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Arya, Prabhsimran, Shreyas Power PBKS Win

STADIUM 11

Mamitha Pins Hopes on Vishwanath & Sons



BOX -OFFICE 12



Dakshin Dinajpur: Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a public meeting ahead of the West Bengal Assembly elections in Dakshin Dinajpur district on Saturday

SHORT TAKES



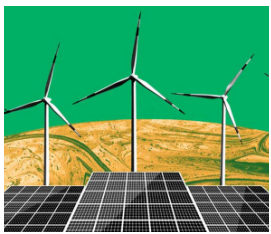
33% Quota Bill Tabled Under Modi

The 33% Women's Reservation Bill under Narendra Modi, supported by D. K. Aruna, marks a major step toward gender equality, boosting women's representation in Parliament and strengthening inclusive governance across India.



Middle East war to cut global growth...

The World Bank's baseline estimate now projects growth in emerging markets and developing economies of 3.65 per cent in 2026, compared to 4 per cent in October, dropping as low as 2.6 per cent in an adverse scenario with a longer-lasting war.



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CM paid floral tributes to Jyoti rao phule

On the occasion of the birth anniversary of social reformer Jyotirao Phule, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy paid floral tributes to his portrait at his residence in New Delhi. Member of Parliament Malu Ravi also paid homage and offered floral tributes to the portrait of Jyotirao Phule, honouring the legacy of the eminent leader and reformer.

Singer Mangli booked in ₹10 crore fraud case after advocate's complaint

The Punjagutta police have opened a case against singer Mangli, who is accused of defrauding an advocate of Rs 10 crore in connection with a microfinance scheme. Advocate Subba Rao has claimed that Mangli swindled him out of Rs 10 crore through fraudulent activities related to this scheme. Following this, he lodged a complaint with the

Narsingi Police Station police against Mangli and three other individuals, also expressing concerns for his safety. In response, the police have initiated an investigation and filed a case against Mangli and the others under various sections of the BNS. Meanwhile, Mangli has dismissed the accusations and has retaliated against Subbarao. The singer has reported that she made a complaint at the

or to Subbarao's allegations. Mangli emphasised that she approached the police independently and is seeking action against those who may be harming her reputation. She firmly stated that she is not connected to the viral images of cash circulating on social media, insisting, "That money is not mine, and I have no involvement in that matter," and expressing her disappointment over the situation.

BRS municipal victories prove public resistance against Congress: KTR

Bharat Rashtra Samithi working president K. T. Rama Rao said that Chief Minister Anumula Revanth Reddy will be remembered in Telangana's history as a leader who deceived all sections of society. He asserted that the people of Telangana will eventually reject both Revanth Reddy and the Congress party.



KTR stated that power is never permanent and accused Revanth Reddy of behaving arrogantly by forgetting this fundamental truth. The BRS leader remarked that once Revanth Reddy steps down from office, he may not even have anyone to acknowledge him, and warned that the public will certainly teach him a lesson for his undemocratic governance.

He alleged that even after BRS won a majority of councillor seats, the Congress party resorted to unethical practices to capture chairman posts, but ultimately justice prevailed.

Referring to recent municipal elections, KT Rama Rao said despite nearly two months of alleged irregularities and misuse of power, the BRS secured victories in Ibrahimpatnam and Khaitanpally municipalities.

KTR made these remarks while attending a large-scale BRS workers' meeting in Ibrahimpatnam on Saturday, where he felicitated newly elected chairpersons, councillors, and sarpanches. He specially appreciated Prashanth Reddy, son of senior leader Manchireddy Kishan Reddy, for standing firm against alleged harassment by the ruling party and emerging victorious. He said the election results prove that strong and determined leadership always earns public support. Launching a sharp attack on the state government, KTR accused Revanth Reddy of running a "land scam" in the name of Pharma City.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Proposed delimitation threatens southern states' existence: Bhatti

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka expressed that conducting constituency delimitation solely on the basis of the 2011 Census could jeopardize the very existence of the southern states. He was speaking as the chief guest at the bicentenary celebrations of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule held at Ravindra Bharathi on Saturday.



Bhatti Vikramarka stated that if delimitation is conducted only on the basis of the 2011 population data without considering caste census figures, southern states may lose their political significance, and governments at the Centre could be formed without their adequate representation.

He pointed out that the southern states are leading the way in driving social transformation and are collectively exerting pressure on the Centre for equitable policies. The Deputy Chief Minister alleged that the Centre has reduced the share of tax revenues allocated to southern states as part of a strategy to weaken them. He emphasised that ignoring caste census data in delimitation would harm weaker sections across the country and stressed the need for collective struggle to safeguard their rights. The Deputy Chief Minister emphasised that an equal and just society can only be built through education and collective effort. Minister Vakiti Srihari, MP R. Krishnaiah, Congress senior leader V. Hanumantha Rao and other leaders were present.

16 injured as private bus rams into truck on NH 65 at Kodad

HYDERABAD: Sixteen people sustained injuries when a private travel bus collided with a truck from behind at the Kodad bypass along National Highway 65 in the early hours of Saturday. The injured parties have been transported to the Government General Hospital in Kodad of Suryapet district. The incident transpired as the private travel bus was en route to Eluru in Andhra Pradesh from Hyderabad. According to reports, the bus driver lost control of the vehicle, resulting in the collision with the truck. At the time of the incident, approximately 36 passengers were aboard the bus. Following the collision, local residents promptly intervened to assist the injured, facilitating their transfer to the hospital. Preliminary and unverified reports suggest that the accident may have been caused by the driver falling asleep at the wheel.

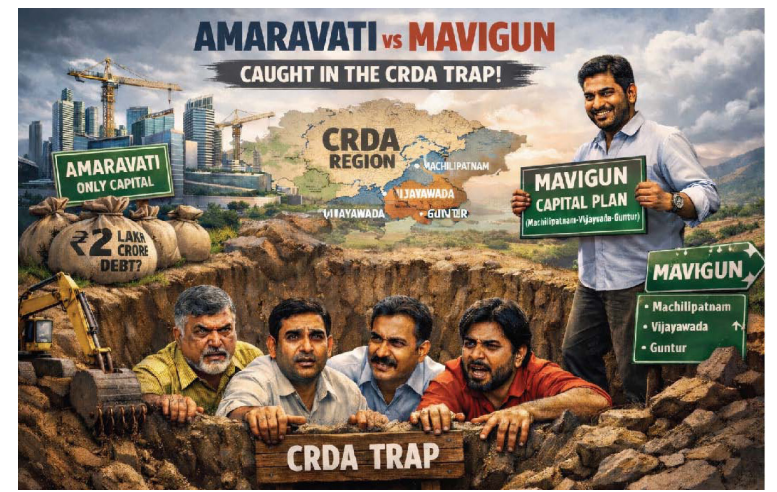
CRDA TRAP OR POLITICAL THEATRE? AMARAVATI VS. MAVIGUN WAR ENTERS A NEW PHASE

A Viral X Post Weaponises A Proverb To Mock The Ruling Alliance, But Beneath The Sarcasm Lies A Deeper Battle Over Credibility, Consistency, And Capital Politics In

BY C. SUBRAHMANYAM

A pro-YSRCP X post claims the ruling alliance has fallen into its own CRDA framework, unintentionally validating Jagan's MAVIGUN proposal. The argument hinges on geography and narrative shifts, but the larger conflict remains unresolved: Amaratvati's high-cost ambition versus decentralised alternatives framed as pragmatic governance.

A single proverb has now become political ammunition in Andhra Pradesh. The X post by @pvssarma [PVS Sarma, Ex-Bureaucrat and Political Analyst] does not just



mock, it attempts to corner the ruling establishment using its own administrative blueprint. The message is blunt: the Capital Region Development Authority, once projected as Amaratvati's backbone, is now being projected as the very ground on which the opposition's MAVIGUN idea stands.

This is not casual trolling. It is a calculated strike aimed at exposing

a contradiction, real or perceived, in the ruling alliance's narrative. Because once you invoke CRDA as the framework, the geography stops being selective. Vijayawada, Guntur, Machilipatnam these are not external additions. They already sit within the notified capital region. That is where the argument gets uncomfortable for the ruling side.

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HAL OBC Association Pays Grand Tribute to Jyotirao Phule, Presses for Key OBC Reforms

199th Jayanti observed with reverence at HAL; leaders hail Phule as a pioneer of social justice, women's education and empowerment of backward communities.

Samudrala Kiran, Correspondent

MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI

In a solemn yet assertive celebration of social justice and equality, the HAL OBC Employees Welfare Association on Saturday observed the 199th birth anniversary of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule with grandeur, drawing senior HAL officials, union representatives and employees into a programme that blended homage with a strong call for policy reforms benefiting Backward Classes.

Held under the leadership of Association President Ravikumar Mudhiraj, the event was marked by traditional tributes, powerful speeches and a formal submission of demands to the government on issues affecting OBC communities. The programme opened with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp and the garlanding of Mahatma Phule's statue, setting a dignified tone for the commemoration of one of India's most revered social reformers.

Chief Guest and HAL Accessories CEO Satyanarayana described Mahatma Phule as a transformative figure who changed the course of Indian society through his relentless fight against caste discrimination and his pioneering efforts in the field of education, especially for women and the oppressed.

"The rights and literacy we see today among the oppressed sections and women are the direct result of Phule's struggle," Satyanarayana said. "His life is not only a source of inspiration but also a guide for the present generation on how to stand for justice, equality and human dignity."



The event was also attended by Hyderabad Avionics Executive Director Rammohan Rao, COP Chief Muralikrishna and Liaison Officer Srihari Rao, all of whom paid rich tributes to Mahatma Phule and recalled his historic contribution to social awakening in India. Speakers noted that Phule's mission to uplift the marginalized, challenge social hierarchy and democratize education continues to remain deeply relevant in modern India.

What gave the programme added significance, however, was its transition from commemoration to advocacy. Using the occasion as a platform to voice the aspirations of Backward Classes, Association President Ravikumar Mudhiraj submitted a formal appeal to the government, placing four key demands before policymakers.

The association called for the complete removal of the "Creamy Layer" rule in OBC reservations, arguing that the existing framework has diluted the intended benefits of affirmative action. It also sought an increase in the annual income ceiling for Non-Creamy Layer

certificates to ₹15 lakh, citing economic realities and the need to widen access to reservation benefits for deserving families. Another major demand raised by the association was the establishment of a dedicated Central Ministry for OBC welfare, aimed at ensuring focused policy attention and stronger institutional mechanisms for the development of backward communities. The association further urged the government to grant a five-year relaxation in the upper age limit for OBC candidates in both State and Central government recruitment, saying such a move would create fairer opportunities for thousands of aspirants. Mudhiraj said the best way to honor Mahatma Phule was to continue the struggle for social equality and institutional justice. He stressed that commemorative events should not be limited to remembrance alone, but must also translate into meaningful action that improves the lives of marginalized communities.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from employees and union leadership, reflecting the broad

support for the association's initiatives and the continued resonance of Phule's ideals among working communities. Prominent representatives including Venkatadri, R. Vengal Rao, Karka Nagaraj and Srinivas Babu were present on the occasion, alongside OBC office bearers Madhu Sudhan, Bhagya Lakshmi and Saikumar Goulikar, who played an active role in organizing the event.

The large turnout and spirited participation underscored the enduring influence of Jyotirao Phule's legacy, particularly among those committed to social justice and equal opportunity. Speakers repeatedly emphasized that Phule's life was not merely a historical milestone but a living force that continues to inspire movements for education, dignity and empowerment.

Saturday's celebration at HAL thus emerged as more than a ceremonial gathering. It became a strong statement of collective remembrance and democratic assertion, reaffirming that Mahatma Jyotirao Phule's vision of an inclusive and equitable society remains unfinished and urgently relevant.



ASR Homoeopathic Medical College Students Honored at World Homoeopathy Day 2026 in New Delhi

TADEPALLIGUDEM

In a significant achievement for the state's medical research community, three student researchers from ASR Homoeopathic Medical College (ASRHMC) were awarded prestigious appreciation certificates during the World Homoeopathy Day 2026 celebrations held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The two-day national event, held on April 10th and 11th, was organized by the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH) in collaboration with the National Commission for Homoeopathy (NCH) and the National Institute of Homoeopathy (NIH). This year's celebrations centered on the theme, "Bharatiya Homoeopathy: Transforming Traditional Wisdom into Tangible Science".

National Recognition for Research Excellence

Out of 53 students selected from across India under the Short Term Studentship in Homoeopathy (STSH) program, three student researchers from ASRHMC were honored for their outstanding research contributions. The STSH initiative by the CCRH is designed to inculcate a research-oriented mindset among undergraduate students, encouraging evidence-based practice within the fraternity. The certificates were presented during the valedictory ceremony in the presence of esteemed dignitaries. Ms. Alarmelmangai D., Joint Secretary and Head of Department, Ministry of AYUSH, served as the Chief Guest. In her address, she praised the scientific foundations of homoeopathy and reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to supporting its global develop-

ment.

Leadership Presence and Vision

The event saw participation from the highest levels of the sector, including:

1. Dr. Subhash Kaushik, Director General, CCRH
2. Dr. Tarkeshwar Jain, Chairman, NCH
3. Dr. Sanjay Gupta, Secretary, NCH
4. Dr. Pralay Sharma, Director, NIH

Dr. Subhash Kaushik emphasized the council's efforts to bridge the gap between traditional practice and modern science, while Dr. Tarkeshwar Jain noted that the deliberations provided a fruitful roadmap for future academic and clinical excellence.

ASRHMC Institutional Pride

Dr. Ananda Kumar Pingali, Principal of ASRHMC, attended the national event as a delegate and expressed his immense pride in the students' achievements. "This recognition on a national platform like World Homoeopathy Day 2026 at Vigyan Bhawan underscores ASRHMC's dedication to producing not just practitioners, but young scientists," said Dr. Ananda Kumar Pingali. "This achievement reflects our commitment to making homoeopathy a tangible and globally recognized science."

About the Event

World Homoeopathy Day 2026 marks the 271st birth anniversary of Dr. Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann. The celebrations at Vigyan Bhawan brought together practitioners, academicians, and students from across the country to strengthen the scientific temperament of the homoeopathic profession.



Congress and BRS repeatedly deceiving BCs

- Why such negligence in installing Mahatma Phule's statue?
- Insulting and belittling BCs will have consequences
- Jagruthi BC leaders warn the government

HYDERABAD

Telangana Jagruthi General Secretary Naveen Achari questioned why the Revanth Reddy government is showing such negligence in installing the statue of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule. Along with Jagruthi BC leaders, he staged a protest on Saturday at the Mahatma Jyotirao Phule statue premises in Lake View Park, opposite IMAX. He expressed anger that although there was publicity that the Chief Minister would unveil the statue on the 9th of this month, even by Saturday—Phule's birth anniversary—the statue had not been installed.

Speaking on the occasion, Naveen Achari questioned why the Congress party shows such disregard toward BCs (Backward Classes). He alleged that there was a conspiracy to install a plaster-of-Paris statue instead of a proper one.

He said that the attempt was withdrawn due to strong opposition from BC organizations and Jagruthi leaders.

He recalled that a similar situation occurred during the previous government regarding the statue of Konda Laxman Babuji. He expressed concern that both BRS and Congress have been repeatedly deceiving BCs for their political needs. He also criticized that even after 13 years of Telangana's formation, there is still no statue of Prof. Jayashankar, and said both Congress and BRS should feel ashamed.

Jagruthi State Vice President Kola Srinivas stated that BCs, who played a key role in the Telangana movement, have been betrayed by both BRS and Congress. He alleged that there is a conspiracy to deny BCs their rightful place in Telangana. He added that Telangana Jagruthi has been fighting for BC rights for the past two years and warned that further attempts to deceive BCs will not be tolerated.

Jagruthi spokesperson Padala Manija Goud said that the Congress party had promised justice to BCs under the "Kamareddy Declaration" but failed miserably. She demanded that instead of speaking about sub-quotas for BCs in the women's bill, the government should first implement the promised 42% reservations.

Telangana aims to emerge as global electronics manufacturing hub: Sridhar Babu

HYDERABAD

Telangana is committed to emerging as a global hub for electronics manufacturing, with a focus on building a robust ecosystem that goes beyond assembly, State IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu said on Saturday.

Congratulating Hyderabad-based Radiant Appliances and Electronics Private Limited for achieving the milestone of manufacturing 10 million television units, he said the achievement reflects the growing strength of the State's industrial base.

Speaking at an interaction held at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat, the Minister said the government is working towards developing a complete value chain in electronics — from component manufacturing to advanced technologies — to position Telangana as a pre-



ferred destination for global investments. Referring to India's target of achieving \$500 billion in electronics production by 2030, he said Telangana is poised to play a significant role in this growth. Describing electronics manufacturing as a key driver of the State's economy, Mr. Sridhar Babu said efforts are underway to attract global players while strengthening infrastructure and building a skilled workforce.

CM Visits Akampat Relief Camp

* Hands Over Ex-Gratia to Bereaved Family

IMPHAL

Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh today visited the Akampat Relief Camp and handed over an ex-gratia cheque of Rs. 10 lakh to the family of an eight-year-old internally displaced girl whose body was recovered beneath Singjamei Bridge on April 6.

The Chief Minister met the bereaved family and handed the cheque to the victim's father, expressing condolences and assuring that due legal action would be taken against those



responsible. He also interacted with internally displaced persons (IDPs)

at the camp and listened to their concerns. In a statement shared on social media, the Chief Minister reiterated that the welfare of IDPs remains a priority. He said directions have been issued to officials to address grievances and ensure timely rehabilitation and resettlement, adding that the government is committed to restoring stability and dignity to affected families.

During the visit, the Family Committee of Akampat Relief Camp submitted a memorandum seeking early resettlement, highlighting the hardships of prolonged displacement. Residents also called for improved security measures in their native areas, including Moreh.

Deputy Commissioner of Imphal East, L. Nivedita, stated that efforts are underway to ensure justice in the case and confirmed that the accused has been remanded in custody.

The minor, originally from Moreh, had gone missing on April 5 and was found dead the following morning. Police arrested a suspect, identified as Laishram Langamba, a resident of the same relief camp.

He was later produced before a POC-SO Court on April 10 and remanded to judicial custody under relevant provisions of law. The Chief Minister was accompanied by district officials and police personnel during the visit.

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AMARAVATI VS. MAVIGUN WAR ENTERS A NEW PHASE

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THE CORE CLAIM

CRDA was designed as an umbrella region. MAVIGUN fits inside it. So the question being pushed: is MAVIGUN really an alternative or just a reframing of what already exists? The sarcasm in the post is sharp, but the politics beneath it is sharper. The ruling alliance, led by N. Chandrababu Naidu, has returned to power with a clear line. Amaravati is the capital, full stop. Legislative backing from Parliament has reinforced that claim, and the messaging has been one of closure, not debate. But politics rarely allows closure. Enter Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy with MAVIGUN, a corridor pitch that deliberately avoids the emotional and financial baggage attached to Amaravati. His argument is economic: Amaravati is a capital that demands over ₹2 lakh crore, while MAVIGUN leverages existing infrastructure. Now here is where the X post lands its punch.

If CRDA already includes these urban clusters, then the opposition is not proposing something alien. It is repositioning the same geography with a different financial and administrative philosophy. That creates a narrative problem for the ruling side. Because once the debate shifts from "location" to "model," Amaravati is no longer the only logical endpoint.

The ruling camp, including figures like Nara Lokesh and Pawan Kalyan, has dismissed MAVIGUN as confusion packaged as policy. They argue that the opposition had five years and failed to execute even a diluted version of its own

three-capital plan. That counter is politically potent. It shifts the debate from theory to track record. But the YSRCP's counterattack is equally aggressive: Amaravati is being framed as a concentrated, capital-intensive gamble, while MAVIGUN is projected as distributed growth with lower fiscal risk. So what we are witnessing is not just a clash of plans, it is a clash of risk appetites. "When geography overlaps, the fight is no longer about where the capital is; it becomes about how power and money are distributed."

