

HYDERABAD HEADLINES

RNI NO.APENG/2010/33328 VOL NO. 16 ISSUE NO.: 346 HYDERABAD PAGES: 12 RS. 1/-

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026

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Suryavanshi Blitz, Jurel 81 Power RR to Easy Win Over RCB*

STADIUM 11

Nayanthara Chooses Husband's Event, Faces Backlash



BOX -OFFICE 12



Industan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) on Friday handed over four ALH-Mk3 Maritime Role helicopters to the Indian Coast Guard, meeting its delivery schedule under an ongoing contract. The helicopters were formally delivered at an event in Bengaluru to DIG Rajesh Makwana, Coast Guard Commander (Western Seaboard), by PB Rangarao, CEO of HAL's Helicopter Complex. The delivery is part of a nine-helicopter contract signed in March 2024, aimed at strengthening the Coast Guard's maritime operational capability.

... Bengaluru

SHORT TAKES



AP CM reviews domestic gas supply

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu directed officials and oil companies to address domestic gas supply challenges arising due to global conflicts. He emphasised the need to promote the use of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) as a preferred alternative.

NEXT DOOR 05



Vantara Launches Global Wildlife University

Vantara, the global wildlife conservation organisation founded by Reliance Industries Executive Director Anant Ambani, has announced the launch of Vantara University in Jamnagar, Gujarat.

MONEY MATTER 09



Nitish in National Politics, BJP Era in Bihar

Nitish Kumar's shift from Bihar's Chief Ministership—after nearly two decades of transformative governance and a record ten oaths of office—to the Rajya Sabha marks a pivotal transition in the state's politics.

OPINION 06

RTC employees to receive 2.1% DA hike effective January, 2026

HYDERABAD, APRIL 10

Minister for Transport Ponnababbar on Friday announced a 2.1% increase in the Dearness Allowance (DA) for RTC employees, effective from this calendar year. The DA will rise from the previous rate of 50.7% to 52.8% for employees. This revised DA will take effect starting January 1, 2026. The state government has committed to disbursing the arrears for the last three months through supplementary

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CM Revanth attends CWC meeting in Delhi

New Delhi, April 10: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy attended the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting held at Indira Bhavan in New Delhi on Friday, chaired by AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge. Senior leaders including Rahul Gandhi, K.C. Venugopal, Priyanka Gandhi, Jairam Ramesh, Salman Khurshid, Ambika Soni, Sachin Pilot, and Bhupesh Baghel participated in the meeting, along with Chief Ministers of Congress-ruled states such as Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh.

Key issues discussed reportedly included the delimitation of Lok Sabha and Assembly constituencies and women's reservation. The meeting gained significance ahead of the special Parliament session scheduled from April 16 to 18.

Revenue increased through AI technology, tax monitoring: Bhatti

HYDERABAD, APRIL 10

During the meeting of the Cabinet Sub-Committee focused on revenue generation and resource mobilisation, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka remarked that the implementation of contemporary technologies such as artificial intelligence, alongside ongoing oversight of tax revenues across various departments and organized administration, has resulted in enhanced revenue generation.

The meeting was held on Friday at the secretariat under the



chairmanship of the Deputy Chief Minister. Ministers Utam Kumar Reddy and Jupally

Krishna Rao, along with other members, participated in the review. He highlighted that the

adoption of AI technology has helped enhance revenue streams in departments such as mining and transport. Bhatti Vikramarka instructed officials to act more stringently against illegal sand mining, crusher operations, illegal transportation, and overloading.

He noted that due to continuous reviews and strict tax administration measures, GST revenue in the commercial taxes department has shown a 15% increase over the past three months. Similarly, the Registration department has also recorded revenue growth.

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“Brother.. God himself sent me to work with you”

Jeevan Reddy meets KCR at Erravelli; Emotional remarks mark reunion



K T R, former ministers, and key party leaders extended a grand welcome to Jeevan Reddy when he arrived at the Erravelli residence.

KTR warmly received Jeevan Reddy with a bouquet upon his arrival.

HYDERABAD, APRIL 10:

Former minister Tatiparthi Jeevan Reddy met Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) president K. Chandrashekar Rao at the Erravelli residence on Friday, in what turned into a warm and emotionally charged interaction. The meeting,

described as cordial, was attended by party working president K. T. Rama Rao along with several senior leaders, including former ministers Koppula Eshwar, Gangula Kamalakara, V. Prashanth Reddy, MLC L. Ramana, MLA Dr. K. Sanjay, former MP Joginapally Santosh Kumar, and for-

mer MLA K. Vidyasagar Rao. Jeevan Reddy, accompanied by his sons and former Jagityal Zilla Parishad Chairperson Vasantha Suresh, was given a grand welcome upon arrival. KTR received him with a bouquet, while other leaders greeted him at the venue.

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Jupally slams Harish over double standards on Palamuru projects

HYDERABAD, APRIL 10

Minister for Tourism Jupally Krishna Rao launched a scathing attack on former minister and BRS MLA T. Harish Rao, accusing him of adopting double standards regarding projects in the erstwhile Palamuru district.

During a media briefing at the Congress Legislative Party (CLP) office within the Assembly on Friday, Jupally Krishna Rao, accompanied by MLAs G. Madhusudan Reddy and Veerapalli Shankar, condemned the situation as disgraceful.

He pointed out that the previous BRS government had initiated Government Orders (GOs) for the development of the Gollapalli Reservoir but is now hindering the project's progress for political advantage.

The Minister recalled that it was the previous BRS government itself that issued

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Telangana Boosts Global Job Outreach

Minister Vivek Engages Indian Envoy in Germany

BERLIN, APRIL 10

In a significant move aimed at expanding overseas job opportunities for Telangana youth, a high-level delegation led by Labour, Employment & Mines Minister Dr. G. Vivek Venkataswamy held strategic discussions with India's Ambassador to Germany, Ajit Gupte, at the Indian Embassy in Berlin on Friday. The meeting focused on strength-

ening structured overseas employment pathways and enhancing the participation of skilled Indian professionals in Germany, Europe's largest economy.

Growing demand for Indian professionals

The discussions highlighted the rising presence of the Indian community in Germany, estimated at 311,000, with nearly

BAIL BREATHER POLITICAL HEAT

Pawan Khera Gets Seven Days, But The Storm Has Just Begun

A short legal shield from the Telangana High Court gives Congress leader Pawan Khera temporary protection from arrest in a high-voltage case triggered by his allegations against Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's wife. The courtroom pause now collides head-on with an election season already charged with suspicion, counter-claims and calculated messaging.



The clock is ticking, and the courtroom has merely pressed pause, not stop. Pawan Khera walks out of immediate danger, shielded for a week by the Telangana High Court. But let's be clear. This is not vindication. This is breathing space. A narrow legal corridor carved out just long enough for him to move the next piece in a rapidly escalating legal chessboard. The allegations he fired on 5 April were not routine political jabs. They went straight to the nerve centre of credibility. He accused Riniki Bhuyan Sarma of holding multiple foreign passports and possessing undisclosed overseas assets. In an election-bound state, that is not just a claim. That is a detonation. And the response was swift, clinical and heavy.

THE LEGAL FIREPOWER

Multiple sections. Multiple fronts. Maximum pressure. The FIR filed in Assam is not a single-strand accusation.

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Motor-Free Drive Turns Contentious in KPHB as Residents Raise Water Pressure Concerns



Samudrala Kiran, Correspondent

MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI

A special enforcement drive by the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) in KPHB Colony 7th Phase triggered strong protests from residents after officials removed and seized water motors allegedly attached illegally to municipal pipelines, in what the department described as a crackdown on a punishable practice that disrupts equitable water supply.

The operation was carried out under HMWSSB's special "motor-free tap water drive," aimed at curbing the illegal use of suction motors fixed directly to public water lines. According to officials, such motors draw water with excessive force, reducing pressure in the network and depriving neighboring households of their share of supply.

Invoking provisions of the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Act, 1989, officials said attaching motors to water lines allotted for domestic use is illegal and actionable. The department maintains that the practice not only violates the law but also undermines the principle of fair distribution, especially in densely

populated residential colonies where water pressure is already uneven.

But the crackdown in KPHB Colony quickly turned contentious, as residents gathered around officials and openly questioned the logic of enforcement without first addressing the larger issue of poor water pressure. Residents told the department that if water reached homes with adequate force, there would be no reason to use motors at all. Many argued that the use of pumps was not a matter of convenience, but of compulsion in an area where low pressure often leaves taps running weak or dry during supply hours.

"If the pressure was sufficient, we would not need to adopt such methods," several residents reportedly told officials during the drive, expressing frustration over what they described as a ground reality long ignored by the authorities.

The protest took a sharper turn when residents alleged selective enforcement. They claimed that the use of motors is common across the locality and questioned why only certain houses were targeted while others were left untouched. According to them, action against a few homes would do little to resolve the problem unless the department carried out a colony-wide inspection and enforced

the rules uniformly. Their demand to HMWSSB was blunt: increase water pressure first, and if action must be taken, take it against everyone violating the rules — not just a selected few.

The incident has now thrown a spotlight on a chronic urban water supply problem that extends beyond a single colony. In many residential areas, especially those facing inconsistent supply and low pressure, households often resort to unauthorized motors to draw water directly from the line. While the practice is illegal, residents argue that it flourishes in places where the official supply system fails to meet basic domestic needs.

HMWSSB officials, however, insist that the consequences of such illegal connections are severe. A suction motor attached to one household's line can drastically reduce the flow available to neighboring homes, particularly those located at the tail end of the network.

In effect, one illegal motor can trigger a chain reaction: as some households begin drawing more water than allotted, others are forced to do the same just to secure their minimum requirement.

This creates what water supply experts describe as a self-perpetuating pressure war, where the public distri-

bution network is gradually overpowered by private extraction devices. The result is a deeply unequal system in which households with motors receive more water, while law-abiding residents suffer reduced supply.

That is precisely the justification HMWSSB has cited for intensifying its "motor-free" enforcement campaign. The board has repeatedly warned that direct motor attachment to pipelines is unlawful and harmful to the network, and has urged citizens to avoid such practices.

Yet the scenes in KPHB Colony 7th Phase underline a larger truth: enforcement alone may not resolve the crisis unless accompanied by service improvement. Residents are not merely resisting legal action; they are demanding accountability for the conditions that, in their view, made such practices widespread in the first place. For many families in the colony, the question is no longer just whether motors are legal or illegal. It is whether the existing supply system is capable of delivering water with enough pressure to meet basic household needs without forcing residents into a daily struggle.

The confrontation has therefore evolved into more than a routine seizure drive. It has become a pointed public challenge to the civic body: if illegal motors are harming the system, why has the system been allowed to deteriorate to a point where residents say they cannot manage without them?

As summer demand rises and pressure on urban water infrastructure intensifies, the KPHB episode serves as a stark reminder of the fragile balance between regulation and service delivery. HMWSSB may be within its rights to remove illegal motors, but residents are making it equally clear that meaningful compliance will depend on one thing above all else — reliable, adequate and fairly distributed water pressure.

Until that happens, the battle over water in KPHB Colony is unlikely to end with the seizure of a few motors. It may instead mark the beginning of a louder and wider demand for both strictly uniform enforcement and a stronger, more dependable public water supply system.



Inspiration, Achievement and Celebration Shine at 42nd Annual Day of GDCW Hussainialam

Samudrala Kiran, Correspondent

HYDERABAD

Government Degree College for Women, Hussainialam, Hyderabad, celebrated its 42nd Annual Day on a grand note on Wednesday, April 8, in the college campus, bringing together distinguished guests, faculty members, students, parents, and alumni for a memorable occasion marked by academic recognition, inspiring speeches, and vibrant cultural performances.

The event was graced by the Honourable MLA of Charminar, Janab Mir Zulfiqar Ali, as the Chief Guest. Addressing the students, he delivered a highly motivational speech, encouraging them to pursue higher goals through dedication, discipline, and hard work. His address inspired the gathering and highlighted the importance of education in shaping confident and responsible citizens.

The Commissioner of Collegiate Education, Telangana, Hyderabad, attended as the Distinguished Guest, while Prof. P. Bala Bhaskar, Joint Director, and Prof. Rajendra Prasad, Academic Guidance Officer from the Commissionerate of Collegiate Education, Telangana, were present as Guests of Honour. Their presence added dignity and significance to the celebrations. Earlier, the Chairperson of the event and Principal of the College, Prof. Ch. Appiya Chinnamma, extended a warm welcome to the esteemed guests and addressed the gathering. She emphasized the college's commitment to academic excellence, women's empowerment, and the holistic development of students. Ex-Corporator of Pathergatti, Janab Sohal Quadri, also praised the efforts of the college staff in empowering young women through quality education and guidance. A major highlight of the programme was the presentation of the Annual Report for the ac-

ademic year 2024–2025 by IQAC Coordinator Dr. K. Sreedevi. The report showcased the college's notable academic achievements, student accomplishments, and active participation in socially useful outreach programmes, reflecting the institution's dedication to both education and community service.

The dignitaries on the dais also formally released the college magazine, Khursheed, which was received with appreciation by the audience. Speaking on the occasion, the Guest of Honour elaborated on the importance of academic excellence and informed students about various career opportunities available to them in the changing educational and professional landscape. Vice-Principal Dr. Mohammed Ghouse and Academic Coordinator Dr. P. Latha highlighted the sincere efforts of the teaching staff in nurturing students and equipping them with the skills and confidence needed to excel in higher education and future careers. Prof. Zulfiqar Mohiuddin, Head of the Department of Arabic, underlined the need for students to strive for excellence for their overall development.

The celebrations also recognized student merit in a special way. Group-wise toppers were awarded medals and mementos by the dignitaries in appreciation of their academic performance. Ms. Syeda Sana Fathima, who emerged as the overall topper, was specially felicitated and congratulated by all. She was also presented with a cash prize for securing the highest marks in English, instituted in the name of Smt. Satya Bai Shivadas, Retired Lecturer in English. Certificates and prizes were distributed to winners of cultural and sports competitions, adding to the festive spirit of the occasion. Dr. K. Sreedevi proposed the vote of thanks, while Dr. K. Shobharani efficiently compered the programme. The 42nd Annual Day concluded on a high note with impressive cultural performances by students, making the event a grand success and a proud moment for the college community.

Vasanthotsavams to shine amid spring fragrance

TIRUPATI

The annual Vasanthotsavams of Goddess Sri Padmavathi Ammavaru will be celebrated with grandeur and devotion at Tiruchanoor from April 30 to May 2. As a prelude to the festivities, the Ankurarpanam ritual will be held on April 29 at 6:00 PM. Devotees can participate in the Vasanthotsavam Seva by paying Rs.150 per person and receive the divine blessings of

the Goddess. As part of the celebrations, the Swarna Rathotsavam will be conducted grandly on May 1 at 9:30 AM. During the three-day festival, Snapana Tirumanjanam will be performed to the Utsava deities in the Shukravara Thota from 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM. In the evenings, from 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM, the Goddess will be taken in procession through the four Mada streets of the temple, blessing devotees with her divine darshan.

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Pawan Khera Gets Seven Days, But The Storm Has Just Begun

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It is a layered legal offensive under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, invoking provisions that range from election-related false statements to cheating, forgery, and defamation. This is not accidental drafting. It is strategy. The wider the legal net, the tighter the operational squeeze. Khera's move to approach the Telangana High Court was not just procedural convenience. It was tactical urgency. With his residential link to Hyderabad, he leveraged jurisdiction to secure anticipatory protection before Assam Police could close in. Justice K Sujana's order is calibrated. The court acknowledged that Khera acted promptly and is not an "ordinary person," but refused to stretch the protection beyond a week. That restraint is telling. The judiciary is offering access to due process, not insulation from consequence.

Meanwhile, the ground reality is already shifting. Assam Police have knocked on his Delhi residence. They are reportedly tracking his movements. The message is unmistakable. The state machinery is not waiting. It is

advancing. On the other side, Himanta Biswa Sarma and his family are not merely defending. They are counter-attacking with precision, calling the allegations false, fabricated and malicious. The framing is deliberate. This is being projected not as a legal dispute but as a politically motivated smear. And that is where the real battle lies. Because this case is no longer confined to legal arguments. It has spilled into the theatre of perception, where elections amplify every claim and every counter-claim.

"Seven days of protection cannot erase seven seconds of allegation." There is a pattern unfolding here that cannot be ignored. Allegation. FIR. Multi-section invocation. Cross-state legal scramble. Political amplification. Each step feeds into the next, building a cycle where law and politics are no longer parallel tracks but intersecting forces. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, still relatively new in public discourse, is being deployed here not just as a legal instrument but as a visible assertion of state response. For Khera, the immediate task is clear. Secure anticipatory bail in the appropriate forum. But the larger challenge is

heavier. He must now substantiate claims that triggered this entire chain reaction. In the absence of proof, the narrative flips. The accuser becomes the accused in the court of public credibility. For the Sarma camp, the objective is equally sharp. Convert legal action into political messaging. Reinforce the idea that the attack was baseless and malicious. Between these two positions sits the voter, watching, absorbing, and forming conclusions not just on facts, but on perception of intent.

THE PASSPORT QUESTION

Allegations involving foreign passports and undisclosed assets strike at compliance with election disclosure norms. These are not minor technicalities. They go to the core of transparency in public life. That is precisely why the charge carries such explosive political weight. The Telangana High Court has offered a pause. But the narrative is accelerating. In seven days, Khera must step into the next legal arena. Outside the courtroom, the political arena is already in full swing. This is no longer just a case. It is a contest of credibility, timing and control over the narrative.

Telangana Boosts Global Job Outreach

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116,000 contributing to the country's economy through taxation. Officials noted that Germany continues to show strong demand for both skilled and blue-collar workers, underlining the need for better-prepared talent from India. Both sides emphasized the importance of pre-departure training in India to ensure candidates meet international work standards and industry requirements in Germany.

Telangana's skill development push

Minister Vivek outlined Telangana's ongoing efforts to strengthen skill development infrastructure, including the establishment of advanced training laboratories and industry-aligned skill centres. The delegation also briefed the Ambassador on key state initiatives such as the Telangana Overseas Manpower Company (TOMCOM), designed to streamline recruitment, training, and German language preparation for candidates seeking overseas employment. Other initiatives highlighted included the PM-SETU programme, aimed at facilitating international job opportunities across sectors, and a proposed Master Trainer Programme to bridge the gap between Indian training systems and German industry needs.

Embassy support assured

The meeting was attended by Special Chief Secretary M. Dana Kishore (IAS) and Consular Minister Stalin Babu Chikala, along with representatives from TOMCOM. Ambassador Ajit Gupte welcomed Telangana's initiatives and assured full support from the Indian Embassy in promoting safe, ethical, and structured labour migration.

New opportunities ahead

Officials said the collaboration is expected to open new pathways for Telangana youth in sectors such as healthcare, engineering, and other specialised skilled professions, strengthening the state's global workforce presence.

Jupally slams Harish over double standards on Palamuru projects

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a Government Order (GO) in 2016, allocating ₹4,177 crore for the construction of reservoirs with a total capacity of 25 TMC. He stated that proposing 27 reservoirs—including Gollapalli—in March 2019, only to now speak against that very project, amounts to deceiving the people of Palamuru. Jupally Krishna Rao clarified that there is absolutely no truth to Harish Rao's claim that 80 percent of the work on the Palamuru-Rangareddy project has been completed. "They have not even completed the construction of canals; there has been no land acquisition, nor have administrative approvals been secured. Apart from hurriedly switching on the pumps just before the elections to deceive the people, did they actually provide water to even a single acre?" he questioned.

Jupally Krishna Rao further

pointed out that while the BRS government spent Rs 7,000 crore on Palamuru over the last ten years, the Congress governments in the united state had spent Rs 8,300 crore. Jupally Krishna Rao expressed outrage, asserting that former minister Harish Rao, who forcibly evicted farmers to construct the 50 TMC Mallanna Sagar project, has no right to speak on behalf of the farmers of Palamuru. He lashed out at the previous government, accusing it of utilising these projects solely to enrich contractors and to engage in looting. The Minister expressed confidence that the Congress party is certain to come to power in both the state and the country, and that Rahul Gandhi will become the Prime Minister. He ridiculed the BRS party, remarking that they are merely daydreaming if they believe they will return to power.

