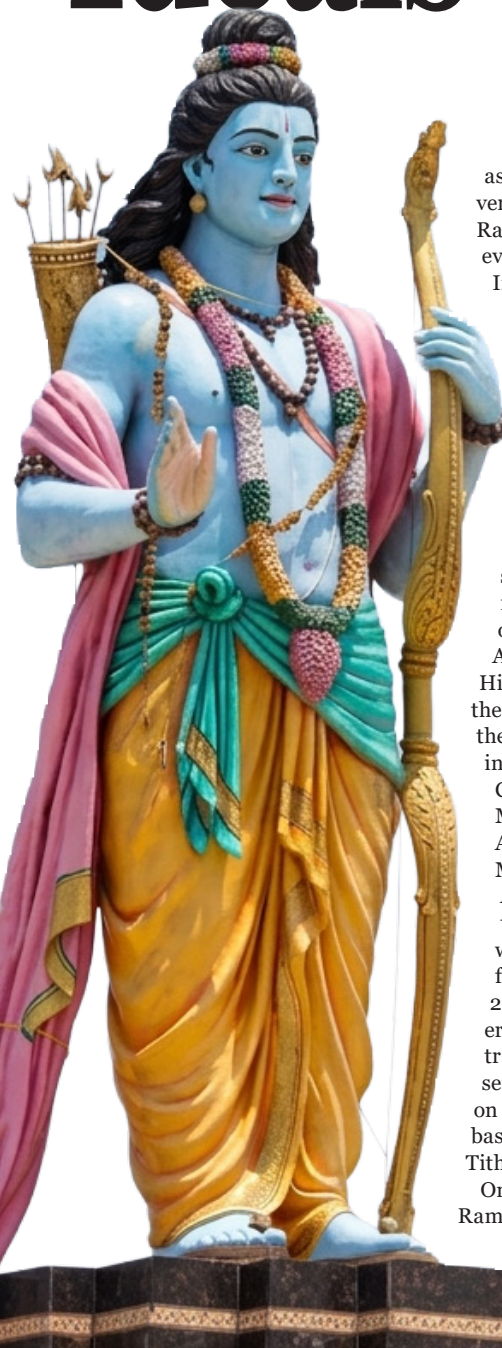
For Israel, the expansion of the Abraham Accords remains a key strategic objective in the process of building a new security architecture. For Saudi Arabia, the Palestinian issue remains an obstacle to normalizing relations. This very area may become the subject of intensified diplomatic activity. From Israeli perspective, the new security structure is based on two parallel processes: changing the status of West Bank and normalizing relations with Riyadh. With its growing military superiority, Israel may seek to exert political pressure on Saudi leadership to marginalize the Palestinian issue or partially exclude it from the normalization process.

The reduction of American security guarantees in Middle East, combined with growth of Israel's regional military advantage, may induce Saudi Arabia to fundamentally redefine its policy towards the Palestinian issue and to revise its current support for the two-state concept. Solution, and Israel itself may take additional military and diplomatic initiatives to accelerate the process.

BY JERZY WÓJCIK
(Expert, Centre for International Relations)

Ram Navami:

A Festival Adorned with the Ideals of Lord Shri Ram



Ram Navami, celebrated as the birth anniversary of Lord Shri Ram, is observed every year across India on the ninth day (Navami) of the Shukla Paksha in the month of Chaitra with immense devotion, faith, and enthusiasm. This year, there has been some confusion regarding the date of Ram Navami. According to the Hindu calendar, the Navami tithi of the Shukla Paksha in the month of Chaitra begins on March 26 at 11:48 AM and ends on March 27 at 10:06 AM. Accordingly, the general public will celebrate the festival on March 26, while followers of the Vaishnav tradition will observe Ram Navami on March 27, 2026, based on the Udaya Tithi.

On the occasion of Ram Navami, grand

celebrations are organized in Ayodhya, the birthplace of Lord Ram. Thousands of devotees from across the country visit Ayodhya, take a holy dip in the Sarayu River, and perform the Panchkosi Parikrama. The entire city of Ayodhya appears immersed in devotion to Lord Ram, with the sound of bhajans, kirtans, and continuous recitations of the Ramayana echoing everywhere. Across the country, various religious rituals such as havan, fasting, yajna, and charity are performed with devotion.

According to belief, in the Treta Yuga, on this very day, Queen Kaushalya, the chief consort of King Dasharatha of Ayodhya, gave birth to Maryada Purushottam Lord Ram. Lord Ram's character was exceptionally noble and compassionate. He liberated Ahalya, who had been turned into stone after being wrongly accused due to the deceit of Indra. When no one accepted her innocence, Lord Ram provided her shelter and redemption. Deeply moved by the devotion of the humble boatman Kevat, who ferried people across the Ganga, Lord Ram treated him like a younger brother and granted him salvation. He also accepted and ate the tasted berries offered by his devoted tribal follower Shabari, thereby blessing her.

When Queen Kaikeyi demanded from King Dasharatha the exile of Ram for 14 years and the coronation of her son Bharat as king, Dasharatha was plunged into a grave moral dilemma. He could not bear to send Ram into exile, yet he was bound by his

promise. Upon learning of this, Lord Ram willingly accepted the harsh command with grace and prepared to leave for the forest, ensuring that Bharat would ascend the throne. Despite Ram's persuasion, his wife Sita and younger brother Lakshman insisted on accompanying him.

Their journey into exile began from Shringaverpur and then proceeded to the ashram of Sage Bharadwaj in Chitrakoot. Later, they decided to settle in Panchavati, where they built a hut. It was here that the incident of cutting off the nose of Shurpanakha, Ravana's sister, took place. As a result, Khara, Dushan, and 14,000 demons were killed by Ram and Lakshman. It was also here that Ravana abducted Sita in their absence and took her to Lanka. It is said that Ram, unable to bear the separation from Sita, expressed grief like an ordinary human but did not lose courage. Along with Lakshman, he wandered through forests in search of her. During this time, they met Hanuman, the greatest devotee of Ram, who introduced them to Sugriva, the younger brother of Bali. Ram killed Bali and installed Sugriva and Angad as rulers of Kishkindha. With the help of Sugriva's army, Ram launched an attack on Lanka, defeated Ravana—the mighty and learned king and a devoted follower of Lord Shiva—and freed Sita. Instead of claiming Lanka, he crowned Vibhishana, Ravana's younger brother, as its king. After completing his 14-year exile, Ram returned to Ayodhya with Sita, Lakshman, and Hanuman.

In reality, according to divine destiny, Ram's exile was meant for the destruction of evil forces. Unlike Lord Krishna, he did not perform miraculous acts or engage in divine play, but instead set an ideal example through his actions. This is why he is called 'Maryada Purushottam'—the epitome of righteousness and ideal conduct. The war between Ram and Ravana was not merely a battle between two kings but a conflict between two ideologies—human values versus demonic tendencies. On one side stood compassion, justice, and selflessness; on the other, greed, injustice, and tyranny. Ravana symbolized oppression and immorality, while Ram stood for truth, righteousness, and virtue. Even after Sita's abduction, Ram never abandoned his principles. He continued to respect Ravana as a great scholar, as evident when he sent Lakshman to learn from Ravana moments before his death. Lord Ram embodied deep love for all. His governance was marked by justice, compassion, and truth, which is why his rule is still regarded as ideal—referred to as 'Ram Rajya', a state of peace, prosperity, and justice.



YOGESH KUMAR GOYAL



PM to visit UP on 28th March

LUCKNOW, MARCH 26:

PM to inaugurate Phase I of Noida International Airport developed with an investment of around ₹11,200 crore. Noida International Airport planned as a Multi-Modal Transport Hub with seamless integration across road, rail, metro, and regional transit systems. Airport also incorporates a Multi-Modal Cargo Hub, designed to handle over 2.5 lakh metric tonnes annually, expandable to around 18 lakh metric tonnes. Airport to initially have a passenger handling capacity of 12 million passengers per annum (MPPA), with scalability up to 70 MPPA.

Got 60 days of fuel for everyone: Govt says India energy secure for months to come

NEW DELHI: MAR 26, 2026

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said crude oil supplies have already been secured for the next 60 days. Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have tied up imports in advance, ensuring there is no gap in supply.

India has sufficient oil and fuel supplies for nearly two months, the government has said, urging people not to panic over rumours of shortages. Amid ongoing tensions in West Asia, officials said that the country's energy situation remains stable and fully under control.

NO SUPPLY GAP, SAYS GOVERNMENT

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said crude oil supplies have already been secured for the next 60 days. Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs)



have tied up imports in advance, ensuring there is no gap in supply, according to the release by PIB dated March 26, 2026. Despite concerns around the Strait of Hormuz, India is receiving crude oil from more than 40 global suppliers. In fact, higher availability from other regions has more than made up for any disruption. Refineries across the country are running at over 100 per cent capacity, keeping the fuel flow steady.

STRONG RESERVES AND STEADY SUPPLY

India's total reserve capacity stands at 74 days, while the actual stock available right now is around 60 days. This includes crude oil, refined products and strategic reserves stored in underground caverns. Officials said that even on the 27th day of the West Asia crisis, the country has nearly two months of steady supply for all citizens. With additional procurement already planned,

India remains secure for the coming months. The government has made it clear that there is no shortage of petrol, diesel or LPG anywhere in the country. All fuel stations are operating normally, and there is no rationing in place.

India, being one of the world's largest refiners and a major exporter of petroleum products, has a strong domestic supply system. Any isolated rush at fuel pumps, officials said, was due to panic triggered by misleading social media content, not an actual shortage. LPG supply has also been strengthened. Domestic production has increased significantly, now meeting more than half of the daily requirement. As a result, the need for imports has reduced. At the same time, large LPG shipments from countries like the United States, Russia and Australia are already on the way. Oil companies continue to deliver cylinders smoothly across the country, and demand has returned to normal levels after a

brief spike.

PNG PUSH PART OF LONG-TERM PLAN

The government clarified that the promotion of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) is not a response to any shortage. Instead, it is part of a long-term plan to move towards cleaner and more affordable energy. PNG connections have expanded rapidly over the years, and the shift is being encouraged as a better option for households.

WARNING AGAINST MIS-INFORMATION

The ministry has also warned against false information being spread online. It said some posts and videos are creating unnecessary panic by showing misleading visuals and making baseless claims about shortages. People have been advised to rely only on official updates. The government added that strict action may be taken against those spreading rumours that could disrupt public confidence.



Air India London flight makes U-turn over Saudi, lands in Delhi after 7 hours

Flightradar data showed that the Air India A350 aircraft (AI 111), en route to London's Heathrow airport from Delhi, made a turnaround while it was flying over Saudi Arabian airspace.

A London-bound Air India flight (AI 111) returned to Delhi on Thursday afternoon after being airborne for nearly seven hours following a technical glitch. Flightradar data showed that the A350 aircraft, en route to Heathrow airport, made a turnaround while it was flying over Saudi Arabian airspace, which was recently affected due to the Iran war. This is the second time in a week that an Air India flight made a U-turn mid-air over technical issues. The London-bound flight took off from Delhi at 6.13 am on Thursday and landed at around 1.20 pm. Data showed that the Air India aircraft flew for around 3,300 km before turning back mid-air. It takes around 6-7 hours to reach London from Saudi Arabia. Air India hasn't given any reason why it decided to take the long way back to Delhi. Sources told India Today that the AI 111 flight made a U-turn after noises were heard in the aircraft. Earlier, the same issue was encountered on this aircraft while operating flight AI102 (New York, JFK-Delhi) on March 16. Then mainte-

nance/inspection was carried out on the aircraft in consultation with Airbus and no deficiencies were observed. Since then, the aircraft has flown ten sectors without any abnormality. It was the same aircraft, registered as VT-JRF, that was diverted to Shannon in Ireland while it was en route to New York from New Delhi. The incident happened on March 15. Air India had then also stated that it was due to a technical issue. However, an Air India spokesperson said the flight made a precautionary return to Delhi's IGI Airport following a suspected technical issue. "The aircraft landed safely and, consistent with Air India's high safety standards, it is currently subject to extensive technical evaluations, which will require additional time to complete," the statement said. The spokesperson said all assistance, including refreshments, was being provided to the passengers. The aircraft was airborne for around four hours before the turnaround decision was taken. In total, the plane was airborne for nearly seven hours.

