

# HYDERABAD HEADLINES

RNI NO.APENG/2010/33328 VOL NO.16 ISSUE NO.: 343 HYDERABAD PAGES: 12 RS. 1/-

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2026

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### Royals Outclass MI in High-Octane 11-Over Dash

STADIUM 11

### Priyanka Chopra Enjoys a Relaxing Break



BOX -OFFICE 12

## KERALA 2026: BJP'S SURGICAL PUSH TO CRACK A TWO FRONT FORTRESS



SPECIAL 02

### SHORT TAKES



#### UP busts ISI-linked terror network

A major terror network spanning multiple states has been uncovered by the Uttar Pradesh Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS), with key accused Saqib alias "Devil" found to be actively building and expanding a radical module on his own.

NEXT DOOR 05



#### Seaplanes Ready for Take-off in Rishikesh

SkyHop Aviation has successfully conducted a test flight of its seaplane with landing and take-off from the Ganga Barrage in Rishikesh, marking a key milestone in its plans to become India's first commercial seaplane operator.

MONEY MATTER 09



#### A Call for Global Peace and no War

In this transitional phase of world history, when humanity is groaning under the burden of war, violence, tension, terrorism and intolerance, the celebration of World Namokar Mantra Day on April 9, 2026 emerges as a unique explosion of spiritual energy.

OPINION 06

### The 8 P.M. Deadline:

## A Whole Civilization Will Die Trump Issues Final Ultimatum to Iran



WASHINGTON, APR 7

U.S. President Donald Trump on Tuesday issued a dramatic warning that "a whole civilization will die tonight" if Iran fails to meet a deadline to reach a deal, including reopening the strategically crucial Strait of Hormuz.

The ultimatum came amid intensifying hostilities between the United States, Israel, and Iran, with fresh airstrikes targeting key infrastructure. U.S. forces struck military facilities on Kharg Island for the second time, while Israeli warplanes reportedly hit bridges, railways, and a petrochemical site in Shiraz.

Despite repeated deadlines in the past that were later extended, Trump insisted

this deadline—set for 8 p.m. Washington time—would be final, though he also hinted at the possibility of a diplomatic breakthrough.

#### Rising Tensions and Military Escalation

Airstrikes have continued across Iran, including in parts of Tehran and other major cities. Key transport infrastructure such as bridges and rail networks were targeted, allegedly to disrupt military logistics.

In retaliation, Iran launched missiles and drones toward Israel and Saudi Arabia. Saudi authorities confirmed intercepting several projectiles and temporarily shut down the King Fahd Causeway linking it to Bahrain, home to the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet.

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## CS highlights Telangana's economic progress to U.S.-India Strategic Forum

HYDERABAD, APRIL 7

A high-level delegation from the U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum met Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao at the Secretariat on Tuesday.

The delegation comprised representatives from companies across diverse sectors, including insurance, financial services, agriculture, and technology.

The Chief Secretary provided a comprehensive overview of

Telangana's growth trajectory across multiple sectors. He noted that Telangana, the youngest state in the country formed in 2014, has made remarkable progress over the past decade. The state has registered impressive growth in Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) and per capita income, driven by significant investments from both the government and the private sector.

Highlighting the rapid pace of urbanisation, the Chief Sec-

retary stated that Telangana is among the fastest urbanising states in India, with nearly one-third of its population residing in and around Hyderabad.

He described Hyderabad as the pharma capital of the country and a pioneer in the field of information technology. The city's legacy of large public sector undertakings has also contributed to the growth of startups, particularly in the defence sector.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

### Stephen Raveendra directs PMCs to ensure uninterrupted auto LPG supply

Hyderabad, April 7: A review meeting with Private Marketing Companies (PMCs) dealing with auto LPG was held here on Tuesday under the chairmanship of M. Stephen Raveendra, Commissioner of Civil Supplies. In the review meeting, it was noted with

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### KTR SLAMS ARRESTS OF BRS LEADERS, CALLS IT 'MURDER OF DEMOCRACY'

SPECIAL 02

## EXPLOSIVE ALLEGATIONS COLLAPSE INTO FORGERY WAR

### Assam Election Eve Turns into Legal Battlefield as Khera Faces Police Heat



A last-minute political grenade lobbed by Pawan Khera against Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has detonated in reverse. Claims that Riniki Bhuyan Sharma held multiple foreign passports have been officially dismissed as forgeries by foreign authorities. A criminal case is now in motion, and Assam Police have moved to Khera's doorstep in Delhi. What began as an electoral strike has morphed into a credibility crisis with legal consequences.

BY C. SUBRAHMANYAM

This is not routine political mudslinging. This is a high-risk gamble that has ricocheted with force. Days before Assam votes, Pawan Khera stepped into the spotlight with a sensational charge sheet. Multiple foreign passports. Massive undisclosed assets. A narrative

crafted to trigger suspicion and outrage in one stroke. The target was not just Himanta Biswa Sarma but his immediate family, specifically Riniki Bhuyan Sharma. The problem is simple and devastating: the documents do not hold. Two sovereign channels have already dismantled the core allegation.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

## "Kerala's achievements are due to past UDF governments"

CM Revanth Counters Vijaywan, Questions Kerala Govt's Claims



HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has written a strongly worded letter to Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, asserting that Kerala's achievements are largely the result of previous UDF governments and not the current LDF administration. He urged the Kerala government to present a clear account of its accomplishments over its two consecutive terms.

The letter comes in response to Vijayan's earlier communication declining to engage in a discussion with the Telangana Chief Minister. Reddy stated

that while he intended to respond with dignity on governance issues, Vijayan's remarks contained objectionable language. He emphasized that he does not react impulsively and assured that Vijayan would be treated with due respect whenever he visits Telangana.

#### Criticism Over Data Representation

Reddy accused Vijayan of repeatedly misrepresenting Telangana's position in the NITI Aayog SDG Index 2023-24. He clarified that the period cited did not reflect the performance of the current Telangana government but rather

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# Kerala 2026: BJP's surgical push to crack a two-front fortress

With resources locked onto select high stakes constituencies and heavyweight candidates leading the charge, the BJP attempts a decisive entry into a political system long dominated by the Left and the Congress blocs

BY C. SUBRAHMANYAM

The BJP approaches the 2026 Kerala Assembly election with a sharply focused strategy targeting around 40 constituencies instead of spreading resources statewide. Backed by incremental vote share growth and local body gains, the party is concentrating its top leadership in key seats such as Nemom, Palakkad, Kazhakkootam, Manjeswaram and Thrissur. While structural challenges like tactical minority voting and entrenched bipolar politics remain strong, even a small electoral breakthrough could significantly alter Kerala's political balance and establish the BJP as a third force. Kerala's political theatre runs on discipline. Two fronts dominate. Power rotates with precision. Into this tightly controlled arena steps a challenger that has stopped chasing visibility and started engineering entry. The BJP's playbook this time is stripped of illusion. No grand statewide sweep. No exaggerated claims. The focus is narrower, sharper and far more deliberate. This is a contest designed not to overwhelm the system, but to pierce it.

## The core strategy: Fewer seats, heavier firepower

The BJP has zeroed in on roughly 40 constituencies where it senses vulnerability in the entrenched order. This is not political optimism. It is arithmetic backed by recent electoral data. Every resource is being channelled into these pockets. Leadership deployment is deliberate. Campaign intensity is uneven by design. The party is not spreading itself thin. It is compressing force where it believes outcomes can be altered.

## The five contests that will define the result — Nemom: Reclaiming lost ground

Rajeev Chandrasekhar leads the charge



in a constituency that once symbolised the BJP's breakthrough. The loss in 2021 was narrow and politically costly. A victory here would signal recovery and renewed credibility.

## Palakkad: Organisation versus internal strain

Sobha Surendran enters with organisational strength built over years. Yet internal friction could blunt momentum. This contest will test whether structure can withstand strain.

## Kazhakkootam: The long pursuit

V. Muraliedharan has come close more than once. The BJP believes the timing is now aligned for a decisive push.

## Manjeswaram: The edge contest

K. Surendran faces a constituency where margins are razor thin. But the counter consolidation against the BJP is equally sharp, making this a high risk battle.

## Thrissur: Image meets electoral reality

Padmaja Venugopal represents the BJP's attempt to expand social reach. The Lok Sabha result created momen-

tum. The Assembly test will determine its durability.

## The social calculus: Where the equation gets tested

Kerala's politics is not driven by simple arithmetic. It is layered with social alignment and strategic voting. The BJP is attempting consolidation within sections of Hindu voters in targeted regions. But minority voting patterns have historically acted as a counterweight, often aligning tactically to prevent breakthroughs. In triangular contests, expected vote division frequently collapses into strategic consolidation. That remains the BJP's most significant hurdle.

## A foothold fight, not a power grab

There is no illusion of immediate dominance within the BJP's ranks. The expectation is measured. A handful of seats. Perhaps a few more if momentum sustains. But even limited success would alter Kerala's political narrative. Because once the entry barrier is broken, the structure of contest changes permanently. This election is not about forming government. It is about forcing entry into a system that has long resisted it.

## The numbers that are driving the strategy

- Assembly vote share rising steadily across two election cycles
- Sharp jump to nearly 17 percent in the 2024 Lok Sabha election
- Strong presence in select urban local bodies
- Multiple constituencies with narrow second place finishes. The direction is clear. The destination is still contested.

## Why Kerala resists sudden political shifts

Kerala's electoral behaviour is shaped by long standing political literacy and structured party networks. The cadre depth of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and the organisational spread of the Indian National Congress ensure that voters are not easily swayed by short term narratives. Minority communities often vote with tactical clarity, especially when confronted with a shifting political landscape. This produces a stabilising effect that limits abrupt breakthroughs. Any new entrant must build incrementally, constituency by constituency, over multiple election cycles. The BJP's current strategy reflects an acceptance of this reality even as it attempts to disrupt it.

## The real battle is not seats but legitimacy

- Entry into the Assembly itself would mark a structural shift
- Even a small seat tally can alter future electoral negotiations
- Establishes long term political relevance in a resistant landscape. In Kerala, legitimacy is the first victory. Power comes later.

# "Bharatiya Homoeopathy" Leads Global Healing

- ASRHMC & UARDT Conclude
- World Homoeopathy Week with Mega Diagnostic Finale

TADEPALLIGUDEM

Today marks the grand culmination of World Homoeopathy Awareness Week 2026 at ASRHMC. In a significant collaboration with the Umar Alisha Rural Development Trust (UARDT), the week-long mission concluded with a mega-diagnostic camp at the Tadepalligudem campus, providing high-end medical screenings to the public at no cost. From Foreign Roots to Bharatiya Soul Addressing the gathering, Principal Prof. Dr. Ananda Kumar Pingali highlighted the unique evolution of the system. "While Homoeopathy was founded in Germany by Dr. Samuel Hahnemann, it has been completely adopted by the soul of India," Dr. Pingali stated. "Today, we see a massive public patronage (Aadarana) that has transformed it into 'Bharatiya Homoeopathy.' It is no longer a foreign science; it is a household name in India, providing gentle and effective healing." The Global Epicenter Dr. Pingali presented compelling evidence of India's emergence as the global leader in the field. He noted that with a patient base exceeding 20 crore (200 million) and a professional network of over 3 lakh registered practitioners, India currently maintains the world's most robust homoeopathic infrastructure. This leadership is further bolstered by an unparalleled academic landscape featuring more than



300 medical colleges. As homoeopathy is now recognized as the second most utilized system of medicine worldwide, Dr. Pingali emphasized that India serves as the primary engine driving this global shift toward holistic and cost-effective healthcare. Advanced Diagnostics for the Public The grand finale focused on the early detection of "Silent Killers." Hundreds of local residents utilized specialized services, including Bone Mineral Density (BMD) Tests for osteoporosis screening, Comprehensive Metabolic Panels (HbA1c, Lipid, and Thyroid profiles), Specialized Consultations for chronic conditions like obesity and hypertension.

## A Vision for the Future

The Principal lauded the Government of India's vision for Integrative Medicine under the AYUSH systems. He noted that India is witnessing a surge in medical tourism, with international patients seeking the holistic and cost-effective care provided by Indian institutions. "This week-long initiative, including successful rural outreach camps, has served its mission to bring 'Homoeopathy for Health' to every doorstep," concluded Dr. Pingali.

# Drug bust in Hyd: 4 kg ganja seized, 3 arrested

HYDERABAD

In a joint crackdown on April 4 this year, the Hyderabad Narcotics Enforcement Wing (H-NEW) and Borabanda Police arrested three individuals and seized 4 kg of ganja, along with a scooter and mobile phones worth Rs.2.5 lakh. The accused include two suppliers - G Rakesh (25 years) and B Vijay Kumar (21) from Odisha and a local peddler K Tirumala Reddy (27) from Borabanda area, who allegedly turned to drug trade due to financial distress. Ac-

cording to DCP (task force) Vaibhav Gaikwad, the accused Tirumala Reddy procured ganja from Odisha-based suppliers at lower prices and sold it local consumers for profit. Transactions were carried out through both cash and UPI methods. A case has been registered under various sections of the NDPS Act, and further investigation is underway. The accused were apprehended by B. Venkat, Inspector, H-NEW; C. Venkata Ramulu, SI; along with staff of H-NEW and Borabanda Police under the supervision of senior officers.

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# Explosive allegations collapse into forgery war

FROM PAGE 1

UAE systems have found no such passport. The Egyptian side has gone further, calling the circulated document outright fabricated, with visible manipulation. This is not a grey zone. This is a black mark on authenticity. And once forgery enters the frame, politics exits and law takes over.

## THE DOCUMENT PROBLEM

\* UAE verification: No matching passport exists

\* Egypt position: Document is fabricated with pasted identity

\* No original documents produced so far

\* Visual inconsistencies flagged by multiple observers

Himanta Biswa Sarma has moved swiftly and with calculation. He has not merely denied the charges; he has escalated the battlefield. Criminal conspiracy. Forgery. Defamation. These are not rhetorical counters. These are prosecutable tracks. The FIR filed by Riniiki Bhuyari Sharma is the pivot point. It transforms a political allegation into a criminal investigation. Under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita framework, this is serious exposure if fabrication is established. And then comes the optics. On the final day of campaigning, Assam Police land at Khera's Delhi residence. Cameras follow. Phones reportedly seized. Absence of the accused fuels more speculation. The message is unmistakable: the state is acting, and it is acting now. "When documents collapse, intent comes under scrutiny."

## SELECTIVE AGGRESSION OR LEGAL NECESSITY?

The opposition is not without its counterattack. They point to inconsistency. When Himanta Biswa Sarma himself raised questions earlier involving Gaurav Gogoi and alleged foreign links, the response was slower, routed through an SIT and institutional processes. No immediate FIR sprint. No cross-state police movement at that stage.

## So why the urgency now?

The government's defence is procedural clarity: one case involved allegations requiring investigation; this one involves allegedly forged documents already debunked by foreign authorities. In other words, suspicion versus fabrication. That distinction will now be tested not in press conferences but in courtrooms.

## THE LEGAL TRACK

\* FIR registered under forgery and conspiracy provisions

\* Police empowered to investigate across states

\* Potential escalation to defamation suits

\* Digital forensics likely to play a central role

## THE REAL POLITICAL DAMAGE

Strip away the noise, and one question dominates: credibility. If the Congress fails to substantiate its claims with verifiable evidence, this episode risks boomeranging hard. Allegations of this magnitude cannot rest on photocopies and projections. They demand documentary integri-

ty. On the other side, the ruling camp is capitalising with precision. By framing this as a "fake narrative" backed by external misinformation channels, it is turning defence into offence. The timing is surgical. Voters are watching not just what is said, but what stands up.

## THE SOCIAL MEDIA ACCELERATOR

The controversy did not grow organically. It was engineered for amplification. Clips of the alleged documents, press briefings, and police visits have flooded digital platforms within hours. Competing narratives are being pushed with equal aggression. One side calls it exposure. The other calls it fabrication backed by hostile ecosystems. The result is a familiar pattern: velocity outruns verification. In this environment, the first impression often sticks longer than the correction. That is precisely why the stakes are so high in cases involving documentary claims. "In election season, speed matters. But accuracy decides survival."

## A TRIAL BEFORE THE VERDICT

This battle is no longer about who said what. It is about what can be proven. If the documents are indeed forged, the consequences for Pawan Khera are not just political but legal. If any part of the allegation survives scrutiny, the impact shifts dramatically onto Himanta Biswa Sarma and his administration. At this moment, the balance tilts toward the side armed with verification. But elections are volatile theatres. One fresh piece of credible evidence can redraw the script overnight.

# CS highlights Telangana's economic progress to U.S.-India Strategic Forum

FROM PAGE 1

The Chief Secretary further noted that Hyderabad has attracted substantial investments in Global Capability Centres (GCCs) and is home to several nationally reputed educational institutions, world-class healthcare facilities, and a robust fintech ecosystem.

Emphasising Telangana's strengths, he highlighted its conducive climate, availability of skilled manpower, rich cultural heritage, and renowned cuisine as key factors making it an attractive investment destination. He stated that Telangana is among the fastest-growing

states in India and has set an ambitious target of transforming into a \$3 trillion economy by 2047. Assuring continued support, the Chief Secretary conveyed to the delegation that the state government remains committed to facilitating investments and will extend all necessary assistance to make Telangana a preferred global investment destination. Director of Industries Nikhil Chakravarthy, Malachy Brian Nugent, R Deepak Joshi, Divdriht Singh from the U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum and representatives of various companies were also present at the meeting.

# "Kerala's achievements are due to past UDF govts"

FROM PAGE 1

the final phase of what he described as a decade of misgovernance under previous regimes. Highlighting Telangana's economic progress, Reddy noted that the state's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) for 2024-25 stood at ₹16.12 lakh crore, registering a growth rate of 10.7%, surpassing the national average. He added that the per capita income had reached ₹3.87 lakh, placing Telangana among the leading states, ahead of several major economies, according to RBI data.

## Questions on Poverty Claims

Referring to Vijayan's earlier statement that Kerala would eradicate extreme pov-

erty by the end of 2025, Reddy questioned the claim in light of the continued distribution of benefits to over 64,000 families. He asked whether the target had been achieved and why the November 1, 2025 announcement had not materialized.

## Concerns Over Pending Cases

Reddy also raised concerns over unresolved issues in Kerala, including the alleged gold smuggling case, which reportedly involved links to senior officials. He questioned why the matter remains inconclusive if the government maintains a clean image. Additionally, he sought clarification on allegations regarding the transfer of 4.5 kg of gold from the Sabarimala Ayyappa Temple, stating that the

public deserves transparency.

## Telangana's Development Vision

Outlining his government's roadmap, Reddy said Telangana is progressing under the "Telangana Rising 2047" vision. He highlighted key initiatives such as the proposed Future City near Hyderabad and the National Industrial Corridor at Zaheerabad, aimed at transforming the state into a \$1 trillion economy within the next decade. He concluded by expressing confidence that political change in Kerala could pave the way for the implementation of a "Nava Kerala" vision, adding that the people of the state would take that call in due course.

# "A Whole Civilization Will Die"

FROM PAGE 1

The conflict has already resulted in significant casualties. Reports indicate that over 1,900 people have been killed in Iran since the fighting began, with additional casualties reported in Israel, Lebanon, and across the Gulf region.

## Iran Mobilises Civilians, Rejects Proposal

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said that 14 million citizens have volunteered to join the war effort. Authorities have also called on civilians to form human chains around critical infrastructure such as power plants, echoing past actions during heightened tensions.

## Global Economic Impact and Diplomatic Efforts

The conflict has severely impacted global energy markets, particularly due to Iran's effective blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, through which nearly a fifth of the world's oil supply passes. Oil prices have surged, affecting fuel and commodity prices worldwide. Diplomatic efforts are ongoing, with mediators from several countries working to avert fur-

ther escalation. Reports suggest that indirect communication between Washington and Tehran continues, with discussions around sanctions relief and reopening the vital waterway.

## International Concern Over Civilian Targets

Global leaders and organizations have raised alarm over the targeting of civilian and energy infrastructure. Critics warn such actions could constitute violations of international law, though enforcement remains complex. As tensions reach a critical point, the world watches closely to see whether diplomacy can prevail or whether the conflict will enter a more destructive phase.

# KTR slams arrests of BRS leaders, calls it 'murder of democracy'

HYDERABAD: K. T. Rama Rao, working president of Bharat Rashtira Samithi, condemned the arrest of key BRS leaders, including party deputy floor leaders T. Harish Rao and Sabitha Indra Reddy. KTR characterized the unlawful house arrest and detention of the BRS leaders - who were on their way to stand in solidarity with farmers fighting to protect their land in Pargi - as a cowardly act by the Congress government. He lashed out at the state government by stating that attempting to stifle dissenting voices through the brute force of the police amounts to nothing less than the murder of democracy. He accused the government of betraying promises and targeting farmers' lands under the guise of industrial development.