COST VS EXECUTION

The financial debate is where the real friction lies. Amaravati's projected cost running into lakhs of crores, has become the opposition's strongest talking point. They frame it as a long-term debt burden. The ruling side counters by questioning execution credibility, pointing out that alternative models were announced earlier but never implemented effectively. This creates a dual narrative: one side argues fiscal caution, the other questions administrative seriousness.

DEEPENING THE ARGUMENT

The viral post thrives because it simplifies a complex issue into a single accusation: inconsistency. And in politics, perception of inconsistency is often more damaging than policy disagreement. The CRDA framework, notified in 2015, was never just about Amaravati village clusters. It was conceived as a regional development authority. That broader scope is now being used as a rhetorical weapon. But there is a missing layer in

the viral narrative. CRDA may define a region, but Amaravati was always designed as a focused administrative core within that region. MAVIGUN, on the other hand, disperses that core. The difference is structural, not just semantic. So the claim that the ruling alliance has "fallen into a pit" is politically clever but analytically incomplete.

THE GEOGRAPHY WAR

CRDA's notified limits stretch across a wide belt covering Vijayawada, Guntur, and adjoining regions, including areas connected to Machilipatnam. This has allowed the opposition to argue that MAVIGUN is not an external imposition but an internal reconfiguration. Maps circulating online reinforce this overlap, turning geography into a political tool. However, the intent behind CRDA was to create a governing authority, not necessarily to decentralise the capital structure itself. That distinction is now at the centre of the dispute.

This X post works because it taps into a deeper anxiety in Andhra politics; no one has conclusively "won" the capital debate. Amaravati has legal and legislative backing. MAVIGUN has narrative momentum in majority circles. CRDA sits awkwardly in the middle, claimed by both sides for different purposes. So who is really in the pit? At this stage, no single player can claim clean ground. The ruling alliance carries the burden of delivery. The opposition carries the burden of credibility. And the public is left watching a familiar pattern, new acronyms, recycled geography, and a capital question that refuses to stay settled.

BRS municipal victories prove public resistance against Congress: KTR

> FROM PAGE 1

He said that before elections, Congress leaders had promised to return the 14,000 acres of land acquired for Pharma City to farmers, but are now misleading them with the concept of a "Fourth City" or "Future City." He alleged that while the government claims in court that Pharma City exists, it simultaneously proposes a new project on the same land outside.

KTR recalled that leaders like Bhatti Vikramarka, Seethakka, and Komatireddy Venkat Reddy had assured farmers during their padyatras that lands would be returned if Congress came to power. However, he alleged that instead of fulfilling that promise, the government is now planning to acquire an additional 16,000 acres, calling it a "Bharat Future City," which he termed a "drama" aimed at benefiting the Chief Minister's family members and associates. The meeting was attended by senior leaders, including Ranga Reddy district president Manchireddy Kishan Reddy, former minister and MLA Sabitha Indra Reddy, MLA Sudheer Reddy, and Bhuvanagiri Parliament in-charge Kyama Mallesh, among others.

Garikapati Narsimha Rao delivered a discourse on Cow Service

HYDERABAD

Garikapati Narsimha Rao delivered a discourse on cow service and cow protection at the Sri Devi Sahita Kalyana Venkateswara Swamy Temple.

In his speech, he said that countries like United States and Israel do not even like to look after fellow human beings properly, so how can they care for animals? That is why conflicts arise there. Our country is not like that—we treat cows with respect and revere them like a mother. He stated that no one surpasses Vasistha in meditation. After achieving technological advancement, we must use it carefully; otherwise, it can lead to destruction.

One should offer respect to teachers in the village and to parents. Only then will a person grow in life. Serving Kamadhenu is very difficult, yet King Dilipa entrusted his kingdom to ministers and personally went to serve Kamadhenu.

He did not decorate the cow with a mark (tilak) or garlands but fed it fruits. King Janaka too renounced his kingdom to go to the forest to learn Vedanta. That is the nature of our country—such great kings were free from selfishness.



He remarked that nowadays, young men and women return home very late, which is not good. It may be acceptable if it is due to office work, but not for wasting time late at night.

Servants sit on the floor as a mark of respect to their master. This, he said, is the essence of Hindutva. King Dilipa stayed near Kamadhenu to protect it. Cows usually remain chewing cud even while resting, whereas bulls lie down for a short

time and then get up and move around. He advised people to engage in service activities in cow shelters (gaushalas) and not turn them into businesses.

Just as Rama ruled the entire world, King Dilipa also ruled the earth but gave it up to serve Kamadhenu. Queen Sudakshina and King Dilipa performed all rituals for Kamadhenu and took it to Vasistha's ashram, where they spent their lives serving the cow.

Many dignitaries and devotees attended the discourse, including temple trustees, committee members, and local leaders. After the program, prasadam was distributed.

The speaker suggested that the central government should be urged to ban cow slaughter. In conclusion, he expressed hope that the ongoing tensions between the United States and Iran should come to an end.

Hyderabad Emerging as Preferred Destination for GCCs: Minister Sridhar Babu

Massive Investments Being Made in Road Infrastructure: Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy

HYDERABAD

Telangana Minister for IT and Industries Duddilla Sridhar Babu stated that leading global financial institutions are choosing Hyderabad as their preferred destination for establishing Global Capability Centres (GCCs). He said the city's highly skilled talent pool, world-class infrastructure, smooth road connectivity with minimal traffic congestion, and affordable rentals are attracting major companies.

Representatives of PICO Technology, a New York-based company, met Minister Sridhar Babu at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat on Saturday. Minister for Roads & Buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy also participated in the meeting.

PICO Technology, which provides services to financial markets, has expressed interest in establishing a GCC in Hyderabad through its subsidiary PICO Technology India. On the occasion, Minister Sridhar Babu briefed the company representatives on the opportunities and infrastructure available in Hyderabad.

He stated that the government is implementing long-



term infrastructure plans designed to meet not only the requirements of the next 5-10 years, but also the needs of the next 20 years. He pointed out that Hyderabad's office space occupancy stands at 73 percent, significantly higher compared to 52 percent in Mumbai.

The Minister noted that due to severe traffic congestion and air pollution in metro cities such as Bengaluru and Mumbai, several IT companies and GCCs are increasingly relocating to Hyderabad.

Massive Investments Being Made in Road Infrastructure: Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy Minister for Roads & Buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said the government is making substantial investments to strengthen transport infrastructure across the state.

He stated that a Regional Ring Road is being developed approximately 30 kilometres beyond the existing Nehru Outer Ring Road, along with

a network of radial roads connecting it.

He further said that rail connectivity is also being planned alongside the ring roads to create a transportation network that can rival those of the world's leading cities.

The Minister announced that a double-decker road is being constructed between Hayathnagar and LB Nagar. The lower deck will cater to local traffic, while the upper two decks will facilitate vehicles entering and exiting the city.

He remarked that Hyderabad will become the second city after Nagpur to develop such double-decker roads and informed that the tendering process will be completed within the next two months, with works to commence immediately thereafter.

The meeting was attended by PICO Technology Founder & CEO Jarrod Yuster, PICO India CEO Hari Kothandaraman, Director Sitaram, and others.



Jyotirao Phule Jayanti Celebrated Grandly at the Water Board



HYDERABAD: The birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule were held grandly at the Water Board headquarters in Khairatabad. The event, organized under the leadership of BC welfare associations, took place on Saturday, with Water Board JMD Mayank Mittal attending as the chief guest. Floral tributes were paid to the portrait of Jyotirao Phule. On this occasion, Mayank Mittal stated that Mahatma Jyotirao Phule worked throughout his life for the upliftment of backward classes and to provide them with education. He praised Phule's contributions toward equality, the importance of education, and social justice, noting that his services are unforgettable. He added that Phule's ideals continue to guide the present generation. Personal Director Mohammed Abdul Khader, in his speech, urged everyone to put Jyotirao Phule's ideals into practice and work for the development of backward communities. He said that this would be the true tribute to Jyotirao Phule. The event was attended by Water Board Project Director Sridhar, Operations Directors Vinod Bhargava, Narayana, Srinivasa Reddy, CGM Prabhu, BC welfare association presidents Jayaraj and Ramaraju, leaders Saikiran Goud and Nursing Rao, labor leaders Raj Reddy and Rambabu Yadav, along with other leaders, employees, and participants.

"A great leader who believed that society is more important than family and wealth, and who worked for the welfare of society — Mahatma Jyotirao Phule"

— said Nirmala Jaggareddy, Chairperson of TGIC

"Jyotirao Phule, who worked for women's education, is a mahjan figure whose ideals should be followed by all"

said Collector Praveenya

HYDERABAD

The birth anniversary celebrations of Jyotirao Phule were held grandly in Sangareddy. On this occasion, TGIC Chairperson Nirmala Jag-

gareddy and Collector Praveenya paid floral tributes to the statue of Jyotirao Phule located beside the Sangareddy MLA camp office.

Later, they participated in the birth anniversary celebrations organized by the BC Welfare Department near the new bus stand in Sangareddy. Speaking on the occasion, Nirmala Jaggareddy said that Jyotirao Phule believed society was more important than family and wealth, and he fought against social evils prevalent in society. She stated that the progress of women in all fields today is largely due to the efforts of Phule, who worked extensively for women's

education. She urged everyone to carry forward his ideals.

Collector Praveenya said that society will never forget the contributions of Jyotirao Phule towards women's education. She noted that he encouraged widow remarriage and fought against the social evils of his time. By educating his own wife and establishing a special school for women, he set a great example for society. The event was attended by Sangareddy Municipal Chairperson Koonna Vanitha Santosh, Sadashivpet Municipal Chairperson Munipalle Anjamma Satyanarayana, DRO Pandu, and others.

GITAM Scholar Earns Ph.D. in Mathematics

HYDERABAD

GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, proudly congratulates Dr. Ashfar Ahmed on the successful completion of his Ph.D. in Mathematics under the guidance of Dr. Krishna Kummari, Assistant Professor, School of Science.

Dr. Ahmed's doctoral research, titled "A Study on Inventory Optimization Aspects for Deteriorating Goods in a Two-Warehouse System," presents an advanced model for optimizing inventory management of perishable goods while addressing environmental sustainability. The study focuses on a two-warehouse system designed to enhance storage and transportation efficiency, with a strong emphasis on reducing carbon emissions through the adoption of green technologies.

Incorporating key practical factors such as price-dependent demand, partial backlog-



efficiency, the model provides valuable insights for businesses seeking to balance profitability with environmental responsibility.

The GITAM leadership, including Prof. D. S. Rao, Pro Vice-Chancellor; D.V.V.S.R. Varma, Resident Director; Dr. M. Reza, Principal, School of Science; and Dr. JadavGandesh, Head, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, extended their congratulations to Dr. Ashfar Ahmed and lauded his contribution to impactful and socially relevant research.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY	
Construction Organization, Ernakulam Jn	
1.TENDER NOTICE No. 3-CE-CN-ERS-2026-OT Dated 08.04.2026	
Name of work: Kayamkulam - Kollam section - Proposed construction of Road Over Bridge in lieu of LC No. 50 (Puthiyakavu) at Km 126/300-400 as 1x33829 SQ (36000 SQ) effective span composite girder superstructure between Ochira and Karunagappalli stations.	
Tender Value: Rs 814.87 Lakhs, Bid Security: Rs.16,29,800/-	
Completion Period : 18 Months	
Date and time of tender closing : 06/05/2026, 15.00 Hrs	
Complete details and tender document will be available at https://www.ireps.gov.in	
Chief Engineer/Construction, Ernakulam Jn.	

Today Intermediate Results to Be Accessible on Mobile Through Mee Seva



*Telangana's WhatsApp MeeSeva Crosses 580 different Services

Telangana MeeSeva is at the forefront of the Information Technology revolution

HYDERABAD

Under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Minister for ITE&C, Sri D. Sridhar Babu Garu, Telangana's MeeSeva WhatsApp/Chatbot platform — launched on 18th November 2025 — has rapidly scaled to over 580 government services, making it one of the fastest-adopted digital public service channels in the state.

Citizens can access all services by messaging 8096958096 on WhatsApp. In its latest expansion, students of the Telangana Board of Intermediate Education (TGBIE) can now download their Board Examination Results directly via WhatsApp, starting April 12, 2026

— no portal login, no service centre visit required.

The platform had earlier enabled free, instant access to Intermediate and SSC hall tickets for lakhs of students across the state.

How to Download Your BIE Result on WhatsApp:

1. Save 8096958096 as "MeeSeva Telangana" in your contacts.
 2. Open WhatsApp and send "Hi" to launch the MeeSeva Chatbot.
 3. Type "BIE Exam Result" and tap Open Service.
 4. Enter your Roll Number, select Year (1st / 2nd) and Stream (General / Vocational)
 5. Submit — your result is instantly delivered on WhatsApp
- "MeeSeva WhatsApp is not just a convenience — it is governance reaching every citizen on a platform they already use every day," said Sri D. Sridhar Babu Garu, Minister for ITE&C, Government of Telangana.

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SHORT TAKES

Kishan inspects Sangeet Natak Academy works at Madhapur

HYDERABAD: Union Minister Kishan Reddy on Saturday inspected the ongoing construction work of the new cultural centre, a Sangeet Natak Akademi facility, being built on the CCRT premises in Madhapur, Hyderabad at an estimated cost of approximately 23 crore. Speaking to the media on the occasion, the Union Minister said that under the aegis of the Union Ministry of Culture, they were constructing a cultural centre—akin to the renowned Ravindra Bharathi on the CCRT premises. He said that Ravindra Bharathi stands as the sole dedicated venue for cultural programmes in Hyderabad. However, keeping in mind the rapid expansion of this city, the Union government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has sanctioned this project, allocating approximately 23 crore. The construction work is currently in full swing, the Union Minister said.

City CP Sajjanar warns residents of cyber criminals

HYDERABAD: In Hyderabad, cyber criminals have unleashed a new wave of scams by using Water Board bills as a pretext. Posing as Water Board officials, they are making phone calls to citizens and intimidating them with threats such as their water bill is overdue and if they do not pay immediately, they will disconnect their water supply. Subsequently, they send a malicious link titled "HMWSSB WATER BILL UPDATE.apk" and trick people into installing it. Once this APK file is downloaded onto users' phone, complete control of their mobile device falls into the hands of these fraudsters. Not only do they divert incoming calls, but they also constantly monitor your screen to intercept OTPs (One-Time Passwords) generated for banking transactions, thereby draining your bank accounts within moments.

Intermediate results to be accessible on mobile through Mee Seva

HYDERABAD: Under the leadership of Minister for IT and Industries Duddilla Sridhar Babu, Telangana's MeeSeva WhatsApp Chatbot platform, launched on November 18, 2025, has rapidly scaled to over 580 government services, making it one of the fastest-adopted digital public service channels in the state. Citizens can access all services by messaging 8096958096 on WhatsApp. In its latest expansion, students of the Telangana Board of Intermediate Education (TGIBE) can now download their board examination results directly via WhatsApp, starting April 12, 2026 — no portal login, no service centre visit required.



Former Minister Koppula inspects venue for KCR's public meeting on the 20th April

HYDERABAD
In connection with the public meeting of former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao to be held on the 20th of this month at Jagtial district headquarters, former ministers Koppula Eshwar and Jeevan Reddy, along with district party president Vidyasagar Rao and MLC L. Ramana, inspected the site located beside Mote Road. Speaking on the occasion, former minister Koppula Eshwar said that within just two years, the state has fallen into disorder and that the Indian National Congress government has failed to fulfill even a single promise it made. He stated that the Jagtial meeting would serve as a wake-

33% women's reservations bill has been introduced in parliament under Modi Leadership

D. K. Aruna, BJP National Vice President and MP

HYDERABAD

According to the Indian cultural saying, "Yatra Naryastu Pujante Ramante Tatra Devata" (where women are respected, there the gods reside), India is a country with a great tradition of honoring women. In this context, the long-awaited 33% Women's Reservation Bill has been introduced in Parliament by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, further emphasizing the importance of women.

The Modi government has implemented several programs to ensure respect and empowerment for women—from young girls to elderly women. The Nari Shakti Vandana Adhiniyam, which provides 33% reservation for women in politics, is a historic decision. Special Parliament sessions are being held with the intention of implementing this reservation in the 2029 elections.

Although the issue of women's reservation has been discussed for many years, previous governments failed to show sincerity. Prime Minister Narendra Modi coordinated with all parties to bring forward this bill, which is commendable. However, its true value lies in its implementation. Therefore, all MPs across party lines are requested to support this bill.

This is not just a law—it represents the hopes and aspirations of millions of women. It marks the beginning of a new era in Indian



politics. On the other hand, women's representation in Telangana is currently very low. If this bill is implemented, after delimitation, the number of parliamentary seats in Telangana will increase, giving nearly 9 women the opportunity to enter Parliament. Across the country, around 273 women are expected to benefit. At the Assembly level as well, women's representation will increase significantly. If the number of Assembly seats in Telangana rises, nearly 60 women could become MLAs.

SC and ST women will also receive substantial representation. This reservation is expected to remain in effect for three terms (approximately 15 years).

With more women entering politics, the quality and transparency of governance will improve. Women, who were once confined to household roles, are now excelling in all fields such as IT, industry, healthcare, and education. Similarly, if given opportunities in

politics, they can accelerate the nation's development.

The Indian National Congress has spoken about women's empowerment for 40 years but failed to ensure proper representation in legislatures. Even today, attempts to obstruct this bill reveal their true stance. The Modi government has undertaken several key initiatives for women's dignity and self-respect. Programs like Swachh Bharat (construction of toilets in villages) and Ujjwala Yojana (free gas connections) have improved women's living standards.

Through schemes like Jan Dhan Yojana, Mudra loans, and start-up incentives, women's financial status has strengthened. Women are moving forward economically through self-employment.

To achieve the goal of a developed India (Viksit Bharat), women's participation is crucial. Their involvement in politics will ensure that both rural and urban issues are strongly represented in legislatures. The central government

is implementing many programs for women's health, nutrition, and education—such as Anganwadi services, mid-day meal schemes, vaccinations, and health camps.

Women's groups are now learning drone technology and providing agricultural services, improving their economic status. Schemes like Lakhpati Didi and Stand Up India are helping women become entrepreneurs. Women should never be underestimated. Given opportunities, they have already proven their capability in every field. Therefore, everyone in the country should support the Women's Reservation Bill beyond party lines and ensure its implementation by 2029. That would be a true step toward enhancing women's dignity.

The media conference was also attended by BJP Telangana Mahila Morcha President Dr. Mekala Shilpa Reddy, BJP State Vice President Jayashree, State Secretary Vijayalakshmi, National Council Member Geetha Murthy, and others.



Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Bicentenary Celebrations held at Ravindra Bharathi

- As Chief Guest Malli Bhatti Vikramarka, Dy CM

HYDERABAD

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu stated that if constituency delimitation is carried out based solely on the 2011 Census, it could put the very existence of southern states at risk. He was speaking as the chief guest at the bicentenary celebrations of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule held at Ravindra Bharathi on Saturday.

Key Points from the Speech

- If delimitation is conducted only on the basis of the 2011 population figures, southern states may lose their political significance, and governments at the Centre could be formed without their adequate representation.
- Southern states are leading the way in driving social transformation and are collectively exerting pressure on the Centre for equitable policies.
- The Deputy CM alleged that the Centre has reduced the share of tax revenues allocated to southern states as part of a strategy to weaken them.
- He highlighted disparities in tax devolution:
 - Telangana receives only ₹0.37 for every ₹1 contributed to the Centre.
 - Tamil Nadu receives ₹0.29, and Kerala receives ₹0.61.
 - In contrast, Bihar receives ₹6.53, and Uttar Pradesh receives ₹2.17 for every ₹1 contributed.
- He emphasized that ignoring caste census data in delimitation would harm weaker sections across the country and stressed the need for collective struggle to safeguard their rights.

On Social Justice and Governance

- The state government has prioritized people-centric budgeting, allocating substantial resources based on public needs.
- He warned that feudal forces are attempting to regroup in the state, fearing losses due to pro-people policies, and called upon Bahujans to unite and protect the people's government.
- The government is committed to social justice and will stand firm despite challenges.
- The demand for a BC Sub-Plan is under consideration, similar to the already implemented SC and ST Sub-Plan Acts.

