

HYDERABAD HEADLINES

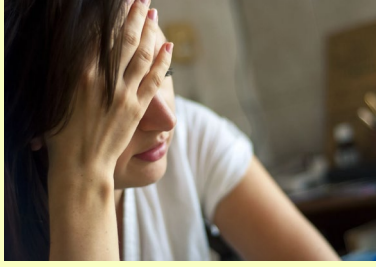
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SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026

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Tourists enjoy the vibrant spring blossoms at the Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden on Saturday

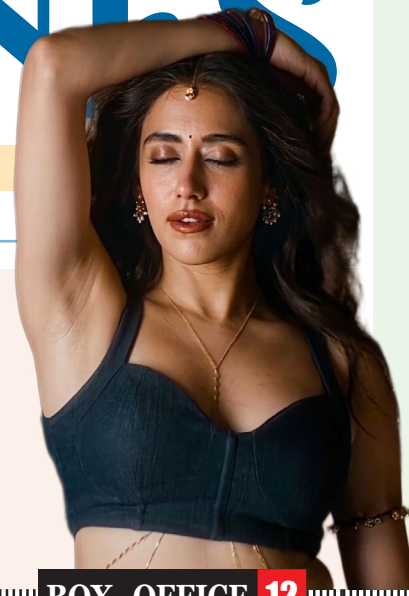


Silent Struggle: Autoimmune Disorders in Indian Women

FOCUS POINT 10

Dacoit : Adivi Sesh delivers a dance Banger

BOX -OFFICE 12



SRINAGAR

SHORT TAKES



CM ORDERS CB-CID PROBE INTO ILLEGAL MINING

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has launched a high-stakes crackdown on Telangana's "sand mafia," ordering a comprehensive CBCID investigation into all illegal mining and quarrying operations conducted since the state's formation in 2014.

SPECIAL 02



THE COMMON MAN'S DOUBLE BURDEN

The complexities, opacity, and arbitrariness increasingly visible in the insurance sector have dealt a deep blow to public trust. Insurance, which ought to serve as a means of protection, is in many cases turning into an instrument of exploitation.

MONEY MATTERS 09



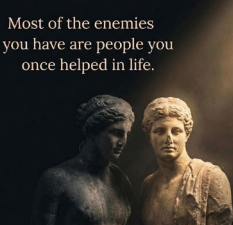
REMEMBERING INDIA'S FORGOTTEN SONS

On the night of May 2, 2013, I stood outside a government apartment near India Gate in New Delhi, close to midnight. Inside, Dalbir Kaur was waiting for the one phone call she had dreaded for years.

OPINION 06

THE DAILY MANTRA

HIDDEN KNIVES



- Not everyone who stands with you stays
- Some people change with time
- The ones you help may turn against you
- Not always your fault
- Your growth can trigger others
- Insecurity leads to distance or betrayal
- People rarely betray strangers
- They often betray those closest to them
- Giving doesn't guarantee loyalty
- Stay kind, but stay aware

Collected by Venna Srinivasa Reddy

Dakshina Kasi

CM Revanth Reddy Unveils Vision for Musi Riverfront

- ◆ The CM vows the completion of Musi project despite numerous hurdles
- ◆ As a symbol of religious harmony, a big Mosque and Church will be developed in the Musi project
- ◆ Civilization developed alongside the rivers and economic and trade development took place in the coastal region.
- ◆ Hyderabad's heritage history is on the verge of extinction due to neglect of Musi and Esa rivers. The two rivers turned dump yards due to neglect.
- ◆ CM took a strong dig at opposition for obstructing the Musi project
- ◆ The government is moving forward in accordance with people's aspirations
- ◆ CM appeals to opposition leaders to withdraw NGT case
- ◆ The CM warned that people will boycott the leaders who oppose the Musi project
- ◆ CM Revanth Reddy laid the foundation stone to Omkareshwara Swamy and Veerabhadra Swamy temples at Manchirevula today.



HYDERABAD, MAR 28

Chief Minister Shri A Revanth Reddy has announced that "Dakshina Kasi" would be developed by constructing the historical Shiva temples under the Musi Rejuvenation Project.

Laying foundation stones for Omkareshwara Swamy and Veerabhadra Swamy temples at Manchirevula today.

Swamy and Veerabhadra Swamy temples at Manchirevula today, the Chief Minister said that it is a historical occasion that the foundation stone for the historic temple foundation is laid today. "We are developing these temples in a sprawling 8 acres of land with an investment of ₹700 crores.

With the divine blessings of lord Shiva, we started the works of the famous temples"

Stating that this region boasts a history spanning 1,400 years, the CM said that the government took the responsibility of preserving the history for future generations.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Modi Urges Unity Amid Global Challenges

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday called for unity and restraint in political discourse amid global crises, as he inaugurated the Noida International Airport and highlighted its role in boosting connectivity, economic growth and employment in northern India.



HOME LAND 07

IndiGo Flight Lands Safely After Engine Snag

NEW DELHI, MARCH 28

A Delhi-bound IndiGo flight from Visakhapatnam carrying 160 passengers made an emergency landing at the Indira Gandhi International Airport on Saturday following an engine-related issue, sources said. A full emergency was declared at the airport at 10:39

am after the crew reported a failure in one engine of the aircraft, identified as flight 6E 579. The Boeing 737 aircraft landed safely at around 10:59 am, according to flight tracking data.

In a statement, IndiGo said a technical snag was detected shortly before landing. As a precautionary measure and in line

with standard operating procedures, the pilots requested priority landing. The airline confirmed that the aircraft landed safely and all passengers were unharmed. Relevant authorities were informed immediately, and the aircraft has been grounded for detailed inspection and maintenance.

Mines dept revenue surged under Congress rule: Vivek

HYDERABAD, MARCH 28

Responding to the allegations made by BRS MLA Harish Rao, Labour and Mines Minister Dr. G. Vivek Venkatswamy stated that the Mines department has witnessed a significant surge in revenue under the Congress government.

Presenting detailed facts and figures in the House, the Minister explained that a series of structural reforms implemented in the department have directly contributed to the increase in state revenues.

He firmly refuted the opposition's allegations and asserted that all actions are being carried out strictly in accordance with established rules and regulations.

The Minister further stated that despite several alleged irregularities during the previous BRS regime, no concrete action was taken at the time. He recalled that in 2022, the Enforcement Directorate had



conducted raids on a former minister and his family in connection with the same issue, yet there was no demand then for the constitution of a House Committee. Refuting the BJP's allegations as well, Vivek Venkatswamy clarified that there has been no formal demand for a House Committee in the present matter.

He pointed out that while irregularities worth thousands of crores reportedly occurred during the previous regime without any call for a House Committee, BRS leaders are now demanding one over what he termed a minor violation.

Assembly clears resolution for govt takeover of Hyderabad Metro

HYDERABAD, MARCH 28

The procedure for the Telangana government's decision to take over the Hyderabad Metro Rail is nearing completion.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Saturday presented a resolution for the acquisition of the Metro in the Assembly, which the House subsequently endorsed.

Speaking on the occasion, Revanth asked the Centre to cooperate in the expansion of the Metro in Hyderabad.

In the resolution, it stated that in view of the wide public interest, the Telangana government decided to expand the Metro as per the demand of various quarters to expand the metro network to the Hyderabad Core Urban Region (Cure). It deeply reviewed the obstacles to expansion and the difficulties faced.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

"Leaders First, Solar Always"

KARIMNAGAR, MARCH 28

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar has called upon all public representatives - from ward members to corporators - to become role models by installing solar panels on their homes and promoting renewable energy adoption.

Responding to the call of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Sanjay installed a solar power system at his residence in Karimnagar and inspected its functioning along with officials from TGREDCO. Pamphlets on the Pradhan Mantri Suryaghar Muft Bijli Yojana were also released on the occasion.

Highlighting the Centre's push for solar energy, he said the scheme aims to cover one crore households nationwide, with a budget outlay of ₹75,000 crore. The initiative seeks to



provide up to 300 units of free electricity per month to beneficiaries.

Sanjay urged elected representatives to take the lead in spreading awareness, expressing concern that the scheme's targets are yet to be fully achieved in Telangana. He noted that funds have been allocated to support 5,000-7,000 households per Assembly con-

stituency in adopting rooftop solar systems.

Emphasizing financial benefits, he said subsidies ranging from Rs.30,000 to Rs.78,000 are available, and shared that his own monthly electricity bill - currently between Rs.25,000 and Rs.30,000 - could drop to below Rs.5,000 after installing solar panels.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Lost Money in a Financial Fraud?

Investments lost in fraudulent schemes?

I lost money to a fraudster online!

A company offered me high returns and is now untraceable!

Lodge your complaint on SACHET PORTAL

Provides information and guidance for filing complaints related to financial irregularities.

Complaints lodged on Sachet Portal are redirected to the concerned authorities to initiate necessary actions.

User can track their complaints on the Portal.

File your complaints on <https://sachet.rbi.org.in>

For more details, visit <https://rbikehtahai.rbi.org.in/sachet>

For feedback, write to rbikehtahai@rbi.org.in

Issued in public interest by **भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक RESERVE BANK OF INDIA** www.rbi.org.in

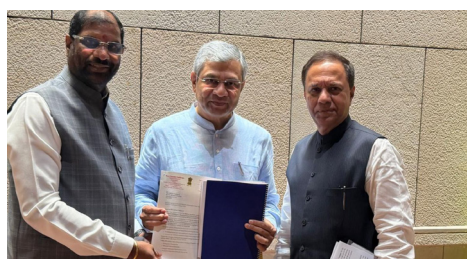


Telangana family builds temple for dead son, his lover and performs wedding



Hyderabad : In a unique tradition, a family in Telangana's Mahabubabad constructed a temple for their dead son and his lover where they perform their wedding annually on the occasion of Ramnavami. The annual tradition takes place in Santul Poda Thanda, Bayyaram mandal. According to reports, the man, Ramkoti, and his lover died by suicide in 2004, after the girl's family refused to get the couple married. According to reports, Ramkoti's father was depressed over his son's death. He constructed the temple in his courtyard and installed idols of Ramkoti and his lover, and has been performing their wedding for the past 22 years. Videos shared on social media show the boy's family conducting the wedding ceremony, which was attended by Ramkoti's friends. The father is seen chanting mantras while performing the ceremony.

BRS MPs ask centre for railway division in Kothagudem



Hyderabad : Members of Parliament from the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS), KR Suresh Reddy and Vaddiraju Ravichandra, have urged the central government to establish a new railway division with Kothagudem railway station as its headquarters. The MPs met Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in Parliament on Friday, March 27, and submitted a formal representation highlighting the strategic and historical importance of Kothagudem. According to their memorandum, Kothagudem has been a crucial railway hub since the British era, particularly for coal transportation. The station continues to play a vital role today as a key centre for the Singareni Collieries and contributes significantly to freight revenue for Indian Railways. They stated that Kothagudem has developed into a major junction connecting Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Andhra Pradesh through multiple rail links, strengthening its position as an inter-state transport hub. **MPs point to centenary in 2032** The MPs also pointed out that the station is set to complete 100 years by 2032, and local residents have long been seeking due recognition for its importance.

A Celebration of Growing Wings: St. Peter's PP II Graduation Inspires All

MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI

St. Peter's High School, Bowenpally, Secunderabad, celebrated its PP II Graduation Ceremony for the academic year 2025-26 with great warmth and enthusiasm under the theme, "Blossoms to Butterflies - A Celebration of Growing Wings." The event marked an important milestone in the lives of the young learners as they prepared to move from the foundational years of schooling into a new phase of learning.

The ceremony was a vibrant reflection of the beauty and significance of early childhood education. Through a thoughtfully designed journey narrative, the school highlighted how young children, when nurtured in a caring and stimulating environment, blossom into confident, curious, and joyful learners. The event also showcased the school's strong alignment with the National Curriculum Framework - Foundational Stage (NCF-FS), which focuses on the holistic development of children across cognitive, language, physical, and socio-emotional domains.

The evening came alive with colourful student performances that delighted the audience and demonstrated the confidence and creativity of the children. One of the most memorable moments was the Graduation Scroll Ceremony, during which the little graduates proudly received their scrolls, symbolising their successful completion of an important stage in their educational journey.



Adding emotional depth to the programme was the touching segment titled "Promise of the Butterflies," where the children expressed their readiness to learn, grow, and embrace new beginnings. Another deeply moving highlight was the valedictory address delivered by the young students. Their innocent yet heartfelt words of gratitude, pride, and affection touched the hearts of every one present

and stood as a beautiful reminder of the transformative power of early education.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. T. A. Reddy, Correspondent, emphasised the importance of creating safe, joyful, and meaningful learning spaces for children. He also underlined the value of a strong partnership between school and home in shaping confident and

well-rounded learners. The programme was graced by Mrs. T. Aruna Reddy, Academic Director, whose presence added to the significance of the occasion.

Parents expressed deep appreciation for the school's nurturing approach, observing remarkable growth in their children's confidence, independence, and enthusiasm for learning.

The thoughtfully curated ambience and seamless execution of the event reflected the dedication and commitment of the teachers, whose care and encouragement made the celebration truly special. The ceremony concluded on a jubilant note with a joyful cap toss, symbolising that these little butterflies are now ready to spread their wings and explore the world with confidence and wonder. True to the spirit of the occasion, the event beautifully echoed the message: Let Every Child Blossom.



Fire breaks out at optical store near Bowenpally; no casualties reported

HYDERABAD

Panic gripped Bowenpally on Saturday morning after a sudden fire broke out at an optical store near Center Point, a busy commercial stretch in the area.

According to preliminary information, the fire was reported around 11:00 AM, prompting an immediate response from the fire department. Multiple fire engines were rushed to the spot, and firefighters launched intensive operations to bring the blaze under control and prevent it from spreading to nearby shops and establishments.

The incident created temporary chaos in the area as thick smoke was seen rising from the store, drawing the attention of passersby and shopkeepers.

As a precautionary measure, authorities restricted public movement around the location and advised commuters to avoid the route while emergency operations continued.

Officials have not yet confirmed the cause of the fire, and there are currently no reports of injuries or casualties. Fire personnel are continuing cooling operations to ensure the flames are fully extinguished.

BRS stages Assembly walkout over police, RTC & BC welfare issues

HYDERABAD

The opposition Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) staged a walkout from the State Assembly on Saturday, protesting the government's 'neglect' of key public sectors, including the police department, RTC and BC welfare.

Speaking in the House, senior BRS leader and former minister T. Harish Rao launched a scathing attack on the Congress government, by alleging that despite the police department being under the direct control of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, it was facing severe neglect.

Harish Rao said police personnel, who work round-the-clock serving the society, were being subjected to multiple hardships. He contrasted the current situation with the previous BRS regime led by K.

Chandrashekar Rao, stating that 40,000 - 50,000 vacancies were filled and new commissionerates were established during that period.

He pointed out that several financial benefits to police personnel remain pending, including seven Travel Allowance (TA) bills, three surrender leave encashments, and five Dearness Allowance (DA) installments. He also criticised the cap of Rs.1 lakh on the police health security scheme and alleged that the Employees' Health Scheme (EHS) was not being implemented effectively.

Raising further concerns, Harish Rao said promotions had been stalled and no police recruitment notifications had been issued since early 2024, leaving aspirants in uncertainty. He questioned the reported Rs.400 crore cut in the police budget and

demanding an explanation from the government.

The BRS leader also accused the government of failing to fulfil promises made to RTC employees and not providing clarity on key issues such as the filling of 17,000 police vacancies, procurement of new vehicles for the force, and implementation of welfare measures for Backward Classes (BCs), including the BC Sub-Plan, and also criticised the ruling Congress against the failure to specify the effective date of appointment for the RTC employees as government servants.

Expressing dissatisfaction over the lack of concrete assurances from the ministers, BRS members staged a walkout, intensifying their protest against the government's indifferent approach to critical public issues.

CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

DAKSHINA KASI

FROM PAGE 1

CM Revanth Reddy vowed that the People's Government will complete the Musi project despite numerous hurdles created by the opposition parties. People will perform "Shiva Tandavam" against those who opposed the project. As a symbol of religious harmony, the government will also construct a Mosque and a Church in Musi catchment area at Nagole. "It stands as a testament to our unwavering sincerity and commitment toward the people who are considered as Gods for us"

The Chief Minister noted that many previous governments tried to revive the Musi river but failed due to various reasons. We consider it is our good fortune to have got the opportunity to develop the musli riverfront. The CM hoped that almighty God will clear all hurdles created by the opposition parties. CM Revanth

Reddy highlighted the support extended by the people representatives of the Musi area rising above political differences. The Chief Minister took a strong dig at some political leaders for not supporting the Musi project. Leaders enjoyed numerous political positions with the blessings of the people of this region. Some of them filed a case with the National Green Tribunal in an attempt to hinder this development. Do those who obstruct the development of this region truly possess the moral authority to serve as public representatives? The CM appealed to the leaders to withdraw the case.

Reiterating that the government is moving forward to fulfill the aspirations of the people, CM Revanth Reddy observed that civilization flourished alongside river basins. Trade and economic development have taken place on sea coasts. Since Telangana is the only landlocked state in the coun-

try, CM Revanth Reddy said that the objective of the Musi project is to revive Musi and Esa rivers which turned as dump yards and polluted due to human error.

The Chief Minister also warned the historical city of Hyderabad's heritage is on the verge of extinction. Delhi was already witnessing heavy air pollution and people are struggling to lead a healthy life. The CM stressed that we should learn from such big cities and move forward by addressing important issues like air and water pollution. Pollution levels reached at alarming levels in Musi. As a result the people of Nalgonda district are suffering due to the pollution.

The CM criticized the opposition parties for stalling the government efforts to address pollution issues. Further, the Chief Minister said that the government envisaged plans to divert river Godavari waters and ensure continuous water flow in Musi.

Assembly clears resolution for govt takeover of Hyderabad Metro

FROM PAGE 1

The existing Metro Phase 1 has a total of 69 kms. Proposals for the extension of Phase 2(A) spanning 76.4 kilometers and Phase 2(B) spanning 86.1 kilometers have been submitted to the Central Government. The House has placed before it the current special circumstances regarding the expansion of the Hyderabad Metro.

While Phase-I is under private management, it has taken into account the technical, legal and management issues faced to undertake Phase-II as a government project with the joint participation of the Central and State governments. Therefore, the Assembly is supporting the decisions taken by the state government for the process of taking over Metro Phase 1 and announcing full support. The House wants the state government to work hard to get the central government's approval for the expansion of Phase-II as soon as possible, the resolution said.

the farmers generate surplus electricity - beyond the requirements of their fields - they can sell it to the DISCOMs and earn additional income, he noted.

Sanjay urged farmers and the public to come forward in large numbers and take advantage of the schemes to reduce energy costs and generate additional income.