The incident comes nearly a week after a Vancouver-bound Air India flight returned to Delhi after being airborne for over seven hours. The carrier had cited an operational issue. The Boeing 777-200 LR aircraft made a U-turn when it was over Chinese airspace.

Railway Minister Reviews Progress of Kavach Implementation

NEW DELHI, MARCH 26:

Indigenous Universal Braking Algorithm Developed under Kavach by Railways to Help in Faster Implementation of Kavach 4.0

Union Minister for Railways Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw reviewed the progress of Kavach, the indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system of Indian Railways. The meeting focused on accelerating deployment, and leveraging advanced technology to ensure more efficient train operations. Technological Advancements Driving Kavach Indian Railways has introduced several cutting-edge enhancements in Kavach. The Universal Braking Algorithm (UBA), which standardizes braking curves across different manufacturers, ensures interoperability and eliminates repetitive trials. Significant upgrades in baseline software, AI-driven design automation, and integration interfaces for locomo-

tives, interlocking systems, and track machines are further strengthening system robustness. A centralized monitoring platform, SURAKSHA, is being developed as a unified Operations Management System to enable real-time monitoring, and predictive maintenance of Kavach installations.

Progress So Far

So far Kavach has been installed on 3,103 Route Km. Kavach Work is currently in progress on 24,427 route kilometers, including high-density and high-utilization corridors. As part of Version 4.0 deployment:

1,638 route kilometers have already been commissioned on key corridors such as Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Howrah. Recently, Indian Railways

has commissioned Kavach on 190 Route Kilometres of Prayagraj-Kanpur Section of Delhi-Howrah High-Density Corridor. 7,100 route kilometers have trackside installations underway. Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) has been laid over 8,921 km, supported by 1,183 telecom towers and Kavach Data Centres installations across 767 stations. Kavach has been installed on 4,277 locomotives. Work is in progress on 8,979 locomotives.

Expansion Plans

Kavach installation is a complex process. To further expand its implementation, Railway is planning to expand Kavach network by 9,000 Route Km in next two years and thereafter it is expected to grow upto 10,000 Route Km per year.

CM chairs HPPC meeting; Approves purchase of jute and other bags

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 26

In a meeting of the High Powered Purchase Committee (HPPC) held here on Thursday under the chairmanship of Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini, important decisions were taken to strengthen storage arrangements for the Rabi 2026-27 season. Two agendas regarding the purchase of jute and other storage bags worth Rs. 550 crore were discussed in the meeting. Through negotiation, savings of Rs. 80 crore were achieved, and approval was granted for the purchase of jute bags as well as other bags to ensure safe storage of wheat. This decision will further enhance the state's grain storage capacity and ensure smooth and secure storage of wheat procured from farmers.



The procurement process is being carried out keeping in view the requirements of the Food and Supplies Department, Hafed, and the Haryana State Warehousing Corporation (HSWC). During the meeting, the Chief Minister directed officers to ensure that the procurement process remains transparent, time-bound, and in accordance with quality standards so that government resources are utilised optimally.

Reiterating the government's commitment to farm-

ers' welfare, the Chief Minister said that ensuring safe storage of agricultural produce remains the top priority. He directed officers to complete preparations for the Rabi season promptly so that there are no difficulties in managing the arrival of crops in the mandis. Urban Local Bodies Minister, Sh. Vipul Goel, Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister, Sh. Shyam Singh Rana, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister, Sh. Arun Gupta and other officers were present during the meeting.

340 Muslim voters under scrutiny deleted from Bengal booth, BLO also in list

WEST BENGAL, MARCH 26



A major controversy erupted in West Bengal's Basirhat North Assembly constituency after 340 voters from a single booth were removed from the electoral roll in the recently published supplementary list. The affected individuals, all belonging to the Muslim community from Booth no 5 in Boro Gobra village, had previously been marked as "under adjudication" in the draft roll. However, their names were deleted after the first supplementary list was published on Monday. The situation intensified when it was discovered that even the name of the Booth Level Officer, Md Shafiq Alam, was among those deleted. In

response to the mass removal, over a hundred residents staged a protest at the officer's residence and on local streets, alleging a targeted exclusion based on their community. Affected residents and local officials have expressed deep frustration over the alleged lack of transparency from electoral authorities. Alam mentioned that his attempts to seek a resolution from the Block Development Officer of Basirhat Block II were met

with the response that no further action could be taken, while the Electoral Registration Officer remained unreachable. One of the affected voters, Kajirul Mondal, pointed out that although the Election Commission requires only one of eleven valid documents, many submitted three or four, yet their names were still purged. The protesters have alleged that the Commission acted under political influence to satisfy specific partisan demands. Alam announced his plans to take the matter to a tribunal for legal redress. The dispute centred on Booth No 5 under the Begumpur Bibipur Gram Panchayat in Basirhat Block II, which has a total of 992 registered voters.

youth need to have more patience, perseverance, and humility to succeed in life : Hema Malini

MATHURA, MARCH 26



Lord Krishna's city is immersed in the devotion of Ma Durga as a large number of devotees throng into Devi temples on the occasion of Ashtami today. On Ashtami, Mathura Lok Sabha MP Hema Malini, while extending her wishes, shared a video from her movie Dakshineshvara Kali Ma, asking youth, especially girls, to build a character inspired from Maa Kali, fierce in action yet compassionate. The dance beautifully portrays the rage of Mahakali while fighting with the demon Raktbeej, consuming each drop of his blood to weaken him and to behead him later. This sent Kali into a more fierce state of Tandav, which threatened the very existence of universes. Lord Shiva steps in, and when she puts her feet on his chest, she realizes her mistake

and calms down, she said. Our strength becomes destructive if it is uncontrolled, but it is grounded and balanced under consciousness, Hema Malini said. The youth need to have more patience, perseverance, and humility to succeed in life. One needs to control his ego and kill negativity to make a better society the Lok Sabha MP said. Mahagauri is the eighth form of Maa Durga. According to popular beliefs, Mata Parvati did penance to get Lord Shiva as her husband in this form, Raman Tandon, media in charge of the Ma Kali temple,

said. A yagna will start today in the evening and will finish tomorrow on Navmi. The temple distributed halwa chana as prasada, Dinesh Chaturvedi, Sewayat of Ma Kali Temple, said. The temple will be decked with Raibeli (Arabian jasmine) flowers tomorrow in Phool Bangla. At Vrindavan's, Katyani temple, a Shakti peeth, a special Sandhi Arati was performed today at 2.06 pm, the time when the Ashtami and Navami dates will meet. Vijay Mishra, manager of the temple, said. The arati is considered very auspicious and is attended by a large number of devotees. Since morning a large number of devotees have been visiting the temple to offer prayers, Virendra Kumar Chaturvedi (Viru Panda), sewayat of the Baglamukhi temple in Mathura, said. The temple will organize a Hawan tomorrow, followed by Bhandara the next day.

NFR Accelerates Execution of Development Works

through Multi Location Inspection by GM

MALIGAON, 26 MARCH, 2026:

Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) General Manager Shri Chetan Kumar Shrivastava conducted a comprehensive inspection of key sections in the Lumding Division on March 24 to assess infrastructure development, safety systems and passenger amenities. He was accompanied by senior officials from NFR Headquarters and divisional authorities. The inspection began from Kamakhya, covering Lumding, Diphu and Barpathar. At Lumding, the General Manager reviewed the proposed Loco Mid-life Rehabilitation Project at the relief yard, aimed at improving locomotive efficiency and ensuring long-term operational sustainability. A successful speed trial between Bokajan and Barpathar over a 31.3 km stretch achieved speeds up to 120 kmph, adhering to all safety norms and highlighting NFR's

focus on capacity enhancement and safe operations. At Diphu, key passenger and safety initiatives were inspected, including the Electronic Interlocking Double Section system between Diphu and Daldali, strengthening operational safety over a 10 km stretch. CCTV surveillance systems and a newly constructed Road Under Bridge replacing Level Crossing Gate No. ST-58 were also reviewed to enhance safety and reduce congestion. At Barpathar, modern technologies such as data and voice recording systems at level crossings were demonstrated. Critical track components, including Points & Crossings, Long Welded Rails and Switch Expansion Joints, were inspected. The General Manager also interacted with staff, appreciating their efforts. The inspection reaffirmed NFR's commitment to modernization, safety and improved passenger services.

Chhindwara Crash: 10 Dead, Cong Seeks Probe

BHOPAL: (MAR 26)

The Madhya Pradesh Congress sought a judicial probe into the bus-pick up vehicle accident in Chhindwara on Thursday in which 10 persons died and 31 were injured. The accident took place at 7pm near Simaria on Nagpur Road there when the bus was returning with people who had taken part in a function in which Chief Minister Mohan Yadav inaugurated and laid foundation stones of projects costing Rs 506 crore. In a Facebook post, MP Congress president Jitu Patwari alleged people were brought to the function in large number through inducement and pressure, which led to the tragedy.

Mahavir More Relevant in an Era of War and Unrest: Paswan

NEW DELHI, MARCH 26, 2026



Union Minister for Food and Public Distribution, Chirag Paswan, said that the birthplace of Lord Mahavir in Bihar is not only a sacred land for the Jain community but for the entire humanity, representing faith and peace. He stated that in today's atmosphere of war and unrest, a revolution of peace, non-violence, and love should arise from this land to guide the world. He was addressing the Lok-Dharmotsav 2026 as the Chief Guest on the auspicious occasion of the 2625th Janma Kalyanak of Tirthankar Lord Mahavir. The event was organized by the Mahavirayatan Foundation and was held today at Mavalankar Auditorium, New Delhi, in a grand, dignified, and inspirational atmosphere. He further said that the Jain community should make organized and widespread efforts to establish Bi-

har as a global land of peace and non-violence and to develop Lord Mahavir's birthplace into a grand international pilgrimage center. He called for collective initiatives in this direction. On this occasion, several Union Ministers, Members of Parliament, saints, scholars, social workers, and representatives of various organizations were present. During the program, speakers emphasized that Lord Mahavir's message of non-violence, Anekant (multiplicity of viewpoints),

Aparigraha (non-possession), and "Live and Let Live" is extremely relevant in the present global situation. They also appreciated the efforts of Swami Devendra Brahmachari in making Jainism a people's religion (Jan Dharma). Rajya Sabha MP and National General Secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Arun Singh, said in his address, "At a time when the world is passing through an era of war, violence, and intolerance, Lord Mahavir's message of non-violence and

taught the world the path of conquering oneself. Today, humanity has conquered the world through science but has not conquered the mind, which is why unrest and conflicts are increasing. Mahavir's path is the path of inner peace, balance, and coexistence. He further said that non-violence does not mean only avoiding physical violence, but also bringing compassion and sensitivity into thoughts, speech, and behavior. Founder of Sukhi Parivar Foundation, Gani Rajendra Vijay Ji Maharaj, was also present on this occasion. During the program, the book "Nirgun Chadaraya" written by renowned author, journalist, and columnist Lalit Garg on Swami Devendra Brahmachari was also released. On this occasion, Lalit Garg said, "Swami Devendra Brahmachari is not just a saint, but a thought, a consciousness, and a spiritual journey.