On Reservations and Caste Census:

- The Telangana Assembly has unanimously passed a bill providing 42% reservations for Backward Class-

es (BCs) in education, employment, and local bodies.

- The bill has been sent to the Centre and is currently pending approval.
- He urged the Centre to approve the bill so that policies based on caste census data can be implemented.
- He noted that Telangana has conducted a caste survey, identifying that 56% of the population belongs to BC communities.

On Mahatma Jyotirao Phule's Ideals:

- He praised Mahatma Phule as a great visionary who fought against caste discrimination and social injustice.
- He recalled an incident where Phule faced humiliation at a friend's wedding, which became a turning point in his lifelong struggle for social reform.
- Phule's efforts for women's education were highlighted—he established schools and even appointed his wife as a headmistress when no facilities existed.
- His fight extended beyond caste discrimination to gender equality and social transformation.

On Education and Welfare Initiatives

- The government is establishing Young India Integrated Residential Schools with international standards, where children from all communities study together up to Class 12.
- To improve student welfare:
 - Diet quality has been increased significantly.
 - Monitoring mechanisms have been strengthened from the Chief Secretary to village-level officials.
- From June 2, a breakfast scheme will be launched for 20 lakh students in government schools.
- Telangana Public Schools will be established in every constituency with an investment of ₹15 crore each.
- The government has allocated 13.5% of the budget to education, reflecting its commitment to building an equitable society through education.

Additional Welfare Measures

- Funds have been allocated for the construction of Atmagaurava Bhavans.
- Free electricity is being provided to those dependent on traditional caste-based occupations.

Closing Message

The Deputy CM emphasized that an equal and just society can only be built through education and collective effort. He urged people to seize every opportunity to bring about meaningful social change and uphold the ideals of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule.

Vivek pitches Telangana's economic might at Germany diaspora meet

HYDERABAD

Minister for Labour, Employment and Mines Dr. G. Vivek Venkatswamy attended a special meet & greet programme held in Erlangen, Germany, organised jointly by the Germany_Lo_Telanganollam community and TIGER e.V. Erlangen.

The event was attended by Bavarian State Minister for Home Affairs, Sport and Integration Joachim Herrmann, Erlangen Mayor Jörg Volleth, along with members of the Telangana diaspora, professionals from various sectors, and families.

Addressing the gathering, Vivek Venkatswamy highlighted Telangana's rapid economic growth, stating that the state contributes nearly 8 percent to India's GDP despite having only around 3 percent of the population. He outlined the state's ambitious vision of becoming a \$3 trillion economy by 2047.

Emphasising the Telangana government's focus on skill development, the Minister said that 65 advanced technology centres have already been established, with 53 more in the pipeline. These centres are aimed at preparing a skilled workforce capable of meeting employment opportunities both in Germany and within India, he said.

The Minister also spoke about the TOM-COM initiative, which is being implemented with a funding of 12 million Euros to provide training for international employment opportunities.

Highlighting the importance of language and cultural readiness, Vivek Venkatswamy stressed the need for German language training and expressed Telangana's intent to strengthen collaboration with German states in the areas of skill development, employment, and integration.

He referred to the existing cooperation with Lower Saxony and conveyed interest in expanding partnerships with Bavaria and other regions.

On the occasion, Joachim Herrmann appreciated the talent pool of India and commended the efforts of Kiran Kumar Vangapalli in strengthening ties between Telangana and Bavaria.

A key highlight of the programme was the signing of the Erlangen city guest book by Minister Vivek Venkatswamy along with Mayor Jörg Volleth, symbolising the growing relationship between Telangana and Germany.

The Minister also acknowledged the role of TIGER e.V. and Germany_Lo_Telanganollam in promoting community bonding and cross-cultural engagement.

Ration card holders face problems in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD

People are facing severe difficulties due to technical glitches in the distribution of ration rice. Across various locations in Hyderabad, the ration cardholders are queuing up in long lines outside Fair Price Shops on Saturday. Capturing each individual's biometric thumb impression took an excessive amount of time. Consequently, consumers in several areas have lined up at the shops since the early hours of the Saturday morning. This month, the ration rice covering a three-month period is being distributed. The State Civil Supplies Department is carrying out this distribution in accordance with directives issued by the Central Government. According to the current software protocols, beneficiaries wishing to collect the three-month quota of rice are required to provide their biometric fingerprint on the e-POS machine three separate times. Since authentication must be performed individually for each month, the process is taking between 20 to 30 minutes per ration card. With hundreds of thousands of people attempting to provide their biometric data simultaneously, the resulting strain on the servers has slowed down the entire process. As a result, people were forced to stand in queues for hours on because their fingerprints were not being successfully registered.

Jagruthi movement for BCs reaches a level as if Phule has been reborn

- **No BC sub-quota in Women's Reservation Bill because rulers have no fear**
- **Let's launch a movement that shakes the Centre for BC women's sub-quota**
- **Government showing negligence in installing Mahatma Phule's statue**
- **Fulfilling his ideals is the true tribute**
- **Telangana Jagruthi President Kalvakuntla Kavitha**

HYDERABAD

Telangana Jagruthi President Kalvakuntla Kavitha criticized that the BJP-led central government did not include a BC (Backward Classes) sub-quota in the Women's Reservation Bill because it has no fear of BCs. She asserted that just as Jagruthi fought with commitment for the Women's Reservation Bill, it will now work with equal dedication for securing a BC sub-quota.

On the occasion of the 200th birth anniversary of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule, Kavitha, along with Jagruthi leaders, paid floral tributes to his portrait at the Telangana Jagruthi office in Banjara Hills. Speaking on the occasion, Kavitha warned that they would launch a movement



strong enough to shake the central government for the inclusion of a BC sub-quota in the Women's Reservation Bill. She said their struggle would be so intense that it would feel as if Mahatma Phule himself had been reborn. She stated that Jagruthi's movement played a key role in the passage of the Women's Reservation Bill in the country and said they should take pride in that. She added that the struggle would continue until a BC sub-quota is achieved.

With Parliament scheduled to discuss the Women's Reservation Bill on the 16th, 17th, and 18th of this month, she said they are prepared to go to Delhi if necessary. She also mentioned that they would engage with leaders of all parties regarding the BC quota. She warned that if

the bill is passed without a BC quota using the strength of power, they would not remain silent under any circumstances. She made it clear that Jagruthi's fight would continue until the BC quota is secured.

Why such negligence regarding Phule's statue?

Kavitha criticized the government for showing extreme negligence in the installation of Mahatma Phule's statue at Tank Bund. She recalled that Jagruthi had demanded in the Assembly that the statue be installed there. While the government had promised to set it up at Tank Bund instead of the Assembly premises, it has only carried out preparatory works without

actually installing the statue, even by Phule's birth anniversary. She demanded that the statue at least be installed by April 14, on the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti.

Achieving Phule's ideals is the true tribute

Kavitha said that working tirelessly to achieve Phule's ideals is the real tribute to him. She described Phule as a great leader who fought without ever backing down despite numerous hardships. She emphasized that every revolution is built on sacrifice and that if society is to change, that change must begin within ourselves. She noted that the path taken by Jagruthi is also a difficult one, similar to the struggles faced by Phule.

She praised Phule as a leader who never abandoned his path despite insults and challenges, and called upon everyone committed to social change to follow in his footsteps.

Jagruthi support for artisans

Kavitha demanded that artisans working in the electricity department be regularized. She said it is not right for the government to take action against those protesting in Kothagudem for their demands. She announced that Jagruthi leaders would also participate in the protest in Kothagudem in support of artisans across the state. She recalled that during the previous government, artisans' salaries were increased to ₹40,000 and mentioned her own efforts in that initiative.



Rescheduling of Train Services

CHENNAI, APRIL 11:

Chennai Division Line Block/Power Block between Singaperumal Koil and Chengalpattu the Engineering works the following changes have been made in the pattern of train services: Train No. 12635 Chennai Egmore - Madurai Vaigai Superfast Express scheduled to leave Chennai Egmore at 13.15 hrs on 12th April, 2026 will be rescheduled to leave Chennai Egmore at 14.15hrs (Late by 1 hour).

TN Cyber crime wing probes leak of Vijay's 'Jana Nayagan'; 21 named in complaint

CHENNAI, APRIL 11

The Cyber Crime Wing of the Tamil Nadu Police on Saturday initiated a detailed investigation into the alleged leak of movie scenes from 'Jana Nayagan', the much-anticipated Tamil film, starring actor and Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) President Vijay. The case was registered following a formal complaint by the film's production team, raising serious concerns over digital piracy ahead of the movie's theatrical release. The complaint was filed by R. Udayakumar, Production Controller of KVN Productions, who sought urgent police intervention against the



illegal leak and circulation of unreleased footage from the film. He alleged that certain individuals had unlawfully accessed, downloaded, copied, and shared scenes online, causing significant damage to the project. According to the complaint, as many as 21

persons have been named for their alleged involvement in the piracy network. The production house emphasised that the film represents a major financial and creative investment, involving high production costs, contractual obligations, and extensive ef-

orts by movie cast and crew. With 'Jana Nayagan' being one of the most high-profile Tamil releases slated for this year, any leak could severely impact its commercial prospects. The film features a star-studded cast, including veteran actor Prakash Raj, alongside Vijay, and has generated significant buzz among audiences. Industry insiders note that the scale of the project and its anticipated box office performance make it particularly vulnerable to piracy threats. In his complaint, Udayakumar urged the police to take immediate steps to curb further circulation of the leaked content. He called for the blocking of the footage across social media platforms and other digital channels, as well as the preservation of crucial digital evidence to aid the investigation. The complainant also requested authorities to seize all electronic devices allegedly used in the offence, including mobile phones, laptops, storage media, and cloud-based accounts. Additionally, he sought efforts to trace the full chain of distribution, identifying all recipients and intermediaries involved in the unauthorised sharing of the footage. Police officials confirmed that a case has been registered and cyber forensic teams have been deployed to track the source of the leak. Further action is expected as the investigation progresses.

Karnataka Congress minister accused of backing SDPI in Davangere South bypoll

State minister Zameer Ahmed Khan and MLCs Naseer Ahmed and Jabbar have been accused of covertly supporting SDPI candidate Afsar Kodlipete by allegedly funding his campaign.



According to party sources, several leaders of the Karnataka unit have flagged the issue to the Congress high command. Sources indicate that the All India Congress Committee is likely to take disciplinary action against the minister and the two MLCs. The Congress party has not issued an official statement on the matter yet. The controversy began during ticket allocation for the April 9 bypoll, necessitated by the death of sitting MLA and senior Congress leader Shanmug Shrivasthakarappa. The counting of votes will take place on May 4. The three leaders had reportedly pushed for a Muslim candidate, as the constituency has a sizeable minority population. However, the party leadership chose Samarth

Mallikarjun, son of state minister SS Mallikarjun, as its official candidate. Party sources claim that the disgruntled trio began working against the party's candidate, allegedly funneling Rs 10 crore to support the SDPI candidate's campaign. The Congress is staring at a significant embarrassment in Karnataka, if the high command takes strict action against Khan and the two legislators. The development comes amid the growing rift between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy, DK Shivakumar, over the CM's position. With Assembly polls less than two years away, the latest crisis is likely to complicate Congress's push for a second consecutive term.

PM Modi holds mega road show in Siliguri after three rallies

KOLKATA, APRIL 11

After addressing three Aamega campaign rallies in three districts of West Bengal through the day amid the forthcoming two-phase Assembly polls in the state later this month, PM Narendra Modi participated in a mega road show at Bagdogra near Siliguri in Darjeeling district in the northern sector of the state on Saturday evening. As the Prime Minister's convoy moved through the roads, thousands of local people stood on the roadside shouting "Modi-Modi" and "Jai Shree Ram" slogans. Initially, the Prime Minister was seen sitting on the front seat of his vehicle beside the driver's seat, waving his hands towards the crowd. Later, he leaned out of the vehicle window and waved at the crowd carrying a replica of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s symbol, the "Lotus." The Prime Minister's direct interaction made the crowd on the roadside even more enthusiastic, with the pitch of their

slogans rising higher. BJP's two-time Lok Sabha member from the Darjeeling constituency, Raju Bista, posted a video of the road show on his social media handle and said that the crowd's enthusiasm proved that PM Narendra Modi is one of the most popular world leaders. He added that in India, particularly in the Darjeeling hills, the Terai, and the Doars, he is seen as a guardian. "Today in Siliguri, thousands of people lined up to welcome him to our beautiful region. He obliged by greeting the people in person. What an extraordinary sight it is to see so much love and respect for our beloved PM, and him reciprocating that love by meeting the people in person spontaneously," Bista said.

Earlier in the day, the Prime Minister addressed three campaign rallies: the first at Katwa in East Burdwan district, the second at Jangipur in Murshidabad district, and the third at Kushmandi in South Dinajpur district. The two-phase West Bengal Assembly polls will be held on April 23 and April 29.

Bengal: Humayun Kabir accuses Trinamool, AIMIM of Rs 20 crore deal

KOLKATA, APRIL 11

As soon as the 19-minute controversial video came out, Asaduddin Owaisi's party AIMIM broke its alliance with Humayun Kabir's party Aam Janata Unnayan Party (AJUP). In the face of controversy, AJUP chairman Humayun Kabir accused Trinamool Congress of making a "deal" against them. He claimed that Trinamool had released a "fake video" in collusion with AIMIM to corner Aam Janata Unnayan Party before the Assembly elections. He also threatened to take this to court. On Saturday afternoon, Humayun targeted the state's ruling party and a section of the AIMIM leadership in a press conference in Beldanga, Murshidabad



district. He alleged that Trinamool had made large financial transactions with a few AIMIM leaders. The outgoing MLA from Bharatpur claimed that his video, which has caused a stir in state politics, is not true. Blaming AIMIM West Bengal President Imran Solanki and Murshidabad District President Asadul Sheikh for the breakup of the alliance, Humayun said, "Trinamool MP Khalilur Rahman of Jangipur and a Trinamool representative had a 'deal' of Rs 20 crore with two leaders of AIMIM. They have already received an 'advance' of Rs 2 crore." He further alleged, "Without verifying the authenticity of my video that has come out in the open, those AIMIM leaders took money from the Trinamool leaders and sent it to Asaduddin Owaisi Saheb, and that is why this alliance has broken up." AIMIM Murshidabad District President Asadul has refuted Humayun's allegations. He recently took a dig at his former alliance partner, saying, "Humayun Kabir's head is not working. Until he can prove that the video is 'fake,' AIMIM cannot be by his side. After the video came out,

we sent a report to Asaduddin Sahib. Based on that, our party has decided to break the alliance." Asadul further said, "We will not give even an inch of land to the Trinamool Congress in the upcoming elections. On April 13, 14, and 15, Asaduddin Sahib will campaign in support of our party candidate, Imran Solanki, in the Raghunathganj Assembly constituency. We will win multiple seats in the state." Trinamool Congress released a video on Thursday alleging the BJP's "secret collusion" with Humayun Kabir. In it, the Aam Janata Unnayan Party chairman is heard asking the BJP for Rs 1,000 crore. He is heard saying that he will give Rs 200 crore immediately. IANS did not verify the authenticity of the video.

PM Modi expresses grief over road accident in Bihar's Katihar

PATNA, APRIL 11

After the fatal road accident in Bihar's Katihar district claimed 10 lives and injured 25 others on Saturday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed deep condolences and grief over it. In a written statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) on Saturday evening, Prime Minister Modi said, "The mishap in Bihar's Katihar is extremely painful. Condolences to those who have lost their loved ones. May the injured recover at the earliest. An ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh from the PMNRF would be given to the next of kin of each deceased. The injured would be given Rs 50,000."



Earlier, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar also expressed deep condolences to the bereaved families and termed the incident extremely tragic. He announced Rs 2 lakh as ex-gratia for the families

of each deceased from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund and Rs 50,000 assistance for each injured person. The Chief Minister also directed officials to ensure proper and timely medical treatment for the injured and wished them a speedy recovery. Following CM Nitish Kumar's orders, senior administrative officials reached the site and are overseeing relief and rescue operations. The accident occurred near Basgadia Chowk under the jurisdiction of Korha Police Station on National Highway-31, where a bus and a pickup vehicle collided head-on, leading to heavy casualties. Eyewitnesses said that the bus, reportedly at high speed, collided head-on with the pickup van. The impact was so intense that both vehicles were reduced to mangled wreckage. With the help of locals and police, the injured were rushed to nearby health facilities, including the Katihar Sadar Hospital. Hospital authorities have been placed on high alert, and treatment is being carried out on a priority basis. Some of the injured remain in critical condition, raising concerns that the death toll could rise further. The tragic incident has cast a pall of mourning over the region, once again highlighting the urgent need for stricter road safety enforcement to prevent such loss of lives.

Workshop on Strengthening ITDAs Held in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD, APRIL 11:

A one-day workshop on strengthening Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDAs) in the states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh was organized in Hyderabad at the Tribal Welfare Department office located in Masab Tank under the aegis of the Tribal Cultural and Training Institute and the Welfare Department. The meeting was attended by Dr. Varnali Deka, Director of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA), Government of India, as the chief guest.

At the beginning of the meeting, Dr. V. Samujwala, Director of the Tribal Cultural and Training Institute, explained the objective of the program and welcomed the officials of the Tribal Welfare Department and ITDAs from both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. After the introductory address by the Director of the Tribal Welfare Department, Santosh B. M., discussions were held on the current status of ITDAs in both Telu-



gu states, their strengthening, differences in policies implemented across states, and fund utilization methods. It was emphasized that greater focus should be placed on education, health, livelihood, and infrastructure development through ITDAs. The need to enhance livelihood opportunities in tribal areas through skill development programs, youth training, and campus placements was highlighted. Discussions were also held on providing training to tribal youth through the Telangana Academy for Skill and Knowledge (TASK). Comprehensive discussions were also held

on protection of tribal rights, implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA), resolution of land issues, and control of migration. It was decided in principle to prepare and implement action plans at the village level. In the field of tribal education development, emphasis was placed on primary education in local languages, career guidance, and the development of residential (ashram) schools. It was also decided to replicate best practices such as achieving 100% SSC results in some areas across other regions. Additionally, discussions were held on establishing livelihood ini-

tiatives such as petrol bunks, LPG, seed, and fertilizer sales centers through tribal cooperative institutions, and promoting self-help group (SHG) based livelihood programs for women. Special focus was given to strengthening single-line administration, coordination between departments, smooth release of funds, and improving administrative efficiency.

It was decided to conduct a national workshop in mid-May to identify best practices and implement them across the country. The meeting was attended by Mulugu District Collector Divakar, Additional Director of Tribal Welfare Department Vitta Sarveshwar Reddy, Director of Tribal Cultural Research and Training Institute Vemuri Samujwala, Joint Director Sandhyarani, Joint Director of Andhra Pradesh Tribal Welfare Department Hemalatha, ITDA Project Officers, Sub-Project Officers, District Tribal Welfare Officers, and other senior officials from both states.



Multi-pronged strategy for Congress victory in Tamil Nadu

Minister Captain N. Uttam Kumar Reddy

CHENNAI, APRIL 11:

State Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Captain N. Uttam Kumar Reddy stated that a multi-pronged strategy is being formulated for the victory of Congress party candidates in the Assembly elections to be held in Tamil Nadu on the 23rd of this month. He said that guidelines to be followed for this purpose have been prepared and plans are being made to ensure victory in the elections. It is known that Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy has been appointed as the senior observer of the Congress party for the elections being held in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry states. Considering his vast experience of serving as an MLA six times, once as a Lok Sabha MP, and also as a PCC President, the AICC recently issued orders appointing Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy as the senior election observer and star campaigner in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. The Congress party

central leadership has also appointed Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka as star campaigners for the election campaign in Tamil Nadu. As part of this, on Saturday he held a meeting at the Chennai headquarters with constituency-level party observers. On this occasion, Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy said that he, along with Mukul Wasnik and Khaja Moinuddin, who have also been appointed as election observers, reviewed the election campaign strategy, coordination, and measures to strengthen the party organization. He stated that discussions were held with constituency-level observers regarding the necessary guidance for the victory of Congress candidates as part of the alliance. He further said that special focus is being placed on coordinating the constituency party machinery with the state leadership and strengthening the party at the grassroots level.