Revenue increased through AI technology, tax monitoring: Bhatti

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The Deputy Chief Minister stated that the revenue generation & resource mobilisation Cabinet Sub-Committee meetings will be held regularly every Friday to further strengthen revenue streams. He directed all departments to prepare plans for revenue mobilisation in line with the goal of achieving a \$3 trillion economy by 2047.

Uttam Kumar Reddy suggested that land sales under HMDA should be promoted globally, as prior awareness and outreach could significantly enhance revenue opportunities. The Deputy

Chief Minister instructed officials of the Registration department to first present the reports of committees studying land value revisions to the Sub-Committee, and then proceed to submit them to the Cabinet. Ministers also reviewed aspects related to metro rail acquisition, management, revenue, and expenditure. Additionally, progress in increasing revenues in the Excise, Revenue, and Industries Departments was discussed. Bhatti Vikramarka directed officials to present the action taken reports on decisions made in each meeting during subsequent reviews.

"Brother... God himself sent me to work with you"

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During the interaction, Jeevan Reddy reportedly became emotional, stating, "At a time when Telangana is facing difficulties, I felt the need to work with you. God himself sent me to you to work together, brother. After such a long gap, I am happy to finally get the opportunity to work with you again." Responding warmly, KCR consoled him, embraced him, and felicitated him with a shawl. The meeting concluded with an informal discussion, after which KCR hosted Jeevan Reddy and his entourage for lunch.

RTC employees to receive 2.1% DA hike effective January, 2026

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Regional Managers (RMs) from various regions, the Minister reviewed ongoing projects and development initiatives within the RTC. He stated that the Corporation had released the final outstanding DA installment for RTC employees. Furthermore, he indicated that the DA arrears due since January would be paid in three installments over the subsequent three months. Ponnamp Prabhakar emphasised that since its establishment, the "Telangana Praja Palana" government has concentrated its efforts on three fundamental pillars: protecting the RTC organisation, ensuring employee welfare, and improving passenger amenities. TGSRTC MD Y. Nagireddy expressed his satisfaction with the announcement of the DA increase, which RTC employees had been anticipating for a considerable time. Nagireddy affirmed that the well-being of the workers remains their top priority.

bill, with payments to be made over the course of three separate months. Minister Prabhakar noted that this increase in DA will add a monthly financial obligation of ₹2.82 crore to the RTC. Earlier, in July 2025, the state government had raised the DA by 2.1%, elevating it from 48.6% to 50.7%, effective from July 2025. The current increase of 2.1% brings the total DA to 52.8%. Following the implementation of RPS-2017 in May 2024, there are no pending DA arrears owed to the employees. Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar and RTC MD Nagireddy extended their greetings to the RTC employees on the occasion of the DA hike. The RTC MD and other senior officials expressed their gratitude to Minister Prabhakar for the announced DA increase for RTC personnel. In a meeting with

Inclusive Reforms Key to Societal Progress



■ Prof. V. Balakista Reddy, Chairman, Higher Education Council

Hyderabad
Prof. V. Balakista Reddy, Chairman of the Higher Education Council, stated that comprehensive reforms are crucial for societal progress. He attended as the Chief Guest at the valedictory session of the two-day National Seminar on "Economic Reforms and the Indian Constitution: Conflicts and Future Directions," jointly organized by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

Open University, Department of Economics, and Government Degree College, Chanchalguda. Speaking on the occasion, he emphasized that reforms play a vital role in social progress and that educational institutions are key drivers of such change. Referring to the global history of economic reforms, he noted that wars and conflicts often hinder economic development. He pointed out that a lack of awareness about laws and the Constitution obstructs effective reforms and stressed the need to align policies with constitutional principles. He added that curriculum reforms should promote multidisciplinary knowledge and integrate technology, making higher education more comprehensive and inclusive.

Concerns on Inequality and Constitutional Ideals

Distinguished Guest Prof. E. Revathi, Director of the Centre for Econom-

ic and Social Studies (CESS), Hyderabad, highlighted that social and economic inequalities continue to persist.

She noted that although Dr. B.R. Ambedkar advocated "one person, one vote," issues like lack of minimum wages and gender inequality still undermine the spirit of constitutional rights. These challenges, she said, hinder the realization of equality and justice envisioned in the Constitution.

Need for Inclusive Growth and Social Justice

The program was presided over by Prof. Chandra Mukherjee, Principal of Government Degree College, Chanchalguda. She stressed that social justice and inclusiveness are essential, and economic reforms must promote growth while ensuring equality and public accountability. She also emphasized the need to enable marginalized communities to fully participate in the economy.

Bridging Gaps Through Education

Guest of Honour Prof. Pallavi Kabde, Dean of Social Sciences at BRAOU, stated that poverty alleviation programs often fail due to unequal access to opportunities. She highlighted the responsibility of educational institutions to bridge these gaps and promote equality.

Seminar Director Prof. Patta Venkateswarlu remarked that the seminar aims to serve public interest beyond political divisions. He added that while the Constitution guarantees equality, industrial policy continues to face challenges related to inequality.

Importance of Quality Education

During a technical session, Telangana Education Commission Chairperson Sri Akukuri Murali, IAS, noted that lack of quality education increases inequality. He emphasized that quality education and healthcare are essential for achieving equity and that education should foster deep thinking shaped by culture and leadership.

Participation

The seminar report was presented by Mr. M. Naveen, IQAC Coordinator, Government Degree College, Chanchalguda. The event was attended by Seminar Co-Director Prof. K. Krishna Reddy, Convener Prof. G. Nagoji, faculty, non-teaching staff, university personnel, and research scholars.



KSPSP Celebrates its 4th Graduation Ceremony

The Kautilya School of Public Policy (KSPSP) celebrated its 4th Graduation Ceremony on Friday

HYDERABAD

GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad. The ceremony began with a traditional academic procession, setting a dignified tone for the occasion. The event was graced by Amitabh Kant, former CEO of NITI Aayog and India's G20 Sherpa, as the Chief Guest. In his keynote address, he encouraged the graduating cohort to contribute meaningfully to public policy and governance, emphasizing innovation, integrity, and nation-building.

Highlighting the importance of grassroots governance, Shri Kant urged students to engage with states and districts, which are central to India's federal structure. He stressed the need to transform India into a global manufacturing hub by increasing its manufacturing share and reducing the cost of doing business. Emphasizing "Jan Vishwas" (public trust), he noted that strengthening trust and improving business conditions are vital for boosting exports and enhancing India's global competitiveness.

He also underscored the importance of improving agricultural productivity, noting that nearly 46 percent of India's population depends on agriculture. He encouraged

graduates to benchmark India's agricultural and industrial performance against global standards.

Calling for a strong innovation ecosystem, Shri Kant urged students to promote research and development, support startups, and enable access to risk capital. He highlighted India's ambition to evolve into a \$30 trillion economy, stating that young professionals will play a pivotal role in achieving this vision. Reflecting on India's progress, he cited rapid advancements in infrastructure, renewable energy, and digital public infrastructure, including leadership in digital payments and large-scale public service delivery such as COVID-19 vaccinations. He emphasized the transformative potential of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) in areas such as Artificial Intelligence, healthcare, and nutrition.

Describing the present as "India's decade," Shri Kant pointed to the country's demographic advantage and urged graduates to remain optimistic, innovative, and committed to nation-building. The ceremony was formally inaugurated with the traditional lighting of the lamp by the Chief Guest and other dignitaries. M. Sri Bharat, President of GITAM, congratulated the graduates and felicitated the Chief Guest in his presidential address. Prateek Kanwal introduced the Chief Guest. Prof. D. S. Rao

administered the pledge proceedings by handing over the oath to student representative Sehazna Contractor. A total of 35 students were conferred their degrees, along with merit medals recognizing academic excellence.

Abhijeet Sudhir Raut was awarded the President's Gold Medal for securing the first rank in the Master's Programme in Public Policy, while Simran Kaur received the Dean's Gold Medal for Best Capstone Project. The Yana-mandra Mallikarjuna Rao Memorial Gold Medal was jointly

awarded to Abhijeet Sudhir Raut and Amal Shukla.

Dr. D. Gunasekaran presented the degree records for signing to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Errol D'Souza. The graduation address was delivered by student representative Anushka Sharma, while Dr. Vasudha Katju proposed the vote of thanks.

Syed Akbaruddin also participated in the ceremony. The event marked a significant milestone for the graduating class as they embark on their professional journeys in public policy and governance.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Salem Division
Office of the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer, Electric Loco Shed, Erode
E-Tender Notice

Online tender is invited for the following work:

Tender No	SA_A_RS_ED_OT_26_27_1, Dated: 09-04-2026
Description of Work	Works contract for Mechanical repair/Rehabilitation of magnet frames (without removing coils) and both end bearing brackets of Hitachi Traction Motors of electric locomotives available at Electric Loco Shed, Southern Railway, Salem Division, Erode.

All details regarding the tender are available at <https://www.ireps.gov.in>
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SOUTHERN RAILWAY
MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
ADDENDUM TO AUCTION PROGRAMME APRIL'26
NOTICE NO: 04/2026

e-Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous scrap, Non-Ferrous scrap, other Misc scrap, condemned Wagon, Coaches & Locos, Scrap Rails and other Permanent Way scrap material.

e-auction conducted by	Additional Auction dates are included in APRIL'26 auction schedule and which are given below	Material for auction
GSD/PER depot	17/04/2026	The details of items to be sold in e-auction will be available in catalogue www.ireps.gov.in website

Note: All other auctions scheduled for APRIL'26 remains unaltered
For detailed terms and conditions and downloading of catalogue please visit our website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> --E-Auction-->Sale-->Live Auctions.
Principal Chief Materials Manager

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
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Tender Notice No. 02/2026 Dt. 10.04.2026

Supply Of Stores Items. E-Procurement Tender Notice: -The Following Tenders Have Been Floated Online. Tenders Are Requested To Visit The Website www.ireps.gov.in And Submit Their Offers Online. The Tender Description, Qty, EMD, SD May Be Seen In Website. Offers Submitted Manually Will Not Be Accepted. Offers By Post Will Not Be Entertained. Tender Closing Time Is 14.30 Hrs Of The Due Date Of The Tender. "For All Indigenous Offers, EMD Will Be Accepted Only Via Online System as Available On www.ireps.gov.in."

Tender No.	Brief Description
30261011	Helical Spring
82265016	HQ-MED-ZRC-zonal Rate Contract supply (PH.No:02064) Liquid Medical Oxygen
33261691	Set of TPU rings
77251145C	Paint Ready Mixed Red Oxide
60265650	Procurement of various M.S.Balls & nuts tapered washers for CMS Crossings
LH265493	Supply installation & Commissioning of fully automated computerized SCTR
LY265229	Supply Commissioning & Testing of Electrical Overhead Traveling Crane 25/5T capacity
LY265230	Supply Commissioning & Testing of Electrical Overhead Traveling Crane 25/5T capacity
76261003	Steel wire 1.2mm in spool of weight approximately 15 kgs.
38263706	Hose Assembly
38261009	Articulated lock lift lever Assy
38261016	Yoke for Non-transition
6026PT014	Procurement of Over Riding switches 60 kg 1 in 8.5 to RDSO Drg no.T-4966
SCR-26-CAP-NG8W1	RC for the Supply installation & Commissioning of new gantry(wheeler) track relaying trains machine for IR
66257783	Procurement of Spares for Track Machines
LH257347	Supply of 150 sq.mm thin wall with e-beam irradiation/chemical curing process
38261331	Screw Coupling
LH265345	Lead acid starter batteries of 24V 290AH
31260007	Stabilizer link for Vande Bharat Train
31261023	Spherical Bearing for Reaction Rod
38261435	Brake wear plate
38261014	Knuckle for non-transition
60265262	Procurement of Spring Setting Device
66258312	Procurement of Spares for Track Machines
6026PT003	PSC Mainline Sleepers to T-8746
43261072	Disconnecting Earthing Device
52265002	25 W VHF Digital Radio Set
45261003	Blind Socket

Note: Due dates of tender opening
SL.No.01 on dt.20.04.2026. SL.No. 02 on dt.23.04.2026. SL.No. 03 on dt.28.04.2026. SL.No.04 on dt.29.04.2026. SL.No.05 to 08 on dt.30.04.2026. SL.No.09 to 12 on dt.05.05.2026. SL.No.13 to 15 on dt.06.05.2026. SL.No.16 to 18 on dt.07.05.2026. SL.No.19 to 22 on dt.11.05.2026. SL.No.23 to 26 on dt.21.05.2026. SL.No.27 on dt.25.05.2026.

Website particulars
www.ireps.gov.in

Notice Board Location where complete details of tender can be seen. Office of the Sr.DEE/TRD/HYB, Hyderabad Bhavan, Secunderabad - 500025.

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, Traction Distribution, Secunderabad

Tender Notice for Tender No. 03_2026-27_Sr.DEE_TRD_HYB, dt: 10.04.2026

Sr.DEE/TRD/HYB acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No. 03_2026-27_Sr.DEE_TRD_HYB, dt: 10.04.2026, Closing date: 04.05.2026, 15:00 hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

SI.No. 1 Description of work
Hyderabad Division: Hyderabad Division: Conversion of tramway type OHE to conventional type OHE of KCG Rd-5 in view of reliability improvement at KCG depot jurisdiction - Electrical TRD Arrangements. **Tender Advertised Cost (₹) Rs. 89,85,943.00/- EMD (₹) Rs. 1,79,700.00/- Completion period 06 Months Date of Closing 04.05.2026**

Website particulars
www.ireps.gov.in

Notice Board Location where complete details of tender can be seen. Office of the Sr.DEE/TRD/HYB, Hyderabad Bhavan, Secunderabad - 500025.

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, Traction Distribution, Secunderabad A045

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

Cherlapalli central prison expands capacity with new G+1 barrack

HYDERABAD

A newly constructed G+1 barrack for prisoners was inaugurated at Central Prison, Cherlapalli, Hyderabad on Friday by chief guest Dr. Soumya Mishra, Director General of Prisons & Correctional Services. The newly built barrack has been designed to enhance the accommodation capacity of the prison and will facilitate housing for an additional 108 prisoners. This development is expected to significantly improve living conditions and help ease congestion within the facility.

Speaking on the occasion, Soumya Mishra stated that the construction of the building had been pending for the past four years and was successfully completed within a span of six months. Soumya Mishra highlighted that the new barrack significantly enhances accommodation capacity and reflects the department's focused efforts towards strengthening infrastructure. She further emphasised that such initiatives contribute to improved living conditions and support a more humane, reform-oriented prison environment.

During her visit, Soumya Mishra inspected various activities within the prison, including the prison garden where organic leafy vegetables are cultivated by inmates. She also visited the prison industries unit, interacted with inmates working there, and reviewed the factory premises for the proposed establishment of a new ITI training centre in collaboration with the Directorate of Employment and Training.

Additionally, she inspected the prison library and the NIOS classroom facilities, underscoring the Department's commitment to education and skill development for inmates. The Prisons & Correctional Services department reiterated its commitment to infrastructure development, decongestion, and the overall welfare and rehabilitation of prisoners as part of its broader reform agenda.

My Bharat Budget Quest-2026' Grand Finale to be held on April 13 and April 14

HYDERABAD

My Bharat Telangana State has announced that the 'My Bharat Budget Quest-2026' Grand Finale—organized under the aegis of the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports—would be held on April 12 and 13 at Kanha Shanti Vanam in Chegur village of Nandigama Mandal from Ranga Reddy district. Speaking at the NSS media Center in the city regarding this event, My Bharat Deputy Director Anvesh Chintala stated that this program would serve as a platform for the Southern Zone comprising the states of Telangana and Tamil Nadu.

He noted that over 1.2 million youth participated nationwide in this initiative by submitting more than 46,500 essays and added that the selected youth participants would engage in discussions on key topics such as investments in education, skill development, employment and the digital and technological economy. He further explained that a "Women's Youth Parliament" would be conducted on April 12, centered around the theme "Nari Shakti: Viksit Bharat Ki Awaaz" (Women's Power: The Voice of a Developed India). He added that April 13 would feature the inaugural ceremony along with a dedicated 'My Bharat' session and expert panel discussions.

The organizers stated that the event was being conducted with the objective of channeling the ideas and perspectives of the youth towards contributing to the nation's development. They announced that state Minister Vakiti Srihari, R. Dileep Reddy, and Venu Bhagavat would attend these sessions as chief guests. T. Isaiah, Khushboo Gupta, G. Rajesh, and others also participated in this event.

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SHORT TAKES

Police organise awareness drive, medical tests for history sheeters

HYDERABAD: As per the instructions of Hyderabad Police Commissioner V. C. Sajjanar, the Task Force of the Hyderabad Narcotics Enforcement Wing (H-NEW) on Friday organised a special drive in coordination with the local police staff. During the drive, medical tests were conducted on rowdy sheeters, trouble mongers and individuals with a history of regular drug consumption in NDPS cases, with the intention of creating awareness among drug consumers about the legal consequences they may face. The programme was organised under the supervision of Vaibhav Raghunath Gaikwad. The tests were conducted at Osmania General Hospital, Gandhi Hospital, and Government Hospital for Mental Care, Erragadda, in coordination with the doctors. At Gandhi General Hospital, a total of 70 persons were tested, out of which 44 tested positive and 26 tested negative.

Ameerpet Gurudwara Committee Invites KTR to Vaisakhi Celebrations

HYDERABAD: The Representatives of the Ameerpet Gurudwara today extended an invitation to BRS Working President and the party MLA Kalvakuntla Taraka Rama Rao (KTR), to attend the 'Khalsa Sajna Divas - Vaisakhi' celebrations, which are set to be organized grandly next week under the aegis of the Ameerpet Gurudwara Sahib. A delegation led by Ameerpet Gurudwara Committee President S. Darshan Singh, accompanied by former Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav, paid a courtesy visit to KTR and presented him with the official invitation card for the festivities. On this occasion, they requested KTR to attend as the Chief Guest at the main event, scheduled to take place on Tuesday, (April 14), at 1:30 PM at the Sri Guru Gobind Singhji Multipurpose Sports Complex (Municipal Playgrounds) in Ameerpet.

Kavitha alleges gross violation of financial code, claims Rs.1,148Cr contracts awarded without tenders



- **K. Kavitha blasts 'Gumpu Mestri' governance, alleges Rs.150/Sq.Ft extortion from real estate developers**
- **Kavitha demands probe into GHMC deals, threatens ED complaint against State Government**
- **Kavitha welcomes Kaleshwaram repairs, raises concerns over intent behind repairs**
- **"Laborers are being cheated", Kavitha slams Govt for paying Rs.13,000 instead of Rs.23,000 to GHMC Workers**
- **K. Kavitha champions OBC Sub-Quota, demands Women's Reservation Bill delay until 2027 Census**
- **Telangana Jagruthi vows to fight for workers' rights and OBC Women's Sub-Quota**

HYDERABAD

Telangana Jagruthi President Kalvakuntla Kavitha has made serious allegations of corruption against Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and the Congress government. She strongly criticized Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, accusing him of turning the GHMC into a hub of corruption. She alleged that contracts worth crores are being awarded to his associates without calling for tenders. During a press conference held at the Jagruthi office in Banjara Hills, she criticized the administration's functioning within the GHMC



and HMDA. Kavitha pointed out that while the previous BRS government awarded works worth ₹480 crore in a similar manner, the current government has continued the practice and expanded it to ₹1,148 crore, alleging large-scale corruption. She demanded immediate cancellation of such contracts and insisted they be awarded only through a proper tender process.

