

HYDERABAD HEADLINES

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PUNJABS STREAK SNAPPED

STADIUM 11

FARIA TO TURN DIRECTOR SOON SHARES BIG PLANS



BOX-OFFICE 12

Prime Minister Narendra Modi playing football with youngsters in Sikkim



PM Modi's Vision for India's 'Ashtalakshmi' States

GANGTOK

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday reaffirmed that his government is firmly committed not only to its 'Act East' policy but also to accelerating development in the northeastern region through an 'Act Fast' approach. He described the eight northeastern states as India's 'Ashtalakshmi', symbolising diverse forms of prosperity, wealth, and auspiciousness. Addressing a grand samroh at Paljor Stadium to mark the conclusion of the year-long celebrations of 50 years of Sikkim's statehood, the Prime Minister highlighted tourism as the backbone of the state's economy. He em-

phasised that enhancing connectivity would play a crucial role in boosting tourist inflow.

"The government is committed to strengthening Sikkim's infrastructure, including the construction of an expressway from Bagdogra in West Bengal and a ring road in Gangtok to facilitate tourism growth," Modi said during his 35-minute address.

Highlighting the broader regional vision, Modi said the entire Northeast, including Sikkim, is poised to become a centre for futuristic growth and sustainable development. He pointed to initiatives such as organic agriculture as key drivers of this transformation.

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CV ANAND APPOINTED TELANGANA DGP

HYDERABAD, APRIL 28

In a key administrative move, the Telangana government on Tuesday appointed CV Anand as the Director General of Police (Head of Police Force). Present DGP B Shivdhar Reddy will retire from service on April 30.

As per orders issued by state chief secretary K Ramakrishna Rao, Anand will assume charge in the apex pay scale of Rs.2.25 lakh (fixed). Presently, he is serving as special chief secretary to the home department.

It may be recalled that the UPSC had recently sent a panel of eligible IPS officers to the state government for consideration. The panel included 1994 batch IPS officers CV Anand, Vinayak Prabhakar Apte and Soumya Mishra. Anand being the senior-most officer, selected for the top post.

Future City to Rival Global Hubs

CM Revanth Lays Foundation for Future City Police Commissionerate

Focus on High-Speed Connectivity, Farmer Protection, and Direct Investment for Telangana's Newest Urban Center.

HYDERABAD, APRIL 28

Emphasizing the grand vision for the proposed Future City, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy stated that it will be developed on the lines of global metropolitan hubs such as Singapore, Tokyo, and New York. He assured that the state government is committed to safeguarding farmers' interests by offering fair and adequate compensation for lands acquired for the project.

On Tuesday, the Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for the Future City Police Commissionerate. Addressing the gathering, he noted that several individuals had approached him requesting that their villages be included within the Future City limits. In response, he instructed officials to conduct Gram Sabhas and incorporate villages into the Commissionerate jurisdiction based on the preferences of local residents.

Revanth Reddy announced that the office of the Future City Development Corporation will be inaugurated by June 2. He reiterated that the government will stand firmly by farmers who lose their lands, ensuring that they receive



full support. "Our government will make sure that no one faces hardship. Industry Minister D. Sridhar Babu will remain accessible to address the concerns of

local communities. Officials have been directed to respond to the needs of the poor and underprivileged with empathy," he said.

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Bengal's Final Call: 142 Seats Vote



Women polling staff leave for booths ahead of Phase 2 voting in West Bengal.

KOLKATA

Voting for 142 Assembly constituencies in West Bengal will be held on Wednesday in a crucial phase of the ongoing elections, with over 1,448 candidates in the fray, including Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. This

phase comes amid a busy election season across the country, with polling already completed in Kerala, Assam, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu, and the first phase in West Bengal. In Phase 1, held across 152 constituencies, the state

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DGE set to announce SSC public exam results today

Hyderabad, April 28: The Directorate of Government Examinations (DGE) will announce the results for the SSC Public Examinations at 2 PM on Wednesday. Following the announcement, students can view their results on the DGE website at <https://bse.telangana.gov.in/>. Additionally, digital mark memos will be sent directly to the mobile numbers registered by the students. This service will be accessible to those who have previously downloaded their SSC Public Examinations hall ticket through the MeeSeva Telangana Chatbot by using the number 8096958096.



KTR SLAMS CONG OVER 'FARMERS' BETRAYAL', CALLS FOR WARANGAL PROTEST

Hyderabad, April 28 : BRS working president and MLA K.T. Rama Rao on Tuesday accused the ruling Congress of "deceiving farmers in every possible way", alleging that none of the promises made under its Warangal Farmers' Declaration have been fulfilled.

KTR announced that he would attend a farmers' protest meeting in Warangal on May 6 to highlight the issue. He claimed that since the Congress assumed power, farmers have been grappling with fertilizer and seed shortages, procurement delays, power cuts, and a resurgence of distress, including suicides.

Calling for a united struggle, KTR assured that BRS would stand firmly with the farming community. Local leaders also flagged disruptions in paddy and maize procurement and said protest programmes would be intensified across the district.

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HEAT ALERT: CENTRE ISSUES NATIONWIDE ADVISORY TO PROTECT WORKERS

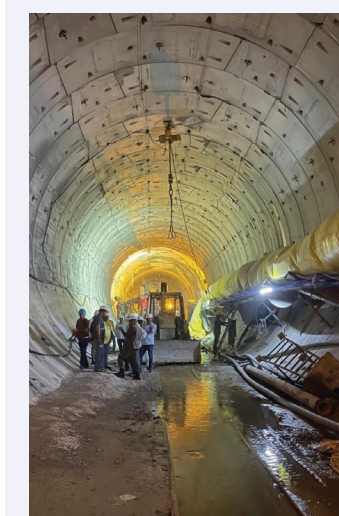
NEW DELHI, APRIL 28

The Ministry of Labour and Employment has issued a nationwide advisory urging States and Union Territories to take immediate steps to protect workers from intensifying heatwave conditions. In a communication to the Chief Secretaries / Administrators of all States and Union Territories, the Ministry called for a coordinated approach to safeguard labourers, especially those in outdoor and high-risk sectors. As for worker safety measures, the key measures include rescheduling work hours, ensuring access to drinking water, creating rest areas, and providing emergency heat-relief materials such as ice packs and ORS.

Employers have been directed to allow flexible work practices, reduce workload during peak heat, and ensure proper ventilation and cooling at worksites. Special focus has been placed on vulnerable groups like construction workers, brick kiln labourers and daily wage earners.

Hospitals and dispensaries under Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) and Director General of Labour Welfare (DGLW) have been asked to establish dedicated help desks for heat stroke cases and ensure adequate stocks of ORS, ice packs and other heat illness prevention materials.

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SLBC Crisis: NGRI Flags New Weak Zones

Hyderabad: Work on the SLBC tunnel continues to progress gradually from both the inlet and outlet ends, but significant geological challenges persist. At least four locations along the alignment have been identified as structurally vulnerable, where detailed studies have revealed geological features originating at the surface of the Nallamala Hills and extending down to the tunnel depth and even deeper underground. A comprehensive

study conducted earlier this year by the CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) using electromagnetic surveys has identified weak and fractured rock zones, along with areas where rock types undergo significant variation. The findings confirmed that the tunnel collapse in February 2025 at the 13.95-km mark in the inlet section—located beneath Eagalpenta in Nagarkurnool district—occurred in a structurally com-

promised zone. The incident resulted in the deaths of eight workers.

The report also provides possible insight into why tunnelling work continued in such a fragile zone. It notes that a similar fractured stretch at the 11-km point had previously been crossed by workers without any complications, which may have contributed to the decision to proceed.

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Celebrating English: Literary Gala at Women's Degree College

SAMUDRALA KIRAN |
CORRESPONDENT

Hyderabad, April 28: The Department of English, Government Degree College for Women, celebrated English Language Day with great literary splendour, academic enthusiasm and intellectual vibrancy on 24 April 2026, commemorating the birth and death anniversary of William Shakespeare, the immortal Bard of Avon, observed globally on 23 April.

The programme was held under the distinguished chairmanship of the Principal, Prof. Appiya Chinnamma. Dr. K. Sreedevi, Head, Department of English and Convenor of the programme, extended a warm and gracious welcome to the Chief Guest, Dr. A. Ramesh Babu, Head, Department of English, Government City College, Hyderabad, and the Guest of Honour, Dr. B. Krishna Chandra Keerthi, Associate Professor, Department of English, Government City College.

In her welcome address, Dr. K. Sreedevi highlighted the significance of English Language Day and paid tribute to the timeless genius of William Shakespeare, whose writings continue to illuminate human life, thought and imagination across generations. Recalling Shakespeare's inspiring words, "We know what we are, but know not what we may be," she observed that such literary celebrations motivate students to discover their hidden potential, refine their language skills and aspire towards greater academic and personal excellence.

She also briefed the gathering about



the various literary competitions organised on the occasion, including essay writing, poster presentation, spell bee, speed reading and picture description. These competitions were conducted separately for undergraduate students and M.A. English students, offering them a vibrant platform to exhibit their linguistic competence, creative imagination, literary appreciation and confidence. The enthusiastic participation of the students added grace, energy and brilliance to the celebration.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Guest, Dr. A. Ramesh Babu, appreciated the students for their remarkable performances and commendable literary output. He encouraged them to pursue higher education with dedication, discipline and determination. He further advised the students to cultivate a deep love for language and literature, stating that literature enriches the mind, refines expression and broadens one's understanding of life and society.

The Guest of Honour, Dr. B. Krishna

Chandra Keerthi, emphasised the immense importance of effective communication skills in the present global scenario. He stated that proficiency in English plays a vital role in academic success, professional advancement and personality development. He motivated the students to develop clarity of thought, fluency of expression and confidence in communication.

Earlier, the Vice-Principal, Dr. Mohammed Ghouse, addressed the gathering and praised the commendable performances of the students. He appreciated the Department of English for organising a meaningful and enriching programme that encouraged literary talent and academic engagement. Prof. Zulfiqar Mohiuddin, Head, Department of Arabic, also addressed the students and underlined the need for hard work, perseverance and sincere effort as the essential foundations of success.

In her presidential address, the Principal, Prof. Appiya Chinnamma, applauded the Department of English for

celebrating English Language Day in a befitting and inspiring manner. She encouraged the students to participate actively in departmental and co-curricular activities, as such platforms help them showcase their varied talents, enhance confidence and strengthen their overall personality. She also appreciated the students for their spirited participation and urged them to make continuous efforts to excel in academics and beyond.

The highlight of the programme was the distribution of prizes and certificates to the winners of the literary competitions by the dignitaries. The prize distribution ceremony brought joy and encouragement to the winners and inspired other students to participate with greater enthusiasm in future academic and literary events. As a mark of respect and gratitude, the Chief Guest, the Guest of Honour and the Principal were felicitated by the Department of English.

Ms. Shaesta Siddiqua efficiently moderated the programme. The event was meticulously coordinated by the faculty members of the Department of English, namely Asma Parveen, Zeenathunnisa, Merajunnisa, Afshan Jabeen and Hajira Khatoon. Faculty members from various departments and a large number of students graced the occasion with their presence.

The programme concluded on a gracious note with a vote of thanks proposed by Asma Parveen, who expressed heartfelt gratitude to the dignitaries, the Principal, faculty members, participants and students for their valuable presence and contribution in making the celebration a grand success.

Compliance Violations: Private Firm Faces ESD Action

Obstruction in data transfer to new firm even after contract expiry

Case registered at CCS; investigation expedited

HYDERABAD, APRIL 28

The government has registered a case against Transaction Analysts (India) Private Limited, along with its MD and CEO Srinivasa Rao Katuri, for breach of trust, misuse of digital assets, and creating obstacles in project handover. In this regard, the Electronic Service Delivery (ESD) division under the IT & Communications Department has filed a case at the Central Crime Station against Transaction Analysts (India) Private Limited.

ACP A. Ram Reddy of the Economic Offences Wing is investigating the case. The case has been registered on serious allegations including misuse of government assets and deliberate obstruction of lawful project handover.

Background of the Case:

Transaction Analysts (India) Private Limited was appointed in January 2017 through a work order to develop and maintain a state digital platform. For this project, the government paid approximately ₹70 lakhs towards development and implementation costs, along with monthly maintenance charges after deployment.

As per the agreement, after the contract period ends, complete rights over all project-related data, source code, and digital assets should belong to the Telangana government. The contract, which was extended three times (from 2018 to 2025) under the same terms, finally ended on May 31, 2025.

The government initiated a transparent tender process to select a new firm, in which Purview India Consulting and Services LLP

emerged as the L1 bidder. Transaction Analysts also participated in the tender and agreed to the terms. However, after losing the bid, the company allegedly changed its stance and began non-cooperation.