Odisha youth held by Delhi Police over alleged online radicalisation links

NEW DELHI, APRIL 11

A 22-year-old unemployed youth from Odisha's Bhubaneswar has been arrested by the Delhi Police Special Cell in connection with alleged online radicalisation activities linked to social media platforms, officials said on Saturday. According to a joint press statement issued by Suresh Dev Datta Singh, Deputy Commissioner of Police of Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Commissionerate, the accused has been identified as Sheikh Imran alias S.K. Imran, the son of Sheikh Amir and a resident of Ganga Nagar in Bhubaneswar. The accused Imran was apprehended on April 10 from the Unit-6 area with assistance from the Commissionerate Police. The arrest comes after a wider operation by the Delhi Police Special Cell, which

had earlier detained a group of young individuals in Delhi in connection with "social media posts on platforms like Instagram, Facebook, WhatsApp, and Signal related to radicalisation". During the questioning of those suspects, investigators reportedly identified a link leading to Odisha. Acting on the input, the police detained Sheikh Imran. The press statement during further questioning said, "It was revealed that Sheikh Imran, an unemployed youth, was acting as an active member of the radical group." Authorities also said that through Sheikh Imran's social media accounts, he had come into contact with a close-knit group on WhatsApp and Signal, where "radical content on religious lines was circulated, which is detrimental to national security".



Bihar: 5 injured as bomb explodes during Begusarai search operation

PATNA, APRIL 11

A major mishap occurred on Saturday during a search operation in Vrindavan village under the jurisdiction of the Navkothi Police Station in Begusarai district, when an improvised explosive device (IED) detonated, injuring five police personnel. The injured include Assistant Sub-Inspector Vipin Kumar Ojha, trainee Sub-Inspector Gudiya Kumari, and three personnel from the Special Task Force (STF). All were immediately rushed to the Sadar Hospital for treatment. According to an official, the incident occurred while a joint police and STF team was conducting an intensive search in an orchard area, acting on intelligence inputs linked to a recent robbery case. As the team began digging at a suspected spot, a concealed improvised bomb exploded. The blast was powerful enough to throw nearby personnel off balance, causing injuries from splinters and gunpowder burns. Eyewitnesses reported scenes of panic as officers were seen bleeding and collapsing immediately after the explosion. The search was part of an ongoing investigation following the arrest of the main accused, Deepak Kumar, in

connection with a Darbhanga robbery case. Police had earlier recovered approximately 8.5 kg of silver and 150 grams of gold from the same village, prompting further combing operations to locate additional hidden valuables or weapons. Officials confirmed that the injured personnel sustained minor burns and injuries to their hands, legs, and faces. Fortunately, no fatalities were reported. After receiving first aid, all five personnel were discharged from the hospital, though they remain under observation due to shock. Speaking on the incident, ASI Vipin Ojha said the explosion occurred suddenly, catching the team completely off guard. Authorities believe the explosive may have been planted either to target law enforcement or to destroy evidence. Following the incident, security has been tightened in the area, with additional forces deployed. Search operations are continuing in and around the orchard and nearby locations to detect any further explosives or hidden materials. The incident highlights the growing risks faced by security forces during field operations and the dangerous tactics criminal networks employ to evade law enforcement.

EDITORIAL

Spotlight

India's Green Surge - Powering the Future with Renewable Energy

DIPLOMATIC RESET: WHY INDIA IS RE-ENGAGING WITH TURKIYE AND AZERBAIJAN

New Delhi's recent moves to re-engage diplomatically and hold Foreign Office Consultations with diplomats in Turkiye and Azerbaijan is a considerable shift in the government's policy, especially over the past year. Since the India-Pakistan conflict and Operation Sindoor in May 2025, the government had expressed its anger not just at Pakistan, but at countries that were seen as supportive of Pakistan, diplomatically or militarily during the conflict. In particular, the Ministry of External Affairs had expressed its disappointment with statements made by Turkiye, Azerbaijan and Malaysia, that questioned the government's decision to launch strikes on terror sites in Pakistan after the Pahalgam terror attacks. During briefings about Operation Sindoor, as the 96-hour military conflict from May 7-10 was named, the government left out envoys from countries that it felt had not expressed solidarity with India. In a military briefing in July, the deputy chief of army staff said India had had to contend with at least three adversaries on its border with Pakistan, including Turkiye. Azerbaijan too was believed to have helped Pakistan with technological support. Trade and tourism to Turkiye and Azerbaijan dropped significantly for several months, as calls to boycott them went out from influential accounts. During its evacuation of Indians from Iran after US-Israel airstrikes on nuclear installations in June 2025, the MEA pointedly told those heading out by land routes to use Armenia and Turkmenistan, not either Turkiye or Azerbaijan. In addition, foreign policy commentary suggested that India was building an alliance of India, Armenia, Greece as a counter to their age-old rivals Pakistan, Azerbaijan and Turkiye, who had already formed a strong trilateral grouping. Given the heated rhetoric, and the freeze in diplomatic ties, the decision to send Secretary West in the MEA, Sibi George, to Baku to revive Foreign office consultations with Azerbaijani counterparts last week, and to invite the Turkish Deputy Foreign Minister to Delhi this week, are significant diplomatic moves that indicate that the governments in Baku and Ankara too feel that better bilateral relations are in their interests.

In a world more fraught with conflicts that fast spiral out of control, it is necessary for New Delhi to pick its diplomatic battles more carefully. The quick escalation from government demarches to online outrage and calls for boycotts, have in the past few years had a detrimental impact on bilateral ties with close friends and neighbours as well. With countries that are adversaries, as both Turkiye and Azerbaijan have been, given their closeness to Pakistan, and positions on the Kashmir dispute, New Delhi must consider its options with less emotion and more pragmatism. India has traditionally managed relations between sparring rivals without allowing itself to be hyphenated with Pakistan, or by falling into multilateral "camps".

India stands tall as a global leader in the renewable energy revolution, charting a course towards a sustainable and self-reliant future. The discourse around renewable energy is no longer just about emerging technology; it's the very foundation of our nation's future. In a world grappling with pollution and ever-increasing energy demands, understanding the imperative of renewable energy, India's global standing, and the role of its states is crucial.

Understanding the Green Power Shift:

Simply put, renewable energy harnesses inexhaustible natural resources. Unlike fossil fuels like coal and petroleum, which take millennia to form and release harmful pollutants, renewables draw from sources like sunlight, wind, water, and organic matter. Solar, wind, hydro, and bio-energy are all examples of this clean power, offering permanent solutions with minimal environmental impact.

Why Renewables are India's Imperative:

India ranks third globally in electricity consumption, and our booming economy is driving an insatiable demand for energy. We currently rely heavily on coal and imported crude oil, with over 85% of our crude oil needs met by imports. This dependency burdens our economy and exposes citizens to volatile global oil prices. Embracing renewable energy promises energy independence, reducing our reliance on imports.

Secondly, the environmental cost is staggering. India is one of the most vulnerable nations to climate change, experiencing frequent extreme weather events like unseasonal rains, floods, droughts, and heatwaves that devastate agriculture, water resources, and public health. Urban pollution, largely from burning fossil fuels, poisons our air, leading to respiratory and heart diseases. Shifting to renewables isn't just about protecting the environment; it's about safeguarding the health of our people.

Finally, economic growth is intrinsically linked. The renewable energy sector offers immense opportunities, creating new jobs. Industry estimates project 7 million jobs by



2028 and a staggering 35 million by 2047. From manufacturing solar panels and wind turbines to their installation and maintenance, this sector boosts domestic production, attracts foreign investment, and positions India as a global green technology leader. Furthermore, solar energy can bring electricity to rural and remote areas, illuminating lives.

India's Ascent as a Global Renewable Powerhouse:

India's progress in renewable energy is truly world-class. As of May 2025, our total renewable energy capacity, including large hydro projects, reached an impressive 226.75 GW. This places us among the top four nations globally in total renewable energy capacity, after China, the US, and Brazil, according to the International Renewable Energy Agency. This significant leap from 81 GW in 2014-15 underscores the Indian government's concerted efforts.

We are now the third-largest producer of solar energy globally, trailing only China and the US. Our solar capacity surpassed 110 GW by May 2025, encompassing large-scale solar farms, rooftop solar installations (which saw a 559 MW increase in May alone), and initiatives like the PM-KUSUM scheme for farmers. Programs like "PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana" are bringing solar power to millions of homes. To reduce import dependence, India is boosting domestic solar panel production through schemes like the 'Production Linked Incentive Scheme'.

In wind energy, India stands as the fourth-largest country globally, with over 51 GW of capacity by May 2025. States like Gujarat and Tamil Nadu are leading the

charge in this sector.

India's commitment to the future is resolute. We have set ambitious targets: achieving 500 GW of electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030 and meeting 50% of our total electricity requirements from renewable sources. Our resolve to achieve 'Net Zero' emissions by 2070 demonstrates a long-term vision in the global fight against climate change.

States - The Pillars of India's Green Revolution:

The national renewable energy revolution is powered by the active participation of states, with some making exceptional progress by leveraging their unique resources. Rajasthan leads in solar energy production, with over 27.64 GW capacity by May 2025, thanks to its vast desert areas and abundant sunshine, home to one of the world's largest solar parks, Bhadla Solar Park. Gujarat consistently ranks among the top states in both solar (over 18.13 GW) and wind power, supported by its long coastline and encouraging government policies. Tamil Nadu has long been a pioneer in wind energy, with over 10 GW capacity, and its solar capacity is also growing rapidly (over 9.77 GW). Its extensive coastline offers excellent potential for offshore wind projects. Karnataka, an early adopter in renewables, is strong in both solar (over 9.31 GW) and wind, benefiting from its diverse geography. Maharashtra, a large and industrialized state, is rapidly expanding its renewable capacity, particularly in solar (over 9.88 GW) and wind.

Beyond solar and wind, India is strategically developing other renewable sources. Small hydro projects (under 25 MW) con-

tribute over 5 GW, crucial for remote areas. Biomass-based power generation, utilizing agricultural waste, provides approximately 10.74 GW. Furthermore, we're investing heavily in nascent technologies like Green Hydrogen. The National Green Hydrogen Mission aims to produce 5 million tonnes of green hydrogen annually by 2030, essential for decarbonizing sectors like fertilizers, refineries, and heavy industries.

The Path Forward- Challenges and Resolve:

India's progress in renewable energy is remarkable, driven by a clear vision and sustained planning. Our 2030 targets are achievable, supported by increasing domestic manufacturing capacity and on-going projects (over 169 GW under construction, 65 GW in the tendering phase). Promoting domestic manufacturing and reducing import dependence (e.g., 74.8% of solar modules were imported from China in May 2025) are crucial for our long-term economic and energy security.

However, challenges remain. Integrating intermittent solar and wind power into the national grid requires smart grid technologies and large-scale energy storage systems (batteries, pumped hydro). Land acquisition for large projects is also complex. Securing long-term, low-interest financing and de-risking investments are vital. Additionally, a skilled workforce is essential for building and maintaining these advanced systems, necessitating expanded training programs.

Despite these hurdles, India's resolve and immense renewable energy potential inspire immense confidence in our future. Our global progress and ambitious targets clearly demonstrate our nation's vision for a sustainable future. The transition to renewable energy is not just about meeting power needs; it's about building a stronger, healthier, and economically prosperous India. Truly, the sun is rising on India's energy future, and its light emanates from our boundless renewable resources.

- J M R DUNGA

M.SC (MATHS), M.SC (PHYSICS)
SENIOR TEACHING FACULTY IN
MATHS

DUAL RADIANCE

This is no mere pair—
but a confluence of infinities
conceived in the hidden
womb of time.
This is no bond—
but a single breath
reverberating through
creation's first sound.

She
not earth, but the origin of
endurance;
not burden, but the
architecture of becoming.
Her silence—
a veiled hymn
sleeping in the marrow of
stars.

He—
not sun, but the wellspring
of light;
not a path, but the axis of
becoming.
His stride—
a quiet inevitability
across the unseen vast.

Their union—
not a play of colors,
but a resonance beyond
perception;
this is not love—
but awakening
born of the primordial pulse.

Her smile
a hush of jasmine
whispering sweetness into
stillness;
his word—
a fragile warmth
settling upon the edge of
frost.

Her heart—
not a chamber, but a sky
unfurling in iridescent depth;
his presence—
an unseen pillar
holding the infinite within.
A mark becomes a covenant,
a circle becomes a journey,
a glimmer becomes a seed
of gold;

and in the tightening weave
of life—
they rise,
a quiet strength from the ash
of sorrow.
When smiles fall like rain,



darkness learns to soften into
light;
when tears dissolve like seas,
their union becomes a vessel
of passage.
Her heart—
not shelter, but sanctum;
his word—
not guidance, but invocation;
their unity—
not illusion between worlds,
but the hidden thread of
heaven.

When longing ripens into
sacrifice,
and the body yields to truth,
in the laughter of children—
their offering becomes a
constellation.

Not the breaking of strings,
but the unbroken music of
trust;
upon the widening stage of
light,
their vow resounds
across uncounted ages.

They—
not two forms, but duality
undone;
not two voices,
but a single note
absorbed into the infinite.
Even as time dissolves,
their union remains—
a still poem within all
motion.

This is not life—
but a sacred fire
enduring upon
the altar of ages.
This is not love—
but the living verse
through which the
Absolute breathes.

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

The 14-Day Truce is Ending: Here Are Three Ways It Could Play Out

The two-week ceasefire between the United States and Iran, announced on April 7, 2026, has provided a temporary halt to what had become an accelerating cycle of escalation. US President Donald Trump framed it as a victory, claiming the US had met its military objectives and that a longer agreement was close to finalisation. Iran accepted the ceasefire on the condition that ships transiting the Strait of Hormuz would do so in coordination with its armed forces. Both sides had reasons to welcome an off-ramp. Neither side has fully stopped fighting. The ceasefire, as it stands, may be better understood as a pause rather than a settlement.

April 7, 2026, has provided a temporary halt to what had become an accelerating cycle of escalation. US President Donald Trump framed it as a victory, claiming the US had met its military objectives and that a longer agreement was close to finalisation. Iran accepted the ceasefire on the condition that ships transiting the Strait of Hormuz would do so in coordination with its armed forces. Both sides had reasons to welcome an off-ramp. Neither side has fully stopped fighting. The ceasefire, as it stands, may be better understood as a pause rather than a settlement.

These reported ceasefire violations are not marginal complications. They suggest this deal rests on the assumption that US agreement ensures Israel's alignment. This assumption, however, might not hold true in reality.

The Hormuz Question

The ceasefire is conditional on Iran reopening the Strait of Hormuz. This can be considered the primary point in Iran's proposal that incentivised the US to accept it as a framework for negotiations.

Iran has agreed to allow passage, but emphasised that this will be under the supervision of its armed forces. This is not a full return to pre-war conditions. Iran's parliament has already passed legislation formally enshrining a toll system on Hormuz traffic. The IRGC has been operating a de facto vetting and fee arrangement since mid-March. The ceasefire does not appear to resolve either of these developments.

Splitting this transit fee between Iran and Oman might also draw criticism from other Gulf nations like the UAE, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, which are key US allies in the region. The UAE has already expressed opposition, stating that the waterway cannot be held hostage by any single country and that free navigation must be part of any final settlement. Their exclusion from the transit arrangements is likely to be a source of friction in the weeks ahead.

The broader stakes of Hormuz extend beyond the immediate conflict. Control and assured

A two-week truce announced April 7 offers breathing room after missile barrages, with Trump hailing US victories and Iran eyeing regrouping. Yet Israeli strikes persist, Hormuz reopens under Iranian oversight with tolls (drawing UAE ire), and Lebanon stays hot—pointing to proxy war sans full US involvement. Three paths ahead: durable talks, attacks, or US sideline support for Israel. Odds favor clarity on gaps over breakthroughs.

access to the sea lanes of communication has been a foundational pillar of US power projection for decades. Iran's ability to impose coordinated passage through the Strait represents a structural shift in the waterway's legal and strategic status.

While the successful blockade has emerged as proof of Iran's dominance over the Strait of Hormuz at a military level, this transit fee is a step toward institutionalising control. Should that arrangement become codified through any longer-term agreement, the US may find itself under pressure to counter it, regardless of the diplomatic framing around the current pause.

The Gaza-Lebanon Problem

Within hours of the announcement, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made clear that the ceasefire did not include Lebanon. Israel's strikes against Hamas have also continued despite a ceasefire in early 2025. Pakistani mediators had urged all warring parties to observe a ceasefire everywhere, and Islamabad initially indicated that Lebanon was covered. Netanyahu and US Vice-President JD Vance have directly rejected that reading.

In mid-March, Israel launched a ground invasion of southern Lebanon, and its forces have remained in active combat with Hezbollah ever since. Fighting between Israel and Hezbollah is, therefore, expected to continue regardless of what is agreed between Washington and Tehran. Despite

mentioning it in their proposal as a symbolic gesture, Iran does not expect Israel's attacks on Hamas and Hezbollah to end either.

The second scenario is that, as was the case during June 2025 and February 2026, the talks are used by Israel and the US to launch another wave of surprise attacks. However, considering the statements by US and Israeli officials that their military objectives have been achieved and that Iran no longer poses an imminent threat, this scenario is less likely. Unlike June 2025, this confrontation has also considerably exhausted American and Israeli military resources while proving Iran's capability to survive, retaliate and retain control of the Strait of Hormuz. This substantially enhances the overall deterrence in the current talks as compared to the talks in June 2025 or February 2026.

A War Without The US? The third scenario to consider is one where Iran and Israel

continue to engage militarily while the US exits direct conflict, maintaining support for Israel on an indirect basis. Israel's recent record with ceasefires, as seen in the case of Gaza since 2025 and Lebanon since 2024, are key indications in this direction. Reports of continued exchange of fire between Israel, Iran and the Gulf countries after the ceasefire announcement are also cases in point. Iran's sustained interest in the ceasefire and talks with the US despite Israel's strikes on Lebanon and the UAE's attacks on Iran's oil facilities further supports the likelihood of this scenario. Similarly, a stable US interest in continuing the talks despite Iran's reported strikes against Gulf countries, threats to renew the blockade of straits and bombing Tel Aviv is also an important point hinting at this direction.

Beyond the control of Hormuz, the Trump administration's domestic pressures would be a key driver of an American exit. However, long-standing US commitments to Israel would ensure that the US continues to support it through military aid and equipment at least in the short-term.

The ceasefire is a meaningful development. A pause at this level of escalation indicates that off-ramps remain available. Whether it translates into something more durable will depend on whether Lebanon, Hormuz and Iran's nuclear posture can be addressed in a framework acceptable to the Gulf states, Israel and the IRGC. That is a substantial set of conditions. The next two weeks are more likely to clarify the distance between the parties than to close it.

- ABHISHEK

Disclaimer: These are the personal opinions of the author

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Boosted their image: Lashkar commander exposes direct Pak link in Pahalgam carnage

In a major giveaway exposing Islamabad's role, Abu Musa Kashmiri, a top commander of the Pakistan-based terror group, released a video claiming that the Pahalgam attack elevated Pakistan's international standing.

A startling viral confession by a Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist has alleged Pakistan's direct hand in the 2025 Pahalgam attack that killed 26 people. In a telling giveaway exposing Islamabad's role, Abu Musa Kashmiri, a top Lashkar-e-Taiba commander, released a video claiming the Pahalgam attack boosted Pakistan's international standing. Following the April 22 Pahalgam attack, Islamabad

had denied any involvement and termed New Delhi's allegations "replete with fabrications." The Pakistan armed forces had also claimed that India had not provided any "shred of evidence" for what they called baseless claims. In a viral video, Musa claimed, "After Bunyan-un-Marsoos, Pakistan's international image was boosted... I don't know if the Pahalgam attacks were right or wrong... but the actions that followed in the form of Pakistan's Bunyan-un-Marsoos, in response to India's Operation Sindoor, which had failed miserably, have taken our country 50 years forward."

