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SHORT TAKES



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FOCUS POINT 10



Rupee Strongest Rally

Indian rupee logs its biggest single-day gain in nearly 13 years, surging 1.7% to close at 93.10 against the dollar. RBI's aggressive curbs on speculation, plus Trump speech hinting negotiations over escalation, drive rally—defying weak Asian markets and crude oil spike to \$106/barrel.

MONEY MATTER 09



A Law for Parents, A Lesson...

Telangana's ground breaking 2026 Bill mandates salary deductions from neglectful children to support parents, embodying "Matru Devo Bhava." Amid eroding family values and nuclear shifts, it legally enforces cultural duty, ensuring elders' dignity while urging moral revival.

OPINION 06

TG as a Role Model

CM Revanth Reddy Promotes "Six Guarantees" in Kerala



KOCHI, APRIL 2

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy launched a broadside against the Kerala opposition parties for criticising the guarantees announced by the UDF in the election manifesto. The Chief Minister challenged the political rivals to visit Telangana and study the successful implementation of the six guarantees and personally witness the progress along with the Congress government's track record in good governance. Further, Revanth Reddy said that he would personally demonstrate to Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and his Ministers how the guarantees have been implemented in a true spirit if the Kerala delegation visits Telangana. Releasing the UDF mani-

festos for the ensuing Kerala Assembly elections in Kochi on Thursday, Revanth Reddy declared that the 'dark era' of CM Vijayan came to an end and 'Golden era' under the United Democratic Front was about to start soon. The Chief Minister fired a salvo at Kerala Chief Minister Vijayan and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

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CM affirms commitment to state development, public welfare

HYDERABAD, APRIL 2

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has affirmed that the State government is diligently and unrelentingly dedicated to advancing the state's development and promoting the welfare of all citizens, while addressing financial obstacles and correcting the shortcomings of the previous administration. In a statement here on the occasion of the "Praja Palana - Pragathi Pranalika" (People's Administration - Progress Plan) 99-day action agenda, which commences across Telangana State on Thursday, the Chief Minister emphasised, "We are not rulers, but servants," underscoring their dedication to fulfilling the aspirations of the populace. "We accord utmost priority to the welfare of people, social responsibility and the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

"Praja Palana Gram Sabhas" Begin Cs Ramakrishna Rao Engages With Villagers At Tummaluru

Hyderabad, April 2: Marking the rollout of the State's ambitious "Praja Palana - Pragathi Pranalika" (99-Day Action Plan), Telangana Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao participated in a Gram Sabha at Tummaluru village in Maheshwaram mandal of Rangareddy district, interacting directly with the residents and officials. The programme, attended by District Collector Narayana Reddy and other senior officials, is part of a statewide initiative to strengthen grassroots governance through direct public engagement. Addressing the gathering, the Chief Secretary said the initiative aligns with the vision of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to position Telangana as the number one State in the country by 2047. He urged citizens to actively participate in governance and emphasized that Gram Sabhas aim to identify and resolve

local issues on the spot. Highlighting key welfare measures, he noted that the government is ensuring effective implementation of schemes, including distribution of fine rice through ration cards. He added that diet and cosmetic charges in hostels and schools have been enhanced to improve nutrition and facilities for the underprivileged students. Reiterating the government's commitment to housing for all eligible beneficiaries, the CS also underscored women empowerment initiatives such as interest-free loans for self-help groups, school uniform stitching work, and RTC driver training programmes, thereby enabling their economic upliftment. Kalyana Lakshmi cheques were distributed to beneficiaries during the Gram Sabha, reflecting the government's focus on welfare delivery at the grassroots level.

BJP SLAMS CM REVANTH REDDY OVER 'IRRESPONSIBLE' REMARKS IN KERALA RALLY

HYDERABAD, APRIL 2

The Telangana BJP strongly criticized Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy for the alleged "irresponsible and immature" comments made during a recent election rally in Kerala. State BJP Chief Spokesperson and Media In-charge N. V. Subhash, in a press statement, said the CM's attempt to compare Pinarayi Vijayan and Narendra Modi as "brothers" and blame them for state issues was "factually untenable and unbecoming of a constitutional authority." Such remarks reflect political immaturity and undermine the dignity of the Chief Minister's office. "Public discourse must be rooted in facts and accountability, not

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INDIA'S HPV VACCINATION ROLLOUT MEETS CLINICAL SCRUTINY

SAFETY CONSENSUS HOLDS, BUT CALLS FOR CONTEXT-SPECIFIC SAFEGUARDS REACH THE INDIAN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

BY C. SUBRAHMANYAM

India's large-scale HPV vaccination rollout has prompted a clinician-led call for enhanced screening and localised research, culminating in a formal representation to the Prime Minister's Office. While global evidence confirms vaccine safety and effectiveness, the episode underscores the



need to integrate individual risk assessment and India-specific data into mass immunisation strategies to optimise outcomes in a diverse population. India's nationwide introduction of single-dose human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination marks one of the largest adolescent immunisation initiatives globally, targeting nearly 12 million girls annually. While the programme is supported by extensive global safety and efficacy data, a recent clinician-led intervention in Hyderabad has introduced a focused but consequential debate on individual risk stratification, allergy screening, and the need for India-specific evidence. The issue has now escalated institutionally, with a formal representation sub-

mitted to the Prime Minister's Office, underscoring the intersection of clinical nuance and public health scale.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH IMPERATIVE: SCALE, BURDEN, AND OPPORTUNITY

India carries a disproportionate share of the

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Moonbound! Artemis II Restores the Lunar Spark



SPECIAL 2

"TAKE TO SOCIAL MEDIA, EXPOSE CONG LIES": HARISH RAO TO BRS CADRE

SANGAREDDY, APRIL 2

Former minister and BRS party deputy floor leader T. Harish Rao on Thursday urged the party workers to aggressively use social media platforms to expose the "deceptive practices" of the Congress government. Speaking at a joining programme, Harish Rao welcomed Congress social media coordinator Md. Arif and 25 others from Bollaram in the Patancheru assembly constituency, into the BRS fold under the leadership of Balareddy, presenting them with the party's pink scarves. On this occasion, the BRS leader stressed that social media has become a

powerful tool in highlighting public issues from village to state level and called on youth to stay active online. Launching a sharp attack on the Congress, he alleged that the government had "betrayed" the youth and failed to deliver on key promises, including the job calendar and employment generation. He termed the promise of two lakh jobs as "bogus" and accused the government of neglecting women, farmers, and the elderly by not fulfilling welfare commitments. Claiming rising public anger, Harish Rao urged the youngsters to "take responsibility" and ensure that every failure of the government is exposed to the public.

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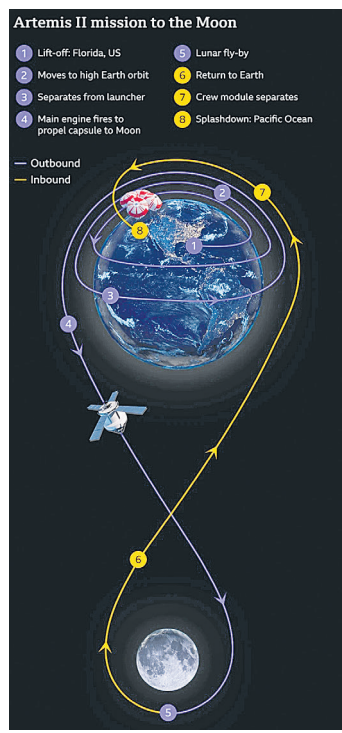
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Moonbound! Artemis II Restores the Lunar Spark

CAPE CANAVERAL, APRIL 2

In a landmark moment for space exploration, four astronauts aboard Artemis II successfully launched Wednesday, marking humanity's first crewed journey toward the Moon in over 50 years. The towering Space Launch System rocket lifted off from Kennedy Space Center before a crowd of tens of thousands, reigniting memories of the Apollo era. The mission represents a major step in NASA's plan to establish a long-term human presence on the Moon. The crew—Commander Reid Wiseman, Pilot Victor Glover, Mission Specialist Christina Koch, and Jeremy Hansen—includes the first woman, person of colour, and non-American to take part in a lunar mission.



Shortly after liftoff, Wiseman reported a clear view of the Moon as the spacecraft began its journey. The astronauts will spend the first 24 hours orbiting Earth to test onboard systems before firing the engine that will send them toward lunar space. Unlike Apollo 8, Artemis II will not enter lunar orbit. Instead, it will perform a "free-return" flyby, traveling approximately 4,000 miles beyond the Moon before looping back toward Earth for a Pacific splashdown after a 10-day mission. During early operations, the crew manually piloted the Orion capsule within 33 feet of its detached rocket stage, testing navigation systems in case of automated failure.

Despite earlier concerns over hydrogen leaks and technical glitches, launch operations proceeded smoothly. However, minor onboard issues emerged, including a malfunctioning toilet system, prompting temporary use of backup equipment. The success of Artemis II is critical to NASA's broader lunar ambitions, including future missions such as Artemis III and Artemis IV, which aim to land astronauts near the Moon's south pole and establish a sustainable base. NASA officials emphasized that Artemis marks a shift from short-term exploration to long-term habitation, positioning the Moon as a stepping stone for eventual missions to Mars. "This is not just a return to the Moon," officials said. "It is the beginning of a new era in human space exploration."

Hyderabad to the Middle East: Students Engage With Iran-Israel Geopolitics

SAMUDRALA KIRAN |
CORRESPONDENT

Hyderabad, April 2, 2026: Government Degree College for Women, Hussaini Alam, Hyderabad, turned into a vibrant centre of geopolitical discussion as the Faculty of Social Sciences organised an intellectually stimulating interactive talk on "Understanding the Iran-Israel Conflict: Geopolitical Implications" at the prestigious Khurshid Jah Hall.

The programme brought together distinguished academicians, faculty members and students for a timely and relevant discussion on one of the most sensitive and consequential conflicts shaping contemporary international relations. The event began with a warm welcome, setting an academic and reflective tone for a session that would go on to deepen students' understanding of history, diplomacy, strategy and global power politics.

The programme was graced by eminent dignitaries, including Dr. Mohammed Rizwan, Director, CSR, New Delhi, and Dr. K. Bhaskar, Associate Professor of Political Science, Government City College, Nayapul, Hyderabad. Their presence added prestige and importance to the occasion, underlining the relevance of academic conversations around global crises in today's rapidly changing world.

A key highlight of the event was the comprehensive and thought-provoking lecture delivered by Dr. Parvez Alam, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Aligarh Muslim University, who served as the Resource Person. In his address, Dr. Alam offered a nuanced analysis of the Iran-Israel conflict, tracing its historical roots and unpacking its strategic, political and economic dimensions. He explained how the conflict extends far beyond bilateral hostility and is deeply embedded in questions of regional security, ideological contestation, military alliances and the larger struggle for influence in the Middle East.

Dr. Alam further elaborated on how the conflict has significant implications for global power structures, energy security and international diplomacy. He highlighted the ways in which in-



stability in the region affects not only West Asia but also countries such as India, which must carefully calibrate their foreign policy responses in light of evolving geopolitical realities. His lecture encouraged students to view international conflicts not as isolated events, but as interconnected developments with far-reaching consequences for trade, diplomacy, migration, security and global governance.

The academic leadership of the institution played an important role in making the programme a meaningful success. Dr. K. Shoba Rani, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Economics, and Dr. Mohammed Ghouse, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Political Science, served as Coordinator and Convenor respectively, and contributed valuable perspectives on the historical background, contemporary developments and wider ramifications of the Iran-Israel conflict. Dr. K. Sreedevi, IQAC Coordinator and Head, Department of English, also addressed the students, adding depth to the multidisciplinary character of the programme.

One of the most engaging segments of the event was the interactive Question and Answer session, during which students and faculty members actively participated by raising pertinent questions and sharing their views. The exchange reflected a high degree of interest and intellectual curiosity among the participants, and helped transform the session from a formal lecture into a dynamic academic dialogue. The discussion fostered a deeper understanding of international relations and encouraged students to think critically

about conflict, diplomacy and the responsibilities of nations in an increasingly interconnected world.

In the presidential address, Prof. Ch. Appiia Chinnamma, Principal, appreciated the academic efforts of the Departments of Political Science and Economics for organising a programme of such contemporary relevance. She urged students to broaden their knowledge by drawing from diverse resources and to remain informed about global developments that influence national and international affairs.

The session was efficiently moderated by Mrs. Farzana Begum, who ensured the smooth and effective conduct of the programme. The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Abdul Quddus, who expressed sincere gratitude to the distinguished guests, the resource person, faculty members and students for their valuable participation and contributions. Ms. Asra Fatima, Ms. R. Shreshtha and Ms. Sadia Nishat were also present and extended logistical support for the successful organisation of the event.

The programme stood out as highly informative, insightful and academically enriching, reaffirming Government Degree College for Women's commitment to promoting critical thinking, intellectual engagement and awareness of pressing global issues among students. At a time when international conflicts are increasingly shaping domestic realities, the event served as an important reminder of the role educational institutions play in preparing young minds to understand and respond to the complexities of the modern world.

Light Born from Sacrifice: The Eternal Message of Good Friday

A Call for Peace Rising from the Cross

- YOGESH KUMAR GOYAL

Good Friday is a day to remember the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and his teachings. In fact, Jesus sacrificed his life for the welfare of humanity. According to Christian belief, Jesus, who preached love, compassion, kindness, charity, non-violence, good conduct, and purity of life, was crucified on this very day by the religious orthodox elements of that time. The day on which Jesus Christ gave up his life was a Friday, and in its memory, Good Friday is observed.

It is celebrated on the Friday before Easter Sunday, and this year Good Friday falls on April 3. The Christian community observes this festival in mourning. Good Friday is seen as a symbol of Jesus' sacrifice for the welfare of humanity. On this day, church bells are not rung; instead, wooden clappers are used. People visit churches, kiss the cross, and remember Jesus. In some places, people wear black clothes as a mark of mourning and seek forgiveness for their sins. In remembrance of Jesus being crucified, followers give up worldly comforts. Decorative items are removed from churches and homes or covered with cloth.

According to a tradition initiated by Catholics, fasting and prayer begin 40 days before Good Friday, starting from Wednesday known as Ash Wednesday. During this period, people consume simple vegetarian food. It is believed that Jesus fasted for 40 days before beginning his mission of serving humanity, and this is possibly the origin of this tradition. On this day, Christians across the world donate to churches and promote social welfare activities. In Christianity, Jesus Christ is regarded as the Son of God. He preached forgiveness, peace, compassion, kindness, charity, non-violence, good conduct, and purity of life. Because of these virtues, people began to call him a messenger of peace, an embodiment of forgiveness, and a saintly figure. It is said that in the Galilee region of Jerusalem, Jesus spread messages of humanity, truth, unity, love, non-violence, and peace. His teachings spread far and wide, and people began to adopt them in their lives. Many even started regarding him as divine. This led to jealousy among religious leaders who propagated superstition and falsehood, as people no longer approached them for solutions. Nearly two thousand years ago, Jesus was sentenced to death because he raised his voice against injustice and sought to educate and awaken people against ignorance and excessive materialism. Jesus was not merely a religious figure but a living symbol of transformation and compassion. He expanded the idea of human love beyond selfishness and self-centeredness. His life proves that true love lies in sacrifice, forgiveness, and dedication.

At a time when sin and injustice were rising on earth, Jesus demonstrated the ultimate example of selfless love through his sacrifice. His suffering on the cross was not just the pain of an individual but became a symbol of the redemption of all humanity. According to Christian beliefs, Jesus rose again on the third day after his crucifixion, on Sunday. This is why the Sunday following Good Friday is celebrated as Easter Sunday. This day is not just a celebration of resurrection but also a message of hope, new life, and renewed faith.

It is said that after his resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples and followers for about 40 days, inspiring them to walk on the path of truth, love, and righteousness. Easter prayers are especially offered at dawn, as it is believed that the miracle of resurrection occurred early in the morning. Mary Magdalene is believed to be the first to witness Jesus alive after his resurrection. This episode highlights that the light of truth and faith first awakens in hearts filled with devotion and belief. Thus, Good Friday teaches us sacrifice, patience, and love, while Easter Sunday brings a message of hope and renewal. Together, they remind us that no matter how deep the darkness may be, ultimately truth and light prevail.

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INDIA'S HPV VACCINATION ROLLOUT MEETS CLINICAL SCRUTINY

FROM PAGE 1

global cervical cancer burden: **Approximately 120,000 new cases annually.** **Nearly 80,000 deaths each year.** **Contributing to 25% of global mortality from cervical cancer.**

Persistent infection with high-risk HPV types, particularly 16 and 18 accounts for roughly 70% of cases worldwide. Against this backdrop, the Government of India's 2026 rollout of Gardasil adopts a single-dose strategy, aligned with WHO recommendations demonstrating 93-100% efficacy in preventing persistent infection and precancerous lesions. The programme's design, voluntary, consent-based, and delivered through public health systems, positions it as a cornerstone intervention in cancer prevention.

THE HYDERABAD INTERVENTION: CLINICAL PRECISION IN A MASS PROGRAMME

At a scientific media briefing convened by the World Allergy Foundation, led by Dr. Vyakaranam Nageshwar, Immunologist and Allergist, a multidisciplinary panel comprising Dr. Kavaya, Clinical Immunological Nutrition Specialist, Mrs. Stephen Sunithi, Consultant in Immunology Counselling and Patient Risk Communication, and Mr. Ranjith, Clinical Pharmacology and Drug Interaction Specialist, raised concerns not about the vaccine's utility, but about its uniform application in a heterogeneous population.

Yeast Hypersensitivity and Contraindication HPV vaccines such as Gardasil are produced using *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, with residual yeast proteins present in trace quantities.

Severe IgE-mediated yeast allergy is a well-established contraindication. Reported rates of anaphylaxis

remain extremely low: 0.3-3 cases per million doses.

The panel recommended: Targeted pre-vaccination screening (IgE assays, skin prick testing) in at-risk individuals.

Recognition of potential cross-reactivity with fungal antigens such as *Candida albicans*. However, claims of 20-40% yeast sensitivity emerging from local retrospective datasets remain unpublished and derived from preselected clinical populations, limiting generalisability.

AUTOIMMUNE DISEASE: EVIDENCE VERSUS OBSERVATION

Concerns were also raised regarding postvaccination autoimmune phenomena, including psoriasis and systemic lupus erythematosus. In contrast, large-scale evidence indicates:

- No increased incidence of autoimmune disease following HPV vaccination.
- Consistent findings across cohort studies involving hundreds of thousands of participants.
- Reinforcement through global pharmacovigilance systems. This divergence reflects a broader methodological tension between clinical observation and epidemiological validation.

FERTILITY AND PRIMARY OVARIAN INSUFFICIENCY

The Hyderabad discussion extended to concerns about primary ovarian insufficiency (POI) and long-term fertility. Available evidence is substantial:

- A Kaiser Permanente cohort (~200,000 participants)
- Meta-analyses exceeding 1.25 million individuals
- These studies demonstrate:** No elevated risk of POI.

- Incidence rates consistent with baseline population levels. Regulatory and advisory bodies, including WHO, have concluded that no causal relationship exists between HPV vaccination and infertility.

ESCALATION TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

A defining development in this episode is the formal escalation of concerns to the Prime Minister's Office. The communication reportedly outlines:

- The need for structured pre-vaccination screening protocols.
- Integration of allergy and immunology specialists into referral pathways.
- Commissioning of multi-centric, India-specific studies on allergy prevalence and long-term safety.

Notably, the representation does not advocate suspension of the vaccination programme. Instead, it calls for programme recalibration at scale, reflecting a shift from clinical discourse to policy engagement. As of this writing, no formal response has been issued.

BRIDGING GLOBAL EVIDENCE AND LOCAL REALITIES

India's population presents distinct variables:

- High environmental allergen exposure.
- Diverse dietary patterns influencing sensitisation.
- Variability in healthcare access and diagnostic infrastructure. While global datasets provide strong safety assurances, contextual adaptation remains essential for optimising outcomes in such settings.