The firm attempted to claim ownership of government data using false documentation. Despite initiating the handover process to the new firm, it repeatedly violated government orders. It is also accused of misusing funds and attempting to divert user data to its private application. Although the company initially agreed to provide data to the new firm as per tender conditions, it later failed to honor this commitment.

Taking these developments seriously, the government registered a case at CCS to safeguard public assets and enforce legal action.

As part of the investigation, legal notices have been issued to all current and former employees of the company. M. Srinivasulu, who was serving as Chief of Projects, was arrested by police on April 25. The investigation is ongoing. Other accused, including MD & CEO Srinivasa Rao Katuri and Project Manager Kiran Kumar, are reportedly absconding, and police efforts to apprehend them have intensified.

The IT Department has reported the matter to the government, and actions such as imposing penalties as per contract terms, blacklisting the company from future tenders, and recovering damages are under consideration.

The government has made it clear that it is committed to taking strict action against any organization that undermines government operations.

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PM Modi's Vision for India's 'Ashtalakshmi' States

FROM PAGE 1

Praising Sikkim's natural and cultural heritage, the Prime Minister remarked, "Nature and culture come alive in Sikkim. The cleanliness of the roads and purity of the air reflect the people's commitment as true ambassadors of environmental conservation." He also lauded the state as a hub of peace, spirituality, and wellness.

Modi underscored the government's focus on promoting eco-wellness tourism in the Himalayan state. He announced that around 1,000 homestays are being developed, while infrastructure for adventure tourism is being strengthened. Urging tourists to visit in large numbers, he described Sikkim as the "heaven of the East" and highlighted its rich biodiversity, particularly its diverse varieties of orchids.

Referring to the idea of national unity, the Prime Minister said Sikkim exemplifies the spirit of "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat" at a time when attempts are being made to divide the country along lines of faith and political affiliation.

Earlier in the day, Modi interacted with budding sportspersons and

played football with them. He stated that the government is taking steps to improve sports infrastructure in Sikkim and nurture talent, especially in disciplines such as football and archery.

Taking a swipe at previous Indian National Congress governments, the Prime Minister alleged that development projects in Sikkim had been neglected in the past. "I will do everything possible for the development of Sikkim and the northeastern states, which were ignored earlier. Health services in Sikkim were also neglected," he said.

He asserted that the present government is committed to strengthening healthcare infrastructure and ensuring access to affordable and quality services for the people.

Citing infrastructure delays under earlier administrations, Modi referred to the Sevoke-Rangpo Rail Project, which was approved during the UPA regime in 2008-09 but faced delays due to land acquisition issues. He said the project was expedited after the NDA assumed office and is now progressing rapidly.

Bengal's Final Call: 142 Seats Vote

FROM PAGE 1

recorded a voter turnout of 92.72 per cent, the highest since Independence. The results for all phases, along with those of other states and the Union Territory, will be declared on May 4. A total of 1,448 candidates are contesting in this phase, including 1,228 men and 220 women. More than 3.22 crore voters are eligible to cast their votes, including around 1.64 crore male voters, 1.57 crore female voters, and 792 third-gender voters.

Polling will take place at 41,001 stations, all of which will be monitored

through webcasting to ensure transparency. The Election Commission of India has made extensive security arrangements for the smooth conduct of polling. As many as 2,321 companies of central armed police forces have been deployed across seven districts. Additionally, 142 general observers, 95 police observers, and 100 expenditure observers have been appointed to oversee the process. Officials said drones equipped with cameras are also being used to monitor the polling process. Voting will begin at 7 am and conclude at 6 pm.

SLBC Crisis: NGRI Flags New Weak Zones

FROM PAGE 1

The study, submitted to the state government recently, is expected to guide future excavation work across both sections of the tunnel. The inlet section begins near the Krishna River, not far from the Srisaillam Dam, while the outlet section originates near Taldevarapally in Champapet mandal of Nalgonda district. According to the NGRI findings, additional weak zones have been identified at the 15-km and 17-km points from the inlet side. Moreover, a one-kilometre stretch between the 19-km and 20-km points has been classified as particularly fragile. This section is affected by two key factors: the presence of the perennial Nallavagu stream at the surface, which allows moisture to seep down to the tun-

nel level—approximately 250 metres below mean sea level—and beyond, as well as inherently weak rock formations. The tunnel's average depth from the surface is around 450 metres. An NGRI scientist involved in the study noted that due to the considerable width of some of these weak zones, it has been recommended that a bypass around the collapsed section be excavated on the eastern side of the alignment, away from the river. Another area flagged for caution lies around the 21-km point, where weaker quartzite rock meets stronger granite formations. "However, the positive aspect is that excavation going forward will be guided by scientific data rather than carried out blindly," the scientist said.



HEAT ALERT: CENTRE ISSUES NATIONWIDE ADVISORY TO PROTECT WORKERS

FROM PAGE 1

Further, enforcement agencies such as Chief Labour Commissioner (CLC) and Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) have been requested to monitor compliance with legal provisions related to safe working conditions, drinking water, ventilation, cooling facilities and periodic health check-ups of workers. Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) & National Career Service (NCS) were also advised to ensure cooling and ventilation and adequate supply of drinking water during the camps and outreach activities conducted by them.

All organisations have also been requested to furnish fortnightly status reports on actions taken and activities undertaken in this regard for further review and monitoring.

Healthcare support is being strengthened through facilities under the Employees' State Insurance Corporation, with dedicated help desks for heatstroke cases. Enforcement agencies will monitor compliance, while awareness campaigns and training programmes will be rolled out nationwide.

The Ministry stressed that proactive measures and strict monitoring are critical to ensuring worker safety and productivity during the summer.

Future City to Rival Global Hubs

FROM PAGE 1

The Chief Minister further stated that the government plans to hold regular review meetings and directly attract investments into Future City. Calling for public support, he urged citizens to back the initiative of transforming the project into one of the world's most prominent urban centers. He recalled that the construction of the Outer Ring Road had initially faced criticism and skepticism, but today it stands as a remarkable infrastructure achievement in the country. Launching a strong criticism of the BRS, he accused the party of attempting to obstruct the Future City project by spreading misinformation. Using metaphorical references, he alleged that forces opposing development were trying to derail progress but maintained that such criticism should not be taken seriously.

Revanth Reddy reiterated that Future City will be positioned as a prime destination



for global investments. He highlighted that out of seven bullet train projects sanctioned across the country, three have been allotted to Telangana. These include proposed routes connecting Bengaluru to Hyderabad, Shamshabad to Pune, and Shamshabad to Amaravati and Chennai. He stated that these major infrastructure projects will significantly boost the growth and prominence of Rangareddy district. In addition, the Chief Minister appealed to Maoists to surrender and reintegrate into mainstream society. He assured that the government is ready to provide rehabilitation, address health concerns, and ensure their safety and security.

Street Cause x KTR : Shaping The Next GEN LEADERS



Hyderabad, April 28: Street Cause, the largest student-run NGO in Hyderabad, successfully hosted the impactful leadership event "Street Cause x KTR: Shaping the Next Generation Leaders", bringing together over 300 Gen Z volunteers, coordinators, and senior leadership members from 50+ colleges across the city.

Established in 2009, Street Cause has been at the forefront of student-driven social impact, having completed over 15,000 projects, with an expenditure exceeding ₹6+ crores, and positively impacting 1.3 million+ individuals and 1,000+ animals. With a strong network of 4,000+ active volunteers and a 45,000+ alumni base, the organization has expanded into a national-level NGO with a presence across multiple cities in India.

The event featured an engaging and insightful interaction with K. T. Rama Rao (KTR), focusing on leadership, governance, entrepreneurship, and youth-driven nation-building.

During the session, KTR shared reflections from his personal journey, including childhood experiences and candid moments that shaped his leadership outlook. He also spoke extensively about the development of Hyderabad and emphasized the role of young individuals in becoming changemakers and contributing meaningfully to the nation's growth.

A key highlight of the event was an in-depth discussion on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its growing impact in today's world. KTR emphasized the importance of adapting to emerging technologies and encouraged students to build relevant skills to stay future-ready.

One of the most engaging segments of the event was the "Myth vs Fact" session, where common perceptions held by Gen Z about politicians were openly discussed. Participants shared widely held beliefs, which were candidly addressed by KTR, offering grounded insights into the realities of governance and public life, thereby foster-

ing a transparent and informed dialogue.

The event also featured interactive segments such as a Mock Shark Tank Pitch, where KTR assumed the role of a venture capitalist, evaluating innovative ideas presented by student volunteers. This was followed by an open Q&A session, allowing participants to directly engage with him and gain valuable guidance.

Adding a creative and cultural dimension to the event, a student volunteer presented a rap performance dedicated to K. T. Rama Rao, capturing his leadership journey and contributions in an engaging and contemporary format, which resonated strongly with the audience.

In a significant gesture of support, K. T. Rama Rao announced a contribution of 17 lakhs rupees to Street Cause, symbolically representing the organization's 17-year journey of impact and service. Further strengthening his association with the organization, he also came on board as an Advisor to Street Cause, extending his guidance and support towards accelerating its vision of building socially conscious leaders and driving meaningful change across communities.

The event also marked the launch of donate.streetcause, a dedicated donations and subscription-based platform aimed at enabling sustained support for Street Cause initiatives. The platform was officially unveiled by K. T. Rama Rao, reinforcing the organization's commitment towards building a scalable and sustainable model for social impact.

The event concluded with a recognition ceremony, where volunteers were acknowledged for their outstanding contributions towards community development and social impact.

This initiative reflects Street Cause's continued commitment to empowering youth and nurturing a generation of socially responsible leaders dedicated to building a better and more sustainable future.

..CALLS FOR WARANGAL PROTEST

FROM PAGE 1

KTR further reviewed party strengthening plans in Warangal and directed the cadres to closely monitor the Election Commission's voter list revision drive to prevent irregularities and ensure eligible voters are enrolled. He instructed the

party leaders to treat the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) program conducted by the Election Commission as a matter of utmost importance, urging them to ensure that no fraudulent votes are registered in any polling booth. He urged the party leaders to take responsibility for uti-

lizing this special voter list revision program to not only register new voters but also ensure that no individual is deprived of their voting rights. In this regard, he suggested preparing a list of Booth-Level Assistants and coordinating with the government officials.

Secunderabad Division Conducts 171st DRUCC Meeting



HYDERABAD

171st Divisional Railway Users Consultative Committee (DRUCC) Meeting of Secunderabad Division, South Central Railway held today i.e., 28th April, 2026 Divisional Railway Manager's Conference Hall, Sanchalan Bhavan, Secunderabad. The meeting was chaired by Dr. R. Gopalakrishnan, Divisional Railway Manager and Smt. Shifali Kumar Secretary & Senior Divisional Commercial Manager and other Branch Officers of Secunderabad Division present in the Meeting.

During the meeting, Chairman highlighted achievements and various development activities taken up over the

Secunderabad Division including status of works at Amrit Stations. Apart from this,

Chairman also briefed the Members about the completed Passenger Amenity works and on-going works in the Division. Out of 18 Members in the committee representing a cross section of Passengers, Customers and Other Associations, 12 members attended the meeting today.

Later the Members have discussed many issues including demand for Stoppage to different Trains, Provision of Passenger Amenities such as Lifts, Escalators, Punctuality of Trains, extended train runs beyond the existing originating and destination stations,

increased frequencies, restoration of ordinary passenger and express train services and ensuring Cleanliness at Stations & on Trains. The members were informed that as partners of Railways their suggestions are of great value in deciding on provision of Passenger Amenities and Stoppages of the Trains etc. During the meeting, Members and Officers of the Division actively participated in the interactive session and discussed various issues.

The Members expressed their satisfaction over the developmental activities undertaken by the Division and appreciated the efforts made for getting various works done and also for the on-going works at Stations.



Workshop on AI & ML at GITAM

HYDERABAD

GITAM School of Business, will organize a five-day online hands-on workshop (Management Development Programme - MDP) on "Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning for Business Decision-Making" from 25 to 29 May 2026.

The programme aims to familiarize participants with the growing role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) in modern business decision-making. As AI-driven analytics increasingly supports areas such as customer acquisition, demand forecasting, risk management, and personalized marketing. The workshop seeks to equip participants with practical insights into applying these technologies for data-driven decisions.

Designed primarily for faculty members from Management, Commerce, Economics, Computer Applications, and Engineering disciplines. The workshop will focus on business-oriented use cases, hands-on demonstrations, and interpretation of model outputs rather than treating ML as a purely technical subject. Practical datasets, visualization-based explanations, and an easy-to-use analytics interface will be used to make AI and ML concepts accessible to participants.