# Stephen Raveendra directs PMCs to ensure uninterrupted auto LPG supply

FROM PAGE 1

satisfaction that the PMCs have made considerable progress over the past week. A total of 363 MTs of Auto LPG was sourced and supplied during the week, and 17 previously non-operational (dry) outlets were restored to functioning status. The Commissioner appreciated the efforts of Super Gas, Go Gas, Total Energies, and Prime Fuel for their proactive role in augmenting supplies and reviving operations at multiple outlets.

However, concern was expressed regarding the limited or negligible progress made by certain other PMCs. They were issued stern instructions to intensify their efforts in sourcing Auto LPG and to ensure consistent supply across all their outlets without fail.

Stephen Raveendra reiterated that maintaining an uninterrupted Auto LPG supply is critical to safeguarding the livelihoods of auto drivers and directed all PMCs to remain fully committed to this objective. The department will maintain strict vigilance and PMCs are expected to sustain and further build upon these supply levels, ensuring continuous fuel availability to prevent any disruption to public transport.

The Civil Supplies department will continue its daily monitoring of running outlets and product receipts, working in close coordination with Oil Marketing Companies to ensure the impact of international supply constraints remains fully mitigated in Hyderabad. Citizens facing any issues can directly contact the toll-free Helpline Number: 1967.

**IPL betting trap: Cyber police crack down on fake prediction rackets**

**HYDERABAD:** April 7 (NSS): Amid Indian Premier League (IPL) frenzy, Hyderabad police commissioner V. C. Sajjanar warned against online betting scams disguised as match predictions. Fraudsters are luring users with false claims on match outcomes and toss predictions. As for the police action, so far 494 ads blocked and 129 social media accounts taken down. Citizens are urged to report fraud via 1930 helpline or the cybercrime portal.

**IGNOU 39th Convocation: 2,99,092 Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates Awarded**

**Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)**

**HYDERABAD**  
The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), the largest university in the world, conducted its 39th convocation on April 7 at 9:30 AM at the Baba Saheb Ambedkar Convention Centre, New Delhi. A total of 2,99,092 degrees, diplomas, and certificates were awarded across the country.

The Honorable Vice President of India, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan, attended the event as the chief guest and praised IGNOU's contributions to the distance education system. Delivering the welcome address, IGNOU Vice Chancellor Prof. Uma Kanjilal stated that the university is playing

a significant role in the nation's development. The Hyderabad Regional Centre also conducted its 39th regional convocation at the Media Academy Auditorium in Nampally. Dr. Raju Bolla, Regional Director, presented the annual report and highlighted that the Hyderabad Regional Centre plays a key role in making various innovative programs accessible to students in Telangana.

He stated that a historic milestone was achieved with the permanent land allotment for the regional centre. As per GO Ms. No. 21 dated January 23, 2026, issued by the Telangana Government, and subsequent orders from the District Collector on February 11, 2026, land measuring 0-20 guntas in Survey No. 133 at Rajendranagar, Mailardevpally, was allocated free of cost. This fulfilled a 40-year-long aspiration. IGNOU Vice



Chancellor Prof. Uma Kanjilal personally visited the site, expressed satisfaction, and appreciated the efforts of the regional director and his team.

Currently, the Hyderabad Regional Centre is serving all 33 districts of Telangana through 20 active Learner

Support Centres (LSCs). Efforts are underway to establish a new LSC at AIIMS Bibinagar for Health Science courses in the upcoming academic year. Out of the 333 programs offered by IGNOU, nearly 200 are available at the Hyderabad Regional Centre,

including certificate, PG certificate, diploma, PG diploma, bachelor's, and master's degree programs.

The centre is also actively providing Telugu-language counseling sessions through Swayam Prabha Channel 18. Additionally, efforts are being made to translate undergraduate (UG) self-learning materials into Telugu. Counseling is being delivered through blended methods for postgraduate programs such as Mathematics, Sciences, Geology, Environmental Science, Geography, Analytical Chemistry, and Anthropology to ensure both academic rigor and accessibility.

The Hyderabad Regional Centre also serves as the nodal centre for South India to conduct the "Certificate in Professional Development of Teachers" (CPDT) program for Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya teachers. It

has successfully organized 21 workshops of five days each and trained around 900 teachers so far.

At the convocation, Prof. Ganta Chakrapani, Vice Chancellor of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University, attended as the chief guest. He stated that IGNOU's diverse programs under the new education policy not only shape students into responsible citizens but also create employment opportunities across various sectors. He encouraged students to balance education with service to society.

He further emphasized that open universities have played a revolutionary role in making higher education accessible to those who could not otherwise attain it. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar gave the highest importance to education and once said: "We may forego material benefits, ...".

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Details of the Tender Notices of S.C. Railway can be seen on our website: [www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in)

**NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER**  
(through <https://ireps.gov.in>)  
CE/C-V/SC & CE/C-V Construction Organisation, S.C.Railway, Secunderabad, respectively, invites e-tender on behalf of the President of India for the following works:

**SNo. 1 NIT No EPC-07-CAO- C-SC-2026** Date: 24/03/2026 Name of work South Central Railway (Construction Organization): Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Contract for "Doubling of Track between Aurangabad Station & Gevrai Station including Electrification and Signalling and Augmentation of existing 1x25 kV TSS/SSP/SP to suit proposed second line works in connection with Aurangabad-Parbhani Doubling Project of South Central Railway in the State of Maharashtra"  
Details - Estimated Cost: Rs. 410,69,21,680.69 EMD: Rs. 2,00,00,000.00 Completion Period: 30 (Thirty)Months. Date of Opening: 26/05/2026 15:00hrs.

**SNo. 2 NIT No 18-CAO- C-SC- 2026** Date: 31/03/2026 Name of work SCR Construction-Vijayawada Division: SW:1 Proposed Construction of new Road Over Bridge in Lieu of LC No. 365 near Chelrol station yard. SW:2 Proposed Construction of new Road Over Bridge in Lieu of LC No.369 near Badampudi station Yard. SW:3 Proposed Construction of new Road Over Bridge in Lieu of LC No. 376 in between Navabpalem and Tadepalligudem Stations. SW:4 Proposed Construction of new Foot Over Bridge (FOB) for Public Crossing at LC No. 365(near Chelrol yard) and at LC No. 369 (near Badampudi Yard). SW:5 Construction of Camp Office.  
Details - Estimated Cost: Rs. 192,48,87,022.01 EMD: Rs. 3,84,97,800.00 Completion Period: 24 (Twenty Four) Months. Date of Opening: 22/04/2026 15:00hrs

i) For bid document and other details, please login to website <https://ireps.gov.in>. ii) Tenderers can submit their offers online during tender submission period which is the Fifteen days period prior to closing of tender. iii) Tenderers should watch up any corrigenda (issued online only) to the date of commencement of the tender submission period.  
Dy. CE/C/Plg/Secunderabad

**Open e-Tender Notice No. Dy.CE/TM/Lines/02/2026 dt.06.04.2026**  
For and on behalf of the President of India, the undersigned invites E-Tenders for the following works up to 15-00 hours and the date mentioned against each.

**Sl. No. 1 Tender No. E-2-TM-LINES-BZA-2026** Details of Work Name of work Strengthening, modification, Technical up-gradation, including provision of Smart ALC, re-wiring and commissioning of 4 numbers Old 09-32 CSM tamping machines(CSM-904, CSM-930, CSM-940 & CSM-948)  
Period of completion 18(Eighteen Months) Tender value Rs. 26,47,68,282/- E.M.D. Rs. 52,95,400./- Date of closing 05.05.2026

1) Tender conditions/other particulars such as the details of Name of work in full, the similar nature of the above works, eligibility criteria etc., are available in the Tender documents published in website at "[www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)". 2) The prospective tenderers are advised to visit website "[www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)", before the date of tender closing to note any changes/corrigenda for any tender. 3) The Tender Notice is also displayed in the Notice Board located in the office of Divisional Railway Manager (Works), S.C. Railway, Vijayawada and ADEN sub-divisional offices of Vijayawada Division which can be seen. 4) The Railway reserves the right to cancel the tender without assigning any reason thereto.  
Visit our site at "[www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)"  
Dy.CE/TM/Lines/Vijayawada

**Open e-Tender Notice No. N/E.29/TrD/Tender/24/2025-26 dt. 31.03.2026**  
**N-E29-TRD-TNDR-01-2026-27 dt. 06.04.2026**

Sealed tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works:  
**Sl.No 1 Tender No. N/E.29/TrD/Tender/24/2025-26** Description of Works Nanded Division MUE-PMKT section: TRD arrangements for construction of additional vent in lieu of LC No. 12 at Km. 1172-3 between Kinwat - Ambari stations. Completion period 2 Month Approx. Value (Rs.) 1667118.10 Bid security (Rs.) 33400.00

**Sl.No 2 Tender No. N/E.29/TrD/Tender/01/2026-27** Description of Works Nanded Division: TRD arrangements for extension of Pitline No 1 at NED station by 0.6 TKM Completion period 12 Month Approx. Value (Rs.) 3562585.40 Bid security (Rs.) 71300.00

**Date of closing - N/E.29/TrD/Tender/24/2025-26 22/04/2026 at 11-00 hrs.**  
**Date of closing - N/E.29/TrD/Tender/01/2026-27 28/04/2026 at 11-00 hrs.**

Note: If the date of opening day happens to be holiday, the tender will be opened on next working day FOR DETAILED CONDITIONS "Visit our site at [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)"  
Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD/Nanded

**TGCHE Launches First-of-its-Kind Internship Program to Strengthen Student Employability**



**HYDERABAD**

Under the aegis of the Telangana Council of Higher Education (TGCHE), and under the leadership of Chairman Prof. V. Balakista Reddy, a first-of-its-kind structured internship program has been launched. This initiative is specially designed to enhance students' employability, develop professional skills, and provide awareness about higher education governance and policy-making.

On this occasion, the Chairman announced that 15 students from Andhra Mahila Sabha College of Law for Women have been selected as interns. He stated that through this program, students will not only gain valuable skills but also get an opportunity to contribute to the transformation of the higher education sector in Telangana.

Addressing the students, Prof. Reddy said that internships have become a crucial prerequisite for employment opportunities in today's

world. He explained that they provide industry exposure and knowledge while increasing the chances of securing Pre-Placement Offers (PPOs) from reputed organizations. The program also helps bridge the gap between academic learning and real-world experience. This internship program has been designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of higher education administration, policy formulation, and institutional functioning. Interns will work under the guidance of experienced mentors, and their performance will be continuously evaluated based on work quality, time management, professional behavior, and creativity. Explaining the broader vision, the Chairman stated that TGCHE aims to systematically implement this program to nurture talented youth in research, policy-making, and educational leadership. He added that the initiative will encourage innovative thinking and interdisciplinary collaboration among students.

**Vivek holds key talks in Hannover to boost overseas jobs**

**HYDERABAD**

Minister for Labour, Employment and Mines G.Vivek Venkatswamy on Tuesday held a high-level meeting with officials of the German Federal Employment Agency in Hannover, Germany, to explore overseas employment opportunities for the state's youth.

The discussions focused on expanding avenues for skilled workforce mobility from Telangana to Germany, particularly in sectors witnessing skilled men. The meeting also reviewed the state's preparedness to meet German job market requirements, including skill standards, language training, and certi-

fication processes. The Minister highlighted Telangana government's proactive initiatives in upskilling youth through institutions like Telangana Overseas Manpower Company and other agencies, aligning training programmes with global industry demands.

The delegation included Special Chief Secretary (LETF) M. Dana Kishore, TOMCOM General Manager Nagabharti, Manager Anil Kumar, PMU head Srinivas Rao and Head of Skill Talent Acquisition Bala Ramani. During the visit, the Minister and his team also felicitated Laura Breitsameter, Head of Department - Early Career Counseling at the German Federal Employment Agency.

**GITAM Invites Applications for Ph.D. Admissions 2026-27**

**HYDERABAD**

For and on behalf of the President of India, the undersigned invites e-Tender for the following works up to 15-00 hours on the date mentioned below:  
1. B/E.29/IEGS/40/25-26 Dt. 30.03.2026 Name of work ELS/BZA-Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & commissioning of fire fighting system at Electric loco shed, Vijayawada-Electrical arrangements. Period of completion 12 months Tender value (₹) 2,03,47,673.51 E.M.D./Bid Security(₹) 4,07,000 Cost of Tender document Nil Date of closing 21.04.2026

2. B/E.29/IEGS/41/25-26 Dt. 30.03.2026 Name of work BZA Div: COA-Development of coach maintenance facilities-Electrical arrangements. Period of completion 6 months Tender value (₹) 75,39,316.88 E.M.D./Bid Security(₹) 1,50,800 Cost of Tender document Nil Date of closing 21.04.2026

1) Tender conditions/other particulars such as the details of Name of work in full, the similar nature of the above works, eligibility criteria etc., are available in the Tender documents published in website at "[www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)". 2) The prospective tenderers are advised to visit website "[www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)", before the date of tender closing to note any changes/corrigenda for any tender. 3) The Tender Notice is also displayed in the Notice Board located in the office of Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer, Maintenance, S.C. Railway, Vijayawada, which can be seen. 4) The Railway reserves the right to cancel the tender without assigning any reason thereto.  
Visit our site at "[www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)"  
Divisional Railway Manager (Electrical), Vijayawada.

also apply. Selection will be based on the GITAM Research Admissions Test (GrEAT) followed by an interview. Candidates with valid national-level test scores such as UGC-NET, CSIR-NET, GATE, GPAT, ICAR, or DBT-JRF are exempted from the written test and will be called directly for interview.

The last date to apply online is May 11, 2026. The entrance examinations are scheduled on May 23 (online) and May 30 (in-person), with the programme commencing on August 24, 2026.

GITAM offers a monthly fellowship of ₹33,000 for eligible full-time Ph.D. scholars for up to three years, along with access to advanced research facilities, collaborations, and academic support.

Interested candidates can apply at the official portal: <https://researchadmissions.gitam.edu>. For more details, contact 0891-2866411 or email to [phd-support@gitam.edu](mailto:phd-support@gitam.edu).

**CENTRAL SANSKRIT UNIVERSITY**  
56-57, Institutional Area, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058  
Website: [www.sanskrit.nic.in](http://www.sanskrit.nic.in)

**Notification No.-CSU/36014/AdvT./2026-27/S-I**

**ONLINE APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE YEAR 2026-27 UNDER "SCHEMES FOR SANSKRIT PROMOTION "**

Central Sanskrit University, Delhi is the nodal agency for implementing Central Schemes of Ministry of Education, Government of India for the Promotion of Sanskrit Language. Accordingly, applications are invited from interested NGOs/Voluntary Organizations/Universities/Institutions/Publishers/Individuals/Students, through online as applicable under the following Schemes for Sanskrit Promotion :-

Sl. No	NAME OF THE SCHEME
1	<b>Sanskrit Teaching</b> – Engagement of Sanskrit or Modern Subject Teachers for teaching in Traditional Sanskrit Pathshalas/Mahavidyalayas/Government Schools/Guru-Sishya Parampara Institutions and Residential Scholarships.
2	<b>Samman Rashi</b> - Annual grant to Eminent Sanskrit Pandits living in Indigent Circumstances.
3	<b>Publication, Bulk Purchase and Re-print of Rare Sanskrit Books</b>
4	<b>Shastra Chudamani</b> - for utilization of Services of Eminent Shastric Scholars or Retired Sanskrit Scholars.
5	<b>Programmes &amp; Activities for Promotion of Sanskrit.</b>
6	<b>Vocational Training</b> - Conduct of Vocational Training in Registered Traditional Sanskrit Institutions.
7	<b>Ashtaadashi</b> – Eighteen Projects for sustaining the Growth of Sanskrit.
8	<b>Scholarships</b> - Award of Scholarships to the students regularly studying Sanskrit/Pali/Prakrit languages from 9th class to Ph.D level in Traditional/Modern Stream.

**Online Registration Starting date – 01.04.2026**  
**Online Registration Closing date – 30.06.2026 and for Scholarship scheme closing date will be 31.08.2026**  
Note:- However, Portal will be open in the entire year for application.

i) Before filling the application form, it is advised that the scheme guidelines be referred of each scheme, remuneration, required documents, how to apply in online and application forwarding process etc., please visit the Central Sanskrit University's website [www.sanskrit.nic.in/schemes](http://www.sanskrit.nic.in/schemes).

ii) In each scheme, automatic renewal shall not be considered. Hence, it is mandatory for all grantee institutions of previous years to apply afresh for each scheme, as per schematic norms.

iii) Further, consideration or rejection of the application for financial assistance will depend upon the availability of funds and approval of the GIAC etc., as per schematic norms. Therefore, it is mandatory to apply every year on scheme-to-scheme basis separately for financial assistance.

Sd/-  
Registrar I/c  
**cbc21212/12/0001/2627**

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## SHORT TAKES

### Senior dignitaries call on Governor at Lok Bhavan

**HYDERABAD:** Prof. N. Nagaraju, Vice Chancellor of the English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU), Hyderabad, along with officials, called on Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla at Lok Bhavan on Tuesday and briefed him on the University's academic and developmental initiatives. Goli Srinivas Reddy, chairman of the Telangana Food Commission, Hyderabad, along with members, also met the Governor and discussed issues relating to food security and the functioning of the Commission. Rear Admiral Ashwani Kumar Tikoo, director of the DMDE Hyderabad, along with officials, called on the Governor and apprised him of the organisation's activities. Ravi Kumar, President, The Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCC), along with members, also called on the Governor at Lok Bhavan.

### Prof. Byru Venkatram Reddy appointed OSD of Kakatiya University



**WARANGAL:** Prof of Physics and Convenor of TG EdCET-2026 Prof Byru Venkatram Reddy has been appointed Officer on Special Duty (OSD) on Tuesday, according to a press note. He will be in the post for a period of one year. Research scholars, staff and students congratulated Prof Reddy on his new assignment.

### Minority fund lying idle, Cong exposed: BRS leader Sohail

**HYDERABAD:** BRS leader Shaik Abdullah Sohail on Tuesday accused the Congress government for allegedly failing to utilise minority welfare funds, particularly in the education sector. He alleged that despite large budget allocations, spending remains minimal across key schemes. Sohail highlighted that only a fraction of funds under fee reimbursement and scholarships have been utilised, with some schemes showing zero expenditure. He further pointed to poor implementation in employment, training and welfare programmes, calling it a "disconnect between promises and governance". Compared with the previous BRS regime, Sohail claimed fund utilisation has sharply declined under the present government and demanded immediate corrective action.

## Uttam makes on-ground Assessment of Paddy Procurement Preparedness

**State Gears Up for Massive Rabi Operations Targeting procurement of 90 Lakh Metric Tonnes**

**Huzurnagar (Suryapet Dist)**

Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said today that extensive preparations are underway for smooth Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations during the Rabi marketing season targeting a procurement of 90 lakh metric tonnes of paddy.

After a detailed on-ground assessment of paddy procurement issues at Huzurnagar market yard, the minister said that the state government is fully gearing up for robust paddy procurement operations, aiming to reaching out to every farmer ensuring payments within 48 hours this Rabi season. With Telangana's Rabi paddy production projected to exceed 148 lakh metric tonnes, comprehensive arrangements have been made to handle the bumper harvest efficiently and protect farmers from distress sales.

Over 8,251 paddy purchase centres (PPCs) are being opened across all districts, supported by modern infrastructure, adequate storage facilities, and seamless logistics. More than 16 crore gunny bags have already been made available to ensure proper storage and movement of procured paddy. Every purchase centre will be placed under the direct supervision of a dedicated officer to monitor daily procurement, quality checks, timely



payments, and overall transparency.

Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy emphasised zero tolerance for any hurdles in paddy movement to the PPCs. He directed district administrations to accelerate the opening of all centres and facilitate uninterrupted transport of harvested paddy directly benefiting lakhs of farmers.

Strict monitoring mechanisms are in place to prevent unauthorised diversion and guarantee MSP rates of Rs 2,369 per quintal for common grade and Rs 2,389 per quintal for fine varieties.

The minister also assured steps to address challenges related to boiled rice (parboiled rice) procurement under the custom milled rice (CMR) scheme. He noted that the Centre has reduced the allocation quota for boiled rice, while rice millers have raised concerns over stricter norms regarding the permissible percentage of broken rice in supplies to the Food Corporation of India (FCI). Millers

have pointed out operational difficulties in meeting enhanced quality parameters.

Uttam Kumar Reddy assured that all these issues would be addressed through coordinated efforts involving the state government, millers, and the Union Food Ministry. The government will take up the matter strongly with the Centre to address the issues involved safeguarding the interests of both farmers and millers.