INDIGENEOUS VACCINE TRAJECTORY

India's domestically developed HPV vaccine, Cervavac, produced

by the Serum Institute of India, has demonstrated noninferiority in immunogenicity trials. Ongoing studies, including those supported by ICMR, are evaluating:

- Single-dose efficacy
- Long-term protection profiles

These data are expected to inform future policy iterations and enhance national self-reliance.

OPERATIONAL TENSION: SCALE VERSUS SPECIFICITY

India's immunisation infrastructure is designed for high-volume delivery, yet:

- Advanced allergy diagnostics are not routinely embedded.
- Screening relies largely on self-reported history.
- Specialist access remains uneven.

This creates a structural tension:

- Population-level benefit is maximised
- Individual-level risk identification may be suboptimal in rare cases

Strengthening AEFI surveillance and introducing targeted screening for high-risk groups could mitigate this without disrupting programme momentum.

INDIA'S HPV DRIVE AT A CRITICAL CROSSROADS

India's HPV vaccination programme represents a critical intervention in reducing cervical cancer mortality. The scientific consensus on safety and efficacy remains robust and unchanged. The Hyderabad intervention, and its escalation to the Prime Minister's Office, does not undermine this foundation. Instead, it highlights an evolving requirement:

to align large-scale public health delivery with context-sensitive clinical precision. The path forward lies not in reconsidering the vaccine, but in refining its implementation within the complexity of India's population landscape.

CM affirms commitment to state development, public welfare

FROM PAGE 1

future of the state in taking every decision by the government. The consecutive victories in by-elections, Panchayat elections, and Municipal elections is a testament to the people's approval and unrelenting support to the People's Government's performance. The people's mandate deepened our sense of responsibility," Revanth Reddy said.

The Chief Minister stated that their firm resolve is that government schemes should not remain mere entries on paper, but must bring about a tangible and distinct transformation in the lives of the people.

"With a goal of reaching out to people, we launched 99 day" Praja Palana - Pragati Pranalika" from March 6. The programme launched with the coordination of all government departments must unfold as a spirited movement, extending from the village to the state level. Every government official must work with the singular objective of resolving the issues facing at local level in every village and take up swift clearance of files, cleanliness in all government offices and transparency in all decision-making processes," he said.

The Chief Minister said the 99-day action plan is a solemn pledge and the 40 million people of Telangana must unite as one to emerge as a shining example for both the nation and the world. This is my dream. Every son and daughter of Telangana must play an important role in making this dream a reality, he added.

TG as a Role Model

FROM PAGE 1

Referring to Modi and Vijayan, Revanth Reddy remarked that India and Kerala are currently being ruled by the "Modi Brothers." Indirectly raising the Sabarimala gold controversy, the Chief Minister alleged that even God's own property was lacking protection in the "God's Own Country."

Revanth Reddy noted that Pinarayi Vijayan has been in power in Kerala for the past ten years, much in the same way that KCR ruled Telangana for a decade between 2014 and 2023 end. The Chief Minister drew parallels between Vijayan and KCR governments with unbridled corruption, administrative incompetence and despotic rule. Revanth Reddy asserted that a transformative change, similar to Telangana witnessing since 2023 is poised to take place in Kerala soon. The Chief Minister exuded confidence that Keralam people would oust the Pinarayi Vijayan government from power.

Responding to questions from reporters, the Chief Minister mentioned "Po Mone Vijaya" (Go away, Vijayan) and clarified that Vijayan is a political adversary and said that he would not talk like Modi and cannot refrain from criticising the political rivals.

Revanth Reddy stressed that eradicating corruption, curbing depletion of state revenue, optimum utilisation of funds under the central government schemes and securing funds due to the state are also the top priorities of the UDF in the elections.

BJP SLAMS CM REVANTH REDDY OVER 'IRRESPONSIBLE' REMARKS IN KERALA RALLY

FROM PAGE 1

cheap rhetoric for headlines," Subhash stated. The BJP leader also accused the Congress of political opportunism, noting that India's political landscape, including Kerala, has long been shaped by both Congress and Left parties. He said shifting blame while ignoring this history exposes inconsistency.

Referring to Revanth Reddy's political journey, Subhash pointed out his shift from the Telugu Desam Party, founded by N. T. Rama Rao, to the Congress, questioning his ideological

The Chief Minister further stated that the UDF would educate people about the funds provided by the Central government which are not merely an act of benevolence on the part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi but rather a rightful entitlement of the people. Revanth Reddy remarked that the UDF is a coalition of workers and that the alliance comprises leaders of integrity.

He pointed out that some political forces expressed doubts regarding the feasibility of implementing the UDF's guarantees in Kerala. He stated that the Telangana state stands as a role model and the definitive answer to such criticism.

The Chief Minister remembered that, immediately upon assuming power in Telangana, the Congress government began successfully implementing the guarantees right from the very first cabinet meeting.

Citing the "Telangana Rising Vision Document - 2047," Revanth Reddy said that Telangana would achieve a \$1 trillion economy by 2034 and a \$3 trillion economy by 2047. Without increasing taxes, the Telangana state was on the development trajectory with a growth rate of 10.8 percent, he said.

KPCC president Sunny Joseph, Kerala CLP Leader V.D. Sathesnan, AICC general secretary Deep Das Munshi, UDF Convener Adoor Prakash, IUML National General Secretary P.K. Kunhalikutty, and others participated in the event.

consistency.

He further alleged duplicity in Congress' approach, citing its alliances with Left parties nationally while opposing them in Kerala. "The UDF-LDF contest has done little to transform the state's development trajectory," he remarked.

Subhash warned that such rhetoric weakens public trust and lowers the standards of political debate. He urged the leaders to focus on governance, accountability and constructive engagement instead of divisive commentary.

National Seminar on GST Reforms and Its Impact on Indian Economy by Institute of Public Enterprise

HYDERABAD, APRIL 02

The Institute of Public Enterprise (IPE), Hyderabad, successfully organized a National Seminar on "GST Reforms and Its Impact on Indian Economy" on March 30, 2026. The seminar brought together eminent policymakers, industry leaders, academicians, and professionals to deliberate on the evolving dynamics of Goods and Services Tax (GST) and its implications across sectors of the Indian economy.

The programme commenced with the Inaugural Session. Prof. S Sreenivasa Murthy, Director, IPE, delivered the welcome address, highlighting the significance of GST reforms in shaping India's fiscal landscape. Prof. Ch Lakshmi Kumari, Dean (Research), IPE, provided an overview of the seminar, emphasizing the need for continuous dialogue between academia and industry on tax reforms.

The keynote address on "GST and its Impact on Indian Economy" was delivered by Shri S Thirumalai, Director, VST Industries Ltd., who shared valuable insights on GST's transformative role in enhancing economic efficiency in various sectors. Shri A Devender Reddy, President, Hyderabad Management Association, delivered a special address focusing on GST's implications for Indian industries. The inaugural session was

further enriched by the Chief Guest, Shri N JKumar, Principal Commissioner of Central GST, Hyderabad Commissionerate, who spoke on GST's contribution to the Indian economy referring to various key aspects in public finance and public policy.

The seminar featured two insightful panel discussions. The first panel, on GST and the Services Sector, included distinguished experts such as Dr. N Srinivasa Rao, Chief Economist at Bajaj Finserv Ltd., and Prof. R Srinivasan from the University of Madras. The session was moderated by Prof. A. Pawan Kumar, IPE. The session covered several key topics, including the role of GST in the ser-

vice sector and its contribution to GDP; proposed reforms to be undertaken in the next GST Council meeting to foster growth and provide an impetus to the growth in the service sector; the impact of GST 2.0 rate rationalization on the services sector; the effect of changes in the 5% GST slab on demand for financial services and insurance penetration; the impact of GST 2.0 reforms on state revenues; and the effect of GST 2.0 on the unorganized sector. The second panel discussion focused on GST and Manufacturing, Agriculture & Other Sectors, with contributions from CA Mohd. Irshad Ahmad, Chair of the GST and Customs Committee (TFTC-CD), and Shri Sriram D S from Dr.

Reddy's Laboratories. Prof. Y Ramakrishna, Programme Head (PGDM), IPE, moderated the session. Shri Irshad highlighted the contemporary and future scope of GST in India. Shri Sriram said that the GST collection is increasing in the country year after year. Furthermore, farmers and smaller business owners still need to understand the importance of GST. Currently they are finding challenges in facing GST compliances. The seminar concluded with a Valedictory Session, where CAM. R. Vikram, M Anandam & Co. Chartered Accountants delivered the Chief Guest address, sharing practical insights on GST compliance and financial governance.



South Korean delegation praises Telangana's support for Buddhist heritage

HYDERABAD, APRIL 2

A South Korean delegation of the Buddhist Council called on Labour, Employment and Mines Minister Dr. G. Vivek Venkateswamy at his chamber in the Telangana Secretariat on Thursday.

The delegation expressed gratitude to the Minister for his continued support in promoting Buddhist values and the teachings of Lord Buddha across the state. They also appreciated his encouragement for the recently organised 'Dhamma Yatra' held across Karnataka, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh States.

The Dhamma Yatra commenced from Kalburgi in Karnataka and culminated at Budhavanam in Nagarjuna Sagar, marking a significant spiritual and cultural journey. The delegation was led by noted actor Gagan Malik and included YongJo Mun, President of the International Interchange Development Association (IIDA); GyuHwa Kang, General Manager, IIDA; Su Jeong Mun, Education President, IIDA; Keum Mi Han, CEO (Cosmetics), IIDA; Mi Kyung Park, Human Rights President, and Won Seop Kim, Secretary, IIDA.



"Jai Shri Ram" Echoes Through Hyderabad as Hanuman Jayanti Processions Sweep the City

HYDERABAD

Chants of "Jai Shri Ram" rang out across Hyderabad on Thursday, April 2, as the city threw itself into the Hanuman Jayanti celebrations, with scores of devotees pouring onto the streets for the Veera Hanuman Vijaya Shobha Yatra.

Saffron flags stretched as far as the eye could see, bikers rode in formation and DJ music thumped through some of the city's busiest intersections. Organised by the Telangana units of Bajrang Dal and Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), the procession, centred around a massive idol of Lord Hanuman, drew at least 168 smaller processions that eventually merged into the main yatra. The event was held under the watchful eye of the Hyderabad City Police.

From Narayanguda to Tadbund, a city-wide march. The route was nothing short of ambitious. The procession wound its way through Narayanguda, Chikkadpally, RTC Crossroads, Ashok Nagar, Gandhi Nagar, Bansilapet, City Light Hotel area, Subhash Road and the Ujjaini Mahankali Temple, before finally culminating at the Veeranjaneya Swamy Temple in Tadbund, Secunderabad. In Old City, similar scenes played out near Charminar, where chants of "Bharat Mata ki Jai" filled the lanes.

GITAM Congratulates Dr. Shiva Prasad on Ph.D. Achievement

Hyderabad, April 02:

GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, proudly congratulates Dr. V. Shiva Prasad Nayak on the successful completion of his Ph.D. in Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE). His doctoral research, titled "A Novel Design and Implementation of Miniature Substrate Integrated Waveguide-Based MIMO Antennas for Sub-6 GHz Applications," presents significant advancements in compact antenna design for next-generation wireless systems.



performance, including high gain, wide bandwidth, strong port isolation, high diversity gain, and very low envelope correlation.

Conducted under the guidance of Prof. K. Manjunathachari, Department of EECE, the research focuses on developing high-performance, miniaturized antennas for sub-6 GHz 5G applications. Leveraging Substrate Integrated Waveguide (SIW) technology and innovative techniques such as Half-Mode (HMSIW) and Quarter-Mode (QMSIW), the work achieves reduced antenna size without compromising gain and bandwidth. The proposed multi-port MIMO antennas support multi-band operations and demonstrate excellent

Speed up KBR Park flyover works: Jayesh Ranjan

HYDERABAD, APRIL 2

Jayesh Ranjan, Special Chief Secretary and Special Officer of the Municipal Administration and Urban Development department, directed engineering officials to accelerate the works of the KBR Park flyover. Jayesh Ranjan on Thursday inspected the progress of the flyover works on the ground, along with GHMC Commissioner R. V. Karnan and Chief engineer Sahadev Ratnakar, from LV Prasad Eye Institute to Jubilee Hills Check Post, up to Road No. 45.

Revanth remembers Jesus Christ sacrifices on Good Friday

HYDERABAD, APRIL 2

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy remembered the sacrifices and courage displayed by Jesus Christ on the occasion of Good Friday. In a statement here on Thursday, the Chief Minister wished that love, grace and blessings of Lord Jesus would be bestowed upon people. The message

of peace, compassion, service to mankind, kindness, and brotherhood taught by Christ will continue to inspire the entire humanity forever, he said.

Revanth Reddy further expressed his hope that all Christian brothers and sisters would observe Good Friday with deep devotion, reverence and also remember Jesus Christ sacrifice.

IMPROVEMENT OF FACADE LIGHTING, OUTDOOR LIGHTING AND OTHER ANCILLARY WORKS

Tender Notice No: EL/29/18, 2026/K/1914. Dated: 28-03-2026. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work:
Tender No.: 18_2026. Name of Work : Amrit Bharat Station Scheme: Improvement to Facade Lighting, Outdoor Lighting Facilities including Circulating Area and Other Ancillary work at Dalkhola, Aluabari Road, Kishanganj & Kumedpur of Kathar Division. Tender Value: ₹ 3,77,41,328/-; Earnest Money: ₹ 75,49,000/-; Date & time closing of tender at 15:00 hrs. on 20-04-2026 and opening of tender at 15:30 hrs. on 20-04-2026. Complete information alongwith tender document of above e-tender will be available in the website www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. DEE (G&Chg.), Kathar
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
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SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on @SCR_RailwaysIndia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C. Railway can be seen on our website: www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

No.Dy.CEE-GS-BZA-39-2025-26
Dt.01.04.2026

Chief Project Manager, Gati Shakti, South Central Railway, Vijayawada invites e-tender on behalf of The President of India for the following works in Open tender/Single packet system of tendering:

SI. No. 1, Tender No. BZA-GSU-Elec-39-2025-26 Dt.16.03.2026. Description of the work: BZA Division - Provision of power supply arrangements to the development of Freight train Examination facilities for CC Rake maintenance at Bitragunta (BTTR). Tender value (₹): 70,86,461.33, EMD (₹): 1,41,700.00, Completion Period: 09 Months, Cost of Tender form (₹): Nil, Date of Closing & time: 13.04.2026 @ 15.00 hrs

1. For bid document and other details, please login to website: https://ireps.gov.in.

2. Payment of Earnest Money Deposit should be paid only through Net Banking/Payment Gateway facilities made available online in IREPS (OR) Bank Guarantee towards Bid Security may be submitted in favour of FA&CAO/Con/S.C. Railway, Secunderabad manually.

3. Tenderers can submit their offers online during tender Submission/Bidding period which is fifteen days period prior to closing of Tender.

4. Tenderers should watch for any corrigenda (issued online only) up to the date of commencement of the Tender Submission/Bidding period.

Chief Project Manager, Gati Shakti, Vijayawada

Tender Notice No. LGD/L/01/2026-27/OT, dt: 02.04.2026

Dy. CEE/LGDS acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No. LGD/L/01/2026-27/OT - E-TENDER - Closing date 30.04.2026 at 5:00 hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards earnest money (Bid Security) shall be deposited either in cash through e-payment gateway or submitted as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents. The Bank Guarantee bond shall be as per Annexure-VIA and shall be valid for a period of 60 days beyond the bid validity period. The original Bank Guarantee should be delivered in person to the official nominated as indicated in the tender document within 5 working days of deadline of submission of bids. Non submission of scanned copy of B.G. with the bid on e-tendering portal (IREPS) and/or non-submission of original B.G. within the specified period shall lead to summarily rejection of bid.

SI. No. 1, Tender No.: LGD/L/01/2026-27/OT. Description of work: Replacement of isolation switch for starting battery in power cars. Approximate Value (₹): 1,63,34,350.69 (Rupees One Crore Sixty Three Lakh Thirty Four Thousand Three Hundred Fifty and paise Sixty Nine only). Bid Security (₹): 3,26,700.00. Period of Completion: 24 Months from the date of issue of letter of acceptance. Date of Closing: 30.04.2026 15:00 hrs

Website Particulars: www.ireps.gov.in

Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen: Office of the Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer, Carriage Workshop, Lallaguda, Secunderabad - 500017

For further Tender Conditions / details (available in the tender documents) and for downloading of tender documents, corrigendum, please visit our website http://www.ireps.gov.in/

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/ Carriage Workshop, Lallaguda, Secunderabad

Tender Notice No. ELS-KZJ-218, Dt. 01.04.2026

E-tender from the experience contractors are invited by the undersigned for the following works.

SI.No.-1, Tender No. & Date: ELS-KZJ-218 Dt. 01.04.2026

Description of work: Non Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of under floor Pit Wheel Lathe (NGUF-16) of M/s. HYT make for a period of 2 years at ELS/KZJ. Tender Value: Rs. 46,76,539.27, EMD (Bid Security): Rs.93,500.00, Cost of Tender form (Rs.): Nil, Completion period: 24 Months, Date & time of Closing & Opening: 22.04.2026, 15:00hrs & 22.04.2026, 15:30 hrs

1). Tender conditions/ other particulars are available in the tender documents of IREPS website at www.ireps.gov.in.

2). All the prospective tenders are requested to remit EMD (Bid Security) through online payments only. Submission of tender document through IREPS website at www.ireps.gov.in.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer, ELS, Kazipet

Tender Notice No.01/2026 Dt.02.04.2026

Supply of Stores Items E-Procurement Tender Notice

The following tenders have been floated online. Tenders are requested to visit the website www.ireps.gov.in and submit their offers online. The Tender Description, Qty, EMD, SD may be seen in website. Offers submitted manually will not be accepted. Offers by post will not be entertained. Tender closing time is 14.30 hrs of the due date of the tender. "For all Indigenous Offers, EMD will be accepted only via online system as available on www.ireps.gov.in."

Tender No.	Brief Description
6026PT017	Procurement of R-260 Welding portion
LW265018	Light Weight Track Measuring Trolley (LWTMT) RDSO NO.TM/SM/FRS/013
29265004	Supply and installation of thermal
56265137	6 Quad cable 1.4mm Dia Copper Conductor
60265228	Procurement of various types of Stretcher Bars
6026PT015	Procurement of HVN Liner RDSO Drg No.T-3706 & RDSO Drg no-T-8751
43265001	Supply Installation & Commissioning of CMS KIOSKs consists
LT255299A	Supply Installation & Commissioning of Diesel Generator 500 KVA with AMF Control Panel

Note:- Due dates of Tender Opening

SL. No. 01 on dt. 21.04.2026, SL. No. 02 on dt. 22.04.2026, SL. No. 03 on dt. 27.04.2026, SL. No. 04 on dt. 01.05.2026, SL. No. 05 & 06 on dt. 04.05.2026, SL. No. 07 on dt. 06.05.2026, SL. No. 08 on dt. 08.05.2026

Beside above mentioned Tenders There are other Tenders having value above Rs. 50 Lakhs for details, please visit Railway website above.

Principal Chief Materials Manager/ Secunderabad A013

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at http://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

(Electrical (General), Construction, Egmore, Chennai)

Tender Notice No: E-HQ-CN-MS-EOT21-2025-26, Dt:31.03.2026.

For and on behalf of the President of India, The Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer/General/ Construction /Southern Railway/ Egmore, Chennai - 600008 invites E-Tender for the following Work.

Name of the work: PROVISION OF ELECTRICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR PROPOSED NEW GOODS PLATFORM AND YARD MODIFICATION AT GANGAIKONDAN (GDN) RAILWAY STATION Works Contract.

Tender Notice No. and Date	E-HQ-CN-MS-EOT21-2025-26, Dt:31.03.2026.
1 Period of Completion	4 Months
2 Approximate Cost of Work	₹ 1,45,62,467.67/-
3 Cost of Tender form	Nil
4 Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	₹ 2,91,300/-
5 Tender Closing Date & Time	24 / 04 / 2026 & 11:00
6 Tender Opening Date & Time	24 / 04 / 2026 & 11:30

Complete details can be seen on www.ireps.gov.in.

Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Chennai, Egmore.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

CARRIAGE & WAGON WORKS

Tender Notice No: CWWAGONPAINT2026-28

For and on behalf of President of India, Chief Workshop Manager, Carriage & Wagon Works, Southern Railway, Parambur, Chennai-23 invites e-tender for the following work as per the tender notice given in e-tender portal www.ireps.gov.in.

Name of work:- Painting and Stenciling work in wagon at the premises of Carriage & Wagon Workshop

Approximate cash value (₹)	Earnest Money Deposit (₹)	Bidding start date	Tender closing date and time	Cost of tender form (₹)	Period of Completion in months
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
₹ 3,07,78,240.66/-	₹ 6,15,600/-	10 / 04 / 2026	24 / 04 / 2026 15:00	Nil	24 Month

Website Address: www.ireps.gov.in

Office Address: Chief Workshop Manager, Carriage & Wagon Works, Southern Railway, Ayanavaram, Chennai-600 023.

Chief Workshop Manager, Carriage & Wagon Works

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3 TIMES BETTER

Kavitha slams Congress over cancellation of Handloom orders

Handloom sector in crisis, Kavitha alleges bias in order allocation

Inspired by Sardar Papanna, Kavitha pushes for BC, SC, ST welfare

HYDERABAD, APRIL 2

Kavitha, President of Telangana Jagruti, strongly criticized the Congress government, accusing it of depriving handloom workers of their livelihood. She termed the unilateral cancellation of student uniform orders as a cruel and unjust act, alleging that the decision was taken to benefit certain favored private individuals at the cost of handloom workers.

Kavitha warned that any injustice toward handloom workers would not be tolerated. In a statement, she accused the Revanth Reddy-led government of pushing the lives of handloom workers into uncertainty and distress. She expressed concern over the unilateral cancellation of uniform orders issued under the Education Department, which falls under the Chief Minister's supervision.

She highlighted that every year, uniform orders worth approximately ₹105 crore are allocated to 393 handloom cooperative societies across the state, providing employment to thousands of workers. With the sudden cancellation

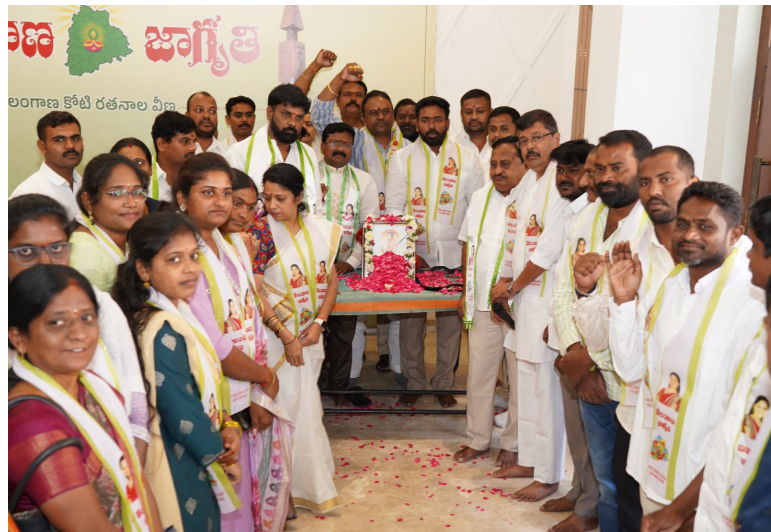
of these orders, many workers now face the risk of losing their livelihoods.

Furthermore, Kavitha pointed out that orders worth around ₹200 crore for blankets and other garments, intended for welfare departments, have not yet been issued to TESCO. She alleged that despite the deadline passing, the government has deliberately withheld these orders, thereby weakening the organization and pushing workers into a deeper crisis.

Accusing the Congress government of attempting to divert these orders to selected private entities, she demanded an immediate reversal of the decision. She warned that failing this, Telangana Jagruti would launch a large-scale protest alongside the affected workers.

Telangana Jagruti pays Tribute to Sardar Sarvai Papanna Goud in Banjara Hills

A visionary leader, Sardar Sarvai Papanna Goud, championed the cause of Bahujan empowerment as early as four centuries ago. Drawing inspiration from his legacy, Kavitha is stepping forward with a renewed com-



mitment to work for the welfare and upliftment of Bahujan communities.

Speaking at the event, Eedurugatta Sampath Goud, District President of Telangana Jagruti, Kamareddy, highlighted Papanna's enduring legacy. He noted that Papanna courageously resisted the dominance of upper castes over BCs, SCs, and STs centuries ago, displaying a rebellious spirit from a young age. Unable to tolerate social oppression, Papanna mobilized a strong force rooted in Bahujan ideology.

On the occasion of Papanna's death anniversary, Telangana Jagruti leaders paid tribute at the party office. Sampath Goud stated that with an army of around 12,000 people driven

by Bahujan ideals, Papanna rose to power and became the ruler of Golconda Fort. He also expressed sorrow that Papanna was assassinated through a conspiracy when he sought to expand his rule toward Delhi.

He further remarked that Papanna's history had long been obscured and was preserved in a London museum, coming into wider public awareness only in recent times. Drawing a parallel, he emphasized that Kavitha, inspired by Papanna's ideals, is determined to work for the welfare of BCs, SCs, and STs. He called upon people to unite and move forward under her leadership, guided by the principles of Sardar Papanna Goud.

SCR Smashes Records in 2025-26: Rs. 13,575 Cr Freight Revenue, 286 Mn Passengers Carried

HYDERABAD, APRIL 2

South Central Railway (SCR) set new benchmarks across freight, passengers, revenue, and infrastructure in 2025-26, earning national acclaim, General Manager Sanjay Kumar Srivastava announced at a press meet in Rail Nilayam, Secunderabad, today.

Srivastava highlighted an 18.3% jump in the 2026-27 budget to ₹13,026 crore from ₹11,012 crore last year. "These record performances reflect SCR's operational excellence," he said.

Freight Traffic Hits Historic Highs

SCR loaded a record 147.871 million tonnes (MT) of originating freight—topping the prior best of 144.142 MT in 2024-25. Originating freight revenue soared to ₹13,575 crore, eclipsing the previous peak of ₹13,535 crore. Cement loading reached 38.04 MT, clinker 19.83 MT, and iron ore 8.82 MT—all-time highs.

Passenger Traffic Booms

Passenger revenue hit ₹6,235.37 crore, the highest ever, up from ₹5,714.83 crore in 2024-25. The zone carried 286.44 million originating passengers, versus 263.36 million last year.

SCR ran 3,791 special trains (up from 3,495), added 276 coaches to 197 trains,



introduced LHB coaches to 59 trains, and sped up 13 trains by 2,988 minutes.

Revenue and Ticket Checking Peaks

Gross originating revenue climbed to ₹21,211.92 crore—a 3% rise over ₹20,569.35 crore in 2024-25. Ticket checking earnings reached ₹232.6 crore, surpassing ₹184.24 crore last year and the prior best of ₹220.85 crore in 2023-24.

Infrastructure Milestones SCR added 194.57 km of track: 35.93 km new lines, 78.768 km doubling, and 79.872 km tripling. Electrification covered 325 track km.

Under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, SCR redevelops 119 stations worth over ₹6,000 crore, including 11 major ones at ~₹2,900 crore. In Telangana (40 stations), Warangal, Begumpet, and Karimnagar are inaugurated; five near completion.

Safety and Tech A

dvances SCR commissioned 479 route km (Rkm) of Automatic Block Signalling (target: 357 Rkm). Kavach 4.0 covered 486 Rkm (target: 402 Rkm).

It eliminated 65 manned level-crossing (LC) gates via RUBs/ROBs/diversions, interlocked 12 LCs, and added sliding booms at 18. SCR built 72 Road Under Bridges and 27 Road Over Bridges.

Green and Efficiency Gains

Scrap sales hit ₹650.30 crore (target: ₹510 crore). SCR installed 40 lifts, 25 escalators, and 10.74 MWp solar plants—saving ₹13.2 crore annually. It earned Shunya/Shunya Plus labels for 37 service buildings, where net energy export matches or exceeds imports. These feats position SCR as a national leader in rail efficiency and passenger service.

Construction of buildings for SHG women gathers pace in villages

HYDERABAD, APRIL 2

With the objective of providing dedicated working and market spaces for women, the Panchayat Raj and Rural Development department has accelerated the construction of permanent buildings for women Self Help Groups (SHGs) in villages across the State.

The initiative is the brainchild of Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Minister Danasari Anasuya Seethakka to strengthen infrastructure for women SHGs at the grassroots level. The initiative, being implemented under the Indira Mahila Shakti scheme, is expected to serve as a platform for women's economic and social empowerment.

"Providing a strong platform for women in every village is the government's goal. These buildings will emerge as



centres for economic and social empowerment, enabling women to expand self-employment opportunities and take collective decisions. The construction should be completed within a stipulated timeframe and made available for use at the earliest," Minister Seethakka said.

A model building has been completed in Sarvepalli village of Atmakur mandal in

training programmes, human resource development, and as marketplaces for women to sell or exhibit their products/artifacts.

According to official data, 8,193 villages have identified suitable land parcels, of which 6,261 have secured approvals from district collectors. Estimates have been prepared for 5,017 buildings, and construction is progressing at a brisk pace.

Minister Seethakka ensured effective coordination between the Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) and the Panchayat Raj and Rural Development department.

As part of the 'Praja Palana - Pragathi Pranali' 99-day action plan, Seethakka laid foundation stones for several such buildings in the Mulugu Assembly constituency on Thursday.

Rs.2.93 CR TRADING SCAM BUSTED;

HYDERABAD, APRIL 2

The Cybercrime Police busted a major trading fraud where a victim was cheated of Rs.2.93 crore through a fake WhatsApp investment group. Fraudsters posed as financial advisors, lured the victim with fake profit screenshots, and convinced him to invest in bogus trading platforms. After initial small withdrawals to build trust, the victim was pushed to deposit large sums. Two accused - Shekar and Tinesh Kumar Parjapathi - were arrested for providing bank accounts used to route the fraudulent money. Police warned the citizens against trusting investment schemes promising high returns on social media platforms, and to verify the authenticity of investment advisors, companies, and trading platforms through official websites before investing money.

Komatireddy vows fast-track solutions for rural issues

NALGONDA, APRIL 2

Minister for Roads & Buildings and Cinematography Komatireddy Venkat Reddy on Thursday said the government's 99-day action plan is aimed at fast-tracking solutions to public grievances and strengthening rural development through a time-bound approach. Participating in a Gram Sabha at Tipparti mandal headquarters, Komatireddy outlined an expansive welfare and infrastructure roadmap, asserting that all eligible beneficiaries would be covered under key schemes within the next three years. These include Indiramma housing, ration cards, and supply of fine rice, with a focused push on reaching underserved rural households. The Minister highlighted that the newly launched Indiramma Life Insurance Scheme, effective from April 1, would extend coverage to over 3.15 crore people, offering financial protection in cases of death due to accident or illness. In the education sector, the government is rolling out Young



India Integrated Residential Schools and Model Schools across constituencies, along with transport facilities for students. A daily breakfast programme for students from LKG to Intermediate is also on the anvil, he said.

In a boost to women's self-help groups, the Minister promised two buses for the mandal and support for establishing a petrol pump. He also directed authorities to facilitate three paddy procurement centres to be managed by women's groups.

CS RAMAKRISHNA RAO LAUNCHES LOGO FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS SUMMIT 2026

HYDERABAD, APRIL 2



Telangana Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao on Thursday unveiled the official logo of the "Young Entrepreneurs Summit - 2026" and "Telangana Business Expo", aimed at boosting youth employment across the state.

Praising the initiative, the chief secretary expressed confidence that the summit would open new avenues for

young entrepreneurs and job seekers.

Jai Organization Founder & CEO Varaprasad Singireddy announced that the three-day event will be held from June 26 to 28, 2026, at HITEC Exhibition Centre. The summit is expected to host 300 plus exhibitors, including start-ups, industrialists and financial institutions from across India. Key highlights included - Business Expo covering mul-

ti-ple sectors ; National-level entrepreneurship conference ; Knowledge sessions on market expansion and business growth and Special Women Entrepreneurs Pavilion.

The initiative aims to promote self-employment, small and medium enterprises (SME) growth, and rural entrepreneurship. Free visitor passes are available via the official website www.yes4growth.org

BRS MLA's unique costume protest over Hyderabad's mosquito menace

HYDERABAD, APRIL 2

BRS MLA D. Sudheer Reddy staged a unique protest inside the Assembly premises on Thursday, donning an attire fashioned from a mosquito net to draw attention to the escalating mosquito problem in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC).

He expressed his criticism of the government for its inadequacy in addressing this pressing issue and called for immediate actions to safeguard the people from potential diseases. The MLA attempted to hold a press conference in the Assembly Media Hall, accompanied by a fogging machine and

prompting concern among both residents and visitors. He highlighted that routine anti-mosquito measures previously executed by the former BRS administration were no longer being effectively undertaken. He demanded that the government deploy a minimum of ten fogging machines per division and initiate extensive fogging operations immediately.

Sudheer Reddy further condemned the restrictions imposed within the Assembly grounds, asserting that the intervention by the marshals was unjustified. He emphasised that the protest aimed to urgently bring attention to a civic issue that affects millions of residents.

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Kishan insulted Telangana's self-respect on floor of Parliament: Harish

HYDERABAD, APRIL 2

Former minister and BRS Deputy Floor Leader Harish Rao strongly condemned the remarks made by Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy in the Rajya Sabha, accusing him of spreading blatant falsehoods, distorting history, and insulting the self-respect of Telangana on the floor of Parliament.

In a statement here on Thursday, Harish Rao said Kishan Reddy, who had failed to stand firmly with the Telangana movement when it mattered, has once again betrayed Telangana in Parliament through misleading and irresponsible statements.

He took strong exception to Kishan Reddy's claim that the transfer of seven mandals to Andhra Pradesh was part of the AP Reorganisation Act, and termed it a historical falsehood and a grave injustice to Telangana.

Harish Rao said it was the BJP-led union government that brought an amendment and issued an ordinance to



transfer the seven mandals to Andhra Pradesh, and asserted that Kishan Reddy cannot escape responsibility for that betrayal.

He recalled that BRS president K. Chandrasekhara Rao had, at the time, openly opposed the move and even called for a Telangana bandh to protest the injustice done to the state. He said it was shocking that Kishan Reddy is now attempting to rewrite history and mislead Parliament.

Harish Rao said Kishan Reddy's comments in Parliament have hurt Telangana's dignity and exposed a larger political conspiracy to undermine the state's legitimate interests.

Turning to the Kaleshwaram

project, Harish Rao said Kishan Reddy's comments in Parliament were nothing but a repetition of the false propaganda being spread by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, and that this clearly reflects a dark political understanding between Congress and BJP.

He asked whether it is false that Kaleshwaram is the world's largest multi-stage lift irrigation project, or that it lifts water from an elevation of 148 metres to 618 metres. He also questioned whether the fact that Kaleshwaram waters are currently flowing through canals and reaching farmers' fields even in peak summer can also be denied.

Harish Rao challenged Kishan Reddy to visit Telan-

gana and witness firsthand the irrigation being sustained by Kaleshwaram waters in the fields.

He also criticised Kishan Reddy for asking whether public money was spent from KCR's personal pocket, calling it an immature and absurd argument. He asked whether the BJP government builds national highways and projects using personal money rather than public funds.

Harish Rao said it is deeply unfortunate that despite Telangana being represented by eight BJP MPs and eight Congress MPs, neither party is standing up for the state's voice in Parliament. Instead of representing Telangana's cause, they are trying to suppress it.



Navy escorting tankers via Hormuz, no fuel or gas shortage: Rajnath Singh

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday said Indian Navy vessels are escorting and ensuring the safe passage of the country's oil tankers through the sensitive waters of the Strait of Hormuz, adding that the government is closely monitoring developments in the region. Speaking at a Sainik Samman Sannam in poll-bound Kerala, Singh asserted that India is not facing any shortage of fuel or gas and remains well-prepared to handle any potential energy disruptions arising from the ongoing conflict in West Asia. "We are closely monitoring the situation in West Asia and are prepared to tackle any scenario," he said. Singh also highlighted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is actively using his diplomatic skills to safeguard Indian interests in the Gulf region amid the ongoing tensions. He said the government is closely monitoring developments in West Asia and is ready to respond to any situation that may arise. During his speech, the defence minister urged voters to support the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the upcoming Kerala assembly elections, describing it as the right party to bring changes to the state. He referred to the BJP's promises as "Modiyude guarantees" or Modi's guarantees, emphasising the Prime Minister's leadership as reliable and proven. Rajnath Singh described Modi's leadership as "24-carat gold" and stated that it has been tested and trusted over time.

Why Chennai is central to Vijay's strategy against DMK, AIADMK

NEW DELHI, UPDATED: APR 2, 2026

Vijay might be trying what even AIADMK's icons MGR and Jayalalitha never dared in their early political life – challenge the DMK in its bastion, Chennai. Choosing to contest from Tiruchirappalli (East) as a 'safe seat' and the Perambur seat from Chennai district and fielding his best-known faces from there, C Vijay Joseph is trying to project his fledgling TVK as the main challenger to the ruling DMK by edging out the AIADMK from the narrative.

If the TVK manages to get enough seats in Chennai district, home to a diverse population, it could project itself as the party accepted by all communities, just like its leader Thalapaty Vijay is.

On Thursday, Vijay filed his nomination from Tiruchirappalli (East) or Trichy for the Tamil Nadu Assembly election, voting for which will take place on April 23. While the DMK is in a pre-poll alliance with the Congress, the AIADMK has joined forces with the BJP. Vijay's speech after announcing TVK's candidates list on Sunday was viewed as a direct message to the DMK that he is no pushover. Contesting from Northern Chen-



ennai's Perambur seat and fielding his well-known faces in Chennai, Vijay is positioning himself and his party as a direct challenger to Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister MK Stalin and the ruling DMK. Perambur constituency borders the Kolathur Constituency, from where CM Stalin is seeking a re-election. Chennai district has remained the DMK's electoral bastion for years. Staunch challengers of the DMK, MG Ramachandran (MGR) and Jayalalitha, couldn't completely decimate the DMK in Chennai for years. MGR won three successive elections in Tamil Nadu, but he still couldn't dominate the DMK in Chennai, apart from the 1977 wave election. Jayalalitha's decade-long effort damaged the for-

ness of the DMK in the 2006 and 2011 elections. But the DMK reclaimed its dominance in Chennai in 2016 after Jayalalitha's death. In the 2021 Assembly election, the DMK-led alliance swept the Chennai district, winning all 16 seats. **HOW VIJAY IS TRYING TO MAKE TAMIL NADU ELECTION A DMK-TVK BATTLE?** Vijay's announcement of contesting from two seats is a strategic move. As many political analysts believe, Tiruchirappalli could be a safe option, and Perambur could bolster his image as the challenger to Chief Minister Stalin. Tamil Nadu politics has been dominated by two major parties, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and the All India Anna Dravida Mun-

netra Kazhagam (AIADMK), since the late 1960s. The Congress ruled Tamil Nadu for the first 20 years after Independence, but then became a minor partner. In 1967, the DMK became the first regional party to form the government in Tamil Nadu. In 1972, MGR quit the DMK due to an internal rift with M Karunanidhi and launched his own party, the AIADMK. Till the 2021 Assembly elections, Tamil Nadu has only witnessed a two-way battle between the DMK and the AIADMK. After 59 years, the battle in the state is viewed as three-way, after the superstar of Tamil films, C Vijay Joseph, announced his entry into politics and launched his party Tamizha Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) in February 2024. Vijay's extensive focus on Chennai is seen as a threat to the DMK, as it holds all 16 seats in the district. Any gain by the TVK is a loss for the DMK. According to some political analysts, with his Chennai strategy, Vijay is trying to sideline the DMK's age-old challenger, the AIADMK, and position his party, the TVK, as the primary opposition force in the state at the moment. According to analysts, Vijay's strategy to field his party's well-known faces in Chennai could rock DMK's momentum in the up-

coming election. The Perambur seat where Vijay is contesting has been held by DMK MLA RD Sekar since 2019, and the actor-politician will have to take on the incumbent. Not just Vijay, other strong candidates of the TVK have also been fielded from Chennai district. TVK general secretary N Anand, known as Bussy Anand, is contesting from T Nagar. TVK's general secretary and election strategist, Aadhav Arjuna, is contesting from Villivakkam. K Rajamohan, Deputy General Secretary, contesting from Egmore, and VS Babu, former AIADMK MLA who joined TVK, is contesting from Kolathur and will take on CM MK Stalin.