However, these latest remarks by the Lashkar commander appear to contradict those denials and raise fresh



questions over Pakistan's role in the attack. The comments also come at a time when Pakistan is hosting ceasefire talks between the US and Iran to end the six-week war in the Gulf. The terrorist, then, went on to claim that the attack has provided Pakistan with an opportunity to position itself as a mediator between the US and Iran. In the early hours of May

7 last year, the Indian armed forces conducted strikes on nine terror pads across Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir. These were both retaliatory and preemptive strikes for the terror attack on April 22 in Pahalgam, which claimed the lives of 25 Hindu tourists and a local pony operator. Officials described the operation, named Opera-

tion Sindoor, as precise, controlled, and aimed at avoiding escalation. The Indian Army shared a video on X declaring, "Justice is served," confirming that the targets included sites linked to the banned groups Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba. One of the prominent targets was a significant mosque complex in Muridke, near Lahore in Pakistan's Punjab province. Masjid wa Markaz Taiba is considered the ideological and operational centre of Lashkar-e-Taiba. This 82-acre complex, often called Pakistan's "terror nursery," has been monitored by Indian intelligence for its involvement in planning attacks against India. Founded in 2000 with alleged financial support from Al Qaeda leader Osama bin

Laden amounting to Rs 10 million, the Markaz served as the core for Hafiz Saeed's terror outfit. The Markaz has been linked to training militants involved in the 2008 Mumbai attacks, including Ajmal Kasab, who was trained in intelligence operations under Pakistan's ISI, according to sources. India has stated that the strike on Muridke was a justified response to the Pahalgam attack, for which The Resistance Front, associated with Lashkar-e-Taiba, claimed responsibility. By hitting the Markaz, India intended to target both the infrastructure and the symbolic centre of Lashkar-e-Taiba's global terrorist activities, signalling its determination to dismantle terrorist support networks.

Indian Railways Enhances Passenger Convenience with Extended Boarding Point Change Facility

MALIGAON, 11 APRIL, 2026:

In a major passenger-friendly initiative, the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) is delighted to inform that Indian Railways has recently extended the facility for change of boarding point up to the time of preparation of the second reservation chart. This significant enhancement improves travel flexibility, strengthens passenger convenience and enriches the overall journey experience, while enabling seamless planning and greater comfort in accommodating dynamic travel needs. Earlier, passengers were permitted to change their boarding point only up to the preparation of the first reservation chart. With this enhanced provision, passengers can now conveniently modify their boarding station at a later stage, allowing greater flexibility, improved journey planning and a smoother, more comfortable travel experience. This ini-

tiative reflects Indian Railways' strong commitment to providing a more convenient, seamless and passenger-centric travel experience. Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) warmly welcomes this step, which is set to enhance passenger satisfaction and benefit a large number of travellers across the region. It also reinforces Indian Railways continued focus on service excellence and overall improvement in passenger amenities.

The required system upgrades have been successfully and efficiently implemented by CRIS, facilitating the seamless introduction of the enhanced facility. NFR has taken proactive steps to widely disseminate this information across all communication channels, ensuring maximum awareness and benefit for passengers. Passengers are encouraged to make full use of this enhanced facility and verify journey details through official railway platforms prior to travel.

2 men kill UP lawyer in broad daylight, then struggle to flee as bike stalls

CCTV footage showed the assailant shooting the advocate in UP's Mirzapur from a close range before attempting to flee, but the motorcycle stalled briefly, delaying the escape.

A lawyer was shot dead in broad daylight in Uttar Pradesh's Mirzapur, with CCTV footage showing the attackers briefly struggling to flee as their motorcycle stalled after the killing.

The incident occurred in the Katwaru Ka Pura locality. The victim has been identified as advocate Rajeev Singh. According to initial information, Singh had stepped out for his routine morning walk when a motorcycle-borne as-

sailant approached him. The attacker got off the bike and fired at him from close range using a country-made pistol. Singh collapsed immediately and died on the spot. CCTV footage of the attack has surfaced, capturing the sequence in detail. The visuals show the assailant waiting before moving in and opening fire at close range, while an accomplice remained seated on the motorcycle. After the shooting, the attacker rushed back to the bike, but it failed to start for a few moments, delaying their escape. By then, some locals had begun to gather at the scene but were threatened by the gun accused hand. The motorcycle eventually started, allowing the accused to flee.

Protests Intensify Across Imphal Demanding Justice Over Recent Violence

IMPHAL, APRIL 11:

Protests continued across Imphal on Saturday, with civil society groups, Meira Paibi organisations, and internally displaced persons (IDPs) demanding justice for victims of the April 7 attack in Tronglaobi and subsequent incidents of violence. A sit-in protest was staged at Singjamei by women of Kshetri Leikai along with IDPs from Akampat Relief Camp. The demonstration, organised by SEYO Singjamei Wangma Kshetri Leikai, strongly condemned the killing of two children in the Tronglaobi incident and the reported deaths of three civilians in alleged firing by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). Protesters also



expressed outrage over the recent rape and murder of a minor IDP girl, calling it a heinous crime and demanding immediate justice and stringent action against those responsible. Demonstrators criticised the government for failing to ensure public safety and restore normalcy, stating that the ongoing crisis since May 2023 continues to se-

verely affect civilian life. In a separate protest, members of the All Kongba Road United Clubs' Organisation (AKRUCO) and local Meira Paibis staged a sit-in demonstration in Imphal East, condemning both the Tronglaobi attack and the subsequent firing incident. Holding placards and raising slogans, they demanded accountability and urged

authorities to take decisive measures to prevent recurrence of such violence.

Adding to the wave of protests, a torch rally was held on Friday evening at Nungbrang, where a large number of women and youths participated. The rally was organised by Nungbrang Apunba Meira Paibi along with local clubs and community groups.

Speakers at the rally voiced strong resentment over the killing of two minors and the injury of their mother in the Tronglaobi incident. Representatives of Meira Paibi groups also raised concerns over the role of central forces, alleging excessive use of force in handling civilians and calling for accountability in such cases.

President Murmu condoles loss of lives in Bihar road accident

NEW DELHI: (APR 11)

President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday condoled the loss of lives in a multi-vehicle collision that occurred in Bihar and prayed for the swift recovery of those injured. At least 13 people were killed and 30 others injured following a collision involving a bus, a truck, and a pickup van in Bihar's Katihar district on Saturday evening, a police officer said. "The news of the deaths of people in a road accident in Katihar, Bihar, is extremely painful.

Pak handlers expanding network in India via social media, 2 arrested in UP: Cops

The Uttar Pradesh Anti-Terrorist Squad has arrested two men in Bijnor in what officials describe as part of a wider terror-linked network allegedly being run through social media by a Pakistan-linked handler based in West Asia. Authorities have also issued lookout circulars against two other accused and widened the investigation across states and abroad.

Those arrested have been identified as Uvaid Malik and Jalal Haider, also known as Sameer. Acting on intelligence inputs, police detained

the duo over their alleged links with Aqib, a resident of Meerut Mawana area who is currently based in West Asia. According to police, the arrests pointed to an expanding online recruitment and radicalisation network allegedly operated through Instagram and other platforms. Officials said that Aqib has been in touch with individuals in India as well as contacts in South Africa and Saudi Arabia. During interrogation, the accused allegedly told officers that the handler was using social media to spread radical content, incite anti-national sentiments and encourage violent activities. Police said the network was also attempting



to expand its presence within India through sustained digital engagement. Officials further said that the accused had come in contact with Aqib and another associate, Maizul, based in South Africa, around three years ago while working in Surat. Police believed that the online network gradually evolved into a coordinated

group with cross-border linkages. The case has widened significantly after earlier arrests. On April 2, ATS had detained four men from Meerut and Gautam Buddha Nagar in connection with the same module. Those arrests had initially pointed to a suspected conspiracy to target the Lucknow railway station.

Police said a viral Instagram video from November 2025 brought Aqib under scrutiny after it allegedly showed him displaying an AK-47 rifle and explosives. The clip had first surfaced last year, prompting a local case at a police station. However, the initial probe had concluded that the weapons seen in the

video were toys, leading to a closure report in the case. With fresh evidence emerging, authorities have now reopened the investigation and transferred it to the ATS. Officials have also taken action against local police personnel involved in the earlier closure, including the suspension of the then station house officer and investigating officer, while a circle officer has been removed from his post.

Police further said Aqib already faces three lookout circulars, while proceedings have begun to cancel the passports of all accused. A man identified as Sameer from Najibabad is also being traced in connection with the case.

Mathura boat tragedy toll rises to 11, 4 still missing; boat operator arrested

The death toll in the Yamuna boat capsizing in Mathura has risen to 11, with four people still missing as rescue operations continue. Over 20 teams, including NDRF and SDRF, are searching a wide stretch of the river.



The death toll in the Yamuna boat capsizing tragedy in Mathura has risen to 11 after another body was recovered during an ongoing search and rescue operation on Saturday, officials said. Four people remain missing.

According to police, the incident occurred around 3:00 pm on Friday near a pontoon bridge between Vrindavan and Mant when a boat carrying tourists capsized in the Yamuna river.

SP Suresh Chand Rawat said that one more body was recovered approximately 800 metres from the accident site, taking the total number of deaths to 11. The deceased has been identified as Manik Tandon, a resident of Ludhiana. His post-mortem has been conducted and further legal procedures are underway. Health department Rapid Response Team in-charge Bhudev Prasad said the body was found near Devraha Baba Ghat, nearly one kilometre from the spot where the boat overturned. Additional District Magistrate (Finance and Revenue) Pankaj Kumar Verma confirmed the recovery and said search operations are currently focused within a 14-kilometre radius, though there is a possibility that

some victims may have been swept further downstream. So far, 22 people have been rescued. Rescue efforts have been ongoing for over 20 hours, with teams from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), PAC, Army's Strike One Corps, and private divers involved. Rawat said eight NDRF teams, five SDRF teams, three PAC units, and six teams of private divers have been deployed since Friday night. Officials said the boat involved in the incident has been retrieved, and no bodies were found trapped underneath it. The condition of those injured is reported to be stable. The boat's operator, identified as Pappu, was arrested late Friday night. Police said he failed to provide life jackets to passengers and allegedly continued operating the boat at high speed despite objections. The vessel lost control and collided with a floating pontoon structure, leading to the accident. Authorities noted that a pontoon bridge in the area had recently been dismantled due to rising water levels, leaving behind pontoon drums in the river. It is suspected that the boat struck one such floating drum.

Government committed to making Haryana Shikshit, Swasth, Surakshit aur Swavalambi- CM

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 11

Haryana will become educated and self-reliant by following Mahatma Jyotiba Phule's ideals, says Nayab Singh Saini. CM attends Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Jayanti function at Kurukshetra

Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini on Saturday said the government is committed to making the state 'Shikshit, Swasth, Surakshit aur Swavalambi' (educated, healthy, safe and self-reliant) by following the teachings of Mahatma Jyotiba Phule. He said Phule's life and ideas serve as a guiding force and emphasised the need to build a society based on equality, justice and brotherhood by following his path. The Chief Minister was addressing a function in Babain, Kurukshetra, organised by Saini Sabha, Kurukshetra, on the occasion of Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Jayanti and the foundation stone-laying ceremony of the Savitribai Jyotiba Phule Group of Institutions. Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister, Sh. Shyam Singh Rana was also present.

During the function, the Chief

Minister accepted the demand placed by the institution to open a Savitribai Jyotiba Phule College of Nursing and announced a grant of Rs. 51 lakh from his discretionary fund. He also announced that the Mathana-Babain road will be widened to 7 metres at a cost of Rs. 13.38 crore for public convenience. The organiser of the programme and president, Saini Sabha Kurukshetra, Sh. Gurnam Singh Saini, also submitted a memorandum of demands, which the Chief Minister assured would be fulfilled. Meanwhile, Sh. Shyam Singh Rana also announced Rs. 11 lakh each on behalf of himself and Cabinet Minister, Sh. Krishan Kumar Bedi for the institution. Addressing the gathering, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said it was a matter of great pride and honour to celebrate the birth



anniversary of a personality who gave a new direction to India's social history through his thoughts, struggles and actions. On this sacred occasion, I pay my respectful tributes to Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, he said. The Chief Minister said that such state-level functions provide an opportunity to revive the resolve of

social awakening, education and equality, which Phule made the purpose of his life. To disseminate the messages of such great saints and personalities to the younger generation, the government celebrates their birth anniversaries at the state level under the 'Sant-Mahapurush Vichar Prasar Evam Samman Yojana'.

The Chief Minister said the foundation stone of the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Group of Institutions has also been laid. He said the institution would prove to be an important step towards realising Phule's dream of empowering society through education, adding that students graduating from it would become responsible citizens and contribute to nation-building. He also appreciated the continuous efforts of the Saini Shiksha Samiti for the upliftment of society. Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said Mahatma Jyotiba Phule's life was like a revolution at a time when the country was under British rule and society was marked by several evils, orthodox practices and superstitions. He said Phule identified these evils and strongly opposed them. The voice he raised against child marriage, untouchability,

caste discrimination and the lack of women's education was no less than a bold social revolution. Sh. Nayab Singh Saini further said that through his actions, Mahatma Jyotiba Phule demonstrated that change in society does not come through ideas alone, but through courage and sustained effort. Mahatma Jyotiba Phule's greatest strength was his unwavering belief in education he said. The Chief Minister said that Mahatma Jyotiba Phule believed that if society was to be transformed, the light of education must reach every household. It was for this reason that he, along with his wife Savitribai Phule, established the country's first girls' school in Pune — not merely an educational institution, but a lamp lit against the social darkness of that time, said Sh. Nayab Singh Saini.

CM Pays Tribute to Maharaj Narasingh on 176th Death Anniversary

IMPHAL, APRIL 11:

Chief Minister of Manipur, Yumnam Khemchand Singh, today paid rich tributes to Maharaj Narasingh on his 176th death anniversary at the historic Kangla Fort, Imphal. And offered tarpan at Nungjeng Pukhri and paid obeisance to the Shree Shree Govindajee Jalakeli Pala led by Maharajkumari Hemamanjuri. While paying homage at the Samadhi of Maharaj Narasingh, the Chief Minister prayed for peace and harmony in the state. Addressing the gathering, he recalled the significant role played by Maharaj Narasingh during the Seven Years Devastation. He noted that the king had visited Cachar and united Manipuri people scattered across regions through diplomatic efforts. With British assistance, the Manipur Levy was formed, which later helped drive out Burmese forces and restore the inde-



pendence of Manipur. In his presidential address, minister for Arts and Culture, Khuraijam Loken Singh emphasized that the present generation must remember the sacrifices of their forefathers and uphold their legacy of courage and unity. The observance featured a Guard of Honour, gun salute, and the sounding of the Last Post by a contingent of the 1st Manipur Rifles. The programme was organised by the Manipur State Archaeology Department under the Art and Culture Department, Government of Manipur. Among those present were Home Minister Govindas Konthoujam, Member of Parliament Leishemba Sanajaoba, MLAs, and senior civil and police officials.

Sri Lanka hopes Iran-US talks will lead to lasting peace in West Asia

COLOMBO: (APR 11)

Sri Lanka on Saturday backed the dialogue between Iran and the US, saying it hopes the ongoing diplomatic process following a temporary ceasefire would lead to a durable peace in West Asia. A US delegation led by special envoy Steve Witkoff and President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner, and an Iranian team of negotiators led by Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, are in Islamabad to attend the Pakistan-mediated peace talks, four days after Iran and the US announced a two-week ceasefire.

Welcoming the announcement of the temporary ceasefire and the "forthcoming dialogue", the Foreign Ministry described it as a "significant step towards de-escalating tensions in the region and alleviating profound human suffering" caused by the conflict.

War to escalate? US intel says China preparing to ship weapons to Iran

With the ceasefire on shaky ground and Trump sending more troops to the Middle East, there are ample signs of the conflict escalating in the coming weeks. Against this backdrop, US intel suggests China may ship new air defence systems to Iran.

Despite the US and Iran securing a fragile two-week ceasefire deal, many fear that the war is far from over. US military forces and warships remain deployed near Iran. Tehran, meanwhile, is also not sitting back. US intel suggests that Iran is likely to receive new air defence systems from China within the next few weeks, CNN reported.

While China has remained largely silent during the month-long war, and even intervened at the eleventh hour to get ally Iran on board for the ceasefire deal, any such move would be seen as provocative by the US. It would also have a bearing on US President Donald Trump's highly anticipated visit to China next month for talks with Xi Jinping. China, however, denied the intelligence assessment. "China has never pro-



vided weapons to any party to the conflict. We urge the US to refrain from making baseless allegations, maliciously drawing connections, and engaging in sensationalism. We hope that relevant parties will do more to help de-escalate tensions," the Chinese embassy in Washington said. For heavily sanctioned Iran, China and Russia have been its key strategic and military allies. Both countries provide crucial support that helps Iran navigate Western sanctions. In the war, while Russia has provided tacit support to Iran by sharing intel that has helped it target US assets in the Gulf, China was reluctant to get itself involved in the Middle East turmoil. It came into the picture only when Pakistan, which has been trying

to mediate the conflict, rushed to it for help. China is believed to have nudged Iran to agree to the ceasefire. Even Trump acknowledged China's role.

CHINA TO SEND WEAPONS TO IRAN?

Now, US intel suggests China is likely to send shoulder-fired anti-air missile systems, also known as MANPADs, to Iran, CNN reported. With much of its air defence destroyed in US and Israeli strikes, Iran has used these MANPADs to target and bring down low-flying US military aircraft. In fact, Iran is likely to have used these man-portable air defence systems to take down the US F-15E fighter jet and Black Hawk helicopters earlier this month. It was the first time in more than two decades that US fighter jets

were shot down by enemy fire.

While Iran has not provided any details, its Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) credited a "new, advanced defence system" behind the hit.

It is not known if it was a Chinese system. Experts have previously said that Iran could be using the Chinese HQ-9B, a highly advanced long-range missile system. Trump, while addressing the media in the first week of April, also indicated that the F-15E jet shot down over Iran was hit by a "handheld heat-seeking shoulder missile". With the ceasefire on shaky ground, the US feels Iran may be using the two-week truce as an opportunity to replenish its weapons systems. It indicates the widening trust deficit between the sides. China is likely to route the shipments of air defence systems through third countries to conceal their true origin, US intel suggests. It is usual practice for countries to use third parties to send arms shipments to avoid scrutiny, restrictions and global backlash. This makes it harder to prove where a particular shipment has come from.

WHAT IS CHINA'S PLAN?

The assessment within the US security circles is that

while China is averse to directly entering the conflict to protect Iran, it is trying to position itself as a key ally of Tehran. It is no secret that China, the world's largest importer of crude, is heavily dependent on oil shipments from Iran. In fact, data shows that China buys more than 80% of Iranian oil.

Thus, China is wary of upsetting Iran. Moreover, China can also argue that the MANPADs are defence systems and not an attack weapon. On the other hand, Iran is also likely to get Verba man-portable short-range surface-to-air missile launchers from Russia. A deal for 500 such units was signed by the countries earlier this year, according to leaked Russian government documents. Verba is regarded as the world's most capable man-portable air defence system, capable of detecting targets from background heat sources. While China continues to sell technology that enables Iran to keep building weapons, directly transferring weapons systems to Tehran would mark an escalation in China's support for the country. It could also escalate the conflict in the Middle East.

Hormuz to open fairly soon, with or without Iran: Trump amid ceasefire talks

US President Donald Trump told reporters on Friday that Washington will have the Strait of Hormuz "open fairly soon" with or without Iran. However, he did not elaborate on his statement and acknowledged that it would not be an easy step.



"It won't be easy. I would say this - we will have that open fairly soon," Trump told reporters while boarding Air Force One at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland.

Trump also suggested that other countries were offering help but did not identify any nation. "Other countries use the strait. So we do have other countries coming up, and they'll help out," Trump said.