Haryana: 2 killed, 10 injured as 2 families clash over land in Karnal village

CHANDIGARH: (MAR 26)

Two men were killed and 10 others injured in a clash between two families at a village in Haryana's Karnal district on Thursday, triggered by a dispute over a piece of land, police said. An officer from the

Gharaunda police station in the district said the clash took place between the members of two extended families at Mundigarhi village. Of the two who died, Wahid (55) was allegedly run over by a tractor, while the other man, said to be his relative, died of injuries he sustained in the clash.

Russia Deploys Navy to Guard Merchant Ships

BY VINAY SHUKLA

MOSCOW: (Mar 26) Moscow will provide naval escort to ships carrying Russian cargo following growing cases of Western navies intercepting such vessels, the country's maritime board said. The Maritime Board of Russia, headed by the top Kremlin aide, Nikolai Patrushev, in a meeting on Wednesday, devised a set of rules for countering detention of Russian ships on high seas and international shipping lanes, portnews.ru web portal for seafarers reported. Although these guidelines primarily cover the Azov-Black Sea basin and the Baltic Sea region, ensuring secure and efficient navigation, it was not clear whether the naval escort would be provided beyond these parts of the world.

Gulf Bloc Flags Iran's Hormuz Transit Fee Demand

BY JON GAMBRELL AND DAVID RISING

DUBAI: (Mar 26) (AP) The secretary-general of the Gulf Cooperation Council says Iran is charging fees for ships to safely transit the Strait of Hormuz. Jassem Mohamed al-Budaiwi is the first top official to accuse Iran of charging for safe passage through the strait. That's the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf through which 20 per cent of traded oil once passed. Al-Budaiwi oversees the bloc of six Gulf Arab nations including Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. He spoke during a news conference Thursday in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Israel removes Iran Foreign Minister, Speaker from hit list after Pak intervenes

ISLAMABAD: MAR 26, 2026

Islamabad has maintained direct contact with both Washington and Tehran at a time when such channels are frozen for most other countries. Islamabad has also been seen as a likely venue if peace talks are held.



Israel took Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and Parliamentary Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf off its hit list after Pakistan requested that Washington not target them, a Pakistani source with knowledge of the

discussions told Reuters on Thursday.

"The Israelis had their coordinates and wanted to take them out. We told the US if they were also eliminated, then there would be no one else to talk to. Hence, the US

asked the Israelis to back off," the source said. Pakistan's military and foreign office did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The Wall Street Journal first reported that the two top Iranian officials had been

temporarily removed from Israel's list of officials to eliminate as they explore possible peace talks. The two officials have been removed from the list for up to four or five days, the publication said, citing US officials, but did not mention any Pakistani role in it.

Pakistan, Egypt and Turkey are playing the role of mediator between Tehran and Washington to end the Iran war.

Islamabad has maintained direct contact with both Washington and Tehran at a time when such channels are frozen for most other countries. Islamabad has also been seen as a likely venue if peace

talks are held.

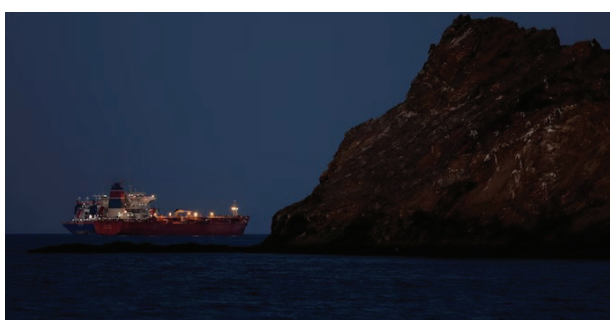
Iran is reviewing a 15-point proposal from US President Donald Trump, sent through Pakistan, to end the war. The proposal calls for removing Iran's stocks of highly enriched uranium, halting enrichment, curbing its ballistic missile program and cutting off funding for regional allies, according to Israeli cabinet sources familiar with the plan.

Trump has said Iran is desperate to make a deal, while Araghchi said Tehran was reviewing the US proposal but had no intention of holding talks to wind down the conflict.

Hormuz opens for India: Iran says 5 'friendly nations' won't face blockade

NEW DELHI, MAR 26, 2026

In an interview with Iranian state TV, Abbas Araghchi said that the Strait of Hormuz is not entirely closed, as several friendly nations are allowed to pass through.



Amid the escalating conflict in the Middle East, Iran announced that it would not impose a blockade on vessels belonging to five friendly nations, including India, in the Strait of Hormuz. Other than India, ships from Russia, China, Pakistan, and Iraq have been allowed safe passage through the conflict-torn chokepoint. In an interview with Iranian state TV, Abbas Araghchi, the Foreign Minister of Iran, said that the Strait of Hormuz is not entirely closed, as ships belonging to several nations with whom Iran shares friendly ties were allowed to pass through.

"Many of the shipowners, or the countries that own these vessels, have contacted us and requested that we ensure their safe passage through the strait. For some of these countries that we consider friendly, or in cases where we have decided to do so for other reasons, our armed forces have provided safe passage," Araghchi said, according to a Reuters report that cited the state TV. "You have seen on the news: China, Russia, Pakistan, Iraq, and India. Two of its ships passed through a few nights

ago, and some other countries, and even Bangladesh, I believe. These are countries that spoke with us and coordinated with us, and this will continue in the future as well, even after the war," he added. However, he affirmed that vessels from the United States, Israel, and Gulf nations playing a role in the prevailing Middle East conflict will not be provided with the green signal to transit through the war-ridden water point. "We are in a state of war. The region is a war zone, and there is no reason to allow

the ships of our enemies and their allies to pass through. But it remains open to others," Araghchi said, while talking about the ships of the 'enemy nations.' Araghchi also expressed his satisfaction over the command that Iran showed over the Strait of Hormuz after almost five decades. He said that when Iran announced the partial blockade, many in the world did not believe it and thought it was a bluff. However, with time, Iran showed its strength and authority over the Strait of Hormuz. "They thought Iran did not have the courage to do such a thing. But we did it with strength. They mobilised all their abilities to stop it, but they failed. They even turned to other countries. They even appealed to those they themselves consider enemies, asking them to come and help reopen this waterway. But no one responded, because it is simply not feasible," Araghchi mentioned.

WHAT HAPPENED IN STRAIT OF HORMUZ
A few days after the joint US-Israeli military action against Iran, a senior official from Iran's Islamic Republic Guard Corps (IRGC) announced a partial closure of the Strait of Hormuz. The closure gave birth to a global energy crisis as the chokepoint was used as one of the world's busiest oil shipping channels, with nearly 20% of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas passing through the corridor, a report by the BBC said. The closure triggered an increase in global oil and gas prices, with several countries being affected. The maritime disruption triggered a supply shortage of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) in India, as the nation imported nearly 90% of its total LPG through the strait. The shortage hit a vast section of people - ranging from small street vendors to restaurant owners.

Trump Says Iran Offered Top Post, He Declines

NEW DELHI, MAR 26, 2026

US President Donald Trump on Thursday doubled down on his claim that he is in talks with Iran to end the nearly month-long war, even as Tehran flatly denied any negotiations were underway. Speaking at a Republican fundraiser, Trump went further, making the extraordinary assertion that Iran's leadership had informally floated the idea of him becoming the Islamic Republic's next Supreme Leader, but he turned them down. "There's never been a head of a country that wanted that job less than being the head of Iran," Trump said at the annual NRCC dinner. "We hear them very clearly. They say, I don't want it. We'd like to make you the next supreme leader. No, thank you. I don't want it."

The remarks come amid what's effectively a power vacuum in Iran after many of its top

leaders were killed in strikes. Following the assassination of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei last month, his son, Mojtaba Khamenei, was subsequently elevated as supreme leader. However, he has not appeared in public since the war broke out. Reports have suggested he was injured in the attacks. Trump described the operation against Iran as a "military decimation", and once again gleefully declared a US victory in the war. He insisted that backchannel talks with Tehran were progressing, and that the regime was eager for a ceasefire but was balking due to fear of repercussions at home. "And I tell you, we're winning so big, nobody's ever seen anything like we're doing in the Middle East with Iran. And they are negotiating, by the way, and they want to make a deal so badly. But they're afraid to say it because they figure they'll be killed by their own people.

Militants in Nigeria kill 10 security forces and 1 resident in armed ambush

NEW DELHI, MAR 26, 2026

The militants targeted the security forces in northern Nigeria's Kebbi's Shanga council area late Tuesday when they were being deployed to respond to warnings about a pending attack, according to Yahaya Sarki, a spokesman for Kebbi state government.



Armed militants ambushed Nigerian security forces who were responding to a distress call in the northwestern state of Kebbi, fatally shooting nine soldiers, a police officer and one resident, authorities said Wednesday. The militants targeted the security forces in Kebbi's Shanga council area late Tuesday when they were being deployed to respond

to warnings about a pending attack, according to Yahaya Sarki, a spokesman for Kebbi state government. Several soldiers also were injured in the attack in the village of Giron Masa, said Sarki, who shared photos of burned vehicles along a dusty road surrounded by forests.

Kebbi Governor Nasir Idris visited the injured soldiers at the hospital and said the attack

had caused great loss. "Those that lost their lives, the government of Kebbi state will do everything to assist the families," he said. The attack is the latest in a cycle of violence in Nigeria's conflict-battered region where armed groups often target security forces and remote communities in areas with limited state and security presence. No group immediately claimed

responsibility for Tuesday's attack, but some residents suspected the Islamic State Sahel Province (ISSP), known locally as Lakurawa, which recently has become more lethal in states like Kebbi and Sokoto along the porous border with Niger Republic. Lakurawa was the target of a U.S. strike carried out in Nigeria in December in collaboration with the Nigerian military. That strike came as part of U.S. intervention efforts after U.S. President Donald Trump alleged that Christians were being targeted in killings in Nigeria. The Nigerian military has said in the past that Lakurawa has roots in neighboring Niger and that it became more active in Nigeria's border communities following a 2023 military coup in Niger that fractured relations between Nigeria and Niger.



Two killed in Pakistan-Afghanistan clashes after temporary ceasefire expires

KABUL: MAR 26, 2026

The latest violence comes about a week after both sides agreed to halt hostilities following Pakistani airstrikes in Afghanistan after temporary ceasefire expires in Afghanistan at the request of Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Qatar.

areas.

The latest violence comes about a week after both sides agreed to halt hostilities following Pakistani airstrikes in Afghanistan at the request of Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Qatar. The pause followed Pakistani strikes that the Afghan Taliban government said hit a drug rehabilitation hospital in Kabul, killing more than 400 people. That toll could not be independently confirmed. Pakistan has denied targeting civilians, saying it struck an ammunition depot. Separately, the Pakistani Taliban, known as Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, or TTP, said it had resumed attacks inside Pakistan after observing its own three-day Eid ceasefire. The TTP, which is separate from but allied to the Afghan Taliban, has stepped up attacks inside Pakistan since the Afghan Taliban returned to power in 2021. The TTP has been designated as a terrorist organization by the United States and the United Nations. Pakistan accuses Kabul of sheltering TTP leaders and thousands of members who carry out cross-border attacks. Kabul denies the charge, but Pakistan has vowed to continue targeting TTP and its supporters inside Afghanistan until Afghanistan's Taliban government assures that it will not allow TTP and other militants to use the Afghan soil for attacks.