Dr. M. Kamakshiah, an academician and researcher with extensive experience in Business Analytics, Data Science, and AI/ML applications, will serve as the resource person. He has conducted several training programmes and workshops in analytics, AI, and

decision sciences. The programme will cover key topics such as supervised and unsupervised learning, recommender systems, and ensemble models, linking each technique to real-world managerial questions including customer churn prediction, market segmentation, product recommendation, and fraud detection. Upon completion of the programme, participants will gain conceptual clarity and hands-on exposure to AI/ML techniques, enabling them to apply these methods to business decision problems and design AI-enabled case studies and student projects. For registration and further details, interested participants may contact Dr. Joseph Paul, Chairperson, Executive Education, Center for Business Engagement, at jpaul@gitam.edu.

Cow protection groups seek crackdown on illegal slaughter ahead of Bakrid

HYDERABAD

Cow protection activists under Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and Desi Govansh Rakshana Samvardhana Samiti urged the police to strictly enforce cow protection laws across Telangana. A delegation met Hyderabad and Cyberabad Police Commissioners, submitting a memorandum demanding immediate action against illegal slaughterhouses and cattle trafficking. Goraksha Vibhag (Cow Protection Wing) submitted a memorandum requesting the strict enforcement of cow protection laws. Participating in this event were the State Convener of the Goraksha Vibhag Madhuraneni Subhash Chander, State Co-Convener of the Bajrang Dal Mukesh, the Secretary of the Bhagalakshmi Vibhag Rajender Reddy and others. State convener Madhuraneni Subhash Chander cited the Telangana Prohibition of Cow Slaughter and Animal Preservation Act, 1977 and Article 48 of the Constitution, alleging widespread violations despite legal safeguards. He warned that illegal slaughter spikes during Bakrid and accused authorities of inaction. The group demanded closure of unauthorized slaughterhouses.

PROVISION OF LC GATE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

E-Tender Notice No.: SNT-02-LMG-2026-27 Dated: 24-04-2026. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: Name of work: Provision of an advanced integrated voice cum data LC gate communication system at 47 gates in Lumding division. Tender value: ₹1,81,15,418.27/- Bid Security: ₹3,62,300/- Date & time of closing of tender: at 15.00 hrs. & opening at 15.30 hrs. on 18-05-2026. The complete information with tender documents of above e-Tender will be available in www.ireps.gov.in

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Experts conduct soil, rock quality tests at Polavaram Project

POLAVARAM

A team from the Central Soil and Materials Research Station (CSMRS) conducted extensive quality tests at the Polavaram Project on Tuesday to assess the suitability of soil, rock, and other construction materials being used in the prestigious national irrigation project. The expert team comprised soil and rock quality

specialists Anvesh, Gaurav Pandey, Uday Chakravarthy, Harinder Singh Prakash. It may be recalled that the CSMRS team had recently inspected the concrete being used in various components of the project.

During the latest visit, the scientists closely examined the soil and rock materials being utilised for the construction of the ECRF (Earth Cum Rock Fill) dam, one of the key

structures of the Polavaram Project. In addition to the ECRF dam, soil and rock materials are being extensively used in several other important project works.

The officials of the Water Resources department and project executing agency extended full cooperation to the visiting experts. Superintending Engineer Ramachandra Rao, Executive Engineer D.

Srinivas, MEIL General Manager Gangadhar, Deputy General Manager Murali Pammi, and Quality Control DGM Sankaraya briefed the team on the materials being used and the quality assurance measures being followed.

The CSMRS team inspected the storage areas where soil and rock materials earmarked for the project are stocked. Samples were collected

from various locations and tested in the on-site laboratory within the project premises. The scientists expressed satisfaction over the quality standards being maintained.

Some additional soil samples were also collected for advanced testing at the central research laboratory.

The expert team further examined the quality of soil and rocks being used in Gap-1 works.

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. 10-2026
Dt: 27-04-2026

Senior Divisional Engineer/Coordination/Guntakal acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the following works:

S.No.: 01 Tender No.: Engg-GTL-South-2080 Description of work: GDR- RU & RU - GY Section: TTR(P) - 10.55Kms & TSR(P) - 2.744Kms & TWSEJ - 56 Sets under ADEN/RUP Sub-Division (PB - 2026-27 Sanctions). Advertisured Value in (₹): 1,79,07,971.40ps Earnest Money Deposit in (₹): 3,58,200.00ps

S.No.: 02 Tender No.: Engg-GTL-South-2081 Description of work: RU - GY Section: TTR(P) - 15.89Kms & TBR (Plain Track) - 47.78Kms & TBR (P & C) - 13 Sets & TWSEJ - 43 Sets under ADEN/RUP Sub-Division (PB - 2026-27 Sanctions) Advertisured Value in (₹): 3,57,48,965.57ps Earnest Money Deposit in (₹): 7,15,000.00ps

S.No.: 03 Tender No.: Engg-GTL-South-2082 Description of work: RU - GY & YA - NDL Section: TTR(P) - 8.00Kms & TBR (Plain Track) - 0.725Kms, TTRR(FS+TWS+WCMSC) - 36 Sets and TWSEJ - 51 Sets under ADEN/HX Sub-Division (PB - 2026-27 Sanctions) Advertisured Value in (₹): 2,95,28,555.08ps Earnest Money Deposit in (₹): 5,90,600.00ps

S.No.: 04 Tender No.: Engg-GTL-West-2083 Description of work: Guntakal Division: Updation, certification and construction etc., of land plans between KDP-TPTY-RU & DMM - PAK section under DEN/West/GTL jurisdiction Advertisured Value in (₹): 46,36,368.75ps Earnest Money Deposit in (₹): 92,700.00ps

S.No.: 05 Tender No.: Engg-GTL-South-2084 Description of work: Guntakal Division - Proposed construction of 03m wide FOBs in BHAKARAPETA, ONTIMITTA, KALLAMALLA stations in Sr.DEN/South/GTL jurisdiction. Advertisured Value in (₹): 9,19,46,402.14ps Earnest Money Deposit in (₹): 18,39,000.00ps

S.No.: 06 Tender No.: Engg-GTL-South-2085 Description of work: Guntakal Division - Proposed construction of 03m wide FOB in SETTIGUNTA, HASTAVARAM, MANTAPAMPALLE stations in Sr.DEN/South/GTL jurisdiction. Advertisured Value in (₹): 9,22,84,183.05ps Earnest Money Deposit in (₹): 18,45,700.00ps

S.No.: 07 Tender No.: Engg-GTL-Central-2086 Description of work: Renigunta-Guntakal section: TTR(P) - 3.410km, TSR(P) - 11.00km, TTRR (FS+TWS-01Nos), TTRR(WCMSC-05Nos), TBR - 7.490km, TTR(FS):33 Nos, Nandyal Dhone Section: TSR(P)-3.260Km, Gooty-Pendekallu Section: CTR(P)-20.380Km, TTR (FS+TWS+WCMSC-04 Nos), Dhone-Guntakal Section: TTRR(P)-2.400Km, TTRR(FS+TWS-05 Nos), TTR(FS)-11 Nos, TBR(P&Cs): 18 Nos, Nandyal-Yerraguntla Section: TTRR(FS+TWS-17 Nos). Advertisured Value in (₹): 5,00,90,437.44ps Earnest Money Deposit in (₹): 10,01,800.00ps

S.No.: 08 Tender No.: Engg-GTL-Central-2087 Description of work: Industrial Re-Flooring of ROH Shed with improved drainage arrangements & Renovation of existing old store (8mX16m) to staff canteen in connection with Re-flooring of ROH shed and allied works at BOXN ROH depot, GOOTY. Advertisured Value in (₹): 3,21,14,688.18ps Earnest Money Deposit in (₹): 6,42,300.00ps

Information Department Should Be Strengthened for Publicity of Welfare Schemes

Information Department Should Be Strengthened for Publicity of Welfare Schemes



HYDERABAD

Telangana State Journalists Union (TSJU) State President Naragouni Purushottam stated that the Information and Public Relations Department should modernize its communication approach to ensure that government welfare schemes reach every household.

A TSJU delegation met Mukunda Reddy, who recently assumed charge as I&PR Commissioner, on Tuesday at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat and extended their congratulations.

Speaking on the occasion, Naragouni Purushottam emphasized that the Information Department plays a crucial role in taking innovative government

schemes to the public. He expressed hope that by adopting modern technology in line with changing times and strengthening publicity divisions, the benefits of these schemes can be made more accessible to people. He also conveyed confidence that under the leadership of the experienced Mukunda Reddy, the department would achieve new progress.

He further requested the Commissioner to respond positively towards the welfare of journalists and the resolution of their professional issues. On this occasion, TSJU State General Secretary Thokala Anil Kumar, Medchal District President Muthyam Mukesh Goud, and others participated and facilitated the Commissioner.

Journalist murder in AP: TUWJ, IJU demand swift justice, protection law

HYDERABAD

The Telangana State Union of Working Journalists (TUWJ) and the Indian Journalists Union (IJU) have strongly condemned the brutal murder of senior journalist Jagan Mohan Reddy in Andhra Pradesh.

In a joint statement, TUWJ President K. Virahath Ali and General Secretary K. Ramnarayana, along with IJU President Balwinder Singh Jammu and Secretary General D. Soma Sundar, described the killing as "horrific and shocking." Jagan Mohan Reddy, a senior reporter with Andhra Jyothi

daily, was attacked with knives during his morning walk in Venkatagiri Kota, Chittoor district, in the early hours of April 28. He succumbed to his injuries on the spot. The unions noted that the journalist had recently published reports exposing alleged sandalwood mafia activities in the region, raising serious concerns about the motive behind the murder.

Condemning the incident, TUWJ and IJU demanded a thorough and time-bound investigation, along with the immediate arrest of both the assailants and those who orchestrated the crime.

OUR CENSUS OUR DEVELOPMENT

(First Phase of Census 2027)
Common queries on Self-Enumeration (SE) and their Answers (Part-2)

WHAT IS SELF-ENUMERATION?

Self-Enumeration is an online process in which you fill and submit your household details on the SE portal (se.census.gov.in) yourself, without waiting for an enumerator

- ❖ What are the benefits of Self-Enumeration?
 - Fill details conveniently
 - Ensures privacy
 - Makes the Census process faster and efficient
- ❖ How to log in to the Self-Enumeration portal?
 - Select State/UT
 - Enter name of head of the family, mobile number and email (optional)
 - Verify through OTP
 - Start Self-Enumeration
- ❖ How to mark the correct location of your house?
 - Select district/PIN code
 - Enter area/landmark
 - Zoom on map and mark location near your house (Do not worry if exact address is not displayed)
 - Correct location marking is necessary
- ❖ Can I edit my information later?
 - Yes, you can edit before final submission during State/UT SE period
 - After final submission changes can be done during enumerator's visit
- ❖ Can SE portal be accessed outside India?

No, this facility is available only within India's geographical boundaries
- ❖ What if an error is found after submission?

Correction can be made when the enumerator visits your house
- ❖ Can I save and complete the form later?

Yes, you can save progress and complete the form within the stipulated time

CBC 1910813/0044/2627

TOLL FREE - 1855

Let us fulfill our responsibility, Let us participate in the Census

CensusIndia2027

SHORT TAKES

Vivek visits survivors of Shankarpally crane accident



HYDERABAD: Minister for Labour and Mines Dr. G. Vivek Venkatswamy on Tuesday visited the survivors who were injured in the crane accident near Shankarpally to check on their health status. The unfortunate incident, which occurred on Monday, resulted in the deaths of five migrant workers, while twelve others were injured. A construction crane belonging to NCC Limited collapsed onto a shed due to strong winds a day ago. At the time of the accident, several workers had taken shelter inside the shed to escape the rain. The crane fell on them, resulting in the death of five workers on the spot, while 12 others suffered fractures and serious injuries. The Minister, along with MLA Kale Yadaiah, visited the hospital and reviewed the treatment being provided to the injured. He also directed the officials to submit a detailed report on the incident. Dr. Vivek Venkatswamy stated that the government is committed to extending all possible assistance to the families of the victims. (NSS)

1.24 lakh students seek govt relief over 'distance degrees'

HYDERABAD: More than 1.24 lakh Telangana students who pursued distance education from Acharya Nagarjuna University have appealed to the government to safeguard their future, citing uncertainty over certificate recognition. They completed various courses through the distance education mode conducted by Nagarjuna University under Section 95 of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014. At the 217th "CM Praja Vani" held in Hyderabad, the affected students urged authorities to intervene after the Telangana State Council of Higher Education refused to recognise the University's distance education certificates from 2022 onwards. In 2022, the Council stated that it would not accept distance education certificates issued by AP-based Acharya Nagarjuna University. Following this, they approached the court, and although the High Court judgment was in their favor, the issue of considering Nagarjuna University distance education certificates for employment opportunities remains unresolved. Due to this, the future of 1,24,524 students from Telangana has become uncertain, the students expressed with concern.