Trump also said that the US won't allow Iran to collect tolls from ships passing through the Strait of Hormuz, arguing that it is international waters. His response followed a Financial Times report that Tehran will impose a \$1-per-barrel toll on oil tankers passing through the Strait of Hormuz. However, Oman, which shares the critical strait's control with Iran, denied any such plans. The blockade of the strait by Tehran since the start of the Iran war has caused the worst disruption to global energy supplies in history. The strait is a chokepoint for about 20 per cent of global oil and liquefied nat-

ural gas shipments. Trump has been upset at NATO allies' failure to help secure the Strait of Hormuz. After meeting Trump on Thursday, NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte told European governments that the US president seeks concrete commitments to secure the strait within days.

The US and Israel attacked Iran on February 28. Iran responded with its own strikes on Israel and U.S. bases in Gulf states. U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iran and Israeli attacks on Lebanon have killed thousands and displaced millions.

The war has raised oil prices and shaken global markets. Washington announced a two-week ceasefire with Tehran on Tuesday, after having previously threatened to destroy Iran's entire civilisation. Ship traffic through the strait has remained stalled while Israel continues to bomb neighbouring Lebanon, which threatens to derail the fragile ceasefire.

Left groups in Bangladesh protest US trade deal, call it 'treaty of servitude'

DHAKA, APRIL 11

Several left-wing organisations in Bangladesh condemned the trade agreement with the United States, terming it "unequal and anti-national" and demanding its immediate cancellation, local media reported on Saturday. The deal was signed on February 9, three days before the national elections during the tenure of the previous Muhammad Yunus-led interim government, sparking severe outrage. The left organisations, including Bangladesh Chhatra Union, Bangladesh Jubo Union, and Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi-gosthi, held a joint protest rally on Friday afternoon outside the National Museum in Dhaka, describing the agreement as a "treaty of servitude", while calling for its immediate withdrawal. They also warned of a "conspiracy" to lease out the country's strategic assets -- especially its ports -- to foreign entities and urged citizens to stand against the move, Bangladesh daily Dhaka Tribune



reported. Chhatra Union's central secretary general, Bahauddin Shuvo, said that Bangladesh's recent move to import oil from Russia amid the global energy crisis raised the question of US approval -- but no clear decision or favourable response has followed. He argued that it is unacceptable for a free and sovereign nation to allow another country such control or influence over its trade and foreign policy. Shuvo called for mobilising public opinion against this "unjust and lopsided" agreement and pressing the government to withdraw it through mass mobilisation -- especially its ports -- to foreign entities and urged citizens to stand against the move, Bangladesh daily Dhaka Tribune

UK pauses Chagos Island deal amid Trump criticism, seeks US approval

The UK government has paused its controversial agreement to transfer sovereignty of the Chagos Islands to Mauritius, seeking to resolve US concerns and address indigenous rights issues.



Britain's government said on Saturday it had put on hold its deal to cede sovereignty of the Chagos Islands, home to the US-British Diego Garcia air base, which has been criticised by US President Donald Trump. The planned legislation underpinning the deal to cede the islands to Mauritius, which needs the backing of Washington, would not be included in the government's next parliamentary agenda, The Times newspaper said.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer's office said London would try to persuade Washington to give its formal approval.

Trump said in February that the deal was a "big mistake", having previously said it was the best that Starmer would get. Under the deal,

Britain would retain control of the strategically important military base on Diego Garcia on a 99-year lease that preserves US operations there.

A British government spokesperson said ensuring the long-term operational security of Diego Garcia would remain a priority.

"We continue to believe the agreement is the best way to protect the long-term future of the base, but we have always said we would only proceed with the deal if it has US support. We are continuing to engage with the US and Mauritius," the spokesperson said.

throughout the process are the Chagossians, particularly elders and survivors," Noskwith said. He said questions needed to be asked about "the enormous sums of money which have been wasted on a collapsed negotiation, and the legality of conceiving a plan which denied the Chagossians their right to self-determination." He also said Starmer had to facilitate the dignified resettlement of the Chagosian people. The alliance between Washington and London has come under strain in recent weeks over Starmer's reluctance to get involved in the US-Israeli war on Iran and his refusal at the start of the conflict to allow Trump to use British air bases to launch attacks. US forces have since been permitted to carry out what the prime minister calls defensive strikes. Trump has also repeatedly criticised the British leader, saying he was "not Winston Churchill" and had ruined what is often called a "special relationship" between Britain and the US.

Toby Noskwith, a spokesperson for Indigenous Chagosian People, a campaign group, said there had been some hesitation about the deal from the start from senior people in the Trump administration, perhaps even the President himself.

"We are astonished to have come to this point. This has been framed mainly as a state-to-state issue but the people who have been lost

Three civilians killed, five allegedly disappeared by Pakistani forces in Balochistan

QUETTA, APRIL 11

As violence against civilians continues unabated across Balochistan, leading human rights organisations brought to light the extrajudicial killing of three civilians and the enforced disappearance of five others at the hands of Pakistani forces. Human rights body Baloch Yakehti Committee (BYC) mentioned that the dead bodies of 17-year-old student Sadiq Noor and 40-year-old driver Muslim Dad were discovered in the Turbat region of Kech district on Friday, nearly seven months after they were allegedly forcibly disappeared. According to the BYC, both Sadiq and Dad were forcibly disappeared on September 7, 2025, from their respective residences in the Absar area of Turbat by Pakistan's Frontier Corps and Military Intelligence. Condemning the extrajudicial killing, the rights body said, "This is not an isolated case. This is a mis-

take. This is a pattern, a system where lives are taken without accountability, where silence is imposed, and where justice is deliberately denied." The BYC further revealed that the bullet-riddled body of 19-year-old student Qamber Baloch was dumped on April 8 in Turbat, bearing visible signs of brutal torture. Qamber was forcibly disappeared on October 7, 2025, from his residence. Expressing concern over the "ongoing brutality", the rights body said, "Enforced disappearances, torture, and killing of Baloch youth without any trial or any charges -- this is a direct violation of human rights and the Constitution of Pakistan. No court, no justice, only silence and fear." The BYC called upon international human rights organisations to take urgent action, warning that the situation in Balochistan is worsening with extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances on the rise.

US-Iran talks hit roadblock as Tehran firm on Hormuz reopening, Lebanon ceasefire

Pakistani officials are holding separate talks with US and Iranian delegations. Iran is expected to join trilateral talks with the US and Pakistan only after key preconditions, including a ceasefire and an end to Israeli strikes on Lebanon, are met.



Ceasefire efforts between the US and Iran in Pakistan hit headwinds. A wall of distrust has already risen between the US and Iran, casting a shadow over ceasefire efforts in Pakistan even before talks could begin. The White House has maintained a hard-line stance, saying Trump's red lines have not changed and that he won't budge to Tehran's demands.

Despite the four hours since landing, the US delegation -- led by Vice President JD Vance and Jared Kushner -- has not held direct talks with Iran. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, in a conversation with his German counterpart, said Tehran is entering the talks without trust, further complicating efforts to end the six-week war.

In the absence of direct talks between the warring sides, the possibility of a three-way meeting involving host country Pakistan has emerged, contingent on certain preconditions being met.

So, what are those preconditions? As of now, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has already met US Vice President JD Vance. If reports are to be believed, Pakistani officials are meeting US delegates directly, while separately engaging with Iranian delegates, including Tehran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf and Araghchi. Al Jazeera reported from Islamabad that Iran will enter into trilateral talks with the US and Pakistan only after

certain preconditions are met. These include the cessation of Israeli strikes on Lebanon and a ceasefire there. Another key pre-condition conveyed to the US delegation via Sharif is the release of frozen Iranian assets held in Qatar and other foreign banks, according to Iranian media.

The other red lines from Iran's side include pointers from its ceasefire plan including the Strait of Hormuz, payment of war reparations, and a ceasefire across the Middle East region, an Iran state TV reporter said. As the three sides navigate the complicated contours of diplomacy, one of the big issues is a significant trust deficit between the US and Pakistan. This situa-

tion has been further complicated by the US president's statement that if negotiations fail, he will strengthen his naval forces and address the issue through military means. Amid these conditions, teams in Islamabad are finalising the specifics of the discussions. A key demand from Iran concerns the cessation of hostilities in Lebanon, where Israeli attacks are ongoing.

Another significant matter involves the release of Iranian funds frozen since 1979. Reports suggest the US may consider agreeing to unfreeze some of these billions of dollars. The presence of the US Vice President in the talks is also noteworthy. JD Vance is regarded as a relatively impartial figure who has expressed opposition to foreign military engagements for some time. Vance did not play a prominent role during the initial US strikes on Iran, which adds to his perception as a more neutral participant in the current discussions. These developments come as Islamabad's teams work through complex diplomatic channels, aiming to address the concerns raised by all involved parties.

Mojtaba Khamenei has severe and disfiguring wounds, says report

Iran's new Supreme Leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, is still recovering from severe injuries sustained in an airstrike that killed his father, while continuing to participate in key decisions through audio meetings.



The strike hit the Supreme Leader's compound in central Tehran on February 28, the first day of the conflict launched by the United States and Israel. Mojtaba Khamenei's face was left disfigured and he suffered serious injuries to one or both legs, the sources said. His wife, brother-in-law and sister-in-law were among family members killed in the same attack. Despite the injuries, he is said to be mentally alert and actively involved in governance. Two of the sources said he participates in meetings with senior officials through audio conferencing and continues to take part in decisions on major issues, including the war and negotiations with Washington. His condition came at a sensitive moment for Iran, as high-stakes peace

Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth had earlier said on March 13 that he was "wounded and likely disfigured". Iran's state media has offered only limited acknowledgement. A television newsreader previously described him as a 'janbaz', a term used for those severely wounded in war. A senior Iranian official said images of the new leader could be released within one or two months, and that a public appearance might follow if he health and security conditions allow. Inside Iran's political system, ultimate authority rests with the Supreme Leader, who oversees the elected President and commands key parallel institutions, including the Revolutionary Guards. Analysts told Reuters that Mojtaba Khamenei's authority is still taking shape. Alex Vatanka of the Middle East Institute said that even if he represents continuity, he is unlikely to immediately command the same control exercised by his father over decades. "Mojtaba will be one voice, but it will not be the decisive one. He needs to prove himself as the credible, powerful,

overriding voice," Vatanka said. He added that the Revolutionary Guards have emerged as a dominant force in strategic decision-making during the war, shaping the internal balance of power as the new leadership consolidates itself. Mojtaba Khamenei's first communication as Supreme Leader came on March 12 in a written statement read on state television, in which he called for the Strait of Hormuz to remain closed and warned regional states to shut US bases. Another statement on March 20 marked the Persian New Year, which he described as the "year of resistance". Since then, major policy positions on the war, diplomacy, ceasefire talks and domestic unrest have largely been articulated by other senior officials. His prolonged absence has fuelled speculation inside Iran, where social media users and messaging groups have circulated theories about his condition and the real centres of power. One widely shared meme shows an empty chair under a spotlight with the caption: "Where is Mojtaba?"

Govt May Gain Power to Remove X Community Notes



NEW DELHI

With the proposed amendments to the Information Technology Rules, 2021, Community Notes – the user-generated fact-checking tool on X (formerly Twitter) – would formally be brought under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting's regulatory remit, which would in turn allow the Union government to ask for removal of content that corrects official claims, reported Hindustan Times, citing an

official who is aware of the issue. Under the expanded framework of the proposed amendments, a community note that starts looking like it's dealing with news, politics or public policy, could come under scrutiny, a ministry of electronics and IT (Meity) official told the newspaper.

The HT report added that earlier this year, several posts by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders and ministers on X drew community notes that the government flagged

to the platform, according to people aware of the matter at the company.

The persons whose posts drew community notes included prime minister Narendra Modi, Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan, and Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, reported Hindustan Times.

If the government decides a note is unlawful under the expanded framework as per the proposed amendments, the procedure would follow the standard route of a take-

down or blocking direction being sent to the platform, which would require it to remove or disable of access within a set time.

On 30 March 2026, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology published proposed amendments to the 2021 IT Rules inviting public comments by 14 April, a comment period of barely fifteen (15) days for changes with far reaching consequences for free speech and intermediary governance in India.

Middle East war to cut global growth, spike inflation despite truce: World Bank



The World Bank's baseline estimate now projects growth in emerging markets and developing economies of 3.65 per cent in 2026, compared to 4 per cent in October, dropping as low as 2.6 per cent in an adverse scenario with a longer-lasting war.

The war in the Middle East will have a cascading impact on the global economy, even if a ceasefire announced by U.S. President Donald Trump takes hold, World Bank President Ajay Banga told news agency Reuters in an interview on Friday.

And the damage will be far deeper if the ceasefire fails and the conflict escalates, he said.

Banga on Tuesday said global growth could be lowered by 0.3 to 0.4 percentage point in a baseline scenario, with an early end to the war, and by as much as 1 percentage point if it endures. Inflation could increase by 200 to 300 basis points, with a much higher impact - of up to 0.9 percentage point - if the war continues, he said.

The World Bank's baseline estimate now projects growth in emerging markets and developing economies of 3.65 per cent in 2026, compared to 4 per cent in October, dropping as low as 2.6 per cent in an adverse scenario with a longer-lasting war. Inflation in those countries was now forecast to hit 4.9 per cent in 2026, up from the previous estimate of 3 per cent. The extreme scenario could see inflation rising as high as 6.7 per cent, according to estimates viewed by Reuters.

The war, which has killed thousands of people across the Middle East, has sent the price of oil up by 50 per cent while disrupting supplies of oil, gas, fertiliser, helium and other goods, as well as tourism and air travel.

The two-week ceasefire announced by Trump appears tenuous, with Israel and Iran continuing strikes. Iran said on Friday that blocked Iranian assets must be released and a ceasefire must take hold in Lebanon before US-Iran talks, scheduled for Saturday in Pakistan, can proceed. Trump said that US warships were being reloaded with ammunition in case the talks failed.

"The question really is, does this current peace and the negotiations that are going to be happening this weekend - will this lead to a lasting peace and then a reopening of the Strait (of Hormuz)?" said Banga. "If it doesn't lead to that, and if conflict were to break out again, would that have an even larger impact, or longer-term impact on energy infrastructure?"

Banga said the world's largest development bank was already in discussions with some developing countries, including small island states with no

natural energy resources, about tapping funds from existing programs under "crisis response windows."

The World Bank's crisis toolkit allows countries to tap previously approved but not yet disbursed funds without additional board approvals, increasing flexibility.

But Banga said the bank was cautioning countries to avoid setting up energy subsidies that they could not afford, which would trigger even bigger problems in the future.

"I worry about making sure that they can come through this crisis, targeting what they need to do, but not doing anything that further deteriorates that fiscal space," he said.

Many developing countries also have high debt levels and interest rates remain high, which constrains their ability to borrow money to fund measures to respond to the jump in energy costs and other goods caused by the war.

The crisis has put a fresh spotlight on the need for countries to diversify energy supplies and boost self-sufficiency, Banga said. The World Bank last June ended a longstanding ban on funding nuclear energy projects as part of a push to meet rising electricity needs. Nigeria, which had long faced problems, stood to benefit from a USD 20 billion investment made by the Dangote Group in refineries, which had actually increased output during the war, and was now supplying aviation fuel to neighboring countries.

"Nigeria should be breathing a sigh of relief. They've built up the ability to have energy security for themselves through that huge investment," he said. "It's actually a really good example of the right thing being done in terms of energy self-sufficiency for them, but also for their neighbors."

The World Bank is also working closely with Mozambique, another African country, to expand its energy production capabilities in both natural gas and hydropower.

The World Bank had many energy products in the pipeline, Banga said, noting that talks were under way with some countries looking to extend the life of their fleets of nuclear reactors, and others keen to move into nuclear power. "If you don't get nuclear and hydro and geothermal going at scale, along with wind and solar, they will end up doing more with traditional fuels, and nobody really wants that," he said.

Global Inequality Widens as Reform Promises Stall: UN Report

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON

The gap between rich and poor nations continues to widen as key global reform commitments remain unfulfilled, according to a new United Nations report released ahead of the upcoming spring meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

The report reviews progress on the "Seville Commitment," a development blueprint adopted by multiple countries in Spain last year to address a \$4 trillion annual financing gap and accelerate progress toward the UN's 2030 development goals. However, it concludes that implementation has been slow and uneven.

Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director of the IMF, said earlier efforts to boost global growth have been overshadowed by rising geopolitical tensions, including the ongoing Iran conflict, which has darkened the global economic outlook.

UN Under-Secretary-Gen-



eral for Economic and Social Affairs Li Junhua warned that geopolitical strains are making it harder for developing nations to secure financing.

"This is an extremely perilous time for international co-operation," he said, noting that political considerations are increasingly influencing economic and financial policies.

The report highlights rising trade barriers, climate-related disruptions, and declining development assistance as key factors driving inequality. In 2025, 25 countries reduced aid to poorer nations, result-

ing in a 23% drop from the previous year – the steepest annual decline on record. The United States accounted for the largest reduction, with aid falling by 59%.

A further decline of nearly 6% in global development assistance is projected for 2026, based on preliminary estimates.

At the Seville conference, participating nations – excluding the United States – agreed to scale up investments in developing economies and push for structural reforms in global financial institutions.

The initiative also called for overhauling governance at the IMF and World Bank to better serve low-income countries.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has repeatedly criticized both institutions, arguing they disproportionately benefit wealthier nations and have fallen short in supporting vulnerable economies, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The report also notes that increased tariffs have further strained developing economies. Average tariffs on exports from the world's poorest countries rose sharply from 9% to 28% in 2025, while tariffs on developing nations – excluding China – climbed from 2% to 19%. Policies introduced during the administration of Donald Trump were cited as a contributing factor.

Despite the challenges, the UN report maintains that full implementation of the Seville Commitment remains "the best hope" for narrowing the widening global financial divide.

Jag Vikram Safely Crosses Strait of Hormuz, Govt Assures Maritime Security



NEW DELHI, APRIL 11

The government on Saturday confirmed that the India-flagged LPG vessel Jag Vikram has safely crossed the Strait of Hormuz, amid heightened tensions in the Gulf region. In a routine briefing, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways said the vessel, carrying approximately 20,400 metric tonnes of LPG and 24 crew members, is expected to reach Mumbai on April 15.

Reassuring the safety of Indian maritime assets, authorities stated that all Indian seafarers in the region are safe, with no incidents involving India-flagged vessels reported in the past 24 hours.

The government said it has put in place comprehensive measures to safeguard vessels and crew, including continuous monitoring through a 24x7 Shipping Control Room. Since its activation, the facility

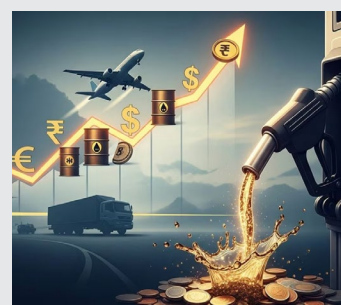
has handled 5,973 calls and over 12,675 emails, including 128 calls and 319 emails in the last 24 hours alone.

Through the Directorate General of Shipping, over 2,009 Indian seafarers have been safely repatriated so far, including 81 in the past 24 hours from various locations across the Gulf region.

Port operations across India remain normal, with no congestion reported, the statement added. The government is also coordinating closely with the Ministry of External Affairs, Indian missions, and maritime stakeholders to ensure the safety and welfare of seafarers and maintain uninterrupted operations.

Meanwhile, the MEA said Indian missions across the Gulf and West Asia are in constant touch with the Indian community, issuing advisories and providing necessary assistance as the situation continues to be monitored closely.

Govt hikes windfall tax on diesel to Rs 55.5/litre, ATF to Rs 42/litre



NEW DELHI: (Apr 11) The government on Saturday hiked export duty, or windfall tax, on diesel to Rs 55.5 per litre and on aviation fuel ATF to Rs 42 a litre. The duty hikes would be applicable with immediate effect, the finance ministry said in a notification.

The government had, on March 26, imposed an export duty of Rs 21.50 a litre on diesel, and Rs 29.5 per litre on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF). The duties were levied to increase domestic availability of the fuel amid the war in West Asia.