THALAPATHY VIJAY'S POPULARITY: A CHALLENGE FOR DMK AND AIADMK

Vijay's entry into politics from films has changed the calculus of Tamil Nadu politics. For the DMK, the challenge has moved beyond routine anti-incumbency, evolving into a direct battle against a charismatic leader who can energise the youth, dominate public attention, and influence the narrative. Because of the diverse communities, Chennai North serves not only as a testing ground but also as a symbolic ground for the TVK's political emergence.

Diversion of Train Services

CHENNAI, APRIL 2:

Fixed Time Corridor Block for various safety and maintenance work has been approved in Madurai Division for the month of April, 2026, hence the following changes have been made in the pattern of train services:

1. Train No. 16352 Nagercoil – Mumbai CST Express leaving Nagercoil at 06.15 hrs on 05th, 09th, 12th, 16th, 19th, 26th & 30th April, 2026 will be diverted to run via Madurai, Manamadurai, Karaikkudi and Tiruchchirappalli skipping stoppages at Madurai, Sholavandan, Kodaikanal Road, Dindigul and Manaparai. Additional stoppages will be provided at Aruppukkottai, Manamadurai, Sivaganga, Karaikkudi and Pudukkottai for the benefit of passengers.
2. Train No. 12666 Kanniyakumari – Howrah Superfast Express leaving Kanniyakumari at 05.50 hrs on 04th, 11th, 18th, & 25th April, 2026 will be diverted to run via Madurai, Manamadurai, Karaikkudi and Tiruchchirappalli skipping stoppages at Kodaikanal Road and Dindigul. Additional stoppages will be provided at Manamadurai, Sivaganga, Karaikkudi and Pudukkottai for the benefit of passengers.
3. Train No. 16128 Guruvayur – Chennai Egmore Express leaving Guruvayur at 23.15 hrs on 03rd, 04th, 05th, 06th, 08th, 09th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th & 29th April, 2026 will be diverted to run via Virudunagar, Manamadurai, Karaikkudi and Tiruchchirappalli skipping stoppages at Madurai, Sholavandan, Kodaikanal Road, Dindigul and Manaparai. Additional stoppages will be provided at Aruppukkottai, Manamadurai, Sivaganga, Karaikkudi and Pudukkottai for the benefit of passengers.
4. Train No. 17070 Kanniyakumari – Hyderabad Express leaving Kanniyakumari at 05.15 hrs on 10th, 17th & 24th April, 2026 will be diverted to run via Madurai, Manamadurai, Karaikkudi and Tiruchchirappalli skipping stoppages at Kodaikanal Road and Dindigul. Additional stoppages will be provided at Manamadurai, Sivaganga, Karaikkudi and Pudukkottai for the benefit of passengers.
5. Train No. 17616 Tuticorin – Kacheguda Express leaving Tuticorin at 07.40 hrs on 29th April, 2026 will be diverted to run via Virudunagar, Manamadurai, Karaikkudi and Tiruchchirappalli skipping stoppages at Madurai and Dindigul. Additional stoppages will be provided at Manamadurai, Sivaganga, Karaikkudi and Pudukkottai for the benefit of passengers.

PWD yet to get NOC for Munak Canal elevated road corridor

NEW DELHI: (APR 2)

The Public Works Department's proposed 16-kilometre elevated road project over the Munak Canal is yet to take off for want of a no-objection certificate from the Haryana government, an official source said on Thursday. The matter was raised in a meeting between both governments earlier.

ISW Formation Day Celebrated

HYDERABAD, APRIL 2:

The 41st Formation Day of the Telangana State Intelligence Security Wing (ISW), a specialized unit entrusted with VVIP security, was celebrated with great enthusiasm and grandeur on Thursday at the ISW office in Hyderabad.

Addressing the gathering as the Chief Guest, OSD B.V. Kamasani Reddy underscored the critical importance of vigilance in the security domain. OSD stated that even a minor lapse could have serious conse-

quences and stressed the need for adhering to a "Zero Error" approach in all operations. He also recalled the historical context behind the establishment of the ISW on April 2, 1985, highlighting that the wing was created to strengthen security mechanisms in the aftermath of the assassination of former Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi in 1984 and the increasing activities of extremist groups such as the PWG in the then undivided state. On the occasion, he announced the institution of the "ISW

Champion Trophy," which will be awarded annually to personnel who exhibit exceptional dedication and excellence in the discharge of their duties. CMSG Security Officer Sri G. Chakravarthy, in his address, described the ISW as a highly sensitive and crucial wing, commending the professionalism and efficiency of Telangana's security personnel. He noted that their expertise in VVIP security has earned appreciation from other states as well. Communications SP Sri Srinivasa Chary highlighted

the growing threat of technology-driven attacks, stating that such threats are increasingly surpassing conventional physical risks. He emphasized the need for optimal utilization of advanced security tools, including drone technology and signal jammers. SP Syd Basa remarked that VVPS from across the country repose immense confidence in Telangana's security framework, attributing this trust to the unwavering commitment and professionalism of Personal Security Officers (PSOs).



Khwairakpam Krishnagopal Memorial Building: CHC Ningthoukhong Inaugurated

NINGTHOUKHONG, 2ND APRIL, 2026. BISHNUPUR:

In a moment of great pride and emotion, the Khwairakpam Krishnagopal Memorial Building at Community Health Centre (CHC), Ningthoukhong was dedicated to the people of Bishnupur today. The inauguration ceremony was graced by the Hon'ble Governor and Hon'ble Chief Minister, marking a significant milestone in the district's healthcare journey. The Gogendro Foundation extends a warm welcome to the dignitaries and guests on this momentous occasion. Speaking on the occasion, the Hon'ble Governor said, "Today, we gather to dedicate the Khwairakpam Krishnagopal Memorial Building at CHC Ningthoukhong to the people of Bishnupur. This building is a symbol of the community's resilience and commitment to healthcare. It's a testament to what can be achieved when people come together for a common cause. I congratulate the people of Bishnupur for this achievement and urge everyone to continue working towards a healthier future. My best wishes

to the healthcare workers and staff who will be serving this community." Hon'ble Minister K. Govindas Singh also expressed his happiness, saying, "I'm honoured to be here today to inaugurate this beautiful building. The Khwairakpam Krishnagopal Memorial Building is a significant addition to our healthcare infrastructure. It's a tribute to the community's spirit and a step towards ensuring quality healthcare for all. I thank the donors and well-wishers who contributed to this project. Let's work together to make Bishnupur a model for healthcare in the region." The building is more than just a structure; it's a commitment to providing dignified healthcare to the mothers, daughters, and families of Bishnupur. Built with the support of the people, it stands as a testament to the power of community and purpose coming together to bring about transformation. The people of Bishnupur have played a crucial role in making this achievement possible, and the dedication of this building is a tribute to their tireless efforts. As we move forward, we reaffirm our commitment to building a stronger, healthier future for all.

Strategic Health Services in Relangi and Duvva Villages

Door-to-Door Awareness Campaign on Lifestyle Diseases as Part of "Project Health Tadepalligudem"

BY DR SUNEELKUMAR YANDRA

Relangi/Duvva, April 02: Following the successful launch of World Homeopathy Awareness Week, A.S.R. Homeopathic Medical College and Hospital (ASRHMC)—in collaboration with the Umar Alisha Rural Development Trust (UARDT)—organized extensive medical camps and awareness programs today in the villages of Relangi and Duvva. As part of "Project Health Tadepalligudem," the college faculty, house surgeons, and students took scientific medical knowledge



(Tangible Science) directly to the doorsteps of the rural population. The primary objective of this mission is to provide scientific diagnostic tests and treatment to over 2,000 underprivileged individuals in the West Godavari region. - Door-to-Door Awareness and Clinical Fo-

cus Student teams adopted an innovative approach by going door-to-door to explain the unique efficacy of homeopathic treatment for chronic diseases. During special sessions conducted on this occasion, awareness was raised regarding the following top-

ics. These camps were conducted under the supervision of prominent medical experts and faculty members. A medical team led by Professor Dr. Kadali Srinivas and Dr. B. Aruna Kumari oversaw the clinical screenings and awareness sessions. In Relangi village, under the guid-

ance of Dr. N. Srinivas and Dr. Trilokya, medical advice and treatment were provided to hundreds of villagers. - Collective Cooperation Volunteers from the Umar Alisha Rural Development Trust played a pivotal role in organizing these camps. This initiative is being conducted in alignment with the directives of the National Commission for Homeopathy (NCH) to establish Homeopathy as a standardized, research-based public health system. These awareness weeks and medical camps will continue until April 7th. The celebrations will conclude on April 10th with a national seminar and an awards presentation ceremony, held to mark the 271st birth anniversary of Dr. Samuel Hahnemann.

BLW Creates New History Record Production of 572 Locomotives in FY 2025-26

VARANASI, APRIL 2:

Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW), Varanasi, achieved a historic milestone on April 2, 2026, by recording its highest-ever annual production of 572 locomotives in the financial year 2025-26. General Manager Shri Ashutosh Pant visited the workshop to congratulate officers and employees for this remarkable accomplishment and also inaugurated a newly developed garden within the premises, emphasizing the organization's commitment to environmental sustainability.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Pant described the achievement as a significant step toward strengthening Indian Railways and advancing the vision of self-reliance. The production figure represents an impressive growth of around 20 percent compared to the previous financial year. With efficient utilization of

General Manager Shri Ashutosh Pant Congratulates Officers and Employees; Inaugurates Newly Developed Garden in Workshop



working days, BLW maintained an average production rate of approximately 1.9 locomotives per day, showcasing its enhanced productivity and operational excellence. Out of the total production, 558 were electric locomotives, surpassing the Railway Board's target of 553 units. The major variants produced include 401 WAG-9 freight locomotives, 143 WAP-7 passenger locomotives, and 14 WAP-7 locomotives under the Amrit Bharat category. This performance

highlights BLW's strong technical capabilities and its ability to consistently exceed expectations. BLW also made notable progress on the global front by exporting 10 locomotives to Mozambique, reinforcing its presence in international markets. In addition, four diesel locomotives were manufactured for non-railway customers, diversifying its production portfolio. Since its inception up to March 2026, BLW has produced a total of 11,259 locomotives, including

186 percent, reaching 4,624 units. Water pump assembly production witnessed an exceptional growth of 482 percent, increasing from 122 to 710 units. Looking ahead, BLW has been assigned ambitious targets for the financial year 2026-27, including the production of 642 electric locomotives, with 166 units of the Amrit Bharat WAP-7 variant. Additional goals include periodic overhauling of 15 locomotives and expanded in-house manufacturing targets across various components.

The inauguration of the new garden highlighted BLW's focus on promoting a green workplace and environmental conservation. Shri Pant praised the dedication, teamwork, and innovation of the workforce and expressed confidence that BLW will continue to achieve new milestones and play a vital role in the future growth of Indian Railways.

Bengal: EC publishes 8th supplementary list, 52 lakh voter cases disposed of

KOLKATA: (APR 2)

The EC on Thursday published the eighth supplementary list and said it has disposed of around 52 lakh cases under adjudication in West Bengal, expressing hope that the process would be completed within the next four days in line with directions of the Calcutta High Court.

The Chief Electoral Officer's (CEO) office has de-

leted around 35 to 40 percent of the names from the rolls so far, a senior official said.

"Verification and disposal of about 52 lakh cases, which were under adjudication, have been completed till Thursday evening. Work for the remaining nearly 8 lakh applicants is in progress and is expected to be completed within the next four days," he said.

EDITORIAL

OPEN FORUM

POSITIVE SURPRISES AND PERSISTENT RED FLAGS IN INDIA'S INDUSTRIAL RECOVERY

India's industrial growth held a positive surprise in February 2026, coming in at 5.2%, marginally faster than the growth in January. Apart from November and December last year, February's industrial performance — as measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) — was the best in nearly two years. Why this was a surprise was because this performance diverges quite sharply from what was indicated by the Index of Eight Core Industries released earlier this month. The eight core sectors — crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, coal, fertilizers, steel, cement, and electricity — saw their combined growth slow to 2.3% in February, about half the growth rate in January. These core sectors have a weightage of about 40% in the IIP, and so the expectation was that they would drag the IIP down too. Yet, something else happened. This would imply that sectors outside the core ones did well. Most notably, the manufacturing sector in the IIP saw growth accelerate to a respectable 6% in February. The capital goods sector's growth accelerated to a 28-month high of 12.5%, on an already strong base of 8.1%. These are good signs for labour and capital. What is more concerning is that some elements of consumer demand are going in the opposite direction. Consumer durables grew 7.3%, but consumer non-durables contracted 0.6%, the second consecutive month of shrinkage. It had contracted in February last year as well, so this was not a statistical anomaly.

In general, spending on non-durables involves greater discretion on a day-to-day basis, and so is a better gauge of consumer sentiment. At the moment, at least this data suggest that sentiment is low. This also correlates with the new series of national accounts data showing that household expenditure has had a shrinking contribution to GDP. The government should also look into why the IIP and the Eight Core Industries index moved in opposite directions in February. The two are normally highly correlated, and so a divergence is immediately noteworthy. From the looks of things, February's strong IIP performance is likely to be a short-lived acceleration. The West Asia crisis is already having an impact on the economy. The monthly economic review by the Finance Ministry has said that early high-frequency economic indicators for March are pointing towards a "moderation in economic momentum". The longer the war persists, the sharper this "moderation" is likely to be. On a positive note, while what is being measured might turn dismal, how it is being measured will soon improve. The new, upgraded series of IIP data will be released in May. As the new GDP and CPI have done, the new IIP is sure to provide a clearer picture of the economy — the good and the bad.

A Law for Parents, A Lesson for Society

In Indian culture, parents have always been regarded as equivalent to gods — "Matru Devo Bhava, Pitru Devo Bhava." This is not merely a scriptural line but the very soul of our social structure. Therefore, it is extremely shameful for any civilized society if parents, who gave birth and devoted their lives to raising their children, have to face neglect, humiliation, and financial insecurity in the evening of their lives, and are forced to seek legal and administrative support to receive maintenance from their own children. Unfortunately, this is becoming a harsh reality of our times. Old age itself is a major challenge. With advancing age, physical strength declines, illnesses increase, and sources of income almost disappear. Whatever little savings people accumulate by the time of retirement are often spent on children's education, marriages, and building houses. Government employees may still receive pensions, but those associated with the private sector or small businesses often face greater difficulties. In such circumstances, if children do not take care of their parents, it is not merely a family failure but can be considered a social crime.

Keeping these circumstances in mind, the "Telangana Employees Accountability and Parents Support Monitoring Bill 2026," passed by the Telangana Assembly, has emerged as an important and historic initiative. The objective of this bill is to ensure that if children fail to take care of their parents, a fixed amount will be deducted from their salaries and given to the parents. This law will apply not only to government employees but also to private sector employees, Members of Parliament, MLAs, and local body representatives. Thus, this law is not merely a legal provision but an attempt to give legal form to social responsibility. Although India already has the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, the new Telangana bill is considered more comprehensive, sensitive, and effective. It provides that if children fail to take care of their parents, then upon complaint, fifteen percent of the salary or ten thousand rupees (whichever is lower) will be deducted and deposited into the parents' account. The complaint will be resolved within six-



ty days by the District Collector, and a Senior Citizens Commission will also be formed for this purpose. Another important aspect of this law is that not only biological parents but step-parents can also file complaints.

This law is also significant because the Indian family system is rapidly changing. Joint families have broken down into nuclear families, and now even the concept of single-person families is emerging. Career competition, economic pressures, urban lifestyle, consumerism, and the growing sense of individual freedom have weakened the traditional family structure. In many cases, parents are sent to old-age homes, and even if they are kept at home, they often face neglect, disrespect, and mental suffering. Sometimes even their medicines, food, and care are neglected. In such a situation, an important question arises — can the service of parents be ensured only through values or is there also a need for law? Ideally, values alone should be sufficient. Indian history and tradition provide many inspiring examples of devotion to parents. The example of Shraavan Kumar is considered an ideal symbol of a devoted son in Indian culture, who carried his blind parents on his shoulders on a pilgrimage. Similarly, Lord Rama accepted exile to honor his father's promise. These are not merely religious stories but moral ideals of Indian society.

In history, personalities like Chhatrapati Shivaji, Mahatma Gandhi, and Swami Vivekananda also demonstrated

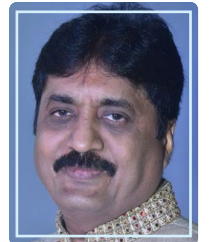
deep respect and devotion towards their parents. This clearly shows that respect and service towards parents have always been the core spirit of Indian culture. However, as values weaken today, society is compelled to take the support of law. But it would not be appropriate to view this issue from only one side. It is also true that sometimes parents impose excessive discipline, control, and expectations on their children. They want their children to live strictly according to their wishes and not make independent decisions regarding marriage, career, or lifestyle. Sometimes parents interfere excessively in their children's personal lives, which creates tension within the family. In such situations, distance increases between parents and children, and the family environment becomes stressful.

Therefore, the solution to this problem is not only law but also balance, dialogue, and mutual understanding within the family. Children should understand that their parents devoted their entire lives to them, and therefore serving and respecting them in old age is their moral duty. At the same time, parents must also understand that times have changed and the new generation has a different lifestyle and mindset; therefore, they must learn to understand their children and give them independence. In reality, a family is an institution that runs on love, sacrifice, respect, and dialogue — not merely on authority and discipline. Where there is only authority, there will be conflict; where there is only sacrifice, there will

be imbalance; but where there is love and balance, the family will be strong.

The Telangana law is an important initiative, but it is not the final solution. Law can compel children to maintain their parents, but it cannot create love, respect, and sensitivity. For that, society needs moral education, family values, and social awareness. Schools, social organizations, and religious institutions should teach respect and care for parents and elders. Today, we talk about a "New India" and a "Developed India," but economic development alone is not sufficient. If the elderly in society remain insecure, neglected, and humiliated, development will remain incomplete. True development is that in which every section of society — children, youth, women, and the elderly — can live a secure and dignified life.

Therefore, it is necessary to work on three levels: First, the government and laws should ensure the economic and social security of the elderly. Second, values of respect and service towards parents should be developed in society. Third, balanced and dialogue-based relationships should be established between parents and children within families. If these three levels become strong, not only will the lives of the elderly become secure and dignified, but the family institution will also become stronger and human values will remain alive in society. It can certainly be said that parents are not just a part of the family — they are the roots of the family. If the roots are weak, the tree will also be weak. Therefore, respect and protection of the elderly is not merely a family or legal issue, but a test of the morality and civilization of society. A society that does not respect its elders can never become truly great.



LALIT GARGG
Writer, Journalist, Columnist

CHILD

All things increase numbers ascend, forms extend yet where does growth truly begin? Time casts its towering shadow across the world, but has it ever become a dawn within? They utter "freedom" with fluent ease but is it the flight of the soul, or the fever of craving whirling in invisible seas? A liberty of light or a labyrinth of longing disguised as release? When anger dissolves in its own brief fire, what remains ash, or a purer pyre? In eyes eclipsed by desire's mist, where hides the truth that cannot be kissed by illusion's insist? Growth not extension, but elevation not perfume, but pure perception; not language caged in lines and letters, but wisdom that silently betters the being beyond all narration. A blossom of the unseen, rooted in realization. Learning not the shimmer of a transient score, nor the arithmetic of "more and more" it is a current, quietly sure, that carves the mind into something enduringly pure. Not marks that memory may erase, but a mirror where thought meets grace not retention but revelation, a sacred inward migration. Health the unadorned, unseen crown lost in the rush that wears speed's gown. The world, a flute of frantic breath, plays a song that borders death. Yet Silence that ancient, unborn sound is the axis where all is found.