Kishan Reddy presses cm for land to ease rail traffic at Cherlapally, Secunderabad

HYDERABAD

Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy has urged Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to immediately allocate land for widening approach roads and creating parking facilities at Cherlapally Railway Station, citing mounting passenger pressure in the city.

In an open letter to CM, Reddy highlighted that Hyderabad's three major terminals - Kachiguda Railway Station, Secunderabad Railway Station and Hyderabad Deccan Railway Station - are already overburdened, necessitating the development of Cherlapally as a modern alternative. The Cherlapally terminal, built at a cost of Rs.430 crore and inaugurated on January 6, 2025 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is witnessing a steady rise in train operations and passenger footfall. However, poor road connectivity is emerging as a major bottleneck.

Reddy called for: Widening the FCI Godown Road approach to 200 feet; expanding the Bharat Nagar-side road from 30 feet to 100 feet; developing the EC Nagar - MMTS link road to 100 meters over 700 meters; Al-

There is no shifting NFDB Headquarter... Continue to be Hyderabad as it is



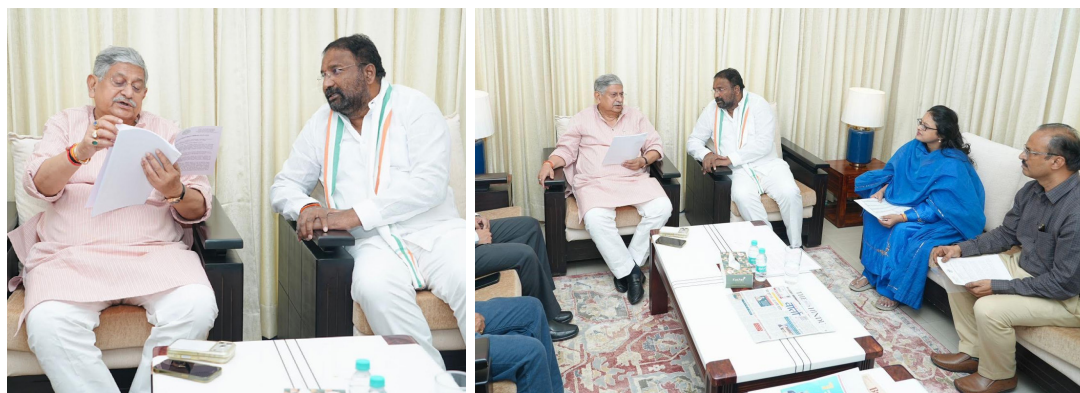
- promising to union minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh

HYDERABAD

At the NFDB office in Rajendranagar, State Minister for Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development, Fisheries, Youth Services, and Sports, Vakitri Srihari, along with Fisheries Director Nikhila, Animal Husbandry Department official Lakshmi Narayana, and others, held a special meeting with Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairy, Rajiv Ranjan Singh.

Minister Vakitri Srihari explained to the Union Minister the schemes being implemented by Telangana in the animal husbandry, dairy, and fisheries sectors.

He also requested support from the Central Government for Telangana. On this occasion, Minister Vakitri Srihari honored Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh with a shawl, bouquet, and memento.



Minister Vakitri Srihari's comments:

We met Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh as a courtesy.

Under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, we explained the schemes being implemented in animal husbandry, dairy development, and fisheries sectors, along with their outcomes.

The Union Minister responded positively on several issues, including the support required from the

Centre to the State, aquaculture, insurance in Alife sciences, and fairness in moped allocations.

Since the Centre represents a union of states, funds should be distributed equally among all states.

The government is working towards the development of 46,000 large ponds, 26,000 small ponds, and 100 reservoirs located between the Godavari and Krishna rivers.

The previous government failed

to bring funds from the Centre.

Union Minister assures NFDB will not be shifted from Rajendranagar - Minister Vakitri Srihari

Minister Vakitri Srihari brought to the attention of Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh the ongoing speculation about shifting the NFDB from Rajendranagar. The Union Minister clarified that there is no plan to relocate NFDB and assured that it will continue to function in Rajendranagar as usual.

Minister directs officials to organise international medical event in June

HYDERABAD

Minister for Health Damodar Raja Narasimha stated that Hyderabad would be developed into a global hub for medical tourism.

The Minister directed senior officials of the health department to make arrangements to organise an International Medical Tourism event in June.

He suggested coordinating with the Tourism department for the management of the event. In this regard, the Minister held a review meeting with senior officials from the Health and Tourism departments in his chamber at the Secretariat on Tuesday.

Measures to be taken for the development of medical tourism, as well as the resulting benefits, were discussed during the meeting. On the occasion, the Minister recalled the suggestions made by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to work towards the goal of transforming Hyderabad into a global hub for medical tourism.

Damodar Raja Narasimha stated that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has decided to organise at least one medical tourism event in Hyderabad every year henceforth and officials should make arrangements for holding the first such event this June.

The Minister suggested involving prominent figures from the

domestic and international medical and pharmaceutical sectors as participants in this event. He also directed that private organisations engaged in medical tourism be included as stakeholders in the event.

He suggested inviting delegates from countries across Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and other regions. The Minister further directed that arrangements be made for visits to government hospitals, such as NIMS, TIMS, Osmania, and Gandhi, in addition to the private and corporate hospitals located in Hyderabad.

Raja Narasimha suggested establishing International patient services departments in the three TIMS hospitals currently being set up in Hyderabad. He directed that a dedicated ward for international patients, comprising 50 beds, be established in each of these hospitals. The Minister noted that government hospitals would generate revenue from patients arriving from both within the country and abroad; this, in turn, would improve hospital administration and ensure that local residents receive even better medical services.

The Medical Recruitment Board, having completed the process of filling 2,322 nursing officer posts in government hospitals, recently released the list of selected candidates.

Telangana to Emerge as a Premier Tourism Destination: Minister Jupally Krishna Rao

Directs Officials to Prepare Time-Bound Action Plan on Tourism Development

HYDERABAD

Stating that Telangana has immense potential to emerge as one of the country's premier tourism destinations, Minister for Tourism Jupally Krishna Rao today directed officials to prepare a comprehensive and time-bound action plan for infrastructure development, destination branding, and effective promotion of tourism across the State.

Chairing the Tourism Advisory Committee meeting held at Tourism Plaza, Begumpet, the Minister said the Government is committed to transforming Telangana into a vibrant tourism hub by leveraging its rich heritage, culture, temples, eco-tourism destinations, forests, reservoirs, and hospitality strengths.

The Minister instructed officials to ensure continuous follow-up on all suggestions received during the meeting and assign clear responsibilities for implementation. He emphasized the need to strengthen basic amenities such as toilets, temporary accommodation, tents, glass houses, wayside facilities, and



visitor infrastructure at key tourist destinations.

Jupally Krishna Rao proposed organizing a grand annual carnival in Hyderabad during November-December to attract domestic and international tourists. He said the event should gradually evolve into a self-sustaining model with sponsorship support. He also suggested city beautification initiatives through sculptures, landscaping, and creative public spaces.

The Minister further directed officials to accelerate tourism development in destinations such as Somashila, Warangal, Ramappa, Yadadri, Golconda, Taramati Baradari, and Nagarjuna Sagar. He also called for regular weekend cul-

tural programmes at major tourism centres to enhance visitor engagement and attract visitors.

During the meeting, members of the Tourism Advisory Committee offered several valuable suggestions on promoting Hyderabad as a global tourism and wedding destination, strengthening medical tourism, wellness tourism, temple tourism, golf tourism, and film tourism. Members also stressed the importance of aggressive marketing in domestic, Middle East, and Central Asian markets.

Special Chief Secretary Vani Prasad informed the meeting that steps are already being taken for the development of amenities, tourism projects, caravans, forts, and in-

vestor outreach initiatives. She also highlighted the need for stronger branding and faster project execution.

The Minister assured that all constructive suggestions would be examined positively and incorporated into the State's tourism roadmap. He directed officials to place concrete proposals before the next review meeting and ensure visible progress on priority initiatives.

The meeting was attended by TGIDC Managing Director Gauthami, Director of Tourism Laxman Ranjith Naik, and committee members including Papa Rao IAS, Kamala Vardhan Rao IAS, Dr. Balaji, Zulfi, Marg Patel, Ramdev Rao, and other stakeholders.



No fuel shortage in Telangana; Citizens urged to avoid panic buying

HYDERABAD

The Civil Supplies department assured the people that there is absolutely no shortage of fuel in Telangana. Citizens are strongly urged to ignore unfounded rumours and purchase fuel only as they normally would, as stations will continue to be fully stocked to meet all public and agricultural needs.

In a statement here on Tuesday, it stated that to ensure citizens have uninterrupted access to fuel, the Telangana Civil Supplies department has aggressively increased statewide petroleum supplies by 126% since Sunday.

This quick and decisive action was taken to stabilise local fuel stations that are currently facing strain from a sudden and unusually high demand.

The unexpected rush at local fuel pumps is being driven by a combination of three major factors. First, following a recent price revision that raised industrial diesel to Rs.150 per litre, bulk commercial buyers are exploiting the

system by filling up at regular public gas stations, where the price is still capped at Rs.95 per litre.

Second, supply issues in neighboring Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra have caused heavy cross-border traffic, with out-of-state buyers flocking to Telangana border districts like Khammam and Nirmal just to purchase fuel.

Finally, false rumours regarding upcoming post-election price hikes have caused the general public to unnecessarily panic buy and hoard fuel, rapidly depleting local reserves. In response to this crisis, Civil Supplies Commissioner M. Stephen Raveendra has issued emergency orders to Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to effectively flood the market with fuel. To front-load the supply chain, OMCs are taking advance indents from dealers and have deployed a massive fleet of 3,100 fuel tankers across the state. To ensure these stocks reach the pumps before they run dry, the department has escalated its oversight, mandating ground-level stock reports.

Google breaks ground on \$15 B AI hub in Vizag, boosting India's tech ambitions

VISAKHAPATNAM

Google on Tuesday officially broke the ground on its largest-ever India investment - a massive Artificial Intelligence (AI) hub in Visakhapatnam - marking a major leap in the country's digital and AI infrastructure push, designed to be an important contributor to the government's Viksit Bharat 2047 vision.

The project, part of a \$15 billion investment plan (2026 - 2030), is being developed in partnership with Adani ConneX and Nxtra by Airtel, and will feature India's first gigawatt-scale AI hub with three data center campuses.

The groundbreaking ceremony at Tarlavada saw participation from key leaders, including Union IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, AP chief minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and minister Nara Lokesh, along



with industry executives from Google, Adani Group and Bharti Enterprises. US consulate general Laura Williams, Jeet Adani, chairperson of Adani Group, Karan Adani, Managing Director of Adani Ports & SEZ, Bikash Koley, Vice President of Google Global Infrastructure, Google Cloud, Rakesh Mittal, Vice-Chairman, Bharti Enterprises and others were present. Calling the project a "cornerstone of India's AI future", Vaishnaw said it aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of making India a global technology leader.

Naidu emphasized that the AI hub will "drive innovation, create high-value jobs and position Andhra Pradesh as a global digital hub", while Google Cloud CEO Thomas Kurian described it as a "turning point for India's AI-native future." Beyond

infrastructure, the project includes subsea cable connectivity, clean energy integration and community-focused initiatives - ranging from water conservation and fisheries digitization to women entrepreneurship and AI skilling programs.

With the launch of the "Bharat AI Shakti Conclave", the initiative aims to build a broader AI industrial corridor, integrating local industries and

small and medium enterprises (SMEs) into the global digital ecosystem.

The Vizag AI hub is expected to deliver low-latency, high-performance computing infrastructure, enabling businesses, startups and researchers to scale AI-driven innovation - firmly placing India on the global AI map. As Visakhapatnam grows into a major digital hub, Google is introducing the Skills

Trade and Readiness (STAR) program to create sustainable career paths for local talent while developing a homegrown workforce ready to drive India's digital acceleration. With hands-on training in high-demand fields like construction, welding, and facility operations, the program aims to prepare more than 1,000 people in the local workforce for vital roles in developing the city's digital infrastructure.

Man Brings Sister's Skeleton to Bank, Sparks Outrage

BHUBANESWAR/
KEONJHAR: (APR 28)

A man carried his sister's exhumed skeleton to a rural bank in Odisha's Keonjhar district as a proof of death to withdraw her money, the parent bank clarified they had only sought valid documents, even as the incident triggered a row on Tuesday. A shocking clip of the man carrying the remains to the Maliposi branch of Odisha Grameen Bank on Monday has gone viral on social media. The parent bank said the incident appears to have arisen due to a lack of awareness and asserted that the branch will settle the man's claim to withdraw money from his deceased sister's account on a priority basis as soon as local authorities issue a death certificate.