India, Saudi Review West Asia Situation, Stress Supply Chain Stability

NEW DELHI, APRIL 11



India and Saudi Arabia on Saturday reviewed the evolving situation in West Asia and emphasized the need to ensure continuity of supply chains and stable trade flows amid regional tensions.

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal held a virtual meeting with Saudi Commerce Minister Dr Majid bin Abdullah Al Qassabi, expressing hope that the ceasefire would lead to lasting peace and stability in the region.

According to an official statement, Goyal praised the resilience of the Saudi people in maintaining supply chain stability despite ongoing disruptions. He also condemned recent attacks in the region and appreciated Saudi Arabia's efforts to safeguard the Indian community.

Both sides acknowledged the strain the conflict has placed on regional supply chains and stressed the importance of coordinated efforts for early recovery and smooth trade operations.

Goyal highlighted India's initiatives to support exports to Saudi Arabia and the Gulf region. The ministers reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral trade ties and expressed optimism about early progress in the India-GCC Free Trade Agreement negotiations with the Gulf Cooperation Council.

The meeting underscored the shared commitment of both countries to deepen their economic partnership further.

Earlier, Goyal held a series of virtual meetings with key Gulf leaders. In talks with Jaseem Mohamed Al Budaiwi, Secretary General of the GCC, he expressed confidence that the ceasefire would hold and contribute to long-term regional stability.

In a separate interaction with Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi of the United Arab Emirates, Goyal emphasized the importance of uninterrupted trade and reiterated India's support, while thanking the UAE leadership for assisting the Indian diaspora during the crisis.

He also held discussions with Abdulla Bin Adel Fakhro of Bahrain, where both sides highlighted the need to restore stability and ensure predictable trade flows, particularly through key maritime routes.

SBI Donates Rs. 1 Crore Bus Fleet to Osmania University Under CSR Initiative

HYDERABAD, APRIL 11

State Bank of India (SBI) on Saturday handed over a fleet of buses worth ₹1 crore to Osmania University as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, aimed at improving campus transportation facilities for students.

The handover ceremony was held at the University College of Arts and Social Sciences on the OU campus, where senior officials from both institutions were present. The fleet includes one air-condi-

tioned luxury bus and two non-AC high-capacity buses, designed to enhance mobility across the university's expansive campus.

Speaking on the occasion, OU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Kumar Molugaram expressed gratitude to SBI, stating that the contribution would significantly improve student convenience and welfare. He noted that the initiative reflects a strong partnership between the banking institution and the university in supporting academic infrastructure.

SBI Hyderabad Circle Chief

General Manager S. Radhakrishnan highlighted the shared legacy of both institutions, emphasizing that the initiative recognizes Osmania University's longstanding contribution to education and society. He added that SBI remains committed to supporting educational institutions and youth development through its CSR programs.

SBI General Manager Satish Kumar also reiterated the bank's focus on empowering students, stating that investments in educational infrastructure are essential for

nurturing future leaders.

The event featured the ceremonial handover of keys and the flagging off of the buses, symbolizing the formal induction of the vehicles into the university's transport system.

Several dignitaries from both SBI and Osmania University attended the event, including Registrar Prof. G. Nares Reddy and senior SBI officials. The program concluded with a vote of thanks and a group photograph, marking the collaboration between the two institutions.



FORTIFIED MILK VS EGG YOLKS: WHICH HAS MORE VITAMIN D?

Vitamin D deficiency has quietly become one of India's most widespread yet overlooked health concerns, affecting nearly two-thirds of the population across age groups. From teenagers to adults, many people remain unaware of their low vitamin D levels until symptoms like fatigue, weak bones, or reduced immunity begin to surface. Despite the availability of simple sources such as sunlight, milk, and eggs, modern lifestyles, limited sun exposure, and dietary gaps continue to worsen the problem. As awareness grows, the focus is now shifting toward understanding everyday sources of vitamin D—especially common foods like fortified milk and egg yolks—and how they can help bridge this crucial nutritional gap.



About 67% of the Indian population suffers from a vitamin D deficiency, out of which 75% of females and 59% of males suffer from it. Surprisingly, the research published in the International Journal of Life Sciences, Biotechnology and Pharma indicates that teenagers and those below the age of 25 years are deficient in vitamin D. While the diet and necessary daily sun exposure are required to supply the body with enough vitamin D, most people tend to ignore their vitamin D levels until they suffer from the consequences. Be it fatigue, poor nutrient absorption, or the inability to be in the sun, people need to reassess how much vitamin D-rich food they are eating daily and whether they are getting morning sun daily. While milk and eggs are everyday foods that are often linked to supplying the body with vitamin D, people need to be aware of their actual levels to figure out whether they need to increase their intake to attain the proper balance. While milk and eggs are common sources of vitamin D, people need to know the exact level of vitamin D that their body needs, along with their current consumption habits that affect its absorption rate. To know which food source has a better

vitamin D dose, you need to look at its individual nutritional profile.

Why Vitamin D Is Important For The Body

Vitamin D is an essential vitamin that is needed in the body for nutrient absorption. So, knowing its exact levels is necessary. The vitamin is responsible for a lot more than people realise, and it can support the following if the dose of vitamin D in the body is at the desired level: Supports bone strength and calcium absorption, as most nutrients that are extracted from food consumed in the body require vitamin D to be properly absorbed in the body. Plays a role in immunity and muscle health, as the immune system requires a steady and regular flow of vitamin D to maintain its functioning. Deficiency linked to fatigue, bone pain, and fractures, as the cyclic non-absorption of nutrients leads to overall deficiencies and loss in mineral density.

Vitamin D In Fortified Milk

Vitamin D in fortified milk means that the commonly consumed cow milk has additional vitamin D in it, and it makes the milk a better medium to carry the vitamin D in the body. Ac-

ording to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), fortified milk contains about 400 IU per quart of vitamin D, whose dosage can be increased when additional vitamin D is added to it. This is especially beneficial as the fortified milk has additional benefits that supply the body with calcium and protein. And in India, this can be great, as a majority of the population suffers from a vitamin D deficiency. Be it children, teenagers, or adults, people need their extra dose of vitamin D in any way they can get it. But their body should be able to absorb its nutritional benefits to avail the health benefits from the additional vitamin D.

Vitamin D In Egg Yolks

Egg yolks contain 37-40 IU (1 microgram) of vitamin D, contributing roughly 5-6% of the daily recommended intake for adults. So, eating two whole eggs as advised in the ICMR and National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) is needed, as people of all ages need their vitamin D from egg yolks. Naturally occurring vitamin D is common in hard cheese, salmon, herring, rainbow trout, and many other food items. But the access, cost, and awareness are factors that limit their consumption, especially in daily diets. So, switching from normal cow milk to vitamin D-fortified milk can prove helpful for people, as it can easily become a part of their everyday diet. Besides vitamin D, other nutrients in egg yolk provide the body with essential amino acids that are necessary for its health and daily functioning.

Fortified Milk vs Egg Yolks

When the exact levels of vitamin D are compared, fortified milk has more vitamin D, while egg yolks have a small amount. But the thing with fortified milk is that the quality of its preparation matters, along with its ability to be absorbed by the body. But both sources are easy to consume for vitamin D content. The cost and availability are two factors that can influence your choice between these sources, but balancing their intake is advisable, as per the nutritionist Lovneet Batra, who clarifies which food sources provide vitamin D2 vs D3, which affects absorption.

Vitamin D3 (more effective):

- Fatty fish
- Egg yolks
- Animal-based fortified foods

Vitamin D2:

- UV-exposed mushrooms
- Plant-based fortified foods
- This distinction is important because D3 is more effective at raising blood vitamin D levels, even when sourced from food.

Which Is Better For Vitamin D Intake?

To know which source of vitamin D is for you, firstly, you need to get your vitamin D levels tested. Once you know the exact levels, then you need to figure out whether you need to increase the intake, and then consulting a nutritionist is needed for a personalised approach. Here are some additional factors on which your vitamin D food source should depend:

- It depends on the diet pattern and quantity, as every individual needs an individualised approach for effectiveness.
- Milk alone may not meet daily needs, as many food sources are needed for correcting the levels of vitamin D in the body.
- Eggs can boost intake, but in moderation, as eating too much will not increase the level of vitamin D suddenly; consistent and the right sources will do it.

Can Either Replace Sunlight?

This is not possible, as the human body needs a daily supply of sunlight or natural light to balance the mood of people, regulate their emotions, support energy levels, heal inflammation, and provide many other wide-ranging health benefits. Sunlight remains a major source of vitamin D, and it is necessary that people prioritise their daily exposure to it to avoid serious health issues. Consuming vitamin D-rich foods is not enough; your body needs a balance of sunlight as well. If you are worried about your vitamin D levels, then you need to practise these tips consistently to see visible results. When vitamin D is dangerously low, then active supplementation is needed to correct the levels. But after medical testing, blood work is needed along with a nutritionist's or dietician's expert advice to make sure your vitamin D levels are adequate.



Frequent Urination In Men: Early Sign Of Diabetes Or Prostate Issue?

Waking up multiple times at night to urinate or making frequent trips to the washroom during the day can be more than just an inconvenience. For many men, it raises an important concern: is this an early sign of diabetes, or could it be prostate-related problem? While occasional changes in urination are normal, persistent frequency should not be ignored. It could be your body's way of signalling an underlying health issue that needs attention. There is no fixed number that defines normal urination, but most people pass urine around 6 to 8 times a day.

What Counts As "Frequent" Urination?

Frequent urination, also called urinary frequency, refers to the need to pass urine more often than what is considered typical generally exceeding 4 to 8 times a day. If you find yourself going much more often, especially without increasing fluid intake, it may be worth looking into. Night-time urination, also known as nocturia, is another red flag, particularly if it disrupts your sleep regularly.

Could It Be Diabetes?

Frequent urination is one of the early and most common symptoms of Type 2 Diabetes. When blood sugar levels rise, the kidneys work harder to filter and remove excess glucose from the body. This leads to increased urine production. You may also notice other symptoms such as:

- Increased thirst
- Unexplained weight loss
- Fatigue or low energy

If these signs appear together, it is important to get your blood sugar levels checked. Early diagnosis can make a significant difference in managing the condition effectively.

Or Is It A Prostate Problem?

In men, frequent urination is often linked to prostate health, especially as they age. One common condition is Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia, a non-cancerous enlargement of the prostate gland. As the prostate enlarges, it can press against the urethra and affect the flow of urine. This may cause:

Difficulty starting urination

- Weak urine stream
 - Feeling like the bladder is not completely empty
 - Frequent urge to urinate, especially at night
- While this condition is not life-threatening, it can significantly affect quality of life if left untreated.

Key Differences To Watch For

Although both conditions can cause frequent urination, a few differences may help you identify the likely cause:

- Diabetes-related urination is often accompanied by excessive thirst and increased hunger
- Prostate issues tend to involve difficulty in urine flow rather than just increased frequency
- Diabetes can affect men at any age, especially with risk factors like obesity or family history
- Prostate enlargement is more common in men over 50
- That said, these are general patterns, not rules. Only proper medical evaluation can confirm the cause.

Other Possible Reasons

Frequent urination is not always linked to diabetes or prostate issues. Other factors can also play a role, such as urinary tract infections, high fluid intake (especially caffeine or alcohol), certain medications, or even stress and anxiety. This is why self-diagnosing based on symptoms alone can be misleading.

INDIA'S CANCER CASES NEAR 16 LAKH, DOCTORS FLAG EARLY DETECTION CRISIS

India's cancer burden is rising sharply, with cases projected to reach nearly 15.7 lakh in 2025, even as doctors warn that 60 to 70 per cent of patients are still diagnosed at advanced stages—a gap they say is undermining survival gains from rapid advances in treatment. At a time when cutting-edge therapies like CAR-T cell treatment, precision radiotherapy and robotic surgery are becoming available in India, oncologists say the biggest challenge remains delayed diagnosis, lack of screening, and deep inequalities in access to care. Doctors say outcomes have improved dramatically over the past decade, but timely diagnosis remains the missing link.

Dr. Gaurav Aggarwal, Executive Vice President at Max Super Speciality Hospital, Vaishali said, "Earlier, cancer was seen almost like a death sentence... but now, with the treatments we have, patients can have a very good lifespan if diagnosed early." He pointed to a persistent pattern: patients travelling from Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities to Delhi often arrive in advanced stages when treatment becomes more complex and less effective. "Our point is reach early, reach on time," he said, adding that outreach efforts are being expanded to smaller cities to improve early detection. Even as awareness grows, doctors say screening in India remains largely "opportunistic", available mainly to those who can afford it or receive corporate health benefits. Dr. Rajinder Kaur Saggi, Senior Director, Surgical Oncology (Breast) says, "We get women from corporates who come for screening after the age of 40, but the lower socioeconomic strata, the poor people, they don't have this facility." This disparity, she said, is a key driver of late-stage detection



and higher mortality. Hospitals say subsidised care is being offered under government schemes. "We provide surgery and mammograms at one-fourth of the cost under government schemes and we do not refuse patients. They get the same treatment as the affluent class," Dr. Saggi added.

Early Detection Can Save Lives

Doctors stress that simple interventions like regular screening could significantly reduce mortality, especially in breast cancer. "If we do regular mammograms in women after the age of 40, once a year, the mortality is reduced by 30 per cent. This is a very big number," Dr. Saggi said. Yet, myths and stigma continue to deter patients. "Most women believe mammograms are painful or spread cancer. This is absolutely a myth... the radiation

dose is even less than what we receive from the environment daily," she said. Doctors also flagged widespread misconceptions—from fears about deodorants and bras causing cancer to panic over benign breast lumps—as barriers to timely care.

"Eighty percent of breast lumps are non-cancerous," Dr. Saggi clarified.

Advanced Tech Expands - But Not Enough

India's top cancer centres are increasingly adopting advanced, globally benchmarked technologies, transforming treatment outcomes. These include: CAR-T cell therapy for blood cancers, EDGE 4.1 precision radiotherapy, Da Vinci robotic surgery systems. "These advancements allow precise, organ-based, and customized treatments, improving prognosis significantly," Dr. Aggarwal said. Radi-

otherapy has become far more targeted. "Earlier there was a lot of collateral damage to normal tissue. Now, with precision radiotherapy, we can target cancer cells accurately while minimizing damage," he explained. Dr. Rashi Agrawal, Senior Director, Radiation Oncology, said that modern techniques can even track moving tumours in real time. "A tumour is not a square or circle, it's amoeba-like and moves with breathing. With new technologies, we can follow that movement and reduce side effects," she added. Treatment timelines have also shortened dramatically—from six weeks earlier to as little as one week in some cases, improving patient experience.

AI In Cancer Care: Promise And Pitfalls

Alongside clinical advancements, hospitals are increasingly integrating artificial intelligence into cancer care—from diagnostics to hospital systems—but doctors caution against its misuse by patients. "One thing is very clear, we have to integrate AI in the right way," said Dr. Aggarwal. He said AI is being used to support doctors with structured, data-driven insights, helping improve diagnostic accuracy and treatment planning. "Doctors have apps, advanced hospital information systems, from diagnostics, radiology, lab reports to treatment plans, everything is available on a click," he said. "A doctor can see the patient's entire journey and is always up to date." He flagged a growing concern of patients relying on AI tools and online information for self-diagnosis. "There is misuse of AI. Patients feel whatever they have read is generalised for them," he said. "It is better to consult a specialist first." Explaining the role of robotic

surgery in modern cancer care, Dr. Rashi Agrawal said technologies like the Da Vinci system enhance precision but do not replace the surgeon. She noted that robotic systems allow for far greater flexibility than the human hand. "The robot can move in multiple directions, even 360 degrees, which our wrist cannot. With magnified, high-definition visuals, we can clearly identify structures like arteries and veins, making it easier to operate while preserving critical tissues," she said. However, she emphasised that the technology remains a tool—not a substitute for clinical judgment. "The doctor is operating the robot, the robot cannot do anything on its own. There has to be a man or a woman behind the machine," she said.

Shift Towards Personalised Treatment

Doctors say cancer care is also moving towards highly individualised treatment plans, driven by multidisciplinary "tumour boards". "These are the backbone of modern cancer treatment, we design personalised, evidence-based plans depending on biology, genetics, and patient condition," Dr. Saggi said. Patients are increasingly involved in decision-making, with options tailored to both medical and personal preferences. For instance, in breast cancer, organ preservation is now prioritised over removal wherever possible, with reconstructive options available when needed. Highlighting the importance of human expertise in patient care, Dr. Agrawal added, "It is not the machine. In India, the personal touch is very important." While India is rapidly closing the gap with global standards in treatment, the real battle lies outside hospitals—in awareness, screening, and timely diagnosis.



Samson, Overton help CSK beat DC by 23 runs, get first win of the season

CHENNAI

Sanju Samson's scintillating unbeaten 115 and Jamie Overton's clinical 4-18 powered Chennai Super Kings to a commanding 23-run victory over Delhi Capitals and got their first win of the IPL 2026 at the MA Chidambaram Stadium on Saturday.

Samson, the hero of India's 2026 Men's T20 World Cup triumph, lit up Chepauk with the first century of the ongoing season, smashing 115 off just 56 balls, laced with 15 fours and four sixes at a strike-rate of 205.36, as CSK posted a massive 212/2.

In doing so, Samson became the first wicketkeeper-batter to hit an IPL ton for CSK and joined KL Rahul as the only players to score a hundred for three different IPL franchises. He also shared a 113-run stand with youngster Ayush Mhatre, who slammed 59 off 36 deliveries.

Despite the stiff target, DC began their chase brightly as Pathum Nissanka and KL Rahul raced past the 50-run mark in the fourth over. However, the momentum shifted decisively when CSK struck thrice in three overs. Overton picked 4-18 - the best figures of the season so far - and used hard lengths well to stifle the DC middle order, along with CSK being sharp in ground fielding.

Tristan Stubbs provided the lone



resistance for DC with a fighting 60 off 38 balls, including four fours and three sixes, but the mounting asking rate proved to be too much. Overton got support from debutant Gurjapneet Singh and Anshul Kamboj, who claimed 3-35, as DC were eventually bowled out for 189 in 20 overs.

The result ended CSK's six-game losing streak at Chepauk and gave them

their first points of the tournament. Inserted into batting first, Samson and Ruturaj Gaikwad added 61 runs in the Power-play. Samson was fluent from the outset, driving, cutting, and chipping with authority, while Gaikwad laboured to 18-ball 15 before falling to Axar Patel in the seventh over.

Mhatre joined Samson at the crease, and the duo regularly sent

balls soaring over the boundary ropes and capitalised on sloppy fielding from DC. Mhatre, who got twin reprieves, was retired out in the 18th over after suffering a brief slowdown - a tactical move that brought Shivam Dube to the crease.

Samson, who was dropped on 52, reached the three-figure mark with a flick off T Natarajan and celebrated with a Padayappa-style salute that drew roars from the Chepauk crowd donning yellow, chanting his name loudly. Dube ensured the momentum stayed with CSK by chipping in with a brisk 20 off 10 balls, striking two fours and a six in the last two overs as CSK crossed the 210-mark.

Chasing 213, Delhi began brightly as Nissanka and Rahul took 16 runs off Khaleel Ahmed in the second over and raced past fifty in the fourth over with some stunning stroke-play. Nissanka struck five fours and two sixes in his 41, while Rahul looked fluent with two boundaries and a six before mistiming a pull off Khaleel.

At 61/1 after five overs, DC appeared well placed, but CSK had other ideas - Kamboj accounted for Nissanka in the next over, with Dewald Brevis holding on to the chance at mid on. Gurjapneet then marked his IPL debut with a wicket on the first ball, as Axar Patel cut straight to Sarfaraz Khan at backward point.



Iyer's unbeaten 69 guides Punjab Kings to six-wicket win over Sunrisers

NEW CHANDIGARH

Captain Shreyas Iyer remained unbeaten at 69 while Priyansh Arya and Prabhshimran Singh scored quick half-centuries as Punjab Kings (PBKS) chased down the target of 220 runs in just 18.5 overs against Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) in the 17th match of Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 at the PCA New International Cricket Stadium in New Chandigarh on Saturday.

With this win, PBKS remain unbeaten this season. They now have seven points from four matches, with one game against Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) abandoned due to rain.