Renewed fighting erupted along the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan on Wednesday after a temporary ceasefire expired, killing at least two civilians and wounding others in eastern Afghanistan, Afghan Taliban officials said.

The brief truce had been announced by the two sides ahead of the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr. Ziaur Rahman Spenghar, a director at the information and culture department in Afghanistan's Kunar province, said Pakistani forces fired dozens of artillery shells into the Narai and Sarkano districts, killing two civilians and wounding eight others after the ceasefire expired. Afghan border forces returned fire, he said, claiming they destroyed three Pakistani military posts and killed one person. His claims could not be independently verified. There was no immediate comment from Pakistan's military. However, a local Pakistani official in the northwest accused Afghan forces of initiating the exchange of fire in multiple



Pakistan's Khawaja Asif mocks US war goals amid deepening Hormuz crisis

NEW DELHI, MAR 26, 2026

As the Middle East conflict continues to disrupt the energy flow through the Strait of Hormuz, Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif appeared to take a swipe at Washington's shifting war narrative, saying that the goals of the US-Israel campaign against Iran no longer add up. In a pointed comment, Khawaja Asif indicated that the focus now seems to be on reopening the Strait of Hormuz - a route that was functioning before the conflict began, but was later shut by Iran after US and Israeli strikes on Tehran. On X, he wrote, "The goal of the war seems to have shifted to opening the strait of Hormuz, which was open before the war." The Strait of Hormuz remains a critical global shipping route, and its closure has already disrupted oil supplies and trade, pushing up energy prices.

PAKISTAN OFFERS TO HOST PEACE TALKS

As the war stretches into its fourth week, Pakistan has stepped forward with an offer to facilitate dialogue between Washington and Tehran. The country's foreign ministry said Islamabad is willing to host ceasefire talks if both sides agree. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif echoed that position in a post on X, saying: "Pakistan welcomes and fully supports ongoing efforts to pursue dialogue to end the WAR in Middle East, in the interest of peace and stability in region and beyond." "Subject to concurrence by the US and Iran, Pakistan stands ready

and honoured to be the host to facilitate meaningful and conclusive talks for a comprehensive settlement of the ongoing conflict," he added.

US PUSHES DIPLOMACY, WAR CONTINUES

Despite talk of negotiations, the United States has indicated that military pressure will continue. White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said the administration is still working within a four-to-six-week timeline for the conflict. "Productive" talks are ongoing, she said, even though Iran has not accepted a US-backed plan to end the war. She also reiterated President Donald Trump's position, saying: "But if Iran fails to accept the reality of the current moment, if they fail to understand that they have been defeated militarily and will continue to be, President Trump will ensure they are hit harder than they have ever been hit before." Leavitt declined to give details of the exchanges between the two sides and said it was "too soon to say" whether the US was satisfied with any changes in Iran's leadership.

IRAN REVIEWS PROPOSAL, RULES OUT TALKS

Iran has confirmed it is reviewing proposals put forward through intermediaries but has made clear that this does not mean direct negotiations with Washington. Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said the messages being exchanged "does not mean negotiations with the US" and stressed that Tehran has no intention of entering formal talks at this stage.

US Aircraft Losses Rise, Radar Network Hit

NEW DELHI: MAR 26, 2026

As the US-Israel-Iran war nears its first month, American air losses are rising. Over the course of the conflict, the US has lost at least 16 aircraft, with several more damaged, while key radar sites have also been hit. Here's what we know.

The US' war against Iran has shaken assumptions in aerial warfare. Since the start of the conflict about a month ago, on February 28, US Navy and Air Force jets, in lockstep with their Israeli counterparts, have conducted multiple air campaigns against Tehran. Iran's own air force, consisting of a motley crew of old and new US and Russian models, has been almost entirely knocked out. However, the

sheer strength of the combined US-Israeli air forces notwithstanding, doesn't mean they are completely invulnerable.

From February 28 to the time of filing this story, the US has lost at least 16 military aircraft, including drones and jets, while sustaining damage to ground-based assets such as radars, due to a combination of Iranian action and operational accidents. Most recently, on Thursday, Iran claimed it shot down a USAF F/A-18 fighter jet, although this particular claim has been rejected by the Pentagon.

The loss of over a dozen aircraft eclipses the losses suffered by the US in previous large-scale air campaigns against Libya and Iraq. Note however, this may be because the US is conducting far more strikes than it ever did in a previous operation,



as an expert told Bloomberg. We have thus compiled a list of all confirmed losses and damage to US Air Force jets and ground-based assets in the war, which is now entering its first month, as below: **F-35 STRUCK BY IRANIAN GROUND FIRE**

The Lockheed Martin F-35 Lightning II is an American family of single-seat, single-engine, supersonic stealth strike fighters. One of the most advanced and expensive warplanes ever

built, the Lightning, which can cost up to \$120 million a unit, was hitherto touted as an almost invincible war machine, capable of taking down any adversary while remaining largely undetectable. This perception, however, has received a browbeating. On March 19, CNN reported that a USAF F-35 was forced to make an emergency landing at a US air base in the Middle East after it was struck by what is believed to be Iranian fire,

citing unnamed sources. The emergency landing was later confirmed by the US' Central Command (CENTCOM), with spokesperson, Captain Tim Hawkins, stating that the fifth-generation stealth jet was "flying a combat mission over Iran" when it was forced to make an emergency landing. "The aircraft landed safely, and the pilot is in stable condition," Hawkins added. "This incident is under investigation," he also said. While the US has not yet confirmed if the damage sustained by the F-35 is due to Iranian ground fire or not, Bloomberg reported that the most likely culprit was an Iranian-operated infrared-guided 358 surface-to-air missile battery, which has a small, mobile launcher. They can hit targets at altitudes up to 25,000 feet and, because they have no radar, aircraft will have no warn-

ing they are being tracked. In any case, this marks the first time that an F-35, which entered service 10 years ago, has been hit by enemy ground fire. The Iran war marked the first time a F-35 jet was hit by ground fire, after one was reportedly damaged by an Iranian surface to air missile battery.

US LOST ITS FLYING PETROL PUMP: THE KC-135 AERIAL REFUELLER

The KC-135 Stratotanker is an American air-to-air refuelling aircraft derived from the commercial Boeing 707 aircraft that first entered service back in 1957. For all intents and purposes, the flying petrol pump designed to extend the range of other US warplanes, the Stratotanker has a long history of military service dating back to the Vietnam War. Note, no new KC-135 has been produced since 1965.

Sonia Rawal to head Allianz Jio Reinsurance as JV commences operations

GAIL to Acquire 49% Stake in Leafiniti Bioenergy

NEW DELHI, MARCH 26

MUMBAI

Allianz Jio Reinsurance has appointed Sonia Rawal as the chief executive officer of the joint venture, which has commenced operations on 26 March.

Rawal brings 17 years of experience in risk management and reinsurance across Asia-Pacific. She has been with Allianz Reinsurance in Singapore since 2016, overseeing India and ASEAN markets.

The 50:50 joint venture between Jio Financial Services and Allianz Group received final approval from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India on 12 March.

Headquartered in Mumbai, Allianz Jio Re said it aims to become a strategic long-term partner for the Indian market with a mission to fortify the resilience of the country's insurance ecosystem.

"The launch of Allianz Jio Re is a pivotal milestone, marking the first operational step in our broader insurance partnership with Allianz," said Hitesh Sethia, managing director and chief executive officer of Jio Financial Services in a release on Thursday. The company remains committed to strengthening the nation's resilience by providing insurers with "greater risk-ab-



sorption capacity" to support overall growth of the insurance ecosystem, Sethia added.

The joint venture was first announced in July 2025 and set up in September 2025. Jio Financial had then said it plans to invest ₹2.5 lakh towards initial subscription of 25,000 equity shares of face value ₹10 each for 50% stake in the venture.

The two entities have also signed non-binding agreements to set up equally-owned joint ventures for both general and life insurance businesses in India. "We aim to bring a powerful combination of in-depth global and local expertise to the market and create long-

term value by delivering tailored products and services to our clients and becoming their trusted partner," Rawal was quoted as saying in the release.

Allianz recently exited its long-standing joint ventures with the Bajaj Group, selling a 23% stake each in life and general insurance businesses in January 2026 for ₹21,390 crore. The Bajaj Group's ownership has since risen to 97%.

"Allianz will consider options for the redeployment of the proceeds that align with the company's strategic priorities. This will include investments into our new joint ventures in India," it had then said.

GAIL (India) Limited has announced an investment of ₹130 million to acquire a 49% equity stake in Leafiniti Bioenergy Private Limited, a subsidiary of TruAlt Bioenergy Limited. TruAlt will retain a 51% equity stake in the venture. The joint venture will focus on establishing multiple greenfield Compressed Biogas (CBG) plants across Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Odisha. In the first phase of development, six plants will be set up, each with a production capacity of 12 tonnes per day, resulting in a total annual output of 23,976 tonnes of CBG. In addition to biogas production, the facilities will generate 97,902 tonnes of Fermented Organic Manure and 470,862 tonnes of Liquid Fermented Organic Manure annually. The projects are expected to create between 820 and 1,225 jobs.

The initiative is projected to displace 19,800 tonnes of fossil fuels and reduce methane emissions by 9,300 tonnes annually. GAIL (India) Limited's strategic investment underscores its commitment to advancing sustainable energy solutions and strengthening India's green bioenergy ecosystem.

'Finding quality NGOs a challenge', according to a CSR analysis

NEW DELHI, MAR 26

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in India is a legal mandate that requires specific large companies to invest a portion of their profits into social, environmental, and developmental projects. Marrying philanthropy and modern legal accountability, CSR was formally mandated on April 1, 2014, under the Companies Act, 2013, transforming social giving from a voluntary "good deed" into a statutory obligation for large firms.

However, according to a CRISIL analysis, though the CSR spending has grown significantly since it became a legal mandate with the introduction of Section 135 of the Companies Act, geographic distribution of the spend remains uneven, with targeted investment in aspirational districts – which face the most developmental challenges – limited relative to overall



spend

In fact, interactions with stakeholders indicate that finding quality on-ground non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to partner with, especially in rural areas, is a challenge. Barring a few notable ones, implementing agencies lack adequate capacity to design, execute and measure high-impact projects, despite the right intent and focus. Therefore reliance on NGOs is declining as corporates prefer direct implementation, it says. Titled 'Decade Decode',

the findings of the analysis released today highlight an opportunity for deeper alignment with national development priorities. "Our analysis shows that, over the decade through fiscal 2024, qualifying listed companies collectively spent more than Rs 1.22 lakh crore on various CSR activities. In fiscal 2024, for instance, of the total 2,020 qualifying companies, only 397 implemented projects in aspirational districts – hardly 20% of the universe. The cumulative CSR spend of these 397 companies towards projects impacting aspirational districts was Rs 2,390 crore, i.e. 12% of the total CSR spend of Rs 19,208 crore, indicating the need for a more concerted effort," it says.

"This is a clarion call for NGOs. To be able to leverage and unlock CSR effectively, they need to put in place strong systems for governance and compliance, robust finan-

cial management systems, and build muscle for technology and automation to ensure the funds can be utilised effectively.

"India Inc, too, needs to invest in building the capacity of NGOs as well as their internal CSR-managing teams to deliver impactful and measurable CSR initiatives," it says.

As part of its ongoing efforts to improve the ease of doing business and reduce the compliance burden on corporates, the government has introduced the Corporate Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026 in Lok Sabha. The proposed measures include changes to the CSR rules, including raising the net profit criteria threshold to Rs 10 crore from Rs 5 crore currently and increasing the number of days for transferring unspent CSR funds to a separate account to 90 days from 30 days now – changes that can optimise the CSR base.