EC Urges NIA to Prevent Bomb Threats in Bengal Polls

NEW DELHI: (APR 28)

Ahead of phase two of Apolling in West Bengal, the Election Commission has asked the National Investigation Agency to ensure bombs are not used by miscreants to disrupt voting and target workers of political parties, poll authority officials said on Tuesday. The directive comes after recovery of crude bombs in the poll-bound state and reports of a minor blast. While the phase one of polls in the state took place on April 23, the second phase will be held Wednesday.

Jharkhand cabinet approves construction of two flyovers in Ranchi

RANCHI: (APR 28)

Jharkhand cabinet on Tuesday approved the construction of two flyovers in Ranchi and the setting up of an innovation and incubation centre foundation at the Government Engineering College, Palamu, officials said. The first flyover will be built at Argora Chowk, connecting Harmu to Dibdih Bridge, while the second one will link Karamtoli to Science City. "The 3.804-km flyover project at Argora Chowk will cost around Rs 469.61 crore, while the other one, a 3.216-km project, will cost around Rs 351.14 crore." Additional Chief Secretary (Cabinet Secretariat) Vandana Dadel told reporters.

Over 70 houses damaged in rain, landslides in Mizoram

AIZAWL: (APR 28)

At least 77 houses have been damaged in four districts in Mizoram by rain, windstorm and landslides in the past two days, the state Disaster Management and Rehabilitation department said on Tuesday. According to data released by the department on Tuesday, two school buildings, church halls and health sub-centres, an Anganwadi centre and a public library have also been damaged by windstorms between Monday and Tuesday. No casualty has been reported in such calamities during the same period, it said.

CM Chandrababu lays foundation for Google AI Data center in Visakhapatnam

VISAKHAPATNAM:

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu said that Google, which started as a search engine, will soon emerge as a growth engine for Indian economy with the set up of Google data center in Visakhapatnam. He said April 28, 2026 will remain as a historical day for digital technology revolution as foundation laid for 15 billion US dollars Google data center in Visakhapatnam today.

The Chief Minister today laid foundation for Google Cloud India AI hub at Thurluvada in Visakhapatnam along with Union Minister Aswini Vaishnav, Google Cloud Vice-president Bikash Koley, Rakesh Bharti Mittal, Vice-chairman Bharti Airtel, US consul general, Hyderabad, Laura Williams, Jeet Adani of Adani group and other distinguished personalities of digital technology. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said Google data centre will become a reality by September 2028. He said the Google data centre will emerge as a game changer for entire state like Cyberabad three decades ago. He said Visakhapatnam will become a digital technology gateway with the commencement of operations by Google data centre. He said

Google data center to emerge as growth engine for Indian economy: CM
Reverse migration of talent to Visakha imminent:CM
Youth to get abundant employment opportunities with Google data center:CM
Google AI assistant to serve as AI secretary in CMO:CM



everyone used to search in Google, but Google searched for a suitable place Andhra Pradesh.

The Chief Minister said that the AI centre will serve as one of the secretary in CM office along with four other secretaries working in CMO. In a lighter vein, the Chief Minister remarked that AI centre will also be one of his AI secretary for smooth functioning of AP Government's speed of governance. The Chief Minister said once the Google data centre started operations youth will get abundant employment opportunities and there will be reverse migration and Visakha

will become destination for talent. The Chief Minister said the Google is setting up the cloud data centre with an investment of 15 billion dollars, in partnership with AdaniConneX and Airtel Nxta. A 1 Gigawatt hyperscale AI data centre is being established. The state government has allocated 601 acres in Thurluvada, Rambilli and Advavaram areas for the project. Before the ceremony, the Chief Minister inspected the Google Experience Zone. The Chief Minister appreciated IT Minister Nara Lokesh for taking the initiative to bring Google to Visakhapatnam. When Lokesh first

visited Google, few imagined such a project would come to Visakhapatnam. But he made it happen. He said that when Google planned to establish an AI data centre in India, the Prime Minister was approached for support. Prime Minister Narendra Modi assured complete support for Google's investment in Andhra Pradesh and stood by that commitment. With Lokesh's initiative and the Prime Minister's cooperation, this project has become a reality." He expressed confidence that global partners like Adani Group and Airtel would complete the project swiftly, and requested that

it be commissioned by September 2028. Assuring full support for the project, the Chief Minister said there is no water shortage for this region. "We will bring Godavari water to Visakhapatnam within 60 days." Calling Visakhapatnam a global city, the Chief Minister announced several major developments including Bhogapuram International Airport to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Modi in July, first shipment exports from AcelorMittal Steel Plant by 2028 and production of ingot solar wafers through Renew Power Anakapalli district to emerge as another major industrial growth centre like Rangareddy. The Chief Minister stated that twenty-five percent of all investments coming to Andhra Pradesh. AP is not only No.1 in MoUs and investments, but also No.1 in groundbreaking projects." He further stated that Polavaram project will be completed by 2027 and dedicated to the nation. Several Union Ministers, State Ministers, public representatives and officials attended the programme.

Tirupati Yard Works Disrupt Train Services

Several Trains Diverted, Partially Cancelled

CHENNAI, APRIL 28:

The South Central Railway has announced changes in train operations due to engineering works at Tirupati Yard from April 27 to May 2, 2026, affecting multiple services.

Diversions: Train No. 07615 Charlapalli-Tiruchirappalli Express Special (April 28) will run via Renigunta, Melpakkam and Katpadi, skipping Tirupati, Pakala and Chittoor.

Train No. 07220 Tiruvannamalai-Narasapur Express Special (April 30) will also be diverted via Katpadi, Melpakkam and Renigunta, skipping Chittoor, Pakala and Tirupati.

Partial Cancellations: Several trains originating from Tirupati will be partially cancelled and instead start from nearby stations:

Train No. 16853 Tirupati-Villupuram Express (April 28-May 2) will

originate from Chandragiri. **Train No. 22615 Tirupati-Coimbatore Superfast Express** (April 28, 29 & May 2) will originate from Chandragiri.

Train No. 16779 Tirupati-Rameswaram Express (April 28, 29 & May 1, 2) will originate from Chandragiri.

Train No. 16054 Tirupati-Dr MGR Chennai Central Saptagiri Express (April 28-May 2) will originate from Renigunta. **Train No. 67207 Tirupati-Katpadi MEMU** (April 28-May 2) will originate from Chandragiri. **Train No. 22617 Tirupati-SMVT Bengaluru Superfast Express** (April 28 & May 1) will originate from Chandragiri. Temporary stoppages have been arranged at Chandragiri for select trains during this period. Passengers are advised to check updates on the NTES or IRCTC before travel.

Maharashtra Plans Seed Law, Boosts Farmers' Rights

MUMBAI: (Apr 28) Maharashtra Agriculture Minister Dattatraya Bharné on Tuesday said the state will bring in a separate law to give farmers legal rights to store, use, exchange and sell crop seeds

without using branded names. The proposed law will ensure that farmers get quality seeds, legal protection and immediate compensation if seeds turn out to be defective, he said at a meeting held at Mantralaya.

Prime Minister praises Sikkim's extraordinary biodiversity during visit to Gangtok Orchidarium

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited the Orchidarium in Gangtok, Sikkim today and expressed his profound admiration for its beauty and the state's extraordinary biodiversity. The Prime Minister described his visit to the Orchidarium as a mesmerizing experience. Shri Modi observed that such dedicated conservation efforts perfectly reflect our deep-rooted harmony with the natural world. He further

noted that these initiatives serve as a vital inspiration for citizens to embrace conservation and sustainable living.

The Prime Minister wrote on X: "Visited the Orchidarium in Gangtok and was mesmerised by its beauty. Sikkim's rich biodiversity is truly extraordinary. Such efforts reflect our deep harmony with nature. They also inspire us towards conservation and sustainable living."

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan reviews availability and timely distribution of NCERT Textbooks



Union Education Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan today reviewed the availability, printing, and distribution of textbooks published by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) for the ongoing academic session. Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shri Sanjay Kumar, along with the senior officials from the Ministry of Education and NCERT were present during the meeting. Shri Pradhan reviewed the

preparation of the upcoming NCERT Textbooks. The Minister also assessed stock positions across States and Union Territories and examined coordination with state authorities and distribution agencies to ensure the timely delivery of books, particularly to students in rural areas. Emphasizing that no student should face inconvenience due to delays, Shri Pradhan directed officials to strengthen supply chains, augment printing capacity where necessary, and closely monitor last-mile delivery. He also highlighted the availability of digital textbooks through e-Pathshala as an interim measure to support uninterrupted learning until physical copies reach all students.

Guided by Maa Ganga, Driven by Progress

Ganga Expressway

Meerut, Prayagraj, Hapur, Pratapgarh, Raebareilly, Unnao, Amroha, Sambhal, Budhan, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi

Inauguration of Uttar Pradesh's grand 594-km long Ganga Expressway (Meerut-Prayagraj) built at a cost of ₹36,230 Crore

by **Narendra Modi** Prime Minister

Progress in Full Speed: 6 lane (expandable to 8 lane) Ganga Expressway connects 12 districts • Designed for speed 120 km/hr; Meerut to Prayagraj distance to be covered in 6-8 hours • Long bridges spanning 960 m over the Ganga river at Hapur and 720 m over the Ramganga river at Budhan • 21 ramp interchanges including 2 main entry-exit gates at Meerut and Prayagraj • Fully access-controlled Greenfield Ganga Expressway is equipped with Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) • 3.50 km long airstrip near Shahjahanpur for emergency landing and take-off of fighter aircrafts • 3.75 m wide staggered service lanes on both sides of the expressway

Development and Welfare: 9 large Public Facility Centres with fuel and e-charging facilities • Industrial corridor development underway across 12 districts of Ganga Expressway • Rapid connectivity to Delhi for industrial units and agricultural production zones • Increased revenue in agricultural, commercial, tourism and industrial sectors • New centres for storage and processing of milk, fruits and vegetables • Expansion of trade and employment opportunities; boost to tourism • Immense potential for new Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), higher education and medical institutions

In the august presence of

Anandiben Patel Governor, Uttar Pradesh	Yogi Adityanath Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh
Pankaj Chaudhary Minister of State, Finance, Government of India	Keshav Prasad Maurya Deputy Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh
Suresh Kumar Khanna Minister, Finance and Parliamentary Affairs, Uttar Pradesh	Nand Gopal Gupta "Nandi" Minister, Industrial Development, Export Promotion, IRE and Investment Promotion, Uttar Pradesh
Nitin Agrawal Minister of State (Independent Charge), Excise and Prohibition, Uttar Pradesh	Jayendra Pratap Singh Rathore Minister of State (Independent Charge), Cooperative, Uttar Pradesh
Asim Arun Minister of State (Independent Charge), Social Welfare, Scheduled Caste and Tribal Welfare, Uttar Pradesh	Narendra Kumar Kashyap Minister of State (Independent Charge), Backward Class Welfare, Divyangjan Empowerment, Uttar Pradesh
Jaswant Singh Saini Minister of State, Parliamentary Affairs, Industrial Development, Uttar Pradesh	Rajni Tiwari Minister of State, Higher Education, Uttar Pradesh
Arjun Kumar Sagar Member of Parliament, Shahjahanpur	Dr. Swami Sachidanand Hari Sakshi Maharaj Member of Parliament, Unnao
Priya Shakya Chairman, District Panchayat, Kamnag	Premawati P.K. Verma Chairman, District Panchayat, Hardoi
Ashish Kumar Singh "Ashu" M.A. Bahadur	Rampal Verma M.A. Bahadur
Ashutosh Shukla M.A. Bahadur	Arvind Kumar Singh M.A. Bahadur
Dr. Manvendra Pratap Singh M.L.C.	Er. Awanish Kumar Singh M.L.C.
Shrikanth Katiyar M.L.C.	Salona Kushwaha M.L.C.
Dr. Sudhir Gupta M.L.C.	Anil Kumar Singh M.L.C.
Ashok Agarwal M.L.C.	Umesh Dwivedi M.L.C.
Shyam Prakash M.L.A. Gopnau	Prabhash Kumar M.L.A. Sandi
Madhavendra Pratap Singh Mayor, Shahjahanpur	Hari Prakash Verma M.L.A. Bahadur
Archna Verma M.A. Bahadur	Archna Pandey M.L.A. Bahadur
Shakun Singh Chairman, District Panchayat, Unnao	Pankaj Gupta M.L.A. Bahadur
Mamta Yadav Chairman, District Panchayat, Shahjahanpur	Kailash Rajput M.L.A. Bahadur
Brajesh Kumar M.L.A. Bahadur	Dr. Veer Vikram Singh "Prince" M.L.A. Bahadur
Pranshu Dutt Dwivedi M.L.C.	Dr. Akash Agarwal M.L.C.

and other dignitaries

Date: 29th April, 2026 | Time: 10:00 AM | Venue: Mallawan cut, near chainage 351 km Ganga Expressway, Tehsil-Bilgram, District-Hardoi, U.P.