He said that a Chief Minister-level review on paddy procurement will be held soon to further monitor progress and resolve any pending issues on the ground. Recalling the historic achievement of the previous Kharif marketing season, where the state procured around 72 lakh metric tonnes—a record never before achieved in a single season by any state government in independent India—the minister said the Congress government's farmer-centric policies have already delivered massive direct

benefits to the state farmers. The government has remitted over Rs 19,500 crores directly to the accounts of farmers during the kharif marketing season.

The minister reiterated that the entire procurement machinery, including logistics, storage, gunny bag distribution, and quality monitoring, is being fine-tuned for what could be another record-breaking Rabi season. As part of the proactive preparations, a strict vigil will be maintained on the moment of paddy across the inter-state borders. Paddy from other states would not be allowed to the purchase centres in the Telangana.

The Minister asserted that the crops were extended irrigation support all through the season making judicious use of the river water entitlements of the state. He reiterated that there would be no compromise on the river waters due to Telangana. The state has been fighting for the state water entitlements in all forums.



## Students told to improve their profile for a good placement

**Dr Srinivas Vooradi**

**NALGONDA**

"A profile is a concise description, outline, or analysis of a person highlighting key characteristics, data, or traits," said former Vice Chancellor of Chaitanya Deemed to be University and former Professor of English at Kakatiya University Prof G Damodar. Addressing Post-Graduate students of English at Mahatma Gandhi University (MGU) on Tuesday, Prof G Damodar exhorted the students to improve their profile to get placed well. A good profile attracts the attention of the employer as it increases searchability for recruiters and provides an exact narrative of personal value, he added. Prof Damodar highlighted the key uses of a good profile quite extensively. Explaining the key words into actionable steps, he said, "Clarity and Structure, visual appeal, tailoring for impact and digital optimization" through real-world examples and illustrated how polished

profiles led to job offers at top firms. Earlier speaking on Shakespeare's contribution to English, Prof Damodar said that Shakespeare popularized several thousands of words and idioms and phrases. "Shakespeare's frequent violation of standard grammatical rules added precision to his character development and elevated the dramatic potential of English," he remarked. Speaking on the occasion, Registrar of MGU Prof Anji Reddy thanked Prof Damodar for equipping the students with practical tools to craft compelling and professional profiles in the current competitive job market. Director of Student Affairs of MGU Dr Aruna Priya, Dr Shyam Sunder, Dr D Raveender Reddy, Dr Amala, Dr Manideep, Adjunct Professor of Botany Prof B Digambar Rao and students of II and IV Semesters of MA English were present. Earlier in the morning, Prof Damodar called on MGU Vice Chancellor Prof Khaja Althaf Hussain and donated some books related to language and literature to the university.

## 24-hour Hunger Strike After Paying Tribute to Ambedkar Statue



**Public protest intensifies against dumping yard — MLA Kaushik Reddy joins hunger strike**

**HUZURABAD**

The public agitation against the proposed dumping yard in Huzurabad has intensified further. As part of a 24-hour hunger strike held today, MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy first paid floral tributes to the statue of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. He then remembered the martyrs and sat for the hunger strike.

This protest, undertaken for the protection of public health, future, and the environment, received a strong response. A large number of women voluntarily came forward and participated in the protest. People from various villages, including youth and women, gathered in huge numbers and filled the protest venue, expressing their full support for the movement. Former MP Vinod Kumar, JAC committee members, leaders of public orga-

nizations, and representatives from various political parties participated in the program. Leaders expressed concern that the establishment of the dumping yard would not only severely impact public health but also pose a risk of groundwater contamination.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy stated that setting up a dumping yard without considering public opinion is unjust to the people. He demanded that the government immediately withdraw this decision, which endangers public health. He also made it clear that, if necessary, the agitation would be intensified and the fight would continue until the end on behalf of the people.

JAC leaders expressed confidence that the movement would succeed through public unity and urged the government to respond immediately by canceling the dumping yard proposal. A large number of women, people, public representatives, and leaders participated in the program.

## Director General of Police Shivdhar Reddy Visits Karreguttalu Hills

**Foundation Stone Laid for Development Works at Pamunuru**

**Welfare Assistance Distributed to Seven Families in Pamunuru**

**MULUGU**

The Director General of Police, Shri Shivdhar Reddy, visited the Karreguttalu hills in Mulugu district and declared the area free from Naxal influence. During the visit, he laid the foundation stone for multiple developmental projects in Pamunuru village.

Addressing the gathering, the DGP affirmed that there is no Naxal presence in the Karreguttalu region and assured sustained support for the development and welfare of the Guthi Koya tribal community.

Under welfare initiatives, the DGP extended substantial welfare assistance, comprising one auto-rickshaw, one two-wheeler, and monthly essential provisions, to seven indigent families of Pamunuru village.

He further announced initiatives to develop Karreguttalu—renowned for its scenic natural beauty—into a prom-



inent tourist destination. To safeguard tourist safety and security, the foundation stone was laid for a new "Police Outpost. Additionally, an "inter-agency coordination centre" will be established to enhance collaboration among the Forest Department, Revenue Department, CRPF, and Police Department.

**Visit to 39 BN FOB of CRPF at Pamunuru**

Later in the day, the DGP visited the Forward Operating Base (FOB) of 39 Battalion, CRPF, at Pamunuru and interacted with the jawans deployed there. He commended their dedicated service and underscored the need for close coordination between the Police and CRPF to ensure strategic dominance

in the Karreguttalu hills, so as to sustain the area as Naxal-free and maintain long-term security in the region.

**Road Safety Awareness Programme - "ARRIVE ALIVE"**

As part of the 3rd Road Safety Phase, the "ARRIVE ALIVE" programme was conducted under the supervision of Venkatapuram Police, with participation from approximately 3,000 individuals.

The DGP, serving as Chief Guest, distributed 200 helmets and urged the public to adhere strictly to road safety regulations. He also inaugurated free eye check-up camps for motorists. The programmes were organized under the supervision of the Superintendent of

Police, Mulugu district Sudhir R. Khan. Senior officials in attendance included PCCF Suvarna, ADG Anil Kumar, SIB IG Sumathi, CRPF IG Vikram, and ASP Eturnagaram Manan Bhatt.

**Inauguration of Women-Led Nursery in Mormoru**

Following these initiatives, the Director General of Police, Shri Shivdhar Reddy, along with Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) Telangana, Smt.

Suvarna, inaugurated a women-led nursery at Mormoru. The project aims to promote women's participation in afforestation and to generate sustainable livelihoods through nursery-based activities.

## Rural India under threat, Kavitha calls out Centre's 'deliberate cuts

**HYDERABAD**

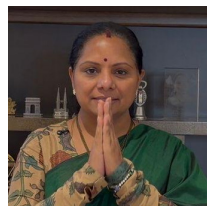
Telangana Jagruti President, K. Kavitha, has launched a sharp attack on the BJP-led Central Government, accusing it of a systematic attempt to undermine the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). Speaking on the recent legislative shifts, Kavitha alleged that the Centre is actively working to strip away the legal protections that have long served as a lifeline for the rural poor.

**\*From "Act" to "Program**

Kavitha highlighted that "Previously, the Employment Guarantee Scheme held statutory backing as an Act, making its implementation mandatory. By reclassifying it as a 'Program' under the new nomenclature, the Centre is stripping away its legal teeth." She warned that this move is a calculated conspiracy to ensure that if the government decides to scrap the initiative in the future, citizens will be left with no legal grounds to challenge the decision in court.

**Decline in Rural Employment**

She pointed to a drastic reduction in work availability within Telangana as evidence of the Centre's "anti-poor" agenda. She said that the number of workdays generated under the



scheme dropped sharply from 14 crore in 2021-22 (post-COVID period) to just 7 crore in the previous year. "The Centre has effectively halved the workdays in Telangana. This is a direct hit to the livelihoods of millions who depend on this scheme, especially during lean agricultural seasons and periods of drought".

**Demands for Field Assistants and Labor Rights**

Kavitha also raised concerns regarding the lack of job security for Field Assistants, the grassroots workers who facilitate the scheme. She placed three immediate demands before the government:

- Immediate provision of job security and legal recognition for Field Assistants.
- Application of Labor Laws to ensure fair treatment.

**\*A Call to Telangana's 8 BJP MPs**

Addressing the political landscape, Kavitha reminded the public that Telangana elected 8 BJP- MPs to the Lok Sabha. She criticized their silence regarding the "sabotage" of a scheme that "puts food on the tables of the poor

The BJP MPs from Telangana must stop being silent spectators. They must fight with their government at the Centre to secure more funds and protect the rights of the rural workforce.

## Beyond the uniform: ACP Venkatesh's quiet mission to transform poor lives

**Dr Srinivas Vooradi**

**WARANGAL**

For ACP Mamnoor Venkatesh, policing has never been limited to investigation files, patrol duty, or crime control. His career tells a deeper story, one of compassion, social responsibility, and a sustained commitment to the most marginalised sections of society. That spirit of service was formally recognised recently when he

was conferred the 'Viswaseva Ratna Award' by the Vishwakarma Art Foundation, marking the Ugadi festival.

The award was presented at a ceremonial function held at Ravindra Bharati, Hyderabad, in the presence of dignitaries, including MLC Dasoju Sravan Kumar. The Award Committee, which included former Assembly Speaker and BRS senior leader Sirikonda Madhusudhana Chary, selected ACP Venkatesh in recognition of his extensive service activities undertaken alongside his professional policing responsibilities. The NGO was founded by Dr KM Kiran Kumar,



who emphasised that the award honours individuals who translate public duty into meaningful social change.

Sharing his happiness after receiving the honour, ACP Venkatesh reflected not on personal achievement, but on the collective progress of tribal communities he has worked with over the years. One of the most pressing challenges faced by tribal villages in regions such as Narnur, Indravalli, Utnur, and Sirikonda is access to drinking water, especially during the severe summer months. Recognising the hardship faced by tribal families, ACP Venkatesh facilitated the digging of new boreholes and the repair of defunct ones under various police station limits to ensure uninterrupted water supply. "For many families, even a pot of drinking water meant walking several kilometres," he recalled. In many tribal hamlets, the absence of proper roads isolates entire communities. ACP Venkatesh was deeply moved by the sight of tribal

residents "elderly people, expectant mothers, and school children" walking barefoot on rugged terrain. His initiatives led to the construction of dirt roads connecting interior villages, making access to healthcare, education, and markets less arduous.

**Safe Passage for Students**

Education remained a central focus of his service. During the monsoon, students were often forced to cross dangerous, winding streams to reach schools. To prevent accidents and dropouts, small embankments were constructed over streams, ensuring that children could attend classes safely even during the rainy season. In addition, school-going children were routinely supported with tablets, notebooks, textbooks, pencils, and school bags, helping bridge the resource gap and encouraging continued education.

**Building Communication Lifelines**

One of the most transformative interventions came in the form of digital connectivity. In remote tribal belts where even basic communication was absent, ACP Venkatesh engaged with Jio company officials to establish five mobile towers in areas such as Narnoor, Indravalli, Sirikonda, and Jainur.

## Aurobindo Pharma receives USFDA Approval for Dapagliflozin Tablets, 5 mg and 10 mg

**HYDERABAD**

Aurobindo Pharma Limited is pleased to announce that the final approval is received from the US Food & Drug Administration (USFDA) to manufacture and market Dapagliflozin Tablets, 5 mg and 10 mg, which is bioequivalent and therapeutically equivalent to the reference listed drug (RLD), Farxiga Tablets, 5 mg and 10 mg, of AstraZeneca AB. These products will be manufactured at Unit-IV of APL Healthcare Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company and will be launched immediately.

The approved product has an estimated market size of US\$ 10.2 billion for the twelve months ending February 2026, according to IQVIA MAT. Aurobindo Pharma has a total of 579 ANDA approvals (554 final approvals and 25 tentative approvals) from USFDA as of 31 March 2026.



## Assam polls: Bodo turf up for grabs despite BPF edge as regional forces hold sway

BY SUSHMITA GOSWAMI

**KOKRAJHAR:** (Apr 7) Despite the BPF's recent landslide win in the Bodoland Territorial Council polls, the political landscape in this western Assam belt appears fluid ahead of the assembly elections, with no clear frontrunner, even as the NDA seeks to leverage its tie-up with the Bodoland People's Front across 15 seats. The BJP-led alliance enters the fray with a perceived edge, banking on its renewed partnership with the regionally dominant BPF, but local dynamics and the entrenched influence of regional players like the United People's Party Liberal (UPPL) continue to keep the contest open. National parties, including the BJP, have made limited inroads into the electorate, with the BPF and UPPL retaining their status as principal contenders, while the Congress-led opposition alliance is expected to play only a marginal role.



## Posters mock Akhilesh Yadav; he cites NCRB data

LUCKNOW/AMETHI (UP): (APR 7)

Posters and hoardings inspired by Bollywood movie 'Dhurandhar' targeting Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav have surfaced at several locations in Lucknow and Amethi, triggering a political row months ahead of the 2027 assembly elections. Yadav said if doesn't matter what Samajwadi Party says or BJP does but if the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data is put out honestly by media, people can decide for themselves. The posters, put up outside the Amethi railway station and at various intersections, carry the slogan "Aap ko kya chahiye? Akhilesh ka Lyari raj."

# Bengal SIR deletes nearly 91 lakh voters, maximum in Muslim-majority Murshidabad

A district-wise list of eligible and ineligible voters stated that of the 60.06 lakh voters marked under adjudication, 27,16,393 voters were found ineligible

Over 27 lakh voters were found ineligible by the Election Commission at the end of the deadline for the adjudication process in Bengal, which will vote in Assembly elections on April 23 and 29. A district-wise list of eligible and ineligible voters stated that of the 60.06 lakh voters marked under adjudication in the final rolls released on February 28, a total of 27,16,393 voters were found ineligible.

The Election Commission had earlier deleted 58.25 lakh voters marked as dead, absent, shifted or duplicate from the draft rolls that were published in December last year, bringing down the total number of electors in Bengal to 7.04 crore from 7.66 crore. An additional five lakh voters were deleted from the final rolls published on February 28. That brings the total de-



letion of voters from Bengal's electoral rolls at slightly below 91 lakh. "The revision exercise has been carried out in a phased and transparent manner," a senior poll panel official told PTL. "District-wise data has now been placed in the public domain to ensure complete accountability. Once the pending procedural formalities, including e-signatures, are completed, there may be marginal changes in both deletion and inclusion figures," the official added. Of the 294 seats in the Bengal Assembly, 152 seats will go to the polls on April 23 in the first phase.

The electoral rolls for phase one of polling are now frozen.

The Supreme Court on Monday declined to entertain the Bengal government's plea to direct the 19 appellate tribunals to pass interim orders allowing at least certain categories of excluded voters to vote, saying "we do not want to rush it". The remaining 142 seats of the Assembly will vote in the second phase on April 29. The rolls for the second round will be frozen Thursday, April 9. The highest number of deletions have happened in the Muslim-majority district of Murshidabad, where out of

the 11,01,145 voters marked under adjudication, 4,55,137 voters were found ineligible. The lowest deletions were in Jhargram - 1,240 voters.

In Kolkata North 39,164 voters were deleted and in Kolkata South, the district which includes the Bhabanipur Assembly constituency where chief minister Mamata Banerjee is pitted against leader of Opposition Suwendu Adhikari, 28,468 voters have been deleted.

The father of a young Muslim boy in Kolkata's Park Circus, who had applied for a voter card for his son as a first-time voter, told The Telegraph Online: "My son's application was rejected; no reason was given." Addressing a campaign meeting in Nadia, Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday said that the Trinamool will fight for the inclusion in the electoral rolls of the 27-lakh-plus voters whose names have been deleted after adjudication.

"I went to the Supreme Court. Now the list has come out and 32 lakh voters of the 60 lakh under adjudication

have been included. The rest, we will try for their inclusion in the tribunals. Do not worry," Mamata said at the Mashra Nabopally ground in Chakdaha. "Many voters have been deleted in Murshidabad, North Dinajpur, Malda, South 24-Parganas. In Gaighata, Chakdaha, Haringhata they have deleted Matusas." Mamata said those who apply in the tribunals will get lawyers from the party. "I will have to see how many have been included and how many deleted. They have targeted Muslims, Matusas, Rajbongshis," Mamata said. In Bihar, where the first SIR was first rolled out, around 65 lakh voters were deleted in the draft rolls from the 7.89 crore electors. In the final rolls released on September 30 last year, Bihar had 7.42 crore electors. In Bihar the SIR process was concluded before the poll dates were announced which allowed the inclusion of new voters via Form -6. In Tamil Nadu, which will go to polls on April 23 for all its 234 Assembly constituencies, 74,07,207 voters were found ineligible.



## Andhra Investment Board clears projects worth over Rs 39,000 crore

AMARAVATI, APRIL 7

Andhra Pradesh State Investment Promotion Board on Tuesday approved 31 projects worth Rs 39,436 crore, with the potential to generate over 1.11 lakh direct jobs. State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB), at its meeting chaired by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, gave approval to the projects spanning key sectors including renewable energy, industries, IT, tourism and food processing. Positioning clean energy at the core of Andhra Pradesh's industrial strategy, the Chief Minister directed officials to aggressively harness the state's solar potential, with a clear thrust on developing Rayalaseema as a major renewable energy hub. He emphasised the creation of large solar parks and called for robust transmission infrastructure to enable seamless power evacuation—not just within the state, but also to national grids and interstate markets. The move is aimed at turning Andhra Pradesh into a key supplier of green energy across India, said an official release. The state is sharpening its focus on becoming a major hub for consumer electronics manufacturing, with clusters such as Sri City, Koppurthy and Anantapur identified as growth centres. Alongside manufacturing, the government is also pushing for the establishment of Global Capability Centres (GCCs) to deepen the IT ecosystem and attract high-value technol-

ogy investments. The SIPB also cleared proposals from three companies in Amaravati's upcoming Quantum Valley, signalling early momentum in advanced technology investments. The board approved initiatives aimed at converting agricultural, horticultural and aquaculture waste into value-added products such as ethanol—aligning with the state's push towards a circular and sustainable industrial model. At the same time, the government is scaling up food processing capacity in line with rising horticulture output, while enhancing market linkages for crops such as palm oil and cocoa to boost farmer incomes and MSME growth. Highlighting the need for industrial safety, the Chief Minister called for modern protocols across sectors, including pharmaceuticals, steel, green energy and battery storage. A comprehensive standard operating framework aligned with disaster management norms will be rolled out. He also underlined the importance of execution, directing officials to ensure that approved projects are grounded within defined timelines and that investment commitments made during summits are translated into on-ground progress. With this latest round of approvals, Andhra Pradesh is reinforcing its positioning as a high-growth investment destination anchored in renewable energy, advanced manufacturing and sustainable industrialisation.

# Sanatan Unity will ensure no anti-hindu conspiracy can harm India: CM Yogi

MATHURA, APRIL 7:

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, called upon the Sanatan community to unite. Citing the example of Ayodhya, Chief Minister said, before 2017, Ayodhya used to receive only 3 hours of electricity. Chanting 'Jai Shri Ram' did not bring sweets but sticks and batons. He added, "The lanes were narrow and buildings were dilapidated. Means of transportation were also limited. However, today Ayodhya reminds one of the Treta Yuga. When revered saints came together on one platform and spoke in one voice, a 500-year-old stigma was erased and a grand Shri Ram Mandir was constructed in Ayodhya. When there is such power in the unity of saints, then if all San-

CM Yogi Adityanath attends the 452nd birth anniversary of Sant Shrimad Jagadguru Dwaracharya Shri Malookdas Ji Maharaj



atan followers unite and begin to realize their strength, no adversary or those conspiring against Hindus under the guise of such forces will be able to harm India in any way." Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath reached Vrindavan on Tuesday to attend the Shri Sitaram Nikunj

Ashtayam Leela Mahotsav organized on the occasion of the 452nd birth anniversary of Sant Shrimad Jagadguru Dwaracharya Shri Malookdas Ji Maharaj. At Shri Malook Peeth Ashram, the Chief Minister offered prayers and performed rituals, and also performed Go

Sewa by feeding jaggery to cows. Addressing the program, the Chief Minister said, "This journey must continue continuously with the resolve of 'Charaiveti-Charaiveti' without stopping, getting tired, wavering, or bending. Personal interest should not become an obstacle in the path of the nation and Sanatan Dharma. My interest cannot be greater than Sanatan and national interest. When revered saints set aside personal, institutional, sectarian, and denominational interests and began to think about Sanatan interest, then such widespread awakening, divine radiance, and miracles were witnessed." He added, many generations passed but could not

see the Ram Mandir. Our generation is fortunate to have witnessed the Ram Mandir movement, the construction of Shri Ram Mandir, and then its grand consecration. In 1528, the Ram Mandir was demolished by Babur's general Mir Baiqi. Even before 500 years were completed, we constructed a grand Shri Ram Mandir. This is India's pride and this happens when there is the blessing of saints and strong leadership. When there is the speed of a double engine government, then strength is also visible.