DGCA aims to ease rules for airlines amid rising challenges

New Delhi, March 26 : The Directorate General of Civil Aviation is working to make regulations easier for airlines while also protecting passenger rights, its chief Faiz Ahmed Kidwai said on Thursday. Speaking at the Indian Chamber of Commerce Aviation and Tourism Summit here, Kidwai said the regulator is trying to strike a balance between ensuring passenger rights and helping airlines grow. "India's aviation market is one of the fastest-growing in the world, but airlines are currently dealing with several operational hurdles," he noted. "These include longer flight routes and higher costs due to restrictions on certain airspaces," Kidwai explained. Kidwai pointed out that the ongoing tensions in West Asia have added to the pressure, forcing airlines to reduce services to the region.

"At the same time, the closure of Pakistan's airspace for Indian carriers has made flights longer, increasing fuel consumption and costs," he stated. He explained that carrying extra fuel reduces the capacity for passengers and cargo, which in turn affects airline revenues. "Operating costs go up, and these are big challenges for the sector," he said, adding that the industry is going through a difficult phase but expressed hope for improvement in the future.

Highlighting the need for policy support, Kidwai said several airlines in India have shut down in the past, and it is important to create a supportive environment for existing carriers. As part of recent measures, the government has withdrawn fare caps that were imposed after operational disruptions faced by IndiGo in December 2025.

Nayara Energy hikes petrol price by Rs.5 per litre, diesel by Rs.3

MUMBAI, MAR 26

Nayara Energy, India's largest private fuel retailer, on Thursday (March 26, 2026) raised petrol prices by ₹5 per litre and diesel by ₹3 a litre, passing on part of the recent surge in global oil prices following the war in West Asia, sources said.

Fuel marketing companies in India have been under strain as retail petrol and diesel prices remained frozen despite a nearly 50% surge in international oil prices since February 28, when the United States and Israel launched military strikes against Iran, triggering sweeping retaliation from Tehran.

Nayara Energy, which operates 6,967 of India's 102,075 petrol pumps, has decided to pass on part of the increase in input costs to consumers, two sources with direct knowledge of the matter said.

A company spokesperson did not immediately offer any comment on the story.

Jio-bp, the fuel retailing joint venture of Reliance Industries and BP Plc that owns 2,185 outlets, has, however, so far not raised prices despite incurring heavy losses on sale of petrol and diesel.

State-owned fuel retailers, who control about 90% of the market, continue to keep rates on freeze.

Sources said while Nayara, majority-owned by Russia's Rosneft, hiked petrol price by ₹5 per litre and diesel by ₹3, the effective rate increase differs from State to State depending on the incidence on local taxes like VAT. In some places, the increase is as high as ₹5.30 per litre for petrol.

"Private fuel retailers in India receive no government

compensation to offset losses from holding back price increases, unlike state-owned firms that are supported for acting as "good corporate citizens", sources said, adding that mounting losses have left them with little choice but to raise retail prices.

Retail petrol and diesel prices have been frozen since April 2022, with state-run Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) absorbing losses when crude prices are high and making profits when rates are low. The three retailers last week hiked the price of premium or higher-grade petrol price by ₹2 per litre and the rate of bulk diesel sold to industrial users by about ₹22 a litre.

However, the price of normal petrol and diesel remains unchanged. Premium 95-Octane petrol price in Delhi has been increased from ₹99.89 per litre to ₹101.89. Alongside, bulk or industrial diesel prices were hiked from ₹87.67 per litre to ₹109.59 in the national capital.

International oil prices touched USD 119 per barrel earlier this month on intensifying Iran war, before pulling back to around USD 100 a barrel. A litre of normal petrol in Delhi continues to cost Rs 94.77 while the same grade diesel comes for Rs 87.67 a litre.

Normal petrol typically has an octane rating of 91-92 and is suitable for standard engines, offering adequate performance for everyday driving. Premium petrol, on the other hand, has a higher octane rating of 95-98, making it ideal for high-performance or high-compression engines.

Keverters appoints Shaurya Prabhat as new CEO

NEW DELHI: Super Milk Products Pvt Ltd, which sells milkshakes and other food items under the Keverters brand, has appointed Shaurya Prabhat as its new chief executive officer. Shaurya, who joined the company in 2017, recently served as Director and Chief Strategy Officer and he succeeds Agastya Dalmia, the promoter and founder of the company. Shaurya holds a BSc in Economics from the University of London and an MSc in Economics from the University of Warwick, the company said in a statement on Thursday.

CBI Raids Mumbai in Reliance Telecom-SBI Fraud Case

MUMBAI, MARCH 26

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case against Reliance Telecom Ltd., its then Directors Satish Seth and Gautam B. Doshi, along with unknown public servants and others, in connection with an alleged bank fraud case involving State Bank of India (SBI) amounting to Rs 114.98 crore.

According to officials, the agency has invoked charges of criminal conspiracy and cheating under the Indian Penal Code, along with provisions related to criminal misconduct and abuse of official position under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

The case was registered following a complaint lodged by the SBI, which alleged that the accused entities and individuals defrauded the bank, resulting in substantial financial losses. The SBI was part of a consortium of 11 banks that had collectively sanctioned a term loan facility of Rs 735 crore to Reliance Telecom Ltd.

Following the registration of the case, the CBI conducted searches at multiple locations in Mumbai, including the residential premises of Seth and Doshi, as well as the registered office of Reliance Telecom Ltd. Officials said that several documents related to loan transactions and financial dealings have been recovered during the searches.

The agency is expected to scrutinise banking records, correspondence, and internal approvals linked to the loan disbursement. Further action will be taken based on the findings of the ongoing investigation. Officials said that searches are still underway and more evidence may be collected as the probe progresses.

The latest action comes amid a series of ongoing investigations into alleged financial irregularities involving companies linked to the Reliance Group. In a related development earlier this month, the CBI questioned Reliance Group Chairperson Anil Ambani for nearly eight hours in connection with a separate

SBI complaint involving an alleged Rs 2,929 crore fraud linked to Reliance Communications (RCom).

According to officials, the case pertains to alleged misappropriation of loan funds and transactions that were in violation of lending terms. The accounts had earlier been classified as fraud by the bank, prompting investigative action, including searches at company premises and residences of key individuals. Ambani has been asked to join the probe again, while other individuals, including corporate executives linked to associated entities, have also been examined as part of the widening investigation into multiple financial dealings under scrutiny.

Samsung Launches Galaxy A57 5G, A37 5G with AI Features and Launch Offers

GURUGRAM, MAR 26:

Samsung on Thursday unveiled its latest Galaxy A series smartphones – the Galaxy A57 5G and Galaxy A37 5G – in India, targeting young users with a focus on photography, performance, AI-driven features and durability. The Galaxy A57 5G introduces a refreshed design with an aluminium frame and a slim 6.9mm profile, making it the slimmest device in the Galaxy A lineup. It features narrower bezels for an enhanced viewing experience. The device sports a 120Hz display with Vision Booster technology and up to 1900 nits peak brightness for improved outdoor visibility and HDR content viewing.

Both smartphones come with Gorilla Glass Victus+ protection on the front and back, along with an IP68 rating for water and dust resistance. Samsung has also committed to six years of Android OS upgrades and security updates for long-term usability.

On the camera front, both devices are equipped with a 50MP primary sensor with



optical image stabilisation and enhanced low-light capabilities. The Galaxy A57 5G includes a 12MP ultra-wide and a 5MP macro camera, while the Galaxy A37 5G features an 8MP ultra-wide and a 5MP macro lens. A 12MP HDR front camera is provided on both models.

The new A series also integrates AI-powered editing tools such as "Best Face" for group photos and a faster on-device Object Eraser, enabling users to refine images without internet connectivity.

In terms of performance, the Galaxy A57 5G is powered by the Exynos 1680 processor, offering improved AI processing capabilities, while the Galaxy A37 5G runs on the

Exynos 1480 chipset. Both devices feature LPDDR5X RAM and UFS 3.1 storage for faster performance. The A57 5G also includes a larger vapor cooling chamber for better thermal management during intensive tasks.

Both smartphones pack a 5000mAh battery with support for 45W fast charging, capable of reaching up to 60% charge in 30 minutes.

Running on One UI 8.5, the devices bring several AI-based features including Circle to Search, voice transcription, real-time call transcription and direct voicemail. They also integrate AI tools such as Bixby, Gemini and Perplexity for everyday assistance.

For security, the devices are equipped with Samsung Knox Vault, offering hardware-level data protection along with additional software safeguards.

The Galaxy A57 5G and Galaxy A37 5G will be available via retail outlets, Samsung Exclusive Stores and online platforms. Launch offers include ₹3,000 cashback via bank or UPI transactions, a 24-month no-cost EMI option, or an upgrade bonus of ₹3,000.

GJU & C-LAB Promote Child Rights Education

MORADABAD

In a significant step towards institutionalising child protection and child rights within academic frameworks, the Centre for Legal and Behaviour Change for Children (C-LAB) and Guru Jambheshwar University of Science and Technology (GJUST) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to introduce a comprehensive range of undergraduate, postgraduate, and diploma courses and joint research studies in child rights and child protection. C-LAB is a leading institute incubated by India Child Protection (ICP). ICP is a partner of Just Rights for Children (JRC) which is the country's largest network with over 250 NGO partners working for child protection.

As part of the MoU, while C-LAB will develop the content, syllabi, schedules, duration, and eligibility criteria for the various courses, and provide technical support, expertise and assistance to GJUST on issues related to child rights and child protection, Haryana's top-ranked state university will take all



the necessary policy decisions to launch the courses under its the Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE), and provide the necessary infrastructure and academic ambience for conducting such courses on the university campus. Both GJUST and C-LAB have decided to keep the fee for these courses minimum so that more and more students can enrol and strengthen the child protection ecosystem in the coming years.

Building on this vision, Prof. Narsi Ram Bishnoi, Vice Chancellor, Guru Jambheshwar University of Science and Technology, said, "It is our endeavour to produce dynamic and knowledgeable human re-

sources and become a knowledge powerhouse capable of contributing to national development and the welfare of society. This MoU with C-LAB further cements our vision to create a cadre of informed and sensitised individuals who can contribute meaningfully to policy, advocacy, law enforcement, media, and community-based interventions and strengthen the child protection ecosystem."

Remarking on the importance of this collaboration between field expertise and academic capacity building, Dr Sangita Gaur, Associate Director (Training), India Child Protection, said, "This collaboration marks a crucial

milestone in bridging the gap between grassroots realities and academic discourse. It will ensure that future professionals across disciplines are equipped with a rights-based understanding of child protection. Our focus is to address critical issues such as child marriage, trafficking, child labour, online safety, and legal frameworks, including national and international child rights laws."

The MoU was signed by Prof. Narsi Ram Bishnoi, Vice-Chancellor, Guru Jambheshwar University of Science & Technology and Rajat Kumar, Trustee, India Child Protection. Those present during the event included Dr Vijay

Kumar, Registrar, GJUST and Prof. O. P. Sangwan, Dean, International Affairs, among others.

With over 30 years of experience and over 52,000 students enrolled in campus spread over 372 acres in Hissar, the University is A+ Grade accredited University from National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). As per the 2025 National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), the university, which is among the top 50 state universities across the country, has been ranked as number one government university in Haryana. The University is presently offering more than 100 UG, PG, Ph.D. Programmes through campus, Distance and Online Distance Learning modes.