Superfast State - Uttar Pradesh : 8 expressways operational, 14 in various development stages • 55% of the country's total expressways in Uttar Pradesh • Industrial Corridors at 27 locations of 26 districts along the expressways • Implementation of AAI Industrial Infrastructure Mission for industrial development • Uttar Pradesh is leading state in implementing PM Gati Shakti • Work underway for establishing Integrated Manufacturing Clusters at Prayagraj and Agra under the Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor • Junction of the Eastern and Western Dedicated Freight Corridors located at Dadri, Uttar Pradesh • Largest rail network in the country in Uttar Pradesh (16,000 km) • 17 airports operational (5 international airports), 7 in various development stages • Work in progress for extending National Waterway-1 (Varanasi-Haldia) up to Ayodhya

Vikas ki Gati Aap-Double Engine Sarkar

Information and Public Relations Department, U.P. | Live telecast | DD NEWS & Youtube.com/ODNEWS

EDITORIAL

THE DEFECTION GAMBIT:
AAP'S LEGISLATIVE COLLAPSE AND
THE EROSION OF THE TENTH SCHEDULE

On April 24, a political earthquake shook the Upper House as seven out of the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) ten Rajya Sabha members formally declared their merger with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). With the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha swiftly accepting their claim, the BJP's individual strength has climbed to 113, effectively pushing the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) past the elusive halfway mark for the first time in its history. This dramatic development is more than a mere numbers game; it serves as a stark reflection of AAP's internal instability, the blatant opportunism of the defecting legislators, the strategic maneuvers of the BJP, and the systematic weakening of India's anti-defection framework. Among the "gang of seven," figures like Raghav Chadha, Sandeep Pathak, and Swati Maliwal were seen as intrinsic to AAP's core identity—at least to the extent that such an identity existed outside the singular influence of its founder, Arvind Kejriwal. For the remaining four, however, their departure appears just as calculated and opportunistic as their original entry into the party.

Mr. Kejriwal, who frequently ridiculed the Congress party for its inability to prevent legislators from jumping ship to the BJP across various states, often framed such exits as proof of a terminal ethical rot. Yet, a sustained period of political volatility and the relentless pursuit of power have unmasked the true nature of AAP, revealing it to be far removed from the idealistic virtues it once championed. The disintegration of its Rajya Sabha wing represents the logical conclusion of the cynicism and transactional politics upon which the party was built, ultimately at a significant cost to India's democratic health. In many ways, the party is now reaping exactly what it sowed during its rapid ascent.

However, the party's own failings do not justify the brazen legal interpretation used by the defectors and upheld by the Rajya Sabha Chairman regarding the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution. This constitutional provision is designed specifically to prevent elected representatives from betraying their original political mandate. The "merger" exception within the Schedule is unambiguous: a political party may merge with another, provided that at least two-thirds of its legislators agree to the move. Crucially, the Supreme Court of India clarified in 2023 that a "legislature party" is not synonymous with the "political party," and the former cannot independently dictate the actions of the latter. For a merger to be legally sound under the anti-defection law, it must involve the political party itself merging, with two-thirds of the legislators consenting.

To invert this logic—and claim that two-thirds of a legislative group can simply migrate to another party without facing disqualification—is a legal stretch that AAP is currently contesting in the judiciary. Unfortunately, the Supreme Court's historical record in addressing such maneuvers provides little comfort. In recent years, several elected state governments have been toppled through large-scale defections, rendering the Tenth Schedule virtually toothless. The fact that the judiciary has struggled to create a meaningful deterrent against this betrayal of the popular mandate is evident in how frequently and shamelessly such acts are being repeated. Until a firm line is drawn, the integrity of the electoral process remains under a constant shadow of legislative horse-trading.

OPEN FORUM

Ayushman Bharat: Why a Human Touch Must Guide India's Healthcare Tech Revolution

As India marches toward the vision of universal health coverage, Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana stands as a transformative pillar in the nation's healthcare landscape. Commemorated every year on April 30 as Ayushman Bharat Diwas, this initiative is more than just a policy—it is a lifeline for millions of economically vulnerable families. By offering health insurance coverage of up to 5 lakh per family and bridging the gap between affordability and accessibility, the scheme reflects India's commitment to equitable healthcare. Since its launch in 2018, it has not only expanded medical access but also redefined the role of technology and governance in delivering dignified and inclusive healthcare to every citizen.

Ayushman Bharat Diwas is celebrated annually on April 30th in India to promote affordable medical facilities in rural areas and provide health insurance benefits up to ₹5 lakh per family annually to the poor. It marks the 2018 launch of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) aimed at universal health coverage.

The Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), hailed as the world's most expansive health insurance manual, has turned the tide for the underprivileged by providing free access to elite corporate medical care. With a sprawling network of approximately 36,229 hospitals nationwide, the scheme has achieved a monumental feat. By April 2026, it has facilitated 11.69 crore free treatments, valued at a staggering ₹1.73 lakh crore. Currently, over 43.52 crore Ayushman cards are in circulation, and the introduction of 1.14 crore 'Ayushman Vaya Vandana' cards specifically for seniors above 70 marks a watershed moment in inclusive healthcare. Beyond mere financial cushioning, the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) has brought a breath of fresh air to medical services by modernizing them. To date, over 86 crore 'ABHA' accounts have been created, empowering patients to access their digital medical history anytime, anywhere. Furthermore, the 'Scan and Share' facility has cut through the red tape of long OPD queues, issuing 7.5 crore tokens. By 2026, this initiative has successfully injected transparency and cutting-edge sophistication into the national health fabric.

Operating under the vigilant eye of the National Health Authority (NHA), the scheme has been allocated ₹9,500 crore for the 2026-27 fiscal year, marking a 5.56% uptick from the

previous year. The inclusion of those aged 70 and above has broadened the safety net, resulting in 11.69 crore beneficiaries receiving free treatment by April 2026. While Uttar Pradesh leads the pack in card issuance, Tamil Nadu and Kerala have stolen a march in terms of service utilization. In the Telugu states, the scheme is being implemented in tandem with 'Arogyasri,' yielding fruitful results. Andhra Pradesh has emerged as the frontrunner in integrating Digital Health Records (ABHA), while Telangana continues to hold its ground in the top 10 for advanced treatments and hospital expansion. In essence, AP is playing a pivotal role in digital infrastructure, while Telangana is setting the gold standard in medical quality.

The Bottlenecks:

It is only natural for a mission of such magnitude to encounter hurdles on the ground. However, the ultimate success of the scheme hinges on how swiftly we can nip these issues in the bud. Currently, the most vocal grievance regarding Ayushman Bharat is the 'delay in claim settlements.' Since government funds often fail to arrive in the nick of time, many private hospitals find themselves caught between a rock and a hard place financially. This ripple effect eventually hits the patients, with some hospitals turning beneficiaries away or putting life-saving surgeries on the back burner. On the other hand, hospital managements argue with a fair degree of reason that the government-mandated 'package rates' are a pittance compared to current medical costs. They contend that providing quality care at these prices is becoming an uphill task. Furthermore, despite the digital wave, the 'Digital Divide' remains a major stumbling block. Especially in rural and tribal belts, the lack of internet connectivity and a lack

of know-how regarding smartphones have left beneficiaries lagging behind in utilizing their ABHA accounts. Technology should be a helping hand to the common man, not a burden. Coupled with these issues, loopholes in data security and the menace of fraudulent claims are tarnishing the system's transparency. It is not enough to merely distribute cards; a robust grassroots mechanism must be strengthened to ensure that patients receive dignified care without spending a single penny out of pocket. Only by overcoming these challenges will Ayushman Bharat truly become a 'health shield' for the commoner.

The Way Forward:

Although the government has taken several strides, they haven't quite hit the mark due to implementation delays and a lack of coordination with ground-level facilities. For instance, despite systems like 'Green Channels' for claim settlements, the red tape in auditing prevents funds from reaching hospitals on time. Moreover, while biometric identification is in place, manual laborers in rural areas or the elderly often find themselves in a fix as their fingerprints fail to register, denying them timely care. This suggests that current solutions prioritize 'technical protocols' over 'common man's convenience.' In this light, we must think outside the box for new solutions. Firstly, 'Dynamic Package Pricing' is the need of the hour; as medical costs soar annually, the government must automatically revise treatment packages in sync with the Inflation Index. Only then will corporate hospitals join the fold with open arms. Secondly, adopting 'Facial Recognition' technology as an alternative to biometrics would be a shot in the arm for the elderly. Thirdly, a 'Public Rating System' for hospital performance should be introduced.

Government incentives for hospitals should be tied to the ratings given by beneficiaries, which would foster accountability in medical services. The existing 'Aarogya Mitra' system is no longer sufficient; today, we need 'Digital Aarogya Mitras' in every village. They should reach out to the people, digitize health records, and spread proactive awareness. The real shift lies in focusing on 'Preventive Healthcare'—preventing a disease before it strikes rather than just treating it later. Only when Central and State governments bury the hatchet and act with a single-minded focus on fund release and monitoring will these solutions bear fruit. The real answer lies in modernizing the system to suit the people's needs rather than just running it as a routine.

Lifeline for millions of ordinary citizens:

At the end of the day, Ayushman Bharat is not just a journey of numbers in government ledgers; it is a lifeline for millions of ordinary citizens. To realize the goal of 'Health for All,' mere funds and technology are not enough; they must be backed by a humane touch, transparent governance, and social responsibility. Whatever challenges we face, our machinery and technology are more than capable of rising to the occasion. India will stand as a global 'health model' only when we recognize that a healthy citizen is the cornerstone of national development. On the occasion of Ayushman Bharat Diwas on April 30, let us resolve to be partners in building a healthy and confident New India. After all, the assurance of health reflected in the eyes of the poorest of the poor is the true yardstick of the nation's progress.

J M R DUNGA
M.sc (Maths), M.sc (Physics)
Senior Teaching Faculty in Maths

THE THRONE OF VOID

The beginning—
unwritten, yet absolute;
a will without boundary
summoning form from silence.
Birth—
not an arrival,
but an imposition of meaning
upon the nameless.
Moonlight scatters its fragile vows;
even light inclines toward absence.
Within time's invisible crucible,
all certainties yield—
and vanish
between one blink and the next.
In the sprout—intoxication.
In the bloom—breath.
In the fruit—a brief delirium.
Thus moves the pageant of becoming,
only to kneel
before an unspoken end.
Time—
the hand that writes and erases,
the gate that never mourns;
in a single, soundless instant,
it reclaims
all it permits.
Dreams—
paper vessels,
undone by their own drifting.
Possessions—
monuments of sand,
returning to formlessness.
Blood binds, then loosens.
Cries ascend, then dissolve
into a grammar of silence.
At last—
hands forget their purpose,
names their direction;
even fire hesitates,
as though unwilling
to complete the sentence.
The body—
a fragile conspiracy of breath,
scattered by the unseen.
The name—
an echo thinning
through passing tongues.
What is this passage?
A ritual without witness?
A motion without origin?



Whose will sustains—
and withdraws?
The world—
a rhythm unkept,
a play unperformed,
a text unwritten.
The earth—
does it bear us,
or bury our longing?
Beneath the pulse of silence,
a hidden truth
endures without voice.
Therefore—
each breath, a scripture;
each moment, a vanishing hymn.
Life—
not a trace,
but memory dissolving
as it forms.
The Void—
not emptiness,
but origin unbound
and end without echo.
Between the two—
this fleeting vastness:
an epic
that resists
utterance.