Chief Minister informed, "In Sambhal, in 1526, the Shri Harihar Temple was demolished by the descendants of Babur.

# UP busts ISI-linked terror network across states

A major terror network spanning multiple states has been uncovered by the Uttar Pradesh Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS), with key accused Saqib alias "Devil" found to be actively building and expanding a radical module on his own.

According to investigators, Saqib created over a dozen Telegram groups to recruit and indoctrinate youth, sharing provocative, anti-national content and videos linked to terror incidents. The network drew participants not just from Uttar Pradesh, but also from



neighbouring states, raising concerns about its scale and reach. ATS officials said Saqib used encrypted platforms to spread extremist ideology and mobilise recruits. Hundreds of users are believed to have joined these groups, where inflammatory posts, videos of terror attacks, and propaganda material

were circulated to influence and radicalise members. Investigators said discussions within these groups even touched upon carrying out blasts in cities like Delhi. The probe revealed that Saqib was introduced to Pakistan-based handlers through a Dubai-based contact identified as Aqib. Fol-

lowing this, he began building his own network and operational team. Sources said the module's footprint extended beyond Uttar Pradesh to Delhi, Haryana and Mumbai, with efforts underway to prepare recruits for potential attacks in a short span of time. A key finding in the investigation is Saqib's alleged contact with arms smugglers in Punjab. Officials believe he was planning to procure weapons through these channels. Evidence recovered from mobile phones and interrogation suggests he had also begun firearms training. The ATS is now tracking the suspected arms supply network, which may have links to Aqib and

other handlers. Separate questioning of the accused has also revealed plans to target railway infrastructure. The module was allegedly trained to place gas cylinders on tracks to trigger derailments, with handlers providing online instructions. Following this, the ATS has launched a review of all incidents over the past 18 months involving objects placed on railway tracks, damaged signal systems, or related sabotage attempts in Uttar Pradesh and nearby states. Officials said location data from the accused's phones will be used to link them to past incidents, as the probe widens to identify the full extent of the network.

## Chief Minister launch advanced Fire Tenders

Fire department should be equipped with modern tools and technology to meet emerging challenges: CM

AMARAVATI:

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu flagged off newly inducted advanced fire tenders and equipment at parade grounds here today. As part of the department's modernisation initiative worth Rs 252.93 crore, the government has introduced new vehicles and equipment valued at Rs 33.25 crore. The Chief Minister stated that the Andhra Pradesh Fire & Disaster Management Department will be developed into a role model for other states in the country. As part of the initiative in the first phase the state government procured 25 advanced fire tenders at a cost of Rs 18 crore, 40 Quick Response Vehicles equipped with high-pressure pumps at Rs 10 crore, 50 inflatable rubber boats acquired at Rs 2.49 crore, 30 BA set compressors

procured at Rs 2.08 crore. After flagging off the vehicles addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister emphasised that saving lives must remain the top priority. With the development of Amaravati as the capital and the rise of high-rise buildings, he stressed the need for the Fire Department to be equipped with modern tools and technology to meet emerging challenges. He further directed officials to strengthen the department by effectively utilising both central schemes and state government funds, ensuring preparedness to tackle all types of emergencies. Home Minister V Anitha, local MLA Sravan Kumar, Fire Services Director General PV Ramana, Home Department Principal Secretary Kumar Vishwajit and senior police officials participated.

# Ministry of Ayush Begins 75-Day Countdown to IDY 2026 with Yoga Mahotsav-2026 in Lonar

Asia Book of Records Set with Collective Trikonasana Practice at Yoga Mahotsav-2026

The Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY), Ministry of Ayush, organised Yoga Mahotsav-2026 at Chhatrapati Shri Shivaji Maharaj Udyan, Lonar, district Buldhana, Maharashtra today. The event marked a significant milestone as it entered the Asia Book of Records for the largest gathering performing Trikonasana.

Nearly 5,000 participants assembled at dawn to perform the Common Yoga Protocol (CYP), transforming the historic town of Lonar into a vibrant centre of collective wellness. The large-scale participation highlighted the growing global acceptance of Yoga as a powerful medium for promoting unity, health,

and well-being.

Shri Prataprao Jadhav, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Ayush and Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, described the event as a "strong beginning to the 75-day countdown to the International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2026." He noted that hosting the celebration in the geologically significant Lonar region symbolises a broader global awakening towards holistic health and harmony. Emphasising the importance of Yoga, he stated that the practice continues to enhance physical health, mental well-being, and emotional balance.

Highlighting the significance of the record-setting



Trikonasana performance, Shri Jadhav stated that the achievement reflects the spirit of collective participation and shared wellness inherent in Yoga. He also underlined the importance of Ayush Aahara, emphasising the role of traditional and natural foods such as millets, ragi, coconut oil, and medicinal spices in boost-

ing immunity and promoting holistic health.

Addressing the gathering, Ms. Monalisa Dash, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Ayush, described Yoga as one of India's most valuable contributions to the world, noting that it represents a way of life that fosters harmony between mind, body, and spirit.

The programme featured a live demonstration of the Common Yoga Protocol led by Prof. (Dr.) Kashinath Samagandi, Director, MDNIY. The session included Yogasana, Pranayama, and Dhyana, enabling participants to experience the comprehensive benefits of Yoga. Yoga Mahotsav-2026 also showcased several flagship initiatives of the Ministry of Ayush, including the "Yoga for Air Travel" protocol, "10 Yoga Protocols for Non-Communicable Diseases," and the Yoga 365 campaign aimed at integrating Yoga into daily life. A toll-free helpline (1800-315-7008) offering 14 days of free guided Yoga practice was also highlighted. The event marked the formal commencement of the 75-day countdown to the 12th International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2026. The pro-

gramme was attended by senior officials of the Ministry of Ayush, representatives of the district administration, and other distinguished guests. Over the past eleven editions, the International Day of Yoga has emerged as one of the largest global movements for health and well-being, with increasing international participation each year. The forthcoming 12th edition will focus on addressing non-communicable diseases, promoting geriatric health, and exploring the integration of emerging technologies, including Artificial Intelligence, with Yoga. The Ministry of Ayush reaffirmed its commitment to promoting Yoga as a mass movement through Jan Bhagidari, encouraging wider participation across the country and globally in the lead-up to IDY 2026.

## AAP hits out at BJP after viral video shows beer party on Ganga

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Tuesday shared on X a clip showing a large group of men drinking beer and dancing to loud music on a boat, highlighting widespread claims that the scene was from a ferry in the Ganga in Varanasi. The Arvind Kejriwal-led party hit out at Uttar Pradesh's ruling BJP over the incident. The video, which first surfaced on Monday, April 6, has triggered significant backlash as the River Ganga is considered highly sacred in Hinduism. The uproar has been sharp, with calls for legal action against the accused rising rapidly, insinuating that the BJP was responsible for hurting the religious sentiments of Hindus,

the AAP, in its post, wondered if the authorities in Varanasi had granted "formal permission" for the party. "This viral video is said to be from Varanasi, in which a DJ is playing on a large boat in the Ganga River and people are seen drinking alcohol and recording videos," the AAP wrote while sharing the viral video on X. It added, "The question is: Has the Uttar Pradesh government and the Varanasi administration officially granted permission for such liquor parties on the Ganga River?" Meanwhile, the police in Varanasi took cognisance of the viral clip and registered a case in connection with the boat party.

EDITORIAL

| World Namokar Mantra Day - April 9, 2026

**SANDS OF STRIFE:  
THE VIOLENT TOLL OF ILLEGAL  
MINING IN CHAMBAL**

The National Chambal Gharial Sanctuary in central India protects a lotic ecosystem across an area straddling three States. Its existence is crucial for the critically endangered gharial, the red-crowned roofed turtle and the endangered Ganges river dolphin. All three species depend on sand to survive, especially the river's sandbars and sandbanks. Yet, organised crime and state paralysis have been stealing away just that sand, prompting the Supreme Court of India to call the local sand-mining mafia "modern dacoits". The mafia erupted to meet the demand for sand during North India's construction boom, and has been able to exploit gaps in jurisdiction among the three States — Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh — despite the Court and the National Green Tribunal (NGT) banning the activity. State governments have also abetted this ploy by passing the buck on acting against the mafia. Between 2017 and 2024, tractor trolleys laden with illegally mined sand mowed down forest guards and police officers while miners also shot at police during raids. The police reported that miners had also begun using local villagers to track the movement of patrol vehicles using mobile apps and GPS. By 2023, reports indicated that mining syndicates in the Gwalior-Chambal region were using semi-automatic weapons, often outgunning the local forest departments.

Frustrated with having failed to staunch the bleeding, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan attempted to legalise sand mining in certain districts inside the sanctuary. Madhya Pradesh submitted proposals for limited mining in two districts but resistance from the NGT stalled its plans, and the State subsequently withdrew them. Rajasthan followed with a similar proposal in March this year only for the Court to block it. Traditional agriculture is difficult in the Chambal ravines, leaving many young men to turn to mining sand for a living. The mafia recruits them as foot soldiers, leaving forest officials to face 'public anger' when they militate against the mafia. The Court took suo motu cognisance of Rajasthan's measure, with Justice Sandeep Mehta, last week, 'reminding' the State of the National Security Act and the State-specific Goonda Act. The Court's frustration is understandable. But given the recent troubled history of green governance, where it has played regulator, there is merit in the Court disciplining the regulator rather than replacing it. The lesson from Chambal's violent history is that force alone cannot quiet an economy feeding on grievance. Sweeping crackdowns will deepen local resentment and entrench the same social cover that sustains the syndicates. Lasting change will come only from restoring lawful livelihoods and credible, even-handed enforcement.

# One Mantra, One World: A Call for Global Peace and no War

**At a time when the world is burdened by conflict, fear, and division, the celebration of World Namokar Mantra Day 2026 on April 9 emerges as a powerful global call for peace and inner transformation. More than a religious observance, it represents a collective spiritual awakening, where millions across the world unite under the vision of "One World, One Day, One Mantra" to chant the sacred Namokar Mahamantra. This synchronized chanting is believed to generate a profound wave of positive energy—purifying the environment, fostering harmony, and strengthening the shared human aspiration for non-violence, compassion, and global unity.**

In this transitional phase of world history, when humanity is groaning under the burden of war, violence, tension, terrorism and intolerance, the celebration of World Namokar Mantra Day on April 9, 2026 emerges as a unique explosion of spiritual energy. This day is not merely a religious observance, but a powerful awakening of divine consciousness—an occasion where the miraculous and transformative energies generated through collective chanting are poised to illuminate the entire world. With the resolve of "One World, One Day, One Mantra," when the sacred Namokar Mahamantra resonates simultaneously across the globe at dawn, it will not be just sound—it will be the creation of a divine wave of energy. According to spiritual science, when millions chant a single sacred mantra together, the vibrations purify the environment, dissolve negative energies, amplify positive consciousness, and herald peace and non-violence. This collective energy becomes a form of Sankalp Shakti (power of intention), capable of transforming the impossible into reality.

This extraordinary day will unite people beyond caste, creed, and community barriers across thousands of temples and venues, becoming a beacon of inspiration where the flowers of friendship bloom and the rays of peace and harmony shine brightly. Despite remarkable progress in science and knowledge, humanity has lost sensitivity towards its own life and that of others. Intellectual revolutions have occurred, but ethical transformation remains limited. Discussions on peace, non-violence, and human rights are widespread, yet the absence of right conduct, right vision, and right character is deeply felt.

The Namokar Mahamantra—profound, miraculous, and transformative—is not confined to any one religion; it is universal, timeless, and global. Through its chanting, individuals can shape pure conduct, healthy living, and manifest peace, non-violence, co-existence, and harmony.

This initiative, organized by Jain International Trade Organization (JITO), aims to unite people worldwide through collective chanting. Participants from over 180 countries will take part, with more than 100 mega-events and 6,000+ venues hosting the chant globally. The main event in Delhi will be graced by dignitaries like Ram Nath Kovind and Amit Shah, giving it a global stature. The miraculous and transformative powers generated through this collective chanting are not merely a matter of faith but of experience. The mantra touches the deepest layers of the soul, from where pure streams of consciousness flow. It is believed that during this collective chant: Mental peace and stability are profoundly experienced, reducing stress, fear, and depression. The aura is purified, enhancing positivity and personal influence. Health improves, as positive vibrations balance the body's cellular energy. The power of intention (Sankalp Siddhi) strengthens, helping fulfill noble desires. The process of Karma Nirjara (shedding of karmas) accelerates, aiding spiritual growth.

Among the many mantras in the world, two are considered especially powerful—the Gayatri Mantra and the Namokar Mahamantra. The Namokar Mantra is not only the fundamental mantra of Jainism but also a universal formula for purification and elevation of consciousness. Its power is infinite and eternal. It does

not invoke any individual but reveres the pure, perfected state of the soul. Unlike worldly mantras that yield material benefits, this transcendental mantra fulfills both worldly and spiritual aspirations. It is regarded as a supreme, all-accomplishing mantra that destroys sins and generates profound peace. Numerous experiential accounts suggest relief from illness, fear, poverty, and distress through its remembrance.

The energy generated through its chanting serves as a guiding force for transforming lifestyle—towards environmental awareness, non-violence, mindful living, and harmony between body, mind, soul, and nature. Its essence reflects the noble principle of "Live and Let Live." The mantra consists of 68 syllables and is considered an eternal, auspicious, and all-beneficial chant. Its practice leads ultimately to liberation (moksha) from worldly bondage. It is a repeated sacred intention—a powerful vibration shaping reality—and thus holds immense relevance for building a peaceful, war-free world.

The message of Mahavira—"Happiness is dear to all, suffering is disliked by all"—forms the essence of this mantra. When it resonates from millions of voices simultaneously, it becomes a global declaration of compassion, non-violence, and coexistence. Philosopher Acharya Umaswati's dictum "Parasparopagraho Jivanam" (all life is bound by mutual support) comes alive through this collective practice. Even Narendra Modi, in his previous address, described this mantra as a medium of "inner revolution"—a force that connects individuals to themselves and society into unity. At a time when the world struggles with war, violence, and terror,

this event can become a powerful "spiritual resolution for peace." It is a moment when humanity collectively invokes peace, and the divine vibrations of the Namokar Mantra guide the world toward a new direction. Ultimately, this day reminds us that true transformation is internal. By imbuing the power of this mantra, not only can individual lives be transformed, but the entire world can move towards peace, harmony, non-violence, and joy. This is its miraculous power, its spiritual accomplishment, and its global message.

The Namokar Mahamantra nurtures the grand vision of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam"—the world as one family. Humanity has suffered and continues to suffer from the devastating consequences of war and violence. To safeguard humanity and the world, there may be no greater refuge than this mantra. Thus, World Namokar Mantra Day serves as a powerful medium to awaken humanity—from self-welfare to global welfare. For purification, liberation, and a life of happiness, prosperity, health, and joy, regular chanting of the Namokar Mahamantra is essential. It is the greatest inner support in overcoming life's difficulties, anxieties, and obstacles—spreading consciousness and elevating consciousness across the world.



**LALIT GARGG**  
Writer, Journalist,  
Columnist

## WHEN THE SEED BREAKS

When the seed breaks,  
the earth does not decay—  
it is the seed that fails,  
and tomorrow loses its way.  
A forest unborn  
turns silently to dust;  
this is the verdict of time,  
unyielding and just.  
A wife who knows not  
the worth of what is spent  
a lamp that glows,  
yet knows not what it meant;  
for light without shadow  
is a truth never seen,  
like a flame starved of oil  
that dies in between.  
A smile may blossom,  
soft, fragile, and slight  
yet awareness dissolves  
in the womb of the night.  
A son untouched  
by the taste of strain,  
whose lips know no salt  
of labor or pain  
when time sets ablaze  
the vessel of fate,  
he shatters like clay  
at the furnace gate.  
His thunder of words  
turns hollow, unsure,  
and silence consumes  
what pride could not endure.  
A daughter who drifts  
from the roots of her ties,  
with laughter that falls  
like petals from skies  
yet trembles within  
like a tree without ground,  
lost in the storm  
where no path can be found.  
A tale softly written  
in vanishing light,  
she fades from herself  
in the blur of her sight.  
You planted them deep  
but not in true soil;  
not nurtured by values,  
nor strengthened by toil.  
In sands of indulgence  
their being was cast,  
so roots never anchored,  
nor futures held fast.  
In the wild winds of ease,  
unsteady, untrue,  
your lineage bent  
then shattered from view.  
You answered with "yes"  
to each tender plea,  
but withheld the hard truth  
of what "enough" must be.  
You sheltered their tears,

kept sorrow at bay,  
but never let struggle  
etch strength in their clay.  
Your love  
a tempest of sweetness,  
restless and wide,  
yet a sea without salt,  
with no depth inside.  
When touched by the trials  
that time will decree,  
it scatters like foam  
on a shoreless sea.  
The waves may rise high  
with passion's display,  
yet hollow they echo  
then vanish away.  
A home is no haven  
of mortar and dome;  
it must rise as a temple  
where virtues make home.  
Else bodies may gather,  
yet souls remain lone  
a breathing assembly,  
yet lifeless as stone.  
Laughter may linger,  
yet without a core,  
even shadows will falter  
and stand no more.  
Remember this truth  
children are not  
mere flowers to bloom  
for fragrance or thought;  
they are seeds of becoming,  
of futures untold,  
to be sown into soil  
more sacred than gold.  
If the seed itself breaks,  
what forest can rise?  
What shade will endure  
beneath empty skies?  
Responsibility is seed.  
Adversity—might.  
Struggle—the spark  
that kindles true light.  
Discipline dances  
where purpose is sown;  
from such sacred rhythm  
true life is grown.  
But love without grounding,  
however it seems,  
is a tree full of blossoms—  
yet barren of dreams.  
If the seed stands strong,  
a lineage will bloom  
but if the seed breaks,  
it bequeaths only ruin.  
And the future itself  
once vibrant and vast  
will wither to silence,  
a shadowed past.

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

## The Dantewada Massacre, And What India Needs To Do To Stay Maoist-Free

The government has announced that the Maoist menace has been 'wiped out' from the infamous 'Red Corridor', meeting the deadline of March 31 it had set for itself. While one can bask in the glory of this announcement, it must be remembered that the task of shaping a 'normal', threat-free life for those in the dense jungles of the far-and-beyond has just begun. This was driven home by an almost full-page 'In Memoriam' published today in a national newspaper by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), which carried photographs of 75 of its jawans who were killed by Naxals in Bastar district this day, a decade and a half back. This touched a raw nerve in this writer.

My father was the Additional Collector of Bastar district in 1982-83 and based in Kanker, a name that got synonymous with Naxal activities later. The place was peaceful, like any other village in the hinterland of tribal India, and our visits there were wonderful. So, when the Naxal menace became acute at the beginning of this century, I asked my old man what had transformed that quiet place into one where the government writ did not run. His reply shocked me - "We kept sending reports that a parallel organisation had started taking root and political steps were needed urgently to curb it, but to no avail." The results came to haunt us in the coming years.

2010, Then 2013, Then 2017  
In 2010, I was Assistant Chief of the Air Staff controlling transport aircraft and helicopters, and on April 6 that year had to arrange AN-32 aircraft to carry coffins of 75 CRPF jawans. The mayhem that must have happened is difficult to imagine. The brave



**Even as the government claims to have eliminated the Maoist threat from the Red Corridor, the deeper challenge lies ahead—ensuring lasting peace, development, and trust among tribal populations, while maintaining strong governance and deterrence to prevent the resurgence of insurgency. The memories of past massacres and sacrifices by security forces serve as a stark reminder that military success alone cannot secure enduring stability. Bridging governance gaps, preventing exploitation, and winning the confidence of local communities will be crucial in transforming former conflict zones into truly peaceful regions.**

hearts of No 62 Battalion, who were on an anti-Naxal operation, were ambushed by a group of 500-plus Maoists positioned on high ground; the troopers, devoid of any reinforcements due to roads being booby-trapped with IEDs, fought for six hours before making the supreme sacrifice. That these large-scale killings were repeated on May 25, 2013, when 30 people lost their lives (including the Chatisgarh Congress leadership) and on April 24, 2017, when 26 CRPF jawans were killed, showed that, irrespective of the political party in power, the basics of governance had been given short shrift in the previous decades through political unprofessionalism.