Chasing a big total, the Punjab Kings got off to a flying start. Openers Priyansh Arya and Prabhshimran Singh continued their good form and attacked the SRH bowlers right from the start. Priyansh took the lead early, playing aggressive shots all around the ground.

He scored 21 runs in the final over of the Power-play off Harshal Patel and reached his fifty in just 16 balls with back-to-back boundaries. This became the second-fastest fifty for Punjab Kings, just behind KL Rahul's 14-ball half-century in 2018. Prabhshimran also played his part well, and PBKS reached 93/0 at the end of the Power-play.

SRH finally got a breakthrough in the seventh over when Shivang Kumar dismissed Priyansh Arya, who scored 57 off just 20 balls with five fours and five sixes.

Shivang struck again in his next over, removing Prabhshimran Singh after he completed his fifty in 24 balls. He scored 51 runs, hitting four fours and four sixes. Despite these wickets, PBKS are in a strong position at 124/2 after 10 overs.

Shivang continued his good spell and picked up another wicket, dismissing Cooper Connolly with a wide delivery outside off stump.

Captain Shreyas Iyer steadied the innings along with impact substitute Nehal Wadhwa. The pair rotates the strike well and punishes loose deliveries to keep the pressure on SRH.

Iyer then shifted gears after the 13th over and reached his fifty in 24 balls with a six off Eshan Malinga in the 16th over. He stayed unbeaten on 69, while Shashank Singh supported him with an unbeaten 16, as PBKS chased down the target with seven balls to spare and six wickets in hand.

For SRH, Shivang Kumar was the standout bowler, finishing with figures of 3/33 in four overs. Harsh Dubey chips in with one wicket.

Earlier in the match, Sunrisers Hyderabad made a strong start after being put in to bat, with openers Abhishek Sharma and Travis Head attacking from the very beginning. Abhishek led the charge, scoring 20 runs in one over off Arshdeep Singh and reaching his fifty in just 18 balls with two consecutive sixes. Head also played aggressively, hitting three boundaries in an over, as SRH raced to 105/0 at the end of the powerplay.

Asian Wrestling Championship

CISF fraternity congratulates HC Abhimanyu on winning gold in

NEW DELHI: The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) fraternity has risen in unison to congratulate wrestler Abhimanyu on winning a gold medal in the 70 kg freestyle category at the Asian Wrestling Championship held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. The CISF fraternity hailed Abhimanyu for this outstanding success, which stands as a testament to his perseverance and serves as an inspiration for aspiring athletes across the country. Head Constable Abhimanyu, a 24-year-old wrestler from Hissar, Haryana, of the CISF Central Wrestling Team, has brought immense pride.

IFL 2025-26

Halicharan brace guides Diamond Harbour FC to a victory against Chanmari FC



KALYANI: A quickfire second-half brace within two minutes by Halicharan Narzary ensured Diamond Harbour FC a 3-1 victory against Chanmari FC in Star Cement Indian Football League (IFL) 2025-26 at the Kalyani Stadium in Kolkata on Saturday. The result ensured Diamond Harbour FC extended their unbeaten run to seven matches and established a five-point gap at the top of the standings. Chanmari FC, despite taking an early lead, were unable to hold on. Halicharan Narzary was adjudged Player of the Match.

World Cup Rifle/Pistol Granada: Sainyam records best-ever WC finish

NEW DELHI

Sainyam, a former junior world and Asian champion, recorded her best finish at an International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Rifle/Pistol leg, shooting 178.9 in the women's 10m air pistol final on the penultimate day of competitions at the Las Gabias Shooting Range in Granada, Spain, to claim a creditable fifth place on Saturday. Reigning Asian Games champion Palak also made the final and finished seventh, bowing out after the 14th shot of the 24-shot final with a score of 137.9. China's Shen Yiyao won gold with 244.2.

Sainyam shot 582 in qualification to take third spot in the 83-strong field, while Palak made the top eight, claiming seventh spot with a 577.

In the men's 25m rapid-fire pistol, Olympian Vijayveer Sidhu recorded the best Indian finish, his effort of



576 giving him 23rd place overall. Among other Indian medal contenders, Ankur Goel was 29th with a 572, and Neeraj Kumar placed 40th with an effort of 565.

All three Indians in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions (3P) competition in the ongoing ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol, in Granada, Spain, could not progress beyond the qualification stage, with Surabhi Bharadwaj Rapole and Olympian Anjum Moudgil logging scores of 587 each to finish in 18th and 19th spots respec-

tively. Ayushi Podder shot 585 to finish 27th. The eighth and final qualification spot went to 589.

Also on Friday, Ankur Goel was the best-placed Indian in the men's 25m rapid-fire pistol (RFP) with a score of 289 after the first stage precision round. Olympian Vijayveer Sidhu shot 287 while Neeraj Kumar shot 282. The trio comes back on Saturday for the second rapid-fire qualification stage before the top eight progress to the final.

Reigning Asian Games champion Palak will partner Mukesh Nelaivali in the 10m air pistol mixed team, the first event of the tournament, alongside Sainyam and Ujjwal Malik. In the second day's final, the air rifle mixed team, India will be represented by Sonam Uttam Maskar and Gajanan Shahdev Khandagale, and Shruti and Arshdeep Singh, respectively.

Asian Wrestling C'ships: Sujeet, CISF's Abhimanyu clinch gold medals as India's medals

NEW DELHI: The World U-23 champion Sujeet and Abhimanyu registered contrasting victories in their respective men's freestyle final bouts to help India clinch two gold medals on the penultimate day of the 2026 Senior Asian Wrestling Championships in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on Saturday. Sujeet, who has been unbeaten so far this year, totally dominated the men's 65kg freestyle final against Umidjon Jalolov of Uzbekistan to register an 8-1 win and become the first Indian since Bajrang Punia's 2019 triumph to win the Asian Championships gold medal in this weight category. Sujeet started slowly in the opening round as Jalolov held his ground and did not allow the Indian to attack. But the 23-year-old Indian was quick off the blocks at the start of the second round and went on to register his fifth victory over the Uzbek wrestler.

AFI, government policies for developing grassroots level will ensure we do well in the 2036 Olympic Games: Hima Das



NEW DELHI

Star sprinter Hima Das has given credit to the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) for putting in place policies that have helped develop the sport at the grassroots level, making it possible for athletes from small cities and towns to dream of making it big in athletics and do well in the 2036 Olympic Games.

Hima, who won two gold and one silver medal in the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta, participated in the third leg of the Indian Athletics Series at the iconic Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi on Saturday.

"All credit goes to the Athletics Federation of India because the Athletics Federation of India has improved a lot at the grassroots level by tying up with the govern-

ment. When I was warming up here, everyone came and talked to me. I said that I will also run with you, so I am also learning with them. India will be hosting the Commonwealth Games in 2030 and also hoping to host the Olympics in 2036," Hima Das told IANS in New Delhi on Saturday.

"Some people say that I have come from this village. Same like me, I also belong to a small town. So, I know what level I have come from. So, I hope that in the next 10-12 years, our athletics will develop in India. So, in the 2036 Olympics, which India is planning to host in Ahmedabad, by that time, we will do very well in athletics. My aim is the same as every athlete, my aim is LA 2028," said Hima, who won gold in women's 4x400m Relay and the 4x400m Mixed Relay.

Meanwhile, on Saturday, top Indian performers came up with a dominant performance during the one-day third leg of the Indi-

an Athletics Series at New Delhi's iconic Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

It was a joyful day for athletics fans as Asian championships bronze medallist Animesh Kujur shifted gears to clinch the men's 100m title with a time of 10.28 seconds. Two-time Asian Games champion Tajinderpal Singh Toor recorded a 21.03m throw, a season best, to win the men's shot put title at the throwing arena. While promising high jumper Pooja raised the bar to win gold with a height of 1.90m, a personal best.

The excitement reached its zenith in the evening session as the top three male javelin throwers crossed the 80m barrier in a battle to gain supremacy.

But it was Rohit Yadav's day as he won top position with an impressive throw of 82.17m. World Championships finalist Sachin Yadav settled for second place (81.95m). And, Yashvir Singh was third (81.61m).

CM Stalin watches IPL match amid intense poll

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK President M.K. Stalin has taken a brief break from his intense election campaign to watch an Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 match at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai earlier in the day amid a highly intense campaign for the upcoming April 23 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections.

The match, held on Saturday, saw the Chennai Super Kings (CSK) playing against the Delhi Capitals (DC).



Chief Minister Stalin shared on Saturday on social media platform X that he took a quick break to watch the IPL 2026 action, specifically mentioning a match featuring the

Chennai Super Kings (CSK). In an Instagram post, the Chief Minister remarked on CSK opener Sanju Samson scoring a century, adding that he "could not avoid the feeling of missing his favorite cricketer MS Dhoni" during the match.

Despite the quick break, Chief Minister Stalin has maintained an aggressive campaign schedule, targeting AIADMK's Edappadi K. Palaniswami (EPS) and addressing voters on "Dravidian Model 2.0".

The Tamil Nadu Assembly elections are scheduled for April 23, with

the DMK-led alliance projecting a major victory, aiming for more than 200 seats.

The Chief Minister has been actively campaigning, including using unique outreach methods like riding the Chennai Metro, while facing a competitive field that includes debutant Vijay's TVK and AIADMK-BJP alliance. Just before the match, Chief Minister Stalin was actively campaigning in Chennai, including a surprise Chennai Metro ride from Central to DMS station on April 10, where he interacted with commuters.

Top stars rule with dominant performance in Delhi-leg of Indian Athletics Series

NEW DELHI

Rohit Yadav overcame a competitive field to win a gold medal in the men's javelin throw event as top Indian performers came up with a dominant performance during the one-day third leg of the Indian Athletics Series at New Delhi's iconic Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on Saturday.

It was a joyful day for athletics fans as Asian championships bronze medallist Animesh Kujur shifted gears to clinch the men's 100m title with a time of 10.28 seconds. Two-time Asian Games champion Tajinderpal Singh Toor recorded a 21.03m throw, a season best, to win the men's shot put title at the throwing arena. While promising high jumper Pooja raised the bar to win gold with a height of 1.90m, a personal best.

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supremacy. But it was Rohit Yadav's day as he won top position with an impressive throw of 82.17m. World Championships finalist Sachin Yadav settled for second place (81.95m). And, Yashvir Singh was third (81.61m).

Results: 100m: Animesh Kujur (Odisha) 10.28 secs, Tamil Arasu S (Railway)

10.28 secs, Gurindervir Singh (Reliance) 10.40 secs.

200m: Animesh Kujur (Odisha) 20.74 seconds, Vishal TK (NCOE Trivandrum) 21.01 seconds, Dharamveer Choudhary (Rajasthan) 21.03 secs.

400m: Vishal TK (NCOE Trivandrum) 45.44 secs, Vikrant Panchal (Haryana) 45.88 secs, Dharamveer

Choudhary (Rajasthan) 45.93 secs.

U20: 200m: Abhishek Singh (Rajasthan) 21.69 seconds, Jinoy Jayan (NCOE Trivandrum) 21.71 secs, Harsh Sharma (Delhi) 21.81 secs.

U20: 400m: Astik Pradhan (Odisha) 46.61 secs, Jashanpreet Singh (NCOE Patiala) 47.81 secs, Yashwant Singh (Rajasthan) 47.90 secs.

800m: Anu Kumar (Uttarakhand) 1:49.87 secs, Prathamesh Amarish (Maharashtra) 1:49.90 secs, Shaheel (Rajasthan) 1:50.33 secs.

10,000m: Shailesh Kushwaha (Karnataka) 30:01.08 secs, Kartik Karkera (Maharashtra) 30:08.94 secs, Vinod Singh (Madhya Pradesh) 30:09.62 secs.

110m: Muhammed Lazan (JSW) 14.23 secs, Harmanjeet Singh (Delhi) 14.45 secs, Shubham Rawat (Delhi) 14.56 secs.

U20: 110m: Kiran K (Kerala) 13.80 secs, Aryan (Haryana) 14.20 secs, Subhash Saini (Rajasthan) 14.34 secs.



A Rich Girl On Cycle In Paradise World

Most hyped films of the season are yet to come, and that is none other than Natural Star Nani's *The Paradise*. Directed by Dasara movie fame Srikanth Odela, the film's shooting is progressing at a brisk pace, although the release date has been shifted from March 2026 to August. Guess what, the film has young sensation Kayadu Lohar playing the leading lady, and today on the eve of her birthday, her first look was released.

Featuring Kayadu Lohar as a rich girl set in the slums of *The Paradise*, the first look features her in a skirt and top attire, riding a bicycle flawlessly and radiating her charms around. Despite debuting in Tollywood with Sree Vishnu's *Alluri*, Kayadu Lohar got the real break with a dubbed movie, Pradeep Ranganathan's *Dragon*,

and then she signed a bunch of movies here. Though her next venture, Vishwak Sen's *Funky*, didn't work out, she has bagged Nani's *The Paradise*, and many feel that it would be game-changing for her career. Living up to that, the first look is quite impressive we have to say.

That said, Kayadu Lohar built up her social media career on glamour and bikini shoots, but when it comes to films, she's actually taking on conservative roles, like many other starlets. This experiment led to colossal failure because it's the same audience who follow her on Instagram and also watch her movies on the screen. Many heroines who tried to do such a thing are outrightly rejected for obvious reasons. But with Nani being the hero of the movie, we have to see if Kayadu will taste her second success with this movie.

Deepika's Paycheck For Raaka: High or Low?



Star siren Deepika Padukone has been in the news lately, but not entirely for the right reasons. Controversies, exit rumours, and talk about "excessive demands" have been doing the rounds, with a few big-budget projects like *Spirit*, *Kalki 2* reportedly shunting her out, and others following suit.

Amidst all this noise, one thing is clear. She's very much part of Allu Arjun's *Raaka* and charges a bomb for the same. Directed by Atlee, the film has already generated decent buzz with its title and first look. Backed by Sun Pictures, this is being mounted as a massive pan-India project, targeting a Summer 2027 release.

Coming to the talking point, Deepika is said to be charging ₹25 crores for the film, which is her highest paycheck so far. On the surface, that looks huge. Especially when actresses like Mrunal Thakur, Sreeleela, and Pooja Hegde usually operate in the ₹3-4 crore range. That's a massive gap. But there's a flip side too.

When you place that ₹25 crore next to the film's bigger economics, it tells a different story. Allu Arjun is reportedly charging close to ₹250 crores. Atlee is said to be taking home around ₹100 crores. Suddenly, Deepika's fee doesn't look "too high" anymore. In fact, comparatively, it sits on the lower side within this setup. That's the interesting contrast here.

A number that feels big when seen alone, looks relatively small when placed next to the male star and director's remuneration. Also, *Raaka* features multiple female leads, including Mrunal Thakur, Rashmika Mandanna, and Janhvi Kapoor in key roles, as per the insider sources. End of the day, *Raaka* is playing on a huge canvas. Big star. Big director. Big budget.



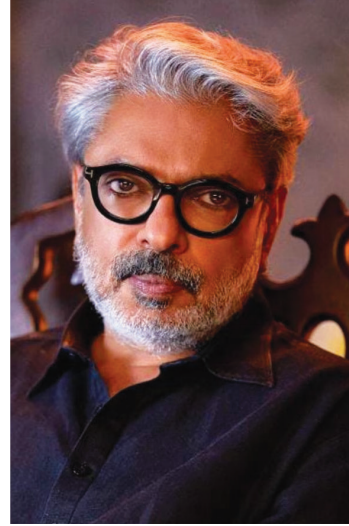
Ram Charan & Sanjay Leela Bhansali Project: ON

Post the stupendous success of legendary director SS Rajamouli's *RRR*, mega star Ram Charan reached a different league altogether. Global recognition, international interviews, and Oscar-stage presence have changed the scale completely. But interestingly, his film choices after that haven't fully matched that rise. He went ahead with *Game Changer* with S. Shankar, and then locked Peddi with Buchi Babu Sana. Both are big films in their own space, but not exactly the kind of pan-global, genre-defining subjects many expected after *RRR*. Now, this new development changes things a bit.

Reports suggest that Ram Charan is set to star in a major production backed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali. The film is being described as a historical adventure set in a jungle backdrop, something visually rich and scale-heavy, very much in Bhansali's zone, but with a slightly different flavour. The script apparently started as an idea connected to *Rowdy Rathore 2*, developed by Baahubali and *RRR* writer V Vijayendra Prasad. That version didn't take off. Later, writer Durgesh Singh reworked it completely into a period jungle adventure, aligning it more with Charan's image and pan-India appeal.

The project is expected to be directed by a prominent Bollywood name and planned as a multi-language release with Hindi as the main version, and probably Telugu too. This isn't the first time Bhansali and Charan have explored something together.

Earlier, there were discussions about a film on Maharaja Sulekha, which didn't materialise. If this one works out now, surely it is going to be Ram Charan's proper directional stepping, while he has Sukumar's film as well in the offing after Peddi releases.

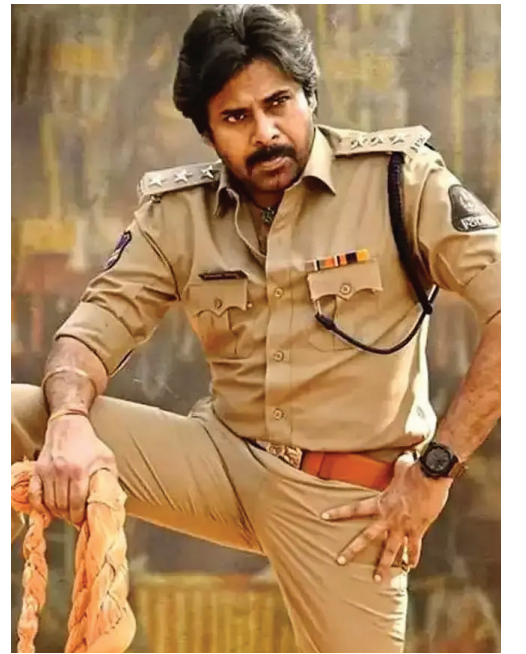


Ustaad Bhagat Singh Sets OTT Release Date

The Pawan Kalyan starrer *Ustaad Bhagat Singh*, which hit theaters on March 19, 2026, clashed with Dhurandhar: *The Revenge*. Following its successful theatrical stint, the film is now gearing up for its highly anticipated digital debut.

Netflix India South confirmed the news on X, playfully referencing a dialogue from the film: "Peru Bhagat... but in my endeavor, I found it burdensome." They followed up with an official announcement: "Watch *Ustaad Bhagat Singh* on Netflix, out on 16 April, in Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam."

For fans and audiences who missed the theatrical experience, the wait is almost over. The film will be available for streaming starting next week in multiple languages, including Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam. Directed by Harish Shankar, the film features an ensemble cast including Sreeleela, Raashi Khanna, Parthiban, Rao Ramesh, and K.S. Ravikumar in pivotal roles.



Mamitha Baiju Pins Hopes on Vishwanath & Sons

Malayalam sensation Mamitha Baiju who won hearts with her performance in 'Prema-lu' is all set to make her Tollywood debut with *Vishwanath & Sons*, and she is pinning high hopes on the project. The young actress will be seen opposite Tamil star Suriya, known for his versatility and strong script choices.

Directed by Venky Atluri, the film marks Suriya's first straight Telugu project and has already generated considerable buzz. The makers are eyeing a grand theatrical release in July 2026, with the film being shot simultaneously in Telugu and Tamil.

Speaking about the film, Mamitha Baiju revealed that *Vishwanath & Sons* has a

"powerful, soul-searching story" blended with humour, entertainment, and strong family emotions. She described it as a wholesome entertainer that will take audiences on a joyful ride.

The film also features Raveena Tandon and Radhika Sarathkumar in key roles. Music is composed by G. V. Prakash Kumar, while the project is being produced by Sithara Entertainments in association with Fortune Four Cinemas.

With this film, Mamitha joins the growing list of Malayalam actresses like Malavika Nair, Anupama Parameswaran, Keerthy Suresh, Nithya Menen and Malavika Mohanan who have carved a niche in the Telugu film industry.