If that stillness softly stays, life becomes a deathless blaze. Child a universe folded into a spark, an infinite hymn in a moment's arc laughter—an echo of endless delight, vision—a seed of primordial sight. Each step you take a rhythm untold, a scripture of futures waiting to unfold. Elders—they preach not, yet profoundly teach their silence says what words can't reach. Their footsteps fall like verses cast, their gazes—bridges from future to past. The child's heart a sacred stone, where living scriptures are engraved alone. Growth not a thicket of eloquent excess, but a single insight ripened to fullness. Not bloom alone but the burden of becoming not age but awareness ever incoming. Not completion but consecration into the infinite's quiet transformation. In all that lives one flame, indivisible, bright it neither wanes nor yields to night. No darkness dims it, no distance divides we close our vision, and call it "it hides." Oh Child you are not shape, but sacred design not flesh, but a pulse in the cosmic line. Not a traveler bound to a given way you are the path that shows the way. Not merely life that flickers and departs you are the Light that kindles all hearts.

...: Dr. Peruka Raju ...
7810032847

Carrying the Cross: How India Observe Good Friday

BY VIVEK SHUKLA

Churches across the capital will host silent prayer services and large gatherings of the faithful, emphasizing sacrifice, humility, and remembrance. From traditional processions in Delhi to elaborate rituals in states like Kerala and Goa, the day reflects diverse yet deeply spiritual practices. Beyond religious observance, Good Friday also highlights India's enduring ethos of communal respect and shared understanding.

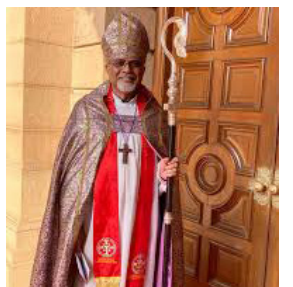
Good Friday is observed across India tomorrow with solemn devotion, but in Delhi, the day carries a distinctive blend of history, community, and quiet faith. Churches across the capital come alive not with celebration, but with silence, prayer, and reflection, as Christians commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. It is a day marked by fasting, humility, and remembrance—yet one that also binds together diverse communities through shared belief.

For Brother Solomon George of Mukti Aradhnalaya Church in Pitampura, Good Friday is among the busiest and most meaningful days of the year. He leads solemn prayers attended by hundreds of worshippers who gather to reflect on sacrifice and redemption. His preparations begin well in advance, reaching out to the faithful and inviting them to participate in one of Delhi's most cherished traditions—the Palm Sunday procession from Karol Bagh's Baptist Church to Christ Methodist Church at Tees Hazari.

Fasting is an essential part of observance. Many Christians abstain from food or consume only simple meals, often vegetarian, until the afternoon prayers conclude. In some households, hot cross buns—spiced and marked with a cross—are prepared as a modest and symbolic break from the fast. These traditions, though simple, carry deep spiritual significance and are passed down through generations.

Across India, the observance of Good Friday varies by region but retains its core essence of solemnity and devotion. In states with larger Christian populations, such as Kerala, Goa, and Nagaland, the day is marked with particularly elaborate religious practices. In Kerala, for example, some churches conduct long services that can last up to three hours, including detailed readings of the Passion narrative and extended prayers. The faithful often stand for much of the service, reflecting endurance and reverence.

In Goa, known for its Portuguese herit-



age and historic churches, Good Friday is observed with dramatic reenactments of the crucifixion. Processions featuring statues of Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary move through the streets, accompanied by hymns and prayers. These events draw not only local worshippers but also tourists who come to witness the deeply rooted traditions of Goan Christianity.

In northeastern states like Nagaland and Mizoram, where Christianity is widely practiced, Good Friday is observed with community-wide participation. Churches are filled to capacity, and the day is spent almost entirely in prayer, singing, and reflection. The sense of unity and shared faith is particularly strong in these regions.

Despite regional differences, a common thread across India is the emphasis on silence, sacrifice, and spiritual introspection. Unlike festivals that are marked by celebration and festivity, Good Friday stands apart as a day of mourning and contemplation. Even in bustling urban centers, there is a noticeable shift in tone, as people slow down and engage in quieter activities.

In recent years, digital platforms have also become part of Good Friday observances in India. Many churches livestream their services, allowing people who cannot attend in person to participate from their homes. This has made the observance more accessible, especially for the elderly and those living far from church communities.

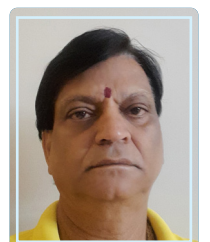
Another notable aspect of Good Friday in India is the interfaith understanding it fosters. In a country known for its religious diversity, such occasions often become moments of shared respect. Neighbors of

different faiths may exchange greetings or simply acknowledge the significance of the day, reinforcing a sense of communal harmony.

In Delhi, this spirit is particularly evident. "The city's diverse population ensures that religious observances, whether Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, or Christian, are recognized and respected across communities. Good Friday thus becomes not only a day of Christian devotion but also a reflection of India's broader ethos of coexistence," says Brother Solomon.

"As evening falls, the somber observances gradually conclude, often with a final prayer service. Churches remain simply decorated, without flowers or bright colours, symbolizing the period of mourning that continues until Easter Sunday. The silence of Good Friday lingers, setting the stage for the hope and renewal that Easter brings," says Dr. Paul Swarup, Bishop of Delhi.

In essence, the observance of Good Friday in Delhi and across India is a powerful reminder of faith, sacrifice, and unity. It is a day that transcends religious boundaries, inviting people to pause, reflect, and connect with deeper spiritual values.



VIVEK SHUKLA



Hero Doctor Saves Passenger on Flight

IMPHAL, 2 APRIL, 2026 :

In a remarkable act of professionalism and humanity, Dr. Loni Liriina, Consultant Critical Care at BABINA Hospital and American Oncology Institute (AOI) Imphal, successfully managed a critical medical emergency aboard an international flight, saving the life of a young passenger from Tamil Nadu mid-air. The incident occurred on February 28, 2026, when Dr. Loni Liriina was travelling on an Air India flight from Tokyo to New Delhi. Responding to an urgent appeal for medical assistance, Dr. Liriina and another junior doctor onboard attended to a 21-year-old passenger experiencing severe chest pain and breathing difficulties. With limited resources, Dr. Liriina initiated emergency treatment, stabilizing the patient within 30 minutes. "Any doctor would have done the same. I was simply doing my duty," Dr. Liriina said. The flight continued without needing an emergency landing, and the passenger was stable upon arrival in New Delhi. Fellow passengers and crew applauded Dr. Liriina's swift action. BABINA Hospital expressed pride in Dr. Liriina's service, highlighting the values of compassion and duty upheld by medical professionals.

Revanth Reddy Dares Opposition to Visit Telangana Over Six Guarantees Implementation

KOCHI:

Chief Minister Shri A Revanth Reddy launched a broadside against the opposition parties for criticizing the guarantees announced by the UDF in the election manifesto. The Chief Minister challenged the political rivals to visit Telangana and study the successful implementation of the six guarantees and personally witness the progress along with the Congress government's track record in good governance.

Further, the CM said that he would personally demonstrate to CM Pinrayi Vijayan and his ministers how the guarantees have been implemented in a true spirit if the Kerala CM delegation visits Telangana. Releasing the UDF manifesto for the ensuing Kerala Assembly elections in Kochi on Thursday, CM Revanth Reddy declared that the 'dark era' of CM Vijayan came to an end and 'Golden era' under the United Democratic Front was about to start soon. "Modi Brothers": CM draw parallels between Pinarayi and KCR. The Chief Minister fired a salvo at Kerala CM Vijayan and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Referring to Modi and Vijayan, the Chief Minister remarked that India and Kerala are currently being ruled by the "Modi Brothers." Indirectly raising the Sabarimala gold controversy, the CM alleged that even God's own property was lacking protection in the "God's Own Country."

CM Revanth Reddy noted that CM Pinarayi Vijayan has been in power in Kerala for the past ten years, much in the same way that KCR ruled

KCR and Vijayan families are unbridled corrupt and despotic rulers Seeking the central funds are the people's right and not Modi's charity CM Revanth Reddy releases UDF Manifesto



Telangana for a decade between 2014 and 2023 end. The Chief Minister drew parallels between Vijayan and KCR governments with unbridled corruption, administrative incompetence and despotic rule. The CM asserted that a transformative change, similar to Telangana witnessing since 2023 is poised to take place in Kerala soon. The CM exuded confidence that Kerala people would oust the Pinarayi Vijayan government from power. Responding to questions from reporters, the Chief Minister mentioned "Po Mone Vijaya" (Go away, Vijayan) and clarified that Vijayan is a political adversary. He would not talk like Modi and cannot refrain from criticizing the political rivals.

CM Revanth Reddy stressed that eradicating corruption, curbing depletion of state revenue, optimum utilization of funds under the central government schemes and securing funds due to the state are also the top priorities

of the UDF in the elections.

The Chief Minister further stated that the UDF would educate people about the funds provided by the Central government which are not merely an act of benevolence on the part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi but rather a rightful entitlement of the people. The CM remarked that the UDF is a coalition of workers and that the alliance comprises leaders of integrity. "Promises will be implemented from the very first cabinet meeting."

CM Revanth Reddy pointed out that some political forces expressed doubts regarding the feasibility of implementing the UDF's guarantees in Kerala. The Telangana state stands as a role model and the definitive answer to such criticism. The Chief Minister remembered that, immediately upon assuming power in Telangana, the Congress government began successfully implementing the guarantees right from the very first cabinet meeting. The Congress

government in the Telangana state waived farm loans amounting to ₹21,000 crore, benefiting 2.5 million farming families. Under the 'Rythu Bharosa' scheme, the government was providing financial assistance of ₹12,000 per acre to the farmers, totaling an annual outlay of ₹18,000 crore every year. The People's government also filled 67,173 government vacancies and also handed over appointment letters to the selected candidates in the public meetings. The CM highlighted that, through the 'Mahalakshmi' scheme, free bus travel facilities have been extended to women, and the RTC with 10,000 buses and 50,000 employees has been successfully steered from a state of loss into profitability. The free bus travel facility results in monthly savings of ₹6,000 to ₹7,000 for women. The Telangana government was also providing up to 200 units of free electricity, and sanctioned 4,50,000 'Indiramma' houses, allocating ₹5 lakh for the construction of each home.

Listing the Telangana schemes, CM Revanth Reddy said that gas cylinders for just ₹500 are also currently being implemented. A slew of women empowerment schemes have already been launched by making them as bus owners and entrepreneurs.

Citing the 'Telangana Rising Vision Document - 2047', the Chief Minister said that Telangana would achieve a \$1

trillion economy by 2034 and a \$3 trillion economy by 2047. Without increasing taxes, the Telangana state was on the development trajectory with a growth rate of 10.8 percent.

KPC President Sunny Joseph, Kerala CLP Leader V.D. Satheesan, AICC General Secretary Deep Das Munshi, UDF Convener Adoor Prakash, IUML National General Secretary P.K. Kunhalikutty, and others participated in the event. * Indira's Five Guarantees in Kerala...

"Indira's 5 Guarantees"

The Indira's Five Guarantees featured in the manifesto released by the Congress-led UDF alliance for the Kerala Legislative Assembly elections are as follows:

1. Free travel for women on Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) buses.
2. Monthly financial assistance of ₹1,000 for female college students.
3. An increase in welfare pensions to ₹3,000 per month.
4. Health insurance coverage of ₹25 lakhs per family, named after former Chief Minister Oommen Chandy.
5. Interest-free loans of up to ₹5 lakhs for the youth to pursue self-employment.

In addition to these five guarantees, the manifesto includes promises regarding five "Dream Projects" related to the maritime and aviation sectors, as well as the establishment of a Tribal University in Wayanad.

Raghav Chadha removed as AAP's Rajya Sabha deputy leader, sparks rift buzz

The Aam Aadmi Party has removed Raghav Chadha as its deputy leader in the Rajya Sabha, a post he has occupied since 2023, party sources said. He has been replaced by Punjab MP Ashok Mittal.



A formal communication has been sent to the Rajya Sabha secretariat regarding the change, sources added. The letter also mentions that Chadha should not be allotted time to speak in Parliament. As the move led to rumblings of a rift within the party, Ashok Mittal told India Today TV that all was well, and that the change-up was routine. "The party believes everyone should have a chance," he said.

The move comes amid Chadha's continued silence on key developments involving the AAP and its top leadership. However, this is not the first time he has faced scrutiny for seemingly keeping distance from party affairs. When Kejriwal was arrested in the liquor scam case ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the Punjab MP had cited recovery from eye surgery in the UK for his delayed response. Cut to 2026, Chadha did not publicly react after a court cleared AAP supreme Arvind Kejriwal, former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and others of all charges in the Delhi excise policy case in February. He also did not post on social media about the relief to his party colleagues, which set tongues wagging. The 37-year-old MP was also absent from key party events, including a press conference addressed by Kejriwal at the

party office and a 'jan sabha' at Jantar Mantar where the AAP chief launched a sharp attack on the ruling BJP. Chadha, a chartered accountant, has been with the AAP since its inception in 2012 and is considered close to Kejriwal. He has served as the party's national treasurer and is a member of its Political Affairs Committee, the highest decision-making body. He has also played a role in coordinating the opposition INDIA bloc. He entered the Rajya Sabha after being elevated during his term as an MLA in Delhi, becoming one of the youngest members of the Upper House. As a Rajya Sabha MP, Chadha has positioned himself as a champion of the people by raising issues that have an impact on their quality of life. He spotlighted the lack of budget-friendly food options at airports across the country. This led to the introduction of Udaan Yatri cafes that offer refreshments at affordable prices.

He has stood up for the little guy, battling for the rights of gig workers and seeking a ban on "the tyranny" of 10-minute deliveries. In fact, he spent a day as a Blinkit delivery executive to shed light on the harsh work conditions. In the ongoing Budget Session of Parliament, he demanded a law to make paid paternity leave a legal right in India.



Horticulture Department Distributes Summer Vegetable Seeds to Farmers Under MIDH Scheme

IMPHAL, APRIL 2, 2026:

The Department of Horticulture & Soil Conservation, Government of Manipur, organised a programme to distribute summer vegetable seeds and other essential inputs to progressive farmers under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) scheme.

The event was attended by Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Horticulture & Soil Conservation, Shri Thaitihlung Pamei, IAS, as the Chief Guest, and Director, Horticulture & Soil Conservation, Shri K. Debaduta Sharma, as the President.

The Director highlighted the importance of geotagging and

geo-mapping of beneficiaries through Krishi Mapper Portal, as per the latest guidelines issued by the Ministry under MIDH. The Chief Guest emphasized the need for adopting modern technologies to ensure transparency and proper selection of beneficiaries.

Summer vegetable seeds and other inputs were distributed to selected progressive farmers in the presence of dignitaries and officials. The programme aimed to support genuine farmers and promote horticulture development in the state.

The event concluded with a call to District Level Officers to ensure effective and transparent implementation of the schemes at the grassroots level.

Grand Yamuna Conservation Campaign Concludes

BY SUNIL THAPLIYAL

Barkot (Uttarkashi): A landmark religious and environmental campaign dedicated to the purity, uninterrupted flow, and conservation of the Yamuna River has reached a historic conclusion. The ambitious initiative led by Mahant Prakashanand Maharaj—spanning from the sacred origin at Yamunotri to Prayagraj—culminated with the ceremonial completion of 108 Shrimad Bhagwat Kathas at Kharsali village, near Yamunotri Dham. The campaign, which continued uninterrupted for 756 days, not only strengthened spiritual consciousness but also raised widespread awareness about environmental conservation. The final (108th) discourse Organized on Tuesday witnessed an overwhelming turnout of devotees, transforming the entire region into a deeply devotional atmosphere. The concluding ceremony was conducted with Vedic chants, rituals, and traditional practices.



Addressing the gathering, Mahant Prakashanand Maharaj described the moment as emotional and prestigious, emphasizing that the campaign was not merely a religious but a people's movement for river conservation. He urged that the responsibility of preserving rivers should not rest solely on the government. "Every individual must actively contribute towards maintaining the cleanliness and uninterrupted flow of our rivers. Faith becomes meaningful only when we uphold our duty towards nature," he stated. He also appealed to pilgrims visiting Yamunotri Dham to avoid polluting the Yamuna River and to maintain

strict cleanliness during their yatra. The final discourse featured a vivid narration of the divine leelas of Lord Krishna, leaving devotees deeply moved. The unique blend of devotion and environmental awareness became the defining highlight of the entire campaign. A major milestone of the initiative was the installation of a grand Panchmukhi Hanuman idol in Kharsali, which will serve both as a spiritual center for devotees and as a lasting symbol of the Yamuna conservation pledge. The event witnessed the presence of several eminent personalities, including Shastri Mayaram Sharma, Ashok Sharma, Uday Prakash

Mishra, and Ganesh Dimri. A large number of devotees such as Vikas Walia, Ravindra Kumar, Rakesh Kumar Kashyap, Ravi Yadav, Atul Rai, Jeetpal Sharma, Rakesh Jaidev, Anil Sharma, Mohan Agrawal, Arvind Bansal, Praveen Gupta, Nikhil Sawda, Neelam Agrawal, Neeta Gupta, Kamna Gupta, and Sanskar Walia were also present. Prominent local citizens including Mahadev Prasad Uniyal, Vipin Prasad, Rajesh Uniyal, Rakesh Rawat, Pradeep Rawat, Yashpal Rana, Ranjit Rana, and Mohan Prasad Uniyal also marked their participation. Among local representatives, Kshetra Panchayat Member Ranjita Rana and Gram Pradhan Neetu Uniyal played an active and commendable role in the Event. This historic campaign delivered a powerful message: when faith and awareness go hand in hand, meaningful societal change becomes possible. The Yamuna conservation initiative is set to inspire generations to come.

IAF's Tejas fleet cleared to resume flights, full operations likely this week

The Indian Air Force's (IAF) fleet of Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas has been cleared to resume flight operations after a temporary pause for technical evaluation, with full operational deployment expected this week. Confirming the development, D K Sunil, Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), said the Local Modification Committee (LMC) has completed its review and approved the aircraft for return to service. "Good news is that the Local Modification Committee (LMC) process is complete. We expect clearance by Wednesday, after which the fleet will start flying. Some one-time checks have been mandated, which will be carried out before operations resume. All 36 aircraft will return to service," he said. According to HAL, the final

clearance for all 36 aircraft is expected by Wednesday, paving the way for their phased re-induction into active duty. Officials said the resumption of operations will follow a structured safety protocol jointly overseen by HAL and the IAF. As part of this process, all aircraft will undergo mandatory "one-time checks" before take-off—standard preventive inspections aimed at ensuring compliance with updated safety benchmarks. The clearance applies to all 36 operational Tejas aircraft currently in service, restoring the full strength of both No. 45 Squadron (Flying Daggers) and No. 18 Squadron (Flying Bullets). The development marks a swift return for India's indigenous fighter jet programme, reinforcing the IAF's operational readiness and the reliability of the domestically developed platform.

Two more arrests made in Kanpur kidney transplant racket case

KANPUR (UP): (APR 2)

The probe into the illegal kidney transplant racket in Kanpur intensified on Thursday with the arrest of two operation theatre technicians, as authorities widened action against hospitals allegedly linked to the multi-city network. Police arrested Kuldeep Singh Raghav and Rajesh Kumar for their alleged role in an illegal transplant conducted at a private hospital in Kalyanpur, taking the total number of accused held in the case to eight. Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) S M Qasim Abidi said the duo had travelled from Delhi on the day of the surgery and returned immediately after the procedure.

Only BJP Can Safeguard Interests of Farmers, Arhtiyas and Traders in Punjab: CM Nayab Singh Saini

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 2

Punjab Arhtiyas on Strike, Delegation Meets Haryana CM Over Ongoing Crisis

A delegation of the Punjab Arhtiya (commission agents) Association met Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini at his Sant Kabir Kutir residence in Chandigarh. During the meeting, various issues concerning arhtiyas in Punjab were discussed in detail. The delegation informed the Chief Minister that around 40,000 arhtiyas, nearly 1.25 lakh accountants (munims), and 6-7 lakh workers are associated with this system in Punjab. Due to the difficulties currently being faced by arhtiyas, a strike is underway in the state, affecting not only business activities but also the livelihoods of lakhs of families. Although talks were held with the government, no resolution has

been reached. During this crop procurement season, not only arhtiyas but also labourers and farmers are facing hardships. Expressing serious concern over the issue, Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said he has visited Punjab several times and observed that every section—farmers, traders, and labourers—is distressed. He stated that the Aam Aadmi Party government in Punjab is not taking effective steps to resolve these problems. He added that the policies of the current government have weakened Punjab's economic condition and pushed the state towards financial distress. Targeting the Punjab government, he said there is still time for the people of Punjab to take corrective

steps. He asserted that only the BJP can provide a government that works for the welfare of farmers, arhtiyas, and traders.