The steely determination to tackle the Naxal challenge began head-on in 2006 with Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh declaring it as the biggest internal security threat. Police forces were pumped in, and the Indian Air Force pro-

vided helicopters from 2009 for non-kinetic tasks; it is noteworthy that, though the helicopters were armed, calls for their offensive use were firmly rejected by the government. The rules of engagement were crystal clear - while helicopters would not initiate any proactive kinetic action, they would act firmly in self-defence if fired upon; the belligerents on the ground were, after all, Indian citizens. It is to the credit of successive governments that the resolve to tackle the insurgency did not flag; in fact, it only went up.

**Insurgency As A Cancer**  
An insurgency is like cancer. Even after its remission, the patient requires continuous tending in the long term to prevent its return. The lingering sub-surface threat lies in the famous Mao Tse Tung quote that insurgents are like fish in water - water being the local population. If the water is removed from the equation, the fish die. The villagers/tribals who call

them the 'common man' must always see two aspects of official power favouring them: the government as a dependable provider of daily sustenance, and second, a deterrent capability that cannot be challenged by any alternate source of power. The insurgent 'fish' must be continuously denied a favourable human cocoon for sustenance.

So, what should the long-term strategy be? First, 'winning hearts and minds' of the populace is the cornerstone of any anti-insurgency plan. Improved education facilities for the young would go a long way in strengthening the psychological link with the rest of India. The extensive ingress of government machinery into the erstwhile Maoist strongholds and the widespread road infrastructure and communication facilities created must be improved further to cement governmental writ. As the entry of 'outsiders' into tribal areas increases, it is vital to

ensure that tribal traditions and lands are not usurped by unscrupulous elements; the bottom line is that 'exploitation' of people indigenous to the area must be prevented at all costs.

Second, backing the administrative efforts should be deterrence, born of the gloved fist of the government's law-and-order machinery. Deterrence is built over time and is a 'process' of ensuring that an adversary follows one's guides without having to go kinetic - Sun Tzu termed it the 'acme of skill' for the warrior in conflict, but it is equally applicable in civil governance where the 'insurgent' is one's own citizen. In anti-insurgency action, the threat of retribution is more important than the actual implementation of punitive measures of law. The 'Sentencing Project', a 2010 study in the United States, stated that increasing the severity of a punishment does not have much effect on lawbreakers compared to an assurance of certainty of punishment. It is the surety that the government would come down heavily on the lawbreakers that would prevent the tribal populace of the erstwhile Red Corridor from again being coerced to become a sanctuary for any insurgent ideology.

Finally, insurgents are masters at playing political football. The drive to ensure an insurgency-free India must be a bipartisan effort, else gains made so far will be frittered away. The task of arranging aircraft to carry coffins must not befall anyone again.

**AVM MANMOHAN  
BAHADUR, (RETD)  
AIR VICE MARSHAL**

Disclaimer: These are the personal opinions of the author

## 39th Convocation of IGNOU

NEW DELHI, APRIL 7

A milestone in academic excellence. Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan, as Chief Guest, along with Guest of Honour Shri Taranjit Singh Sandhu, Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, and Vice Chancellor Prof. Uma Kanjilal at the 39th Convocation of IGNOU. Pictured with the Members of the Board of Management, Directors of Schools, and Prof. V. Venkata Ramana, Director, NITTHM, at the Baba Saheb Ambedkar Convention Centre, New Delhi.

## Bhojshala row: Namaz alone doesn't make mosque, says Hindu side

INDORE: (APR 7)

The disputed structure at the Bhojshala complex in Dhar district is not a Waqf property and merely offering namaz at any place does not give it the legal status of a mosque, a Hindu petitioner argued before the Madhya Pradesh High Court on Tuesday. The Hindu community considers Bhojshala, a monument believed to date back to the 11th century, a temple dedicated to Goddess Saraswati, while the Muslim side claims that it is Kamal Maula Mosque. The Indore bench of the High Court is hearing four petitions and a writ appeal since April 6 on the religious nature of the disputed complex, currently protected by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

## Assam BJP files complaints against Kharge with police, EC over 'hate' speech

GUWAHATI: (APR 7)

The BJP on Tuesday said it has filed complaints with Assam Police and the Election Commission against Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge for his alleged hate speech at an election rally in the state. Assam BJP spokesperson Pranjal Kalita, in a statement, said while Congress leaders repeatedly claim to uphold the Constitution, their actions "blatantly contradict the very spirit of constitutional freedom and respect for all faiths". He said one complaint has been filed at the Basistha police station in Guwahati, and another was lodged with the poll panel.

# 4 dead in fresh Manipur violence

Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh says the case will be handed over to the National Investigation Agency

People block a road in protest after two children were killed and their mother was injured in a bomb attack, in Bishnupur district, Manipur on April 7, 2026.

Officials in Bishnupur district said two children — a five-year-old boy and a six-month-old girl — were killed and their mother was injured when suspected extremists hurled a bomb at their house in the Moirang Tronglaobi area around 1 a.m. The low-lying Meitei-inhabited area is close to the hills of the Kuki-Zo-dominated Churachandpur district. The incident triggered protests,



and a mob attacked a Central Reserve Police Force camp located 200 m from Tronglaobi. Manipur Home Minister Konthoujam Govindas said five sustained bullet injuries (in firing by the security forces), two of them succumbing to their injuries later. Elsewhere, protestors torched two oil tankers and a truck and destroyed a makeshift police

outpost. People set fire to tyres as they block a road during the protest. Reacting to the violence, the Bishnupur district administration imposed restrictions on the movement of people, while the State government suspended mobile internet services across five Imphal Valley districts for three days. Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh

described the bomb attack as a "barbaric act" and said that the government has decided to hand over the case to the National Investigation Agency (NIA). "The act appears to be the handiwork of individuals or groups with vested interests in disturbing the prevailing peace in the State," he said. "The perpetrators are yet to be identified, but they will be caught at the earliest. A massive combing operation is underway, and combined security forces, including the State police, Assam Rifles, and CRPF, have been deployed. Helicopters are also being used," the Chief Minister said. He further said that the security forces, including the Army, have been instructed to intensify operations and take swift action. State commandos, using bul-

leproof vehicles, have also been redeployed in the hill areas after a long gap. The Chief Minister appealed to the people to remain calm and not give in to emotions. He asked the citizens to cooperate with the ongoing operations and support the efforts to restore normalcy. In an unrelated development, a minor internally displaced girl died at a relief camp. Expressing sorrow, the Chief Minister announced ex-gratia and all possible assistance to the affected families. Manipur has been relatively peaceful since Mr Singh took charge in February, after almost a year of President's Rule. Ethnic clashes between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo people broke out in the State in May 2023, leaving more than 260 people dead and displacing some 62,000 others.

## Internet shut, curfew in Manipur after deadly bomb attack ratchets up tensions

The Manipur government suspended mobile internet for three days across five districts after two children were killed and their mother injured in a bomb explosion in Bishnupur district. The incident set off fresh protests and violence in the restive state.



The internet shutdown applies to Imphal East, Imphal West, Thoubal, Kakching and Bishnupur districts, according to a Home Department order issued April 7. A curfew was also clamped in Bishnupur, where the attack took place just after midnight on Tuesday. Authorities said the move was necessary to curb the spread of "disinformation and false rumours" and prevent activities that could disturb public order. "Temporary suspension/curbing of internet services... is necessitated in public interest," the order said, adding the restrictions would take effect from 2 pm on April 7. A 5-year-old boy and a six-month-old girl were killed in their sleep and their mother was injured when suspected militants lobbed an explosive at their home in Tronglaobi Awang Leikai

village in Moirang, a hotbed of unrest between the Meitei and Kuki communities. The incident sparked protests, with locals torching two oil tankers and a truck near a petrol pump, burning tyres outside a police station and damaging a makeshift police outpost. Security forces were deployed to restore order. A large mob later stormed a Central Reserve Police Force camp near the foothills of P Gelmol, close to the Bishnupur-Churachandpur border. Security personnel fired rounds and used smoke bombs to disperse the crowd. At least 19 people were injured in the firing and rushed to nearby hospitals, officials said. One person was reported dead at the scene. Journalists covering the violence were forced to take shelter in a nearby canal area amid the chaos.

## Karragutta Hills declared Maoist-free zone: DGP Shivdhar Reddy

VENKATAPURAM (MULUGU), APRIL 7:

The Director General of Police, B. Shivdhar Reddy, announced that the Karragutta hills area in Mulugu district, known for its natural beauty, has now emerged as a Maoist-free zone. During his visit to the district on Tuesday, he laid foundation stones for several development works at Pamunuru, paving the way for progress in tribal regions. Speaking on the occasion, the DGP stated that Maoist influence in the Karragutta hills has reduced to zero. He assured that the government and police machinery would



always support the Gutti Koya tribal community and work towards their social and economic development. As part of this initiative, an auto-rickshaw and a two-wheeler were provided for the collective livelihood of seven families from Pamunuru, along

with distribution of essential commodities sufficient for a month. He also mentioned that plans are underway to develop Karragutta hills—rich in forest resources and natural beauty—into a tourist destination. To ensure complete safety for visitors,

construction of a police outpost has been initiated. Additionally, a special coordination center has been established to improve cooperation among the Forest, Revenue, CRPF, and Police departments, ensuring transparency in governance and faster development. Later, the DGP attended the "Arrive Alive" road safety awareness program as the chief guest, organized by Venkatapuram police as part of Road Safety Week celebrations. Addressing a gathering of around 3,000 people, he urged everyone to strictly follow road safety rules, emphasizing that nothing is more valuable than life. On this occasion, helmets

were distributed to 200 motorists. He also inaugurated a free eye medical camp organized by the police department and reviewed the health safety of drivers. The DGP visited the CRPF 39th Battalion Forward Operating Base (FOB) at Pamunuru, where he interacted with the personnel and enquired about their well-being. He appreciated the services of the (jaws) working in remote areas and stressed the need for continuous coordination between the state police and CRPF forces to maintain strategic control in hilly regions like Karragutta and to sustain it as a Maoist-free zone.

# Northeast Frontier Railway rolls out smart tech to boost Vande Bharat Sleeper Express safety

MALIGAON, 07 APRIL, 2026:

Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has achieved a major milestone by introducing a suite of advanced, in-house developed technological tools for the maintenance and safety of next-generation Vande Bharat Sleeper trains at Kamakhya Coaching Depot. Developed using cutting-edge technology and aligned with advanced global benchmarks, these systems include a smart Air Spring Monitoring System, a Portable Vibration Monitoring System for real-time diagnostics and an indigenously engineered External Pit Power Supply and Pre-cooling System. It is pertinent to mention that India's first Vande Bharat Sleeper Express has been operational between Kamakhya and Howrah since January this year, ushering in a new era of world-class and comfortable rail travel. Building on this, Northeast Frontier Railway

NFR develops innovative technological tools to Enhance Safety and Maintenance of Vande Bharat Sleeper Express  
Vibration Monitoring system for real time rolling stock condition monitoring  
Air Spring Monitoring system for suspension safety  
External Pit Power supply and pre-cooling system for efficient maintenance



has introduced advanced, in-house developed maintenance systems using cutting-edge and cost-effective technologies. NFR's growing capability in adopting innovative and sustainable practices marks a significant step towards modernizing maintenance for high-speed and premium train services. Together, these state-of-the-art sys-

tems enhance safety, improve maintenance efficiency and ensure reliable, high-performance operation of Vande Bharat sleeper coaches. In a significant technological advancement, the Air Spring Monitoring System has been introduced to enable intelligent, condition-based monitoring of coaches. The system ensures continuous tracking

of critical parameters, early detection of anomalies and precise validation through advanced acoustic imaging techniques. This predictive, data-driven approach enhances operational reliability, strengthens safety standards and ensures a smooth, comfortable and superior travel experience for passengers. Further strengthening its technological capability, NFR has introduced, for the first time, a Portable Vibration Monitoring System for real-time condition monitoring of rolling stock. Currently deployed for Vande Bharat sleeper rakes at Kamakhya depot, the system enables early identification of potential issues and facilitates timely corrective action, thereby minimizing failures and en-

sureing a seamless journey experience. In another pioneering initiative, an External Pit Power Supply and Pre-cooling System has been indigenously designed and implemented, setting new benchmarks in safe and efficient maintenance practices. This system enables safe maintenance of Vande Bharat sleeper coaches during OHE shutdown by supplying power to essential onboard systems such as HVAC, lighting and diagnostics. It also eliminates the risk of electrocution for maintenance staff and significantly reduces rake turnaround time, ensuring better availability of high-quality, well-maintained coaches for passengers. These initiatives reaffirm Northeast Frontier Railway's commitment to adopting cutting-edge technology, strengthening safety frameworks and delivering a superior, comfortable and high-quality travel experience to passengers in line with advanced global benchmarks.

## Vendor Meet Organized at BLW for Amrit Bharat Push-Pull Locomotives

VARANASI, APRIL 7:

On April 07, 2026, a Vendor Meet was organized at the Hall of Fame, located within the BLW Administrative Building at the Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW), involving vendors associated with the complete shell assembly of the Amrit Bharat Push-Pull (WAP-7) locomotives. The meeting was presided over by the General Manager, Shri Ashutosh Pant. During the meeting, discussions were held on topics related to shell supply, item fitment, inspection, service, and quality. The General Manager stated that to achieve the production target of 170 Amrit Bharat locomotives set for the current financial year, it is imperative to ensure the manufacturing of approximately 15 locomotives per

month; for this, the timely availability of complete shell assemblies is essential. He directed the vendors to pay special attention to quality and technical proficiency. Present on this occasion were BLW Principal Chief Electrical Engineer Shri Manoj Kumar Gupta, Chief Design Engineer (Electric Loco) Shri Anurag Kumar Gupta, Chief Materials Manager (Loco) Shri Amit Verma, Chief Electrical Engineer (Inspection) Shri Bhardwaj Chaudhary, Chief Electrical Engineer (Loco) Shri Arvind Kumar Jain, Deputy General Manager Shri Sagar, Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer (Loco) Shri Sudeep Rawat, Deputy Chief Design Engineer (Mechanical) Shri Palash Saxena, along with a significant number of other senior officials and representatives from the vendor community.

# BJP will form government in West Bengal under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi: CM Nayab Singh Saini

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 7

Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said the people of West Bengal want to form a government under the leadership of Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi. Therefore, there is a strong wave of BJP across Bengal.

Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini was interacting with journalists on Tuesday during his visit to West Bengal after the filing of nomination papers of the candidate from Sreerampur Assembly constituency. He also conducted a roadshow in support of the BJP candidate in Sreerampur and appealed to the people to vote in favour of the BJP.

The Chief Minister extended his best wishes to the BJP candidate and said that the Communist Party had continuously exploited the people of Bengal. With great expectations, people had formed the government of Mamata Banerjee, but this government has committed even more atrocities than the Communists. The Chief Minister said that the people of Bengal have now made up their minds to form a BJP government. There is neither employment in Bengal, nor are farmers able to sell their crops at MSP, nor are they getting fair prices. Despite having a woman Chief Minister, women are not safe in Bengal. He said that the kind of misrule witnessed under the Mamata government has left the public distressed.

## Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini visits West Bengal, holds roadshow in Sreerampur Assembly constituency

government, embroiled in corruption, pretends to be simple, but large-scale scams are taking place under its rule. The Chief Minister said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi, the government at the Centre is working for the welfare of the poor. The BJP government has so far lifted 25 crore people above the poverty line. Due to BJP policies, there is a transformation in the



lives of the poor. He said that although the Central Government has many welfare schemes, not even a single scheme has been implemented in West Bengal. Schemes like Ayushman Bharat and Kisan Samman Nidhi have not been implemented in Bengal due to political bias. As a result, poverty is increasing further in Bengal, due to which people want to get rid of the Mamata government.

Great enthusiasm among people during the roadshow  
The Chief Minister said that the enthusiasm and energy of the people during the roadshow were remarkable. The people here want the development of Bengal under the leadership of the Prime Minister. Industries have migrated out of Bengal, and the youth have been forced to migrate elsewhere in search of employment. The youth of Bengal are disheartened with the government, and fear and corruption are at their peak in the state. He said that under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, houses are being provided to poor families across the country. The BJP government is providing ration to 80 crore people. With the objective of a Viksit India and Viksit Bengal, the people will form a

BJP government with a huge majority. He said that people want trust and respect, which is possible only under the leadership of Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi. The Chief Minister said that in Haryana, poor women are being provided with gas cylinders at Rs 500, Rs 2100 is being given under the Lado Laxmi Yojana, and permanent houses are being provided to poor people. Under the Ayushman Bharat scheme, 27 lakh people have availed health benefits, and an amount of Rs 4000 crore has been spent so far under the scheme. He said that all welfare schemes will be implemented for the benefit of the people of Bengal as soon as a BJP government is formed. On reaching Sreerampur, Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini received a warm welcome.

## UP woman files rape case against son after niece found pregnant

The accused allegedly lured the girl into a physical relationship under false pretences. The matter came to light only after she discovered she was pregnant and informed her aunt.



A woman in Uttar Pradesh's Maharaiganj district has filed a criminal complaint against her own son after he allegedly raped his cousin, resulting in a pregnancy, police said on Tuesday. The incident occurred in a village under the jurisdiction of the Bhitauli Police Station. According to police officials, the survivor had been living at her paternal aunt's home since childhood following the death of her mother. The teen had been raised by her aunt due to her father's reported history of "bad habits" and the absence

of her mother. The accused allegedly lured the girl into a physical relationship under false pretences. The matter came to light only after she discovered she was pregnant and informed her aunt. Shocked by the revelation, the accused's mother -- the survivor's aunt -- approached the police to seek justice for her niece against her own son. "Based on the complaint received, a case has been registered against the accused," a police official said. A manhunt is underway for the accused, who is on the run.

## China hikes gasoline, diesel prices for second time in fortnight

BY K J M VARMA

**BEIJING: (Apr 7)** China on Tuesday announced an increase in gasoline and diesel prices for the second time in about a fortnight due to rising international oil prices triggered by the ongoing war in West Asia. China's top economic planner, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), announced that the new round of price hikes will take effect from Wednesday. China already increased gasoline and diesel prices on March 23 as part of preparations for a fuel crisis amid apprehensions around the current US-Israel-Iran war.

## Bangladesh's first female speaker arrested

DHAKA: (APR 7)

**B**angladesh's former speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury was on Tuesday arrested by the Dhaka Metropolitan Police, according to media reports. Chaudhury was arrested by the Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Detective Branch (DB) in connection with a case filed at Lalbagh police station over incidents of violence and vandalism during the mass uprising. Prothom Alo reported. A DB source said that she had been in hiding at various locations. Most recently, she had been staying at a relative's residence in Dharmadhi, from where she was detained on Tuesday morning, the report added.

# US hits Iran oil hub Kharg Island amid stalled talks; Trump deadline hours away

NEW DELHI: APR 7, 2026

**A day after Iran rejected another ceasefire plan by the US to end the month-long war, Iran's strategic oil hub, Kharg Island, was targeted in multiple strikes, the country's semi-official Mehr News reported.**

The strikes also came a day after Trump said he was "very upset" with Iran and warned that Tehran would "pay a big price" if it failed to reach a deal. While Iran called for a permanent end to the conflict, now in its sixth week, under broader conditions, Trump indicated there would be serious consequences if no agreement is reached. Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) issued a warning following the US strikes on Kharg Island, saying that "Restraint is over", sparking



fresh concerns of a severe disruption to regional crude supplies, metro.uk reported. The IRGC warned that it could target energy infrastructure linked to the US and its allies, threatening to disrupt oil and gas flows across the region "for years." The warning came after Trump said last weekend that he was considering whether US forces could seize the island. Last month, the US launched strikes on Kharg Island, targeting mili-

tary installations. The strikes destroyed naval mine storage and missile bunkers, while oil infrastructure was largely spared initially. Kharg Island serves as Iran's main oil export terminal, handling up to 90 per cent of its crude shipments and offering storage capacity of around 30 million barrels. Located about 26 km off Iran's coast and 483 km northwest of the Strait of Hormuz, Kharg is often dubbed the "Forbidden Island" due to

its isolation and heavy security presence. Trump has repeatedly threatened Iran with a full-scale strike on its energy infrastructure if it fails to reopen the Strait of Hormuz within the stipulated deadline. His rhetoric has been sharp and uncompromising, even as he has continued to be easy with his timelines. Trump has now extended the deadline three times, with the latest set to expire on April 7 (Tuesday). The initial ultimatum was for five days, followed by a 10-day extension late last month. That deadline was due to end on Monday before his most recent delay, stretching what began as a 48-hour warning into a 408-hour window. Trump had earlier threatened strikes on Kharg Island's oil infrastructure unless attacks on vessels in the Strait of Hormuz were halted. On Sunday, he went on an abusive rant on Iran, say-

ing Tehran should reopen the Strait of Hormuz soon and set a 48-hour deadline for Tehran to come to the negotiating table and agree to a ceasefire deal. On Monday, Trump said he was "very upset" with Iran and warned that Tehran would "pay a big price" if it failed to reach a deal, signalling a tougher stance as his self-imposed deadline nears. His comments followed Iran's formal rejection of a US ceasefire proposal, with its response conveyed via Pakistan, according to the Islamic Republic News Agency. Tehran instead emphasised the need for a "permanent end to the war" rather than a temporary truce. Iran's proposal outlined a 10-point framework, including ending regional conflicts, ensuring safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz, lifting sanctions and securing commitments for post-war reconstruction.