Allegations of corruption in GHMC & HMDA

She claimed that contracts worth ₹1,148 crore were awarded on a nomination basis to the CM's associates, bypassing the mandatory tender process for works exceeding ₹5 lakh. She stated this is a direct violation of the Telangana State Financial Code and ignored the recommendations of the 2023 committee that advised against non-tender contracts. Kavitha pointed out that while the previous BRS government awarded works worth ₹480 crore in a similar manner, the current government has contin-

ued the practice and expanded it to ₹1,148 crore, alleging large-scale corruption. She demanded immediate cancellation of such contracts and insisted they be awarded only through a proper tender process. She pointed out that skilled laborers in these departments where contracts were given through nomination are being underpaid, receiving only ₹13,000 instead of the mandated ₹23,000. Kavitha questioned the status of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) formed to probe a company related to the Outer Ring Road (ORR), suggesting it was suppressed due to the company's proximity to the CM.

Warning of ED Complaints / Complaint to ED

She accused the CM of using HYDRA to harass real estate developers, alleging that developers are being pressured to pay ₹150 per square foot. She claimed the government sold land worth ₹35,000 crore under HMDA but has failed to spend even a rupee on the actual development of Hyderabad. Kavitha warned that if this "extortion" does not stop, they will file a formal complaint with the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

Kaleshwaram Project Repairs for Commissions

Kavitha said she welcomes the government's move to repair the Kaleshwaram Project but warned that it should not be done for commissions. She alleged that the government deliberately let 8.5 lakh acres of land dry up to label the project a failure.

She urged that the repairs should genuinely benefit farmers.

Women's Reservation & National Politics

BJP's "Deception": Kavitha accused the BJP of being insincere regarding the Women's Reservation Bill. She objected to using the 2011 census as the basis for implementation and demanded that it be delayed until after the 2027 census, which will include BC enumeration.

She claimed that women have already faced injustice in Lok Sabha and 12 state assembly elections. She demanded a sub-quota for OBC women and called upon BC women to prepare for protests. She said they would examine the draft bill and, if needed, take the issue to Delhi.

Counter to MP Arvind: She took a sharp jab at Nizamabad MP Arvind, labeling his comments against her as an example of male chauvinism and asserting that Telangana women are self-reliant and politically conscious. She emphasized her role in the Telangana movement and reaffirmed her commitment to public service.

Party Anniversary Preparations

For the upcoming party foundation day on the 25th of this month, Kavitha announced the formation of 21 committees with 30 members each and 500 volunteers to oversee arrangements and ensure smooth traffic coordination. She advised contacting committee members for further details.



BRS demands protection of ₹7,000 crore worth govt land in Nadargul

HYDERABAD

A delegation of BRS leaders on Friday met an additional collector of Rangareddy district and submitted a representation, demanding immediate protection of 373 acres of government land worth approximately ₹7,000 crore in survey No. 613 of Nadargul village of Rangareddy district illegally encroached by real estate entities.

Acting on the directions of party working president KT Rama Rao and Deputy Floor Leader in the Assembly Harish Rao, former minister Sabitha Indra Reddy, BRS Assembly Whip KP Vivekananda, MLC Dr. Dasoji Sravan, former MLAs Manchireddy Kishan Reddy and Anjaiah Yadav, along with senior leaders Kyama Malles and Rangineeni Abhilash, met the additional collector at the Collectorate in Kongarakalan and held detailed discussions on this massive land scam.

Speaking on the occasion, BRS MLA Sabitha Indra Reddy said that the developments over the past month clearly show that this government is solely focused on grabbing government lands rather than public welfare or development. "In Rangareddy district, everywhere one looks, the intention appears to be how to take over government land rather than safeguarding it for public use. For the past 25 years, I have observed that former Chief Ministers Chandrababu Naidu, Y.S. Rajasekhara



Reddy, and K. Chandrasekhar Rao protected government lands, especially within the Outer Ring Road limits for future generations.

Regarding the Nadargul Shivraj Bahadur lands, a full-day discussion was held in the Assembly during Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy's tenure, after which the land was officially declared as government land and handed over to APIIC. Despite all records confirming it as government land, the current government is attempting to exploit loopholes to transfer it to private entities," she pointed out.

"If the government has no role in this episode, why are Ministers not openly declaring it as government land and ordering immediate action?" Sabitha Indra Reddy said. She demanded that the government immediately remove illegal structures and install official boards to prove its sincerity.

Second edition of the FICCI Net Zero Forum held in city

HYDERABAD

The second edition of the FICCI Net Zero Forum - "Pathways to a Climate-Responsible Future" was held at The Park in Hyderabad, on Friday, bringing together policymakers, industry leaders, sustainability experts, financial institutions, and technology innovators.

Union Minister Pralhad Venkatesh Joshi, in his video message at the inaugural ceremony, emphasized that India was firmly resolved to lead the global transition towards net-zero emissions. "Reinforcing this national commitment, the Supreme Court of India recently observed that India's transition from fossil fuels to non-fossil (renewable) energy was a "fundamental necessity," and not merely a policy choice, underscoring the urgency and inevitability of this shift. India's journey towards energy Atmanirbharta (self-reliance) is no longer aspirational but is being actively delivered through decisive policy action and rapid capacity expansion," the Minister said.

The Minister added that India stands as the third-largest country globally in solar power capacity, after China and the United States and added that the country had achieved a significant milestone, with approximately 50-55% of its installed electricity capacity coming from non-fossil fuel sources, including solar, wind, hydro and nuclear energy and noted that a landmark achievement in this transition was India reaching around 150 GW of installed solar power capacity, positioning it among the top three solar power nations globally and strengthen-

ing its role as a major clean energy leader. Highlighting the economic dimension, Minister Joshi noted that India's progress towards net-zero emissions could generate approximately 51 lakh (5.1 million) green jobs over the next four years, reflecting the strong linkage between climate action and economic growth.

He further emphasized that the FICCI Net Zero Forum will play a crucial role in mobilizing stakeholders, driving investments and fostering collaboration, helping India set a global benchmark for sustainable development.

Gareth Wynn Owen, the British Deputy High Commissioner in Hyderabad, was the chief guest and inaugurated the conference. Speaking on the occasion, he underscored that strong global partnerships and collaborative action were essential to achieve the climate goals and advance sustainable development.

Highlighting deepening UK-India cooperation, he referred to significant investments such as a £1 billion (approx. USD 1.5 billion) UK-backed project in Vijayawada of Andhra Pradesh, as a testament to growing clean energy collaboration. He noted that both countries were aligned under the leadership of their Prime Ministers, with a shared vision towards long-term climate targets, including 2035 ambitions.

He highlighted key bilateral initiatives such as the UK-India Green Grid Initiative, ongoing green energy dialogues and the work of the UK-India Task Force, which are accelerating cooperation in clean technologies and energy transition.

Stressing that climate finance remains the biggest challenge, he expressed op-

timism that India and the UK can work more closely to unlock and scale global finance for net-zero initiatives and called for enhanced access to international climate finance.

The Principal Secretary of the Department of Energy of the state Navin Mittal said that the Government of Telangana reaffirmed Telangana's strong commitment to clean energy transition and outlined policy priorities to accelerate renewable energy adoption and industrial decarbonization.

He highlighted that following India's solar revolution, the next major transformation would be driven by the energy storage, which will play a critical role in ensuring reliability and efficiency in renewable systems.

Drawing attention to current energy consumption patterns, he noted that India consumes nearly 150 billion litres of petrol and diesel annually, underscoring the urgent need for cleaner alternatives. He emphasized that the solar-powered electric mobility can cost as low as ₹0.60 per kilometre, compared to approximately ₹10 per kilometre for fossil fuels and ₹2 per kilometre for conventional EVs.

Mittal also pointed out that nearly 75% of energy was lost in conventional systems, whereas the electric mobility solutions achieve 80-90% efficiency, making them significantly more sustainable.

He further underscored the importance of industry collaboration while noting that platforms like the FICCI Net Zero Forum will play a crucial role in driving innovation and accelerating India's transition to a low-carbon economy.



"Mud-slinging politics by the opposition against a pro-poor government"

- **"They are trying to shift their own blame onto us"**
- **State Revenue, Housing, and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy**

KHAMMAM / HYDERABAD

Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy stated that some opposition leaders are attempting to shift the blame attached to them onto the ruling party and its leaders. He said that no matter how much criticism is made, people are ready to bless the Indiramma government in the future.

On Friday, in Chegomma village of Kusumanchi mandal in Khammam district,

the minister inaugurated PACS warehouses constructed at a cost of ₹1.52 crore. He also distributed cheques worth ₹58.58 lakh to 191 beneficiaries in the mandal.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that regardless of the baseless allegations made by others, this government will always stand by the poor. He stated that the government is purchasing every grain produced by farmers across the state and is depositing payments into farmers' accounts within a week of procurement.

He emphasized that making farmers prosperous is the government's primary goal. He added that within just four months, the government waived loans worth ₹20,670 crore, creating history. The government is providing ₹12,000 per acre annually and a bonus of ₹500 for fine

varieties of paddy. He further stated that 3.8 lakh new passbooks have been issued across the state. Referring to issues faced by farmers due to the Dharani system, he said it has been scrapped and replaced with "Bhu Bharati."

Later, the minister participated in the housewarming ceremony of an Indiramma house built by Depangi Srikanth in Venkatapuram and assured that every eligible poor person will be provided with a permanent house.

District Collector Anudeep Durishetty, CP Sunil Dutt, Municipal Chairperson Pokabattini Anita, Paleru Special Officer Ramesh, RDO Srinivas, Agriculture Officer Pullaiah, Tahsildar Saidulu, MPDO, officials from various departments, and public representatives were also present.

Kishan affirms Centre's commitment to Telangana development

HYDERABAD

Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy has affirmed that over the past eleven years, the central government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has consistently provided support for the development of Telangana. He emphasised that Telangana has been prioritised, with appropriate budget allocations made for road transport and railway initiatives.

"It is with great satisfaction that I announce the recent approval by the Union Ministry of Road Transport for projects amounting to Rs. 103 crore under the

'Setu Bandhan' scheme. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, and Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav for designating these projects for Telangana," he remarked.

The meeting of the Hyderabad District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) was held at Dr. MCR HRD Institute in Jubilee Hills on Friday. The Hyderabad district collector, GHMC Commissioner and Managing Director of Water Works attended the meeting. The officials representing various government departments also participated in the proceedings. The com-

mittee reviewed the progress of various development works and the central government schemes currently being implemented within the jurisdiction of Hyderabad district. Senior officials from the GHMC, Water Works and other government departments—along with members of the DISHA Committee—participated in the meeting to provide updates on the ground-level implementation status of these schemes. The primary objective of this meeting is to ensure the timely completion of projects undertaken with the central government funds and to make welfare schemes more accessible to the public.



Youth must embrace challenges and move forward

BENGALURU

Minister for Education and IT, Nara Lokesh, stated that youth should embrace challenges and move forward, focusing on their goals rather than blindly following trends. He attended the 2026 IBDP (IB Diploma Programme) Graduation Day celebrations of Greenwood High International School, run by the reputed real estate firm Sattva Group, in Sarjapur, Bengaluru, as the chief guest. Speaking on the occasion, he said that this is not just a graduation ceremony, but a moment where memories meet dreams, and students transition into future leaders. He expressed happiness and surprise that the students themselves chose this year's graduation theme, "Pioneering Possibilities." He said the theme reflects not just an idea but a mindset—one that shows courage and curiosity. Today's generation, he noted, is not afraid to ask "What next?" and more importantly, "Why not?"—which is exactly what the world needs.

Pride in Greenwood High for creating global citizens

Lokesh appreciated the role of Sattva Group in building institutions like Greenwood High International School. He mentioned that the group is now set to partner in the development of Andhra Pradesh

Focus on goals instead of following trends.. What matters is not what you learned, but how you think
In a world of shortcuts, ethics is the greatest strength.. What you do when no one is watching defines your character
Sattva Group to partner in AP and Visakhapatnam development.. Pride in Greenwood High for creating global citizens
Minister Nara Lokesh at Greenwood High International School IBDP Graduation Day, Bengaluru

and Visakhapatnam. Seeing the campus, infrastructure, achievements, and global outlook, he said it is a matter of pride that such institutions are creating global citizens with high standards.

What matters is not what you learned, but how you think

He recalled his student days at Carnegie Mellon University and later at Stanford University, describing them as times filled with dreams, ambitions, and uncertainty. He emphasized that education is not just about what you learn, but how you learn to think. He observed that the same philosophy is reflected at Greenwood High, where education prepares students not just for exams, but for life.

Focus on goals instead of following trends

Addressing students, he asked how many aspired to become doctors, engineers, AI experts, entrepreneurs, or politicians. He advised them to remember one thing—do not follow trends, follow your goals. Trends change, but goals endure. Always choose paths that others may not have taken.

Youth must embrace challenges and move forward



Lokesh shared his personal journey. Though he is seen today as a minister, life has not always been easy. He served as Minister for Panchayati Raj, IT & Electronics, and Communications from 2017 to 2019. He highlighted the responsibility of governance, where a decision taken in one place can impact lives in distant villages. He spoke about losing the 2019 elections from Mangalagiri, a constituency where his party had not won for decades. Though it was painful, the defeat strengthened his resolve. In 2023, he undertook a 3,132 km statewide padayatra called Yuvagalam, interacting with farmers, women, youth, employees, and small business owners. This journey trans-

formed his perspective from a system-oriented view to a people-centric one.

Victory in Mangalagiri reflects people's trust

In the 2024 elections, he contested again from Mangalagiri and won with a majority of 91,413 votes—the third highest in the state. He said the victory was not his alone, but a reflection of people's trust and the result of sincerely listening to them.

In a world of shortcuts, ethics is the greatest strength

He explained that "Pioneering Possibilities" does not always mean creating something entirely new—it can also mean seeing what others don't, listening when they don't, and standing when it is

easier to sit. He shared advice from a spiritual speaker: never do anything you cannot tell your mother. If every decision passes this test, one will never go wrong. In today's shortcut-driven world, ethics is the greatest strength.

What you do when no one is watching defines your character

Recalling his time at Stanford, he said exams were conducted without invigilators. Students relied solely on honesty. This system tested not just knowledge, but character. He emphasized that what one does when no one is watching defines true character. He also mentioned a collaborative learning method where students wrote topics they wanted to learn on a board, and others would join them—highlighting the power of shared learning and collaboration.

Students must develop moral values

He noted that today's world is changing faster than ever, with technology evolving and industries transforming. Some future jobs do not even exist today. Therefore, students need adaptability, resilience, curiosity, and strong moral values. Knowledge may

change, but values remain constant.

A school that builds global citizens

He acknowledged parents for their sacrifices and teachers for shaping futures beyond academics. He praised Greenwood High as an institution that builds not just knowledge, but life skills and confident global citizens.

He advised graduates to remember three things:

- Dream big, but stay grounded**
- Work hard, but never compromise on ethics**
- Achieve success, but take others along**

True success, he said, is not achieved alone but in the opportunities created for others. He concluded by expressing hope that the 2026 batch will not just be graduates, but pathfinders who overcome challenges and move forward. The event was attended by Sattva Group MD and Chairman of Greenwood High International School Bijay Agarwal, Principal Sheila Alexander, Vice Principal Nishant Nagar, Managing Trustee Mrs. Neeru Agarwal, Trustee N. Mehrotra, IBDP Coordinator S. Kavya, and others.

Shri P. Ananth assumes charge as General Manager, SWR

HUBBALLI, APRIL 10

Shri P. Ananth has assumed charge as the new General Manager of South Western Railway on 09th April 2026. An officer of the 1989 batch of the Indian Railway Service of Mechanical Engineers (IRSME), Shri Ananth holds a degree in Mechanical Engineering and brings with him rich and varied experience spanning over three decades in Indian Railways. He has served extensively in the South Eastern Railway and has held several important assignments, including Director (Manpower Planning) in the Railway Board from 2002 to 2008. He also served as Chief Mechanical Engineer at Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) from 2012 to 2017, where he played a key role in production and modernization activities. From 2017, he was asso-

ciated with the Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS), New Delhi, as General Manager (Coach Maintenance Management System), where he was instrumental in the development and deployment of mission-critical application software supporting various operational functions across Indian Railways.

Later, Shri Ananth served as Divisional Railway Manager, Madurai Division, Southern Railway, from August 2021 to October 2023, leading several key initiatives in operational efficiency and passenger service improvement.

Prior to assuming charge as General Manager, Shri P. Ananth was serving as Additional General Manager, South Western Railway since 13th October, 2025. He succeeds Shri Mukul Saran Mathur, consequent upon his retirement.

Invitation to PM Modi for Bhogapuram Airport Inauguration

NEW DELHI:

The long-cherished dream of the people of North Andhra is set to become a reality, as the inauguration of the prestigious Bhogapuram International Airport (Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport) is being planned. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has officially invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to inaugurate this mega project and dedicate it to the nation.



According to sources, the state government has proposed possible dates based on the Prime Minister's availability—either July 5 or July 8, or alternatively August 17 or August 19 for the inauguration.

According to sources, the state government has proposed possible dates based on the Prime Minister's availability—either July 5 or July 8, or alternatively August 17 or August 19 for the inauguration.

Project Near Completion

The airport construction is currently in its final phase. About 98% of the work has already been completed, and the remaining finishing works are targeted to be completed by June 30. To

Boost to North Andhra Development

Experts believe that once operational, the international airport will significantly transform the landscape of North Andhra, boosting both tourism and industrial growth. The central government has already notified the airport as a Customs Airport, and the Andhra Pradesh government has requested early clearance for immigration status, which is essential for international flight operations.



Uttarakhand Census Begins; Guv, CM Opt Self-Enumeration

DEHRADUN: (APR 10)

The first phase of 'Census 2027' formally began in Uttarakhand on Friday with Governor Lt Gen (ret'd) Gurmit Singh and Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami registering their details digitally through the 'self-enumeration' facility. Under the program, house listing and house enumeration work has begun in the state. For the first time under 'Digital India', citizens have been given the opportunity to enter their information online before a census officer visits their homes. Officials said that this facility of self-enumeration will be available from April 10 to April 24 and after this, from April 25 to May 24, the census workers will go door to door to collect the data.

CM reviews domestic gas supply situation, calls Union Minister on Srikakulam-Kakinada pipeline delay

Deepam subsidy to be continued to those opted for PNG: CM sets target to achieve 10 lakh PNG connections in six months

AMARAVATI:

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu directed officials and oil companies to address domestic gas supply challenges arising due to global conflicts. He emphasised the need to promote the use of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) as a preferred alternative.

Reviewing on domestic gas supply with officials at secretariat today, the Chief Minister instructed officials to create awareness among beneficiaries of the Deepam scheme about the advantages of switching to PNG. He noted that beneficiaries who opt for PNG will continue to receive the subsidy provided under



the Deepam scheme and orders to this effect should be issued immediately. He also stressed the importance of clearly informing beneficiaries that they can retain their scheme benefits even after migrating to PNG connections.

The Chief Minister assessed measures being taken by oil

companies to expand PNG connections and overcome supply constraints. He set a target of providing 1 million (10 lakh) PNG connections within the next six months, directing officials to ensure there is no delay in achieving this goal. Officials informed the Chief Minister that the do-

mestic gas situation is expected to normalise soon.

Reviewing the delay in Srikakulam-Kakinada natural gas pipeline project, the Chief Minister sought explanations from officials. Upon being informed that certain decisions are pending at the Central level, he directly spoke with Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas and urged the Minister to expedite completion of the project, noting that the tendering process has already been completed. The Union Minister responded positively and assured that the matter would be reviewed soon and necessary action taken to accelerate the project.

Himachal Mishap: Devotees' Vehicle Plunges 100 ft, 3 Dead

The mishap occurred near the Radha Swami Satsang Bhawan on National Highway-503 when the vehicle, reportedly carrying 35 devotees from Kapurthala in Punjab, lost control at a sharp turn and fell off the road. At least three people were killed and more than two dozen others were

injured after a tractor-trolley carrying devotees plunged nearly 100 feet into a gorge in Himachal Pradesh's Kangra district on Friday. The injured, including women and children, were rescued by the police, with the help of locals, and rushed to a nearby hospital, where they are undergoing treatment.