Citing Haryana as an example, the Chief Minister said that procurement of 24 crops is being carried out at Minimum Support Price (MSP) in the state, directly benefiting farmers. He also mentioned that commissions for arhtiyas have been increased from time to time to ensure that both their income and dignity are protected. The Chief Minister said that arhtiyas in Haryana are paid a commission of Rs. 55 per quintal on wheat, i.e. Rs. 9 more than the rate in Punjab. The association representatives stated that they have been struggling with

these issues for a long time and need a government that listens to them and provides concrete solutions. They presented their demands to the Chief Minister and expressed hope for positive action. The delegation was led by Arhtiya Punjab Federation President Vijay Kalra, Senior Vice President Amarjeet Singh Brar, Vice President Devi Dayal, Patiala Arhtiya Association President Mulk Raj Gupta, and Moga President Samir Jain. They thanked the Chief Minister for his warm hospitality and the assurances given. Punjab BJP (Organisation) General Secretary Manthri Srinivasulu, OSDs to the Chief Minister, Dr. Prabhleen and Sh. B.B. Bharti were also present in the meeting.

Haryana orders immediate tank cleaning in medical institutions

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 2

The Haryana Government has issued strict directions for the immediate inspection and cleaning of all water storage tanks across government medical institutions, universities, and health facilities in the state. The instructions have been issued by Additional Chief Secretary, Health & Family Welfare, Ayush, Medical Education and Research, Dr. Sumita Misra, stressing zero tolerance for lapses in ensuring safe water supply. Dr. Misra noted that it has been observed from time to time that water storage tanks in several institutions are not being cleaned regularly, posing serious health risks. She emphasized that maintaining safe, hygienic water for patients, staff, and visitors is critical and cannot

be compromised. All institutions have been directed to undertake an immediate and thorough inspection of both overhead and underground water storage tanks. The inspection must assess the current condition of tanks, including any signs of contamination, leakage, or structural damage, to prevent potential hazards. The directions mandate complete cleaning of all tanks, including removal of accumulated sludge, proper washing of internal surfaces, and disinfection as per prescribed safety and hygiene standards. Institutions have been instructed to ensure that the entire process is carried out using approved methods.

To prevent recurrence of negligence, Dr. Misra has directed institutions to establish a structured schedule for periodic inspection and cleaning of water tanks, preferably on a quarterly basis. This is aimed at ensuring sustained water quality and hygiene standards. All concerned authorities have been asked to ensure strict compliance with these directions and submit a compliance report by April 5, 2026. Additionally, Deputy Commissioners have been instructed to oversee implementation through the Public Health Engineering Department and submit monitoring reports within seven days. Dr. Misra reiterated that access to clean and safe water is a fundamental component of healthcare delivery. She directed all officers to treat the matter with utmost priority and ensure that no lapse occurs in maintaining hygiene standards in healthcare institutions across Haryana.



NATO chief Mark Rutte to visit Washington next week

NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte will visit Washington next week for what a spokesperson for the military alliance called a "long-planned visit" that comes after President Donald Trump blasted European allies over differences on the Iran war. "I can confirm that the Secretary General will be in DC next week for a long-planned visit," NATO spokesperson Allison Hart said. A White House official also confirmed the visit. No further details of the trip were immediately available. Trump said he was considering pulling the US out of the Western military alliance due to the refusal of European members to send ships to unblock the Strait of Hormuz. In remarks on Wednesday to allies gathered for an Easter lunch at the White House, Trump criticised France and the United Kingdom, among other U.S. allies, as a "paper tiger." NATO, which includes European countries, the U.S. and Canada, was formed in 1949 with the aim of countering the risk of Soviet attack and has been the cornerstone of the West's security ever since. "We've had some very bad allies in NATO," Trump said. "Hopefully, we're never going to need them. I don't think we will need them."



Afghanistan: One killed, 13 injured in Herat flash floods

KABUL, APRIL 2

One person was killed and 13 others injured after flash floods swept through several areas in Afghanistan's Herat province, local media reported citing an official statement on Thursday. Social media management Afghanistan's Pajhwok Afghan News quoted provincial governor spokesman Mohammad Yousuf Saeedi as saying that rescue operations were being conducted to rescue trapped people. Saeedi said a trailer truck was also stranded due to floodwaters on the Herat-Kandahar highway. However, the situation was resolved due to timely action. Saeedi said that 13 people were injured after a passenger bus travelling on the Herat-Farah highway overturned due to flooding. He said that three people were trapped due to floods in Adraskan district. Among them, two were rescued through efforts made by local residents and response team while one person lost his life. He said that rescue operations were being conducted to rescue two people trapped by floodwaters in the Torgundi river. In a similar incident, three vehicles were stranded in floodwaters in Rud Bazaar area of Gulran district. However, all passengers and vehicles were safely rescued by response teams and local residents. On March 30, Disaster Preparedness Authority spokesperson Mohammad Hamad said that 28 people have been killed and 49 others injured due to heavy rains, floods and lightning in several provinces of Afghanistan since February 26.

Trump talked a lot but said nothing. At least nothing new

NEWDELHI: APRIL 2

US President Donald Trump's April 1 address to his country was much anticipated. It probably was more anticipated across the world than within the US. The hope was that the US President would announce an endgame for the conflict raging in the Gulf, a conflict that began over a month ago after US-Israel strikes on Iran. However, Trump's address turned out to be a recap of old talking points and a sales pitch aimed at rallying domestic voter support. Instead of offering clarity on the ongoing war -- in the form of updates on negotiations for a deal, plans of a withdrawal, or even outlines of a ground invasion plan for further escalation -- Trump offered a familiar mix of braggadocio, self-congratulation and threats, repeating claims he had already, most of them on his Truth Social platform. In his speech, Trump framed the US operation as retribution for decades of Iranian aggression and interference, reiterating his long-standing claim that Iran cannot be trusted with a nuclear weapon. He hailed the weeks of US airstrikes as "victories like few people have ever seen before," urging patience and describing the conflict as "an investment in America's future."

Yet for all the theatrics, Trump offered no new answers to the question on everyone's mind: when, exactly, will the war end? "I'm pleased to say that these core strategic objectives are nearing completion," he said, carefully avoiding any concrete exit strategy while reiterating his vow to bomb Iran



"back to the Stone Age" over the next two to three weeks.

The president also doubled down on claims first made in early March, just days after the initial strikes: that Iran's military was effectively neutralised. "Their air defence, Air Force, Navy, and leadership is gone," he wrote then, and Thursday, the narrative was unchanged. Diplomatic progress, if any, was similarly elusive. In his 20-minute address, Trump carved out a few moments to once

again offer advice to countries grappling with the fuel crisis caused by the Strait of Hormuz closure, echoing remarks from two days earlier: "The United States does not rely on oil from the Strait of Hormuz and will not take any in the future," he said on Thursday. "Countries dependent on the passage must build up some delayed courage and take care of it." Even threats remained familiar in Trump's speech.

He reminded the audience that US forces could carry out "spot hits" if necessary and warned that, should no deal be reached, Washington has its sights on Iran's key targets, including power plants, echoing his 10-day-old ultimatum: open the Strait of Hormuz or face attacks on energy infrastructure. For many, it was a déjà vu feeling, but for most it was

a reminder that while Trump can talk at length, he often says very little. With no new details on peace talks or a set timeline, Trump once again reiterated that the US is open to deal and then blurted out another threat, the same Stone Age one, adding that the new group is "less radical and much more reasonable," he said. "Yet if during this period of time no deal is made, we have our eyes on key targets." As Trump concluded with a brief "thank you," viewers leaned closer to their screens, some in disbelief at how little he had actually said, others checking if they had missed something. By the end, the takeaway was clear: the US president had offered nothing new and provided no concrete roadmap for ending the conflict he has repeatedly claimed is nearly complete.



Qatar suspends visa-on-arrival for Pak nationals amid Iran War

The Pakistan Embassy in Qatar issued an advisory regarding the temporary cancellation of visa-on-arrival for its citizens.

Amid the deepening conflict in the Middle East, Qatar has temporarily suspended the visa-on-arrival policy for Pakistani nationals, a report by KhaleejTimes said, citing sources from the Embassy of Pakistan.

to assisting Pakistani nationals, the embassy emphasised the importance of consulting relevant Qatari authorities or authorised visa centres to ensure compliance with current entry regulations.

PAKISTAN OFFERED MEDIATION IN MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

Amid the ongoing Iran war, Islamabad positioned itself as an intermediary, seeking to end the conflict.

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said Islamabad was "ready and honoured" to facilitate "meaningful and conclusive talks" between the US and Iran, adding that it was willing to host negotiations for a comprehensive settlement, subject to the consent of both sides. The statement followed reports that Pakistan, along with Egypt and Türkiye, was engaged in backchannel efforts to broker peace. Sharif also spoke to Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, expressing concern over the escalating hostilities and calling for de-escalation.

Washington also sent the 15-point truce proposal via Islamabad to Tehran.

UAE cracks down on Iranians, revokes visas, leaving families stranded amid war

The United Arab Emirates has initiated a widespread crackdown on Iranians living in the country, cancelling visas and closing Iranian institutions in response to Tehran's ongoing drone and missile attacks.



The UAE serves as Iran's key connection to the global economy and acts as a financial hub for Iranian businesses seeking refuge from Western sanctions, according to analysts tracking Tehran's activities and the US Treasury.

At Al Ustad Special Kebab, a longstanding Iranian restaurant in Dubai, owner Majeed Ansari expressed understanding of the UAE's tightened restrictions, citing concerns over safety. According to a Wall Street Journal report, he said that historical ties between Iran and Dubai are deep and unlikely to be

UAE, targeting locations such as Dubai's Palm island, Burj al-Arab hotel and the airport.

The UAE is reportedly preparing to assist in opening the Strait of Hormuz by force but maintains a defensive posture. A UAE official said the country's posture remains defensive. The report also mentions that the UAE is reportedly considering even tougher financial measures, including freezing Iranian assets in the country. "Every pressure point on Iran is on the table," a source familiar with the UAE's evolving policy toward Iranian residents said this week. The official added that the country will reassess its openness to communities like Iranians in light of wartime attacks targeting its economy.

Persian and Arab populations along the Strait of Hormuz have been intertwined for centuries. In the 1800s, parts of what is now Iran's coastline were controlled by a dynasty based in present-day UAE. Iranian migration to

the UAE occurred in several waves: 19th-century merchants arrived in Dubai; in the 1920s, pious Muslims fled Iran as the shah secularised the nation, including banning the headscarf; and in the late 1970s, secular Iranians left to escape the Islamic Revolution. The report added that some early Iranian migrants gained Emirati citizenship when the UAE was founded in the early 1970s. The WSJ report mentioned Mira Al-Hussein, an associate fellow at the University of Edinburgh's Alwaleed bin Talal Centre, a large portion of Emiratis trace their ancestry to southern Iran, reflecting longstanding historical ties between the communities. Other migrants did not qualify for citizenship but continued living in the UAE as Iranian nationals. Many families have resided in the country for generations on visas that must be periodically renewed and are tied to employment or property ownership.

Macron, Takaichi urge ceasefire, free Hormuz passage

Macron, who held talks with Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, said they both believe in international law, the international order and the democratic values, adding: "This is why ... we both advocate for a return to peace, a ceasefire, calm, and free passage through the Strait of Hormuz." Takaichi said the two leaders agreed on the importance of quickly de-escalating the conflict and to secure the safety of the vital waterway and the stable supply of goods.



"With the international environment increasingly severe, I believe it is especially meaningful for the Japanese and French leaders to deepen our friendship and cooperation," Takaichi said at a joint news conference at the Akasaka Palace in Tokyo. The leaders said they also agreed to deepen their cooperation in defense, rare earths development, nuclear energy, space and other areas.

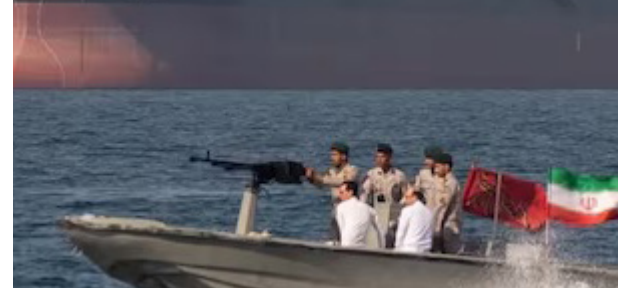
Japan and France have in recent years bolstered their defense cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, where France, which has troops, citizens and resources across the region, seeks to protect its interests and show its presence alongside like-minded democracies concerned about China's growing influence. Earlier Tuesday, Japanese Defense Minister Shinjiro Koizumi and his French counterpart, Catherine Vautrin signed a road map of defense cooperation between the two countries through

increased joint exercises and exchanges in the Indo-Pacific. Separately, the Japanese and French trade ministers signed a deal in a joint rare earths project. China controls most of the global production of rare earths, which are used for making powerful, heat-resistant magnets in industries such as defense and electric vehicles.

Macron and Takaichi said the two sides agreed to cooperate in the development of a fast reactor and nuclear fuel recycling program in which Japan has been struggling, w

How tensions in Strait of Hormuz benefit Trump? It's all about oil

As Iran solidifies its grip on the Strait of Hormuz, the crucial oil corridor, businessman Trump seems to have smelled an opportunity - buy oil and gas from America. In fact, US fuel exports surged to record levels in March amid the Hozmuz shock.



flows, remains mostly closed, buyers in Asia and Europe are likely to turn to the US. It means a potential windfall for the Trump administration. In fact, US fuel exports surged to record levels in March as Asian and European nations replaced supplies from the Middle East due to the turmoil (we will come to this later). "BUY OIL FROM THE US" A significant part of Trump's address was dedicated to how the US had become the number one producer of oil and gas under his leadership. That's excluding the millions of barrels the US is receiving from Venezuela after the US carried out a regime change by capturing its president in a daring operation earlier this year. Trump framed America as energy-abundant, underscoring that the US was producing more oil and gas than Saudi Arabia and Russia combined. Then came the pitch. "Buy oil from the US, we have plenty, we have so much!" Trump said. If you don't, then go and get your own oil at your own peril. It partly explains why the eccentric US President has suddenly walked back on his proposal of American navy escorting oil tankers through

the Strait of Hormuz. Earlier this week, he even floated the idea of the US exiting the Iran war without reopening Hormuz. Trump is well aware that a prolonged choke on Hormuz would leave the world with a few alternatives. To fill that vacuum, US crude and gas stand ready. Crucially, US oil to Asia is transported via the Cape of Good Hope, bypassing the Strait of Hormuz.

IS US INSULATED FROM HORMUZ SHOCK?

What must be noted here is that the US is more insulated than countries in Asia and Europe, which overtly rely on the Strait of Hormuz for oil and gas shipments. For example, 50% of India's crude oil imports come through Hormuz. It also carries around half of the country's LNG imports.

Trump made it a point to tom-tom about it in his address. "The US imports almost no oil through the Strait of Hormuz... We don't need it," he

said. It is, however, partly true. As per official data, the US imported 0.5 million barrels of crude oil per day through Hormuz in 2024. It accounted for 7% of crude oil imports. Thus, while the US is not completely detached, it is now less reliant on Middle Eastern crude than it was around a decade ago.

VENEZUELA OIL, RISE IN US EXPORTS

The numbers tell the story. In recent years, US crude production has jumped to around 13-13.6 million barrels per day, among the highest globally. It has also been a net exporter of petroleum.

Add to it Washington's control over the crude in Venezuela, which possesses the world's largest proven oil reserves. After the capture of Nicholas Maduro, Trump has taken control of the country's oil sales and their proceeds. The US received more than 80 million barrels of oil from Venezuela in February.

1 dead after 7.6-magnitude earthquake hits Indonesia, triggers tsunami waves

The earthquake occurred at approximately 7:48 am local time, with its epicentre located about 127 kilometres (79 miles) north-west of the city of Ternate.

houses and a church, and a fuller assessment was underway.

MEASURING TSUNAMI WAVES

Following the powerful earthquake in the Northern Molucca Sea, Indonesia's meteorology agency, BMKG, confirmed that tsunami waves reached at least five coastal locations. The highest surge was recorded at 0.75 meters in North Minahasa, North Sulawesi, though BMKG Chief Teuku Faisal Fathani noted that initial modelling had suggested a more severe potential for waves up to 3 meters high. In the aftermath of the main tremor, officials have monitored 11 aftershocks, the most significant reaching a magnitude of 5.5, prompting a continued advisory for the public to remain alert. While the US tsunami warning authorities originally cautioned that hazardous waves could impact coastlines across Indonesia, the Philippines, and Malaysia within a 1,000-kilometre radius of the epicentre, that international threat warning has since been withdrawn.

Three of a family killed in mortar strike by Pakistani forces in Balochistan

QUETTA, APRIL 2

At least three members of a Baloch family, including a child, were killed in mortar fire by Pakistani forces in Balochistan, according to leading human rights organisations. Paank, the Baloch National Movement's Human Rights Department, mentioned that

the tragic incident occurred on the evening of March 31 in the Bungul Bazar area of Awaran district. It added that Pakistani security forces deployed heavy weaponry, including mortar shelling, in areas close to civilian populations following an attack on a nearby military camp carried out by Baloch armed groups.

Markets Rebound Sharply Sensex Gains 185 Points, Nifty Reclaims 22,700

MUMBAI, APRIL 2

Indian equity markets staged a strong recovery on Thursday, erasing early losses to end in positive territory, supported by value buying in IT and banking stocks and a sharp rebound in the rupee.

The benchmark BSE Sensex surged 185.23 points, or 0.25%, to close at 73,319.55 after recovering more than 2,000 points from the day's

low. Similarly, the broader Nifty 50 advanced 33.70 points, or 0.15%, to settle at 22,713.10, reclaiming the crucial 22,700 level.

Market sentiment improved significantly following a sharp rebound in the Indian rupee, aided by measures from the Reserve Bank of India aimed at curbing speculative activity in onshore forward markets. The rupee strengthened by

as much as 188 paise during the session to touch the 92 mark against the US dollar, before closing over 150 paise higher. Buying interest in IT stocks played a key role in the recovery, with HCL Technologies and Tech Mahindra rising nearly 3% each. Other major gainers among Sensex constituents included Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services, HDFC Bank, Bajaj Finance, Maruti Suzuki India,

Titan Company, Axis Bank, Bharat Electronics Limited, Kotak Mahindra Bank and ITC Limited.

The day's trading reflected a combination of bargain hunting and improving currency dynamics, which helped lift investor confidence after a weak start.

Meanwhile, stock markets will remain closed on Friday in observance of Good Friday.



Toyota Kirloskar Motor Registers 20% Growth, Crosses 4 Lakh Sales in FY26

BENGALURU

Toyota Kirloskar Motor reported a strong performance in FY26, with total sales reaching 4,06,081 units, marking a 20% increase over the previous year's 3,37,148 units.

Domestic sales rose 19% year-on-year to 3,67,107 units, while exports grew sharply by 41% to 38,974 units, reflecting robust demand in international markets. In March 2026, the company sold 37,194 units, up 24% compared to the same month last year.

According to Sabari Manohar, Executive Vice President, the growth was driven by strong demand across SUVs, MPVs, and compact segments, supported by new launches and customer-focused initiatives.

Key models such as the Toyota Fortuner, Toyota In-



nova Hycross, and Toyota Urban Cruiser Hyryder contributed significantly, aided by feature upgrades and enhanced safety offerings. The company also standardized six airbags across models like the Glanza and Rumion, while the Innova Hycross secured a 5-star safety rating.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor stated that its focus on quality, reliability, and a customer-first approach continues to drive growth. The company remains committed to its multi-pathway strategy, with emphasis on hybrid and electrified mobility solutions for future expansion.