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

World Wish Day - April 29, 2026

The Power of a Wish:
Healing Hearts, Inspiring Lives

Every year on April 29, World Wish Day expresses those tender vibrations of humanity that connect us with one another. It is not merely a day, but a global movement of sensitivity, compassion, and hope. The core purpose of this day is to bring joy and positive energy into the lives of children battling critical and life-threatening illnesses. It reminds us that the true beauty of life lies in bringing a smile to someone else's face. This inspiring day is associated with the globally renowned Make-A-Wish Foundation, which for decades has been fulfilling the wishes of seriously ill children, giving their lives new meaning. The organization does not just grant wishes; it instills hope, courage, and emotional strength in these children, helping them rediscover the will to live. The history of this day is deeply emotional and inspiring. In 1980, a seven-year-old boy named Chris Greicius, who was battling leukemia, had a simple wish—to become a police officer. When local police learned about his wish, they not only understood it but committed to fulfilling it. On April 29, 1980, Chris was made a police officer for a day, dressed in uniform, and given the full experience with honor and dignity. The smile on his face that day was not just a child's joy—it was a living testament to human compassion. Sadly, he passed away just a few days later, but his small wish laid the foundation for a global movement. Inspired by this incident, the Make-A-Wish Foundation was established, which has since grown into a vast global organization. Today, it operates in numerous countries and has fulfilled the wishes of millions of children. It stands as proof that even a small initiative can bring about a profound transformation in the world. In today's fast-paced world, where individuals are often entangled in personal ambitions and self-interest, this day serves as a powerful reminder. It urges us to reflect—are our wishes only



“TRUE FULFILLMENT BEGINS WHEN OUR WISHES EXTEND BEYOND OURSELVES AND BECOME A SOURCE OF HOPE, JOY, AND LIGHT IN SOMEONE ELSE'S LIFE.”

for ourselves, or can we bring light into someone else's life? As human sensitivities decline and relationships become increasingly formal, World Wish Day offers an opportunity to revive core human values. Wishes are an integral part of human life. They are not merely desires but sources of direction and energy. Positive wishes inspire progress, build confidence, and nurture creativity. As thinker Anthony St. Martin once said, "If humans did not have the capacity to fulfill their greatest wishes, they would not even be able to conceive them." This highlights that our wishes are reflections of our inner potential. World Wish Day also emphasizes that wishes are not just personal—they are social. A single positive wish can transform society. When we fulfill the wish of a sick child, we are not only bringing happiness to that child but

also becoming a source of hope for their family and community. It is a process in which both the giver and the receiver are enriched. In the present time, it has become even more essential to channel our wishes in a positive direction. Negative desires lead to stress and dissatisfaction, whereas positive ones bring balance, peace, and fulfillment. Thus, World Wish Day is not just a celebration of wish fulfillment—it is a celebration of positive thinking and a meaningful life perspective. In the context of 2026, the spirit of this day can be expressed as: "Share Hope, Ignite Joy." This message teaches us that even small efforts can create significant change in someone's life. A smile, a gesture of kindness, or a compassionate act can become a life-changing experience for someone. Another important aspect of this day is that it encourages social participation. Each of us can contribute in our own way—through financial support, volunteering, or identifying and helping a child in need. In the digital age, social media has also emerged as a powerful platform to spread this message widely. Undoubtedly, World Wish Day teaches us that the true meaning of life lies not in living for ourselves, but in living for others. When we bring a smile to someone's face, we ourselves experience

inner joy—that is true happiness, that is true fulfillment. At a time when the world is grappling with numerous challenges—mental stress, social fragmentation, and a decline in human sensitivity—this day shines as a ray of hope. It reassures us that with small yet meaningful efforts, we can make the world a better place. Therefore, on this World Wish Day, let us resolve not to remain confined to our own wishes, but to embrace the wishes of others as our own. Let us cultivate compassion, empathy, and cooperation within ourselves and become part of this beautiful humanitarian movement. Because, ultimately, even a small wish can bring about the greatest transformation in someone's life—and that is the deepest and truest message of this day.

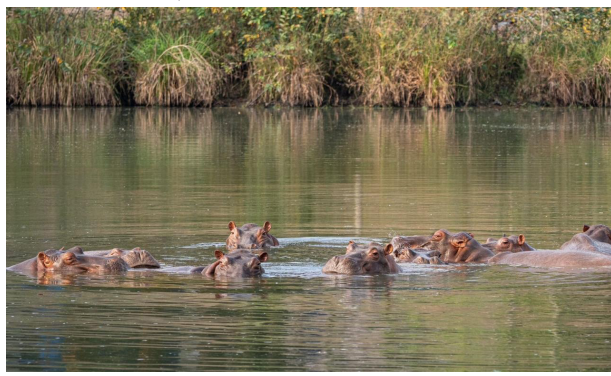


LALIT GARGG
Writer, Journalist,
Columnist

ANANT AMBANI APPEALS TO COLOMBIA TO SAVE 80 HIPPOS FROM DEATH, OFFERS LIFELONG HOME AT VANTARA

JAMNAGAR (INDIA), 28TH APRIL 2026:

Eighty hippopotamuses in Colombia's Magdalena River basin have been authorised for lethal removal. Anant Mukesh Ambani, Executive Director, Reliance Industries Limited, and Founder of Vantara, one of the world's largest wildlife rescue, care and conservation centres, has formally asked the Government of Colombia to stay that decision and consider a humane alternative: a safe, scientifically led translocation that would bring the 80 animals to a permanent home at Vantara in Jamnagar, Gujarat. The appeal, made in a letter addressed to Irene Vélez Torres, Colombia's Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, offers a fully resourced humane alternative under the direction and approval of Colombian authorities at every stage. It also reflects Ambani's longstanding commitment to animal welfare and conservation, for which he became the youngest ever and first Asian recipient



of the Global Humane Award, a prestigious recognition honouring transformative global impact for animals and people. "These eighty hippos did not choose where they were born, nor did they create the circumstances they now face," said Anant Mukesh Ambani. "They are living, sentient beings, and if we have the ability to save them through a safe and humane solution, we have a responsibility to try." Vantara has offered Colombian authorities a comprehensive proposal comprising veterinary leadership, capture and transport expertise, biosecurity protocols, a purpose

designed naturalistic setting in Gujarat developed to mirror critical features of the hippos' current environment, and lifelong care for all 80 individuals. "Compassion and public safety are not opposing forces," Ambani added. "With sound science and careful planning, it may be possible to protect riverine communities, preserve ecosystems and save animal life. Vantara has the expertise, infrastructure and resolve to support this effort, entirely on Colombia's terms." Vantara has formally requested that the lethal measure be deferred while this alternative is properly assessed, and



has confirmed its readiness to engage directly with Colombian authorities to present a detailed scientific, operational and welfare proposal. The proposal reflects Vantara's founding philosophy that every life matters and underscores India's emerging role in delivering science-led, large-scale solutions to complex global wildlife challenges. Any implementation would be undertaken only after obtaining the necessary approvals from the Colombian and Indian governments, along with applicable clearances from relevant international authorities. **Background**

Colombia's Magdalena River basin is home to an estimated 200 hippopotamuses, descended from a small founder group introduced in the 1980s. In the absence of natural predators and under favourable environmental conditions, the population has grown significantly, leading Colombian authorities to classify the species as invasive on grounds of biodiversity loss, ecosystem damage and community safety. Authorities recently authorised a lethal control measure involving 80 animals, a decision that has drawn international attention and renewed calls for humane,

science led alternatives.

About Vantara

Vantara, located in Jamnagar, Gujarat, is one of the world's largest and most advanced wildlife rescue, care and conservation centres, providing specialist veterinary support, long term care, and species-specific facilities for elephants, big cats, primates, reptiles, and other mammals rescued from distress, exploitation or displacement. Vantara collaborates with conservation institutions, national governments and international wildlife authorities, and has supported cross-border rescue, rehabilitation and translocation initiatives across a global network. Through its focus on habitat restoration, community participation, genetic profiling and science-led conservation, Vantara works to support healthy ecosystems where wildlife can thrive and advance future rewilding initiatives for endangered species vital to ecosystem stability. For further information, please visit: vantara.in.

South Coast Railway Zone to be officially notified on June 1

Union Rly. Minister Aswini Vaishnav

Bullet train from Amaravati to Hyderabad and Chennai to become reality soon

VISAKHAPATNAM:

Union Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnav announced that the NDA government at the Centre has allocated Rs 10,134 crore exclusively to Andhra Pradesh in the railway budget under the Double Engine Sarkar. He said that in the past, the undivided Andhra Pradesh used to receive only Rs 886 crore, whereas today the state is witnessing unprecedented railway development.



Ashwini Vaishnav said the Centre has fulfilled one of the most important promises made during bifurcation by establishing the South Coast Railway Zone. The South Coast Railway Zone will be officially notified on June 1, 2026, he added. The Minister announced that high-speed rail connectivity for Andhra Pradesh is progressing and will soon become a reality. Amaravati to Hyderabad Bullet Train to cover the distance in 70 minutes, Amaravati to Chennai Bullet Train to cover the distance in 112 minutes. He further said that the existing double railway lines from Kolkata to Chennai along the East Coast corridor will be upgraded into four-line connectivity. This corridor will support container movement, Freight trains, Passenger connectivity through 500 new train services. The Union Minister said the NDA government is ensuring justice to southern states in both development and welfare. While the Centre is focused on growth and infrastructure, opposition parties are trying to politicise every issue. He reaffirmed that Andhra Pradesh will continue to receive full support from the Central Government for infrastructure, connectivity, and economic growth.

The Union Minister, who participated in foundation laying of Google data center in Visakhapatnam today stated that railway projects worth Rs 1.06 lakh crore are currently under going, connecting Andhra Pradesh with major economic corridors and strengthening logistics infrastructure.

He highlighted that 74 railway stations in Andhra Pradesh are being modernised under the Amrit Bharat / Nav Nirman project, the first such large-scale initiative in the country and 832 flyovers and underpasses have been completed. He said 1,039 kilometres of new railway lines are under construction and Andhra Pradesh has achieved 100 percent railway electrification. The Union Minister said Andhra Pradesh is emerging as a key railway hub with 16 Vande Bharat train services and 22 Amrit Bharat train services. He added that great care has been taken in the design and manufacturing standards of the new-generation trains.

No Fuel Price Hike After Polls, Says Govt

Despite soaring global crude prices and heavy losses for fuel retailers, the government rules out any immediate hike in petrol and diesel rates, even as panic buying and supply concerns emerge in some states.

The move is aimed at strengthening government revenues at a time when fuel taxes remain a critical source of fiscal support, even as global crude oil prices remain volatile. Amid rising crude oil prices and speculation of a post-election hike, the government on Tuesday said there is no plan to increase petrol and diesel prices

after polling ends in West Bengal on April 29. The assurance comes even as global oil markets remain volatile and fuel retailers face mounting losses. The clarification follows reports of panic buying in parts of the country, especially Andhra Pradesh, where rumours of a price hike led to long queues at petrol pumps. More than 400 fuel stations reportedly ran dry on Sunday, with demand rising by as much as 30-33 per cent at some outlets. "We have seen panic buying in some places. We are in continuous contact with state governments," said Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. "All retail outlets are



being monitored and supplies are being prioritised so that stock availability is ensured and there are no dry-outs," she said. **'NO PROPOSAL' FOR PRICE HIKE** Dismissing speculation, Sharma made it clear, "There is no proposal to increase petrol and diesel prices." She also urged the

public not to rely on rumours. "I want to urge everyone to please don't believe in rumours. Avoid panic buying and rely on official sources for information." According to the government, the country has adequate stocks of petrol, diesel, LPG and aviation turbine fuel to meet demand. "We have enough supplies of

LPG, petrol and diesel. Prices are stable and there has been no increase in rates," she said. **PRESSURE BUILDS ON FUEL RETAILERS** The government's position comes despite growing financial strain on state-run oil companies, which are selling fuel below market rates. Officials say losses are significant, with estimates suggesting daily losses of around Rs 2,400 crore. Earlier, Sharma had said oil firms were losing about Rs 20 per litre on petrol and nearly Rs 100 per litre on diesel. Global crude prices have surged sharply over the past two months, rising more than 50 per cent amid tensions in West Asia. Prices spiked after

US and Israeli strikes on Iran on February 28 and Tehran's retaliation, which disrupted movement through the Strait of Hormuz, a key route that handles nearly a fifth of the world's oil trade. Crude, which was around USD 70 per barrel last year, has averaged over USD 114 this month. Despite the surge, retail fuel prices in India have remained unchanged since early April 2022. Petrol currently costs Rs 94.77 per litre in Delhi, while diesel is priced at Rs 87.67. While oil companies earlier balanced losses with profits during periods of lower crude prices, the current gap between global and domestic rates has widened sharply.

Rajnath calls for unified SCO action against terrorism, warns against double standards

NEW DELHI

At the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Defence Ministers' Meeting in Bishkek, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said terrorism is the biggest threat to global peace and called for zero tolerance and united action against extremism and radicalism. He stressed that terrorism has no justification, nationality, or religion, and urged Shanghai Cooperation Organisation members to avoid double standards, especially on cross-border terrorism and safe havens. Referring to the Pahalgam terror attack, he said India remains committed to accountability and highlighted Operation Sindoor as proof of strong response. He also emphasized SCO cooperation against terrorism, separatism, and extremism, while urging diplomacy, unity, and peaceful coexistence for global stability.