CM Orders CBCID Probe Into Illegal Mining Since 2014



HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has announced a significant initiative regarding illegal mining and sand quarries in Telangana. He has ordered a Crime Branch CID (CBCID) investigation into mining operations conducted since June 2, 2014. During the Assembly session on Saturday, the Chief Minister disclosed plans for an inquiry into sand mining quarries, indicating that the findings would be presented in the next legislative session. In response to demands from BRS MLAs for the establishment of a House Committee to address allegations against 'Raghav Constructions'—a firm associated with the family of Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, who is purportedly linked to illegal mining ac-

tivities—the Chief Minister affirmed that a thorough investigation will be conducted. "This inquiry will also encompass the mining operations of BRS leaders, including Gangula Kamalakar, Vaddiraju Ravi Chandra, and Santosh Rao, as well as his father, Ravinder Rao, who is involved in the sand mafia," Revanth Reddy said. Moreover, the Chief Minister accused BRS MLAs Harish Rao and KT Rama Rao of facilitating illegal mining during the previous BRS administration. He asserted that the government remains undeterred by potential intimidation from BRS leaders, emphasising that the CID investigation will uncover the truth. Revanth Reddy claimed that the BRS party oversaw the sand mafia and exploited the resources of Telangana while in power. In a rebuttal to assertions made by

BRS leaders regarding the alleged decline of the real estate sector during the Congress government, Revanth Reddy noted that the state's revenue from sand sales had risen by 35 percent, disputing the claim of a downturn in the real estate market. He further stated that the state government would not overlook any errors that could negatively impact its revenue. Regarding Raghav Constructions, the Chief Minister mentioned that officials have issued a notice to the company requesting information concerning the alleged violations, showcasing the government's commitment to accountability. However, he criticised BRS leaders for attempting to coerce the Minister through unfounded allegations and declared that he would not entertain such tactics. (NSS)

Suicide threats, intimidation amount to mental cruelty, Telangana High Court

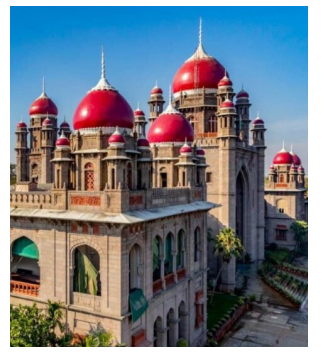
HYDERABAD

The Telangana High Court has held that repeated suicide threats, abusive conduct and intimidation through false legal action amount to mental cruelty and is sufficient to dissolve a marriage, upholding a family court's divorce decree that had been challenged by the wife.

A division bench of Justices K Lakshman and BR Madhusudhan Rao dismissed the appeal, finding no illegality or perversity in the 2016 order of the Family Court at LB Nagar that had granted divorce to the husband.

The couple had married in 1999 at Annavaram Temple under Hindu customs and have twin children born in 2001. The marriage broke down over the years, with the husband approaching the family court seeking divorce on grounds of mental cruelty. Before the High Court, the husband contended that his wife spent excessive time on phone calls with unknown persons, causing frequent quarrels and disturbances at their residence. He produced call data records covering several months to substantiate his claims and examined an independent witness whose testimony, he argued, corroborated the pattern of conflict.

The witness also supported the husband's allegation that the wife had repeatedly threatened suicide as a means of pressuring him. The wife denied the allegations in their entirety, contending instead that she had been



subjected to ill-treatment. She alleged that her husband frequently stayed away from home, returned in an intoxicated state and failed to fulfil his marital responsibilities. While she did not dispute the existence of marital discord, she contested the specific allegations relating to her conduct and phone usage.

The bench found the husband's account consistent and backed by documentary evidence, including the call records and independent witness testimony.

Writing for the bench, Justice Lakshman observed that conduct of this nature causes deep emotional distress and creates an atmosphere of fear and instability within a marriage, making it unreasonable to expect the aggrieved spouse to continue the relationship. The court further held that mental cruelty need not be established through physical violence alone and can be inferred from a sustained pattern of behaviour over time. The appeal was accordingly dismissed.

Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla Family participated in the Sri Rama Samrajya Pattabhishekam



BHADRACHALAM

The Hon'ble Governor of Telangana Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla, and the First Lady of the State, Smt. Janaki Shukla participated in the Sri Rama Samrajya Pattabhishekam at the Sita Ramachandra Swamy Temple in Bhadrachalam on 28th March, 2026.

As part of the celestial coronation of Lord Sri Rama, the Governor offered Pattu Vastralu to the deity, in accordance with temple tradition.

Expressing his spiritual elation, the

Governor said he felt deeply blessed to witness the sacred ritual at such a historically and religiously significant shrine. He emphasized the timeless relevance of Lord Sri Rama's ideals and called upon all to uphold the virtues of righteousness, compassion, and truthfulness exemplified by the Maryada Purushottam.

Earlier in the day, the Governor had darshan of the presiding deities at the Bhadradi temple and offered special prayers. The temple priests, who performed the Pattabhishekam

rituals with elaborate Vedic chanting and ceremonial grandeur, blessed the Governor through ashirvachanam and presented him with prasadam.

The Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Sri Tummala Nageswararao; Special Chief Secretary to Governor, Sri M. Danakishore, IAS; the Commissioner of Endowments; the District Collector and Superintendent of Police of Bhadradi Kothagudem; and senior temple authorities accompanied the Governor during the visit.

Launch of Bhadradi Mart

During the visit, the Governor inaugurated Bhadradi Mart, established under the aegis of the Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA). Project Officer

B. Rahul and Assistant Project Officer (General) David briefed the Governor on the range of tribal products showcased at the mart. The Governor and his wife inspected the exhibits and purchased several items, underscoring their support for tribal artisans and local enterprise.

"Devotion or diversion?": BRS MLC Sravan slams Cong govt over rs.700 cr temple spend

HYDERABAD

BRS MLC Dasoju Sravan launched a sharp attack on the state government, alleging that "devotion is being used as a cover for greed-driven politics." He questioned the allocation of Rs.700 crore for temple construction while government schools continue to suffer from severe fund shortages. The government should explain its priorities as it fails to provide even basic funding to government schools where children of the poor study, he remarked.

Sravan expressed concern over "disturbing imbalance" in priorities, stating that critical sectors like education and healthcare are being neglected. He alleged that the temple initiative could be linked to a "real estate racket", claiming that public funds are being diverted while "hundreds of crores are



looted." Raising doubts about the intent behind the expenditure, he asked whether it stems from genuine devotion or vested interests targeting temple lands and assets. He said such suspicions are now widespread among the public.

Accusing the government of indulging in "spiritual politics" to divert attention, Sravan urged it to come clean on its priorities and ensure adequate funding for education and healthcare, especially for the poor.

SCR GM reviews facilities at Lingampally, Ramachandrapuram stations

HYDERABAD

Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, General Manager of South Central Railway, conducted a detailed inspection of Lingampally and Ramachandrapuram railway stations under the Secunderabad division on Saturday. Accompanied by Dr. R. Gopalakrishnan, divisional railway manager, Secunderabad division, and other senior officials, the GM reviewed passenger amenities, including waiting halls, ticketing systems, lifts, platforms, and overall cleanliness at Lingampally. He also examined track conditions, maintenance facilities, and operational efficiency. On this occasion, the officials concerned briefed him on ongoing and proposed expansion plans for the station. Later, at Ramachandrapuram station, Srivastava assessed passenger facilities and discussed future development initiatives.

Strong Participation Marks Kukatpally Court Bar Council Polls; New Executive Team Takes Shape

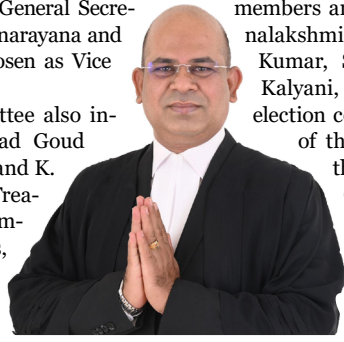
MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI

The elections to the Kukatpally Court Bar Council concluded successfully on Thursday, witnessing enthusiastic participation from a large number of advocates. The polling process was carried out smoothly, and members of the legal fraternity actively exercised their franchise to elect a new executive committee for the upcoming term.

The elections reflected a strong democratic spirit within the Bar, as lawyers came forward in significant numbers to choose their representatives. After a competitive contest, Govardhan Reddy

emerged as the clear winner for the post of President, securing a notable mandate from the voters. K. Surender Goud was elected as the General Secretary, while B. Satyanarayana and K. Sridevi were chosen as Vice Presidents.

The new committee also includes Shiva Prasad Goud as Joint Secretary and K. Gopal Reddy as Treasurer. In other important positions, N. Ramesh was elected as Sports Secretary, V. Sri-



latha as Cultural Secretary, and Ch. Prathyusha as Women Representative. The elected executive committee members are Sonu Mittal, S. Dhanalakshmi, T. Srikanth, M. Naveen Kumar, S. Sandeep Reddy, G. Kalyani, and V. Aravind. Their election completes the formation of the new leadership team that will guide the Bar Council in the coming term.

Following the declaration of results, members of the Bar congratulated the newly

elected office-bearers and committee members. Many advocates expressed confidence that the new team would work with commitment and unity for the development of the Bar, the welfare of advocates, and the strengthening of professional activities at the Kukatpally Court. The successful conduct of the elections and the impressive voter turnout underline the active involvement of the legal community in institutional leadership. With the new committee now in place, expectations are high that it will focus on growth, welfare initiatives, and the overall progress of the Bar during its tenure.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY (CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)				
E-TENDER NOTICE No. 45-CECNMS-2026-E-626893 Dated: 18.03.2026				
E-TENDER NOTICE No. CAO-CN-MS-DDC-01-2026 Dated: 23.03.2026				
E-TENDER NOTICE No. CAO-CN-MS-EPC-NL-01-2026 Dated: 23.03.2026				
For and on behalf of The President of India, The Chief Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008 invites e-tender for the following work(s) as per Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) in our portal www.irps.gov.in The Tenderers / Contractors intending to apply for the tender needs to get enrolled in the portal www.irps.gov.in and only online tenders will be accepted.				
NAME OF THE WORK				
VM-KPD Section - Proposed Construction of ROB 1 x 33.970 m (SQ) 34.880 (SK) in lieu of LC 128 at Km. 151/12-13 between Vellore and Katpadi Stations.				
Cash Value (₹)	Earnest Money Deposit (₹)	Period of Completion in (Months)	Closing Date @ 15.30 hrs.	
78869136.50	544400.00	12 Months	09-04-2026	
NAME OF THE WORK				
Request For Proposal for PROVIDING SERVICES RELATED TO STRUCTURAL DESIGN AND PROOF CHECKING FOR NEW LINE, DOUBLING, GAUGE CONVERSION, 3RD AND 4TH LINE PROJECTS, ROAD OVER BRIDGES AND ROAD UNDER BRIDGES etc., INCLUDING STATION BUILDINGS, FOBS, PF SHELTERS AND OTHER ANCILLARY STRUCTURES At Projects of Construction Organization under Chief Administrative Officer/CN/MS, Southern Railway, Tamil Nadu.				
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL for the "Construction of 3rd and 4th New Railway BG line between Atipatu and Gummudipundi for Civil Engineering, Signalling & Telecommunication, Electrical General & OHE Electrification works including utility shifting" on EPC MODE				
Cash Value (₹ in Crores)	Earnest Money Deposit (₹)	Period of Completion in (Months)	Closing Date @ 15.30 hrs.	Pre-Bid Conference Date and Time
9.95	647600.00	36	12-05-2026	13-04-2026 @ 11.30 hrs
285.68	10000000.00	24	12-05-2026	13-04-2026 @ 12.30 hrs
For further details, please refer to website portal www.irps.gov.in or contact Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, Construction, E.V.R. High Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.				
Chief Engineer (Construction), Egmore, Chennai - 600 008				

BRAOU rolls out skill courses to boost student employability

HYDERABAD,

March 28 (NSS): Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University (BRAOU) on Saturday conducted a statewide awareness programme on job-oriented and skill-enhancement courses for first and second-year degree students across its learner service centres in Telangana.

In collaboration with TCS iON, WE Hub, Retailers Association's Skill Council of India and Sri Ramananda Tirtha Rural Institute, the University is offering training in computer skills, English communication, business management and



IT to enhance employability. Students are encouraged to enroll in these courses as supplements to their regular degree programs. Admissions are currently open with TCS iON, offering opportunities for B.A.,

B.Com, and B.Sc. first- and second-year students to develop industry-relevant skills such as computer proficiency, English communication, business management, and IT skills. Through Sri Ramananda Tirtha Rural In-

stitute (SRTRI), students can gain practical skills in areas like basic computer operations, mobile repair, solar energy systems, and CCTV camera management. Additionally, specialized courses such as beautician training and embroidery are available for women. Under the "We-Enable" initiative with WE Hub, female students will be guided towards entrepreneurship. Admissions are currently open, and students have been urged to enrol alongside their regular degree programmes. For details, visit <http://www.braou.ac.in> or contact 040-23680333 / 040-23680555.

Youth must understand budget basics, avoid digital traps: GHMC Commissioner Karnan

HYDERABAD

R. V. Karnan, Commissioner of Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, on Saturday urged the students to go beyond textbooks and develop a deeper understanding of the Union and State budgets, including concepts like fiscal deficit and expenditure patterns.

Speaking at the State-level 'Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament', Karnan emphasized the importance of distinguishing between capital and revenue expenditure and noted that government borrowing is regulated under Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) regulations. He also encouraged youth to independently file income tax returns and stay informed through newspapers and knowledge-based reading. Cautioning against digital overuse, he said mobile phones can be either beneficial or harmful depending on usage, warning that online advertisements are driven by user behavior. "Do not become pawns to algorithm-driven content", he advised.

The two-day event, held at the Dr. Marri Channa Reddy Human Resource Development Institute, is being organized by MY Bharat (an initiative of the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports) in coordination with the National Service Scheme (NSS), with 165 participants from across Telangana.



District Youth Officer T. Esaiah stated that five young men and women were selected from each district through the district-level competitions to participate in this program and that a total of 165 participants were taking part in this event. He noted that each participant in this competition was required to deliver a three-minute speech on the topic: "Union Budget 2026: A Stepping Stone for Youth Empowerment and the Realization of Viksit Bharat 2047."

Graduate MLC Ch. Anji Reddy announced Rs.10 lakh accident insurance coverage for all the participants. The event was attended by NSS Youth Officer Ramavath Saida Naik, State NSS Coordinator G. Narasimha Goud, National Youth Award recipient and magi-

cian Samala Venu as well as the District Youth Officers from Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy, and Karimnagar—E. Isaiiah, Ganta Rajesh, Khushboo Gupta and Rambabu. The dance performances like Bharatanatyam by Madhuri Munimakula and Kuchipudi by Akshara Rathod - captivated the entire audience.

The valedictory session is scheduled for 4:30 PM on Sunday, during which prizes will be presented to the first, second and the third-place winners at the state level by Dr. Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary to Government of Telangana, Madhu Yaskhi Goud (former Member of Parliament and Chairman of the Telangana Congress Campaign Committee) and S. Ansuman Prasad Das (State Director of 'My Bharat').

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SHORT TAKES

Rs.20lakhs donated to TTD
Tirumala, March 28 (NSS): Chandana Brothers Textiles and Jewellers Private Limited has donated an amount of Rs.10,01,116 to the TTD Sri Balaji Arogya Varaprasadini Scheme on Saturday. Similarly, Credvest India Private Limited, based in Bengaluru, has donated Rs.10,00,116. The representatives of both organizations handed over the donation DDs to the TTD Additional Executive Officer, Ch.Venkaiah Chowdary, at the Additional EO Camp Office in Tirumala. (NSS)

Asha workers "Chalo Hyderabad" protest foiled
Hyderabad, March 28 (NSS): Tension prevailed in Hyderabad after the police foiled a "Chalo Hyderabad" protest by ASHA workers demanding a minimum wage of Rs.18,000. Protesters were stopped at RTC Cross Roads while marching towards Indira Park, leading to detentions and brief clashes. The workers staged a road blockade, raising slogans against the government. Jangaon MLA Palla Rajeshwar Reddy and union leader Ravula Santhosa alleged that police denied permission despite prior requests and carried out indiscriminate arrests. The union demanded the immediate release of detained workers and warned of intensified protests if their demands remain unmet.

Panic buying of fuels and LPG contained with coordinated efforts: Uttam



Explains situation in state at a meeting called by Centre

Assures steps for smooth distribution despite persisting shortage of commercial LPG

HYDERABAD

Telangana Civil Supplies and Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy stated today that the state has largely brought the recent supply stress on petroleum products and LPG under control, while assuring the Centre that coordinated efforts would be made for PNG network development.

Participating virtually in a meeting organised by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs—the Minister said that a brief spell of panic buying of petrol, diesel, and domestic LPG had created temporary stress, but the situation was "more or less in control" with supplies meeting the demand in

many places. "I followed the present situation closely. Whatever are the issues in our cities, we'll try and address them. The concerned distribution companies also have briefed me," he said while assuring to take up issues if any coming in the way of expanding the Piped Natural Gas (PNG) supply network in the cities with the Chief Minister, Revanth Reddy who looks after municipal administration and urban development. We will have a meeting and sort out issues if any" he added.

On the ground situation in Telangana, he noted that there was a shortage of commercial LPG. He hoped that the issue can be resolved soon if the Centre could increase allocations to the state. He also flagged certain procurement-related matters to be taken up separately with Union Minister Prahlad Joshi.

In mid-March rumours linked to geopolitical tensions in West Asia, the state government responded with multiple reviews and crackdowns on black

marketing. Domestic LPG, which forms the bulk of consumption remained largely stable, while commercial LPG faced shortages.

The preparatory meeting organised by the Centre formed part of the coordinated response to ensure civic services continue smoothly and PNG networks expand faster in urban areas. The state's CGD operator, Bhagyanagar Gas, continues to expand CNG infrastructure in Hyderabad, where dozens of stations are operational to serve auto-rickshaws, taxis, and private vehicles.

Union Ministers Manohar Lal Khattar (Housing & Urban Affairs), Hardeep Singh Puri (Petroleum and Natural Gas), and Prahlad Joshi (Renewable Energy) were among those who took part.

Representative from GHMC are among 14 civic bodies from across the country represented at the meeting. They were called for sensitisation on importance of natural gas and expansion of network.



Food security is not enough

Nutritious food supply to children is the top priority of the Telangana government

Lack of nutritious food is a big reason for health ailments among children

Permanent buildings for Anganwadi centres soon

CM Revanth Reddy launches "Toli Mudda" breakfast scheme

HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Shri A Revanth Reddy emphasized that food security alone is not enough and the Telangana Government accorded top priority to provide nutritious food to the children.

Launching the "Toli Mudda" breakfast scheme today, the Chief Minister noted that lack of nutritious food is a cause of big concern and health ailments among children is a big worrying factor. The CM said that mental health development among children under the age of six is



important to grow strong. For this, the government launched the breakfast scheme to improve the health conditions of the children from their childhood. Nutritious food was already provided to mothers from the day of conceived in the Anganwadi centres.

CM Revanth Reddy remembered that the first Prime Minister of India Jawaharlal Nehru gave priority to education and irrigation to wipe out illiteracy and strengthen the agriculture

sector. The Chief Minister assured that the government will address all pending issues of the Anganwadi staff and appealed to them to implement the breakfast scheme in a true spirit. Anganwadi staff should take care of children like their own family members.

The CM instructed the authorities to formulate plans to construct permanent buildings for Anganwadi centres and stop running the centres in private buildings.



Public meeting in Adilabad on April 6 to mark 'People's March' anniversary

HYDERABAD

As part of the completion of three years of the "People's March" Padayatra and the ongoing 99 Days "Praja Palana" celebrations, a massive public meeting will be held on April 6 at Pippiri village in Boath constituency of Adilabad district. Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka reviewed the arrangements for the Chief Minister's public meeting with district collectors of the undivided Adilabad region and senior state officials.

He directed officials to ensure comprehensive arrangements for the event. During the public meeting, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy will distribute documents related to the implementation of assurances given to various sections of people during the "People's March" Padayatra.

The Deputy Chief Minister instructed officials to make all necessary arrangements for the successful conduct of the Chief Minister's public meeting.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister recalled that the "People's March" Padayatra he undertook three years ago had commenced from Pippiri village. He stated that the Congress party always fulfills the promises it makes to the people after coming to power. Accordingly, documents pertaining to the implementation of assurances made during the Padayatra will be distributed by the Chief Minister at the meeting.