## Mojtaba Khamenei unconscious, not involved in decision-making: Report

**Mojtaba Khamenei, the newly-appointed Supreme Leader of Iran, is unconscious and presently receiving treatment at a hospital in the Iranian city of Qom, a report by the Times said.**

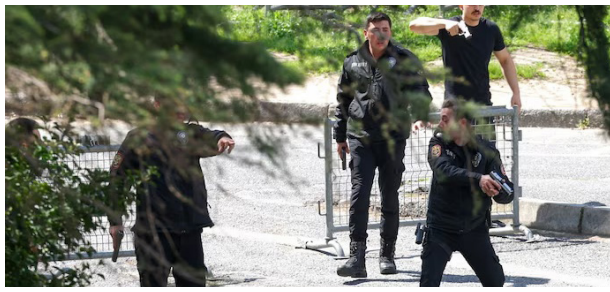


Citing inputs from a diplomatic memo shared by US-Israeli intelligence sources with its Gulf allies, the report further added that Khamenei sustained serious injuries in the same airstrike that killed his father, the erstwhile Supreme Leader of Iran, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, on February 28. As a result, he is unable to run the country and is going through treatment in Qom. "Mojtaba Khamenei is being treated in Qom in a severe condition, unable to be involved in any decision-making by the regime," the memo reads, as reported by the Times. The memo also revealed the Supreme Leader's location for the first time since he was elevated to the head of the nation. He is presently residing in the central city, 87 miles south of Tehran, and is considered sacred as per the doctrines of Shia Islam. As the memo suggests, the intelligence agencies of the United States and Israel got hold of the Supreme Leader's location. However, they did not reveal it to the world before. Since

assuming power, Khamenei has not been seen in public till date, which raised questions about his life. Rumours circulated that the 56-year-old Shia cleric died in the same attack that assassinated his father. However, the Iranian officials mentioned multiple times that Khamenei is presently in charge of Iran and playing a role in deciding the country's course of action in the prevailing West Asia conflict, despite confirming the news of him being injured in the February 28 attacks. Earlier, two statements attributed to Khamenei were read on Iranian state television. A video of the leader walking into a war room and analysing a map of Israel's nuclear power plant in Dimona was also released a few days ago. Yesterday, the Supreme Leader also condemned the death of the IRGC intelligence chief, Majid Khamenei, by saying that assassinations will not be able to weaken the regime. He also condemned Trump's Stone Age remark.

## Gunman killed in Istanbul consulate shooting, two hurt

**O**ne attacker was killed and two others were injured in a shooting outside a building housing the Israeli consulate in Istanbul on Tuesday. According to Turkish media, the attackers, who had rifles, pistols and backpacks, were involved in a gun battle with Turkish security forces, before one of them was gunned down. Two police officers also sustained injuries in the incident. Earlier, Reuters reported that all three attackers were killed. Then, it was reported that two attackers and one was injured before the latest report states that only one attacker was gunned down and two others were wounded.



Turkish police officers drew their weapons and took cover as gunfire echoed for at least 10 minutes near a permanent security checkpoint. One person was seen lying bloodied amid the glass towers in the heart of Istanbul's financial district. Istanbul Governor Davut Gul said there are no Israeli diplomats stationed

in Turkey and the consulate was shut for over two years following deteriorating relations between Israel and Turkey in the wake of the Gaza war on October 7, 2023. Turkey has criticised Israel for its Gaza invasion and had shut down the consulate in protest. The three attackers had links

to an organisation that "exploits religion", Turkish Interior Minister Mustafa Ciftci said, adding that two of them were brothers. Another viral video shows an undercover Turkish officer dropping to the ground and firing from beneath a vehicle, wounding the attacker in the leg near the Israeli consulate. A viral video showed a suspected gunman moving between parked police and security buses, firing repeatedly over several minutes with an automatic rifle and a handgun. Two bodies were found lying on nearby streets and grassy patches. Turkey, a vocal critic of Israel's military operations in Gaza, recalled its

ambassador from Israel in November 2023, effectively freezing diplomatic ties. Around the same time, Israeli diplomats withdrew from Turkey over security concerns as pro-Palestinian protests erupted nationwide and outside the consulate. Since then, a heavy and sustained police presence has been maintained around the mission. Security in the area has remained tight, with a heavy police presence around the Israeli consulate since the Hamas-Israel war began in 2023. The Israeli Foreign Ministry later confirmed there were no staff at the consulate at the time of the shooting.

## Pakistan faces crunch as \$3.5B UAE debt deadline looms

NEW DELHI, APRIL 7

**D**ebt-ridden Pakistan is facing a grim financial situation as it has to repay \$3.5 billion to the United Arab Emirates this month. Millennial media consulting The repayment, confirmed by a senior cabinet minister during a press briefing, as reported by Pakistan's Express Tribune, comes at a time when Islamabad's foreign exchange reserves have fallen to abysmally low levels, raising concerns about the country's capacity to fulfil its external debt obligations. This financial burden has been intensified by the United Arab Emirates' reported decision not to extend further rollovers on the debt. For years, Pakistan has relied on such rollovers from friendly nations to ease immediate repayment pressures and stabilise its reserves. However, shifting geopolitical dynamics, particularly tensions linked to the ongoing US-Israel-Iran conflict, appear to have influenced Abu Dhabi's stance, accelerating Islamabad's need to settle its obligations, according to an article in Sri Lanka's Guardian newspaper. The implications



for Pakistan's economy are significant. Foreign exchange reserves, already stretched thin, will take a direct hit as funds are redirected toward debt servicing. Economists warn that this could weaken the country's capacity to manage its external accounts, potentially affecting its ability to pay for imports and maintain currency stability. Such pressures come at a delicate time, as Pakistan continues to navigate a challenging economic recovery under the framework of an International Monetary Fund program, the article pointed out. In recent years, the financial relationship between Pakistan and the UAE has been marked by both cooperation and tension. In 2018, Abu Dhabi provided \$2 billion to support Pakistan's economy, followed by an additional request from Islamabad for \$1 billion in 2023 to meet external

financing needs. These arrangements were part of a broader pattern in which Pakistan has leaned heavily on bilateral partners to bridge funding gaps while implementing economic reforms tied to international lending programs. Now, with rollover options narrowing, Pakistan is exploring alternative approaches. Some officials have indicated that discussions are underway to convert portions of the debt into investment, a move that could ease immediate repayment pressures while fostering longer-term economic engagement. However, such arrangements remain uncertain and may not provide timely relief given the urgency of current obligations, the article observed. Geopolitical factors are also shaping the situation. Pakistan's perceived proximity to Iran during the ongoing regional conflict has added complexity to its relations with Gulf partners, including the UAE. While Islamabad has traditionally balanced its ties across the Middle East, shifting alliances and heightened tensions are testing that equilibrium, with potential economic consequences, the article pointed out.

## Eat 5-star, do nothing China's strategy amid US-Iran war

**While missiles crisscross the Middle East and tensions rise, China is doing something unusual - doing nothing. China has refused to get itself dragged into the Iran conflict. The situation is well encapsulated in the latest cover of The Economist - Never interrupt your enemy when he's making a mistake.**



**Z**ero troops deployed. Zero bombs dropped. No loud statement. Buys Iran's sanctioned oil at a deep discount. If there is one country that's refused to get itself dragged into the Iran conflict, it's China. China's playbook, which has been to just sit and watch, has drawn global attention. So much so that it featured in the latest cover of The Economist. The headline, "Never interrupt your enemy when he's making a mistake", captures the situation perfectly. Stay with us, and we will explain exactly how. When the US-Israel-Iran war escalated in the Middle East, there were expectations that major powers would be pulled in. However, China stayed out.

Its response has been muted. President Xi Jinping hasn't publicly commented on the conflict. He just watched as the US, which thought of bringing about regime change in Iran and thwarting its nuclear ambitions, got involved in an endless war. The result: a massive war bill, trust deficiency with the Gulf, and friction with NATO allies. This has been perfectly encapsulated in The Economist cover. The headline is basically a quote widely attributed to French emperor Napoleon Bonaparte. In a military context, it basically means that when your opponent is making a mistake or a costly move, it is wiser to observe than to intervene. The cover image is also symbolic. It features Chinese President Xi Jinping in sharp focus, with a blurred image of Donald Trump. It reflects a growing global perception that Beijing might stand to

gain in an unstable world, while Washington remains engaged in the Middle East turmoil. This is not what was on Trump's mind when he started the conflict. The eccentric US President believes that controlling oil flows brings power on the world stage. His daring operation in Venezuela to capture President Nicholas Maduro and tap the country's vast crude reserves gave ample hints. Bringing Iran's energy flows under US control was next on his list. Trump could have used it as a bargaining chip with China, the largest buyer of Iranian crude. A meeting between the leaders is scheduled next month in Beijing. But Iran proved to be more resilient. It has played its ultimate trump card by closing the Strait of Hormuz, the vital waterway through which one-fifth of the world's oil and gas passes. Iran has, thereby, held the global economy hostage. However, China is already well-positioned to weather the Hormuz closure. Being a key ally of Iran, China has received millions of barrels of Iranian oil through shadow fleets (old vessels that usually have no insurance) in recent weeks.

## Bangladesh measles outbreak claims 118 lives, mostly children

DHAKA, APRIL 7

**As Bangladesh grapples with a measles outbreak, a total of 118 people, mostly children, died from the suspected cases, local media reported on Tuesday, citing the country's Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).**



**A**ccording to the DGHS, the fatalities have been recorded since March 15, including five deaths in the 24-hour period ending Monday morning. The health agency stated that the 2006 suspected measles patients, primarily children, are currently receiving care at hospitals across the country. Reports suggest another two children died with the symptoms of an infectious disease at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH), bringing the total number of such deaths at the facility to 42. Confirming the recent fatalities, hospital spokesperson Shankar Kumar Biswas confirmed that deaths occurred over a 24-hour span, Sunday to Monday morning, the Bangladeshi daily Dhaka Tribune reported. Experts warned that in the absence of systemic reform, emergency measures taken to control the measles outbreak are unlikely to yield significant benefits. Benazir Ahmed, a health expert and former director of disease control at the DGHS, said that the previous Muhammad Yunus-led interim government's sudden

cancellation of the sectoral programme, which provided funds for vaccination, sparked a measles vaccine crisis, resulting in the deaths of many children. "When we are supposed to celebrate something positive on World Health Day, we have to fight an outbreak, which is very unfortunate. We are supposed to eliminate measles-rubella by 2026, but we are struggling with the growing number of measles patients at hospitals," Bangladesh's leading newspaper, Daily Star, quoted Ahmed as saying. Additionally, the special campaign for immunisation planned for late 2024 could not be carried out amid the political transition. According to health officials, the interim government did not launch any such drive, while workers responsible for administering the shots went on strike three times in 2025, disrupting the regular vaccination programme. Speaking to Daily Star on condition of anonymity, another official said that the Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) was forced to ration vaccines in some region since January due to a fund shortage.

# Trump extends Iran deadline to 48 hours

**Trump has extended his deadline to Iran three times so far and delayed attacks on energy sites. His new deadline ends today. Will he unleash hell on Iran or give it more time to reopen the Strait of Hormuz?**

**D**onald Trump has been threatening Iran with a full-blown attack on its energy sites if it fails to open the Strait of Hormuz within the given deadline. He has been brutal in his threats and warnings, but kind with his deadlines. The US President originally gave Iran 48 hours to open the strait and warned of attacks if it failed to comply. Just as the world was preparing to see what would happen next, Trump dampened

the tension by extending the deadline. Trump has extended his deadline thrice so far and the fresh one ends on April 7. The first ultimatum was for five days, but he extended it by 10 more days late last month. The latter deadline was then supposed to expire on Monday before Trump's latest delay. Thus, Trump's original 48-hour ultimatum has stretched to 408 hours so far. Trump's fresh deadline ends on April 7 but given his pattern of deadline extensions, intensifying rhetoric and continued uncertainty over diplomacy, people wonder if he will extend the deadline further.

**DEADLINES AND DELAYS: TRUMP'S WAR GAMES**  
Trump's first warning came on March 22, warning Iran



that failure to comply would result in military strikes on key energy infrastructure. "If Iran doesn't fully open, without threat, the Strait of Hormuz, within 48 hours from this exact point in time, the United States of America will hit and obliterate their various power plants, starting with the biggest

one first." Trump's March 22 post read. On March 23, just before the original deadline expired, Trump announced a 5-day pause until March 28, citing "very good and productive conversations" with Tehran. "I have instructed the department of war to postpone any and all military strikes against Iranian power plants and energy infrastructure for a five-day period," he said. On March 26, Trump warned Iran to "get serious soon, before it is too late," while also extending the deadline further to April 6 at 8 pm, saying negotiations were "going very well." Trump again extended the pause by another 10 days, setting a new firm deadline of Monday, April 6, at 8:00 pm ET. On April 6, Trump extended his deadline for Iran to reopen

the Strait of Hormuz by an additional 24 hours. He posted a cryptic message on Truth Social without elaborating, "Tuesday, 8:00 P.M. Eastern Time!". This effectively extended the deadline by 34 hours from Monday morning to Tuesday night. He later posted on Truth Social, "Tuesday will be Power Plant Day, and Bridge Day, all wrapped up in one, in Iran."

**WILL TRUMP DELAY IRAN STRIKES AGAIN?**  
Iran is already expecting that Trump will push the deadline further given his pattern so far. US officials also said Trump may delay planned strikes targeting Iranian civilian infrastructure if negotiations show signs of progress. "If the President sees a deal is coming together, he'll probably hold off.

But only he and he alone makes that decision," Axios quoted a senior administration official as saying. However, Trump said on Monday that the Tuesday deadline he has set for Iran to make a deal was final. He claimed in an interview with Axios that the US is "in deep negotiations" with Iran and that a deal can be reached before his deadline expires on Tuesday. "There is a good chance, but if they don't make a deal, I am blowing up everything over there," he said. Meanwhile, Trump said senior US officials were negotiating with Iran via texts as well as via mediators Pakistan, Turkey and Egypt. However, the peace proposal has been repeatedly rejected by Iran, who in turn, sent its own 10-point proposal to America.

## Don't use train for next 12 hours for sake of your security, Israel warns Iranians

**I**n a stark advisory amid ongoing hostilities, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) has urged people across Iran to avoid trains and railway lines, warning that their lives could be at risk. The warning, issued on Tuesday via its Persian-language account on X, asked civilians to refrain from using rail transport for a defined period. "For the sake of your security, we kindly request that from this moment until 21:00 Iran time (11 pm IST), you refrain from using and travelling by train throughout Iran," the military said. "Your presence on trains and near railway lines endangers your life." An accompanying graphic shared by the Israeli military

carried the same message in Persian, marking it as an "urgent warning" to train users and passengers across Iran. The visual stressed avoiding trains and railway tracks, echoing the written advisory. Meanwhile, Fars news agency reported that railway operations in Iran's Mashhad have reportedly stopped due to safety risks following Israel's warning. The advisory signalled potential targeting of transport networks amid escalating conflict, though no official Iranian confirmation of the shutdown has been issued. The Israeli warning comes as Israel, along with the US, remains engaged in a conflict with Iran following initial attacks on February 28.

## Peddapalli MP Vamsi Krishna's Visaka Industries Granted US Design

### Patent for Innovative Leak-Proof Solar Panel Mounting Profile

HYDERABAD, MARCH 7

Peddapalli MP and Joint Managing Director of Visaka Industries Ltd., Gaddam Vamsi Krishna, has been granted a prestigious United States Design Patent for his innovative "Leak Proof Profile for Mounting Solar Panel". The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office officially granted the patent (Appl. No. 29/903,459) on January 13, 2026. This new design provides a highly effective, leak-proof mounting solution for solar panels, enhancing durability, safety, and ease of installation while preventing water ingress - a critical challenge in integrated solar roofing systems. This latest achievement adds to Vamsi Krishna's growing portfolio of patents in green technology and sustainable innovation. He is the inventor of ATUM Solar Roof - the

world's first integrated solar roofing system - which has already received patents in India (2020), South Africa (2021), and the United States (2021). He also holds 10 patents in the Electric Vehicle space for India's first solar-powered electric bike, ATUM. The new design patent is valid for 15 years and further strengthens Visaka Industries' position as a pioneer in eco-friendly building materials and integrated solar solutions. It directly supports Vamsi Krishna's vision of transforming Telangana and India into a hub for green jobs and sustainable industrial growth. With this patent, Vamsi Krishna continues his journey as an innovator who seamlessly blends cutting-edge technology with public service, working towards a cleaner, self-reliant, and sustainable future.

## Bulls Prevail: Nifty Tops 23,100 Despite Early Volatility

NEW DELHI, APRIL 7

Indian stock market on Tuesday ended higher extending their gains for the fourth consecutive session. Nifty closed above 23,100 level with the key gainers being IT, media, metal, and realty stocks.

At close, the Sensex was up 509.73 points or 0.69 percent at 74,616.58, and the Nifty was up 155.40 points or 0.68 percent at 23,123.65. Nifty midcap index rising 0.2 percent, while smallcap index ending flat.

The overall market capitalisation of firms listed on the BSE rose to slightly more than Rs 429 lakh crore from Rs 427.5 lakh crore in the previous session.

Among the sectors, all the indices ended in the green except Consumer Durables and PSU Bank. Information Technology rose 2.5%, Metal index gained 1.5%, Realty index up 1.7%, while Media, Private Bank, Oil & Gas indices up 0.5-1%.



IT stocks rose on the expectations of a better-than-anticipated March quarter. The key gainers were Mphasis, Wipro, HCL Technologies and LTI-Mindtree rising up to 4%.

On Nifty, the biggest gainers were Wipro, Hindalco Industries, HCL Technologies, TCS, Infosys. The key losers included Dr Reddy's Laboratories, Adani Enterprises, Interglobe Aviation, Apollo

Hospitals, M&M.

In terms of some of the stock-specific performances, Fino Payments Bank rallied 2%, Titagarh Rail Systems surged over 7%, NMDC Steel gained 5% while Vedanta, Jindal Steel, Hindustan Zinc, NMDC Steel, and Welspun Corp gaining over 2%.

Jewellery companies saw strong momentum with key stocks such as PC Jeweller, Kaly-

an Jewellers, and Senco Gold recorded up to 10 per cent gains, driven by upbeat quarterly results and supportive trends in precious metal pricing.

The final numbers hide a morning of significant tension. The market actually opened with a sharp "dip" due to escalating geopolitical tensions in West Asia and a looming deadline regarding the Iran conflict.

**The Swing:** The Nifty plummeted to an intraday low of 22,719 in the first five minutes of trade—a drop of over 250 points from the previous close. Commodity and Currency Cues

Despite the geopolitical backdrop, Brent crude prices eased slightly to \$109 per barrel, providing much-needed relief to oil-sensitive sectors like Paints and Aviation. In the bullion market, Gold prices saw a correction, with 24K gold in Delhi dropping to ₹1,49,840 per 10 grams, while Silver remained steady at ₹2,50,000 per kg.

## STAR Hospitals Hyderabad Observes World Health Day



HYDERABAD, APRIL 7

STAR Hospitals Hyderabad Observes World Health Day 2026 driving a unique engagement initiative with a 120-second plank challenge.

Doctors, patients, their relatives, and staff enthusiastically participated, showcasing strength, endurance, and a shared commitment to better health. The activity underscored how simple

exercises can play a vital role in maintaining overall well-being and preventing lifestyle diseases. Participants who completed the challenge were awarded certificates, adding to the excitement and sense of achievement. With such engaging initiatives, STAR Hospitals continues to inspire communities to stay active and prioritize their health.

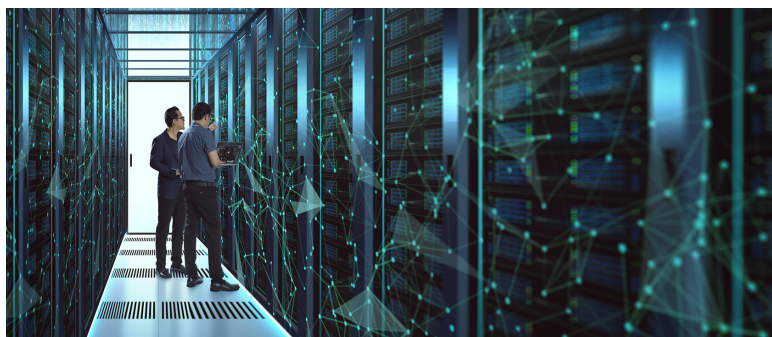
## Tata Play Fiber ties up with IBM to build AI-ready data infrastructure

NEW DELHI, APRIL 7

Internet service provider Tata Play Fiber officially announced a collaboration with IBM on Tuesday to build a next-generation, AI-ready enterprise data infrastructure using IBM's Watsonx platform.