The mishap occurred near the Radha Swami Satsang Bhawan on National Highway 503 when the vehicle, reportedly carrying 35 devotees from Kapurthala in Punjab, lost control at a sharp turn and fell off the road. The vehicle was on its way to a temple when the incident took place. Six of the people injured

in the accident are said to be in critical condition and have been referred to a government medical college in Tanda, per news agency PTL. A case under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Motor Vehicles Act has been registered by the police. Preliminary investigation sug-

gests that using a tractor-trolley for the transportation of passengers – prohibited under law – may have contributed to the severity of the accident. However, efforts are underway to ascertain the exact cause of the accident, the police said. Six passengers reportedly escaped the accident unhurt.

No proof, only presumptions: Justice Varma withdraws from impeachment inquiry

Justice Yashwant Varma alleged that the Parliament-appointed panel's probe against him was based on 'suggestions, imputations and presumptions' rather than concrete evidence.

Justice Yashwant Varma, who resigned amid an impeachment process against him over the recovery of wads of currency notes from his residence, has written to the parliamentary inquiry committee investigating the allegations, asserting that he has been subjected to a "deliberate vilification campaign" despite the absence of any direct evidence against him. Varma informed the panel of his resignation and announced his withdrawal from the ongoing proceedings, questioning both the fairness and the legal basis of the inquiry. In a detailed 13-page letter, Varma reiterated his claims that he,

then a Delhi High Court judge when the incident occurred in March 2025, was out of station at the time of the recovery and it defies logic to believe he would have chosen a storeroom to stash cash. The judge alleged that he was not given a fair opportunity to defend himself and that the probe was based on suggestions, imputations, and presumptions rather than concrete evidence. The controversy began in March 2025, when a fire broke out at Justice Varma's official bungalow in New Delhi. While battling the blaze, fire service personnel and police discovered stacks of burnt and partially burnt Rs 500 currency notes, estimated at nearly Rs 15 crore, hidden in a storeroom. Justice Varma maintained that the storeroom was not under his control, though subsequent investigations suggested otherwise. "The incident occurred when I was physically absent from the



premises (on a pre-planned vacation) with extremely limited mobile connectivity in a remote forest area, it defies ordinary logic and common sense to suggest that I would have chosen such a location to store 'cash'." Justice Varma said in his letter. "Despite the above, I suffered the public vilification in silence, remaining hopeful that those tasked by the law and the system to investigate and ascertain the facts would address the issue appropriately and fairly. Regrettably, the proceedings that have followed have been

concerned almost exclusively with establishing the bare facts that a storeroom existed in the allotted premises and that cash was found there," he added. Varma maintained that no legally admissible proof had been produced to establish that any cash was found in the storeroom of his residence or that it belonged to him or his family.

The 57-year-old judicial officer further alleged that the parliamentary inquiry committee, constituted under the impeachment process, relied heavily on the findings of a prior in-house committee report, which he argued should never have been made public as it was meant solely for the Chief Justice of India. He criticised the enquiry panel for failing to undertake a fresh investigation under the Judges Inquiry Act, claiming instead that the proceedings were based on "suggestions, imputations and presumptions."

"I state that the proceedings initiated against me, whether they be before the IHC or for that matter even the present enquiry, have all proceeded on unstated suggestions, insinuations and imputations requiring me to disprove assumed facts and innumerable presumptions. This has resulted not only in a reversal of the burden of proof as we commonly understand but also in placing upon me the onerous obligation of proving multiple negatives," the strongly-worded letter said. Justice Varma informed the panel that he was stepping away from the inquiry, stating that continued participation would "legitimise a process" that, according to him, was fundamentally flawed. He argued that the proceedings were asking him to answer "the unanswerable", specifically, to explain the origin of money he claims he had no knowledge of.

Women staffers allege years of sexual abuse, coercion at Nashik firm; 6 arrested

The complaints allege a pattern of misconduct spanning two to three years, including physical harassment, inappropriate comments about women's bodies and clothing, molestation, and mental harassment.

A major workplace abuse scandal has surfaced in Maharashtra's Nashik, where multiple women employees of a multinational company have accused colleagues and senior staff of sexual and psychological harassment, as well as coercion, over a prolonged period. Police have arrested six accused so far as part of an ongoing investigation.

According to officials, at least nine FIRs have been registered across two police stations -- eight at Mumbai Naka and one at Deolali -- based on complaints filed by the employees, most of them aged between 18 and 25. The accused named in the case include Asif Ansari, Shafi Shaikh, Shahrukh Qureshi, Raza Memon, and Tausif Attar. Police said some of them held positions such as team leaders and en-

gineers within the company.

The complaints allege a pattern of misconduct spanning two to three years, including physical harassment, inappropriate comments about women's bodies and clothing, molestation, and mental harassment. One case involved allegations of rape, with investigators saying the accused allegedly lured the victim into a relationship. Complainants have also alleged that their religious sentiments were hurt through remarks and behaviour at the workplace. Some statements further claim attempts at coercion linked to religious practices, including pressure to adopt certain rituals. In a related allegation, a male employee has also claimed he was pressured to convert, made to perform religious rituals, and forced to consume non-vegetarian food.

The employees have told police that they had raised complaints internally with the company's HR department earlier, but no effective action was taken. A case has also been registered against a woman HR official linked to the company's Pune office.

EDITORIAL

STEADY HAND IN
UNCERTAIN TIMES:
THE RBI'S CASE FOR INACTION

The RBI Monetary Policy Committee's (MPC) decision to keep interest rates unchanged — a “wait and watch” approach, in the Governor's words — is a sensible move. At a time when hasty words and deeds have roiled world markets, economies, and even households, a measured policy response was the need of the hour. The challenge before the MPC is that the main tool it has — the repo rate — impacts growth and inflation in opposite ways. That is, if it had raised rates to try to contain an anticipated surge in inflation, this would have hurt growth. On the other hand, if it lowered rates to boost growth, this would have pushed inflation up. The war in West Asia has resulted in both of these undesirable outcomes: supply chain constraints have pushed up costs while also dragging down growth. A rate change at this juncture could have made matters significantly worse and further dampened the mood in the economy. In his speech, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra predicted that India's GDP would grow 6.9% in 2026-27. Given that this is still the first month of the financial year, the forecast is likely to change considerably over the subsequent MPC announcements. For example, the MPC in April last year had predicted that growth in 2025-26 would be 6.5%. In contrast, the government's latest estimate for the year is 7.6%. Considerable uncertainty continues to persist in West Asia, with shipping companies still hesitant to brave the Strait of Hormuz.

All of this, coupled with the fuel constraints, will continue to hamper growth in 2026-27. The RBI lowered its growth forecast for the first quarter by just 0.1 percentage points, which might end up being an over-optimistic reading of the situation. The World Bank's India Development Update report, released on Thursday, predicts a slowdown in industrial growth in India over the course of this financial year. Consumer and government demand, too, is expected to slow as both groups try to tighten their belts. Inflation, on the other hand, is expected to accelerate considerably to 4.6%, according to the RBI. Yet, the MPC was correct not to raise rates since most of the inflationary pressure is due to supply issues rather than demand conditions. Raising rates would not only have slowed growth further, but even the primary objective of containing inflation would not have been met. A lot of factors need to play out before monetary policy can act — the war, the U.S. tariff-related investigations, greater clarity on a potential El Nino impact on the monsoon this year, to name a few. Until then, inaction is the best course of action.

Spotlight

US & Saudi Arabia
RAW MATERIALS DEAL?

With the escalating tensions involving Iran disrupt the implementation of the landmark US-Saudi agreement on rare earth elements? The question is far from academic. Access to these materials—especially heavy rare earths—is vital for the United States to maintain its technological and military superiority at a time when China dominates global supply chains.

Beijing's tightening of export controls in 2025 exposed the fragility of US dependence. Rare earth elements are indispensable for advanced defence systems, including the F-35 fighter jet, Virginia-class Columbia-class submarines, Tomahawk missiles, and radar technologies. An F-35 alone requires approximately 410 kg of rare earths; a Virginia-class submarine needs up to 4,100 kg. These figures illustrate the scale at which supply disruptions could affect American military readiness.

The US led global production until the mid-1990s, when China overtook competitors through aggressive industrial policy and cost advantages. According to the Council on Foreign Relations, the US remains fully dependent on imports for several critical minerals and significantly reliant on many more. By 2030, its share of the global market may fall below 2%, while China's could reach 31%. It was in response to this imbalance that Donald Trump initiated policies aimed at reviving domestic capacity and diversifying supply chains.

Saudi Arabia's Strategic Pivot

For Saudi Arabia, rare earth development is central to the economic transformation envisioned under Vision 2030, led by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. The Kingdom is rapidly repositioning mining as a pillar of economic diversification, reducing dependence on oil revenues. Progress has been swift. Exploration investment exceeded \$140 million in 2024, while the number of mining licenses surged from 224 in 2015 to over 800 by 2023. The estimated value of Saudi mineral reserves has nearly doubled—from \$1.3 trillion in 2016 to \$2.5 trillion in 2024—driven by the discovery and prioritization of high-value resources, including rare earth elements. Riyadh aims to become one of the world's top seven mineral processors by 2030, a shift that could significantly reshape global supply chains and reduce China's dominance.

Saudi Arabia's comparative advantage lies in energy and regulation. Rare earth processing is highly energy-intensive—requiring up to 13 times more energy than extraction—yet the Kingdom's abundant and low-cost energy resources provide a decisive edge. Equally important is its regulatory efficiency: mining permits can be secured within 180 days, compared to 7–10 years in the US.

A Strategic Convergence

This convergence of American need and Saudi ambition culminated in a significant agreement on November 19, 2025. MP Materials partnered with the US government and Saudi Arabian Mining Company to establish the Middle East's first rare earth processing facility. The joint venture reflects a careful balance of interests: MP Materials and the US will hold up to 49% equity, while Maaden retains at least 51%. The arrangement combines American expertise in separation and refining with Saudi Arabia's structural advantages—low-cost energy, modern infrastructure, and substantial untapped reserves. Among these reserves, the Jabal Sayid deposit stands out as one of the world's most valuable, with significant quantities of both heavy and light rare earth elements. Until domestic extraction scales up, the planned facility is expected to process imported ore, including supplies from Brazil, which holds the largest reserves outside China. Capabilities and Structural Advantages MP Materials is currently the only fully integrated rare earth producer in the US, operating the historic Mountain Pass mine. Once the global leader, the site closed in 2002 due to environmental issues and competitive pressure from China—a decision now widely regarded as a strategic error. Today, Mountain Pass accounts for about 15% of global production, and the company is investing over \$1 billion to expand capacity and rebuild domestic supply chains.

Maaden, by contrast, represents the scale and ambition of Saudi Arabia's mining sector. With revenues of \$8.7 billion in 2024, it is among the fastest-growing mining companies globally. Its investments span phosphates, gold, and fertilizers, including major partnerships with international firms such as Mosaic and SABIC.

Despite strong economic logic, the agreement faces geopolitical headwinds. The recent escalation involving the US and Israel against Iran—raising concerns about instability in the Strait of Hormuz—has complicated efforts to build an integrated supply chain. The deal is fundamentally geopolitical. For Washington, it is a strategic move to reduce dependence on Chinese-controlled supply chains and mitigate vulnerabilities in critical industries. For Riyadh, however, the approach is more pragmatic and less binary. Saudi Arabia has shown little inclination to align exclusively with any single power. Instead, it is pursuing a strategy of diversification, maintaining economic and technological ties with both the US and China. Had Washington refused to share technology, Riyadh could easily have turned to Beijing. The US objective, therefore, is not to exclude China entirely but to secure a meaningful share in Saudi Arabia's expanding mineral economy.

Geopolitical Uncertainty

The broader regional context reinforces this trend. Gulf states are increasingly reassessing their security and economic partnerships amid perceptions of inconsistent US policy. Saudi Arabia's recent agreement with Ukraine on drone defence cooperation reflects a willingness to diversify strategic relationships beyond traditional alliances. This approach is not a departure from cooperation with the US but a recalibration. By investing in advanced defence technologies and expanding economic partnerships, Riyadh is seeking to reduce vulnerabilities and enhance strategic autonomy.

Strategic Autonomy & Regional Dynamics

The rare earth agreement fits squarely within this framework. It allows Saudi Arabia to develop a high-value industrial sector while positioning itself as a key node in global supply chains. At the same time, it provides the US with a critical alternative to Chinese dominance, even if only partially.

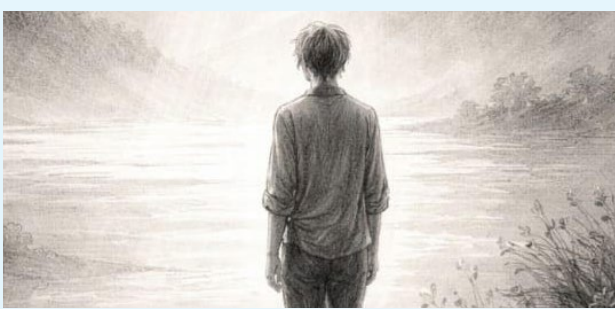
In sum, the future of the US-Saudi rare earth partnership will depend on both geopolitical stability and sustained mutual interest. The ongoing tensions in the Gulf may delay implementation, but they are unlikely to derail the agreement entirely. If anything, instability may reinforce the underlying logic of the deal. For the US, diversifying supply chains is no longer optional but imperative. For Saudi Arabia, economic diversification and strategic autonomy are central to long-term national objectives. Even if Washington's role as the primary security guarantor in the Gulf evolves, its economic and technological relevance is likely to endure. The rare earth partnership reflects a convergence of interests that transcends short-term disruptions. Ultimately, this is not merely a commercial arrangement but a strategic alignment shaped by necessity, competition, and a rapidly changing global order.



BY EWA FRONCZAK

(EXPERT, CENTRE
FOE INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS)

THE GRAMMAR OF SILENCE



Silence is not the absence of sound—it is the presence of what refuses performance. Within it, names loosen, titles fall away—discarded skins of a tired becoming. And the self, unwitnessed, returns to its first question. What remains when recognition is removed is not emptiness, but measure. Dignity does not rise with visibility. It settles—like dust upon the feet—unannounced, enduring. Birth is accident. Becoming is act. Between them, a life is either shaped or merely displayed. History does not belong to noise. It gathers in the quiet grammar of hands—in work that forgets to see itself. There is a way to exist without declaring existence; to carry light without rehearsing brightness. In such a life, integrity is not virtue—it is structure. Ego ascends quickly—a fragile architecture of air. Character descends—slow, geological, irreversible.

When arrogance dissolves, what remains is not triumph, but clarity—a script unwritten for an audience. Depth does not argue. Humility does not explain. Both remain—vast, sufficient, unadvertised. Light does not imitate. It reveals. What must borrow its shine is already breaking. Do not pursue being seen. The visible is often the least true. Let your work be ritual, your movement—intention. If truth walks beside you, it will not introduce itself. Praise is weather. Action is ground. Build where storms have no language. Walk gently—not from fear, but because meaning fractures under excess. At the furthest edge of silence, a voice emerges—not learned, not borrowed, but yours before it required witness. Adornment is unnecessary. Meaning is enough. If a word must live, let it breathe. If a life must matter, let it give. You are not the shadow of light. You are the condition in which light becomes visible.

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

Nitish in National Politics, BJP Era in Bihar

After remaining at the center of power in Bihar for nearly two decades, Nitish Kumar's move to the Rajya Sabha is not merely a political formality, but a turning point in the long phase that shaped Bihar's politics after 2005. The leader who influenced the state's governance for nearly 21 years is now preparing to play a new role in Delhi's politics. This shift is significant because Bihar's politics has long revolved around a single leadership, and for the first time after such an extended tenure, a major transition in power is becoming visible. From a statistical perspective, Nitish Kumar's tenure as Chief Minister is counted among the longest and most influential in Bihar's history. From November 2005, when a stable government was formed, to April 2026, combining different phases, he held the Chief Minister's post for approximately 18 to 19 years. During this period, he took oath as Chief Minister a total of ten times, which is considered a record in itself. In 2000, he first became Chief Minister for seven days, but had to resign after failing to prove a majority. Later, on November 24, 2005, when he became Chief Minister for the second time, it marked the beginning of an era of stable governance in Bihar.

Looking at the early phase of his political journey, his active political career began in 1985 when he was elected as a legislator for the first time. Four years later, in 1989, he entered the Lok Sabha for the first time. From 1989 to 2004, he was elected to the Lok Sabha four consecutive times. During this period, he handled several important responsibilities in the central government. In the 1990s, he served as Minister of State for Agriculture, and between 1998 and 2004, he held key portfolios such as Railway Minister and Minister for Surface Transport. During his tenure as Railway Minister, several new railway projects were initiated and efforts were made to improve

Nitish Kumar's shift from Bihar's Chief Ministership—after nearly two decades of transformative governance and a record ten oaths of office—to the Rajya Sabha marks a pivotal transition in the state's politics. This move ends an era shaped by his stable alliances post-2005, rural road revolutions, bicycle schemes boosting girls' education, and women's quotas in panchayats. For the first time in 21 years, Bihar faces a leadership vacuum in a state of 13 crore people, sparking speculation on successors and Delhi's coalition plays. With experience across all four Indian legislatures, Kumar's national pivot could redefine Bihar's development trajectory and his own legacy.



passenger facilities, which enhanced his administrative experience. When he assumed power in Bihar in 2005, the state faced multiple challenges. At that time, the road infrastructure was considered weak, and rural areas lacked proper connectivity. In the years after 2005, thousands of kilometers of rural roads were constructed. According to available figures, between 2005 and 2020, lakhs of kilometers of rural roads were built and repaired in the state, accelerating the process of connecting villages to district headquarters.

The education sector also witnessed significant transformation during his tenure. The bicycle scheme launched in 2006 remained one of the most widely discussed initiatives. Under this scheme, more than one crore students have been provided bicycles so far, which significantly increased school attendance, especially among girls. While the enrollment percentage of girls at the secondary level was relatively low in 2005, it recorded remarkable growth over the following decade. Similarly, uniform schemes and scholarship programs also played a role in improving attendance in schools. The decision to provide

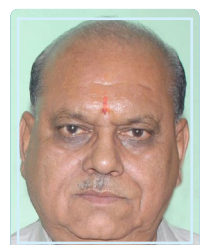
50 percent reservation to women in the Panchayati Raj system is considered one of the most significant administrative initiatives of his governance. Bihar became one of the early states in the country where women's participation in local governance increased on such a large scale. As a result, thousands of women emerged as village heads, ward members, and district council representatives. This decision played an important role in transforming the nature of rural politics.

Several changes were also recorded in the health sector. After 2005, the number of primary health centers was increased, and the expansion of facilities in district hospitals was initiated. The number of patients visiting government hospitals steadily increased, which was considered an indicator of improved access to healthcare services. However, his politics was not limited to development schemes. Frequent shifts in alliances became one of his defining political characteristics. In 2013, he separated from the National Democratic Alliance and adopted a new political direction. In 2017, he rejoined the same alliance. In 2022, he changed direction once again,

and in 2024, he returned to the same alliance. Within nearly 11 years, four major political shifts highlighted the complexity of his political journey. The 2025 Bihar Assembly elections were also considered a crucial turning point in his political career. In the 243-member Assembly, the alliance secured a clear majority, after which he took oath as Chief Minister for the tenth time. However, within four to five months of the election, his decision to move toward the Rajya Sabha indicated that this was not merely a personal decision, but part of a broader political strategy. With his entry into the Rajya Sabha, another significant record has been added to his name. He has joined the select group of leaders who have had membership experience in all four legislative houses Legislative Assembly, Legislative Council, Lok Sabha, and Rajya Sabha. In Indian politics, the number of such leaders is considered very limited.