He informed that on April 6, the Chief Minister will reach Basara at 11:00 AM and perform special prayers. He will then participate in a programme there and later arrive at Pippiri village at 2:00 PM to address the public meeting. He noted that the 99 Days "Praja Palana" celebrations are being conducted on a large scale across the state, including village-level meetings. As part of these celebrations, the government has decided to organize the Chief Minister's public meeting at Pippiri, he said.

Row over proposed cantonment merger: Leaders demand GHMC inclusion

HYDERABAD

Strong objections have been raised against remarks by Minister Sridhar Babu suggesting the merger of the Secunderabad Cantonment Board into Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation.

Critics argue that over 1.31 lakh citizens have already supported a campaign demanding merger with GHMC instead. They stressed that Secunderabad - historically known as Lashkar - has a distinct identity and should remain aligned with Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation. In fact, it is an integral part of the Twin Cities Hyderabad & Secunderabad, and any decision altering its administrative structure must respect this legacy. However, the said proposal lacks public consultation, remarked BRS leader Manne Krishank in a press statement.

A decision of such magnitude cannot be taken unilaterally. No consultations, discussions, or stakeholder engagements have been conducted with residents, local representatives, or civil society.

Concerns were also raised over the lack of public consultation, with leaders calling the move unilateral and against democratic principles. They demanded immediate withdrawal of the proposal and urged the authorities to initiate a transparent dialogue with stakeholders.

Statement by Minister D. Sridhar Babu on Metro Rail in the Assembly



HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Metro Rail project was taken up to address the rising traffic congestion and pollution in Hyderabad. Concession agreement for development of Phase-I as a PPP project was signed in September 2010, with L&T as the Concessionaire for three corridors spanning a length of 69 Km 1 (T. Miyapur - LB Nagar 29 Km; 2. JBS-MGBS 11 Km; 3. Nagole - Raidurg 29 Km). L&T's sought a Viability Gap Fund (VGF) of Rs.1,458 Cr from the Centre which is 12 percent of the total project cost as against the allowed VGF of 40 percent. The Concession Period was 35years, extendable by another 25 years starting from 5th July, 2012. The Metro Project started operations in stages between November 2017 and February 2020.

2. Subsequently, the previous government entered into a Supplemental Concession

Agreement with L&T in July 2022 extending the concession period for a total period of 60 years i.e., upto July 2072. The previous government has also assured L&T of providing an interest free loan of Rs 3000 Cr. Despite growing expansion of the city, further expansion of Metro network was not taken up, resulting in Hyderabad, which once stood second in the country in terms of the length of metro rail network, has now slipped to 9th position in the country.

3. In view of the good patronage for Phase-I and to meet the growing demand for expanding Metro network, proposals of Phase-II(A) in 5 Corridors for a length of 76.4 km (1. Nagole - Shamshabad Airport: 36.8 km; 2. Raidurg - Kokapet 11.6 km; 3. MGBS - Chandrayangutta 7.5 km; 4. Miyapur - Patancheru 13.4 km; & 5. LB Nagar - Hayatnagar 7.1 km) at an estimated cost of Rs.24,269 Cr; and Phase-II B in

3 corridors for a length of 86.1 km (1. Airport - Bharat Future City 39.6 km; 2. JBS - Medchal 24.5 km & 3. JBS - Shamirpet 22 km) at an estimated cost of Rs.19,579 Cr were submitted by the present Government to Gol on 4.11.2024 and 20.06.2025 respectively for approval as a Joint Venture (JV) project of GoTG and Gol.

4. Multiple meetings were held by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), the nodal Ministry of Gol, to review the expansion proposals. Gol insisted on a "Definitive Agreement" with L&T for operational integration of Phase-I (being held by a private entity) with the proposed Phase-II to process the proposal. Since four of the five Phase II (a) corridors are extensions of Phase I corridors, seamless integration becomes a must. Gol has also requested L&T Metro to participate in Phase-II project as equity partner along with Gol and GoTG.

5. In response, L&T conveyed its inability to participate either in Phase-II(A) and II(B) as equity partner or sign the Definitive Agreement, stating that as a corporate policy, the Group has exited from all their PPP projects. But in the interest of operational integration and passenger convenience, L&T expressed its willingness to exit from Phase-I project and handover to the Government, provided they are adequately compensated for their equity of Rs.7,000 Cr and the Government taking over the Project Debt of approximately Rs. 13,000 Cr.

6. As L&T refused to sign the Definitive Agreement, which Gol made it mandatory to consider Phase II metro, a meeting was held with the CMD of L&T group on 25.09.2025. During the meeting, CMD, L&T suggested that the state government take over the complete debt of L&TMRHL and pay about Rs.5,500 Cr for their equity value. After negotiations and with an objective to expedite the Phase-II approval by Gol, it was agreed, in principle, that the State government would take over Phase-I Metro by taking over the project debt which is about Rs. 13,000 Cr on the date of negotiations. Further, the State Government has also agreed in principle to pay a one-time settlement amount towards the L&T's equity and agreed that the take-over process will be carried forward duly ensuring legal and statutory compliances.

Reclaim Bhoodan lands, form board now: CPI leader Aziz Pasha urges TG govt

HYDERABAD

CPI senior leader and former MP Syed Aziz Pasha urged Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to immediately constitute "Bhoodan Yagna Board" and distribute thousands of acres of pending Bhoodan land to the landless and homeless poor.

Addressing a massive dharna organized by the Telangana Sarvodaya Mandal at Dharna Chowk near Indira Park here on Saturday, Pasha stressed that protecting Bhoodan lands is solely the responsibility of the state government.

He recalled that Acharya Vinoba Bhave had collected about 1.79 lakh acres of land from landlords in the erstwhile Hyderabad State to distribute among the poor. While some land was allotted, over one lakh acres still remain undistributed, he said, alleging large-scale encroachments, fraudulent sales and illegal occupation. Pasha demanded strict action against the encroachers and immediate steps to reclaim and redistribute the land to deserving beneficiaries in both rural and urban areas.

Presiding over the protest, Mandali State President R. Shankar Nayak alleged that former Bhoodan Yagna Board Chairman Rajender Reddy was involved



in fraudulent sale of hundreds of acres using forged documents, and called for stringent legal action.

He further claimed that due to government apathy, vast stretches of Bhoodan land in Ranga Reddy district have been illegally converted into real estate ventures, industries and institutions. He demanded an inquiry by the Enforcement Directorate into the alleged irregularities. He urged for that encroached Bhoodan lands be reclaimed and along with the remaining Bhoodan lands in the state be distributed to landless poor people. Additionally, he requested the establishment of a Bhoodan Yagna Board in the state, in accordance with the recommendations of the All India Sarva Seva Sangh. Leaders

from various organisations and parties participated in the protest, calling for immediate restoration and fair distribution of Bhoodan lands to the poor. Participating in this protest were Telangana Sarvodaya Mandal State General Secretary Y. Giri Prasad, State Organizing Secretary Khader Beg, leaders S. Yadamma, Raghupathi and Shaheen Begum, Ambedkar Sangham State President Lalayya, JAC of Tribal Associations State Leader Jarpula Shiva Naik, Socialist Party of India (General) President B. Purushottam and General Secretary R. Jhansi, Jai Swaraj Party President Kasani Srinivas Goud, MCP Central Committee Member Tukaram Naik, Workers Party President Panduranga Chari and others.

Driver loses concentration, rams into bus; 3 from Telangana family die

HYDERABAD

In a tragic incident, three members of a family from Telangana's Warangal died in an accident in Andhra Pradesh's Chittoor on Saturday, March 28.

The accident occurred when the family was travelling from Bengaluru to Tirupathi and the car hit a stationary APSRTC bus from behind in the early hours of Saturday. The victims were identified as Sreedhar Rao, 46, his wife Lakshmi, 42, and his daughter Advika, 16.

According to the police, the bus was travelling from Palamaner towards Puttur and had halted at the side of the road.

Locals rushed to the scene and alerted the authorities,



while police and emergency teams used JCBs during rescue and clearance operations. The preliminary report said that overspeeding and loss of

concentration from the driver were key factors. The bodies were shifted to the Government Area Hospital in Bangarupalem. Bangarupalem Po-

lice said, "We are yet to receive a complaint regarding the accident. We will register a case tomorrow after the post-mortem is complete."

20% Delhi Police Constable Posts Reserved for Ex-Agniveers

NEW DELHI: (MAR 28)

Delhi Police will reserve 20 per cent of constable (executive) posts for former Agniveers, with exemptions from the physical efficiency test and relaxation in the upper age limit, according to a Ministry of Home Affairs notification.

The move comes as part of amendments to the Delhi Police (Appointment and Recruitment) Rules, 1980, notified on Friday, formalising the force's recruitment policy in line with the Centre's broader plan to absorb Agniveers into security forces after their four-year tenure in the armed forces.

Detailed procedures for conducting recruitment tests, including written examinations and physical measurements, will be issued separately by the Commissioner of Police.

Congress appoints 12 vice-presidents, 27 general secretaries in Himachal

NEW DELHI: (MAR 28)

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday night appointed 12 new vice-presidents and 27 new general secretaries in the Himachal Pradesh unit of the party. "Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has approved the proposal for the constitution of the executive committee, disciplinary committee and the appointment of vice-presidents, treasurer and general secretaries of the Himachal Pradesh Congress Committee, with immediate effect." Congress general secretary K C Venugopal said in a statement. Among those appointed members of the executive committee are Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri, former Union minister Anand Sharma and former Himachal Pradesh chief Pratibha Singh, besides senior leaders Asha Kumari, Col Dhani Ram Shandil, Viplove Thakur, Kaul Singh Thakur, Chand Kumar, Kuldeep Kumar and Kuldeep Singh Rathore.

EC releases third supplementary voter list in Bengal

KOLKATA: (MAR 28)

The Election Commission on Saturday published the third supplementary voter list under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls for 2026. The poll panel, however, did not provide details on the total number of deletions or inclusions in the third list, which follows the publication of the second supplementary list on Friday night. The commission had released the first supplementary list of 'Under Adjudication' voters on Monday (March 23) but remained tight-lipped on the number of deletions or the precise figure of cases disposed of on that list, drawing criticism from various quarters.

India opposes China-led investment pact in WTO

NEW DELHI: (MAR 28)

India on Saturday said it has strongly opposed the contentious China-led Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD) Agreement for its incorporation into the WTO framework. Incorporation of the IFD agreement risks eroding the functional limits of the WTO and undermining its foundational principles. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said in a social media post.

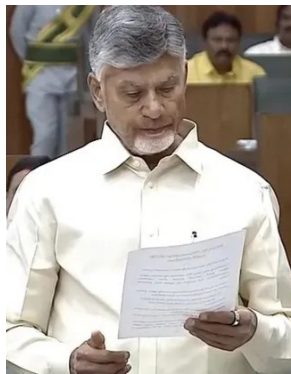
Andhra Assembly passes resolution seeking statutory capital status for Amaravati

AMARAVATI, MARCH 28

In a definitive move to resolve years of administrative and legal ambiguity, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday moved a landmark resolution in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, urging the Centre to grant statutory recognition to Amaravati as the official capital of the state. A special Assembly session was convened specifically to deliberate and pass this resolution, marking a significant step toward providing long-term stability and legal clarity to the capital city issue. During his address, the Chief Minister

emphasised that permanent legal certainty can only be achieved through specific amendments to the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014. The Andhra Pradesh Assembly subsequently resolved to request the Government of India to amend Section 5 of the Act by explicitly inserting the words "at Amaravati" into sub-section (2).

Furthermore, the resolution seeks to expand the legal explanation to clarify that Amaravati encompasses all areas officially notified under the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) Act, 2014. This legislative push comes



against the backdrop of an unprecedented urban development effort initiated over a decade ago. The Amaravati capital project is estimated to be about Rs 64,000 crore, with the Andhra Pradesh

Capital Region Development Authority serving as the implementing agency.

For the Amaravati capital, around 30,000 farmers voluntarily pooled over 34,000 acres of fertile land for the development of a greenfield city.

This massive land bank was intended to host a world-class city, avoiding the traditional delays associated with land acquisition. Financially, the project has seen a massive infusion of support from both the State and the Centre, besides other agencies. The Centre committed a dedicated financial package of Rs 15,000 crore for the development of the capital, of which about Rs

4,200 crore has reportedly been released, while international agencies, including the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, have moved forward with loans totalling approximately Rs 13,500 crore. Domestic institutions like HUDCO have also stepped in with a Rs 11,000 crore credit line to jumpstart stalled infrastructure.

Concluding his speech, Chief Minister Naidu urged all members of the House to support the resolution, stating that statutory backing is the final seal needed to protect the dreams of the people and the investments made by thousands of farmers.

CM Nayab Singh Saini flags off special train carrying pilgrims from Ambala to Ayodhya

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 28

Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini today flagged off a special train carrying pilgrims from Ambala to Ayodhya. He also announced that in the last week of April, another special train will be flagged off for devotees to visit Sri Hazur Sahib Gurdwara in Nanded, Maharashtra. Before this, addressing the pilgrims, the Chief Minister said that today is a historic and emotional moment for Haryana. He said flagging off this special pilgrimage train from the sacred land associated with Lord Krishna to the birthplace of Lord Ram in Ayodhya Dham is a matter of great pride and honour. Congratulating the pilgrims, he said that the grand, divine, and newly built temple

of Lord Ram in Ayodhya is a matter of pride for the entire nation. It is the result of collective good deeds that people witnessed the consecration of Shri Ram Lalla and now have the opportunity to visit the temple. Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that this journey to Ayodhya is not just a physical journey but a spiritual transformation. He added that when pilgrims stand on the banks of the Sarayu River, visit Hanumanagarhi, and step into the grand Ram Temple, they will feel the energy that once made India a 'Vishwa Guru'. He informed that the Haryana Government has entered into an agreement with the Railways for pilgrimage travel. Under this arrangement, about 700 elderly people from seven districts are being sent on this



first train. Adequate arrangements for food and security have been made to ensure a comfortable journey. He also thanked the officials of the Railways for ensuring special arrangements so that devotees do not face any inconvenience. The Chief Minister said that the state government is committed to ensuring that elderly citizens and economically weaker devotees are not deprived of pilgrimage due to financial constraints. With this objective, the government has launched the 'Mukhyamantri Tirth Yatra Yojana,' and today's train is a symbol of that promise and trust. He added that earlier also, devotees from Kaithal, Karnal, Ambala, and Jind were facilitated to visit Ayodhya through buses.

He said that pilgrimage sites like Ayodhya are sources of spiritual energy in Indian culture. For visits to the Sindhu River, which has nurtured Indian civilization, the 'Swarn Jayanti Sindhu Darshan Yojana' is being implemented, under which financial assistance of ₹10,000 per pilgrim (up to a maximum of 50 pilgrims) is provided annually. Similarly, under the 'Kailash Mansarovar Yatra' scheme, financial

assistance of ₹50,000 per pilgrim (up to a maximum of 50 pilgrims) is provided annually.

The Chief Minister further informed that under the 'Swarn Jayanti Guru Darshan Yatra Yojana,' pilgrims from the state visiting Sri Hazur Sahib Gurdwara (Nanded), Sri Nankana Sahib, Sri Hemkund Sahib, and Sri Patna Sahib are provided financial assistance of ₹6,000 per pilgrim. He extended his best wishes for a safe and blessed journey to all the pilgrims.

On this occasion, former minister Sh. Aseem Goel, Director General of Information, Public Relations and Languages Department Sh. K. Makrand Pandurang, OSD to the Chief Minister Sh. Vivek Kalia, and several other dignitaries were present.

Youth power key to India's space-driven growth: Kerala Gov

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, MARCH 28

Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar on Saturday urged the youth to take the lead in building a strong and developed India.

He was speaking at an interactive session held at Lok Bhavan. The event featured a talk by Shubhanshu Shukla of the Indian Space Research Organisation, titled "India in Space, India in Strength: The Youth Roadmap to Viksit Bharat," he Governor said every Indian must work hard to make the vision of a better nation a reality. Referring to the line "Sare Jahan Se Achha Hindustan Hamara," he noted that it should not remain just a slogan but must be reflected in action and progress.



Shukla spoke directly to students and young participants, describing youth as the country's real strength. He said confidence, courage, and hard work will define India's future, urging them not to fear failure and to aim high. Sharing his experience in space, Shukla spoke about his mission to the International Space Station as part of Axiom-4. He said seeing India from space was a powerful moment, with the country appearing vast, united, and full of promise.

Man dragged on speeding car bonnet for 4 km after taxi drivers clash in UP

A shocking video from Uttar Pradesh's Lakhimpur Kheri shows a man clinging to a speeding car's bonnet after a dispute between taxi drivers.

The car eventually spotted after dragging the man on bonnet for several kilometers.

The car eventually spotted after dragging the man on bonnet for several kilometers.

A taxi driver was seen hanging onto the bonnet of a moving car that was allegedly driven at speeds of up to 100 kmph for nearly four kilometers in Uttar Pradesh's Lakhimpur Kheri district. The incident occurred near the India-Nepal border, and its video has since gone viral on social media. According to reports, the incident stemmed from a dispute between rival taxi operators active along the border. The argument reportedly broke out over picking up passengers. A taxi from Lucknow had arrived to take passengers



when local drivers objected, claiming it was not allowed to operate there. During the confrontation, a local taxi driver, identified as Rambaksh Gupta from Palia, climbed onto the bonnet of the Lucknow-registered taxi in an attempt to stop it from taking passengers. However, the situation escalated when the driver of the Lucknow taxi allegedly sped away with Gupta still on the bonnet. In the viral video, the car can be seen moving at high speed while Gupta clings to the bonnet, holding onto the wipers to save himself. Other local drivers chased the vehicle and eventually managed to stop it, rescuing Gupta safely. Speaking about the incident, Gupta said that the car was driven at a very high speed for around four kilometres. He claimed he had to hold onto the wiper to avoid falling off. Police have taken note of the viral video. Circle Officer (Palia) Jitendra Singh Parihar said that a case has been registered under relevant sections of the law, and further investigation is underway.

Chennai university professor makes remarks on student's innerwear, periods, arrested

CHENNAI: MAR 28, 2026

An Anna University professor was arrested for allegedly harassing a student over several years. He is accused of making inappropriate remarks about her innerwear and menstrual cycle. A professor at Anna University in Chennai has been arrested on charges of sexual harassment and stalking following allegations by a woman student, police said. A professor at Anna University in Chennai has been arrested on charges of sexual harassment and stalking following allegations by a woman student, police said. The situation escalated in the student's third year, with the professor, A Gnavel Babu, allegedly forcing continued contact with her, making inappropriate remarks about her innerwear and menstrual cycle, and raising personal top-

ics like marriage. The complainant submitted her complaint to the Chennai Police Commissioner's office, alleging that Professor Babu had harassed her over a prolonged period through phone calls, inappropriate conversations, explicit messages, and even offers of money. She stated that the harassment began when she was in her second year, when the professor offered to help her secure an internship after learning about her family's financial struggles.