Defence Production Hits New Highs: Rajnath Singh

NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday said that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, India has achieved a historic milestone in defence exports, reaching an all-time high of ₹38,424 crore in FY 2025-26. This marks a significant growth of 62.66% over the previous fiscal year.

In a post on X, Singh said the sharp rise reflects growing global trust in India's indigenous capabilities and advanced manufacturing strength. He noted that the increase of ₹14,802 crore highlights the country's expanding presence in the global defence market.

The Defence Minister added that both public and private sectors contributed to this achievement. Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs)



accounted for 54.84% of exports, while private industry contributed 45.16%, showcasing a strong, collaborative and self-reliant defence ecosystem.

Earlier in March, Singh said government efforts are yielding results, with domestic defence production crossing ₹1.50 lakh crore in FY 2024-25 and exports reaching around ₹24,000 crore. He added that exports were expected to touch ₹29,000 crore by April 2026, with a

target of ₹50,000 crore by FY 2029-30.

Highlighting the growing role of private players, Singh said the sector currently contributes about 25% of defence production and is expected to reach 50% in the near future.

He also emphasised that all warships and submarines for the Indian Navy are now being built in domestic shipyards, calling it a major step towards self-reliance and stating that a "Builder's Navy" is now a reality rather than a slogan.

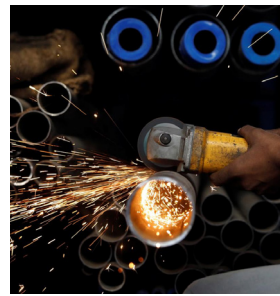
West Asia Crisis Hits Manufacturing

NEW DELHI, APRIL 2

India's manufacturing sector activity eased to its lowest level in nearly four years in March 2026, affected by rising costs, weaker demand, and new order pressures stemming from the ongoing war in West Asia, according to a survey of private sector companies.

The HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) fell sharply from 56.9 in February to 53.9 in March, the weakest reading since June 2022. A PMI above 50 indicates expansion, while a figure below 50 signals contraction.

The report highlighted that "growth in India's manufacturing industry took a step back in March as cost pressures, fierce competition, heightened market



uncertainty, and the war in the Middle East contributed to softer increases in new orders and output." It also noted that cost pressures intensified to their highest level since August 2022.

Sub-components of the PMI showed that both new orders and output expanded at the slowest rates since mid-2022. Firms cited rising prices for aluminium, chemicals, fuel, jute, leather, fabric, oil, rubber, and steel as major contributors to high-

er input costs, marking the largest surge in over three and a half years.

Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC, observed that many firms absorbed most of the input cost increases, keeping output prices "relatively contained."

On a brighter note, the survey revealed that external sales saw their strongest expansion since September 2025, with manufacturers reporting rising demand from Australia, Brazil, Canada, mainland China, Europe, Japan, West Asia, Türkiye, and Vietnam. This slowdown underscores the vulnerability of India's manufacturing sector to global geopolitical tensions, even as export markets provide some cushion against domestic pressures.

Rajesh Kumar Takes Helm as REC's New Finance Director

NEW DELHI, APRIL 2

Seasoned finance veteran Shri Rajesh Kumar assumed charge as Director (Finance) at REC Limited today, following approval from the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet on March 25.

A Chartered Accountant and Cost & Management Accountant with over 30 years in power and infrastructure financing, Kumar previously served as REC's Executive Director (Finance) and CEO of subsidiary REC Power Development and Consultancy Limited (RECPDCL). His career spans accounts, taxation, audit, treasury, project appraisals, and regulatory compliance.

Kumar, a Shri Ram College of Commerce alumnus, revolutionized REC's funding strategy with innovative instruments like Tax-Efficient Hybrid Bonds, Perpetual Bonds (AAA-rated), Zero Coupon Bonds, and Capital Gain Bonds—slashing borrowing costs and



broadening investor reach. He also spearheaded multilateral funding, ESG projects, IT transformation, and tax savings, while serving on boards of DISCOMS and transmission firms.

His appointment bolsters REC's restructuring drive amid India's energy transition, leveraging his expertise in resource mobilization and strategic investments for scale and efficiency in public sector NBFC operations.

Tax reform sparks fresh hope for homebuyers, realtors see demand surge

NEW DELHI, APRIL 2

A wave of optimism is sweeping through India's real estate sector as the Income Tax Act 2025 comes into effect from April 1, with industry leaders confident that the new regime will put more money in buyers' pockets and bring homeownership closer to reality for millions.

For years, aspiring homeowners — especially renters, first-time buyers, and Gen Z — have grappled with tight finances, high upfront costs, and cumbersome compliance processes. The latest tax overhaul, however, is being seen as a turning point that could ease these pressures and unlock pent-up demand.

Adhil Shetty, CEO and Co-Founder, BankBazaar, called the reform a "game-changer" for household finances, highlighting that the increased exemption threshold of Rs 12 lakh will boost take-home income and improve borrowers' ability to manage EMIs. "Better liquidity means greater flexibility and stronger credit behaviour.



For young buyers, this could be the nudge they need to step into homeownership," he said. At the same time, he cautioned that property prices and interest rates will continue to shape buying decisions.

The reforms are also expected to simplify transactions and attract a broader pool of investors, including NRIs. Ashish Narain Agarwal, Founder and Managing Director of PropertyPistol, pointed out that reduced TCS and streamlined PAN-based compliance will make cross-border property deals smoother and faster.

He added that tighter oversight of high-value transactions will further enhance

fordability and simplified compliance could drive demand in Tier 2 and Tier 3 markets. "These regions offer the right mix of affordability and growth potential. Combined with infrastructure push, they are set to emerge as new real estate hotspots," he noted. Akshay Taneja, CEO of TDI Infrastructure, underscored that the biggest winners will be end-users, particularly in the mid-income segment. "Higher take-home income directly improves affordability. Add to that simpler processes and faster transactions, and you have a market where intent can quickly convert into actual purchases," he said.

Taken together, the reforms are being hailed as a catalyst that could reshape the housing landscape — making it more transparent, efficient, and inclusive. While macroeconomic factors will continue to play their role, the new tax regime appears to have set the stage for stronger buyer sentiment and a renewed growth cycle in India's real estate market.

NewSpace India, Dhruva Space Collaborate on Satellite Solar Panels

CHENNAI, APRIL 2

Indian government-owned NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Hyderabad-based Dhruva Space Private Limited to jointly design, manufacture, test, and supply solar panels for global satellite manufacturers. NSIL noted that the timing is critical, as the solar industry enters a "restructuring phase" in 2026, with rising demand for space-grade solar panels.

Dhruva Space said the partnership allows it to leverage ISRO/NSIL's programme management and product assurance expertise to scale production. The company has previously supplied solar arrays to the Government of India, global space agencies, and new space firms.

Rupee Strongest Rally Since 2013

NEW DELHI, APRIL 2

The Indian Rupee saw its biggest single-day gain in nearly 13 years on Thursday, closing at 93.10 against the US dollar, as authorities stepped up efforts to curb currency speculation.

The sharp rally came after the Reserve Bank of India tightened rules in both domestic and offshore markets.

"The move was largely driven by improved risk sentiment following US President Donald Trump's speech, which hinted at negotiations rather than escalation, triggering a relief rally. However, uncertainty remains elevated, keeping volatility high in currency markets," an analyst ex-



plained.

The rupee surged as much as 1.7 per cent to 93.25 during the day, marking its strongest rise since September 2013, as trading

resumed after a three-day holiday break.

The central bank recently barred banks from offering rupee non-deliverable forwards to both resident and

non-resident clients, and also restricted companies from rebooking cancelled forward contracts.

Earlier measures included capping banks' net open rupee positions at \$100 million and prohibiting foreign exchange derivative deals with related parties.

These steps are aimed at reducing speculative activity in the currency market and stabilising the rupee.

Analysts noted that India's strong foreign exchange reserves, which stand at over \$700 billion, also provide a cushion against volatility and give the central bank room to intervene if needed.

The rupee's surge came even as global cues remained weak. Asian mar-

kets traded lower, with key indices such as Japan's Nikkei, Hong Kong's Hang Seng, and South Korea's KOSPI falling up to 3 per cent amid rising geopolitical tensions after US President Donald Trump signalled a possible escalation in West Asia. Meanwhile, crude oil prices jumped sharply, adding to global uncertainty. Brent crude futures rose 5.24 per cent to \$106.47 per barrel, while US WTI futures gained 4.5 per cent to \$104.64.

Currency markets had remained shut earlier this week due to holidays including Mahavir Jayanti and the start of the new financial year, and will remain closed again on Friday for Good Friday.

Tata Sanand Battery Facility to Begin Production in 2027

Mumbai, April 2: The Tata Group's battery manufacturing plant in Sanand, Gujarat, is expected to start production in 2027, bolstering the group's electric vehicle strategy. Tata Technologies has partnered with Agradat for the design, development, and production of advanced battery cells and energy storage

solutions. The first phase will have a 20GWh capacity, part of a larger 60GWh plan spanning Sanand and the UK. Construction, led by Tata Projects Limited in collaboration with TCE and contractors, is underway. The plant aims to control EV costs and support Tata Motors' goal of 30% EV sales by 2030.

Kia India Posts Record March Sales, Achieves Strongest-Ever Q1 Performance

NEW DELHI

Kia India reported its highest-ever monthly sales in March 2026, with wholesale volumes reaching 29,112 units, marking a 14.5% year-on-year increase over 25,525 units sold in March 2025.

The company also recorded its best-ever quarterly performance, with Q1 2026 sales standing at 84,316 units, reflecting an 11.6% growth compared to 75,576 units in the corresponding period last year.

According to Atul Sood, Senior Vice President - Sales & Marketing, the strong performance was driven by sustained demand across Kia's product portfolio. He highlighted that the newly updated Kia Seltos continues to anchor the company's growth, supported by its 5-star safety rating and premium feature offerings.

The Kia Sonet and Kia Carens also remained key contributors, maintaining steady volumes amid evolving consumer preferences. The Seltos, in particular, has consistently recorded monthly sales exceeding 10,000 units since its latest launch, underlining its strong market accept-



Movement that inspires

ance. Kia attributed its growth to rising consumer demand for feature-rich and safe vehicles, alongside continuous product enhancements aligned with customer expectations. The company's expanding network—now comprising over 860 touch-points across 390 cities—has further strengthened its reach in both urban and emerging markets.

Additionally, Kia India's certified pre-owned business, supported by over 120 outlets, has contributed to improving customer convenience through seamless exchange and ownership solutions.

The automaker noted that its steady rise in the Indian market reflects a well-rounded product strategy and increasing customer trust. Looking ahead, Kia India aims to sustain its growth momentum through new product launches, strategic expansion, and a continued focus on customer-centric mobility solutions.

10 FOODS AND DRINKS TO HAVE BEFORE BED EVEN IF YOU WORK NIGHT SHIFT

Our body clock takes its cue from sunlight. It sets the circadian rhythm of our body which, in turn, affects all the bodily functions hence it is advisable to not eat very late and to avoid heavy snacking at bedtime.

We all know by now that early dinner is one of the best habits for good health. The downside is that once you have eaten early and are awake till late, hunger strikes again! Well, we don't recommend late-night snacking as a rule because the digestive system and the metabolism as a whole go into a rest and recovery mode at night. Our body clock (located in the brain at the suprachiasmatic nucleus) takes its cue from sunlight. It sets the circadian rhythm of our body which, in turn, affects all the bodily functions - from hormone release to immunity and to stress. So, it is advisable to not eat very late and to avoid heavy snacking at bedtime. In this article, I will address this in two parts: 1. Bedtime snacking because you are awake and hungry 2. Snacks for late-night shifts.

Here Are 6 Snacks You Can Have After Dinner And Before Bed:

The best strategy here is to keep it light and nutrient-rich rather than just sugary snacks. Eating or rather munching mindlessly will add extra calories that the body doesn't need and will convert them to fat for storage. So, both the choices and the portion or serving sizes can help you achieve health. Here are some healthy options for the late-night hunger pangs.

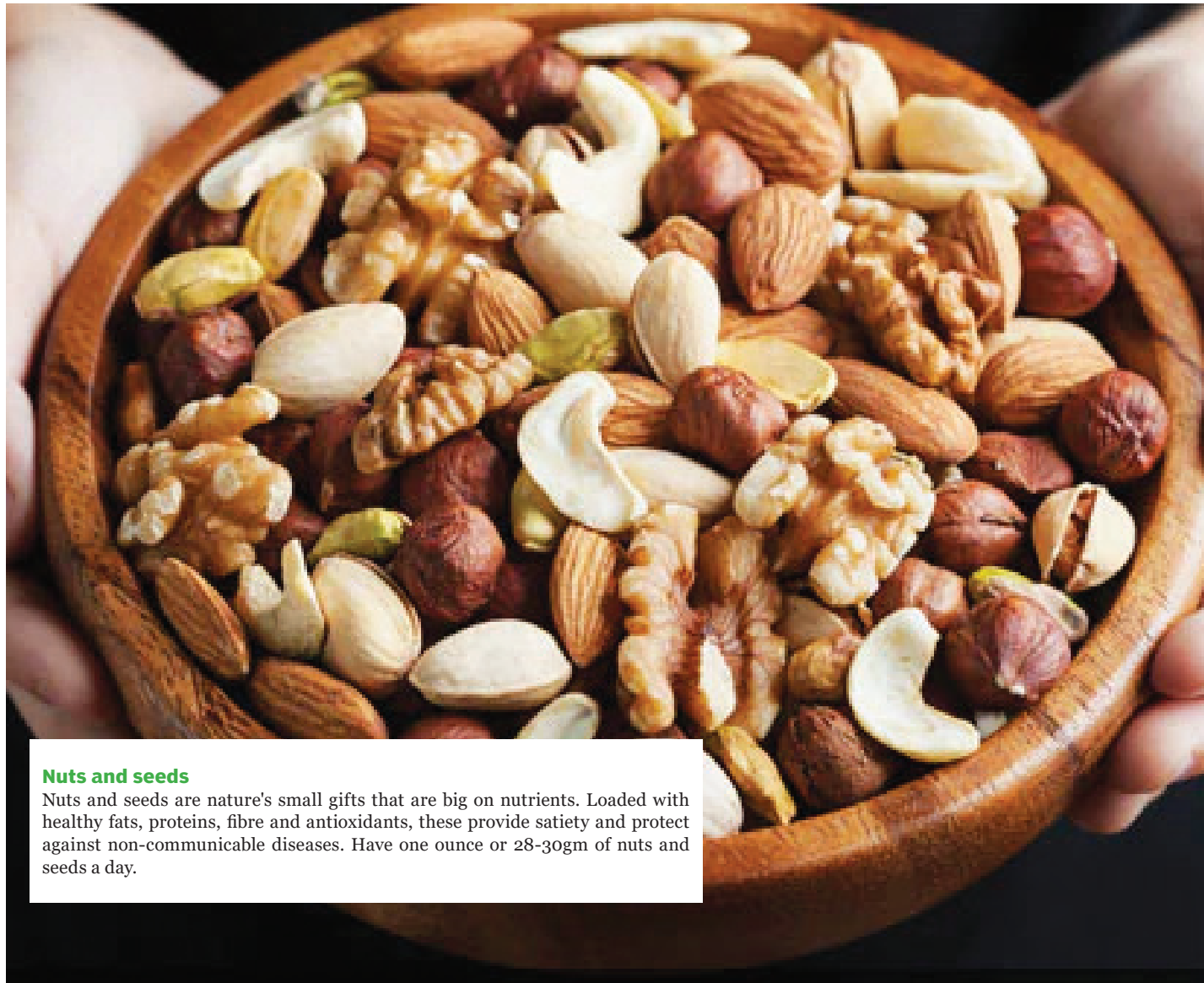


Milk

Milk is an ideal bedtime snack. It is nutrient-rich and has carbs, proteins, calcium and phytonutrients. It also contains tryptophan which helps in good sleep. To boost immunity drink yellow milk that is our traditional haldi milk. About 200 ml is enough.

Soups

Soups made with fresh vegetables can be filling and a satisfying warm drink in the winter months. If you avoid the butter, they are almost calorie-free. They also bring the nourishment of the vegetable that is the base ingredi-



Nuts and seeds

Nuts and seeds are nature's small gifts that are big on nutrients. Loaded with healthy fats, proteins, fibre and antioxidants, these provide satiety and protect against non-communicable diseases. Have one ounce or 28-30gm of nuts and seeds a day.

ent and if you have blended the vegetables and not sieved the soup they add a good amount of fibre too.



Gajar halwa: Yes, you read that right! A homemade gajar halwa made with fresh carrots, less ghee and nuts and sugar can be a sat-

isfying snack for the body and mind. Carrots provide fibre and beta carotene a very important antioxidant, while the ghee adds satiety along with flavour. Keep your portion for the night and stick to one small bowl full.

Bhuna chana

It is a good munch if you want something crunchy and salty. A handful is enough; they need chewing and will help you spend time eating them. In addition, the fibre, phytonutrients and proteins add health.

Roasted makhana

Roasted foxnuts are a healthy snack too. They are low calorie-dense, so when you eat 30gm it converts to a big bowlful and keeps you full. They are good sources of minerals and phy-



tonutrients. But roast them, do not fry. The thumb rule for choosing a snack is portion control and at least two nutrients other than calories. For those working night shifts, it's easy. Have an early dinner by about 8 pm then fix two snack times and do not munch through the night.

HERE ARE 4 SNACKS YOU CAN HAVE IF YOU WORK NIGHT SHIFTS:

● FRUIT WITH NUTS

Seasonal fruit will provide calories, minerals and vitamins to keep you energise; whereas nuts and seeds add proteins and fibre to your diet and will ensure a slower release of energy keeping the calories going longer.

● MILK WITH NUTS AND SEEDS

A perfect healthy combination full of proteins and nutrients, milk with nuts and seeds will keep the body fit and will prevent hunger pangs. Keep this for the hungriest time.



● SMOOTHIE

A smoothie with the goodness of oats' fibre, fruits' antioxidants and nuts' proteins makes it another healthy and filling snack that goes a long way in keeping the energy up while providing nourishment.

● MULTIGRAIN BREAD SANDWICH

A multigrain bread sandwich with lots of lettuce, tomatoes and paneer makes for a quite filling snack for night shift workers. Wash this down with some antioxidant-rich green tea.



Eating the right amount at the right time is the cornerstone for a healthy body. Choose fresh ingredients and keep processed to the minimum. That is all it needs to stay healthy. Stay safe stay healthy!

Disclaimer: All information is provided on an as-is basis. The information, facts or opinions appearing in the article do not reflect the views of Hyderabad-Headlines

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU STOP LATE-NIGHT SNACKING FOR 90 DAYS

Give your body a break from late-night eating and the results may surprise you. From smoother digestion to deeper sleep, here's what three snack-free months can do. Have you ever wondered what really happens to your body when you stop eating late at night for a full 90 days? Most people think it only reduces cravings, but the internal changes are far more significant. When you give your stomach a proper break before bed, your body can switch to rest and repair mode instead of focusing on digestion. Over time, this shift affects everything from your gut rhythm to your sleep patterns. If you are curious about how your digestion and sleep respond when late-night snacking finally stops, here is what science has to say.

WHAT HAPPENS INSIDE THE BODY AFTER 90 DAYS WITHOUT LATE-NIGHT SNACKING

1. Digestion becomes smoother and less strained

Eating too late forces the digestive system to keep working when it should be slowing down. A controlled trial in the British Journal of Nutrition found that late-night meals delay gastric emptying and increase acidity, making digestion less efficient at night. Over 90 days without late snacking, the gut adapts to a more predictable rhythm, leading to less bloating and fewer digestion issues.

2. Sleep quality improves naturally

Late-night food keeps the body metabolically active, raising heart rate and body temperature, which makes falling asleep harder. Research published in the Journal of Clinical Sleep Medicine shows that avoiding food for at least two to three hours before bed improves sleep efficiency and reduces night-time awakenings. Over three months, this habit strengthens natural sleep cycles, helping people wake up with clearer energy.

3. Hunger hormones begin to rebalance

Night-time snacking disrupts the hormones ghrelin and leptin, which control hunger and fullness.