Now, the biggest question is what his role in Delhi will be. Based on his long administrative experience, it is believed that he may play an important role at the national level in policy-making or coalition management. With more than 30 years

of parliamentary experience and nearly two decades as Chief Minister, he has established himself as a leader capable of understanding and balancing complex political equations. On the other hand, the process of power transition in Bihar has created fresh political activity. Continuous discussions are underway regarding the name of the new Chief Minister. Governing a large state with a population of nearly 13 crore and 38 districts is not considered an easy task. The biggest challenge before the new leadership will be to continue the schemes initiated in previous years while also implementing new priorities. At present, Bihar's politics is passing through a phase of transition. The administrative structure developed over the past nearly 20 years will need to be maintained and strengthened further by the new government. It will also be observed whether the new administration can sustain the pace of development seen in recent years. Nitish Kumar's move toward Delhi is also being seen as the completion of a full political cycle in his career. The leader who began his political journey as a Member of Parliament is now returning to Parliament after stepping down from the Chief Minister's post. This change is not merely a shift in position, but a signal of the beginning of a new phase in both Bihar and national politics. In the coming months, it will become clear whether this decision was limited to a change of responsibility or a preparation for a larger political role at the national level.



AJAY KUMAR
Senior Journalist,
Lucknow (U.P.)

10 dead as boat capsizes in Yamuna River near Mathura; search on

Search operations are ongoing amid concerns that a dozen passengers may still be unaccounted for.

At least 10 people have died, and several others are feared missing after a boat carrying around 25-30 pilgrims capsized in the Yamuna River near Keshighat in Uttar Pradesh's Mathura on Friday. According to district authorities, panic broke out when the overcrowded vessel overturned close to a pontoon bridge in Vrindavan. Rescue teams, including local police and disaster response units, rushed to the spot and have so far rescued more than 14 people. Search operations are ongoing amid concerns that a dozen passengers may still be unaccounted for. Mathura District Magistrate Chandraprakash Singh termed the incident "very unfortunate," stating that the group had come from Punjab and was visiting the river when the accident occurred. Mathura DIG Shailesh Kumar Pandey said that around 3:15 pm, a boat accident occurred on River Yamuna near a pontoon bridge. According to initial reports, the boat was carrying about 25-27 people. He noted that, based on witness accounts so far, "the boat crashed into the pontoon bridge," which appears to be the primary cause of the accident. So far, 10 bodies have been recovered, while rescue operations are ongoing.

Mahashiviraagni inaugurated at Gorakhpur scouts rally

GORAKHPUR, 10 APRIL 2026:

On the eve of the closing ceremony of the 9th District Rally organized from 7 to 11 April 2026 by the Northeast Railway Bharat Scouts and Guides District Headquarters, Gorakhpur, the Mahashiviraagni program was inaugurated on 10 April 2026 at the Railway Scout Cottage, Gorakhpur by the Chief Guest, General Manager of Northeast Railway and Patron of Northeast Railway Bharat Scouts and Guides, Shri Uday Bhorwankar. The General Manager also visited the camps, craft displays, rangoli, and food plaza exhibitions set up by various district associations. On this occasion, Additional General Manager of Northeast Railway Shri Vinod Kumar Shukla, heads of departments, senior railway officers, office bearers of the district association, railway employees, and their family members were present.

Nayab Singh Saini announces 33% quota at Gurugram hospital

CHANDIGARH: (APR 10)

Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Friday directed officials that 33 per cent each of the 150 MBBS seats and 850 beds should be reserved for students and residents of Haryana at the under-construction Shri Sheetla Mata Devi Medical College and Hospital in Gurugram. He also said the fees for the reserved seats should be fixed in line with other government medical colleges so that students of the state can access affordable and accessible medical education. The chief minister was chairing a meeting of the Cabinet Sub-Committee convened regarding the operation and maintenance of this project under the PPP model, an official statement said.

CHIEF MINISTER YUMNAM KHEMCHAND VISITS SENAPATI BY ROAD

IMPHAL, 10 APRIL, 2026:

VIA KANGPOKPI AFTER ALMOST A GAP OF 3 YEARS SINCE 3RD MAY, 2023 PRAYER AND ONE MINUTE SILENCE FOR THE TWO KIDS DIED IN TRONGLAOBI BLAST

In what could be termed as a significant effort to bring the State back to normalcy, the Chief Minister of Manipur Yumnam Khemchand Singh made his maiden visit to Senapati District via Kangpokpi after almost a gap of 3 years since 3rd May, 2023 after assuming the office of the Chief Minister. He attended the reception ceremony organised by Senapati District Frontal Organisations. During the reception, the Chief Minister was accompanied by Deputy Chief Minister Losii Dikho and MLAs Awangbow Newmai, Tongbram Robindro Singh and J. Kumo Sha. The gathering began with a solemn prayer led by Fr. Dr. William Nepuni, Principal of St. Xavier College, Maram Khunou, honour the two young lives lost in the recent Tronglaobi blast in Bishnupur District. A one-minute silence was observed in memory of the two beautiful kids initiated by Deputy Chief Minister Losii Dikho. Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh hailed the civil society organisations of Senapati, Mao and Kangpokpi for their unwavering support to the Government's initiative to restore peace and normalcy, after the State had been hard hit by the unprecedented conflict. He maintained that his visit to Senapati



district by road today has become possible only with their support and cooperation. The Chief Minister was accorded a warm welcome by the public of Senapati district, led by Naga Peoples' Organisation, Senapati District Women's Association, Senapati District Students' Association, other civil society organisations and Tribal representatives at the Multipurpose Hall in Senapati Headquarters. Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand emphasized the need for balanced and inclusive development across the state, saying that Manipur can not progress unless all districts are developed alongside the capital city Imphal. He advocated that equal development and high per capita income across the state would lead to mutual understanding and

harmony among communities inhabiting in different parts of the state. "The territorial integrity of Manipur has been safeguarding by the 36 different communities inhabited in the State since time immemorial. Thus, Manipur is considered a Mini India" he added. "First we are Indian and then we are Manipuri" he says, continuing that we all should work together as Manipuri and take our state to a new height of development. The Chief Minister recalled the advocacy of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who had envisioned that India can not develop unless North East India is developed. He said that the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DONER) was established during his tenure as Prime Minister. While responding to a memorandum submitted by the

Naga Peoples' Organisation to establish a Medical College in the District, the Chief Minister informed the gathering that he will put up and discuss the matter in the next State Cabinet meeting. On the improvement of the sewerage system in the district, the Chief Minister directed Deputy Chief Minister Losii Dikho, who holds the portfolio of Public Health Engineering, to prepare a DPR for the same. Regarding relocation of the Senapati Police Station, as the current location is congested and people have raised concerns, the Chief Minister further said that the matter will be examined and necessary action will be taken. Regarding the proposal for development of Barak Festival site, Yumnam Khemchand Singh informed that he will consult with the Tourism Department and the concerned stakeholders to chalk out the designs for the development of the festival site as desired. As a part of the reception ceremony, the Chief Minister inaugurated the Multi-Level Parking- Inter State and District Agricultural and Economic Transportation Hub in Senapati Bazar, 10 units of Multi-Purpose Centres (MPCs) under PM-JANMAN in PVTG area of



General Manager of NFR Conducts a Comprehensive Safety Inspection

from Katihar to New Jalpaiguri

MALIGAON, 10 APRIL, 2026:

The General Manager of Northeast Frontier Railway, Shri Chetan Kumar Shrivastava, conducted a comprehensive safety inspection drive from Katihar to New Jalpaiguri recently, covering a wide range of operational and infrastructural aspects. During the onward journey, the General Manager undertook rigorous inspections of critical railway assets in the Katihar-Dankhura and Mukuria-Barsoi sections. These included examination of level crossings, track geometry, gang working, curves, major bridges and Switch Expansion Joints to ensure adherence to safety standards. A detailed inspection of Dalkhola station, point machinery and level crossing infrastructure was also carried out. The inspection drive included a speed trial between Dalkhola and New Jalpaiguri at 110 kmph to evaluate track quality, ride comfort and overall operational readiness of the section. The inspection also covered multiple initiatives related to staff welfare. At Katihar, several improvements were reviewed including enhanced healthcare facilities at the Divisional Railway Hospital, where an upgraded Physiotherapy Centre and advanced dental facilities are now available for railway employees and their dependents. Interactions with representatives of recognised unions and associations were also held, reflecting the administration's continued commitment to staff engagement and welfare. Additionally, several other initiatives such as improvements to the Railway Institute, Community

Hall and Staff Canteen were undertaken to enhance the quality of life and working environment for railway personnel. The Training Room and Model Room at the New Pit Line were also reviewed, aimed at strengthening technical training and capacity building for staff. The General Manager also carried out a detailed inspection of the Crew Lobby to assess passenger amenities and working conditions. As part of promoting sports and recreational activities, developments at Katihar included renovated basketball court at KROC/Katihar and the proposal for a new Cricket Pavilion, marking a significant step towards encouraging sports among railway personnel and local enthusiasts. The visit to the 109 Acre Eco Park also highlighted efforts towards environmental sustainability and recreational infrastructure. In addition, several other initiatives like the commissioning of an 1111 kWp Rooftop Solar Power Plant at Katihar Junction reaffirmed NFR's commitment towards renewable energy and sustainable development. The inspection concluded with the arrival at New Jalpaiguri, marking the successful completion of an intensive and well-coordinated programme. The General Manager expressed satisfaction over the progress of developmental works and emphasized the need for continuous focus on safety, maintenance and passenger-centric services. The visit reinforced Northeast Frontier Railway's commitment towards modernization, infrastructure development and ensuring a safe and efficient railway network for passengers and freight operations alike.

India is a symbol of new growth with 1.20 lakh recognised startups: Haryana Governor Prof Ashim Kumar Ghosh

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 10, 2026:

Haryana Governor Prof Ashim Kumar Ghosh on Friday inaugurated the two-day conference of TiECon Chandigarh-2026 at Hyatt Regency here. Addressing the gathering as Chief Guest, Governor Prof Ghosh said that India's startup ecosystem today stands as a powerful testament to innovation-led growth, with over 1.20 lakh recognised startups generating more than 12 lakh jobs across the country. Appreciating the conference organised to promote entrepreneurship, he congratulated and extended his best wishes to the organisers. He called upon the youth to shift their mindset from seeking jobs to becoming job creators and to embrace innovation in order to contribute to the vision of a 'Viksit Bharat' as envisaged by Prime Minister Shri

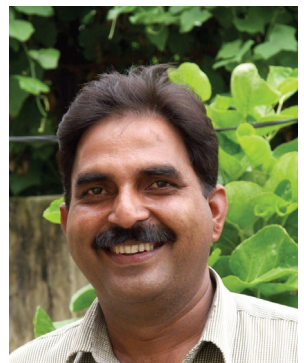


Narendra Modi. Highlighting India's vast middle-class market, Governor Prof Ashim Kumar Ghosh said that there are immense opportunities for young entrepreneurs to innovate using modern technologies to address evolving consumer needs. He added that sectors such as food technology hold tremendous potential for innovation, given the country's abundant availability of raw materials. Expressing pride in Haryana's contribution, Prof Ghosh stated that the state has emerged as a significant player with over 7,000 recognised startups. He praised the Haryana Government's startup policy, describing it as highly conducive for entrepreneurs. He further noted that Gurugram has established itself as a global hub for startups and technology. Referring to TiECon Chandigarh, he said it has become a vital pillar of the innovation and entrepreneurship eco-

system in North India. He also highlighted Panchkula as an emerging growth centre, well-positioned to attract next-generation startups, IT companies and innovation-led investments due to its planned infrastructure, strategic connectivity and proximity to Chandigarh. The Governor expressed satisfaction that TiE Chandigarh is part of the global TiE network spanning over 67 chapters across 23 countries, and is among its most active and impactful chapters. With a strong community of over 450 charter members and entrepreneurs, it has mentored and supported hundreds of startups across Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, and beyond. He noted that flagship initiatives such as TiE Women, TiE University, and TiE Young Entrepreneurs are nurturing talent at all levels, engaging over 300 participants annually and

building a strong foundation for future entrepreneurs. The Governor appreciated the scale of TiECon Chandigarh 2026, which has brought together over 2,000 delegates, more than 50 investors, 80 plus speakers and over 50 startups, calling it a remarkable example of the ecosystem's growth and vibrancy. He emphasised that to realise the vision of India as a developed nation, it is essential to further strengthen this ecosystem through collaboration, innovation, and inclusivity. Among those present on the occasion were Lady Governor Smt Mitra Ghosh, TiE Chandigarh President Puneet Verma, former President Murali Bukkapatnam, Brahm Alreja, Ravi Sharma, Vishal Kedia, Sumedh Sachdeva, Ashu Sharma, Ritika Singh, Pooja Nayyar, JB Singh, Ajay Tiwari, Hirdesh Madan, Satish K Aroa, Harit Mohan and several other distinguished guests.

BJP's Masterstroke in West Bengal: UCC in Six Months and ₹3,000 Monthly for Women



SANJAY SAXENA, LUCKNOW

The Bharatiya Janata Party has released its manifesto for the upcoming West Bengal Assembly elections, placing the issue of fear versus trust at the center and calling for a major political shift in the state. The most prominent and impactful promise in this manifesto is the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) within just six months of forming the government. This move is expected to compel Trinamool leader and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to clearly state her party's position on the issue. If she opposes it, Hindu

voters may move away from her, and if she supports it, Muslim voters could distance themselves. Alongside this, the BJP has announced a monthly financial assistance of ₹3,000 for every woman to economically empower them, a move widely seen as a political masterstroke in the current state scenario. Through this manifesto, the BJP has attempted to convey that it aims to end appeasement politics in Bengal and usher in a new era of rule of law and comprehensive development. The document outlines several promises based on Bengal's identity, security, and prosperity, aiming to touch every section of society. The promise of implementing the Uniform Civil Code is not only a significant step toward social equality but is also viewed as a reflection of the BJP's ideological commitment. Additionally, prioritizing women's safety and empowerment, the party has proposed a larger financial support scheme of ₹3,000 per month, positioned as an

answer to existing schemes like Lakshmi Bhandar, with the aim of making women self-reliant. In the education sector, the BJP has promised to make the Bengali language mandatory from primary to higher education and to make technical courses available in the local language, thereby strengthening Bengal's cultural identity. Special provisions have also been made for the agricultural sector, including increased annual financial assistance for farmers and guarantees for fair prices for crops. Furthermore, to generate employment opportunities for youth, the party has outlined plans to boost industrial investment in the state and revive closed jute mills. The manifesto also emphasizes a zero-tolerance policy against corruption, promising transparency in government recruitments and the formation of a special commission to investigate recruitment scams. To improve healthcare services, the manifesto promises the immediate implementation of the Ay-

ushman Bharat scheme, enabling poor families to receive free medical treatment up to ₹5 lakh. Addressing the issue of infiltration in border areas and strengthening security arrangements, the party has pledged to deploy modern technology and additional security forces. To promote tourism and culture, plans have been proposed for the development of Shakti Peeths and the beautification of religious tourism centers. The BJP has also assured special financial packages for the welfare of fishing communities and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, along with ensuring that reservation benefits reach the grassroots level. Emphasis has also been placed on infrastructure development, including new roads, bridges, and urban facilities, with the aim of making Bengal an attractive destination for investment. To improve law and order, the party has promised modernization of the police force and the complete elimination of political violence, assuring citizens

of a fear-free environment. The manifesto specifically mentions increasing wages for tea garden workers and improving their living standards through special housing schemes. It also includes plans for environmental protection and the development of ecologically sensitive regions such as the Sundarbans through a dedicated action plan. Through this manifesto, the BJP has made it clear that its goal is not merely a change of power but a transformation of governance. The acceleration of the Jal Jeevan Mission to provide clean drinking water to every household and the improvement of internet connectivity in villages have also been included as commitments. Overall, the BJP's manifesto envisions a Bengal where development reaches the last person and where cultural pride goes hand in hand with economic progress. This manifesto is likely to serve as a key ideological tool for the party in the upcoming elections, presenting voters with a clear blueprint for the future.

Bhagwant Mann condoles UP boat accident that killed 10, mostly from Punjab

The accident occurred in Mathura when an overcrowded boat carrying around 25-30 pilgrims, most of whom were from Punjab, overturned close to a pontoon bridge on the Yamuna River.



Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Friday expressed deep sorrow over a tragic boat capsizing in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh, which claimed at least 10 lives, most of them pilgrims from Punjab. Reacting to the incident on X, Mann said, "Today, a boat carrying residents of Jagraon city for darshan in Vrindavan capsized in the Yamuna River near Mathura while carrying 32 people. It is with great sorrow that I must inform you that some devotees have died by drowning. I am in contact with the Uttar Pradesh government. Remaining details will be shared later." "I spoke with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi regarding the Mathura boat accident. Every possible assistance will be provided to the victims," he added. The accident occurred near Keshighat in Vrindavan when an overcrowded boat carrying around 25-30 pilgrims overturned close to a pontoon bridge on the Yamuna River. Panic reportedly broke

out after the vessel collided with the structure, leading to it to capsize. District authorities confirmed that at least 10 bodies have been recovered so far, while more than 14 passengers have been rescued. However, several people are still feared missing, and search operations are ongoing. Mathura District Magistrate Chandraprakash Singh described the incident as "very unfortunate," noting that the victims were visiting the river during their pilgrimage. DIG Shailesh Kumar Pandey said the accident took place around 3:15 pm and preliminary accounts suggest the boat struck the pontoon bridge. Rescue efforts involving local police, fire services, divers, and boatmen are underway, with teams from the National Disaster Response Force and the State Disaster Response Force joining operations.

Lebanon alleges ceasefire breach after Israel bombs towns, Hezbollah retaliates

Hezbollah described the strike as being carried out "in defence of Lebanon and its people," alleging it was a response to repeated Israeli violations of the ceasefire and continued attacks on southern Lebanese villages.



High-stakes talks aimed at ending the wider West Asia conflict. Just a day earlier, US President Donald Trump said he had personally urged Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to scale back strikes on Lebanon, signalling concern over rising tensions. Netanyahu, however, indicated a parallel diplomatic push, saying that Israel would begin negotiations with Lebanon "as soon as possible," with a focus on disarming Hezbollah and working towards a comprehensive peace agreement. The developments highlight growing strain on the already tenuous ceasefire framework between Washington and Tehran.

A major sticking point remains whether Lebanon falls within the scope of the truce—while Trump and Netanyahu maintain it does not, Iran has insisted that it does.

Tensions escalated along the Israel-Lebanon border today after Lebanon accused Israel of breaching a ceasefire by carrying out airstrikes on towns in the country's south, prompting a retaliatory response from Hezbollah. In a statement, the Iran-backed Lebanese militant group said it launched a rocket attack targeting the Israeli settlement of Misgav Am at around 8 am. Hezbollah described the strike as being carried out "in defence of Lebanon and its people,"

alleging it was a response to repeated Israeli violations of the ceasefire and continued attacks on southern Lebanese villages. Hezbollah further claimed that this was its second strike on the same target and warned that it would continue operations as long as Israeli actions against Lebanon persist. There was no immediate official response from Israel on the claims. Meanwhile, a senior Lebanese official has said that a ceasefire

remains a precondition for any further negotiations, indicating Beirut's firm stance amid rising tensions. Speaking to Reuters, the official added that Lebanon intends to participate in a meeting in Washington next week, where discussions are expected to focus on finalising and formally announcing a ceasefire. The latest escalation comes as the US struggles to hold together the fragile two-week ceasefire with Iran ahead of

Iran demands Lebanon ceasefire, blocked assets release before talks with US begin

Iran will not enter negotiations until key preconditions are met, Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Ghalibaf said on Friday, insisting that a ceasefire in Lebanon and the release of Tehran's blocked assets must come first.



In a post on X, Qalibaf made clear that talks cannot proceed without prior commitments being honoured. "Two of the measures mutually agreed upon between the parties have yet to be implemented: a ceasefire in Lebanon and the release of Iran's blocked assets prior to the commencement of negotiations," he wrote.