According to the complaint, the situation worsened in her third year, when the professor allegedly forced her to stay in contact, spoke about her innerwear, discussed her menstrual cycle, and raised personal topics such as marriage. The student also alleged that the professor would call her after 10 pm and continued attempts to



reach her even after she blocked him, including contacting her through friends. She later approached the college's Internal Complaints Committee under the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (PoSH) mechanism. The student has requested a "safe inquiry" to encourage other victims to come forward and share their experiences. She also alleged that several other female students may have been subjected to similar harassment. Police registered

a case under the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Harassment of Women Act, 1998, and Section 78 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) for stalking. A senior police official said the accused was arrested in Tirunelveli by a special Chennai police team and is being brought to the city for interrogation. The arrest comes amid protests on campus, with students alleging that no concrete action was taken despite earlier complaints. They have demanded the immediate removal of the professor and reforms in the university's grievance redressal system. Following the FIR and growing unrest, Anna University placed the professor under immediate suspension pending a detailed internal and police inquiry. The case has also triggered political reactions. Tamil Nadu BJP leader K Annamalai expressed "deep shock" over the incident

and questioned why such cases continue to recur in a premier institution. He raised concerns over the functioning of the university's PoSH committee and called for accountability from Higher Education Minister Govi Chezhian.

Separately, TVK criticised the state government, alleging that repeated incidents have raised serious concerns about women's safety in Tamil Nadu's educational institutions. The party demanded a thorough and impartial investigation, strict legal action if the allegations are proven, and adequate security for female students. It also urged authorities to ensure that all affected students are questioned in a confidential and sensitive manner. Police said a detailed investigation is underway to ascertain the full extent of the allegations and identify any additional victims.



CRS Inspects Tumakuru-Thimmarajanahalli New Rail Line

HUBBALLI, MARCH 28:

Janak Kumar Garg, Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety, New Delhi conducted statutory inspection and speed trial on the newly laid Railway line between Tumakuru-Urukere (11 KM), part of Tumakuru-Rayadurga New Railway Line project and Urukere-Thimmarajanahalli (13 KM), part of Tumakuru-Chitradurga-Davangere new railway line project on 26.03.2026. Shri Ajay Sharma, Chief Administrative Officer/Construction; Shri Ashutosh Kumar Singh, Divisional Railway Manager, Bengaluru; Shri Pardeep Puri, Chief Engineer Construction; Shri M.V. Prasad, Chief Engineer Construction; Shri Suraj Kumar,

Deputy Chief Engineer, Construction; Shri Rajath Deputy Chief Engineer Construction and other officers were present.

Salient features:

Out of the 207 km-long Tumakuru-Rayadurga Railway Line project, 83 km of the railway line has been commissioned so far. The Tumakuru-Urukere New line section comprises 18 minor bridges, 2 major bridges and 18 Road Under Bridges. The Urukere Station yard has 4 lines.

The Urukere-Thimmarajanahalli section comprises 5 major bridges, 17 minor bridges, 4 road over bridges, 6 road under bridges, and a passenger subway at Thimmarajanahalli. Thimmarajanahalli is a five-road station

Temple Shoot Row Turns Violent in Karnataka

BENGALURU: MAR 28, 2026

Photographers were allegedly beaten by locals during a pre-wedding shoot at a Karnataka temple after claims they entered the premises wearing shoes, hurting its sanctity. Tension erupted at Bhairaveshwara Temple in Maragunda village of Sakleshpur taluk after photographers were beaten by locals during a pre-wedding photoshoot over wearing shoes inside the temple. According to the information provided, four to five photographers were injured in the incident and were treated at the taluk hospital. Photographers claimed they were attacked without provocation and alleged that their cameras and mobile phones were damaged. On the other hand, locals argued that the sanctity of the temple was being disturbed. They alleged that tourist activities and pre-wedding shoots were causing environmental damage and violating dress codes, and urged authorities to protect the site as a religious centre. Following the



incident, the injured photographers filed a complaint with the police. However, alleging that no FIR was registered, hundreds of photographers gathered outside the Sakleshpur Rural Police Station and staged a protest. The protest later turned tense as a heated argument broke out between photographers and locals, leading to brief pushing and shoving. Police faced difficulty in bringing the situation under control, with high drama unfolding in front of the police station. The Hassan District Photographers' Association has demanded strict action against those responsible. Meanwhile, amid allegations and counter-allegations from both sides, police have launched an investigation into the matter.

Drugs valued at Rs 25 crore seized in Patna

PATNA, MARCH 28

In a major crackdown, a large quantity of brown sugar, including raw materials for making the drug, valued at around Rs 25 crore has been recovered by the police here, police officials said on Saturday. Patna Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kartikeya Sharma confirmed the drugs recovery. Speaking to reporters, SSP Sharma said, "We are conducting an investigation on drug intoxication in this area. Yesterday, a raid was conducted regarding this and two people were arrested from Alamganj police station area. Some amount of cash and 1.6 kg of brown sugar or smack was recovered from them." "During questioning the accused revealed that a factory-like set up has been made. Upon going there we have recovered around 20 kg of raw materials as well as weapons. In total, around 21.018 kg of smack (brown sugar) has been recovered, which is of high quality and is valued at around Rs 25 crore," he added. Further elaborating on the recovered items, the Patna SSP said, "Smack (brown sugar) recovered is around 21 kg. Apart from this (we have recovered) two weapons, bullets,



some blank and some signed cheques, among other things." SSP Sharma also emphasised that action will soon be taken against the other people involved in the smuggling and selling of drugs. "We are working on its backward and forward linkages, including the suppliers and those who used to sell, we are keeping a tab and will soon arrest them," he said. He also confirmed about a member of Bihar Police being involved in the case. He said, "Name of one person related to Bihar Police has cropped up in the case. We are (in the process of) getting information. This person is currently on the run. He will soon be arrested and interrogated." Significantly, a previous joint operation by the police and the Narcotics Cell in Bihar's Samastipur district had busted a drug trafficking network, leading to the arrest of two accused and the seizure of heroin worth nearly Rs 6 lakh.

EDITORIAL

TRIPLE-THREAT CONTEST AS
KERALA HEADS TO
THE POLLS

Kerala stands on the threshold of a high-stakes election on April 9 which could mark an inflection point in the State's electoral history. In 2021, the Left Democratic Front (LDF) led by the CPI(M), which broke tradition with its consecutive win, now seeks a third term. But it is beset by a slew of allegations, rebellion in its ranks and high-profile defections to the Congress and the BJP. This election, therefore, unfolds on a very different political terrain. The Congress-led United Democratic Front is counting on a perceptible undercurrent of anti-incumbency, the signs of which were evident when it outperformed the LDF in the December 2025 local body elections; it notched up a vote share of 38.8% against the LDF's 33.4% and won most local bodies. The Congress-led alliance has fielded a handful of Left leaders who had defected, causing agony to its cadres in some seats even as it was set back by senior leader K. Sudhakaran's mutiny during candidate selection. The Congress is seeking to counter the Left's development rhetoric by offering its own welfare schemes, aimed at women and youth. Attempting to queer the pitch in the bipolar polity is the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance, which wrested the Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation from the Left Front in the local body elections in December 2025 through deft election engineering. But its vote share dropped to 14.7% from 19.2% in 2024 when it made its Lok Sabha debut from Kerala. Aiming to build on what it sees as a gradual shift in the political landscape, the BJP has drawn a few disenchanted leaders from both major coalitions and broadbased its reach by aligning with emerging outfits such as Twenty20, which claims a foothold in parts of central Kerala. The alliance is also attempting to expand its reach into minority communities, particularly among Catholic Christians in central Travancore.

The ruling coalition has largely retained its incumbent legislators, projecting continuity and seeking to rebut claims of anti-incumbency. It is also banking on its decade-long development welfare initiatives while attempting to capitalise on perceived uncertainties in the Congress over its chief ministerial candidate. Beyond the familiar rhetoric of development, a complex interplay of factors, with demographics being a key variable, will likely determine the outcome in each constituency. Foremost is the alignment of Kerala's two major religious minorities, Muslims and Christians, who constitute nearly 47% of the electorate. A range of issues, from the Union government's approach to the State, the Sabarimala gold theft, concerns over land encroachment to agrarian distress and debates around political Islam, is expected to shape voter sentiment.

Echoes in
the Silence: Remembering
India's Forgotten Sons

On the night of May 2, 2013, I stood outside a government apartment near India Gate in New Delhi, close to midnight. Inside, Dalbir Kaur was waiting for the one phone call she had dreaded for years. Her brother, Sarabjit Singh, had been brutally attacked by fellow inmates inside Pakistan's Kot Lakhpat Jail. He was in the ICU, fighting for his life.

For Pakistan, Sarabjit was a convicted Indian spy - an operative allegedly linked to India's Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW). For India, he was a farmer from Bhihiwind in Punjab, a man who had mistakenly crossed the border and been swallowed by a hostile system. Between those two competing narratives stood one woman who refused to surrender: his sister, Dalbir Kaur.

For years, she had carried her brother's cause almost single-handedly, turning personal grief into a national campaign, pleading with governments, knocking on doors, and refusing to let Sarabjit become just another forgotten Indian in a foreign prison.

That night, I was barely a month into my first job as a television reporter. Young, inexperienced, and still learning what it meant to stand witness to another family's pain. But nothing had prepared me for the helplessness of watching a sister wage a lonely, exhausting battle for justice while the system moved at its own cold pace.

Hours earlier, when news of the attack had first broken on national television, I had reacted instinctively-less as a journalist and more as an angry Indian. In frustration, I wrote on social media: "The attack on Sarabjit Singh is a brutal reminder of our current soft policy towards Pakistan. Will we end up as mute spectators? Really?" Late into the night, the inevitable happened. Sarabjit Singh was officially declared dead.

Within minutes, television crews from across India and the international press had descended on the government quarter. Camera lights pierced the darkness. Microphones were thrust forward. But inside that house, none of it mattered. A sister had just lost the brother she had



fought for, pleaded for, and waited for year after year without ever getting to bring him home alive.

Indian agencies later identified Amir Sarfaraz Tamba, a recruit of the banned terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba, as one of the accused behind Sarabjit's killing.

By the end of the day, Sarabjit's body had returned to India. His last rites were performed in his village. The government announced compensation. Statements were issued. Headlines were written. And, as so often happens in this country, the story was declared over. Or at least, it was over for everyone else. The nation moved on. Dalbir Kaur never truly could. She carried that wound until her own death in June 2022. Even today, I do not know with certainty whether Sarabjit Singh was a spy or a farmer who crossed the border by mistake. History may continue to debate that question. But what I do know is this: Sarabjit's story broke something inside me. Because Sarabjit was never just one man.

He came to represent a painful truth India has lived with for decades - that many Indians have suffered silent, brutal ends across the border while their families grieve in quiet dignity and the rest of us slowly forget. Some die unnamed. Some disappear into prison cells. Some are reduced to files, denials, and diplomatic caution. And some are still waiting.

One of them is Kulbhushan Jadhav. Jadhav was kidnapped by Pakistan's ISI through a mercenary group in

Iran's Baluchistan and deliberately as part of a conspiracy accused to be a spy. His family, if one can call it fortune, at least got to see him once through a glass barrier inside a Pakistani prison. Even that meeting felt less like humanity and more like cruelty staged as a procedure. He remains incarcerated, sentenced to death, his fate still trapped somewhere between diplomacy and indifference.

Years later, sitting in a cinema hall watching Dhurandhar: The Revenge, I did not expect to be taken back to that night outside India Gate.

But in the film's closing moments, when Ranveer Singh's character Jaskirat returns to his village in Punjab, something shifted inside me. The fiction on screen collapsed into memory. Suddenly, I wasn't just watching a film anymore. I was thinking of Sarabjit Singh. Of Kulbhushan Jadhav. Of the many Indians whose stories never become films, whose sacrifices never make it into patriotic montages, and whose endings are rarely heroic.

Ranveer Singh's portrayal of an Indian spy in Dhurandhar feels, in many ways, like a tribute, not merely to the cinematic idea of espionage, but to the real men and women who serve India in silence. They work in shadows. They disappear into hostile territory. They carry secrets they can never speak aloud. And if they fall, many do so without recognition, without public mourning, without even the dignity of a final salute.

No medals. No farewell. No closure. Such is often the life of a spy or an agent sent into enemy territory for a country that may never be able to publicly claim him. And perhaps that is why some stories never really leave you. Because long after the cameras are gone, the headlines fade, and the nation moves on, the faces remain. A sister waiting at midnight. A brother dying across the border. And a country still learning how to remember its forgotten sons.

Sometime in 2022, I interviewed former R&AW chief Vikram Sood for a documentary on the unknown gunmen in Pakistan. During that interview, he said something that has stayed with me ever since: "Intelligence agencies and governments who want to be assertive must have long memories." That one sentence says more about statecraft than a hundred speeches ever could. Because while Kulbhushan Jadhav still waits for his destiny to be written, Amir Sarfaraz Tamba the man accused in Sarabjit Singh's killing, was himself gunned down in Lahore in April 2024 by unidentified assailants who arrived on a motorcycle. The unknown gunmen will remain a mystery.

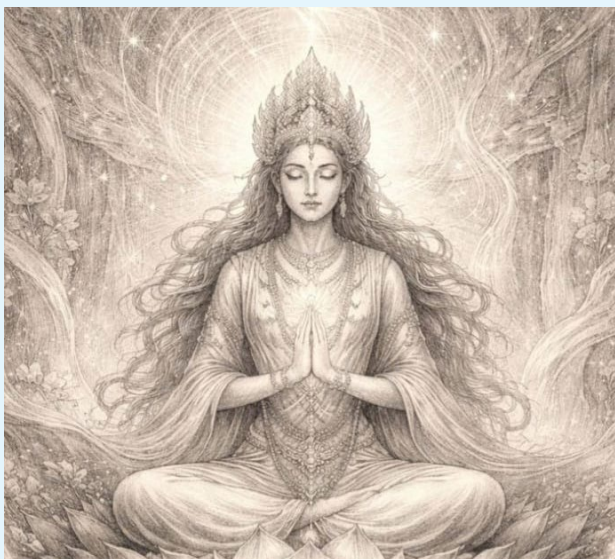
As will many of the Indians who continue to work in covert operations to safeguard this country. Men and women for whom the nation comes above comfort, recognition, family, and sometimes even life itself. Fittingly, Dhurandhar: The Revenge ends with the words: "Balidan Param Dharma" - Sacrifice is the highest duty. That is why Dhurandhar is not just a film.

It is, in many ways, the echo of every mother, sister, and wife who has quietly sacrificed a loved one for the nation. It is a reminder of every life lived in secrecy, every mission buried in silence, every patriot whose name cannot be spoken aloud. The real question is not whether India can produce more such stories on screen. The real question is this: Will India have the long memory to remember those who disappeared into the shadows for her?

Aditya Raj Kaul,
Senior Journalist

Disclaimer: These are the personal opinions of the author

THE ETERNAL ASCENT



When the unseen Divine dissolves and descends into the sanctum of the heart—She.
When the soul slips free of the body's boundary and awakens into sacred stillness—She.
In sealed stone, in silence unbroken, She stirs
a primordial power, patient and concealed;
In a handful of earth, She flickers the buried radiance of the human revealed.
In the hush of night, She hums a hymn to the uncharted vast
In the gaze of innocence, She dwells formless, timeless...
beyond future and past.
She who fractures every frontier, sovereign in the realm of truth
She who inscribes creation's secret in silence—ancient, yet untouched by youth.
In petals, She breathes the Absolute in fragrance, the unseen made near
In the trembling edge of language, She weaves what the spirit alone can hear.
On the farthest shores of thought, She shimmers

currents of lucid fire
In the deep womb of compassion, She rises the first and the final desire.
In silence—there is sweetness in stillness—a symphony unfolds
Across the long memory of humankind, it is Her grace the world upholds.
At dawn, She ascends truth breaking open in gold
At dusk, She descends a quiet no darkness can hold.
At the edge of infinity, She is offering awakening, and the act of becoming
In the abyss of night, She is courage the pulse that outlives all undoing.
In the ceaseless tide of birth and death, She burns wisdom's inextinguishable spark
Turning the passage of life into triumph, a light that instructs the dark.
She the origin, the orbit, the final revelation
She the echo unending, the ground of all creation.
The Fortune Divine. The Flame Sublime.
The Goddess Within
The Infinite, unbound by Time

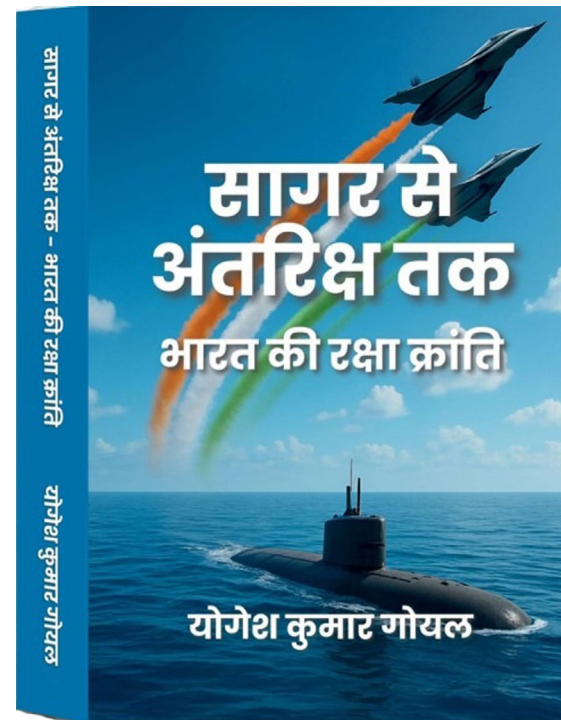
Dr. Peruka Raju ...
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Sagar se Antariksh Tak:

Bharat ki Raksha Kranti

Technological Transformation in India's Defence Sector: A Comprehensive Analysis

Book: Sagar se Antariksh Tak: Bharat ki Raksha Kranti
Author: Yogesh Kumar Goyal
Publisher: Media Care Network, Delhi
Price: Rs 695
Pages: 300



REVIEWED BY
KANHAIYA JHA

With India's independence in 1947, the question of national security emerged as a serious and complex challenge. The trauma of Partition, limited resources, and technological backwardness created a difficult situation for the newly formed nation. In this historical context, the book "Sagar se Antariksh Tak: Bharat ki Raksha Kranti" vividly presents India's long journey of defence development—a story marked by struggle, determination, and scientific self-reliance.

Author Yogesh Kumar Goyal does not merely present a chronological account of events but offers a comprehensive perspective on India's progress in the defence sector. The book clearly emphasizes that the growth of India's military strength is not just about increasing the number of weapons, but about the integration of scientific research, technological innovation, and strategic thinking. The role of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has

been highlighted effectively, showcasing how it has guided India toward self-reliance in defence systems.

Spread across 18 chapters, this 300 pages book provides a detailed account of the capabilities of the Indian Army, Air Force, and Navy. It discusses major achievements such as the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, Akash air defence system, Tejas light combat aircraft, and Agni ballistic missile, illustrating how India has evolved from being a consumer to a producer of advanced defence technologies. These examples offer readers a fresh perspective on the expansion of India's strategic power.

Importantly, the book goes beyond conventional military strength and includes modern warfare systems such as drone technology, cyber security, and satellite-based surveillance. This makes it highly relevant for understanding both present and future dimensions of warfare. The writing style is simple, fluent, and informative, allowing readers to grasp

complex technical subjects with ease. The author successfully presents intricate concepts in an accessible manner, making the book useful for general readers as well as students interested in defence studies. Overall, "Sagar se Antariksh Tak: Bharat ki Raksha Kranti" is an inspiring document of India's strategic self-reliance and scientific progress. It is especially motivating for young individuals who aspire to contribute to the nation's defence, science, and technology sectors. The book not only chronicles past achievements but also points toward future possibilities. This book has been published with the financial support of the Hindi Academy, Delhi, reflecting its recognition and encouragement of the author's work. The book is now available on leading online platforms such as Flipkart and Amazon, from where readers can conveniently order it with ease and have it delivered to their doorstep.