Meanwhile, C-LAB has already launched a first-of-its-kind Certificate Course for Support Persons in Dealing with Cases of Child Sexual Abuse. The demand for support persons has grown significantly since the Supreme Court's 2023 directive mandating their appointment in all child sexual abuse cases.

CAN EATING FOODS HIGH IN MELATONIN HELP YOU SLEEP?

From tart cherries to eggs and meat, there are plenty of foods that contain melatonin. But if you eat them before bed, does it mean you're likely to have a better night's sleep?

The UK is said to be in the midst of a sleep crisis. One sleep charity reports that nine out of 10 people are currently experiencing sleep issues. There are lots of reasons that people may be experiencing poor sleep, but if it continues for a long time it can start to affect your wellbeing. Good sleep habits can help, but what about melatonin? Produced by the body, the hormone melatonin regulates our sleep cycles. Secreted by the pineal gland in the brain, the amount increases at night when it's dark outside (helping us to feel sleepy) and reduces in the morning (when it's light again).

Melatonin is sometimes prescribed in supplement form to help people aged 55 or over with sleep problems like insomnia. It can sometimes be prescribed to younger people but only for long-term problems and only by specialists. The NHS advises it should only ever be taken for a short period of time and it can cause side effects.

Can eating melatonin-rich food help?

There are plenty of natural foods that contain melatonin. So, could eating them ease sleep problems? "It can help," says registered dietitian Clare Thornton-Wood. "Eating foods containing melatonin can increase melatonin levels in the body." Research suggests eating melatonin-rich foods may support sleep, adds Rhiannon Lambert, registered nutritionist and author of *The Science of Nutrition*. "When melatonin is consumed, it binds to receptors in the brain, which regulates the circadian rhythm - our internal

24-hour clock. This process helps signal the body to initiate and improve sleep." Research seems to back this up, too. One Chinese study concluded melatonin has been reported to improve sleep efficiency and eating melatonin-rich foods could assist sleep. Further research produced by multiple universities in Russia, found that eating a higher volume of melatonin-containing foods every day is associated with better sleep quality and can even lower levels of depression.



Tryptophan-rich ingredients

Having a milky drink before bed is a practice most of us have tried at some point - and with good reason. "Dairy products may promote good sleep quality, as milk - for example - contains high concentrations of tryptophan

[an amino acid] which can be synthesised into both serotonin and melatonin," says Lambert.

Golden turmeric latte

A milky (non-caffeinated) drink could help you get sleepy. "Similarly, dark chocolate also contains tryptophan, as well as other nutrients that may promote sleep quality. These include magnesium, which can support melatonin production, as well as anandamide, which regulates sleep hormones." Porridge is also a good option, adds Thornton-Wood: "Tryptophan has to cross the blood-brain barrier to be effective - and it does this more easily with a carbohydrate source, so a bowl of porridge would be good for this." Other foods rich in tryptophan include turkey, cheese, fish and sunflower seeds.

When is the best time to eat melatonin-rich foods?

The timing of melatonin consumption is often recommended at one to two hours before bedtime, says Lambert and opting to eat raw foods might also be the way to go. "Raw or unprocessed foods do generally contain more melatonin," notes Thornton-Wood, though there isn't much research to determine the

'best' way to consume them for maximum absorption. "There are idiosyncrasies, in that fruits and vegetables that contain melatonin often have other compounds that help sleep - polyphenolic acids and anthocyanins, for example, have anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidative properties that might also help with the sleep-wake cycle," adds Howatson. "Normal" portions are recommended, so you could try a glass of tart cherry juice, a boiled egg, a handful of nuts (pistachios especially) or a warm mug of milk and see if anything makes a difference.

Effects don't need time to build up, according to the experts, so experiment and see what happens. You could also try dinner options like salmon, with peppers, tomatoes and mushrooms - all of which contain melatonin. But remember, good sleep relies on your body having enough time to digest your food beforehand, so Thornton-Wood recommends eating this at least two hours prior to bedtime. Anyone concerned about sleep deprivation, big or small, should speak to their GP or a healthcare professional. Dietary strategies can help, but sleep is crucial for overall health and wellbeing, so it's important to seek support and guidance.

sleep and management of jet lag, as a result of taking tart cherries." The study concluded the consumption of a tart cherry juice concentrate provides an increase in melatonin. This can lead to better sleep duration and quality, in both healthy men and women and may also help manage disturbed sleep. While tart cherry juice studies have led to an improvement in sleep, Lambert suggests consumption may be pricey and it may also contain a large amount of sugar. "In contrast," she notes, "kiwi fruits - which are rich in both melatonin and serotonin, a neurotransmitter that plays a key role in regulating sleep - have shown stronger evidence of supporting sleep and have been found to positively impact sleep onset, duration and efficiency.



FRUITY KEBABS

Could fruit kebabs - especially if they contain kiwis - help you regulate your sleep? "Studies suggest consuming two kiwi fruits about one hour before bedtime can significantly enhance sleep quality in adults with self-reported sleep disturbances. This timing aligns with the body's natural preparation for sleep, making kiwi an accessible and practical option for those seeking dietary strategies to improve rest." Other foods thought to naturally contain melatonin include nuts, seeds, milk and eggs, plus whole wheat bread, mushrooms, cereals, germinated legumes [such as alfalfa sprouts], tofu and cheddar, says Lambert. Eggs contain melatonin, here's how you can make the perfect boiled egg. "Consuming these foods before bed may modestly increase circulating melatonin levels, potentially reducing the time it takes to fall asleep, or improving sleep efficiency," she adds, pointing out that effects are likely to vary, based on individual factors and the bioavailability of melatonin from food, which can be influenced by digestion and absorption. "While melatonin-rich foods may support sleep, their impact is most effective when combined with good sleep hygiene practices, such as maintaining a regular bedtime and limiting evening light exposure," she continues.

ROASTED NUTS

Nuts are a good source of melatonin and make a great snack. Glyn Howatson, professor of human and applied physiology at Northumbria University, worked on a study to discover whether consuming tart cherry juice - which contains high levels of phytochemicals, including melatonin - would improve sleep quality. "Tart cherries do seem to work," he says. "There is a small but relatively convincing body of knowledge to suggest it is helpful. "We have also seen this applied in elite athletes preparing for long-haul travel and an overwhelming majority of those athletes reported better

Protein vs carbs: What active people actually need

Trying to decide between going big on protein or fuelling up on carbs before your gym session? We asked sports nutrition experts what your body really needs to help you train better.

How much protein and carbs do you actually need?

About half our daily calorie intake should come from carbohydrates, external. These are found in starchy foods such as bread, pasta, rice, couscous, potatoes, breakfast cereals, oats and other grains like rye and barley. As for protein, the average adult needs about 0.75g protein per kilogram of body weight per day.

Do athletes need more?

In short, yes. Proteins contain amino acids, which are the building blocks for muscle growth. So athletes should up their protein requirements to about 1.2-2.0g of protein per kilogram of body weight per day, says the British Nutrition Foundation. Someone training three to five hours per week is recommended to have 3-5g of carbohydrates per kilogram of body weight per day, external, while those training at least two hours a day needs up to 8g, external. Their physiological make-up means they can handle the increased carb intake, says Dr Michael Newell, sport and exercise nutrition lecturer at University of Westminster. "Endurance athletes have been selected for the sport because they're very good at it and also because they are exceptionally good at consuming high rates of carbohydrates - those two things need to go together. You don't get an elite marathon runner who can't consume carbohydrates at a high rate."

So... which approach should you follow?

Professional athletes get expert nutritional advice based on their weight, sport and physiology. Tom Huelin, fitness coach at vegan football club Forest Green Rovers, external, says the amount of protein and carbs he prescribes also depends on the players' schedule. "On the days they're going to be working harder they consume more carbs, and they make sure after intensive sessions they receive a top-up of protein to help with muscular fatigue."

How to choose the best bread, according to experts



"I'm a personal trainer - it's a myth that you need meat to hit your protein goals'. The top 5 high protein plant-based foods recommended by a dietitian. The average gym-goer, however, doesn't usually have access to that kind of guidance. Diet advice aimed at supporting exercise tends to fall into two camps: high-protein products to build strength or reducing carb intake to improve performance. But sport dietitians Alexandra Cook prefers a more balanced approach. This means no extremes of either protein or carbs - and tailoring your diet to your own requirements rather than comparing it to someone else's.

Protein: Powerhouse or Piffle?

"Some athletes - especially in the ultra-endurance world - do tend to go for this low-carb approach and it works for them. That doesn't mean it's going to work for everybody else," she says. "I

know for sure if I cut out carbohydrates, I probably wouldn't be able to get out of bed, let alone run a 50-mile race." Newell says if you want to train consistently, it would be "ridiculous" to exclude any macro-nutrient. "You need carbohydrates to sustain longer, high-intensity training, and you need protein to help recover from that and to replace amino acids you've lost. On top of that, you need a bit of fat to ensure you get an adequate number of calories in your diet."

Simple ways to hit your protein goals

Protein is vital for helping us perform and helps us repair and recover, says Cook. The good news is most active people get enough of it by eating a balanced, varied diet. "If you have a portion of protein at each meal, and if you're doing slightly higher training loads you get protein from snacks like nuts, peanut butter and milk, you'll easily meet



your protein requirements," she says. Other sources include egg, fish and lean meat, according to the Eatwell Guide., external And if you eat too much protein? Don't worry - the body will just naturally get rid of it.

Vegan? Here's how to get enough protein

Plant proteins contain the same nine essential amino acids, external as animal-based protein sources, except one or two typically present at lower levels. Dietitian Laura Tilt recommends loading up on lentils, peanut butter, hemp seeds, edamame and tinned chickpeas. "If you eat a variety of plant proteins throughout the day and eat enough calories, your body will get sufficient essential amino acids," she adds. Other sources include seitan, which is made from wheat, and nutritional yeast, while Huelin recommends soy milk to his players for its high-protein content.

Will a high-protein or high-carb diet boost your fitness?

Kind of. While there's research to support the view low-carb diets, external could help athletes, there's also plenty pointing to the opposite - that low-carb diets will inhibit exercise performance, external. They'll definitely give you the fuel you need to compete but you also need protein with comprehensive amino acids to repair and help build lean muscle mass. The experts we spoke to all advocate that it's preferable not to cut any macro-nutrients out of your diet and to follow healthy eating guidelines - adapting them depending on your individual demands rather than going to extremes. So, combined protein, carbohydrate and even fat should all help you cross that finish line - but unless you're an elite athlete, you'll almost certainly get enough of these from a healthy diet.

IPL 2026



'Can't be just an Impact Player', says Kaif as he urges MI to fully utilise Rohit Sharma



NEW DELHI: Former India cricketer Mohammad Kaif believes that Rohit Sharma should remain on the field for the entire duration of a T20 match instead of being used as an Impact Player by the Mumbai Indians (MI) in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026. Rohit, who tops the list of batters with most runs for MI in IPL history, was often used as an Impact Player in the last season, which, according to Kaif, was wrong as Hardik needed his help, especially during the second qualifier played against Punjab Kings, which the Mumbai Indians lost after a brilliant knock by Shreyas Iyer. In a tweet posted by Kaif on Thursday, he stated that MI should fully utilise the fully fit Rohit, and he can't be just an Impact Player.