"These two matters must be fulfilled before negotiations begin," he added, underscoring Iran's hardened stance as diplomatic efforts gather pace. Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas

Aragchi also said the United States must adhere to its commitments, including ensuring that Lebanon is part of the ceasefire and halting Israeli attacks on the country. According to state media, Araghchi stressed that the terms of the agreement are clear and warned that continued Israeli operations against Lebanon risk undermining the broader ceasefire framework. Iran has been unable to obtain tens of billions of dollars of its assets

in foreign banks, mainly from exports of oil and gas, due to US sanctions on its banking and energy sectors. **VANCE HEADS TO PAK FOR TALKS** Ghalibaf's statement comes as US Vice President JD Vance leaves for Islamabad for the peace talks on Friday. Before heading to Pakistan, Vance warned Iran not to "play" the US. President Donald Trump has tasked the member of his inner circle who has seemed to

be the most reluctant defender of the 6-week-old conflict with Iran to now find a resolution and stave off the US president's astonishing threat to wipe out its "whole civilisation." Vance, who has long been sceptical of foreign military interventions and outspoken about the prospect of sending troops into open-ended conflicts, set off Friday to lead mediated talks with Iran in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad. Boarding Air Force Two on his way to Pakistan, the vice president said, "We're looking forward to the negotiations. I think it's going to be positive. We'll of course see." He cited Trump in saying, "If the Iranians are willing to negotiate in good faith, we're certainly willing to extend the open hand." But he added, "If they're gonna try and play us, then they're going to find that the negotiating team is not that receptive."

UK offers multimillion-pound grant for Tata Agratas to build battery gigafactory

BY ADITI KHANNA
LONDON: (Apr 10) Agratas, Tata Group's global battery business, will receive a grant worth 380 million pounds to build one of the largest gigafactories in Europe in south-west England, the UK government has said. UK Business Secretary Peter Kyle announced the investment during a visit on Thursday to the company's Somerset site, which will support 4,200 direct jobs and thousands more in the supply chain. The project will also unlock 300 apprenticeships backed by a specialised battery manufacturing training unit to meet the specialist skills needs of the company's gigafactory and the wider battery sector.

China won't tolerate independence: Xi Jinping to Taiwan opposition leader

Cheng Li-wun, chairwoman of Taiwan's largest opposition party, the Kuomintang, is in China on what she has called a peace mission to reduce tensions at a time when Beijing has stepped up military pressure against the island it claims as its territory.



China will "absolutely not tolerate" independence for Taiwan, which is the chief culprit in undermining peace in the Taiwan Strait, President Xi Jinping told the island's opposition leader on Friday, calling for efforts to advance "reunification". Cheng Li-wun, chairwoman of Taiwan's largest opposition party, the Kuomintang (KMT), is in China on what she has called a peace mission to reduce tensions at a time when Beijing has stepped up military pressure against the

island it claims as its territory. Meeting in the Great Hall of the People, Xi told Cheng that today's world is not entirely at peace, and peace is precious. "Compatriots on both sides of the strait are all Chinese people of one family who want peace, development, exchange, and cooperation," he said, in comments carried by Taiwan television stations. Both sides of the strait belong to "one China," Xi added, according to a separate state media read out. "When the family is harmonious, all things

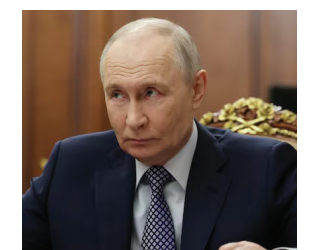
will prosper," he said. "Taiwan independence is the chief culprit in undermining peace in the Taiwan Strait — we will absolutely not tolerate or condone it." Xi also mentioned the thorny subject of union between China and Taiwan, which has long been Beijing's goal but which Taiwan's government rejects. "The KMT and Communist Party must consolidate political mutual trust, maintain positive interaction, unite compatriots on both sides of the strait, and join hands to cre-

ate a bright future of the motherland's reunification and national rejuvenation," he said. China refuses to talk to Taiwan President Lai Ching-te, saying he is a "separatist". Lai's administration has called on Cheng to tell China to stop its threats, and says Beijing should engage with the democratically elected government in Taipei. Speaking to reporters in Taipei on Friday, Hsu Kuo-yung, general secretary of Taiwan's ruling Democratic Progressive Party, criticised the KMT for continuing to stall parliamentary approval for defence spending while Cheng is in China. "Are you trying to give some kind of grand gift to Xi Jinping?" Hsu said. **'CHESSBOARD'** The KMT once ruled all of China until the Republic of China government it fled to Taiwan in 1949 after losing a civil war with Mao Zedong's communists, who founded the People's Republic of

China. No peace treaty or armistice has ever been signed and to this day neither government formally recognises the other. Cheng told Xi that mutually beneficial cross-strait relations are what the public on both sides longs for, and that interactions and exchanges should be reciprocal. "I, Li-wun, sincerely hope that one day in the future, I will have the opportunity to be the host and welcome General Secretary Xi and all of you here present in Taiwan," she added, using Xi's title as head of the communist party. Cheng said she hoped that through the efforts of both parties, the Taiwan Strait will no longer be a focal point of potential conflict, and will certainly not become a "chessboard for outside forces to intervene in." Both sides of the strait should further plan and build institutionalised and sustainable mechanisms for dialogue and cooperation, she added.

Putin declares 2-day ceasefire on Orthodox Easter, directs Kyiv to follow

Russia has ordered troops to pause operations while staying on alert for provocations, with Ukraine yet to respond despite earlier calls for a truce amid ongoing attacks.



In connection with the approaching holiday of Orthodox Easter, a ceasefire is declared from 1600 on 11th April to the end of the day of 12th April," the Kremlin announcement said. "We proceed on the basis that the Ukrainian side will follow the example of the Russian Federation." The announcement said Defence Minister Andrii Bohuslavskyy had issued an order to Russia's top commander, Chief of the General Staff Valery Gerasimov, "to stop for this period military action in all directions."

"Troops are to be ready to eliminate all possible provocations by the enemy as well as any aggressive actions". There was no immediate reaction from Ukraine. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has for more than a week proposed an Easter ceasefire and, citing air attacks on Ukrainian cities, said Moscow had responded with drones. According to the calendar of the Orthodox faith, dominant in both Russia and Ukraine, Easter falls this year on April 12.

₹1,800 crore US drone missing in Strait of Hormuz mission

The US is likely to have lost its most expensive surveillance drone, the MQ-4C Triton, during a secret mission over the Strait of Hormuz, which remains largely blocked by Iran despite a two-week ceasefire agreement with the US. According to open-source flight monitoring accounts, the MQ-4C Triton, which costs a whopping \$200 million (Rs 1,856 crore), vanished from tracking systems after declaring an emergency. It is not known if the drone crashed or was shot down by Iran. If confirmed, it would be the first known loss of an MQ-4C Triton, which was inducted

in 2018, in combat. It will only add to the US's air asset losses in the Iran conflict. Apart from an F-15E and an A-10 Warthog aircraft, which were downed on April 3, several US aircraft were hit by Iran. Three F-15E Strike Eagles were also downed in friendly fire over Kuwait in March. The US also lost 17 MQ-9 Reaper drones, making it an expensive military campaign for the US. The loss of the MQ-4C Triton will only add to Trump's war bill. Flight tracking data showed the drone, which was returning to its base in Italy's Sigonella (jointly operated with the US) after a three-hour



mission, descended rapidly before disappearing. Data shows it fell from 50,000 feet to below 10,000 feet within seconds. Tracking data shows that the MQ-4C Triton, one of the most advanced and expensive unmanned surveillance aircraft, crossed into Saudi Arabian airspace before making a sudden

turn towards Iran. Before vanishing from radar, the drone broadcast the code 7700 - an in-flight emergency signal. However, it does not offer any indication of what the "emergency" might be. It is also not clear what the surveillance aircraft was doing over Hormuz, the vital energy chokepoint through which 20% of the world's oil and gas passes. Since the war began, Iran has blocked the waterway at the mouth of the Persian Gulf, halting crucial oil supplies and thereby holding the global economy hostage. Iran was supposed to reopen Hormuz after a cease-

fire deal was reached with the US on April 8. However, only a handful of ships have crossed the corridor in 48 hours, with Iran still maintaining a chokehold, citing Israel's strikes in Lebanon. Over the past month, the drone has been deployed by the US Navy for monitoring activity in and around the Persian Gulf. A day before the ceasefire deal, on April 7, the drone was seen circling over Kharg Island, Iran's critical oil hub. It was around the time that speculation was rife of a US ground invasion or punitive strikes on energy facilities in Kharg. Last week, the MQ-4C Triton took

part in a combat search and rescue (CSAR) mission after Iran shot down an F-15E Strike Eagle. However, both the pilot and the weapons-system officer (WSO) had ejected. They were eventually rescued in a mega US operation deep inside Iran. It must be remembered that the MQ-4C Triton is not just any UAV. Developed by Northrop Grumman, the drone is built for maritime intelligence and surveillance for longer stretches. It can operate for more than 24 hours at a stretch. This makes it ideal for monitoring vast and critical chokepoints such as the Strait of Hormuz.

Trump says oil will flow quickly, with or without Iran amid Hormuz tensions

Trump says oil will flow with or without Iran, warns Tehran against tanker fees in Hormuz, claims victory, and attacks critics, offering no details as tensions around the vital route persist.



In a post on Truth Social, Trump asserted that "very quickly, you'll see Oil start flowing, with or without the help of Iran and, to me, it makes no difference, either way," suggesting confidence in restoring or maintaining supply flows despite uncertainty around Tehran's role.

ing a decisive outcome and rejecting criticism from The Wall Street Journal. "Actually, it is a Victory, and there's nothing 'premature' about it!" he said, adding that the newspaper would "live to eat their words." "They are always quick to criticize, but never to admit when they're wrong, which is most of the time," he wrote. He further declared that "because of me, IRAN WILL NEVER HAVE A NUCLEAR WEAPON," framing the current moment as a strategic success while signalling that oil market stability would follow. The statements did not clarify whether the expected oil flows would involve diplomatic breakthroughs, military deterrence, or alternative supply arrangements. Energy markets have remained sensitive to any disruption in Hormuz, through which a significant share of the world's crude exports passes daily. While Trump's comments project confidence, analysts note that any sustained shift in oil flows in the region would depend heavily on developments involving Iran and maritime security in the Gulf. The United States and Israel launched strikes on Iran on February 28, prompting Tehran to retaliate with attacks on Israel and Gulf states hosting US bases. The conflict has driven up oil prices and unsettled global markets. Strikes involving Israel and Iran, along with Israeli attacks in Lebanon, have resulted in thousands of deaths and widespread displacement.

The remarks come amid heightened focus on the Strait of Hormuz, a critical chokepoint for global oil shipments. Rising tensions in the Middle East have disrupted energy markets and raised concerns over global supply stability. Trump, in a separate post, also warned against reports that Iran could impose charges on tankers passing through the route. Reports have indicated that Iran may seek to impose transit fees on vessels moving through the Strait of Hormuz. However, Western leaders have rejected the idea, opposing any requirement for ships to pay such charges. Iran will require ships to pay transit tolls in cryptocurrency to maintain control over the Strait of Hormuz during a two-week ceasefire with the United States, the Financial Times reported, citing Hamid Hosseini, a spokesperson for Iran's Oil, Gas and Petrochemical Products Exporters' Union. "There are reports that Iran is charging fees to tankers going through the Hormuz Strait — They better not be and, if they are, they better stop now!" he wrote. Trump paired the warning with a broader defence of his Iran policy, claim-

JD Vance heads to Pak for peace talks, warns Iran against trying to play US

US Vice President JD Vance departed for Pakistan on Friday to lead a high-level American delegation aimed at initiating peace talks with Iran, expressing measured optimism ahead of a potentially defining diplomatic moment.

ly willing to extend the open hand. If they are not then they are going to find that the negotiating team is not that receptive. We are trying to have some positive negotiations," he stressed. The visit to Islamabad represents one of the most significant engagements between Washington and Tehran in decades. Vance is spearheading discussions that could influence not only a fragile ceasefire but also the broader stability of the region. He further noted that Donald Trump has set clear expectations for the talks. "The president has given us some pretty clear guidelines, and we'll see how it goes," Vance said. The delegation also includes senior figures such as Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, highlighting the importance Washington places on these negotiations. The White House has offered limited clarity on the structure



of the upcoming talks, leaving open whether discussions between the US and Iran will be direct or indirect, and declining to outline firm expectations. Still, the arrival of JD Vance in Islamabad signals a rare and significant moment of high-level engagement between Washington and Tehran. Such contact has been scarce since the Iranian Revolution, with one notable exception when Barack Obama spoke by phone with Hassan

Rouhani in 2013. Despite the diplomatic opening, tensions remain high. Shortly after both sides announced a temporary ceasefire, disagreements surfaced. Iran insisted that halting the Israeli war in Lebanon was part of the deal, while Benjamin Netanyahu and Donald Trump rejected that interpretation, maintaining that operations in Lebanon would continue. Meanwhile, Washington pressed Iran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz,

which Tehran had closed amid escalating conflict involving Hezbollah. Trump criticised Iran's compliance, saying it was "doing a very poor job" and warning, "That is not the agreement we have!" Administration officials, including spokeswoman Anna Kelly, emphasised coordination among key figures such as Steve Witkoff, Jared Kushner, and Marco Rubio. Kelly underscored optimism about a breakthrough, stating, "President Trump has a proven track record of achieving good deals on behalf of the United States and the American people, and he will only accept one that puts America first." **VANCE ASSUMES CENTRAL DIPLOMATIC ROLE** For JD Vance, the talks represent a defining and high-stakes moment. Once seen as a background figure in the Trump administration, he is now taking on a central dip-

lomatic role despite limited experience. Having served in the Iraq War and spent a relatively short time in national office, his leadership of such sensitive negotiations has drawn scrutiny. Addressing speculation about Iran's role in his involvement, Vance said, "I don't know that. I would be surprised if that was true. But, you know, I wanted to be involved because I thought I could make a difference". Experts note the unusual nature of his assignment. As legal scholar Joel Goldstein observed, "I don't recall a situation where a vice president has been sent to negotiate a ceasefire or peace in connection with a war the United States was involved with". Analysts also suggest that Vance's comparatively cautious stance on foreign intervention may make him a more acceptable interlocutor for Iran.

Markets Recover 1% as Financials Shine



MUMBAI, APRIL 10

Indian equity benchmarks rebounded sharply on Friday, April 10, 2026, with the BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty rising over 1% each, driven by strong buying in banking and financial stocks amid supportive global cues.

The 30-share Sensex surged 918.60 points, or 1.20%, to close at 77,550.25, after touching an intraday high of 77,622.50. Similarly, the 50-share Nifty advanced 275.50 points, or 1.16%, to settle at 24,050.60. Market sentiment improved on optimism surrounding potential easing of tensions in West Asia ahead of upcoming U.S.-Iran negotiations, along with softer crude oil prices. Analysts noted that global markets also remained firm, lending further support to domestic equities.

Gains were led by banking, auto, and financial stocks. Among Sensex constituents, major winners included ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, State Bank of India, Mahindra & Mahindra, Asian Paints, and InterGlobe Aviation.

On the flip side, IT and pharma stocks witnessed profit booking, with laggards

including Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services, Tech Mahindra, HCL Technologies, and Sun Pharmaceutical Industries.

Global markets mirrored the positive trend. Key Asian indices such as Japan's Nikkei 225, South Korea's Kospi, China's SSE Composite Index, and Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index ended higher, while European markets were also trading in the green. U.S. markets had closed on a positive note in the previous session.

According to market experts, investors remained cautiously optimistic, factoring in possible geopolitical developments while maintaining a bullish undertone.

Meanwhile, Brent crude oil rose 0.5% to \$96.47 per barrel. On the institutional front, Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) sold equities worth ₹1,711.19 crore on April 9, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) offset some of the outflows with purchases worth ₹955.90 crore.

The sharp rebound follows Thursday's decline, when the Sensex had dropped 931.25 points to 76,631.65 and the Nifty had fallen 222.25 points to 23,775.10.

IMF to cut global growth forecast due to W.Asia conflict

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) will lower global growth forecasts due to West Asia war, its chief said on Thursday (April 9, 2026), warning of the conflict's "scarring effects" despite a fragile ceasefire.

"Even in a best case, there will be no neat and clean return to the status quo ante," IMF managing director Kristalina Georgieva said.

Ms. Georgieva said that — even in the fund's "most hopeful scenario" — spiraling energy costs, infrastructure damage, supply disruptions and a loss of market confidence meant growth would be less than expected. The IMF also anticipates having to provide up to \$50 billion in immediate financial assistance to countries affected by the war, with food insecurity set to affect at least 45 million people.

"Given the spillovers from the war, we expect near-term demand for IMF balance-of-payments support to rise by somewhere between \$20 billion and \$50 billion, with the lower bound prevailing if cease-fire holds," Georgieva said.

The IMF chief was kicking off the annual Spring Meetings co-hosted by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in Washington, which bring together top economic policymakers from around the world.

Speaking on Bloomberg TV on Thursday, World Bank President Ajay Banga said his institution could put up as much as \$25 billion "very quickly" in fi-



nancing to developing countries affected by the war. He said as much as \$60 billion may be made available over the longer term, if countries need it. The U.S.-Iran war on Iran, launched on February 28, has engulfed the Middle East in violence, snarled supply chains and sent oil prices surging after Tehran virtually blocked the Strait of Hormuz.

Tehran and Washington have traded accusations of violations of the ceasefire terms, with talks aimed at a more durable peace slated for Saturday.

Ms. Georgieva highlighted the "asymmetric" effects of the crisis, hitting low-income energy importers much harder than others.

"Spare a thought for the Pacific Island nations at the end of a long supply chain, wondering if fuel still reaches them in the wake of such a severe disruption," she said.

Global inflation

on Wednesday (April 8), the World Bank said the West Asia — which has seen

retaliatory Iranian strikes hit countries across the Gulf and Israeli attacks in Lebanon — saw "a serious and immediate economic toll" from the war.

Excluding Iran, overall regional economic growth was expected to slow to just 1.8% in 2026 — a downgrade of 2.4 percentage points from before the war, the Bank said.

The IMF is also expected to revise global headline inflation upwards due to the oil price and supply chain shocks associated with the war.

On Wednesday the heads of the IMF, World Bank and World Food Programme (WFP) met in Washington to discuss the economic and food security impacts of the conflict.

"Sharp increases in oil, gas, and fertilizer prices, together with transport bottlenecks, will inevitably lead to rising food prices and food insecurity," said a joint statement on the meeting.

The IMF and World Bank

have also formed a coordination group to address the energy market impacts of the war. A top-level meeting of that body will take place on Monday.

As part of the meetings, the IMF will release its annual Fiscal Monitor report, which is expected to flag rising government debt as countries tackle repeated economic shocks.

In a new report this week, the IMF detailed the economic costs of war, estimating that output in countries where fighting takes place drops by three percent at the outset, "and continues falling for years."

An earlier report on the Iran war said "all roads lead to higher prices and slower growth," and highlighted the impact of a severely disrupted fertilizer supply chain on food security.

"Low-income countries are especially at risk of food insecurity; some may need more external support -- even as such assistance has been declining," the report said.

BMW India Accelerates to Record Q1 with EV Boom

Gurugram: BMW Group India has reported its highest-ever first-quarter sales, delivering 4,567 cars in Q1 2026, marking a 17% year-on-year growth despite challenging market conditions.

The company maintained steady momentum throughout the quarter, with each month registering record-breaking sales. According to Hardeep Singh Brar, President and CEO, the strong performance reflects growing customer confidence and the brand's expanding product portfolio.

BMW Group India also retained its leadership in the luxury electric vehicle segment, selling 1,185 EVs across BMW and MINI

Convertible, and Countryman models.

Meanwhile, BMW Motorrad sold 1,216 motorcycles during the quarter, with key models such as the G 310 RR and S 1000 RR contributing significantly to demand.

Looking ahead, BMW Group India plans an aggressive product rollout in 2026, with 27 new launches across its brands, including new-generation models, facelifts, and limited editions. Four products have already been introduced in Q1, with more expected in the coming months.

The company is also expanding its retail footprint under its Retail.NEXT initiative, aiming to enhance



brands—a sharp 83% increase over the same period last year. Electric vehicles now account for 26% of the company's total sales, with a dominant market share of over 70% in India's luxury EV segment.