(The reviewer, Kanhaiya Jha is Senior Sub-Editor at Dainik Jagran)

CM Sai Disburses ₹27.15 Cr to 79,340 Workers in Jashpur

JASHPUR: (MAR 28)

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on Saturday transferred Rs 27.15 crore into the bank accounts of 79,340 construction workers and their families under various government schemes, officials said. The Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) was done during a district-level workers' conference in Jashpur, they said. Labour Minister Lakhanlal Dewangan was also present at the event. Addressing the gathering, the chief minister reassured citizens that the ongoing tensions in West Asia would not impact the availability of petrol, diesel, or LPG in the state.

The development comes after Iran said India and four other 'friendly nations' would be allowed to move their ships through the Strait of Hormuz amid the conflict. It has come as a big relief for India, which imports 90% of its energy needs.

Two more LPG tankers bound for India transited the sensitive Strait of Hormuz on Saturday after Iran said India and four other "friendly nations" would be allowed to move their ships through the waterway amid the conflict. Latest shipping data showed that the tankers, BW ELM and BW TYR, navigated through the high-risk corridor, which has been effectively closed since the beginning of the war,



and were now moving towards the Gulf of Oman. The two India-flagged tankers, carrying over 90,000 tonnes of LPG (cooking gas), sailed close to each other, maintaining a speed of around 27 km/h as they exited the Gulf. Around five more Indian tankers, primarily carrying crude oil, are still anchored in waters near the United Arab Emirates and

are awaiting clearance to pass through the strait, through which one-fifth of the global oil passes. Altogether, 20 Indian-flagged ships are stranded in the Gulf. Besides, India is also loading LPG onto its empty vessels stranded in the region, Reuters reported. The development comes a day after Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi made Teh-

ran's stance clear on Hormuz, one of the world's most critical oil transit chokepoints. Araghchi told state TV that tankers of five "friendly nations" -- China, Russia, India, Iraq, and Pakistan -- would be allowed safe passage. In the same breath, he warned that ships linked to Iran's enemies would continue to face a blockade. Since the war began a month ago, at least four India-flagged ships -- Jag Vasant, Pine Gas, Shivalik, and Nanda Devi -- have transited the strait. Ship tracking data showed that Jag Vasant and Pine Gas, carrying over 90,000 tonnes of LPG, took an unusual route and crossed Hormuz between Iran's Larak and Qeshm islands rather than taking a shorter route into the Arabian Sea. Experts

said it might have been to make their identity clear to Iranian authorities. Nevertheless, the clearance from Iran for Indian-flagged ships has come as a big relief for New Delhi, which imports 90% of its energy needs. The Strait of Hormuz is crucial for India as roughly 50% of its energy imports come through the corridor. As maritime traffic through the waterway shrank to a trickle over the past two weeks, India faced a squeeze in cooking-gas supplies. It led to panic-buying of cylinders by domestic users and also forced some restaurants to shut down temporarily or curtail their menu. However, with Iran now allowing Indian tankers to sail through, the situation is expected to improve in the coming weeks.



Grand Celebration Marks Shri Ram, G.D. Birla Birth Anniversaries at Renuagar

"Ghanshyam Das Birla was not only an industrialist, but also a great architect of nation-building - R.P. Singh.

BY SANJAY DWIVEDI

Anpara, Sonbhadra: The birth anniversary of Maryada Purushottam Lord Shri Ram and eminent industrialist Ghanshyam Das Birla was celebrated with great enthusiasm and devotion at Sumanagalum Bhawan, Renuagar, under the aegis of Hindalco Industries Limited, Renupower Division.

On this occasion, Unit Head R.P. Singh, along with Manish Jain, Manu Arora, Vibhu Patra, Kumar Harshvardhan, Arvind Singh, Sandeep Yavale, and Sudhakar Annamalai, jointly inaugurated the Programme by lighting the ceremonial lamp and offering floral tributes to the portraits of Lord Shri Ram, Pavan Putra Hanuman, and G.D. Birla.

The cultural segment that followed, including Sohar, devotional songs, and other performances, captivated the large audience Present in the hall. Addressing the gathering, Unit Head R.P. Singh highlighted the disciplined life, truthfulness, and

ideal conduct of Lord Shri Ram. He emphasized that Lord Ram upheld righteousness in every situation and demonstrated through his life that dedication to duty is the highest value. Speaking about G.D. Birla, he said that the Padma Vibhushan awardee was not only a successful industrialist but also a great architect of nation-building. He gave a new direction to Indian industry and strengthened the foundation of the Swadeshi movement. Birla Ji always upheld ethics, honesty, and social service as the core principles of his life. The Programme concluded with the distribution of Prasad followed by a vote of thanks. On this occasion, Sadanand Pandey, Rohit Saxena, Ramesh Verma, Devendra Tripathi, along with a large number of employees and representatives of recognized labor unions, pledged to imbibe the ideals and values of these "Great personalities in their lives."

The event was successfully conducted by Sadanand Pandey.

Ads on Alcohol, Tobacco Banned in Railways: Vaishnav

Indian Railways Adopts An Ethical Policy-Driven Approach in Advertisements on Trains (Inside & Outside Coaches), besides Station Premises
No Erotic Content is Displayed; No Ads Taken from Private Insurance Companies Offering Policies Against Railway Accidents
All Advertisements are Awarded to Agencies through E-Auction: Online Portal Ensures Fair Selection
Advertising Agencies Must Comply with Central and State Laws and Ensure Objectable Advertisements Are Prohibited; Immediate Corrective Actions Taken for Violations

DELHI: 28 MAR 2026

Indian Railways has formulated comprehensive Non-Fare Revenue (NFR) policies to earn non-fare revenue through advertisement and branding initiatives. Under the Out-of-Home (OOH) advertising policy, there are opportunities for advertising in circulating areas of stations. Rail Display Network (RDN) policy enables digital advertising through screens and display systems in stations and circulating areas. In addition, mobile assets such as trains and coaches (both inside and outside) have been leveraged for branding and advertising under extant guidelines. Revenue earned from Advertisement is a part of Sundry Revenue. The segment-wise Revenue details is available in the Annual Statistical Statement of Indian Railways. All advertisement contracts are awarded through e-auction on the Indian Railways E-Procurement System (IREPS) online portal. The bidder is selected as per the policy on Commercial Earnings and Non-Fare Revenue and the related Special Conditions of Contract which outline the eligibility criteria for advertisers.

For advertisements dis-

played in trains, prior approval to every Advertising Plan is mandatory and has to be submitted to the office of Divisional Authority of the concerned Railway Division. However, brand selection for display of advertisement is advertising agency's prerogative. Advertising agency is required to follow Central/State Laws for display of advertisements. Advertisements that are objectionable in the eyes of law are prohibited. The following advertisements are not permitted for display inside/outside trains: Advertisements of alcoholic drinks. Advertisements against background scenes which are erotic in character. Competitive advertisements from other modes of transport. Advertisement from Private Insurance companies offering policies against Railway Accidents. Advertisements of Cigarettes, Bidis and other Tobacco products. However, in case of any violation, an immediate corrective action is taken. This information was provided by the Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology, Shri Ashwini Vaishnav, in a reply to a question in Rajya Sabha on Friday.

Farmers coming to mandis should not face any inconvenience: CM Nayab Singh Saini

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 28

Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini directed officials to ensure that farmers coming to mandis to sell their crops during the Rabi procurement season 2026-27 do not face any inconvenience. The Chief Minister was presiding over a meeting of officials from the Food and Civil Supplies Department and other agencies related to crop procurement in Chandigarh today. On this occasion, he also reviewed the arrangements made for the Rabi procurement season.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister was informed that, as in previous years, food grains arriving in state mandis during the Rabi season will be procured at the Minimum Support Price fixed by the Government of India. Procurement of wheat will begin from April 1, 2026, and a target of 72 lakh metric tonnes has been set by the Govern-



Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini presiding over a review meeting regarding procurement preparations for Rabi Season 2026-27, at Chandigarh on March 28, 2026.

ment of India for this Rabi procurement season.

It was also informed in the meeting that procurement of mustard has commenced from March 28. This year, the state government plans to procure approximately 13 lakh tonnes of mustard. Out of this, 25 percent will be procured under the Price Support Scheme through central agencies (NAFED and NCCF), while the remaining 75 percent will be procured by state agencies (HAFED and Haryana State Warehousing Corporation in a 50:50 ratio). Officials informed that for wheat procurement, 416 mandis have been designated in the state; for mustard, 112; for barley, 25; for gram, 11;

authorized representatives, will be mandatory. Necessary arrangements for biometric verification have been made in all mandis across Haryana. All gate passes and procurement-related activities will be carried out through the mobile app. In addition, CCTV cameras have been installed at all entry and exit gates of mandis, and officials have been directed to ensure that these cameras are properly positioned and functional.

The Chief Minister instructed officials to ensure basic amenities in all mandis so that farmers do not face any difficulty while selling their crops. The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister Sh. Arun Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary Sh. Vijayendra Kumar, Additional Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister Dr. Saket Kumar, Director General of Agriculture Department Sh. Raj Narayan Kaushik, and other officials.

NFR Nears 100% Electrification with FY26 Gains

MALIGAON, MARCH 28, 2026:

Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has recorded major achievements in railway electrification during the financial year 2025-26, marking steady progress towards complete electrification of its network. This initiative is part of Indian Railways' broader push to reduce carbon emissions, improve efficiency, and modernize rail operations.

During the year, NFR electrified 1342.18 Route Kilometres (RKM) and 1828.42 Track Kilometres (TKM), covering key routes across Assam, West Bengal, Bihar, Tripura, and Arun-



achal Pradesh. This expansion has strengthened regional connectivity and enabled smoother, faster electric train operations across the Northeast. Tinsukia (TSK) Division emerged as the top performer, completing 663.59 RKM and 855.48 TKM—nearly half of the total electrification work. Important routes such as Mariani-Simaluguri,

Simaluguri-Dibrugarh, Duliajan-New Tinsukia, and North Lakhimpur-Dhamalgaon were electrified, significantly improving connectivity in Upper Assam. Rangiya (RNY) Division followed with 348.92 RKM and 535.43 TKM, covering key sections like Rangapara-Harmuty and Harmuty-Naharlagun, which enhance access to Arunachal Pradesh. Lumding (LMG) Division electrified 124.70 RKM and 197.38 TKM, including the crucial Agartala-Sabroom section in Tripura. Katihar (KIR) Division completed 108.62 RKM and 130.83 TKM, while Alipurduar (APDJ) Division contributed 96.36 RKM and 109.30

TKM, covering important areas in Bihar and North Bengal. The electrification of these routes is expected to improve train speed, reliability, and punctuality while reducing dependence on diesel fuel. It will also lower maintenance costs, enhance line capacity, and support environmentally sustainable rail operations.

With these additions, NFR has cumulatively electrified about 4170.19 RKM and 6690.38 TKM to date. The railway zone remains committed to completing electrification across its entire network, contributing to Indian Railways' goal of achieving 100% electrification of its broad gauge routes.

Noida International Airport is a symbol of the 'Udaan' of a Viksit Uttar Pradesh: PM Modi

JEWAR, 28 MARCH:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday inaugurated the first phase of Noida International Airport with grandeur. On this occasion, he inaugurated the airport's cargo terminal and also laid the foundation stone for a state-of-the-art MRO Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul facility to be developed over 40 acres. Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister said, "This airport is not just an infrastructure project, but a new chapter of the 'Viksit Bharat-Viksit Uttar Pradesh' campaign. This airport will act as a logistics gateway for North India, giving new momentum to investment, trade and exports". Prime Minister added, this airport will open new doors of development for the entire western Uttar Pradesh, including Agra, Mathura, Aligarh, Meerut, Ghaziabad and Bulandshahr. It will provide wide-ranging opportunities for farmers, small and medium industries, and youth. He especially expressed



gratitude to local farmers, stating that this project has been made possible due to the contribution of their land, which will now enable agricultural products to easily reach global markets. Prime Minister stated, Jewar Airport is an excellent example of multi-modal connectivity, where road, rail and air transport will be seamlessly integrated. The airport's cargo hub will operate with an initial annual capacity of 2.5 lakh metric tonnes, which is planned to be expanded to 18 lakh metric tonnes in the future. This will give products from Uttar Pradesh a new identity in global markets. Prime Minister said, "Until now, about 85% of aircraft in India were sent abroad

for MRO services, leading to high costs. The MRO facility being developed in Jewar will make the country self-reliant in this sector and create employment opportunities for thousands of youth". Prime Minister informed, the airport network in Uttar Pradesh has expanded rapidly, and the state is now among those with the highest number of airports in the country. Jewar Airport is an example of the work culture of a double engine government. The project had received approval in 2003, but remained stuck in files for years. It gained momentum only after coordination between the central and state governments, and today it has been realized on the ground. PM Modi said,

"Uttar Pradesh is now among the states with the highest number of international airports. The state that chose him as its representative and elected him as a Member of Parliament is now identified with a grand airport. From here, flights will not only connect to different parts of the world, but will also symbolize the new flight of a Viksit Uttar Pradesh. Jewar Airport will connect the entire North India with the world. It will be a state-of-the-art airport with the capacity being developed for 1 aircraft to take off every 2 minutes". During his address, Prime Minister Modi made a unique initiative by inviting the people present to switch on their mobile phone flashlights to inaugurate the airport. He said, "This airport is your trust, your future, your effort, therefore its inauguration should also be done by your hands." Following this, the entire premise lit up with lights and resonated with slogans of "Bharat Mata ki Jai", symbolizing this historic moment.

Jewar Airport to Drive UP's Growth, Says CM Yogi at Inauguration

JEWAR, MARCH 28:

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday said that the Noida International Airport will act as a major catalyst for the state's development and serve as a launchpad for its bright future. He was addressing the inauguration ceremony of the first phase of the airport in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Chief Minister described the project as a symbol of strong resolve and effective governance. He said the airport would not only strengthen Uttar Pradesh's economy but also boost investment, trade, and industrial growth across North India. According to him, the airport will generate large-scale employment opportunities and open new avenues of development for the state. Yogi Adityanath highlighted that the project reflects the vision of a "Viksit Bharat" and "Atmanirbhar Bharat." He noted that infrastructure devel-

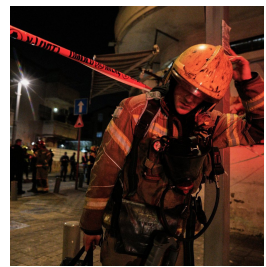


opment is essential to achieving these goals and said the airport would play a crucial role in putting Uttar Pradesh on the global aviation map. He added that while one runway has been launched, the airport will expand to five runways in the coming years, establishing it as a global aviation hub.

Praising Prime Minister Modi's leadership, the Chief Minister said that over the past decade, India has witnessed significant progress across sectors. He remarked that while many parts of the world are facing instability and rising fuel prices, India has managed to maintain stable supply and controlled

prices of petroleum products. He also expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister for the recent reduction in excise duty on fuel, calling it a historic decision that benefits millions. Yogi Adityanath also took aim at opposition parties, stating that Uttar Pradesh had suffered from disorder and lack of development between 2002 and 2017. He claimed that in the last nine years, the state has transformed from a "bottleneck" to a "breakthrough" under the current leadership. He emphasized that the rapid completion of the airport project—from foundation stone to inauguration—demonstrates the efficiency of a "double-engine government." The Chief Minister outlined the airport's strategic importance, noting that it will be connected to major infrastructure networks such as the Yamuna Expressway, Eastern Peripheral Expressway, Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, Ganga Expressway, and upcoming high-speed rail corridors. These linkages,

he said, will enhance connectivity and accelerate economic growth. He further revealed that the region surrounding the airport is emerging as a major investment hub. Several projects, including a semiconductor manufacturing unit, advanced manufacturing clusters, and specialized parks for apparel, medical devices, MSMEs, handicrafts, and toys, are being developed. Data centers and plans for a fintech city are also in progress, creating a favorable environment for investors. Yogi Adityanath stressed that the airport is being developed with a focus on modern, sustainable, and digital infrastructure. Facilities such as a multimodal cargo hub, maintenance and repair operations (MRO), inflight kitchens, and energy-efficient systems will enhance its global competitiveness. He said the cargo hub, in particular, will help Uttar Pradesh overcome its landlocked limitations and connect directly with international markets.



Houthi Fire First Missile at Israel Amid Escalation

BY SAMY MAGDY, AMER MADHANI AND JON GAMBRELL

DUBAI: (Mar 28) (AP) Iranian-backed Houthi rebels claimed a missile launch toward Israel early Saturday, their first since the war in the Middle East started. The Israeli military said it intercepted the projectile. The now month-long war erupted after the United States and Israel attacked Iran, which retaliated with strikes against Israel and neighbouring Gulf Arab states. The conflict has upended global air travel, disrupted oil exports and caused fuel prices to soar.

Israel faces missile attack from Yemen days after Houthis back Iran in Gulf war

DUBAI: MAR 28, 2026

The Houthis so far had stayed out of the West Asia war as the rebels have had an uneasy ceasefire for years with Saudi Arabia, which launched a war against the group on behalf of Yemen's exiled government in 2015.

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Israel's military said Yemen had launched a missile toward Israel early Saturday morning, the first time it had fired from that country. Sirens went off around Beer Sheba and the area near Israel's main nuclear research center for the third time overnight Friday into Saturday as Iran and Hezbollah



continued to fire on Israel overnight. The Houthis, a rebel group backed by Tehran, have held Yemen's capital, Sanaa, since 2014. They did not immediately acknowledge launching an attack against Israel. The Houthis so far had stayed out of the West Asia war as the rebels have had an uneasy ceasefire for years with Saudi Arabia, which launched a war against the group on behalf of Yemen's exiled government in 2015.

Israel struck Iran's nuclear facilities hours after threatening to "escalate and expand" its campaign against Tehran

on Friday. Iran vowed to retaliate and struck a base in Saudi Arabia, wounding U.S. service members and damaging planes. The possible entrance of the Houthis into the war also called into question whether the rebels will again target commercial shipping traveling through the Red Sea corridor. The Houthi rebels attacked over 100 merchant vessels with missiles and drones, sinking two vessels and killing four sailors, from November 2023 until January 2025. That would cause further chaos in global shipping, which already is reeling

from Iran's stranglehold over the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf through which a fifth of all oil and natural gas once passed.

Prior to the attack from Yemen, there appeared to be a breakthrough as Tehran agreed to allow humanitarian aid and agricultural shipments through the Strait of Hormuz, accepting a request from the UN Ali Bahreini, the country's ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, said Iran agreed to "facilitate and expedite" such movement. The vital waterway usually handles a fifth of the world's oil shipments and nearly a third of the world's fertilizer trade. While markets and governments have largely focused on blocked supplies of oil and natural gas, the restriction of fertilizer ingredients and trade threatens farming and food security around the world.

The Iranian attack on Prince Sultan Air Base wounded at least 10 American troops, according to two U.S. officials

familiar with the situation. Two of them were seriously hurt, according to one of the officials. Both of the officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive military matters. Several refueling aircraft were damaged. Bahreini's announcement came just hours after Iranian state media said two nuclear facilities had come under attack. Israel, which had threatened to "escalate and expand" its campaign against Tehran, claimed responsibility, and Iran quickly threatened to retaliate.

"Iran will exact HEAVY price for Israeli crimes," Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said via X.

Iran's Atomic Energy Organization said the Shahid Khondab Heavy Water Complex in Arak and the Ardakan yellowcake production plant in Yazd Province were targeted, IRNA reported. The strikes did not cause any casualties and there was no risk of contamination, it said.