The new platform will integrate 25 disparate data sources into a single, scalable environment, enabling advanced analytics, strengthening customer retention, and unlocking new cross-sell and upsell opportunities, according to an official statement.

Commenting on the development, Tata Play Fiber CEO Anand Sahai said that "Building a robust information system is central to the company's digital transformation journey. As the company expands in a dynamic broadband market, it requires deeper and faster insights into customers and operations. IBM's Watsonx platform provides a secure and scalable environment to strengthen retention, un-



lock new revenue opportunities, and deliver differentiated customer experiences".

Operating in an increasingly competitive broadband market, Tata Play Fiber has sought to modernise its data infrastructure to enhance agility, deepen customer insights, and improve operational efficiency.

Earlier, data across customer master records, marketing, finance, call centre interactions, and service operations was spread across multiple systems, leading to inconsistencies

and a lack of standardisation. This fragmentation also limited real-time reporting capabilities. Through this partnership with IBM, Tata Play Fiber is moving from fragmented reporting and manual processes to data-driven decision-making at scale, the statement mentioned.

According to Tata Play Fiber's Vice President of Information Technology Nebu Joy, "Navigating today's data complexity requires more than just consolidation. It demands intelligence. Integrating 25 data sources into a sin-

gle enterprise-wide architecture enables real-time visibility across the organisation, empowering teams, from call centre agents to field service engineers, with contextual insights which enhance responsiveness and improve customer experience".

After the collaboration, the new data infrastructure built on IBM Watsonx, will optimise and scale AI workloads while consolidating structured and semi-structured data into a unified and trusted foundation for enterprise-wide analytics and informed decision-making, according to the statement.

IBM India & South Asia Vice President of Technology Gaurav Agarwal, said that "Telecom and broadband providers are undergoing rapid transformation while managing cost pressures and rising customer expectations. The collaboration demonstrates how a hybrid, AI-enabled data architecture can help enterprises modernise their data ecosystems and build a future-ready foundation for AI".

## West Asia War Crushes Indian Summer Travel Plans, Europe Bookings Plunge

NEW DELHI, APRIL 7

The raging conflict in West Asia is slamming the brakes on Indian summer vacations, with Europe trips hit hardest as wary travelers ditch plans amid airport chaos and a plunging rupee. Summer's school holidays spark India's biggest travel rush, but the Iran war has sparked a "Covid-like" freeze on bookings. "Enquiries are down 70-80% due to the uncertainties," says Ankit Bajaj, a travel operator in Ahmedabad. Sriharan Balan, MD of a Chennai firm, adds: "We're facing a situation very close to Covid-19 this season."

Global hubs like Dubai,



Abu Dhabi, Doha, and Bahrain—handling 5.26 lakh passengers daily—are in disarray, crippling routes Indians rely on for cheap flights to Europe. "Travelers from Ahmedabad depend heavily on Gulf carriers," notes outbound specialist Mahendra Vakharia. Southern India faces the same pinch, forcing switches to pricier Air India or European options.

The World Travel & Tourism Council estimates the

Iran conflict drains \$600 million daily from international tourism spending. Indians, eyeing Europe as a top pick, are pivoting to South Africa, South Korea, Japan, Vietnam, Bali, or the Philippines. "The travel bug is strong; people just need reassurance," Vakharia says.

A weakening rupee past ₹90/\$ piles on the pain. "Even a one-rupee shift hikes packages by ₹2,000 per day per person," Sriharan warns, rendering early quotes obsolete.

With geopolitics volatile, leisure travel hangs in limbo—peace may not be essential for tourism anymore, but this chaos sure tests it.

## 'Krishi Mahakumbh' to be held in Raisen, MP from Apr 11-13

NEW DELHI

A three-day national farm fair 'Krishi Mahakumbh' is scheduled to kick-start from April 11 in Raisen, which is part of Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's Vidisha parliamentary constituency in Madhya Pradesh.

Chouhan said the national-level event will bring together the entire value chain of the rural economy -- from seed to market and from fish to pearl -- on a single platform, an official statement said.

The Dussehra Ground in Raisen will, for three days, serve as a hub for live demonstrations, technical sessions, training series and business meetings. Scientists, startups, farmer producer organisations, self-help groups, and rural entrepreneurs will engage in direct interaction and exchange of ideas.

## Seaplanes Ready for Takeoff in Rishikesh

NEW DELHI, APR 7

SkyHop Aviation has successfully conducted a test flight of its seaplane with landing and take-off from the Ganga Barrage in Rishikesh, marking a key milestone in its plans to become India's first commercial seaplane operator. According to a company statement, the test flight was carried out on April 6, 2026.

Avani Singh, Founder and CEO of the company, said the project was inspired by the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and is being pursued under the leadership of Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu, with support from the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

The company said it is working



towards obtaining its Air Operating Certificate soon. In the first phase, the company plans to connect five islands in Lakshadweep with each other and with the mainland, beginning operations with a 19-seater aircraft.

Highlighting the objective of the initiative, Singh said SkyHop is being developed "to improve access to places where conventional airports are either not viable or difficult to

develop," adding that seaplanes can "open up new routes, reduce travel time, and bring many remote regions closer."

"We are studying opportunities in other parts of the country where such connectivity can make a real difference," she added. The company expressed confidence that the initiative would contribute to tourism, regional access, and national integration.

## Hamdard's New Era: Holistic Healing for All

NEW DELHI, APRIL 7

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

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

With non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular conditions, and lifestyle-related disorders emerging as a major public health challenge in India, responsible for nearly 5.87 million deaths, as per the India State-Level Disease Burden Initiative, holistic healing is vital for prevention, early intervention, and long-term wellness.

Rooted in this idea, the campaign is designed to integrate Hamdard Laboratories' ongoing knowledge, industry collaboration, and practitioner engagement efforts under a unified 'Holistic Healing' framework. As part of the campaign, Hamdard Laboratories is leveraging social media to share informative and educational content,

thought-provoking visuals, and practical tips guiding people on preventive health, lifestyle management, and early intervention, particularly in addressing NCDs, and reinforcing the critical role of integrative healthcare in daily life.

Going ahead, the campaign will expand into immersive and collaborative events across multiple cities in India, including Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Chennai, Srinagar, Lucknow, Jaipur, Patna, Kolkata, Calicut and others. The campaign will include Continuing Medical Education (CME) programs to enhance the knowledge and capabilities of practitioners and academicians; Unani and AYUSH conclaves and summits to encourage research exchange along with wider

awareness of traditional medicine systems; and recognition programs and ceremonies to celebrate and motivate individuals contributing significantly to community health and well-being. In addition, Hamdard Laboratories' Unani Ki Kahani initiative complements the campaign by presenting Unani medicine through storytelling tailored for younger audiences. Coinciding with Hamdard completing 120 years and airing on Discovery Channel, the initiative highlights the relevance of natural, preventive healthcare while bridging perception gaps through a contemporary and culturally rooted narrative.

In addition to this, there will be outreach and awareness initiatives, in collaboration with the Ministry of AY-

USH, to engage the public on preventive health and lifestyle management.

"True health extends beyond the absence of illness; it lies in achieving harmony between the body, mind, and environment, and in the ability to flourish at every stage of life," said Abdul Majeed, Chairman and Managing Trustee, Hamdard Laboratories. "For over 120 years, Hamdard has remained deeply committed to advancing preventive healthcare, working closely with the AYUSH ecosystem to promote time-tested, holistic approaches to wellness. Through the 'Holistic Healing' campaign, we are creating meaningful platforms for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and community engagement. All our engagements are aimed at bringing together

students, healthcare professionals, policymakers, and communities, ensuring a collaborative approach to health awareness. Our goal is to empower individuals and communities with the understanding and tools to prevent diseases, manage lifestyle risks, and embrace wellness in its fullest sense."

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

# BEYOND COLLECTION: THE INSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGE OF SOIL HEALTH



India's Soil Health Card (SHC) programme has created one of the world's largest soil databases. But the country is still grappling with how to use it meaningfully. The programme has issued around 20 crore (200 million) cards from millions of geo-tagged samples, built a national nutrient map, and set up labs, portals, and a digital engine capable of giving fertiliser advice plot by plot. On paper, policy documents imagine SHC data guiding cropping patterns and local soil action plans through maps and GIS tools. In practice, however, the data is still used mainly to monitor the scheme itself—counting samples and cards—rather than to shape fertiliser policy or change how inputs are sold. When farmers do follow SHC recommendations, fertiliser use becomes more balanced, input costs fall, and yields usually hold steady or improve, suggesting that the technical system works; it is real-world use that lags behind.

## What farmers actually see

Criticisms of SHC are less about lab chemistry and more about how uneven and confusing the whole chain is—from sampling to the advice farmers finally receive. Sampling protocols vary by state, quality checks are weak, turnaround times are slow, and the cards are packed with technical text that does not match what farmers see in their fields. In a village near Lakhimpur, Uttar Pradesh, tribal farmers said their soils had never been tested. A sugarcane-maize farmer there felt soil testing “sounds important” but trusted his dealer more, because the dealer not only tells him “ye wala dal toh fasal mazboot rahegi” but also gives him credit. In Sitapur district, a woman farmer said, “Humne kabhi bhi aisa koi test suna nahi hai” — for her, soil testing has sim-

ply never entered her world. Another farmer from Gola, Sitapur, busy harvesting potatoes, said he does not know about soil tests and just buys whatever manure and fertiliser the dealer suggests; for him, soil health advice does not compete with dealer advice because it is absent altogether.

## What dealers and companies do

Agri retailers themselves underline this gap. A big Shahjahanpur dealer with a Rs 10 crore turnover says labs are either too costly or “only on paper,” and openly admits, Humare paas jo aata hai, jo maangte hain, wohi dete hain—test ka kya kaam? Demand, not data, drives sales. In Mahuli, Sitapur, another dealer says company or mill “testing” often produces identical reports or mixed-up village samples, turning cards into meaningless paperwork. A farmer in his shop puts it bluntly: with soils there is “na test, na doctor,” unlike blood tests where a doctor interprets results. Senior agri input sales representatives reinforce this logic, pushing crop-growth promoters, pesticides, and “strong” combo packs that give fast, visible results and high margins, while ignoring invisible issues like low soil organic carbon. For them, demo plots are about proving the product works, not explaining what the soil lacks or how to fix it.

## Data without behaviour change

All this leaves a deep gap between the SHC database and how farmers actually behave. Most cannot read the cards easily, do not find them convincing, or simply fall back on habit and dealer advice, so their buying patterns barely shift. An agri input dealer from Lakhimpur district, says farmers want “fasal badhane wale doctor” i.e. chemical inputs —not lessons on carbon or micro-

nutrients. Of his 700-plus customers, not one does soil testing. At the system level, SHC data still has little bite. District plans, subsidies, and regulation reward sales volume more than soil balance. Dealers keep selling, and farmers keep applying, high nitrogen inputs even where organic carbon is collapsing. Government portals track how many cards are produced but do not offer simple village-level dashboards that farmers, FPOs, or local groups can actually use. So, the SHC system behaves like a technocratic reporting tool—good for files rather than a public decision tool.

## A big asset, treated like a side scheme

This high-quality soil asset—over 20 crore SHCs reporting 12 key nutrients and soil properties and generating plot-specific fertiliser advice—can cut costs while protecting yields when used. Yet it is still treated mainly as a scheme output (cards), not as information that should drive input choices, cropping patterns, or public budgets. Much of the “testing” remains “on paper,” so the system proves that the data and science work but fails to turn them into behaviour change; the real failure is adoption and integration.

## Turning SHC from scheme to soil operating system

A more ambitious approach would turn SHC into the shared operating system for soils, not just a scheme. Instead of stopping at individual cards, key parameters should be aggregated into simple village and block-level indices and maps, shared with KVVKs, FPOs, SHGs, academia and dealers so conversations move from “zyada urea, zada spray” to clear problems like low carbon or zinc deficiency. Incentives must align with this picture: districts with poor soil health get stronger support for compost, manure, biofertilisers, and micronutrients, while subsidies for over-used nutrients taper and grants are tied to improvements in soil indicators.

All advice systems need to become soil-aware by default: call centres, apps, and extension should automatically pull SHC data before giving recommendations, and private firms using public soil data should be obliged to align their guidance with soil conditions, not just sales targets. Regulators can overlay SHC maps with fertiliser and pesticide sales to spot “contradiction hotspots” where buying patterns clash with soil needs, then target these with focused demonstrations, communication drives, stricter oversight, and credit or scheme advantages for dealers who promote balanced nutrient use. Finally, soil data has to become a village commons, not a file in an office. Pilots in Bihar and Assam show that simpler, more visual cards—using colours, icons, low-medium-high bands, and crop-wise tips—sharply improve farmer understanding; the government can scale such locally customised formats and embed them in FPO, and farmer-club meetings. The SHC programme has already proved India can collect soil data at scale; the remaining challenge is political and institutional: stop treating it as a scheme, and start treating it as open, living soil infrastructure so that every bag of fertiliser and every bottle of pesticide, in effect, has to answer to the soil first.

# TRADE HURDLES AND CONFLICT TRIGGER ONION PRICE COLLAPSE

Onion farmers across Maharashtra have called for immediate government intervention as farm gate prices of the crop have collapsed, driven in part by disruptions to exports amid the ongoing conflict in West Asia, a key destination for Indian onions. The sudden contraction in overseas demand has exacerbated a domestic glut, pushing prices to levels that, farmers say, make even harvesting and transportation unviable. Prices in Maharashtra's mandis (wholesale markets) have crashed to as low as Rs 300-Rs 800 per quintal, a level that farmers say is devastating given that the average cost of production stands at approximately Rs 1,800 per quintal.

At these rates, growers cannot recover even basic post-harvest expenses. In several places, the situation has deteriorated to the point where farmers have been forced into distress sales, and some have resorted to dumping onions on roadsides in desperation, says Bharat Dighole, president of the Maharashtra State Onion Growers Farmers Organisation.

In a letter to Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Dighole, on behalf of farmer groups, has urged the state government to forward a proposal to the Union government for activation of market interventions scheme (MIS), and has insisted that the scheme not be limited to the district level but be rolled out at the taluka or subdistrict level — ensuring that procurement centres are established in every onion-growing taluka.

Under the scheme, the government would step in as a buyer in the market, which would curb panic selling, bring price stability, and check the artificial depression of rates by traders. MIS is implemented at the request of a state/UT government, which is ready to bear 50 per cent of the loss (25 per cent in case of north-eastern states), if any, incurred on its implementation. Its objective is procurement of horticultural/agricultural commodities which are perishable in nature and are not covered under any price support scheme. It protects the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of a bumper crop during the peak arrival period when the prices tend to fall below economic levels and cost of production.

The scheme is triggered when there is either at least a 10 per cent increase in production or a 10 per cent decrease in the ruling market prices over the previous normal year. Dighole has questioned why the state government has not yet acted, noting that prices have already fallen more than 50 per cent below production cost. The farmers have also demanded that the minimum purchase price be fixed on the basis of actual production costs, and that price deficiency payments (PDP) be credited directly into the bank accounts of affected farmers.

## Why prices have crashed?

The price collapse has been driven by a convergence of factors. The ongoing conflict in West Asia has disrupted exports to the region that has long been a major buyer of Indian onions. Simultaneously, exports to Bangladesh — another major market — have slowed sharply. Bangladeshi authorities have cited the need to protect domestic agricultural interests, and Indian traders say repeated and abrupt policy flip-flops on export restrictions from the Indian government in recent years have eroded buyer confidence, making sustained trade commitments difficult. With export channels weakened on both fronts, surplus supply has flooded domestic markets, further driving down prices.



# Yielding to Failure: Why Crop Insurance Needs a Reset

In October 2025, unseasonal rains hit Maharashtra's Palghar district, destroying the entire paddy crop of a farmer named Baburao Patil. He had promptly filed the insurance claim. Yet, a few days later, the agricultural insurance company credited just Rs 2.30 to his account despite his entire crop area being flooded (National Herald India, 2025). The reason cited was “insufficient loss” based on satellite imagery. It caused the farmer a loss of Rs 80,000 in investment and a potential Rs 1.5 lakh in earnings, along with a premium of Rs 1,500. It is not an isolated case; it points to deeper structural issues in India's Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY): a government crop insurance scheme that provides comprehensive financial security to farmers who lose their crops due to unavoidable natural risks.

Asymmetric information is inherent in crop insurance schemes where the insurers depend on the farmers to report the losses accurately, while they have systems in place to verify the claims. It is a classic example of the principal-agent problem where the misaligned incentives and the limited monitoring affect loss assessment and compensation. To deal with the higher costs of verification at scale, the insurers rely on satellite-based imagery and area-yield models, which help assess the extent of crop damage at the village or taluk level rather than individual farms (Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, 2018).

The PMFBY scheme also suffers the problem of adverse selection. Post-2020, as the enrollment was made voluntary (PIB Press Release, March 2024), the risk was borne by only farmers whose land was prone to floods or droughts and such farmers registered under the scheme, highlighting the skew towards high-risk cultivators. High risks



always lead to higher premiums, while under the scheme the farmers' contribution remains capped at 2 per cent and the difference between this and the actuarial premium is shared by central and state government which is estimated at around 15-

20 per cent. Due to this, the annual subsidy burden for the government was found to be roughly Rs 25,000-30,000 crore for the 2022-24 time period.

The scheme was implemented eight years ago, and it was noticed that of the 56.80 crore enrolled,

only 23.22 crore got the claims settled (PIB Press Release, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, March 2024). Between 2016 and 2023, the insurers collected Rs 1,97,657 crore in premiums (including subsidies) and paid out Rs 1,40,038

crore in claims, leaving a substantial gap between the premiums received and claims disbursed. The gap is not directly translated into profit, but raises important concerns about the risk assessment, pricing and compensation with the scheme.

The financial structure of the scheme says that the farmers contribute two per cent of the sum insured for kharif crops and 1.5 per cent for the rabi crops, and the rest of the premium is covered by the government as a subsidy (PMFBY Operational Guidelines, February 2016), which further complicates the outcomes of the scheme. States like Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal have opted out of the scheme, citing fiscal unsustainability where there are an absence of a strong accountability mechanism or penalty-based settlement ratios, creating an incentive within the system to limit payouts.

India needs a carefully redesigned crop insurance rather than its complete withdrawal. As the coverage of the scheme has expanded, more emphasis has to be laid on public-private partnership in solving the structural concerns of measuring the risks and distribution of incentives. The structuring of the government subsidies would assist in timely and fair claim disbursement, regaining trust in the system. In order to strengthen accountability, measures have to be taken to link insurer compensation to claim settlement outcomes rather than just enrolment. Encouraging participation by regional insurers expands competition, and employing newer parametric models boosts efficiency and responsiveness. At the same time, addressing exclusion, particularly of tenant farmers, remains critical to ensuring that the scheme reaches those most vulnerable to agricultural risk. Without such reforms, crop insurance risks falling short of its core objective: providing reliable financial protection to farmers in times of distress.



## Jaiswal and Vaibhav shine as Rajasthan beat Mumbai by 27 runs



GUWAHATI

Yashvini Jaiswal and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi turned a rain-curtailed IPL match into a fireworks show as Rajasthan Royals registered a commanding 27-run win over Mumbai Indians here on Tuesday.

Rajasthan amassed an imposing 150 for 3 in 11 overs, riding on Jaiswal's unbeaten 32-ball 77 and Sooryavanshi's explosive 39 after being sent in to bat.

The opening pair laid the foundation with a rapid 80-run stand, peppering the boundary with a flurry of strokes, including nine sixes between them.

Jaiswal anchored the innings with authority, blending elegance with brute force as he struck 10 fours and four sixes, dictating terms from the outset.

Their bowlers then delivered a disciplined effort to restrict Mumbai Indians to 123 for 9. Under pressure to go over 13 runs an over, Mumbai's chase never really took off. Their top order crumbled. Ryan Rickelton (8), Rohit Sharma (5) and Suryakumar Yadav (6) fell cheaply, leaving MI reeling at 23 for 3 inside the first

three overs. Tilak Varma (14) and skipper Hardik Pandya (9) attempted to rebuild with a few boundaries, but Rajasthan's bowlers maintained tight lines and struck at regular intervals to control the match.