The company's long wheelbase models continued to see robust demand, contributing over half of total sales with a 23% growth, while Sports Activity Vehicles (SAVs) surged 38% to account for 65% of overall sales. MINI recorded strong growth as well, delivering 213 units in Q1, up 42% year-on-year, driven by rising demand for its Hatch,

customer experience with modernized showrooms. It currently operates 97 touch-points across 40 cities and plans to add 19 more outlets in 2026.

In addition, BMW Group India continues to strengthen customer engagement through curated events and ownership experiences, alongside expanding its EV ecosystem, which now includes access to over 6,000 charging points nationwide.

With strong sales momentum, a growing EV portfolio, and an ambitious product strategy, BMW Group India is poised for continued growth in 2026.

KIKO Milano Expands India Footprint with New Hyderabad Store

HYDERABAD, APRIL 10

KIKO Milano has strengthened its presence in India with the launch of a new store at Lake Shore Y Junction in Hyderabad, marking another step in its rapid expansion across key markets.

Backed by Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd, the Italian beauty brand has been steadily growing its footprint in the country. The Hyderabad outlet follows its entry into South India through Kochi and adds to its presence in cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, Pune and Lucknow.

The newly opened store is designed as an interactive



beauty space, offering customers an immersive, discovery-led retail experience. It features a wide product range

tailored to Indian skin tones and preferences, allowing shoppers to explore and experiment with trend-driven

makeup formulations.

Among the highlights are some of the brand's global bestsellers, including the 3D Hydra Lipgloss, Unlimited Double Touch Lipstick, Maxi Mod Mascara and the Scent of Milan fragrance collection.

The launch also reinforces KIKO Milano's omni-channel strategy in India, with products available through select Tira outlets and its online platform.

With this expansion, KIKO Milano aims to tap into India's growing demand for premium beauty products while delivering globally inspired innovations through enhanced retail experiences.

Olectra Greentech Unveils New Brand Identity, Adopts Tagline "Transforming Everyday"

HYDERABAD, APRIL 10

Olectra Greentech Limited on Thursday announced a refreshed brand identity as part of its strategic transformation from an electric bus manufacturer into an integrated mobility and energy solutions provider.

The new identity reflects the company's long-term vision of leading the global transition toward sustainable, value-driven mobility. Alongside the rebranding, the company has introduced a new tagline—"Transforming Everyday"—signalling its focus on enhancing everyday mobility,



empowering communities, and strengthening its ecosystem partnerships.

The updated brand framework is built on three core pillars: Pragmatic Futurism, Accessible Innovation, and Trusted Guide. These principles are intended to guide the company's approach to product development and market engagement, with an emphasis on scalable and real-world applicable innovation.

The visual identity has also been reinterpreted, featuring the "Olectra Prism," representing structural integrity and direction, and the "Olectra Universe," symbolising the broader ecosystem of stakeholders, cities, and infrastructure the company serves.

Commenting on the development, Mahesh Babu said the rebranding goes beyond a visual change and aligns the company's strategy, mindset,

and future direction.

He added that the company is transitioning from a pioneering electric bus manufacturer to a future-ready organisation delivering integrated mobility and energy solutions, while maintaining a strong focus on sustainability and innovation.

The company noted that with strong manufacturing capabilities, an expanding order pipeline from government contracts, and a growing portfolio that includes electric buses, trucks, and tippers, it is well-positioned for its next phase of growth in the electric mobility sector.

Vantara Launches Global Wildlife University

Envisioned as a modern day Gurukul and purpose-led university, the varsity aims to position India as a global hub for wildlife and veterinary education

JAMNAGAR 10 APRIL

Vantara, the global wildlife conservation organisation founded by Reliance Industries Executive Director Anant Ambani, has announced the launch of Vantara University in Jamnagar, Gujarat. It is the world's first integrated global university dedicated to wildlife conservation and veterinary sciences.

Vantara University is rooted in animal welfare, scientific advancement, and the future of wildlife conservation. The institution aims to develop future leaders in veterinary medicine, conservation, and wildlife care. Its curriculum will utilise India's enduring knowledge traditions to shape a purpose-led and future-facing model of education.

"The future of conservation will depend on how we prepare minds and institutions to serve life with compassion, knowledge, and skill. Vantara University is shaped by a deeply personal journey of witnessing animals in distress and recognising the need for greater capability in their care. Inspired by the

ethos of the ancient Nalanda University, and the spirit of Ā no bhadrā kratavo yantu viśvata, which means let noble thoughts come to us from all directions, the university seeks to nurture a new generation committed to protecting every life," Anant Ambani said.

Reflecting this ethos in the ceremonial setting, two Bijoliya sandstones were incorporated into the design of the foundation venue. Drawn from the ancient Vindhyan formation, the same geological foundation associated with ancient Nalanda in present day Bihar, these stones symbolised India's enduring legacy of knowledge and learning.

The foundation ceremony, conducted in accordance with Hindu traditions, brought together representatives from academia, science, conservation, and public life, including Anant Ambani's teachers and mentors. A central element of the event was the ritual placement of soil, water, and stones as a symbolic act of laying the foundation, with these elements collected from biodiversity-rich landscapes across India, spanning grasslands, forests, wetlands, arid ecosystems,



and Himalayan and other high-altitude habitats across the northern, southern, eastern, western, and central parts of the country, symbolising India's ecological richness and the vision of building the university on the foundation of the na-

tion's natural heritage. Vantara University will unite diverse disciplines within a single academic ecosystem, rooted in real-world conservation practices. Drawing on Vantara's on-ground expertise, the university will

translate field knowledge into academic programmes, professional training, and globally relevant frameworks. By mixing compassion, science, and conservation, it will mould professionals to address complex and evolving challenges in wildlife and ecosystem health.

The university will offer undergraduate, postgraduate, fellowship, and specialised programmes across disciplines. These include wildlife medicine and surgery, nutrition, behavioural sciences, genetics, epidemiology, One Health, conservation policy, and naturalistic animal care environment design. Organised into specialised colleges aligned with Vantara's operational capabilities, the university will also offer scholarships to support students from socially and economically marginalised backgrounds.

Vantara University will be supported by advanced academic and clinical infrastructure, international collaborations, and a residential campus. It will focus on action-oriented research to strengthen animal welfare and advanced conservation practice. The educational model will

integrate in situ and ex situ conservation, linking natural habitats with scientific care and long-term wildlife welfare and management.

Recognising that the future of conservation will be built in classrooms, laboratories, and human conscience, as well as in forests, the university aims to advance wildlife veterinary sciences and conservation education. It will simultaneously develop knowledge resources in wildlife health, animal care environment design, and conservation, serving as a long-term platform for education, research, and innovation. The foundation ceremony marked the start of a broader national effort to advance compassionate conservation education. This included the announcement of 'Vantara University Founding Fellows' and 'Every Life Matters' scholarships, alongside a call to use knowledge not only for progress, but for protection. In its stated vision, Vantara University is positioned as more than an academic platform. It reflects the view that the wild requires not only admiration, but also knowledge, systems, and trained hands.

Hyderabad real estate: Housing prices jump 81% since 2019, even as home sizes shrink

Hyderabad housing prices jump 81% since 2019 as sizes shrink; premium homes dominate supply, pushing buyers to resale and emerging corridors for affordability

Hyderabad's housing market has surged sharply over the past six years, with average home prices rising 81% between 2019 and 2025 to ₹8,326 per sq ft, according to NoBroker. This makes it the second-fastest growing market after Gurugram, which topped the list with an 85% increase. As new launches become increasingly expensive, the report notes that buyers are shifting toward the resale segment, which continues to offer relatively affordable options and a broader price range.

Hyderabad home prices rose 81% since 2019 to ₹8,326 per sq ft, second only to Gurugram's 85% surge, according to NoBroker. (Picture for representational purposes only) (Pexels)

Hyderabad home prices rose 81% since 2019 to ₹8,326 per sq ft, second only to Gurugram's 85% surge, according to NoBroker. (Picture for representational purposes only) (Pexels)

However, even as prices surged, home sizes have shrunk. In Hyderabad, the average apartment size declined by about 4%, from 1,068 sq ft to 1,025 sq ft, reflecting a 'shrinkflation' across major cities.

The sharp price rise has impacted affordability, with nearly 84% of homebuyers in Hyderabad feeling priced out of the sub- ₹1 crore segment, the report noted.

"This is largely due to a structural shift in supply. Developers are increasingly focusing on premium and luxury housing, driven by higher margins and rising land costs. As a result, supply in the affordable and mid-income segments has shrunk, even as demand in these categories continues to rise," the report said.

"Demand remains strongest in the entry-level segment even as new supply is migrating up the price curve," the report said, highlighting a widening mismatch between what buyers want and what is being built.

Demand shifts to resale, key micro-markets gain traction

With new launches becoming increasingly expensive, NoBroker said that buyers are turning to the resale market, which continues to offer relatively affordable options and a wider price mix. The resale segment has maintained a more balanced distribution across price categories, catering to first-time buyers and mid-income households.

Within the city, areas such as Kukatpally, Miyapur, Kondapur, Manikonda, and Kokapet have emerged as demand hotspots, driven by a mix of infrastructure upgrades, metro connectivity, and proximity to employment hubs.



Interestingly, Hyderabad also stands out for its unique buyer preference trends. Unlike other cities, standalone properties command higher per-square-foot prices than gated communities in some areas, indicating that buyers prioritise location and connectivity over amenities, NoBroker said.

The Western corridor leads the housing real estate segment

NoBroker said that the western corridor, anchored by the Financial District, accounted for about 25% of new supply, reinforcing its position as the city's premium housing hub. Areas such as Tellapur, Kokapet, Neopolis, Narsingi and Rajendra Nagar are witnessing over 20% year-on-year growth, as development spills over from saturated IT micro-markets like Madhapur, Kondapur and Gachibowli. With limited land availability in core hubs, both developers and buyers are shifting toward these western extensions, where larger land parcels and luxury-led projects are driving the next phase of growth. The premiumisation trend

here is comparable to the trajectory seen in Jubilee Hills and Banjara Hills a decade ago.

"South Hyderabad, led by the airport corridor, has emerged as the largest contributor, accounting for 33% of total launches. Positioned as an extension of the Financial District, this zone is attracting IT professionals seeking affordable, mid-range housing. Its growth is driven by improved connectivity via the Outer Ring Road and proximity to employment hubs, making it a preferred destination for both end-users and investors targeting medium-term appreciation," the report said.

In contrast, East Hyderabad, covering Uppal and LB Nagar, continues to anchor the budget housing segment, contributing 13% of new supply. However, growth is expected to moderate to 3% in 2025 as the market absorbs the significant supply added over the past few years. Strong metro connectivity remains a key demand driver, enabling a predictable commute to IT hubs despite longer road distances, thereby sustaining interest from budget and mid-income buyers, NoBroker said.



Beyond the ORR: The RRR Ripple Effect Sparks a Telangana Realty Gold Rush

Real estate activity in Telangana is no longer limited to Hyderabad or areas around the Outer Ring Road (ORR). Tier-2 and tier-3 cities are now witnessing a sharp surge in housing demand, signalling a shift in the state's property landscape. According to data from the Telangana Real Estate Regulatory Authority (TG RERA), nearly 1,000 residential projects are currently underway across districts. Warangal, often referred to as Telangana's second capital, is at the forefront with around 350 projects, the highest among non-metro regions. Property prices in Warangal have seen a steep rise. A 2BHK now costs between Rs 50 lakh and Rs 60 lakh, while 3BHK units range from Rs 80 lakh to Rs 1.2 crore. Given the demand, developers have also launched five gated communities with over 500 units each, priced between Rs 5,000 and Rs 6,000 per sq ft. If that's not all, villa projects have also gained traction, with premium units being sold for Rs 2 crore to Rs 4 crore. Land prices, too, have surged, ranging from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 2 lakh per sq yd in several areas like Balasamudram, Subedhari, Hunter Road and 100 feet road in Hanumakonda, a level once associated primarily with parts of Hyderabad. Demand driven by IT employees, NRIs, despite supply outpacing demand, a trend similar to Hyderabad -- Warangal and Hanumakonda continue to see steady buyer interest. Around 30% of buyers are IT professionals working in Hyderabad, while 20% are NRIs, with the remaining com-



prising local businessmen and residents upgrading their homes. This demand for improved infrastructure, strong rail connectivity, proximity to national highways, the Outer Ring Road and plans for an airport, all of which are boosting the city's real estate appeal," said N Amarender Reddy, president, CREDAI Warangal. In fact, a prospective homebuyer in Hanumakonda was in for a surprise when she realised

that finding a 2BHK within Rs 50 lakh is no longer feasible. "After visiting multiple residential projects hoping to secure a flat in the Rs 40 lakh range, I found that prices had moved well beyond her budget, with even basic 2BHK units now starting at Rs 50 lakh or more," said N Alekhya, an IT professional in Hyderabad who wants to buy a flat for her parents. Growth spreads to other cities. A similar trend is visible in Karim-

nagar, Khammam and Nizamabad, where both plotted developments and apartment projects are expanding rapidly. In Karimnagar, housing units are priced between Rs 45 lakh and Rs 75 lakh, with average rates hovering around Rs 4,000 to Rs 4,500 per sq ft. Developers say the city's status as a smart city, its location along the Hyderabad highway and growth in commercial activity have contributed to the real estate upswing. TG RERA data indicates a preference for plotted developments, reflecting a cultural inclination towards land ownership and independent housing in smaller cities. Officials note that rising project registrations in districts like Adilabad, Mahabubabad and Suryapet point to increasing regulatory awareness and transparency beyond Hyderabad, with more developers coming under the RERA framework. Decentralised growth pattern. Developers say the boom in smaller cities is being driven by local economic growth, improving civic infrastructure and rising aspirations for quality housing. Additionally, many professionals working in Hyderabad or abroad are investing in homes in their native towns. "Tier-3 cities such as Mancherial, Siddipet, Kamareddy and Bhuvanagiri are also witnessing increased housing activity. With urbanisation spreading beyond the capital, Telangana's real estate sector is gradually becoming more decentralised, reducing Hyderabad's long-standing dominance in the housing market," said E Prem Sagar Reddy, chairman, CREDAI Telangana.



AI in Real Estate: Python Conference held in Hyderabad

ASBL, a tech-first real estate company, was a platinum sponsor at the Python Conference Hyderabad 2026. The event was held on March 14 and 15, 2026, at the Engineering Staff College of India, Hyderabad. It brought together developers, engineers, and technology professionals from across the country. At the conference, Abhijith Reddy, CTO of ASBL, explained how technology in real estate is solving real challenges across construction, sales, and resident living. He highlighted that the industry still struggles with basic but critical problems in construction, such as maintaining budget discipline, managing material and labour payments, detecting delays early, and ensuring consistent quality. ASBL is addressing these challenges using advanced prop tech solutions. The company has developed a digital twin system along with mobile apps and planning tools. In simple terms, every building is mapped digitally, and each task is clearly assigned. Teams know what work needs to be done, where it should happen, and in what order. Once a task is completed, proof is uploaded and verified before moving forward. This approach improves control, increases accountability, detects delays faster, and strengthens quality checks. The same approach is applied to sales. Abhijith Reddy explained that the focus is on identifying the right customers, understanding buyer needs, automating outreach, and simplifying financing. By using structured data, automation, and AI in real estate, ASBL is making the sales process more efficient and responsive. This also creates a smoother experience for both customers and sales teams. He also spoke about life after handover, where many real estate processes remain manual. In gated communities, there are multiple moving parts such as residents, staff, visitors, service requests, and amenities. Managing all of this can be complex without the right systems in place. ASBL addresses this through Homes by ASBL, its dedicated resident management app. The app allows residents to manage daily activities in one place. From booking amenities to raising service requests and receiving updates, everything is handled digitally, making daily living simpler and more organized. ASBL has also digitized the entire home-buying journey. Documentation workflows, approvals, and customer communication are handled through technology. This reduces the need for physical visits and makes the process easier, especially for NRIs purchasing homes from abroad.

By leveraging AI, they automate repetitive tasks, speed up development, and reduce errors, which allows them to focus on solving real-world real estate challenges. In a month alone, they used 3.8 billion tokens, a testament to how cursor usage drives innovation and efficiency across all the processes. ASBL believes it is not a real estate company doing tech, but a tech company doing real estate. By supporting the Python community and showcasing the use of AI in real estate and prop tech, ASBL reinforced its vision of building better homes and better customer experiences through technology.



'Westend Greens' case: Tribunal dismisses Countryside Realtors appeal; bars it from selling units

Dismissing the Countryside Realtors appeal, the Telangana Real Estate Appellate Tribunal has upheld stringent action against the developer for violations in its 'Westend Greens' villa project at Mokila in Rangareddy district. The appeal was filed by Countryside Realtors India Pvt. Ltd., represented by its directors Masood Ul Hasan and Kavi Narasimhan, along with Saurabh Pandey (Manager), and argued by legal counsel Drupad Sangwan. The respondents -- Tumpi Shome, Sailaja Nukala, Tarun Dhar, Sandeep Josyula and Monika Singh -- were represented by legal counsel Arcot Chandra Shaker, founder of Chandra Associates. A bench led by Justice A. Santhosh Reddy affirmed the July 17, 2025 order of the Telangana State Real Estate Regulatory Authority (TGREERA), ruling that the developer's appeal lacked merit. The Tribunal made it clear that the complaint filed by villa owners was maintainable and within the jurisdiction of the Authority. The Tribunal upheld the penalty of ₹38.59 lakh imposed on the developer for violating provisions of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016.

It also reiterated to obtain all necessary approvals from HMDA. Register the project under RERA before any sale or marketing, refund buyers with compensation if approvals are not secured and refrain from advertising or selling units until compliance. Rejecting the developer's claim that the project predates RERA, the Tribunal ruled that the absence of a completion or occupancy certificate makes it an "ongoing project." It cited legal principles that RERA applies retrospectively to such projects to protect buyers' interests. The Tribunal found multiple violations, including expiry of HMDA layout approval in 2017 without revalidation.



IPL 2026: Sooryavanshi the hero again as Rajasthan thrash RCB by six wickets



GUWAHATI

An opening blitz of 78 off 26 balls by batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi and a steady knock of 81 off 43 deliveries by wicketkeeper-batter Dhruv Jurel helped Rajasthan Royals beat Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) by six wickets in Match 16 of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026, at the Baraspara Cricket Stadium in Guwahati on Friday.

Sooryavanshi led a powerful assault on the bowling to kick off Rajasthan Royals' chase, easily dismantling RCB's bowling with bold shots. He started strongly against Bhuvneshwar Kumar, driving a near yorker for four and ending the over with a high shot over cover-point. There was no slowing down as he attacked Hazlewood, hitting a series of boundaries that showed his goal to target anything in his range. Even when RCB changed their lengths, Sooryavanshi continued to find ways to score, hitting with impressive skill.

At the other end of the wicket, Yashasvi Jaiswal (13) offered some support before edging a cross-seam delivery, but it hardly affected RR's momentum. Sooryavanshi quickly reached a re-

markable 15-ball half-century, matching his previous record. He got there with back-to-back sixes—one a powerful hit over long-on and the other a top-edge pull that went over the boundary. His ability to dominate both fast and bouncing deliveries left RCB searching for answers.

The onslaught continued as Dhruv Jurel joined in, hitting boundaries with ease and keeping up the pressure. RR raced to a record 97/1 in the Power-play, their best in IPL history, with Abhinandan Singh's overs turning out to be particularly costly. They maintained this momentum into the middle overs, crossing 100 in just 6.2 overs, the fastest in their IPL history.

Krunal Pandya ended Sooryavanshi's stay with a pace-up delivery as the young left-handed batter handed it straight to Virat Kohli in deep mid-wicket after playing a handy knock of 78 off 26 deliveries. Shimron Hetmyer followed Sooryavanshi on the very next delivery, handing an easy catch to Hazlewood at short third man.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) had a dramatic start as Jofra Archer dismissed Phil Salt with a sharp bouncer on the very first ball.