Football

India start SAFF U20 Championship with victory over Pakistan



MALÉ (MALDIVES): A second-half brace from Omang Dodum guided the Indian U20 men's team to a convincing 3-0 victory over Pakistan in their opening Group B encounter of the SAFF U20 Championship 2026 in Malé on Thursday. The high-octane clash at the National Football Stadium in Malé saw the Blue Colts secure their spot in the semifinals while simultaneously eliminating Pakistan from the tournament. Dodum struck in the 64th and 88th minutes after Vishal Yadav had handed the Blue Colts an early advantage in the third minute. The win not only gave India a perfect start but also secured their place in the semi-finals. Pakistan, having lost both their matches after a defeat to Bangladesh two days before.

IPL 2026

I don't have anything to prove in this season, particularly: Shubman Gill



AHMEDABAD: Gujarat Titans skipper Shubman Gill said he feels no pressure to prove himself in the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 season, adding that his focus is on making his team win another title this year rather than chasing personal milestones. Gill, India's captain in Tests and ODIs, was left out of the T20 team to make room for Sanju Samson in the top order. It proved to be a move that paid off really well as India claimed a record third Men's T20 World Cup title at the Narendra Modi Stadium earlier this month. "Not at all. I think, if you look at the past three or four seasons, I have the most runs in IPL. So, I don't think I have anything to prove, in this season particularly."

IPL 2026: Fitness concerns cloud Pant-led LSG

NEW DELHI

Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) enter their fifth Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 season with a grand makeover – a logo change, jersey colours and design refurbished, and support staff having fresh faces in Bharat Arun, Carl Crowe, and Tom Moody.

Having reached the playoffs in each of their first two years before back-to-back seventh-place finishes, LSG responded with an aggressive off-season strategy – trading in Mohammad Shami, acquiring Anrich Nortje at auction, and reinforcing an overseas batting core, apart from their injury-hit Indian pacers now fully fit to fire. IANS explores whether those moves are enough for Rishabh Pant-led LSG to reverse a slide that has grown increasingly difficult to explain through a SWOT analysis: Strength: The most compelling strength of LSG is at the top of the batting order. The trio of Mitchell Marsh, Aiden Markram, and Nicholas Pooran gives the franchise a top-three combination that is, by any measure, among the most formidable in the league.

All three batters went past the 400-run mark in IPL 2025, and against any bowling attack and on any surface, they have the class and elegance to construct and accelerate an innings from the first ball. If Pooran is placed at four for Pant to be accommodated at three, still expect him to bring adequate fireworks with the bat.

The pace bowling stocks, which were a source of genuine anxiety in 2025, have been reinforced substantially. Shami is



among the most accomplished powerplay and death-over operators the format has seen, and his vast experience of reading conditions and adjusting plans mid-innings is a tactical resource that most franchises cannot match.

Alongside him, Nortje brings raw pace and the capacity to make the ball do things. At the back end of the innings, LSG carry proven finishing ability in the domestic ranks via Ayush Badoni and Abdul Samad, who come into the competition on the back of great form. Weakness: While

the top three of Markram, Marsh, and Pooran had a merry run, the Indian middle order from positions four to seven was a serious liability for LSG in 2025. Though the players in that position are coming in form, in a league where the middle overs are increasingly decisive, that is an area opponents will be quick to identify and ruthlessly exploit.

The franchise's relationship with their home ground is also complicated. At the BRSABV Ekana Stadium in Lucknow, LSG have won only 9 of 21 matches on

their own turf, and the 2025 campaign was even bleaker, with just 2 wins from 7 home fixtures. With LSG not having a fortress that every franchise aspires to build, it is very much a weak link for them if they don't get the balance right.

Opportunity: Captain Pant is the most expensive player in IPL history, and he would be keen to bounce back in 2026 after having a forgettable 2025. The wicketkeeper-batter, whose dynamism and instinct at the crease once made him one of the most feared middle-order players in

T20 cricket, averaged just 13.7 at a strike rate of 105 in 2025.

Add to it, Ishan Kishan and Sanju Samson have left him behind in the race of being the top-choice keeper-batters in the Indian set-up. How Pant, who also had a training session under Yuvraj Singh in Mumbai, responds in 2026 will shape not only the confidence of those batting around him, but also his T20 career.

Mukul Choudhary enters the season with extraordinary momentum from the domestic circuit, having struck at 199 in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy. His form offers LSG a domestic option capable of injecting momentum into the innings.

If Mayank Yadav is fit and firing for the entire season, after making a successful return to action for India 'A' in T20 World Cup warm-up games, it would transform LSG's bowling attack from strong on paper to genuinely fearsome. Threat: The single most alarming aspect of LSG's current squad is the injury risk in the pace bowling attack. Mayank, Mohsin Khan, and Avesh Khan are coming back after a long absence from the rigours of competitive cricket. Shami and Nortje carry documented histories of significant long-term injury layoffs. The probability that all five complete a full and uninterrupted IPL campaign is uncertain, and the absence of any of them simultaneously would leave the bowling attack weak. With Nortje, Marsh, Markram, and Pooran all demanding inclusion on their individual merits, the decision of where Wanindu Hasaranga (if fit) is slotted will become a huge problem for LSG.

SRH-RR game to kickstart second phase of competition, CSK-MI to meet twice



NEW DELHI

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said on Thursday that a game between Sunrisers Hyderabad and Rajasthan Royals on April 13 will begin the second phase of the 2026 season. BCCI Secretary Devajit Saikia said venues for the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 playoffs will be announced later.

Earlier, the BCCI announced the IPL 2026 schedule for the first 20 games due to elections in Assam, West Bengal, and Tamil Nadu. But once the Election Commission of India (ECI) gave the clear dates and timelines around it, the BCCI has now come up with the schedule of the second phase of the competition -- with 50 matches to be played across 12 venues from April 13 to May 24.

The league stage will resume with SRH, the 2016 champions, hosting inaugural winners RR at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad on April 13. Matches in the second phase of the competition will be staged in Bengaluru, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Delhi, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Lucknow, Jaipur, Dharamsala, Raipur, and New Chandigarh.

The eight double-headers are lined up, with afternoon games starting at 3:30 p.m. IST and evening fixtures at 7:30 p.m. Punjab Kings will

split their home matches between PCA Stadium in New Chandigarh and HPCA Stadium in Dharamsala, which will host three games.

RR will play their remaining four games at their primary home venue – the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur, while defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru will host three matches in Bengaluru before hosting the rest of their two home games at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium in Raipur.

Five-time champions Chennai Super Kings and Mumbai Indians will face off twice in the second phase. The first meeting between CSK and MI will happen on April 23 at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai, while the next clash is set to happen at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai on May 2.

Last year, the DC-PBKS evening clash was halted in Dharamsala due to cross-border tensions between India and Pakistan. Now, on May 11, the HPCA Stadium will host the same clash. The final group stage match will be played between the Kolkata Knight Riders and the Delhi Capitals on May 24 at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata. The first leg will start with a match between defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) against Sunrisers Hyderabad at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on March 28.

Nehru World School, Delhi and Sacred Heart Sr. Sec. School, Ludhiana crowned champions of the ACG Jr. NBA 3v3 National Finals

The 2025-26 ACG Jr. NBA 3v3 National Tournament, India's largest school-based basketball program in the country for U-14 players, drew to a successful close with Nehru World School, Delhi, clinching the boys' title and Sacred Heart Sr. Sec. School, Ludhiana, emerging victorious in the girls' category

NEW DELHI

The ACG Jr. NBA 3v3 National Finals marked the culmination of regional tournaments that were held in ten cities across India – Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Guwahati, Indore, Kochi, Ludhiana, Mumbai, Prayagraj, Udaipur. This year's program saw participation from ~8000 kids across 900+ schools in India. The tournament was held in association with the Basketball Federation of India (BFI), with Skechers, the global performance and lifestyle footwear and apparel brand, serving as the official kit partner, providing high-quality gear for the participants.

In the ACG Jr. NBA 3v3 All-Star Championship, the Bengaluru All-Star Team secured the girls' title, while Delhi All-Star Team took home the boys' crown. In the 'ACG Most Improved Team' category, The



Shishukunj International School, Indore (U-14 Girls) and SK School, Udaipur (U-14 Boys) were recognized for their exceptional growth and development throughout the tournament. For their outstanding performances, Jiya Sodhi, Sacred Heart Sr. Sec. School, Ludhiana (U-14 Girls) and Jatin Sharma, Nehru World School, Delhi (U-14 Boys) were honored with the 'Skechers Most Valuable Player' award.

Among individual highlights, Dhruvi Pisal from the Mumbai All-Star team (U-14 Girls) emerged as the top scorer with 71 points, while P. Antara Rao from Ma Sharda Public School recorded the most 3-pointers (21). In the U-14 Boys category, Mohd. Sameer from Maharana Partap Inter College, Prayagraj dominated with

97 points and 28 three-pointers. The six-day National Finals, held from March 19-24, 2026, at the KD Jadhav Indoor Arena, New Delhi, featured a dynamic mix of on-court competition and off-court engagement, including a trophy reveal and an interactive engagement zone for all players. Additionally, the event hosted an ACG Jr. NBA Referee Clinic led by former NBA G League and Basketball Africa League (BAL) referee Greg Dandridge, offering officials a valuable opportunity to enhance their skills. An ACG Jr. NBA Coaches Clinic conducted by Martin Clarke, Technical Director, HPC – India Basketball League, and Jake Jobling, Head Coach Men's Basketball, HPC – India Basketball League, further enriched the program.

Legislator Sports Meet 2026 – First Edition

HYDERABAD

To promote the spirit of sports across the state and create awareness among students, youth, and people of all sections, the State Government is organizing the first edition of the Legislator Sports Meet 2026.

State Ministers Jupally Krishna Rao and Vakti Srihari stated that this initiative aims not only to provide recreation and enthusiasm to Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and Members of the Legislative Council (MLCs), who are otherwise busy with their political responsibilities, but also to inspire the public to embrace sports and

physical activity. A preparatory review meeting for the event was held today at the Committee Hall of the Assembly. The Ministers informed that this is the first time such sports competitions are being organized after the formation of Telangana State. Legislators from all political parties will participate in the event, setting aside political differences and demonstrating unity through sportsmanship. The event is being organized with the coordination of the Legislative Assembly Secretariat, Telangana Sports Authority, the State Cultural Department, and various other departments. Along with sports competitions, cultural pro-

grams will also be conducted for the participants.

Event Schedule
Dates: March 28 & 29, 2026
Inauguration: March 28, 2026, at 3:30 PM
Venue: LB Stadium

The inaugural ceremony will be attended by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar, Legislative Council Chairman Gutta Sukender Reddy, along with leaders of various parties, whips, MLAs, and MLCs. The Ministers emphasized that the event is aimed at encouraging sports culture among people of all age groups and sections in the state.

Fixtures unveiled for Team India's international home season 2026-27

MUMBAI

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has unveiled the fixtures for Team India (Senior Men) international home season 2026-27. The upcoming home season promises an exciting and action-packed calendar, featuring four visiting teams – West Indies, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe and Australia – in a multi-format schedule. The season will comprise 22 international matches in 17 cities, offering fans across the country the opportunity to witness top-quality international cricket.

The season will commence with the West Indies tour of India, starting on September 27, 2026.

The tour will feature a three-match ODI series followed by a five-match T20I series. The ODIs will be played in Trivandrum, Guwahati and New Chandigarh, before the action shifts to the T20Is, which will be hosted across Lucknow, Ranchi, Indore, Hyderabad and Bengaluru.

India will then host Sri Lanka in December 2026 for a white-ball series comprising three ODIs and as many T20Is. The ODI leg will be played in Delhi, Bengaluru and Ahmedabad, while Rajkot, Cuttack

and Pune will host the T20Is.

At the start of the new year, Zimbabwe will tour India for a three-match ODI series in January 2027. The matches will be held in Kolkata, Hyderabad and Mumbai.