Atrocities shook the world: India supports Bangladesh's 1971 justice push

NEW DELHI: MAR 28, 2026

Tarique rahman 1971 bangladesh massacre liberation war genocide india line shift away pakistan mohammed yunus operation searchlight geopolitics India on Friday reaffirmed its support for Bangladesh's quest for justice over the brutal crackdown by Pakistan during the 1971 war, with the government describing the events as a systematic campaign of violence against civilians.

"We all are aware of the terrible atrocities committed by Pakistan during 'Operation Searchlight' in 1971," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. "The genocide involved systematic and targeted murder of millions of innocent Bangladeshi people and mass sexual crimes against women," he added.

Jaiswal said India stands firmly with Bangladesh in its "desire for justice," underscoring New Delhi's consistent position on the issue. He noted that the military operation not only led to widespread killings but also forced millions to flee into India as refugees. "These atrocities shook the conscience of the world. Pakistan however, remains in denial to this very day of its crimes," he said. India's statement comes days after Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman



described Operation Searchlight as "one of the most heinous genocides in history."

Bangladesh observes March 25 as Genocide Day, marking the beginning of the 1971 crackdown when Pakistani forces targeted unarmed civilians in a bid to crush the independence movement. In a social media post a day ahead of Genocide Day, Rahman recalled how Pakistani military launched the brutal crackdown on innocent people. "In the history of freedom-loving Bangladesh, 25 March 1971 remains one of the most disgraceful and brutal days. On that dark night, the Pakistani occupation forces carried out one of the most heinous genocides in history against the unarmed people of Bangladesh in the name of 'Operation Searchlight,'" he said. The "genocide" of March 25 was a "pre-planned massacre," he said. The violence ended later that year after India's military intervention, which culminated in Pakistan's surrender and the creation of Bangladesh as an independent nation.

Cuba is next: Trump signals new focus after Iran, Venezuela

NEW DELHI: MAR 28, 2026

US President Donald Trump has suggested Cuba could be Washington's next focus, citing recent military successes in Iran and Venezuela. Speaking at an investment forum in Miami, Trump said "Cuba is next," while praising US operations abroad.



"anything" he wants with the island.

Despite the rhetoric, diplomatic channels remain open. US officials say talks are ongoing, with Trump indicating a deal is possible, though other options remain on the table.

The renewed focus on Cuba comes after a US-backed operation in Venezuela that led to the removal of President Nicolas Maduro, cutting off a key source of oil for Havana. Venezuela had long supplied much of Cuba's fuel, and the halt in shipments has worsened shortages and deepened the island's economic crisis.

Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel has acknowledged the talks with Washington, as Havana seeks to avoid confrontation even as pressure from the United States continues to mount.

According to a report in the New York Times, removing Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel is a key US objective in the talks, though the next steps are being left to Cuban authorities.

While Trump did not specify what he plans to do with Cuba, he has frequently said he believes the government in Havana, grappling with a severe economic crisis, is nearing collapse. His administration has been in talks with Cuba's leadership in recent weeks, even as Trump hinted that military action could be possible.

"I built this great military. I said, 'You'll never have to use it.' But sometimes you have to use it. And Cuba is next, by the way," Trump said, before adding, "But pretend I didn't say that."

Earlier this month, he described a potential US move as a "friendly takeover," adding it "may not be."

He also said he expects to have the "honour" of "taking Cuba in some form." Speaking to reporters at the White House, Trump said he believes he could "free it" or "take it," adding that he has the ability to do

12 US troops hurt, planes damaged in Iran strike on Saudi base amid widening war

NEW DELHI: MAR 28, 2026

An Iranian strike on a Saudi base injures US troops and damages aircraft, even as Israel hits nuclear sites and tensions surge across the region, raising fears of a wider and prolonged war.



A US official familiar with the matter told The Associated Press that the attack targeted Prince Sultan Air Base, involving a missile and multiple unmanned drones. Several US refueling aircraft were damaged in the strike, while the number and severity of troop injuries were not immediately clear. Earlier, another US official told Reuters that 12 troops were wounded, including two in very serious condition, after a structure inside the base was hit. The attack marks at least the second time the base has been targeted since the war began on February 28. Satellite imagery circulating online appeared to show damage to aircraft at the facility. Army Sgt Benjamin N Pennington, 26, died days after being wounded in a March 1 attack on the same base, underlining the risks faced by personnel stationed there. US Central Command had said earlier that more than 300 service members have been wounded in the conflict so far. As tensions rise, the United States is reinforcing its military posture in the region. Reports indicate that the aircraft carrier USS George H W Bush could soon join operations under Central Command. Two carriers, USS Abraham Lincoln and USS Gerald R Ford, are already deployed in the Middle East, as Washington prepares for a prolonged campaign. Additional US forces, including Marines and

paratroopers, are also moving closer to the region to prepare for possible contingencies.

TRUMP PUSHES POST-WAR DEAL
Amid the conflict, President Donald Trump renewed his push for Saudi Arabia and Israel to normalise ties once the war ends. "It's now time," Trump said at an event in Miami. "We've now taken them out, and they are out bigly. We got to get into the Abraham Accords." However, Saudi Arabia continues to insist on a credible path to a Palestinian state before formal ties with Israel.

STRAIT OF HORMUZ BREAKTHROUGH
In a rare diplomatic develop-

ment, Iran's ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva said Tehran had agreed to "facilitate and expedite" humanitarian aid shipments through the Strait of Hormuz. "This measure reflects Iran's continued commitment to supporting humanitarian efforts," Ali Bahreini said. The waterway handles a significant share of global oil and fertiliser trade, and disruptions have raised concerns over food security and energy markets worldwide.

ISRAEL STRIKES NUCLEAR SITES
developments came as Israel carried out fresh strikes on Iranian nuclear-linked facilities. Iranian media said sites in Arak and Yazd province were targeted, though no casualties or contamination were reported. Israel said the strike on the Yazd facility dealt a major blow to Iran's nuclear programme. Iran's foreign minister Abbas Araghchi warned, "Iran will exact HEAVY price for Israeli crimes." The Revolutionary Guard also warned of retaliation, saying the response would go beyond "an eye for an eye."

Oli Arrest Sparks Clashes in Kathmandu

A day after Balendra Shah took oath as Nepal's Prime Minister, his predecessor KP Sharma Oli was arrested over the Gen Z protest crackdown. Supporters of former Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli have staged protests at various locations across Kathmandu following his arrest. Demonstrators gathered to express their dissent, burning

copies of the report submitted by the commission investigating the 'Gen Z' movement. Oli was arrested early on Saturday in connection with a culpable homicide case linked to the violent suppression of the September 2025 Gen Z protests. The protests had led to his removal from office. Alongside Oli, Nepali Congress leader and former Home

Minister Ramesh Lekhak was also taken into custody. The commission, formed by the interim election government, investigated the Gen Z movement and recommended prosecution of Oli and others for their roles in the violence. The report held Oli responsible for failing to prevent the firing that killed at least 19 protesters on the first day of

demonstrations. Following his arrest, Oli, aged 74 and having undergone two kidney transplants, was admitted to a hospital in Kathmandu after medical examinations. The Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) described the arrest as a political vendetta and convened an emergency meeting to decide on their response.



Li Congratulates Nepal PM Balendra Shah

BY SHIRISH B PRADHAN

KATHMANDU: (Mar 28) Chinese Premier Li Qiang on Saturday extended congratulations to Nepal's newly-appointed Prime Minister Balendra Shah 'Balen', expressing his commitment to strengthen bilateral cooperation and collaboration between the two countries. The 35-year-old Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) leader was sworn in by President Ram Chandra Paudel at a ceremony at the President's Office on Friday.

In his congratulatory message, the Chinese leader said, "China and Nepal are traditional friendly nations bound together by mountains and rivers."

Don't have to be there for them: Trump's fresh swipe at Nato allies

MIAMI: MAR 28, 2026

Trump has been critical of the Cold War-era military alliance for many years. However, his verbal attacks against Nato have gathered steam since the Iran war began last month.

US President Donald Trump's diatribe against Nato in the aftermath of the West Asia war continued on Friday, as he lashed out at the trans-Atlantic military alliance for failing to provide support to the United States in its war against Iran. Addressing an investment forum in Miami, Trump questioned the need for the US to come to the rescue of European Nato members without receiving any support in return.

"We would have always been there for them. But now, based

on their actions, I guess we don't have to be. Why would we be there for them if they're not there for us?" he told the audience. Nato members, especially in Europe, have been reluctant to support the US in the ongoing war in West Asia, arguing that they were not consulted before the conflict began on February 28. Some countries like Spain have outrightly opposed the military action against Iran, calling it "unjustified and dangerous."

TRUMP VS NATO OVER IRAN WAR

Trump has been critical of the Cold War-era military alliance for many years. During his second term, Trump has made comments that questioned his willingness to adhere to Nato's Article 5, which states that an attack against one member state is an attack on all. Nevertheless, his verbal attacks against Nato have gath-



ered steam since the Iran war began last month. Speaking at the White House on Wednesday, Trump voiced frustration over what he saw as limited British support for the US-Israel campaign against Iran. He dismissed the UK's aircraft carriers as "toys" while downplaying the long-standing Nato ally's military capabilities. "The British said 'we'll send our aircraft carriers' — which aren't the best aircraft carriers, by the way. They are toys compared to

what we have," Trump said.

On March 21, Trump criticised Nato allies over their lack of support during the Iran war, calling the longtime US allies "cowards." In a post on Truth Social, Trump said, "Without the US, Nato is a paper tiger!" He accused member nations of refusing to join what he described as a fight to stop a "nuclear-powered Iran," adding that the conflict had been "militarily won" with minimal risk to them.

He also complained that Nato countries did not join the fight against Iran, yet complained about high oil prices. He specifically pointed to the Strait of Hormuz, calling it "a simple military manoeuvre" and "the single reason for the high oil prices," and said allies were unwilling to help despite what he described as low risk.

The Strait of Hormuz has been shut for almost all coun-

tries after Iran decided to block the waterway for shipping. Nearly 20% of global oil and gas flows move through this route, making it critical for global energy security.

In fact, the US President on March 16 warned that members of the alliance could face a "very bad" future if they fail to support Washington's efforts to reopen the strategic waterway. In an interview with the British daily Financial Times, Trump urged allies, particularly European countries, to join what he described as a "team effort" to secure the key maritime chokepoint. "If there's no response or if there's a negative response, I think it will be very bad for the future of Nato," he warned. Trump's repeated swipes at Nato are likely to put a huge question mark over the future of the multi-nation alliance, amid the evolving geopolitical landscape in Asia & Europe.

Minnesota serves as flagship for nationwide 'No Kings' protests against Trump

BY STEVE KARNOWSKI

MINNESOTA (US): (Mar 28) (AP) Organisers of Saturday's "No Kings" rallies across the country are predicting that the protests against the actions of President Donald Trump and his administration could add up to one of the largest demonstrations in US history, with Minnesota taking centre stage. Organisers say more than 3,100 events have been registered in all 50

states, with more than nine million people expected to participate. The protests began with a gathering in Paris, France, on Saturday morning. Several hundred people, mostly Americans living in France, along with French labour unions and human rights organisations gathered at Bastille with anti-Trump signs that read "War for profit, our troops are not for sale" and "When injustice becomes law, resistance becomes duty."

Costly Treatment, Complicated Insurance: The Common Man's Double Burden

LALIT GARGG

The complexities, opacity, and arbitrariness increasingly visible in the insurance sector have dealt a deep blow to public trust. Insurance, which ought to serve as a means of protection, is in many cases turning into an instrument of exploitation. At a time when the cost of medical services has risen dramatically, treatment in private hospitals often runs into lakhs of rupees. Hospitals built on subsidized land provided by the government are, ironically, seen compromising the health rights of the poor. In such a scenario, health insurance emerges as a necessary shield. However, insurance companies often capitalize on fear and uncertainty about the future to persuade people into purchasing policies.

The real problem surfaces when policyholders actually need support. At the time of claim settlement, companies frequently invoke technicalities, conditions, and exclusions to avoid payouts. Various reports indicate that claims worth thousands of crores are rejected every year. This is not only alarming but also raises serious questions about the credibility of the insurance system. Often, customers are not fully informed about policy terms at the time of purchase. The complex language of policy documents remains beyond the understanding of the average person, and later, the same clauses are used to deny claims.

Another critical concern is the possible nexus between private hospitals and insurance companies. In many instances, hospitals inflate bills while insurers underpay, leaving patients to bear a heavy financial burden. This situation is especially distressing for the middle and lower-income groups. There have even been instances where hospitals have withheld the bodies of deceased patients over unpaid dues—an act that stands in stark violation of human dignity. In developed countries, insurance systems tend to be more transparent and accountable, with claims settled in a timely and fair manner. In India, regulatory bodies such as the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) exist to oversee and balance the



sector, but their effectiveness is often questioned at the ground level. Limited intervention or regulatory inertia allows arbitrary practices by insurance companies to persist. To address these challenges, the first step must be to simplify and enhance transparency in insurance processes. Policy documents should be presented in plain language so that an ordinary person can understand them. Insurance agents must be held accountable for providing complete and accurate information, and strict action should be taken against mis-selling. Secondly, the claims settlement process needs to be streamlined. A standardized and time-bound mechanism should be implemented. If a claim is rejected, clear and justified reasons must be provided. An independent appellate system should also be established to ensure that consumers can seek prompt redressal.

Thirdly, transparency between hospitals and insurance companies is essential. A standardized pricing system for treatments can help curb excessive billing and financial exploitation. Additionally, the cashless treatment facility must be strengthened and expanded to provide immediate relief to patients. Fourthly, the government must take a proactive role. A national-level monitoring system should be instituted to over-

see the functioning of both insurance companies and hospitals. Regular audits and investigations should expose irregularities, and strict action must be taken against those found guilty. Fifthly, enhancing insurance literacy is crucial. Awareness campaigns in both rural and urban areas should educate people about policy terms, rights, and procedures. Simple guides and support centers should be established, particularly for the poor and less educated sections of society.

Undoubtedly, the insurance business should not be viewed merely as a profit-making enterprise but as a vital pillar of social security. Until ethics, transparency, and accountability are ensured, public trust cannot be restored. The need of the hour is to restructure the insurance system to make it truly people-centric. Simplified processes, clear rules, a robust regulatory framework, and informed consumers—these four pillars can guide the sector in the right direction. If timely reforms are not implemented, insurance may continue to be a source of distress rather than protection for the common man. Healthcare and insurance—both fundamentally associated with the protection, relief, and service of human life—are, paradoxically, becoming increasingly complex, expensive, and unreliable for the com-

mon citizen. On one hand, private hospitals built on subsidized land are seen evading their responsibility to provide free treatment to the poor. On the other hand, insurance companies impose such conditions and procedures that accessing benefits becomes difficult at the time of need. This situation reflects not just administrative failure but a deeply insensitive system.

The issuance of notices by the Supreme Court to hospitals built on subsidized land in Delhi is not merely an administrative action but a mirror to the system. When hospitals accept subsidized land with a commitment to treat the poor, it is not a mere formality but a social obligation. Unfortunately, while these institutions enjoy the benefits, they often evade their responsibilities. A similar pattern is visible in the insurance sector, where lofty promises are made during policy sales, but claims are denied on technical grounds. An ordinary citizen continues to pay premiums for years, yet receives little support when it is most needed. In this context, judicial intervention is a positive sign. Just as the Court has sought accountability from hospitals, there is an equally urgent need for strict oversight and clear regulations governing insurance companies, so that insurance truly serves as a safeguard rather than a profit-driven trap.

The responsibility of governments must extend beyond policy formulation to strict enforcement. Hospitals that fail to honor their commitments despite receiving subsidized land should either be made to pay market value or face reconsideration of their licenses. Similarly, insurance companies must ensure that claim processes are simple, transparent, and time-bound. Healthcare and insurance are intrinsically linked to the security of human life; therefore, unchecked profiteering in these sectors must be curbed. If the government, judiciary, and regulatory authorities act collectively to enforce transparency and accountability, public trust can be restored. Otherwise, these sectors risk devolving into mere commercial enterprises, leaving the poor trapped between unaffordable healthcare and ineffective insurance.

Noida Airport Set to Become Global Trade Hub

DEDICATED CARGO TERMINAL AND SPECIAL CARGO ROUTES TO DIRECTLY BENEFIT INDUSTRIES, STRENGTHENING THE SUPPLY CHAIN

TARGET TO EXPAND CARGO HANDLING CAPACITY FROM 2 MILLION TO 8 MILLION METRIC TONNES

MULTIMODAL CARGO HUB TO SIGNIFICANTLY BOOST EXPORTS AND IMPORTS

AIRPORT TO EMERGE AS A GAMECHANGER FOR INDUSTRY AND THE LOGISTICS SECTOR

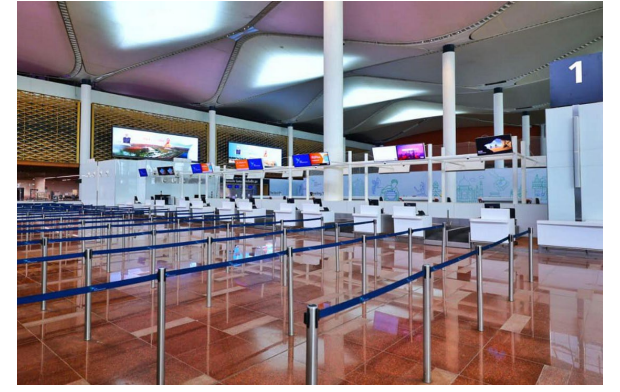
Jewar, March 28: The Noida International Airport being developed in Uttar Pradesh will not remain limited to passenger services, but is set to emerge as one of the country's largest cargo and logistics hubs.

With a dedicated cargo terminal, multimodal connectivity, and specialized cargo routes, the region is rapidly advancing towards becoming a global trade gateway. This project, a priority of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, has the potential to take the state's economy to new heights.

A state-of-the-art dedicated cargo terminal has been developed within the airport premises, with an initial capacity of around 2 million metric tonnes. The target is to expand this capacity to 8 million metric tonnes in the future.

Additionally, in the initial phase, cargo handling capacity of about 0.25 million tonnes per year has been developed, which will be scaled up to approximately 1.5 million tonnes annually.

Spread across nearly 80,000 square meters, the cargo area is being equipped with modern technology and world-class facilities to ensure international-standard



logistics services.

Noida International Airport is being developed as a multimodal cargo hub, integrating air transport with road and potential rail connectivity to facilitate seamless movement of goods.

Construction of dedicated cargo routes is underway to ensure fast and uninterrupted transport directly from industrial units to the airport.

Rapidly developing industrial clusters in the Yamuna Expressway region, including electronics, manufacturing, e-commerce, warehousing, and pharmaceuticals, will directly benefit from this cargo hub.

Products from industries located around the expressway will reach international markets faster, giving a boost

to exports and reducing production costs.

With the dedicated cargo terminal and specialized routes, logistics processes will become more efficient and time-bound. This will strengthen the supply chain and help industries ensure timely deliveries.

Such infrastructure will enable Uttar Pradesh to move swiftly towards a 'just-in-time' supply model, enhancing the confidence of global companies.

This cargo hub at Noida International Airport will help overcome the limitations of being landlocked and directly connect Uttar Pradesh to global trade networks.

It will not only boost exports and imports but also establish the state as a major logistics and trade hub.

In March, FPIs Record Highest Ever Sale of Shares of \$11.7 Billion

NEW DELHI

In March, Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have so far net sold shares of \$11.7 billion (over Rs 1.1 lakh crore), a figure that is highest ever. Data from Bloomberg suggests that as the month is about to end, the FPIs continue to hold high short positions - 85.5% - in index futures, which was 75% a month ago and since then has increased, reported Financial Express.