Virat Kohli and Devdutt Padikkal countered well, putting together a quick 45-run partnership in just 17 balls, but Rajasthan responded strongly. Archer removed Padikkal, while Ravi Bishnoi changed the game with two quick wickets, bowling Kohli and getting Krunal Pandya out. Sharp fielding from Shimron Hetmyer made things worse for RCB. Jitesh Sharma also got out shortly after, leaving RCB struggling at 76/5 in 8.4 overs.

Romario Shepherd offered a brief counterattack, scoring a rapid 22 before being dismissed by Ravindra Jadeja. Debutant Venkatesh Iyer then partnered with Rajat Patidar, shifting the momentum. Patidar went from a cautious start to a fast half-century, marked by several sixes. However, he ultimately fell to Sandeep Sharma. A late effort from Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Iyer (29 off 15) helped RCB reach a good total of 201/8 in their 20-over quota.

RCB made a short comeback in the middle overs. They strung together a series of tight deliveries that included wickets and dot balls, which slowed down the Rajasthan Royals' momentum and built pressure. Krunal Pan-

dya led the effort well by preventing boundaries and reducing the asking rate to about seven runs per over. He even ended a 24-ball boundary drought before Ravindra Jadeja broke the spell with a lucky inside edge to fine leg.

However, Dhruv Jurel stayed calm during the slowdown. He anchored the chase with a well-timed knock and reached his half-century in 25 balls. With wickets in hand and Jurel doing well, RR remained on track despite RCB's determined fightback.

Jurel finished unbeaten on a superb 81 off 43 balls - his highest score in T20s -- as Rajasthan Royals chased down 202 with two overs to spare. Despite a brief wobble in the middle overs, Jurel and Ravindra Jadeja steadied the innings with a composed 68-run stand off 50 balls, ensuring there were no late alarms as RR sealed a comfortable win.

Brief scores

Royal Challengers Bengaluru 201/8 in 20 overs (Rajat Patidar 63, Virat Kohli 32; Ravi Bishnoi 2-32, Jofra Archer 2-33) lost to Rajasthan Royals 202/4 in 18 overs (Dhruv Jurel 81, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi 78; Krunal Pandya 2-40, Josh Hazlewood 2-44) by six wickets

India drop just one game in dominant win vs Mongolia; South Korea-Indonesia clash in battle of top two

NEW DELHI

Team India dropped only one game collectively as they returned to winning ways resoundingly with a 3-0 win against Mongolia in the Billie Jean King Cup at the Delhi Lawn Tennis Authority Complex on Friday. Hosting the Group I - Asia/Oceania fixtures, India have lost two and won two of their matches so far and will conclude their campaign against the Korea Republic on Saturday.

With Zeel Desai replacing Vaishnavi Adkar for the first singles rubber, Team India served bagels all around on matchday 4, Desai and Sahaja Yamalapalli both winning by identical 6-0, 6-0 scorelines. Adkar instead partnered Rutuja Bhosale in the doubles, which the pair won 6-1, 6-0 to complete the rout.

In the first-ever meeting between the two nations, Desai set the tone with a clinical performance, dismantling Anu-Vjin Gantor 6-0, 6-0 in just 37 minutes, barely giving her opponent a look in as she dominated from the baseline and controlled proceedings throughout. Yamalapalli followed with an equally com-



manding display, overwhelming Jargal Altansarnai 6-0, 6-0. India's dominance extended into the doubles, where Adkar and Bhosale completed the rout with a 6-1, 6-0 win over Khongorzul Aldarkhishig and Jargal Altansarnai. The Indian pair combined seamlessly, asserting control early and never allowing their opponents to settle, capping off a near-flawless outing for the hosts.

Elsewhere, the Republic of Korea faced Indonesia in a clash between the top two sides, with the head-to-head evenly poised at 5-5. Korea took the early lead as Dayeon

Back continued her unbeaten run in the competition, edging Priska Madelyn Nugroho 7-5, 3-6, 6-2, with the remaining matches yet to be played.

Thailand, meanwhile, were on course for victory against New Zealand, leading 1-0 at the time of writing despite trailing 3-5 in their head-to-head. Anchisa Chanta put them ahead with a 6-2, 6-3 win over Aishi Das. In the second singles, Patcharin Cheapchandej and Valentina Ivanov were locked in a decider, with the Thai player leading 6-2, 3-6, 4-0 after securing two breaks of serve.

IPL 2026: Confidence is high, and I am happy with how things are going, says Natarajan

CHENNAI

Delhi Capitals (DC) left-arm fast bowler T. Natarajan stated that a rigorous six-month training regime has helped him regain bowling rhythm and ability to bowl high-velocity yorkers, adding that his confidence is at a high and he is pleased with how things have been going now. In the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026, Natarajan, who has been plagued by injuries in the last few years, has picked four wickets in three games in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 at an economy rate of 7.9. "Last year, I had a collarbone injury, and it was a difficult phase for me. The team management,



support staff, and coaches kept motivating me throughout and guided me on the kind of training I needed to do. "I attended multiple camps in Delhi, Surat, Hyderabad, and Dubai, and all of that helped me gain rhythm and confidence again. Coming

back after injury is never easy, both mentally and physically. Every time I was doing well, unfortunately, an injury came in the way. "For the last six to seven months, I have worked extremely hard on my fitness and bowling.



ISL 2025-26: FC Goa capitalise on second-half chances to down Odisha

MARGAO

Second-half goals by Dejan Dražić, Pol Moreno, and Brison Fernandes helped FC Goa secure a 3-1 victory over Odisha FC, who found a late consolation through Suhair VP, in Indian Super League (ISL) 2025-26 at the P.J.N Stadium in Margao, Goa, on Friday.

The Gaurs returned to winning ways after a run of draws and a defeat, climbing to fifth in the standings with 13 points, while Odisha FC slipped to 12th with five points. Ayush Chhetri was adjudged the Player of the Match for his composed display in midfield.

FC Goa head coach Manolo Márquez made four changes to his starting XI, handing a debut to 21-year-old goalkeeper Bob Jackson Raj, while Mohammed Yasir, Harsh Shailesh Patre, and Ayush Chhetri were introduced into midfield. Odisha FC head coach T.G. Purushothaman named an unchanged side for the third consecutive match.

The opening half was a measured contest, with both sides enjoying spells of possession

but struggling to create clear-cut chances. Rahul KP was the most lively presence for The Juggernauts, testing the Goa defence with two early efforts, while the hosts found themselves caught offside on multiple occasions as they attempted to build attacks. Odisha continued to threaten from a distance, with Rahul forcing a save from debutant goalkeeper Bob Jackson, who showed composure between the posts. At the other end, Udanta Singh came close after a sharp run into the box, but Amrinder Singh stood firm to deny the winger at the near post.

Set-pieces proved to be a potential avenue for both sides, with Pol Moreno heading straight at the goalkeeper and Subham Bhattacharya missing narrowly, but neither side was able to break the deadlock as the first half ended 0-0. The tempo increased after the restart, with Odisha coming close to taking the lead around the hour mark. Rahim Ali's intelligent run created space for Isak Vanlalruatfela, but the forward's effort was well saved by Bob Jackson, who

produced a crucial intervention to keep the scores level.

FC Goa responded almost immediately and broke the deadlock in the 62nd minute with a well-worked move. Ayush Chhetri delivered a precise ball over the top of the Odisha defence to find Dejan Dražić inside the box. A sliding challenge from Carlos Delgado deflected the ball back into Dražić's path, and the forward showed quick reactions to calmly slot the ball past Amrinder and give the hosts a 1-0 lead.

With momentum on their side, Goa continued to push forward. Substitute Abdul Rabeeh injected energy into the attack, setting up Aakash Sangwan soon after, though his effort was saved. Rabeeh also tried his luck from a distance but failed to hit the target. The hosts doubled their advantage in the 81st minute through a set-piece. Pol Moreno stepped up to take a free-kick from distance and struck a low effort through the wall, the ball taking a couple of bounces before nestling into the bottom-left corner, making it 2-0.

ISL 2025-26: Joseph Sunny's brace powers SC Delhi past NorthEast United

GUWAHATI: A clinical second-half display led by Joseph Sunny helped SC Delhi secure a commanding 3-0 victory over NorthEast United FC in Indian Super League (ISL) 2025-26 at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in Guwahati on Friday. The win marks SC Delhi's second consecutive victory of the season, lifting them to eighth in the standings with eight points, while NorthEast United FC slip to tenth with six points. Joseph Sunny was adjudged Player of the Match for his decisive brace.

NorthEast United FC head coach Juan Pedro Benali made two changes to his side, bringing back captain Miguel Zabaco in defence and introducing Ankith P in attack. SC Delhi, under assistant coach Noel Joseph in the absence of suspended head coach Tomasz Tchórz.

Football: India women's team set sights on FIFA Series with one eye on the future



NEW DELHI

Around 32 days after their AFC Women's Asian Cup campaign drew to a painful end, the Indian women's national team will begin a new chapter with renewed vigour at the FIFA Series 2026 Kenya. The Blue Tigresses will face the hosts in their opening game at the Nyayo National Stadium in Nairobi, Kenya, on Saturday. The disappointment of miss-

ing out on the knockout stage hasn't fully buried yet for the players, but they are well aware that the end of one chapter is the beginning of the next, and that's the main motivation ahead of the four-team friendly tournament.

Crispin Chettri, who is once again at the helm of affairs as the head coach of the Blue Tigresses, stressed, "The idea is to start building for the future already. For the next AFC Women's Asian

Cup 2029 qualifiers and the 2031 World Cup qualifiers. We have to begin now."

Chettri led India to qualification for the Asian Cup last year and was an assistant to Amelia Valverde during the final tournament. "I think the expectation from everyone was that we should at least reach the quarter-finals from the group stage. Even the players had that expectation, so I think they are a little low at the moment," said Chettri.

India arrived in Nairobi on April 7, and have had two training sessions so far, with another to go on Friday before the game against the hosts. "Mentally, the players are much more prepared now. When they take to the training pitch, they are only focused on preparing for the next game," Chettri added.

The conditions have also aided the team's early preparations. "Yes, the training conditions are good. The weather is really pleasant, around 26 to 27 degrees. It is very good weather to train in," said Chettri, reflecting on the first two sessions in Kenya.

Sub-jr Men's National Hockey: MP and UP win semifinals



RAJGIR

Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh registered wins in their respective Division 'A' matches in the semifinals

of the 16th Hockey India Sub Junior Men National Championship 2026 at the Rajgir Sports Complex in Rajgir, Bihar, on Friday.

In the first semifinal, Hockey

Madhya Pradesh secured a 4-2 win against Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu Hockey. Deepak Singh (29), Karan Gautam (43), Gazee Khan (47), and Siddharth Ben (51) scored for the winners, while Captain Dhiraj Pal (36) and Apurwa Chauhan (54) netted for Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu Hockey.

In the second semifinal, Uttar Pradesh Hockey registered a 6-2 victory against Hockey Punjab. Shahrulkh Ali (11, 32) and Nitish Yadav (26, 29) bagged a brace each, with Captain Ketan Kushwaha (42) and Rahul Yadav (42) also finding the back of the net for Uttar Pradesh Hockey. For Hockey Punjab, Ali Raza (39) and Rajveer Singh (43) scored a goal each.

Hockey Madhya Pradesh will take on Uttar Pradesh Hockey in the final, while Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Da-

man & Diu and Punjab will face each other in the 3rd/4th Place match on Sunday. Earlier, Day 8 of the 16th Hockey India Sub Junior Men National Championship 2026 in Rajgir, Bihar, witnessed Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu Hockey, Hockey Punjab, Uttar Pradesh Hockey, and Hockey Madhya Pradesh register wins in their respective Division 'A' quarter-final matches at the Rajgir Sports Complex in Rajgir, Bihar, on Thursday. Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu Hockey clinched a 2-1 victory against Hockey Chandigarh; Hockey Punjab secured a 5-3 win against Hockey Jharkhand; Uttar Pradesh Hockey register a 6-3 win against Hockey Association of Odisha while Hockey Madhya Pradesh and Hockey Haryana played out a 0-0 draw before the former clinched a 4-3 win in the shootout.

Dacoit Movie Review

Cast: Adivi Sesh, Mrunal Thakur, Anurag Kashyap, Prakash Raj, Kamakshi Bhaskarla, Zain Marie Khan, Sunil, and others.
Music: Bheems Ceciroleo
Cinematography: Dhanush Bhaskar
Producer: Supriya Yarlagadda Story &
Screenplay: Adivi Sesh, Shaneel Deo
Direction: Shaneel Deo

Dacoit, an okayish thriller!

Some films build hype over the director, some over the hero, and some due to the production house carving it.



From Kshanm to HIT 2, Adivi Sesh always impressed with properly crafted thrillers, and that sets huge expectations on "Dacoit" too. The film has hit cinemas today, and have a look at how it impressed.

STORY: Hari Das (Adivi Sesh) hails from a lower caste family in Rayalaseema's Hindupur area, and falls in love with an upper caste family's Saraswati (Mrunal Thakur). Due to some reasons, not only did they split, but he went to jail. Holding a grudge against Saraswati for his current situation, Hari Das wants to escape from jail and take revenge on her, and is presented with an opportunity. So what happened between them in the past, and did Hari land in jail due to Saraswati, and what's the journey like after he escapes, forms the rest of the story.

NARRATIVE-ANALYSIS: Some films build hype over the director, some over the hero, and some due to the production house carving it. Based on the catalogue of movies they carved out so far, these expectations pile up, and if they don't meet the bar, the audience tends to get disappointed. Being a writer-director, Adivi Sesh is one hero who made the audience flock to theatres with the kind of content he delivers. After delivering thrillers like Kshanam and HIT 2, he has taken a huge time again to build a film like Dacoit, in which he also took part in writing. Perhaps that resulted in huge expectations for the film, but then, the hero failed to reach the expectations and fell to the level of average thrillers that many directors make. If we look at it like a normal movie, this will be a good film that engages for 2.5 hours; however, if we gauge it from Adivi Sesh's standards, it doesn't give enough kick.

If it's an Adivi Sesh film, surely the story should be stronger, logic should not go for a toss, twists should be mind-blowing and screenplay should make us feel choked, and characters should be out of bounds. Audiences always think that everything will be beyond their expectations in his movies. However, if scenes miss out on logic and emotions don't get stronger, it disappoints, and that's what happened in the case of Dacoit. Though the film doesn't bore anywhere, due to racy screenplay and storytelling, the whole film never gave the 'kick' that was expected to deliver. That's because of poorly designed characters and weakly written crucial elements of the story. With emotional connection missing, and the lead pair's romantic chemistry as well as breakup sequences not even creating impact, it turned out to be a big minus for the film.

When a hero is seeking to exact revenge on a girl he loved to the core, the reason behind it should be quite stronger and convincing. However, as the story should take a twist during that revelation, they did it for the sake of it. It's shown as something that the hero mistook and misunderstood, and that leads to lots of errors, thereby inserting forced twists. Even the hero's character design is patchy, given the elevations he gets while inside jail, and the way he behaves after coming out of prison doesn't make sense. Sequences like Prakash Raj's introduction, a hospital looting scene during the COVID times, make us expect a lot, but later they fizzle out. However, despite all odds, some thrilling scenes make it a worthy watch. Especially, the hero's prison break sequence works out well, and the climax, 20 minutes in, induces emotion and awesomeness. If the whole film has a similar flair, surely Dacoit would have been a next-level film. While

the finishing touch given to the hero's role is good, the flashback episodes pulled things down earlier. If you expect more from the movie due to the Adivi Sesh factor, you tend to get disappointed.

PERFORMANCES:

Adivi Sesh is quite impressive as usual, but the Rayalaseema slang and dialect haven't fit well. While his emotions peaked during the climax, his appearance as someone who led a prison life for 5 years is just okayish. Mrunal Thakur stands out as the best performer in the movie and dominates Sesh in some aspects. She proved herself as someone who could emote well. Anurag Kashyap and Prakash Raj's roles haven't lived up to the hype, while both are okay. Sunil's role is average, and Kamakshi has done well. The artist who played Mrunal's husband is also impressive. Zain Marie Khan's role fizzled out with okayish acting.

TECHNICALITIES:

"Dacoit" has high technical standards and production values, with the budget and hard work visible in every frame. Cinematographer Dhanush Bhaskar's visuals are stunning, while Bheems Ceciroleo's songs are okay. Gyaani's background score is a major highlight in the movie. The way characters and scenes get elevated, and make the film's pace racier, is due to his score only. Something is amiss in Abburi Ravi's dialogues. The natural tone seen in Adivi Sesh and Ravi's previous works is not visible here. The dialogue lost its sharpness. Though Sesh and Shaneel Deo's story has interesting elements, surely their screenplay hasn't worked out. That's the major missing element in the movie. As a director, Shaneel is also okay.



Minor Fire Accident Reported on the Sets of Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Spirit



Prabhas' Spirit is one of the most anticipated films of the year. Directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga, the movie's production has been moving at a rapid pace. However, a minor fire broke out recently on the film's set. It took place on Thursday night. Videos of the incident have been circulating widely on social media, showing that the fire damaged several tents and various pieces of filming equipment. One crew member sustained minor injuries and was immediately rushed to a nearby hospital; fortunately, his condition is now stable.

Prabhas was not on set at the time of the incident, as the makers were filming scenes that did not require the actor's presence. In other news, Prabhas and director Sandeep Reddy Vanga were recently spotted watching Dhurandhar 2 in Hyderabad. The production team is expected to resume shooting without further delay. Spirit is currently scheduled for a theatrical release on 5 March

Nayanthara Trolled for Attending Husband's Event While Skipping Promotions

Noted actress Nayanthara is known for her strict no-promotion policy, often making it clear to producers that she does not participate in interviews or promotional events. However, this long-standing stance has now come under scrutiny after her recent public appearance. For a change, Nayanthara attended the pre-release event of Love Insurance Kompany, directed by her husband Vignesh Shivan, which is set to release on April 10. The event turned special when she unexpectedly walked onto the stage, surprising even the film's team.

Videos of Nayanthara hugging Vignesh Shivan have since gone viral, drawing mixed reactions. While some appreciated the candid moment, others criticized her for skipping promotions for her own films but making time for her husband's project. A section of netizens also felt that the "surprise" entry appeared staged, calling it a calculated promotional move. However, her fans have come out in support, pointing out that she is also a co-producer of the film and has every right to promote it. They argue that participating in promotional activities is ultimately a personal and professional choice.

Interestingly, Nayanthara recently returned to Telugu cinema with Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu, alongside Chiranjeevi, but stayed away from pre-release events in line with her policy. She did, however, appear in a promotional video with director Anil Ravipudi, which generated significant buzz online. A producer weighed in on the ongoing debate, saying, "After a long gap, Nayanthara returned to Telugu cinema, but she didn't attend pre-release events as per her no-promotion rule. However, her appearance in a promotional video in January itself created a lot of attention. When a star maintains one stance and makes exceptions in certain cases, it naturally invites discussion and even criticism."



Hansika Files ₹2 Crore Defamation Suit Against Sister-in-Law

Actress Hansika Motwani, known for her roles in Telugu films like Desamuduru and Kantri, has taken legal action against her sister-in-law Nancy James, filing a ₹2 crore defamation suit in a Mumbai Sessions Court. The move comes amid an ongoing family dispute, with the actress seeking damages for alleged harm to her reputation. According to reports, the case centres around claims that Nancy James made defamatory statements about Hansika on social media. The actress alleges that these

accusations were false and intended to damage her public image.

The dispute also involves a financial matter. Hansika claims that Nancy had borrowed ₹27 lakh during her marriage to Hansika's brother, Prashant Motwani, and has failed to repay the amount despite repeated requests. The suit further alleges that the defamatory statements were made to avoid repayment and to create pressure for monetary gain.

Hansika has strongly denied allegations

of domestic violence made against her, calling them baseless and malicious. She claims that the accusations were part of a deliberate attempt to tarnish her reputation and has accused Nancy of trying to extort money through a targeted defamation campaign. The controversy gained traction after a series of social media posts by Nancy James went viral, sparking debate and public attention. With the matter now in court, further proceedings are awaited as both sides prepare to present their case.