A study from Harvard Medical School found that late eating increases hunger the following day and lowers leptin levels, making it harder for the

body to feel satisfied. By avoiding late-night eating for 90 days, these hormonal rhythms begin returning to their natural pattern, reducing random cravings.

4. Weight and metabolism respond positively

Regular late-night snacking is linked with higher calorie intake and poorer metabolic health. When you remove these calories for three months, blood sugar patterns improve and the body becomes better at using stored energy. Some people experience gradual fat loss without actively diet-



ing, simply because the body processes food more efficiently during daytime hours.

5. The gut microbiome gets time to repair

Night-time eating disrupts the natural repair cycle of the gut. Giving the digestive tract a consistent overnight break encourages beneficial bacteria to grow. This supports digestion, reduces inflammation and strengthens immunity. Over 90 days, these changes lead to more regular bowel movements, better nutrient absorption and fewer digestive upsets.

6. Night-time acid reflux reduces

One of the biggest benefits of stopping late-night

eating is the reduction in acid reflux. Eating and lying down shortly after increases pressure on the lower oesophageal sphincter, leading to heartburn. Avoiding food before bed for 90 days gives this system time to calm, making symptoms less frequent and less intense. Ninety days may feel long, but the digestive and sleep improvements that come with avoiding late-night snacking start much earlier and build steadily over time.

Disclaimer: This content including advice provides generic information only. It is in no way a substitute for qualified medical opinion. Always consult a specialist or your doctor for more information.



Is USA safe to host FIFA World Cup after Iraq fans attacked at Dallas airport?



The build-up to the FIFA World Cup 2026 has taken a troubling turn after a viral video from Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport showed Iraqi football fans being confronted, raising concerns over fan safety in the United States.

In the footage, a group of Iraqi supporters are seen holding a banner, singing and celebrating ahead of their intercontinental playoff in Mexico. A man approaches them, shouting "You're in America", before grabbing their banner and throwing it down. He warns them against such behaviour and threatens to call immigration authorities. The fans respond calmly, saying, "It's a football game" and "This is not right", as tensions rise.

The incident sparked strong reactions online, with some fans urging FIFA to reconsider hosting arrangements and shift matches fully to co-hosts Canada and Mexico. The controversy comes just after Iraq secured qualification for the expanded 48-team tournament. They defeated Bolivia 2-1 at Estadio BBVA, with Aymen Hussein scoring the decisive goal, marking Iraq's first World Cup appearance in 40 years.

What should have been a moment of celebration has been overshadowed by concerns about how travelling fans may be treated. A report by Amnesty International had already highlighted issues around visa rules, surveillance and treatment of international visitors.

Stricter immigration policies under Donald Trump have added to worries, particularly for supporters, even though players and officials are expected to receive exemptions. Trump's remarks about Iran's participation have further fueled debate.

Criticism has been sharp, with calls for boycotts and concerns that political tensions could overshadow the tournament. While the US has hosted major events before, the scale of 2026 raises fresh questions about ensuring a safe and welcoming environment for global fans.

SRH POWER CRUSHES KKR



Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) became the first team in IPL 2026 to successfully defend a total, and for that, they had to post 226 for 8, the highest score of the season so far. Even that did not look safe at one point, but in the end, Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) fell short by 65 runs. Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma set the platform for SRH by adding 82 in 5.4 overs. Head made 46 off 21 balls, and Abhishek 48 off 21. KKR did make a comeback in the middle overs, but Heinrich Klaasen's 52 off 35 deliveries ensured they picked up 51 in the last four overs. Finn Allen, batting on the same strip where he had scored a blazing hundred against South Africa in the T20 World Cup semi-final, started the chase by smashing 24 runs off David Payne. But Harsh Dubey had him caught and bowled from the other end. Angkrish Raghuvanshi's 27-ball fifty steered KKR to 110 for 3 in ten overs, but his run-out soon after proved to be the turning point. Rinku Singh's brief resistance was futile, and KKR were eventually all out for 161 in 16 overs.

Head, Abhishek give SRH flying start

Ajinkya Rahane, playing his 200th IPL match, opted to bowl after winning the toss. Vaibhav Arora started with three dots, beating Head's outside edge on all three occasions. But that was the proverbial calm before the storm. Head pulled the last ball of the over for four before



picking two more fours off Blessing Muzarabani in the next over. Muzarabani was trying the short-ball ploy that had worked for Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Jacob Duffy against the same opposition in the tournament opener, but it backfired here. Abhishek rubbed it in by pulling yet another short ball from Muzarabani for a six.

After Head smashed two sixes and two fours in Vaibhav's next over, Rahane turned to spin. Sunil Narine conceded only three runs from the fourth over, and even induced a miscue from Head, but it

landed safely. However, Abhishek took Varun Chakravarty apart from the other end, hitting two sixes and three fours in a 25-run over. Kartik Tyagi ended the stand by dismissing Head, but not before the batter had smashed him for a four and a six. SRH finished the powerplay on 84 for 1.

Muzarabani and co pull it back

Muzarabani pulled things back for KKR by dismissing Ishan Kishan and Abhishek in the space of three balls. Kishan was caught at deep cover, and Abhishek at deep square

leg, where Varun dived forward to complete a low catch. The third umpire had multiple looks at it before deciding it in KKR's favour.

In the next over, Anukul Roy had Aniket Verma caught at long-off to make it 118 for 4. After that, Klaasen and Nitish Kumar Reddy decided to go into consolidation mode. As a result, only 37 runs came from overs 10 to 14.

Klaasen ensures strong finish

Klaasen and Reddy picked up a four each off Narine in the 15th over, but Tyagi gave away only seven runs in the next. When Vaibhav conceded only three off the first five balls of the 17th over, it started looking like the final flourish might never come. But his final ball was in the slot for Reddy, who launched it over the bowler's head for a six. Klaasen then reverse-lapped Tyagi over deep third for a six, before Reddy hit him for back-to-back fours. Vaibhav hurt SRH by dismissing Reddy and Salil Arora off successive deliveries, but Klaasen, with the help of Dubey and Shivang Kumar, took them past 220.

KKR make strong start

Allen gave KKR the start they needed, with 25 runs coming off the first over. While Rahane was struggling and eventually fell for 8 off ten balls, Raghuvanshi didn't let the scoring rate drop. He hit two sixes off Abhishek in the third over, and smashed back-to-back fours off Jaydev

Unadkat in the fifth. After five overs, KKR were 67 for 2.

Cameron Green, though, was run out in the following over. As Raghuvanshi drove one back towards Eshan Malinga, the two batters set off, only to find the bowler had stopped the ball with his boot. Both Raghuvanshi and Green froze for a moment before deciding to keep running. Malinga picked the ball up and broke the stumps. Initially, it looked like Raghuvanshi, who was running towards the non-striker's end, was run out. But the TV umpire found out the batters hadn't crossed when the wicket was broken, and it was Green who was out.

Raghuvanshi and Rinku, though, kept the chase on track, and took KKR to 100 in nine overs, with SRH's poor ground fielding also contributing towards it.

The swift end

Just when the partnership had started to look threatening, Raghuvanshi was involved in another mix-up. When Rinku cut Shivang to backward point, both batters took off. But seeing it went straight to Malinga, Rinku stopped after a couple of steps. But Raghuvanshi had committed. He could not retrace his steps back in time.

Soon after that, Reddy got rid of Roy and Rinku in back-to-back overs. Narine and Ramandeep Singh took KKR to 155 for 6 in the 15th over, before falling to Malinga's slower balls. Unadkat then wrapped up the win with two wickets in two balls.

CSK aim to rebuild their fortress as PBKS come calling

Michael Hussey, at the end of Chennai Super Kings' humbling in Guwahati, took heart from the fact that their next game was in front of their own fans. But the thing is, the Assam Cricket Association stadium was filled with their fans as well and it irked Riyan Parag, who had grown up playing there and might have been looking forward to a little more support on his full-time IPL captaincy debut.

CSK can definitely take heart from the conditions in Chennai. They've flattened out, requiring a different kind of batter. Like Sanju Samson, who has hit a six once every eight balls in T20s this year.

But Punjab Kings have the same affinity for clearing the boundary. Priyansh Arya and Prabhsimran Singh, who will open the batting, have hit more than half their IPL career sixes in the powerplay. Shreyas Iyer brings the same ruthless efficiency to the middle overs and Shashank Singh was the joint second-highest six-hitter in the death overs in IPL 2025.

PBKS are one of four IPL teams with an equal or greater number of wins against CSK in Chennai (P9, W5, L4). They've been on the right side of the result in three successive trips to Chepauk. Last year, CSK's hold of their fortress was shattered (P6, W1, L5). This year, will they get it back?

Team news and likely XIIs

Dewald Brevis is recovering from a side injury and while he had a long net, he only faced throw downs and barely did more than defending the ball. It seems unlikely he'll be back. Without him, CSK's middle-order appears vulnerable again. CSK's IPL opener was their first without MS Dhoni or Suresh Raina in the XI. The one on Friday will be the third time they play at Chepauk without Dhoni.

Chennai Super Kings: 1 Sanju Samson (wk), 2 Ruturaj Gaikwad (capt), 3 Ayush Mhatre, 4 Matt Short, 5 Shivam Dube, 6 Sarfaraz Khan/Prashant Veer, 7 Kartik Sharma, 8 Jamie Overton, 9 Noor Ahmed, 10 Matt Henry, 11 Anshul Kamboj, 12 Khaleel Ahmed

"No break," said PBKS assistant coach Brad Haddin, when asked about Shreyas' hand, which took a blow while standing at the non-strikers' end in the last game. Ricky Ponting said PBKS had strengthened from the time they finished as IPL finalists last year. Considering the success of Cooper Connolly - and even without it, the mere fact that he was batting at No. 3 displacing Shreyas who had such great success there (360 runs at an aver-



age of 51.42 and strike rate of 180.9) - was proof of the good work they had done at the auction table. They have batting down to No. 8 and seven bowling options if Connolly and Marcus Stoinis can bowl.

Punjab Kings: 1 Priyansh Arya, 2 Prabhsimran Singh (wk), 3 Cooper Connolly, 4 Shreyas Iyer (capt), 5 Nehal Wadhwa, 6 Shashank Singh, 7 Marcus Stoinis, 8 Marco Jansen, 9 Xavier Bartlett, 10 Vijaykumar Vyshak, 11 Arshdeep Singh, 12 Yuzvendra Chahal

In the spotlight: Ruturaj Gaikwad and Marcus Stoinis

Ruturaj Gaikwad has six single-digit scores in his last ten innings in the IPL. He missed a good chunk of the last season with injury and is starting this one back at the top of the order and with a new partner, whose stature is a threat to his captaincy. Gaikwad said in his conversations with Samson that Samson

would prefer Gaikwad to keep leading CSK. But that would depend on the results. Gaikwad has a fine record at Chepauk - 764 runs at an average of 50.9 and a strike-rate of 142.

Eleven batters have scored a century against CSK in the IPL. Marcus Stoinis is one of only two to do so at Chepauk. His role, down at No. 6, probably prevents him from going that big, but he should still enjoy a good feeling walking into the ground as he looks to put behind a duck in his first game of the season, against Gujarat Titans.

Stats and trivia

Arshdeep Singh and Khaleel Ahmed are two of the most compelling left-arm quicks in the IPL. Since 2024, they are neck and neck on the number of wickets taken in the powerplay - Arshdeep leads the whole list with 40 and Khaleel is in third

"I think, usually, the Chennai wicket plays really well. But, at night, sometimes, you know, if there is excessive dew and a bit more moisture in the wicket, you know, the wicket tends to change a bit, especially the second half of the innings. So, not really sure about how it will go this year."
— RUTURAJ GAIKWAD IS UNSURE OF HOW THE CHEPAUK SURFACE WILL PLAY

"Last year was phenomenal to watch. I remember when he arrived at camp, we knew his talent but then after a couple of net sessions, the coaches got together and sort of went wow, this kid is something special."
— PBKS ASSISTANT COACH BRAD HADDIN IS A PRIYANSH ARYA FAN

place with 31. Both of them enjoy a favourable match-up against the opposition captains. Arshdeep vs Gaikwad in the IPL reads three wickets for 40 runs and a batting strike-rate of 114.28. Khaleel vs Shreyas reads three wickets for 33 runs and a batting strike rate of 132.

Yuzvendra Chahal took a hat-trick the last time he played CSK in Chennai. He has 23 wickets against them in IPL matches at an economy rate of 7.1, and perhaps more crucially, an upper-hand against their star player. Chahal has dismissed Samson five times in 12 innings for just 61 runs. No bowler has taken him out as often in the IPL.

Both teams are locked at 16 wins and 16 losses each in the IPL. Since 2022, however, PBKS have won five games and CSK just one.

Pitch and conditions: The Chepauk makeover

Chennai was nasty, particularly to quick bowlers, during the T20 World Cup. The pace and bounce that was on offer simply made it easier for batters to hit through the line and that trend might just continue in the IPL too. Haddin confirmed there was a bit of grass on it. Friday is set to bring temperatures hitting a high of 35C and a low of 26C. This will be the same pitch where India recorded 256 for 4 against Zimbabwe in the T20 World Cup.

ADIVI SESH & MRUNAL THAKUR'S 'DACOIT' TRAILER DATE OUT

Dacoit: A Love Story" is an intense action-romantic drama that blends love, betrayal, and revenge into a gripping narrative. The film revolves around two former lovers whose relationship takes a dark turn due to unforeseen circumstances and emotional conflicts. Once deeply connected, they are now driven apart by pain, anger, and misunderstandings.

As fate brings them back together, they find themselves on opposite sides of a dangerous world filled with crime, heists, and violence. The story unfolds in a rugged backdrop where trust is scarce and survival demands tough choices. Their past love still lingers, but it is overshadowed by betrayal and unresolved emotions.

The male lead, played by Adivi Sesh, is portrayed as a fierce and determined individual who is willing to cross any line for revenge. On the other hand, Mrunal Thakur's character is equally strong, layered with emotional depth and resilience. Their dynamic creates a powerful conflict between love and vengeance, making every encounter intense and unpredictable.

As the narrative progresses, the film explores how their shared history complicates their present decisions. With high-stakes action, emotional confrontations, and unexpected twists, the story builds toward a dramatic climax.

Ultimately, "Dacoit" is not just about crime or revenge—it is a tale of broken love, inner battles, and the thin line between passion and destruction.



Ranbir Kapoor's Rama Look Impresses, VFX Gets Mixed Response

The teaser of Ramayana has created a strong buzz on social media. Directed by Nitesh Tiwari and produced by Namit Malhotra, this big-budget film is planned as a two-part cinematic project. The makers recently revealed the first glimpse of Lord Rama, played by Ranbir Kapoor, and fans are already talking about it everywhere.

The teaser begins with the powerful line, "Before there were heroes, there was Rama." This line itself sets the tone of the film. Many viewers are impressed with Ranbir Kapoor's calm and divine

look as Rama. His simple appearance, expressions, and screen presence have received a lot of appreciation. Fans feel that he suits the role and brings a sense of purity and dignity to the character.

However, the reaction to the VFX is mixed. Some people say the visuals are much better than Adipurush, which had faced heavy criticism earlier. They believe this new film is trying to improve the quality and give a grand cinematic experience. At the same time, a few viewers feel that some scenes look artificial, almost like AI-generated visuals. Because of this, discussions have started online about the need for better

graphics and detailing.

The film is being made on a very large scale with the support of global VFX company DNEG and Prime Focus Studios. This shows that the makers are aiming for world-class quality. The story of Rama is one of the oldest and most respected epics, followed for thousands of years. It shows the journey of a hero who always chooses duty over personal happiness. The movie also stars Yash as Ravana, Sai Pallavi as Sita, and Sunny Deol as Hanuman. Music is composed by legends Hans Zimmer and A. R. Rahman.

Vijay Deverakonda Replies to His Maiden Fan, Reel Goes Viral



Young actor Vijay Deverakonda responded warmly to an Instagram Reel by fan Vyshnavi Nitish, who claimed she had admired him even before his entry into films. Sharing an old photo and a birthday wish screenshot, she asked if she could call herself his 'first fan'. Vijay replied with a heart emoji and thanked her and all early supporters for being 'special', a gesture that quickly went viral and drew celebratory reactions from fans.

The exchange struck a chord because it highlighted the enduring bond between celebrities and their earliest supporters. Fans celebrated the rare public acknowledgment of someone who stood by Vijay before his fame, contrasting with the more transactional fan interactions common today. This humanising moment reinforced Vijay's image as a grounded, approachable star who values loyalty.

Fan counters AI speculation with proof. As the Reel gained traction, some online users accused Vyshnavi of using AI to fabricate Vijay's comment. She clarified that the birthday wish screenshot was taken recently from an active Facebook post, not generated artificially. Directing sceptics to her Instagram highlights for verification, she also confirmed the old photo was from 2014, before Vijay's breakout roles. Vijay began his career with small roles in films like 'Nuvvila' and 'Life Is Beautiful' before gaining attention with 'Yevade Subramanyam' and 'Pelli Choopulu'. His career-defining moment came with the 2017 hit 'Arjun Reddy', which propelled him to national fame.

Vivek Oberoi Opens Up About His Role in Spirit

Bollywood actor Vivek Oberoi, who is set to play a dark and intriguing role in the much-anticipated film Spirit, chose to keep details about his character under wraps. Speaking at the International Film Festival of India, he simply said, "Picture abhi baaki hai" (the film is still in the making), hinting that more will be revealed in due course. Oberoi shared that he is putting in a lot of effort with discipline and commitment. "The rest is with God," he added, expressing confidence in the project while maintaining humility.

Talking about his approach to films, Oberoi emphasized that he now works purely out of passion. "If I get a good script and role, I enjoy doing it. I no longer feel pressure and am just focus-

ing on my work with passion," he noted. The actor is no stranger to intense and negative roles in South Indian cinema. He portrayed a factionist in Raktha Charitra, a character inspired by Paritala Ravi, and later played the antagonist opposite Ram Charan in Vinaya Vidheya Rama. After a brief gap, he is now set to face off against Prabhas in Spirit, directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga. The initial look unveiled by the director has already generated significant buzz around the film and Oberoi's role. In Tamil cinema, Oberoi also impressed audiences as a sophisticated, high-tech villain opposite Ajith Kumar in Vivegam. Currently, Vivek Oberoi is being selective about his projects in the South, while continuing to focus more on Bollywood, choosing roles that align with his passion and evolving career choices.



Pune Farmer Sues Sonali Bendre, Husband Alleging Land Grab

Mumbai: A farmer from Pune district has filed a civil lawsuit against Bollywood actor Sonali Bendre and her filmmaker husband Goldie Behl, accusing them of encroaching on their land and indulging in "mafia-style" intimidation. Bendre, however, denied the allegation, saying it was an attempt to extort money as her name was not mentioned on any of the land purchase documents. The complainants - Chandrakant Balu Shinde (50) and his mother Kamalbai (75) - claim that the celebrity couple was using their social influence and taking help of the local police to forcibly take possession of their 30 'guntha' (over 32,000 square feet) of land in Uksan village in Maval taluka of the district.

The suit was filed against the celebrity couple and two others through advocate Vanraj Shinde last month before a civil court at Vadgaon Maval. The matter will next be heard on April 24. As per the suit, the Shinde family has

been cultivating the land as "protected tenants" since the 1940s. The family alleged that their names were illegally removed from revenue records in the 1980s without a notice. The dispute began when the original owners allegedly sold the land to a local individual in 2012, who subsequently sold a portion of it to Goldie Behl in March 2021.

The aggrieved mother-son duo claimed these sales were "illegal and void" because their pre-existing tenancy rights were never legally terminated. The plaintiffs have also made claims of intimidation and police bias. The Shinde family alleged that on December 14, 2025, Sonali Bendre and Goldie Behl arrived at the site with workers and heavy machinery to begin unauthorised construction.

When Kamalbai tried to stop the work, she was allegedly met with threats. The police officers at the site also threatened to frame the mother-son duo in false theft cases if they continued to "harass" the celebrity couple, the lawsuit claimed. Bendre, however, said her name is not there on any documents related to the Maval land purchase. This is a false case orchestrated solely to extort money, her lawyer Raju Shinde said.