The season will culminate with the prestigious and much-anticipated Border-Gavaskar Trophy, featuring a five-match Test series against Australia, beginning on January 21, 2027, in Nagpur. The contest will then move to Chennai, Guwahati, Ranchi and Ahmedabad, promising a compelling battle between two of the premier sides in world cricket.

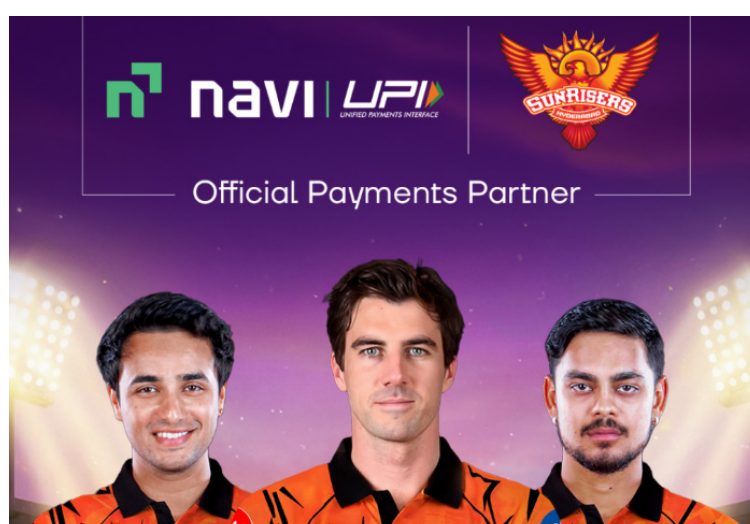
Navi UPI partners with SRH as Official Payments Partner

HYDERABAD

Navi UPI has announced its partnership with Sunrisers Hyderabad as the Official Payments Partner for the upcoming T20 season. With this association, Navi UPI continues to strengthen its presence in the country's most widely followed sporting platform,

building visibility at scale and connecting with a large, engaged audience across geographies. The partnership is aligned with Navi's broader approach of leveraging high-impact platforms to drive awareness for its digital-first products, with a clear focus on simplicity, speed, and accessibility.

Commenting on the partnership, Mr. Rajiv Naresh, MD and CEO, Navi Limited (formerly Navi Technologies Limited), said, "We're excited to



partner with Sunrisers Hyderabad, a team that has consistently brought intensity and focus to the game.

Cricket today is followed moment by moment in real time, and that's the same expectation people now have

from their daily payments. With Navi UPI, we're bringing the same speed and ease to making payments without compromise."

Mr. K Shanmugam, CEO of Sunrisers Hyderabad "We're pleased to welcome Navi UPI as our Official Payments Partner this season. At Sunrisers Hyderabad, our focus has always been on delivering a strong and consistent experience for our fans, both on and off the field. Partnerships like these allow us to enhance that experience

by bringing greater convenience and simplicity into everyday moments, and we look forward to working together through the season." Navi UPI enables users to make instant payments, manage daily transactions, and track spends seamlessly through a fully digital, app-based experience.

'Dhurandhar 2' a Reflection of "New India": Kangana Ranaut at IFFD 2026



At the opening of the International Film Festival of Delhi (IFFD) 2026, actor Kangana Ranaut spotlighted films like 'Dhurandhar 2', describing them as emblematic of a "new India" rooted in culture, patriotism and modern aspirations. Speaking to the media at the festival, Ranaut emphasised the importance of platforms that showcase such cinema. "Look, this platform is for such films. This is the picture of New India," she said. She further added, "In which, culture, patriotism and modernity, the dream of a developed India, you see the pulsating energy of a New India. For this, such platforms should be there. We are very grateful to Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji, who has given us the dream of a developed India. And we are all moving forward with it."

Kangana termed IFFD as a significant global cultural platform. "It is a global platform where we can see cinematic excellence from any country," she said, underlining the scale and ambition of the event. She also highlighted the festival's programming, including screenings, masterclasses and interactions, calling it a "big celebration" for artists. Marking her two decades in cinema, Ranaut noted her personal connection to the industry: "I have completed 20 years in the film industry. I have given a long period of my life to films." The festival, inaugurated at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, saw a strong turnout from across the film fraternity, including actors, filmmakers and industry veterans. Among those honoured were Sharmila Tagore, late legendary actor Dharmendra and Nandamuri Balakrishna, who received Lifetime Achievement Awards for their contributions to Indian cinema.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta highlighted the cultural ambition behind the festival, stating, "Delhi is the heart of the country, a city that embraces everyone and carries both history and hope. With this film festival, we are not just hosting an event but shaping a new cultural identity for the capital. Cinema has the power to inspire, to connect, and to tell stories that become people's dreams. This festival will be a platform for new artists, filmmakers and especially women to showcase their talent. We are committed to making Delhi a true creative capital, known for its energy, stories, and spirit." The opening ceremony also paid tribute to 150 years of Vande Mataram, setting a cultural tone for the event. The inaugural lamp was lit by Rekha Gupta along with dignitaries, including Kangana Ranaut, Sharmila Tagore and Hema Malini. With a global line-up and strong participation from both Indian and international cinema communities, IFFD 2026 has begun on a high note. The festival, organised by the Delhi Tourism & Transport Development Corporation in association with the Government of Delhi, will run until March 31, featuring screenings, panel discussions and industry engagements across the city.

Buzz: Kamal Haasan To Team Up With Cult Director

Many Tamil heroes and some Telugu stars also look forward to working with director Vetrimaaran at least once in their careers. Though he has directed very few films in his career, including the likes of Aadukalam, Visaranai, and the recent Asuran, they are examples of how he crafts content. Especially the intensity he builds in his movies is terrific, so often the main leads stun with their brilliant and career-best performances in those roles.

Reports are now doing the rounds that veteran star Kamal Haasan is getting ready to join forces with Vetrimaaran for an upcoming movie. Though Kamal has his multi-starrer movie with Superstar Rajinikanth in the offing, he's said to be looking forward to delivering some intense projects after the likes of Thugs Life, which failed to click. However, though Vetrimaaran's story excited Kamal, the director's current busy schedule is something that might not allow this project to happen anytime soon.

Because Vetrimaaran is right now carving Arasan with Simbu, he has Vada Chennai 2 with Dhanush, which will be followed by Suriya's Vaadivaasal. However, if the director wants to take off Kamal Haasan's film first, after wrapping Simbu's movie, then surely all other projects would wait. But these days, with producers going tough on directors, especially in the Tamil industry, where they are lodging cases on directors for delays, we have to see if the combo happens anytime soon.



Thiruveer Opens Up About Struggles: "People Don't Know I Am the Hero"

Actor Thiruveer recently shared some relatable moments from his journey in the film industry. He talked about how challenging it can be for actors who are trying to grow step by step without a strong background or instant recognition.

He spoke about a small incident that happened during a flight. A person sitting next to him who was also connected to the film industry asked what he does for a living. Thiruveer replied that he works in cinema.

However man again asked what exactly his role was. Feeling that the person might not take him seriously, Thiruveer said he was an assistant director. When the man asked which project he was working on, he mentioned OG.

Sharing more about such experiences, Thiruveer said, "Every alternate day, people ask me who the hero of my film is without realizing that I am the hero."

He also talked about his film Masooda. During that time, some people even assumed that he was just a driver on set rather than the lead actor. He said that he has now become used to such situations and does not get affected by them anymore.

A similar experience happened during the shooting of his upcoming film Bhagavanthudu as well. Even there, many people failed to recognize him as the main lead. Over the years, he has carefully chosen content-driven roles instead of chasing commercial fame. Now, Thiruveer is moving towards bigger opportunities. His upcoming film Bhagavanthudu, directed by GG Vihar. He is also busy with his upcoming film Papam Pratap.



Ravi Teja looks casual and rustic from emotional saga Irumudi



Mass Maharaja Ravi Teja's upcoming film Irumudi has created huge buzz with Ayyappa Swamy mala and carrying his daughter on his shoulders. Director Shiva Nirvana, known for his emotional family entertainers, is crafting this visual emotional drama with great precision. Mythri Movie Makers are producing the film on a lavish scale and shoot is progressing at a rapid pace and it completed 50% shoot already.

Celebrating this huge milestone, the makers have released special poster. It highlights beautifully captures the bond between Ravi Teja and his on-screen daughter, played by Baby Nakshathra. This shows Ravi Teja in a completely rustic look, wearing a simple checked shirt and a lungi. As they walk together sharing a warm moment, the poster perfectly reflects the intense emotional core that the director has crafted for this unique character. The team is currently in Hyderabad filming high-octane action sequences. These thrilling stunt scenes are being choreographed by the talented duo Anal Arasu and Real Satish. Beyond the intense action, Irumudi is built on a strong emotional foundation set against the spiritual backdrop of Ayyappa Swamy.

With Priya Bhavani Shankar as the lead actress and music composed by GV Prakash Kumar, the film promises a perfect mix of grand commercial elements. The makers are highly confident that the movie will be most memorable film in Ravi Teja's career as it marks his prestigious 75th movie of his illustrious career.

WOMAN ACCUSED OF SHOOTING AT RIHANNA'S HOUSE PLEADS NOT GUILTY IN COURT



Los Angeles: The woman who was accused of opening fire at pop icon Rihanna's home has pleaded not guilty in court. According to PEOPLE magazine, the 35-year-old accused appeared in a Los Angeles court on Wednesday and denied all charges against her. The case is linked to a shooting incident that took place earlier this month at Rihanna's Beverly Hills residence. As per the outlet, the woman has been charged with serious offences, including attempted murder, multiple counts of assault with a semiautomatic firearm, and shooting at an occupied property. She is currently being held on a bail amount of \$1.875 million. If found guilty, she could face life in prison. As per officials, the accused allegedly drove to the property on March 8 and opened fire using a semiautomatic rifle. At the time of the incident, Rihanna, her partner A\$AP Rocky, and their kids were inside the house. Authorities confirmed that no injuries were reported in the incident. However, one of the bullets reportedly went through a wall of the house.

Police later arrested the accused in Sherman Oaks after she fled the scene. Authorities also said her motive was still not clear. Investigators are also looking into her past social media posts, which appeared to mention the singer. While the motive behind the crime is yet to be revealed, Rihanna has yet to speak out on the incident.

Buzz: Pooja Hegde Is Back In Trivikram's Camp

One of the most surprising pieces of news coming in recent times is that dusky siren Pooja Hegde, who has once shone in director Trivikram's movies, and is said to have grabbed a lot of offers due to the director's guidance, is teaming up with him again. In fact, there are rumours that she will be taken as a leading lady, but actually, it is coming out that she will be doing a special song.

Apparently, Pooja Hegde was part of Trivikram's hit movies like Aravinda Sametha and Ala Vaikuntapurramlo, she was sacked from Mahesh Babu's Guntur Kaaram after some days of shoot. Later, the actress was also replaced in Pawan Kalyan's Ustaad Bhagat Singh, too, and that led to speculations that Trivikram might have got her sacked. But now, in Trivikram's upcoming film Adarsha Kutumbam, which features Venkatesh in the lead, reports are coming up that Pooja Hegde will do a special item number. The movie has Srinidhi Shetty as the leading lady.

Back then, it was rumoured that Pooja Hegde would be joining as the leading lady, but now, it looks like she will do only a small role in Guruji's movie. Anyway, as the dusky starlet is coming back to her favourite director, surely it looks interesting how that song is going to be. Also, this will be the second item song for Pooja Hegde opposite Venkatesh, after her hyped song in F3 alongside the senior star and Varun Tej.