There was a brief lapse in the field, with a couple of misfields and dropped chances, which Sherfane Rutherford capitalised to make a brisk 25 off eight balls. However, Rajasthan quickly regained control, with Sandeep Sharma lunging forward to complete a stunning low catch to get rid of Rutherford.

Earlier, with the contest reduced to 11 overs a side, Jaiswal came out with clear intent, dismantling Deepak Chahar in the very first over to collect 22 runs with a series of audacious strokes, which included a crisp four through midwicket, a towering six, and three more boundaries that set the tone for the onslaught.

Teen sensation Sooryavanshi matched his senior partner stroke for stroke, showing remarkable composure as he took on Jasprit Bumrah (0/32 in 3 overs), dispatching him for a six before following it up with another towering hit over deep square leg.

Jaiswal welcomed Trent Boult (0/22 in 1) by dispatching him for three sixes, as the duo made full use of the power-play, racing to 59 in just 3.2 overs in a start that resembled a highlight reel.

While Hardik Pandya (0/17 in 2) managed to slip in a tidy four-run over, the Royals' openers continued to punish anything loose from the MI pacers.

Shardul Thakur bore the brunt next, conceding two sixes and a four to the rampaging Sooryavanshi before having the last laugh, with Tilak Varma pulling off a sharp catch at deep extra cover to end the youngster's explosive cameo. Mumbai Indians clawed back briefly through Allah Ghazanfar (2/21), who trapped Dhruv Jurel (2) leg-before and later had Riyan Parag (20) caught at long-on.

But Jaiswal remained unfazed, continuing to dominate the bowling effortlessly. He brought up a scintillating half-century off just 23 balls with a stylish cut through point. He ended the innings with another hit to the boundary to take the Royals to the 150-run mark.



## Pragg loses to Giri, Sindarov extends lead in Candidates chess

PAPHOS (CYPRUS)

Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa almost went out of contention for a top finish after losing to Anish Giri of the Netherlands in the eighth round of the Candidates chess tournament here on Tuesday.

On a day when Uzbek Javokhir Sindarov consolidated his lead with a draw against tailender Andrey Esipenko of Russia, Praggnanandhaa, who had scored his only victory over Giri in the first round, fell prey to simple tactics from an equal position and suffered his second defeat of the tournament.

Sindarov took his tally to 6.5 points out of eight and looks headed for victory as his lead now stands at two points with six rounds remaining in the USD 700,000 prize money event that will decide the next challenger for reigning world champion D Gukesh later this year.

Sindarov is followed by Giri and Fabiano Caruana of the United States, who are two points behind and need a miracle to catch up. Praggnanandhaa, Wei Yi of China, Matthias Bluebaum of Germany and Hikaru Nakamura of the USA share fourth spot on 3.5 points each, a point clear of last-placed Esipenko.



It was a tough day for Praggnanandhaa, who started with the Vienna variation with black pieces. After the opening, Giri enjoyed a small advantage that the Indian neutralised as the game progressed. However, on the 35th move Praggnanandhaa erred, allowing Giri to unleash a dangerous sequence. Another mistake three moves later sealed the game for the Dutchman.

In other games, Matthias Bluebaum drew with Wei Yi, while Nakamura scored a big win over compatriot Caruana.

In the women's section, R Vaishali stayed within striking distance of the leader after drawing with Bibisara Assaubayeva of Kazakhstan. Kateryna Lagno defeated Aleksandra Goryachkina to match Vaishali on 4.5 points,

while Anna Muzychuk was headed for a draw with Divya Deshmukh to protect her half-point lead. Zhu Jiner looked poised to beat Zhongyi Tan.

**Results round 8:**

Anish Giri (Ned, 4.5) beat R Praggnanandhaa (Ind, 3.5); Hikaru Nakamura (USA, 3.5) beat Fabiano Caruana (USA, 4.5); Andrey Esipenko (Rus, 2.5) drew with Javokhir Sindarov (Uzb, 6.5); Wei Yi (Chn, 3.5) drew with Matthias Bluebaum (Ger, 3.5).

Women: Anna Muzychuk (Ukr, 4.5) playing Divya Deshmukh (Ind, 3.5); Kateryna Lagno (Rus, 4.5) beat Aleksandra Goryachkina (Rus, 3); Bibisara Assaubayeva (Kaz, 3.5) drew with R Vaishali (Ind, 4.5); Zhongyi Tan (Chn, 2.5) playing Zhu Jiner (Chn, 3).

IPL 2026

## Shubman Gill to play in GT's clash against DC: Sai Sudharsan



**NEW DELHI:** Gujarat Titans (GT) captain Shubman Gill will be available for the team's upcoming IPL 2026 against Delhi Capitals (DC), to be played at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Wednesday, confirmed his opening partner B Sai Sudharsan. Gill missed GT's clash against Rajasthan Royals, which they lost by six runs in Ahmedabad, due to a muscle spasm. "Shubman has no problem. He is completely fine, he will be fine. Of course, yes (he will open)," said Sudharsan in the pre-match press conference. Gill's availability comes as a major boost for IPL 2026 winners GT, who are yet to open their account in the ongoing tournament after consecutive defeats. Sudharsan, however, expressed confidence in the team's ability to bounce back, especially in their middle order batters.

## No update yet on Mitchell Starc's arrival, says DC bowling coach Munaf Patel

NEW DELHI

Delhi Capitals (DC) bowling coach Munaf Patel said there is still no clarity on when Australia left-arm fast bowler Mitchell Starc will join the franchise for IPL 2026, even as the Axar Patel-led side have won both of their matches without him.

Ahead of IPL 2026 season, DC had said they were awaiting a word on the NoC for Starc, who would miss the initial few matches due to his workload being managed by Cricket Australia (CA), keeping the international schedule in mind. But days later, it emerged that Starc is currently recovering from shoulder and elbow injuries.

"I ask people around everyday, about the timing of his arrival and by when he is



coming and what the details are because he is important for us, as a main bowler. Actually I also have the same question everyday. Till now there is no update on when he will come because the update will come from the Australian board, his physio, or trainer," said Munaf in the pre-match press conference on Tuesday.

DC have won both of their matches so far in this season

in Starc's absence and are aiming to complete a hat-trick of wins when they take on a winless Gujarat Titans at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Wednesday.

Munaf, a member of India's 2011 Men's ODI World Cup winning team, left no doubt about Starc's stature in the IPL, adding that he's in a league of his own alongside India's ace pacer Jasprit Bumrah.

"We have won two matches now, so I don't think we are missing Starc. But in the upcoming matches, if he doesn't do well, then it depends on that. That is why people are not remembering him now because he is one of the best bowlers in the world. So everyone thinks that if we are winning, and there is no Starc, then it is fine.

## Badminton Asia C'ships: Dhruv Kapila-Tanisha Crasto duo leads India's charge with win in opener

NINGBO (CHINA)

India's top mixed doubles pair, Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto, made a winning start to their campaign on Day 1 of the Badminton Asia Championships at the Ningbo Olympic Sports Center in Ningbo, China.

Facing Thailand's Phuwanat Horbanluekit and Benyapa Aimsaard, the Indian duo claimed the opening game 21-14. The Thai pair responded with a dominant 21-11 win in the second to force a decider. Regaining their early momentum, Dhruv and Tanisha closed out the match 21-15 in the final game.

The Indians now face a challenging Round of 16 clash against Malaysia's Cheng Tang Jie and Toh Ee Wei, who currently hold a 2-0 head-to-head



advantage. In other mixed doubles results, Ashith Surya and Amrutha Pramuthesh lost to Malaysia's Wong Tien Ci and Lim Chiew Sien 21-16, 21-15, while Rohan Kapoor and Gadge Ruthvika Shivani bowed out against eighth seeds Goh

Soon Huat and Lai Shevon Jemie, 21-13, 21-19. Top Indian singles players, PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen, get into action on Wednesday. Two-time Olympic medallist Sindhu will open her campaign against Wong Ling Ching of Malaysia in a Round of

32 match in the women's singles main draw. Three other Indian women singles players -- Unnati Hooda, Malvika Bansod, and Tanvi Sharma are also in the main draw and are expected to start their campaigns on Wednesday.

In men's singles, Thomas Cup winner H.S Prannoy will start against World No. 62, Nguyen Hai Dang of Vietnam, while youngster Ayush Shetty will meet fifth seed Li Shi Feng of China, the 2023 All-England champion, in a first-round match.

Former World Championship silver medallist Kidambi Srikanth will start his campaign against Loh Kean Yew of Singapore, while Paris Olympic Games semifinalist Lakshya Sen will open against Lee Cheuk Yiu of Hong Kong-China in a Round of 32 match.

## Indian women's team reaches Nairobi for FIFA Series 2026

NEW DELHI

The Indian senior women's team reached Nairobi on Tuesday, ahead of the FIFA Series 2026 Kenya, scheduled for the April FIFA International Women's Match Window.

The Blue Tigresses will take on hosts Kenya in the semifinal on April 11 at 20:30 IST, while Australia and Malawi will play the other semifinal earlier on the same day at 16:30 IST.

The semifinal winners and losers will clash in the final and the third-place play-off, respectively, on April 15. All matches will take place at the Nyayo National Stadium in Nairobi. Any match that ends in a draw will go straight to a penalty shootout, with no extra time. All matches will take place at the Nyayo National Stadium in Nairobi.

Among the four participants, India are the second-highest ranked side in the FIFA world rankings at 67th. Australia are ranked 15th, while Kenya and Malawi, the two African sides, are 133rd and 153rd, respectively.

Launched in 2024, the FIFA Series is an international friendly tournament that features national teams from separate confederations. The purpose of the FIFA Series is to facilitate meaningful friendly matches between national teams from different confederations that would not normally compete against one another. As per FIFA, the ultimate objective of the FIFA Series is to allow more international football interaction, making a concrete contribution to global football development.

Crispin Chettri has been re-appointed as the head coach of the Indian women's national team. Chettri has named a 22-member squad for the friendly tournament.

India's squad for FIFA Series 2026 Kenya: Goalkeepers: Adrija Sarkhel, Linthoingambi Devi Maibam, Shreya Hooda.

Defenders: Astam Oraon, Juli Kishan, Martina Thokchom, Nirmla Devi Phanjoubam, Purnima Kumari, Sarita Yunnan.

## Daniel Chima scores first of the season but Chennaiyin fall to narrow loss against Inter Kashi

CHENNAI

A late goal from Daniel Chima Chukwu was not enough as Chennaiyin went down to a narrow defeat against Inter Kashi in their latest Indian Super League encounter at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on Tuesday.

Miranda's starting XI saw the return of forward Inigo Martin, with the Spaniard leading the attacking line alongside Farukh Choudhary, Imran Khan, and Irfan Yadwad. Eduardo Kau slotted back into the defence after deputising in the defence of the injured Mohammed Ali Bemamer in the previous match, while Bemamer, back in the eleven, patrolled the centre of the pitch alongside skipper Alberto Noguera.

Chennaiyin settled into the contest with early intent, as Vignesh D and Bemamer tried their luck from distance. The Marina Machans continued to probe, with Martin at the heart of their attacking play. The Spaniard slipped Farukh Choudhary through with a delicate pass, but the forward's heavy touch allowed the defence to recover. Minutes later, Mar-



tin cut in from the flank and fizzed one narrowly wide of the far post. CFC's attacking patterns grew more fluid as the half progressed, with neat rotations and quick interchanges troubling the Inter Kashi backline. A well-worked move saw Martin drop

deep and switch play to Irfan, who combined with Farukh to release Vignesh, but his cross was just overhit. Noguera then attempted to thread a precise ball into Martin's run, only to be denied by a last-ditch interception. At the other end, Mohammad Nawaz

produced a stunning save just before the break, with Imran clearing the rebound off the line to preserve parity. The second half, however, saw a shift in momentum as Inter Kashi struck early. Alfred Planas opened the scoring with a long-range effort soon after the restart, before doubling the advantage minutes later by sneaking in behind the defence to finish from close range.

Chennaiyin responded by pushing forward, with Farukh testing the goalkeeper from distance as they looked for a foothold in the game. Miranda's changes injected fresh energy, with Mandar Rao Dessai nearly carving out an opening after being played through by Pritam Kotal, while Maheson Singh saw a powerful volley blocked, and Noguera's header from the resulting corner was saved. Chennaiyin continued to search for a way back, increasingly adopting a direct approach in the closing stages, and were rewarded for the sustained pressure in the fifth minute of stoppage time, when Chima fired a volley past the goalkeeper from close range for his first goal of the season.

## MCA to honour Ravi Shastri and Mumbai legends at Wankhede

MUMBAI

The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) will unveil the Ravi Shastri Stand and dedicate stadium gates in the memory of former India stars Dilip Sardesai, Eknath Solkar, and Diana Edulji at the Wankhede Stadium on Thursday, honouring four of Mumbai and India's most distinguished cricketers. The unveiling ceremony will be graced by the Honourable Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Devendra Fadnis.

MCA President Ajinkya Naik will also be present, alongside Apex Council members, office bearers, and members of the cricketing fraternity. The decision to honour these legends was approved by the MCA Apex Council at its meeting held in February. As part of the initiative, the Level 1 Stand below the Press Box at the Wankhede Stadium will be named after former India captain and renowned commentator Ravi Shastri.



## Allu Arjun and Atlee Film Title to Be Revealed; Here's The Date

Fans of Allu Arjun are very excited as his birthday is coming soon. The actor will celebrate his 44th birthday on April 8. On this special day, an important update about his upcoming movie with director Atlee will be revealed. The film is currently known by its working title AA22 x A6, and the official title will be announced on his birthday at 11 AM. Earlier, many fans were expecting a teaser or first look of the movie. However, the film is still in the production stage. Since it is a big sci-fi movie with heavy visual effects, the makers are taking more time. Because of this, they decided to release only the title for now instead of a teaser. The production company Sun Pictures recently shared a poster on social media. The poster showed a mysterious creature's hand, which created a lot of curiosity among fans. This small glimpse has increased excitement about the film.

This project is very special because it is the first time Allu Arjun is working with Atlee. The director is known for making big commercial films and has worked with

stars like Vijay. Now, fans are eager to see what this combination will bring. The movie is said to be made on a huge budget of around ₹700-800 crore. This makes it one of the most expensive Indian films ever. Actress Deepika Padukone is confirmed as the female lead. There are also reports that Rashmika Mandanna, Mrunal Thakur, and Janhvi Kapoor may play important roles in the film. However, the full cast has not been officially announced yet.

According to early information, the movie may also feature Tiger Shroff. The film is expected to be released in 2027 and may come as a two-part series. Director Atlee has shared that this film will use advanced technology and high-quality VFX. The team is even working with top international experts to create a world-class visual experience. Allu Arjun also spoke about this project in an interview. He said he liked the story idea very much and felt connected to it. He believes this film has the potential to represent Indian cinema on a global level.

## Adivi Sesh Opens Up On Why Dacoit Took Time: 'It's The Way I Do Films'

Adivi Sesh and Mrunal Thakur's Dacoit is finally releasing on April 10, and recently the makers released its trailer. It received an overwhelming response from the audience and celebrities, too. Well, ahead of its release, the actor was seen reacting to the film being delayed. His answer grabbed attention. 123 Telugu reported that during an interview, he was asked What's the reason for the Dacoit delay? Adivi Sesh replied, "To be honest, there was no delay. It's the way I do films. For the last two years, I have been working non-stop. Since there hasn't been a release, you might feel that way."

### Dacoit trailer

Recently, the makers issued a statement revealing that the film, which was scheduled to hit theatres on March 19, will now be released on April 10. While this had saddened some fans, the new trailer has left him excited and hopeful. The trailer offers a gripping glimpse into the film's intense world, setting high expectations among fans. At its core, Dacoit tells the story of a man who is wrongly convicted and imprisoned, only to return after his escape with revenge burning in his heart. His target is the woman who betrayed him — a betrayal that shattered his life and altered his fate forever.



### 'Dacoit Was Postponed Due To 'Friend' Aditya Dhar's 'Phenomenal' Film Dhurandhar 2'

At the Dacoit trailer launch, Adivi Sesh said that the film was first intended to arrive on March 19 to coincide with Ugadi (the Telugu New Year), which would have been ideal. However, he said they were not getting the kind of showcasing they wanted because of the strong presence of Aditya Dhar's Dhurandhar 2. He added that the team chose to wait until their distributors confirmed that April 10 would offer excellent showcasing.

"Originally, hum March 19th ko release karne wale the because of Ugadi (Telugu New Year). South versions ke liye it was very good, but kyunki humein theek tarah ka showcasing nahi mil raha tha, because of my friend Aditya (Dhar)'s phenomenal Dhurandhar 2 which was showcasing. When we were confident from our distributors that ki April 10 ke liye bohot hi amazing showcasing hai, with perfect screen times and theatre, only then we announced the date," he said.

When questioned about whether Dhurandhar 2 might negatively impact Dacoit's box office performance, Sesh rejected that concern. He remarked that Ranveer Singh's film is likely to continue its successful theatrical run for another 3-4 months and said it deserves to do so, but believes there is room for every kind of cinema. "Dhurandhar 2 agle 3-4 mahine chalti rahegi. Aur chalni bhi chahiye. (It will continue for the next 3-4 months. And it should continue)," said Sesh.

## Anne Hathaway's first thought on Devil Wears Prada 2: Did Meryl Streep read it?

Anne Hathaway has shared her first reaction to the script of The Devil Wears Prada 2, and it centres on one question, what did Meryl Streep think? Reprising her role as Andy Sachs after nearly two decades, Hathaway revealed that her immediate response upon reading the script was curiosity about Streep's opinion. Speaking at a fan event in Tokyo on April 6, Hathaway said she later learned that Streep had already read the script and "loved it", which heightened her own expectations. She added that once she read it, the story exceeded what she had hoped for, signalling strong anticipation around the sequel.

### What did Anne Hathaway say about the script?

Hathaway described the script as going beyond long-standing fan expectations. She noted that audiences have often speculated about where characters like Andy, Miranda, Emily and Nigel might be now, but credited writer Aline Brosh McKenna with

crafting a storyline that surpasses those assumptions.

### Who is returning for the sequel?

The film reunites key members of the original cast, including Emily Blunt and Stanley Tucci, alongside Streep and Hathaway. Director David Frankel and McKenna also return, maintaining continuity with the original film.

### Are there any new additions?

The sequel introduces several new cast members, including Kenneth Branagh, Simone Ashley, Justin Theroux, Lucy Liu and BJ Novak. Meanwhile, Tracie Thoms and Tibor Feldman reprise their roles from the original film.

Produced by Wendy Finerman, the film is backed by 20th Century Studios and is scheduled for a theatrical release on May 1, 2026. The Tokyo event brought together returning and new cast members, underlining the continued interest in the franchise as it revisits its characters after 20 years.



## Priyanka Chopra Enjoys a Relaxing Break in Hyderabad Amidst Varanasi Shoot

Priyanka Chopra is currently in Hyderabad, busy filming her upcoming movie, Varanasi. Amidst her hectic schedule, the heroine took a break on Sunday to enjoy a relaxing weekend, as evidenced by her latest social media updates. Sharing a set of pictures and videos on Instagram, the actress is seen enjoying time by the pool. She also posted a video of herself eating a raw mango with chili. In another heart-warming shot, her daughter, Malti Marie, is seen cuddling with her grandmother, Madhu Chopra.

The comments section was quickly flooded with emojis, including a note from producer Ekta Kapoor, who wrote, "Such a superstar."

Regarding Varanasi, the film features Mahesh Babu and Prithviraj in lead roles. Priyanka will be essaying the role of Mandakini, marking her grand return to Indian cinema after seven years. The film is scheduled for a grand theatrical release on April 7, 2027.



## Janhvi Kapoor's Hypocrisy On Exposing & Paparazzi

Recently, every star heroine is doing their self promotion themselves rather than waiting for a producer to organise the whole promotions around a film. We are seeing a number of star heroines approaching some popular YouTubers and giving interviews to them. Here comes Janhvi Kapoor, out of the blue, with Peddi release around the corner, giving interviews to some popular podcast hosts. Well, that's no wrong, but her statements are getting slammed by critics for hypocrisy.

Apparently, Janhvi says she will feel sad if someone says she's not looking hot, inside a film, and hence loves to wear all those revealing clothes and get wet for the screen. At the same time, Janhvi also says she wants to wear whatever she wants to, like a bikini and all, but then gets offended when paparazzi clicks her from disturbing angles. Netizens are currently finding it difficult to relate to these two statements, and they are finding hypocrisy in that.

Many heroines these days are giving statements that they might be wearing revealing outfits, which is their choice, but they won't allow paparazzi photographers to click from different absurd angles. That's coming to the point now, why should these heroines call paparazzi in the first place if they don't want to get clicked in such crude angles? Many starlets are busy throwing hypocritical comments in recent times, but then, their videos are going viral again, and everything is the same business again.