The FPIs had been holding short positions around 85% since the beginning of the crisis in the West Asia which

indicates the likelihood of a further sell off if the matter doesn't cool off.

Two weeks back, the FPIs had held over 90% short positions, a phenomenon which was first seen three years ago and repeated in over 50 trading sessions since then, reported Financial Express.

"FPIs are likely to wait for a durable resolution to the geopolitical tensions in West Asia before decisively increasing their India allocations," George Thomas, fund manager at Quantum Asset Management Company, told the newspaper. Thomas added that the FPIs are likely to

tread cautiously in the current environment.

According to National Stock Exchange (NSE) data, the Nifty 50's 12-month trailing price-to-earnings (PE) ratio is 20.39x, which is lower than the five-year average of 23.7x. On the other hand, Goldman Sachs has downgraded its rating on Indian equities to 'marketweight' from 'overweight'. "India stands out as more vulnerable among key Asia markets to potential energy shortages, given it is a lower per capita income economy with high energy imports," it has said in a report.

20 Indian Ships, 540 Crew in Persian Gulf: Govt

NEW DELHI, MARCH 28

Twenty Indian-flagged vessels with 540 Indian seafarers remain in the western Persian Gulf region and are being actively monitored, the government said on Saturday.

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has put in place necessary measures to safeguard Indian vessels and seafarers operating in the region. "All Indian seafarers in the region are safe; no incident involving Indian-flagged vessels reported in the past 24 hours," the ministry said. They are being actively monitored by the Directorate General of Shipping in coordination with ship owners, RPSL agencies

and Indian Missions.

DG Shipping has facilitated safe repatriation of over 938 Indian seafarers so far, including 25 in the last 24 hours. Moreover, port operations across India remain normal with no congestion. State Maritime Boards of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Puducherry have confirmed smooth functioning.

"Coordination continues with the Ministry of External Affairs, Indian Missions and maritime stakeholders to ensure seafarer welfare and uninterrupted operations," said the ministry. Since February 28, around 4,97,000 passengers have returned to India from the war-affected region.

"Indian Missions and Posts remain in touch with the Indian community and continue to extend assistance, along with issuing necessary advisories for their safety and well-being," according to the Ministry of External Affairs.

As per sources and multiple reports, two more merchant vessels carrying petroleum products for India were likely transiting the Strait of Hormuz on Saturday, even as the geopolitical tensions continue to disrupt movement through the critical maritime route.

Indian Navy warships have been deployed near key ports to provide assistance, with more vessels expected to arrive from the Strait in the coming days.

'Milestone day' as Adani Defence delivers 1st batch of 'Prahar' light machine guns to Army

Gwalior, March 28: Adani Defence and Aerospace on Saturday delivered the first batch of 2,000 'Prahar' Light Machine Guns (LMGs) to the Indian Armed Forces, marking a significant milestone under the 'Make in India' initiative. The 7.62 mm-calibre weapons have been manufactured at the company's Small Arms Complex on the outskirts of Gwalior. According to CEO Ashish Rajvanshi, the delivery represents a major step in strengthening indigenous defence manufacturing capabilities. Rajvanshi said the company had been given a seven-year timeline to supply a total of 41,000 LMGs but expressed confidence that the target would be achieved in less than three years due to the current pace of production. He added that the facility is expected to produce around 1,000 LMGs per month going forward. The event was attended by senior officials, including A. Anbarasu, Director General (Acquisition), Ministry of Defence, who flagged off trucks carrying the first batch of weapons for dispatch to the Army. Highlighting the journey, Rajvanshi said it took six years of sustained effort to reach this stage, with the initiative beginning in 2020 as part of the vision of 'Aatmanirbharta'. He noted that the company has evolved from a component manufacturer to a full-fledged OEM, supported by policy backing and technological collaboration.

Minimally Invasive Knee Surgery Cuts Recovery Time

HYDERABAD

A 59-year-old patient, Ms. Venkata Lakshmi, has experienced a significantly faster recovery following a Total Knee Replacement (TKR) procedure performed using a minimally invasive subvastus approach at STAR Hospitals, Nanakramguda.

Traditionally, knee replacement surgeries involve cutting through the quadriceps muscle, often leading to prolonged recovery periods and extended physiotherapy. However, in this case, the surgical team led by Dr. Shashi Kanth G, Senior Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, adopted the sub-

vastus approach, which avoids cutting the thigh muscle and helps preserve its structure.

According to hospital sources, this technique enabled the patient to recover in just 10 days, compared to the typical 45-day rehabilitation period associated with conventional procedures. The reduced recovery time also minimized the need for long-term physiotherapy and dependence on caregivers, offering both physical and financial relief.

Speaking about her experience, Ms. Venkata Lakshmi said she felt immediate relief after the surgery and was able to regain independence quick-

ly. Her family, initially uncertain about the alternative approach, expressed satisfaction after witnessing the rapid recovery.

Dr. Shashi Kanth G noted that the primary goal of such procedures is to improve the patient's quality of life. He added that seeing patients return to their daily routines in a short span of time is one of the most rewarding aspects of his work. Medical experts say that minimally invasive techniques like the subvastus approach are gradually redefining recovery timelines in orthopaedic surgeries, offering patients a faster and less painful path to mobility.



NEW DELHI, MARCH 28

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology Dr Jitendra Singh on Saturday invited nominations for the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (RVP) 2026 to recognise outstanding contributions in the fields of science, technology and innovation. The awards are administered by the RVP Secretariat under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), under the chairmanship of the Principal Scientific Advisor to the government, according to the minister. The Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar honours scientists, technologists and innovators whose work has significantly contributed to India's scientific progress and national development. Nominations, including self-nominations, are open across a wide range of domains such as agricultural science, atomic energy,



and Vigyan Team for collaborative excellence involving three or more researchers. Nominations can be submitted online through the government's awards portal from March 28 to May 11, 2026.

Meanwhile, Singh said the awards reflect the government's commitment to promoting excellence and innovation in the scientific ecosystem. "The Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar reflects the government's commitment to fostering excellence in science, technology and innovation. These awards celebrate the spirit of inquiry and dedication of scientists and innovators contributing to India's emergence as a global knowledge leader," he said. He also urged institutions, industry bodies and individuals to actively participate in the nomination process to ensure wider recognition of scientific talent across the country.



Invisible But Impactful: How Autoimmune Disorders Are Fuelling India's Rising Miscarriage Burden

A

utoimmune diseases, which were previously considered rare medical conditions, have now come to the fore to become a major factor in the rising trend of miscarriages in India.

The silent shift in India's reproductive landscape is now characterized by a clinical paradox that sees many women apparently in good health succumbing to recurrent miscarriages. The Indian healthcare system treats miscarriages through its established process which begins with screening for chromosomal abnormalities and hormonal imbalances and ends with an examination of the patient's lifestyle. Autoimmune diseases, which were previously considered rare medical conditions, have now come to the fore to become a major factor in the rising trend of miscarriages in India.

The Biological Conflict: Immunological Truce vs. Threat

The main problem in this process is the inability of the immune system to identify and accept the semi-allogeneic nature of the pregnancy. The maternal immune system maintains a complex immunological truce during normal pregnancy which enables a father-derived genetic foetus to undergo normal development. The autoimmune patients fail to reach even the first stage of the immunological truce according to their condition. The immune system treats the pregnancy as a biological threat which it proceeds to defend itself against.

SLE (Systemic Lupus Erythematosus) and APS (Antiphospholipid Syndrome) act as the most significant disruptors of the immune system in this case. APS, also known as sticky blood syndrome, produces antibodies that target proteins found on the surface of blood cells and blood vessel walls. The formation

of small blood clots in the vessels results in a complete halt of vital nutrients and oxygen supply to the foetus which ultimately causes its death during early or mid-term pregnancy.

Sociocultural Factors and Delayed Diagnosis

It is seen that Indian woman may have a genetic predisposition to autoimmune markers; however, sociocultural factors may result in delayed diagnoses. A first or even second miscarriage may be brushed off as bad luck or the result of physical activity by many. The window for immunological tests may thus be missed. When the patient is finally brought to a specialist for recurrent pregnancy loss (RPL), the emotional and physical condition may be severe. Moreover, the increasing conception age in urban India and the environmental factors may be triggering subclinical autoimmune activity that may have otherwise remained latent in the body.

Diagnostic Challenges and Specialized Testing

Diagnostic challenges are a major hindrance in controlling this problem. Many autoimmune markers are very sensitive and require specific testing, which may not always be readily available outside Tier 1 cities. For example, Antinuclear Antibody (ANA) testing, as well as a full spectrum of thrombophilia testing, is necessary to obtain a full picture. However, such testing is rarely included in a standard prenatal panel.

There is also a new concern about thyroid autoantibodies. Even if a pregnant woman's thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH) levels are within the normal range, if she has thyroid peroxidase (TPO) antibodies, she can be at increased risk of placental separation and

miscarriage.

Pathways to Treatment and Multidisciplinary Care

When doctors diagnose a patient at the right time, treatment becomes their only source of hope. The treatment of women with antiphospholipid syndrome (APS) who use low-molecular-weight heparin (LMWH) and low-dose aspirin has brought about better pregnancy results.

Doctors need to treat severe cases which show overactive Natural Killer (NK) cells and lupus through the combined use of corticosteroids and IVIG (intravenous immunoglobulin) therapy to reduce maternal immune system activity. This requires a multidisciplinary approach, and there needs to be close collaboration between obstetricians, rheumatologists, and haematologists to ensure both maternal and foetal viability.

Destigmatizing Loss and Prioritizing Pre-conception Care

Miscarriage needs to be destigmatized and viewed from a clinical perspective that emphasizes the need for comprehensive workups even after a single miscarriage in the presence of other risk factors. Autoimmune tests need to be a part of pre-conception counselling to avoid thousands of families having to go through the trauma of recurrent miscarriages.

The aim is to look towards a future where a patient diagnosed with an autoimmune condition is not given lost hope in the form of infertility but a condition that needs to be managed towards healthy motherhood. The numbers may be increasing, but with specialized care, the invisible can become visible and the impactful can become manageable.

AIIMS-Trained Doctor Shares His 3 Go-To Vegetables For Liver Health

Liver health often gets ignored until something goes wrong. Most people focus on weight, digestion, or sugar levels, but the liver quietly handles a lot in the background. It helps process nutrients, filters toxins, supports metabolism, and plays a big role in overall energy levels.

The good part? Small food choices can support your liver daily. You do not always need complicated diets or extreme detox plans. Simple vegetables, eaten regularly, can make a difference over time.

Dr Saurabh Sethi, a gastroenterologist trained at AIIMS, Harvard and Stanford, has dropped a post on Instagram sharing three vegetables he eats every week for liver health. His picks are simple, accessible and backed by how they work inside the body.

Here is a breakdown.
3 Vegetables That Support Liver Health



1. Beetroot

Dr Sethi starts with beetroots, which are rich in compounds called betalains. These give beetroot its deep red colour. He explains that these compounds help reduce oxidative stress in the body. Lower oxidative stress means less strain on the liver and better overall function.

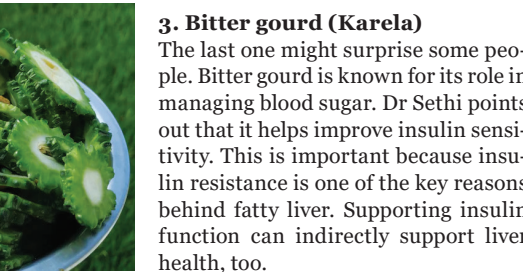
2. Broccoli (and other cruciferous veggies)

Next is broccoli. It contains sulforaphane, a compound that supports the liver's natural detox pathways. In simple terms, it helps your liver do its job better. If broccoli is not your favourite, he suggests similar options like cabbage or cauliflower. They offer similar benefits and are easier to include in everyday meals.



3. Bitter melon (Karela)

The last one might surprise some people. Bitter melon is known for its role in managing blood sugar. Dr Sethi points out that it helps improve insulin sensitivity. This is important because insulin resistance is one of the key reasons behind fatty liver. Supporting insulin function can indirectly support liver health, too.



As Dr Sethi highlights, these are not "magic" foods. But including them regularly can support your liver over time. It's more about consistency than quick fixes. You do not need to overhaul your diet overnight. Start small. Add one or two of these vegetables to your weekly meals. Your liver will thank you for it.

Milpa Diet Explained: A Traditional Mesoamerican Eating Pattern With Modern Health Benefits

The Milpa Diet originates from ancient Mesoamerican agriculture. This eating pattern is focused on maize (corn), beans, and squash, which are grown together in the milpa field system. This traditional eating system, developed by Indigenous peoples like the Maya and Aztecs, emphasises whole, minimally processed foods. The diet has garnered attention for its potential to prevent modern-day health issues like obesity, diabetes, and heart disease while promoting sustainability.

Origins and Cultural Roots

The term 'milpa' comes from the Nahuatl word meaning 'in the field'. This refers to a polyculture farming method where maize provides a natural trellis for climbing beans, while squash's broad leaves shade the soil and suppress weeds. This ancient system, dating back over 7,000 years, sustained civilisations across Mexico, Central America, and parts of South America. Beyond the core triad, the Milpa Diet incorporates chillies, tomatoes, wild greens (quellites), amaranth, avocados, and small amounts of animal proteins like fish, insects, or free-range poultry. Preparation methods, nixtamalization (soaking corn in limewater to boost niacin bioavailability), stone-grinding, and communal cooking, enhance nutrient absorption and flavour without industrial processing.

Nutritional Profile

The Milpa Diet delivers complementary nutrition. Corn gives carbohydrates and B vitamins, beans offer protein, fibre, and iron, squash provides healthy fats, vitamin A, and antioxidants. Together, they form a complete protein source rivaling animal products, with all essential amino acids in balanced ratios. A typical daily intake might include tortillas or tamales from nixtamalized maize, bean stews with chillies, squash soups, and salads of quellites or amaranth greens. Fats come from avocado, seeds, and minimal lard, sweeteners are fruits or honey. This



yields a low-glycemic, high-fibre profile, roughly 60-70% carbs from whole sources, 15-20% protein (mostly plant-based), and 15-20% fats emphasizing unsaturated types. Bioactive compounds abound; anthocyanins in purple corn, polyphenols in beans, carotenoids in squash, creating a 'natural polypharmacy' that fights inflammation and oxidative stress. Micronutrients like magnesium, potassium, and zinc support metabolic health, while the diet's alkaline-forming foods balance pH.

Synergy Between Ingredients

The diet focuses on food synergies, not isolated nutrients. Corn and beans' amino acid complementarity prevents deficiencies common in single-crop diets. Fibre from all components feed gut microbiota, producing short-chain fatty acids (SCFAs) like butyrate, which strengthen the gut, reduce inflammation, and regulate blood sugar. Its low glycemic level curbs insulin spikes, helping in weight management and diabetes prevention. Milpa

diet is also rich in antioxidants, which protects against neurodegeneration and cardiovascular damage. Even the gut-brain axis benefits from this diet. SCFAs impact mood via vagus nerve signaling, potentially lowering risks of anxiety and depression.

Health Benefits Of The Milpa Diet

Research shows the benefits of the Milpa Diet. It lowers risks of type 2 diabetes, dyslipidemia, and obesity through anti-inflammatory pathways and improved lipid profiles. For MASLD, the diet's fibre and bioactives reduce oxidative stress and fat accumulation in the liver. For kidney disease patients, 'Dieta de la Milpa' curbs proteinuria and hypertension better than usual plant-based plans. Cardiovascular benefits include lowering cholesterol via soluble fibre and better redox balance, reducing heart disease risk.

Sustainability and Environmental Benefits

Milpa agriculture regenerates soil, enhances biodiversity, and requires fewer inputs than industrial farming, making the diet eco-friendly. It isolates carbon, conserves water, and resists pests naturally. This resilience addresses food insecurity amid climate change.

Sample Milpa Meal Plan

Breakfast: Nixtamalized corn tortillas with bean mash, avocado, chili salsa, and quellites.

Lunch: Squash and bean stew with amaranth greens, tomato-chili sauce, fresh corn on the cob.

Dinner: Maize tamales stuffed with beans and wild mushrooms, side of roasted squash seeds.

Snacks: Fresh fruits, toasted amaranth, or insect-based protein bites.

This plan gives you nearly 2,000 calories, emphasizing variety and seasonality.





SRH bite the dust in IPL 2026 opener

BENGALURU

Major League Cricket

Ravichandran Ashwin to become first Indian to play in MLC



SAN FRANCISCO: Ace off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin is all set to become the first Indian playing to feature in Major League Cricket (MLC) after signing with the San Francisco Unicorns for the 2026 season. Ashwin was a member of the Indian team winning the 2011 ODI World Cup and the 2013 Champions Trophy. In all, he picked 765 international wickets from 287 matches across all three formats and remains the seventh-highest wicket-taker in Test cricket's history. "The MLC has proven over recent seasons that it can put on a show, bringing in world-class players and offering significant exposure to US domestic cricket talent, and the opportunity to be a part of it with the San Francisco Unicorns was an opportunity I couldn't pass up. "Taking on the mantle as the first Indian-capped player to compete in Major League.

GOLF

Chacarra leads by four, as OP Chouhan is the top Indian



GURUGRAM: Eugenio Chacarra, the defending champion, opened a four-shot lead after carding his third consecutive under par round of the week. Chacarra carded 2-under 70 to move his score to 10-under par after 54 holes (67-69-70). Alex Fitzpatrick and MJ Daffue are the two players tied for second place, four strokes behind the leader at 6-under par. Daffue has carded rounds of 71-67-72 while Fitzpatrick carded 71-68-72. David Law (71-70-70), who is placed T-4 is the only other player to have played under par on all three rounds. He is tied with Freddy Schott (66-73-72). OP Chouhan is the top Indian in the field with one round left to play in the Hero Indian Open. Chouhan carded 1-over 73 for a score of 1-over par.

An impactful powerplay, a consistent run rate and a comprehensive chase spearheaded by Virat Kohli -- the Royal Challengers Bengaluru played like deserving holders of the IPL crown and clinched the IPL 2026 opener at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium with a 6-wicket win over Sunrisers Hyderabad.

RCB seemed to chase the 202-run target without breaking a sweat, with Devdutt Padikal and Rajat Patidar's explosive knocks supported by the ever-consistent chasemaster Kohli.

Earlier, SRH faltered in the powerplay but staged a strong recovery from an early collapse to post a competitive 201/9. But RCB were in to make a statement.

RCB were off to a rollicking start, with debutant and RCB speedster Jacob Duffy removing Hyderabad openers for cheap.

Sunrisers lost Abhishek Sharma in the first ball of the third over. The left-handed batter scored seven runs. On the last delivery, Duffy then removed Travis Head for just 11 runs as the visitors scored 23 runs.

Sunrisers lost their wicket when debutant Duffy dismissed all-rounder Nitish Reddy for just



one run during the second ball of the fifth over. After the end of the sixth over, Hyderabad scored 49/3.

Stand-in skipper Ishan Kishan and wicketkeeper-batter Heinrich Klaasen stabilised the ship for Hyderabad as they reached 70/3 in eight overs. Hyderabad reached a decent position after 10 overs, as they scored 87/3. All-rounder Rom-

ario Shepherd broke the dangerous 97-run stand between Klaasen and Kishan after the wicketkeeper-batter departed for 31 runs during the first ball of the 14th over.

In the very next over, leg-spinner Suyash Sharma took the wicket of Salil Arora, who made nine runs as Sunrisers reached 142/5.

During the last ball of the 16th

over, he took the much-needed wicket of Ishan Kishan, who departed after playing a fantastic knock of 80 runs off 38 deliveries, including eight fours and five sixes.

Hyderabad lost two more wickets after Shepherd dismissed Harsh Dubey for just three runs and Bhuvneshwar Kumar scalped the wicket of Harshal Patel, who departed



after scoring a two-ball duck. Hyderabad reached 175/8 after the end of the 18th over. During the 19th over, Aniket Verma hammered two sixes and a four before Romario Shepherd (3/54) scalped three wickets apiece. Bhuvneshwar Kumar (1/31), Abhinandan Singh (1/38), and Suyash Sharma (1/28) bagged one wicket apiece.

crossed the 200-run mark as they finished at 201/9 in 20 overs.

For the defending champions, Jacob Duffy (3/22) and Romario Shepherd (3/54) scalped three wickets apiece. Bhuvneshwar Kumar (1/31), Abhinandan Singh (1/38), and Suyash Sharma (1/28) bagged one wicket apiece.



Four national teams stay on track for World Athletics Relays in Botswana

CHANDIGARH

The members of the national men's longer relay and mixed 4x100m relay squad were excited to have improved their global rankings on Road to Gaborone26 here at Chandigarh's Sector 7 Sports Complex on Saturday. The World Athletics Relays will be held on May 2 and 3 in Gaborone, Botswana. But it was heartbreak for the men's 4x100m relay team as they were disqualified in the heats at the first International Invitational Relay Competition and third National Open Relay Competition held here in Chandigarh on Saturday.

Manu TS, Amoj Jacob, D Chaudhary and Rajesh Ramesh were members of the 4x400m relay team that won gold with a time of 3:01.43 seconds to better their global ranking.

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) fielded two teams in the mixed 4x100m relay, and members of both teams did exceedingly well, chief athletics coach Radhakrishnan Nair said. National B mixed 4x100m relay team won gold with a time of 42.30 seconds to better the national record of 43.44 seconds set by Tamil Nadu in 2025. India A finished

second with a time of 42.34 seconds. Maldives finished third with a time of 44.53 seconds. However, India's international sprinter and national record holder, Animesh Kujur was disappointed for missing a golden chance to board the flight to Botswana.

"The competition in Chandigarh was the last chance for the 4x100m relay squad to improve their world ranking before the deadline of April 5, but we missed," Kujur, a member of the national 4x100m relay team added.

The national mixed 4x400m relay and women's 4x100m relay teams are also strong contenders to win tickets to the World Athletics Relays to be held on May 2 and 3 in Gaborone, Botswana. The national women's 4x100m relay clocked 43.86 seconds at the 2025 Gumi Asian Athletics Championships. The current world ranking is 23.

The national 4x400m mixed relay current World Ranking of 22 is based on the 3:14.81 performance at the World Relays in China.

"The World Athletics will declare the final rankings of the nations eligible to compete in Botswana after April 5, 2026," the chief athletics coach added.

Weightlifter Nikita wins first gold for Chhattisgarh, Odisha women dominate last day of swimming

RAIPUR

Weightlifter Nikita ended hosts Chhattisgarh's wait for a gold medal while Odisha's women swimmers clinched all the three gold medals on offer on the fourth day of the Khelo India Tribal Games 2026 here on Saturday.

Nikita dominated the women's 77kg weightlifting event to comfortably win the gold medal in the last event of the day while Odisha won gold medals through Ritika Minz (100m freestyle), Anjali Munda (50m Backstroke) and 4x100 medley relay team. Anjali finished with five golds, four of them in individual races.

Arunachal Pradesh were the other major movers in the medals table on Saturday as they won both the men's weightlifting gold medals to close in on the third spot, which is currently held by Assam with four gold, seven silver and three bronze medals.

Karnataka continue to top the medals tally with 15 gold six silver and three bronze while Odisha are second with seven gold, three silver and 10 bronze medals. Hosts Chhattisgarh are seventh with eight medals (one gold, four silver and three bronze).

Having won four silver and three bronze medals from the swimming pool, Chhattisgarh sports fan were waiting for a gold from their athletes and Nikita fulfilled their wish with a dominating perfor-



mance in women's 77kg category at the open ground in Pt Ravishankar University here.

The 20-year-old Nikita lifted a total of 160kg (70kg in Snatch and 90kg in Clean & Jerk), lifting 34kgs more than second-placed Srmati Jani of Odisha. Joyshree Patir of Assam took home the bronze medal with a total of 118kg.

"It is a special moment for me as this is my first gold medal in Khelo India. I was training for the whole year preparing for these games and I was confident of winning this gold medal once I came to the weightlifting arena for weigh in," Nikita told SAI Media.

Dimpi Sonowal led an As-

sam 1-2 in women's 69kg with a total of 155kg with Pallavi Payeng taking the silver with a total of 131kg. Ruba Tadu (men's 88kg) and Lalu Taku (Men's 94kg) enhanced Arunachal Pradesh's chances of breaking into the top three as they clinched the gold medals with relative ease. Tadu lifted a total of 274kg for gold while Taku aggregated a total of 250kg in the 94kg category.

In the swimming competition, Assam's Krow siblings Nibir Krow and Violina Krow won a gold and bronze medal, respectively, on the last day of competition at the international pool here. Nibir clinched the top spot in 50m Backstroke with a time of

31.31seconds, pushing Karnataka's Dhoneesh N (31.39s) to second spot.

Earlier, Violina won the bronze medal in 100m freestyle with a time of 1:16.62s with Odisha taking home the gold and silver through Ritika Minz (1:12.93s) and Krushna Priya Nayak (1:15.77s).

Karnataka signed off the swimming competition with 15 gold, five silver and three bronze medals. Karnataka's Manikanta L topped the chart with eight golds and one silver while Dhoneesh M finished with five golds and one silver medal. In the women's section Karnataka's Meghrajali bagged four golds and two bronze medals.

Plans afoot to upgrade LB Stadium to international standards: Revanth

HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy announced that the State government is formulating plans to enhance LB Stadium to meet international standards. He made this announcement during the inauguration of the "1st Edition of the Telangana Legislators' Sports and Cultural Meet-2026" at LB Stadium on Saturday.

During his speech, the Chief Minister noted that while the LB Stadium has predominantly been utilised for political engagements, the State government has resolved to upgrade it to international standards.

"In addition, we are planning to enhance Gachibowli Stadium to accommodate global sporting events. The Begumpet hockey stadium is also undergoing development. Out of the seven individuals who have previously secured medals for our nation in football, four are from our region. We are committed to reinstilling that level of sporting spirit and supporting athletes in achieving such excellence," he stated.



The Chief Minister emphasised that the State government is dedicated to assisting athletes in every possible manner, urging students to balance their academic pursuits with a passion for sports and strive for excellence in both domains. "Historically, sports held significant importance. However, following the formation of Telangana state, enthusiasm for sports diminished and was neglected by the previous administration. Since the Congress government assumed power, we have implemented a sports policy and are proactively promoting sports development," remarked Revanth Reddy.

India U23 Cruise Past Bhutan 5-0, Climb to Top Spot

NEW DELHI

The India U23 men's national team pumped five past Bhutan in the U23 Tri-Nation Championship 2026 at the Golden Jubilee Stadium in Yupia, Arunachal Pradesh, on Saturday. Suhail Ahmad Bhat (51', 81") scored a brace, while Ricky Meetei Haobam (44'), Tomba Singh Haobam (79'), and Mohammed Ajsal (85') netted one each. This victory takes India to the top of the table in the U23 Tri-Nation Championship. The Blue Colts are level on points (three) with Tajikistan, who had defeated Bhutan 1-0 earlier this week.

The India U23s, coached by Nushad Moosa, were at Bhutan's throats from early on, and missed a number of early chances. However, it was in the 23rd minute that they, quite literally, knocked upon the Bhutan goal.

Adison Singh Thokchom surged up the right flank and whipped in a cross that swerved mid-air and headed towards the top corner; to Bhutan goalkeeper Locho Nima's relief, it crashed into the crossbar and out of play.

The Blue Colts kept knocking, and finally had the lead minutes before the half-time whistle, when Ricky struck the ball from outside the box to beat the goalkeeper, planting it into the bottom corner.

Buoyed by the goal, the home side



came out all guns blazing in the second half and doubled their lead within six minutes of the restart. Adison, who was played through into the Bhutan box, squared it with the outside of his right foot to Suhail, who calmly poked it past the keeper.

India looked intent on building a bigger lead and came close to scoring more on a couple of occasions. In the 71st minute, Ajsal was played through behind the defence and tried to chip the keeper, but Bhutan defender Gayden Rinchin was alert to the danger and cleared it off the line.

Bhutan captain Pema Zangpo pulled off a goalline clearance of his own, just a few minutes later, when Huidrom Thoi Singh was played through on the right after an intricate free-kick. The India substitute drilled it goalwards, as the ball slipped through the goalkeeper's legs. Zangpo, alert to the danger, rushed in to head it off the line.

The floodgates truly opened in the 79th minute, when substitute Tomba Singh Haobam blasted one from outside the box, into the bottom corner, making it 3-0. A couple of minutes later, Suhail was played through on

the right, rushed into the box and laced it to bulge the net, adding India's fourth goal. Suhail turned provider for India's fifth goal, as he chipped an aerial through ball to Ajsal, who ran in between the defensive lines to take a touch inside the box, and finish.

With the match finally coming to an end, the India U23s moved to the top of the table. The Blue Colts will now play Tajikistan in the decider on March 31 at the Golden Jubilee Stadium at 19:00 IST. The Blue Colts will need a draw to win the tournament, while Tajikistan will require three points.

KKR Await Pathirana's Return Soon: Watson

MUMBAI

Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) are awaiting clearance from Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) for pacer Matheesha Pathirana to join the squad, with assistant coach Shane Watson saying the franchise was hopeful of him arriving 'sooner rather than later'.

Pathirana was signed for an astonishing Rs 18 crore at the auction in Abu Dhabi last year and has been recovering from a left calf injury which cut short his time in the 2026 Men's T20 World Cup. With SLC yet to give Pathirana a clearance, it means he will miss KKR's opening game against Mumbai Indians, to be played at the Wankhede Stadium on Sunday.

"With Pathirana, obviously it's a waiting game at the moment. We are being guided by Sri Lanka Cricket and we are just doing everything we can to get him over here as soon as possible. We have got the exact same interests as Sri Lankan cricket as well. We want Pathirana to be here, we want him to be fit."

Sai Pallavi An Actor Par Excellence, says Hemanth

Sai Pallavi is widely regarded as one of the most disciplined and performance-driven actresses in Indian cinema. Known for choosing strong, character-oriented roles, she has consistently stayed away from glamorous parts, even if it meant missing out on big commercial offers. Her commitment to meaningful storytelling has set her apart in the industry. The actress is currently busy with several major projects, including the mythological epic Ramayana. During a recent public interaction, Sai Pallavi addressed questions about her marriage. She clarified that she is not planning to get married anytime soon, emphasizing that her current focus remains entirely on her film career. She also confirmed that she is single at present.

At 33, Sai Pallavi continues to prioritize her craft, while her younger sister has already settled down in marriage. Professionally, she has an exciting lineup ahead. She is playing the female lead in Mani Ratnam's upcoming film alongside Vijay Sethupathi. She is also starring opposite Junaid Khan in Ek Din, which is expected to release soon. Director Hemanth Madhukar praised Sai Pallavi as one of the finest performers in Indian cinema but chose not to comment on her personal life, stating that marriage is entirely her decision. He compared her to legendary actresses like Savitri and Soundarya, who were celebrated for their performance-centric roles. He further noted that Sai Pallavi stands out for her natural and subtle acting style, proving her mettle in Telugu films like Fidaa and Thandel. Her selective approach to scripts has helped her maintain a strong and credible filmography. Addressing ongoing speculation about Sai Pallavi potentially replacing Deepika Padukone in the sequel to Kalki, Hemanth Madhukar said that while rumors are circulating, an official confirmation is still awaited.



Rishab Shetty's Social Media Activity Stirs Controversy



Actor Rishab Shetty has been dominated by the limelight recently following his work on Kantara: Chapter 1, where he served as both director and lead actor. However, reports are now circulating that he has unfollowed several former collaborators on social media. If these reports are accurate, the Sandalwood star has unfollowed his former co-stars Rukmini Vasanth and Raj B. Shetty on Instagram. Furthermore, he has reportedly unfollowed Hombale Films, the production house behind Kantara. While no specific reason has been provided, the move has sparked rumors that all may not be well between the actor and his colleagues. Notably, Shetty is still following Vijay Kiragandur, the head of Hombale Films. On the professional front, Rishab Shetty is set to star in Jai Hanuman, directed by Prashanth Varma. The film was officially launched last month in Hampi.



Dia Mirza Called 'Panauti' Early On; Sanju Turned the Tide

Imagine being labelled as bad luck at the beginning of your career because several of your films flopped at the box office. This is exactly what happened after Dia Mirza's debut film, Rehnaa Hai Terre Dil Mein, a cult classic now, failed at the box office when it was released 25 years ago.

In a recent conversation, as per the Indian Express, Dia Mirza revealed how she was labelled a "panauti," and how Rajkumar Hirani's Sanju finally changed everything for her. "I feel I managed to defy everybody's idea of me and create my own. When I started off, there were all these comparisons with Aishwarya Rai. I remember impeding accessing an opportunity. Then came box office failures of my so-called big films—and how it, in turn, renders you jobless, because people who were otherwise queuing up to sign you suddenly perceive you as a panauti, bad luck. I have been through all of that," Dia revealed.

Dia Mirza further continued and shared how Rajkumar Hirani's Sanju changed things for her. She said, "There has always been this desire to do more, and I think it's only in the last decade, post Sanju. I remember the phone call I made to Rajkumar Hirani when he was casting the film. I had already done Lage Raho Munna Bhai with him and I said, 'Please give me work, please. I have no work and I am struggling to find an opportunity to get a foothold. Nobody is giving me jobs. You are doing this film and I promise I will do a screen test, whatever you want, but please give me the job.'"

"And he said, 'Let me talk to Ranbir and the rest of the team and get back. There is something which I think you may be good for.' And I played Manyata, Sanjay Dutt's wife. It was a lifesaver," the actress added.

DIA MIRZA'S WORK FRONT

The year 2026 is going to be a busy one for the actress, as four of her projects are scheduled to release this year. Alongside making her debut as a children's book author, Dia's projects include Ikka with Sunny Deol, Akshaye Khanna, and Tillotama Shome; a web series with Nawazuddin Siddique; and another with Jimmy Shergil. Dia also has an untitled film with Rahul Bhat.



DACOIT CHICHU BUDDI SONG: ADIVI SESH DELIVERS A DANCE BANGER

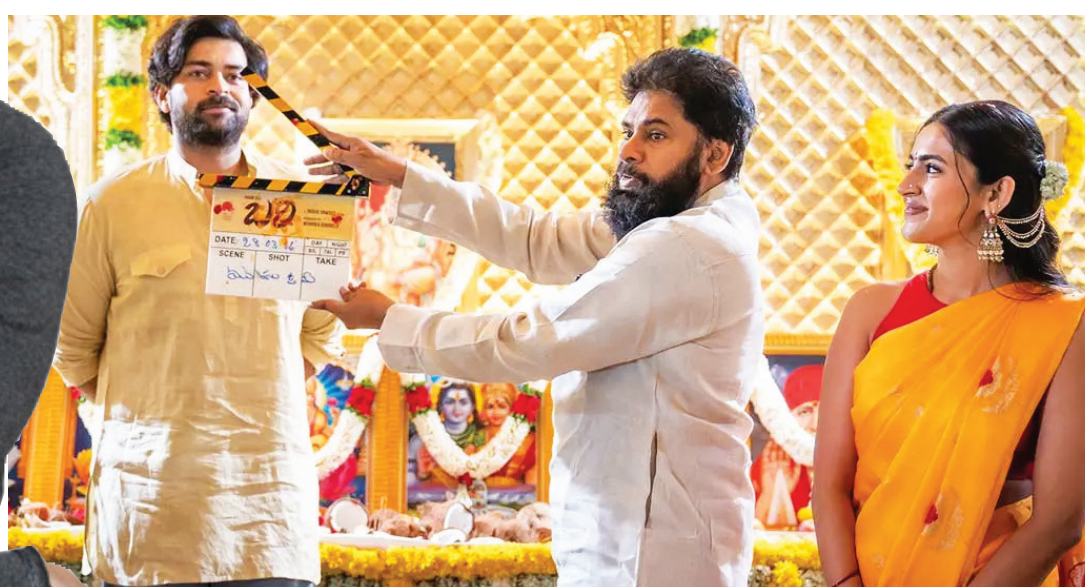
Adivi Sesh made a name for himself with great content and continuous successes. After a gap of three years, he is starring in Dacoit, which he crafted with great care for over two years as Telugu-Hindi bilingual along with the director Shaneil Deo. Already, his pairing with Mrunal Thakur, the teasers, the first single, Rubaroo have created huge craze for the film.

Now, the makers have released Chichu Buddi song and it is a cracklepot like the name indicates. Mainly, Adivi Sesh, who is not known for his

dancing prowess, surprised everyone with his stylish moves. He showcased unparalleled ease and grace in the moves that need precision. His body language, looks and timing worked big time.

Also, the makers have introduced Singer Jonitha Gandhi, who sang the song, as a performer on the screen with this. Her glamor and moves worked big time while her chemistry with Adivi Sesh is cherry on the cake. They looked perfect and song became even more special with Bhojpuri Singer Pawan Singh's unexpected cameo.

Ram Miriyala sang the song composed by Bheems Cecirleo and the tune is highly effective. It is hard to not here it on repeat mode. Visuals and production values stand out too. The song proves that Sesh is offering a massy feast with the film. Anurag Kashyap is playing a prominent role in the film produced by Supriya Yarlagadda and Suneil Narang. Dacoit is releasing in multiple languages on 10th April, worldwide.



VARUN TEJ, NIHARIKA TEAM UP FOR SPORTS DRAMA

Niharika Konidela is steadily carving a niche for herself as a film producer. She began her journey under the banner Pink Elephant Pictures, and her debut project Committee Kurrollu received a positive response from audiences. She is now gearing up for the release of her second production titled Rakasa, which is scheduled to hit screens on April 3. At the same time, Niharika has already begun planning her next venture, and this time, she is joining hands with her brother Varun Tej.

The upcoming film will be officially launched with a traditional pooja ceremony in Hyderabad, with the makers planning a grand opening event. Pawan Kalyan gave the first clap for Bhari and extended his blessings to Varun Tej and producer Niharika Konidela as they begin their journey. Varun and Niharika took his blessings by falling in his feet. The project is being directed by Yadhu Vamsi, who previously collaborated with Niharika on Committee Kurrollu. Given their successful association, expectations are already high for this new film.

The movie is said to be a sports drama centered around volleyball, offering a relatively fresh backdrop for Telugu cinema. While the core concept has generated curiosity, details regarding the rest of the cast and technical crew are yet to be announced. Meanwhile, Varun Tej is currently occupied with his ongoing film Korean Kanakaraju, directed by Merlapaka Gandhi. Once he completes this project, he is expected to move on to this sports drama.

This collaboration between Varun Tej and Niharika Konidela has already sparked interest among fans, as both are known for experimenting with different kinds of content. With a unique premise and a strong creative team, the project is carrying promising buzz even before its official launch. Varun Tej needs a big hit to bounce back into reckoning after duds like 'Matka' and 'Operation Valentine'. He also delivered hits like 'Tholi Prema' and 'F2'.