"Crack down strictly on drug trafficking and illegal arms supply in Mizoram"

AIZAL, APRIL 28:

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, has instructed Mizoram Police and Assam Rifles officials to take strict action to prevent the illegal supply of drugs and weapons into Mizoram from the borders of Bangladesh and Myanmar. As part of his visit to Mizoram, on the second day, the Union Minister reviewed the progress of central priority programs being implemented in Siaha district through a video conference from the state capital, Aizawl. He inquired about issues related to education and healthcare sectors. He also reviewed progress in roads, railways, and telecommunications. Discussions were held on measures needed to achieve targets set for oil palm cultivation, which is a central priority. He also examined the registration of cases related to drugs, illegal arms, and cybercrime. The Un-

Review of implementation of central priority programs in Siaha district of Mizoram on the second day
Mizoram BJP leaders meet Union Minister
Discussion on programs to strengthen the party in Mizoram



ion Minister stated that the Narendra Modi government is fully committed to the development of Siaha district and instructed the district collector to prepare and submit proposals department-wise based on requirements. Meanwhile, Mizoram BJP leaders met Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar, who is staying in Aizawl. They felicitated him and expressed happiness

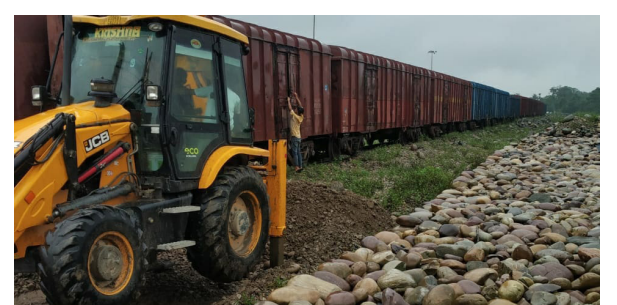
over his visit as part of his tour of northeastern states. During the meeting, Bandi Sanjay discussed the current situation of the BJP in Mizoram and strategies to strengthen the party. He advised party leaders to collect detailed information on how much funding the Narendra Modi government is spending in northeastern states, including department-wise allocation and

village-wise expenditure, and to widely publicize this through media and social media. He also urged them to conduct door-to-door campaigns, distribute pamphlets detailing the development initiatives and funding allocations of the Modi government in Mizoram, and install hoardings and flex banners at prominent locations. The meeting was attended by BJP state general secretaries Lalduhawma Pachu, Lalfakzuala Haujhel, treasurer Sandeep Agarwal, secretaries Lalsangzuali Zote, social media leaders Maruati Haujhel, C. Lalbiakkimi, Jacinta Kolney (State Secretary), Lalremsangi Fanai, Vanlalhmangaiha, William Rinawma Pachu, and other party leaders.

NFR Boosts Monsoon Readiness for Safe Train Operations

MALIGAON, 28 APRIL, 2026

The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has rolled out an extensive preparedness plan to ensure safe and uninterrupted train services during the upcoming monsoon season. Given the region's vulnerability to heavy rainfall, landslides and flooding, the railway has taken proactive steps to minimize disruptions and enhance passenger safety. Stationary watchmen have been deployed at critical and vulnerable locations to monitor track conditions round the clock and raise alerts in case of any threat. Flood-prone and washout-sensitive areas have been strengthened through embankment protection, improved drainage systems and clearing of natural water channels to facilitate smooth water flow. Water level measuring gauges have also been installed, particularly in hilly sections, to track rising water levels in real time. To ensure quick response during emergencies, essential relief ma-



terials such as boulders, sandbags and wire mesh have been strategically stocked at key locations. Special "Emergency on Wheels" trains, equipped with technical staff and necessary tools, are on standby to respond swiftly to any incident. Rapid Response Teams have been formed across all divisions to handle situations like landslides, waterlogging and track damage, ensuring faster restoration of services. As part of its 2026 monsoon preparedness, NFR has stocked large quantities of materials across divisions. Lumding Division holds up to 12,000 cubic metres of boulders and over 40,000 cement bags, while

Tinsukia Division has stocked significant quantities of boulders and sand. Rangiya and Alipurduar divisions have also maintained substantial reserves, along with Katihar Division. Additional equipment like winch crabs, jacks, tirdors and tripods are available for rescue and restoration work. NFR is coordinating closely with the India Meteorological Department to receive real-time weather updates. Railway control rooms are functioning 24x7-the-clock to take timely decisions on train operations. With these measures, NFR aims to ensure safety, efficiency and passenger convenience throughout the monsoon.

Will Ensure Women's Quota in Legislatures: PM Modi

VARANASI (UP): (APR 28)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi slammed the Congress, Samajwadi Party (SP), TMC and DMK on Tuesday for stalling the women's reservation bill in Parliament and assured women that he will leave no stone unturned to ensure that their right to reservation in legislative bodies is implemented. Addressing a women's conference in his Lok Sabha constituency here in Uttar Pradesh, Modi said the plan to make India a developed nation is progressing smoothly and whenever he speaks of a "Viksit Bharat", its strongest pillar is the women of the country.

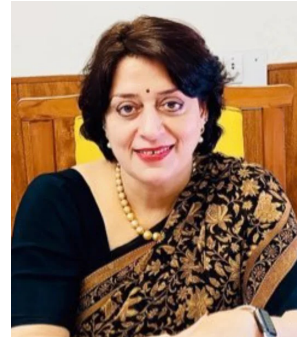
Haryana Issues Health Advisory in View of Rising Temperatures

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 28

Haryana Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Sumita Misra today said that the state government has issued a comprehensive public health advisory in view of the prevailing and anticipated hot weather conditions, aimed at protecting citizens from heat-related illnesses and ensuring preparedness across all levels. Dr. Misra stated that with the likelihood of above-normal temperatures, all districts have been directed to remain on high alert and ensure effective implementation of the Heat-Health Action Plan. Emphasis has been laid on strengthening preparedness, timely response, and minimizing health risks associated with extreme heat conditions.

The Health Department has mandated daily surveillance and reporting of heat-related illnesses through centralized monitoring systems. Health facilities have been instructed to ensure accurate and timely data reporting to enable quick response and targeted interventions. Heat wave alerts issued by the India Meteorological Department will be disseminated regularly to both healthcare institutions and the public to enhance early preparedness. All hospitals, Community Health Centres (CHCs), and Primary Health Centres (PHCs) have been directed to ensure availability of essential medicines, ORS, intravenous fluids, ice packs, and other equipment required for managing heat-related illnesses. Dedicated heat-stroke management units are

being established, while ambulances are being equipped for rapid response. The "Cool First, Transport Second" approach is being adopted to ensure timely and effective treatment of severe cases. Dr. Misra informed that medical officers, paramedical staff, and frontline health workers are being trained to identify symptoms of heat-related illnesses and provide immediate care. Healthcare facilities are also being equipped with uninterrupted power supply, adequate drinking water, cooling arrangements, and emergency preparedness systems. Regular fire safety audits, electrical inspections, and mock drills are being conducted to ensure safety during peak summer conditions. The advisory urges citizens to adopt simple but effective



precautions to protect themselves from extreme heat. People have been advised to stay well hydrated by drinking sufficient water even if they do not feel thirsty, and to consume oral rehydration solutions or homemade drinks such as lemon water, lassi, and fresh fruit juices. Wearing light-coloured, loose cotton clothes and covering the head with caps, umbrellas, or tra-

ditional cloth is recommended when stepping outdoors. Citizens should avoid going out during peak heat hours between noon and 3 pm and prefer staying indoors or in shaded, well-ventilated places. Homes should be kept cool by using curtains and allowing ventilation during cooler hours. The advisory further cautions against the consumption of alcohol, tea, coffee, and sugary or carbonated drinks, as these can lead to dehydration. People have also been advised not to consume stale or heavy food and to avoid leaving children or pets inside parked vehicles, where temperatures can rise dangerously. Dr. Misra emphasized that special care is being taken for vulnerable groups including infants, elderly citizens, pregnant women, out-

door workers, and individuals with pre-existing health conditions. Families have been advised to regularly monitor elderly persons living alone, ensure they remain hydrated, and provide them with a cool and comfortable environment. The advisory also highlights important measures for workplaces and outdoor activities. Employers have been instructed to ensure the availability of adequate drinking water and shaded rest areas for workers. Outdoor work should be scheduled during cooler hours such as early morning or evening, while strenuous activities during peak heat hours should be avoided. Adequate rest breaks must be provided, and workers should be trained to recognize symptoms of heat stress. A buddy system is encouraged

so that workers can monitor each other's condition. Provision of first aid facilities and emergency response mechanisms at worksites has also been emphasized. Authorities have been advised to avoid organizing outdoor events during peak heat hours and to ensure adequate arrangements such as safe drinking water, shaded areas, cooling spaces, and medical support at venues. Public announcements and awareness messages should be disseminated during such events to ensure that attendees remain informed and protected. Dr. Sumita Misra reiterated that the Haryana Government is fully committed to protecting public health through proactive planning, awareness campaigns, and coordinated response mechanisms.

Sikh women vulnerable to hate-fuelled violence overseas: Report

LONDON

A recent court ruling in the United Kingdom's West Midlands sentencing the accused to life imprisonment for "religiously aggravated assault" on a young Sikh woman has sent shockwaves through Sikh communities both in the UK and overseas, a report said on Tuesday. According to a report in Khalsa Vox, the Birmingham Crown Court handed John Ashby life imprisonment with a minimum term of 21 years for attacking the woman in her 20s at her residence in Walsall, West Midlands, in October 2025.

During the hearing, the court was told that the victim had been followed from public transport to her residence before the assault took place. "What has particularly disturbed the Sikh community is the nature of the crime. Prosecutors stated that Ashby wrongly assumed the victim was Muslim based on her appearance and subjected her to Islamophobic abuse during the attack. In distressing testimony, the victim told police she tried to correct him.

India-Africa Forum Summit set to deepen collaboration amid global disruption: Report

NEW DELHI

The fourth India-Africa Forum Summit next month could mark the beginning of a more "deliberate, resilient, and equal partnership" between two of the world's most significant rising powers, a report said on Tuesday.

Writing for India Narrative, Nairobi-based journalist Zuri Amondi said that on May 31, leaders from across Africa and India will gather in New Delhi, for the fourth India-Africa Forum Summit — the first in over a decade — calling it renewal rather than routine diplomacy with transformative potential already emerging.

The summit's theme, "IA SPIRIT — India Africa Strategic Partnership for Innovation, Resilience, and Inclusive Transformation", she said, reflects the ambition clearly.

Amondi stated that the case for a deeper partnership has gained focus amid global disruption, underscoring the urgency for stronger collaboration.

"The ongoing crisis in the Persian Gulf has sent tremors through energy markets worldwide. For Africa's import-dependent economies, rising fuel costs



cascade quickly into higher food prices, transport costs, and pressure on already-stretched public finances. For India, the crisis has exposed the risks of excessive dependence on West Asian energy — nearly half its crude oil imports and the bulk of its LNG pass through the Strait of Hormuz. Both sides, facing the same volatile world from different an-

gle, have strong reasons to look to each other," she detailed.

Highlighting the shift in the African energy landscape, Amondi said India, as a major energy consumer seeking to diversify its supply sources, offers a stable and growing market for African oil and gas producers such as Nigeria, Angola, and Algeria. "Long-term energy

agreements could provide these countries with more predictable revenues while also incentivising investments in infrastructure and production capacity. These are supply chains that bypass the Hormuz chokepoint entirely. African maritime routes — including, if necessary, the Cape of Good Hope — offer India logistical alternatives that are less

vulnerable to regional conflict. In a world of concentrated supply risks, geography has suddenly become a very valuable asset," she mentioned.

Beyond energy, Amondi emphasised that the complementarity runs deep, noting that Indian pharmaceutical companies have set up manufacturing units across African countries, including Nigeria, Kenya, and South Africa, expanding access to affordable healthcare.

"Indian pharmaceutical exports to Africa stood at \$3.8 billion in 2023, with significant potential to expand affordable healthcare solutions across the continent. This is not charity — it is a partnership. African patients gain access to medicines they could not otherwise afford; Indian manufacturers gain growing markets and local manufacturing footholds. Everybody wins," she stated.

Emphasising the growing cooperation between India and Africa, Amondi said, "Bilateral trade has exceeded \$100 billion, and there is a credible roadmap toward \$200 billion, with the relationship moving toward value addition, digital services, and green growth."

Trump's eldest son begins four-day South Korea visit

SEOUL

Donald Trump Jr., the eldest son of US President Donald Trump, is currently visiting South Korea, sources said Tuesday. Trump Jr. arrived here earlier in the day for a four-day trip, according to the sources familiar with the matter. His visit is said to be for business purposes.

It marks Trump Jr.'s second visit to South Korea since President Trump began his second term last year, Yonhap news agency reported.

His latest visit comes amid heightened global uncertainty stemming from the ongoing Middle East crisis and a number of pending issues between Seoul and Washington, including South Korea's USD 350 billion investment pledge to the United States and the US's restrictions on intelligence sharing about North Korea. Trump's son previously visited South Korea in April last year for a two-day trip

at the invitation of Shinsegae Group Chairman Chung Yong-jin.

At that time, he held a series of closed-door meetings with top Korean business leaders, including Hanwha Group Vice Chairman Kim Dong-kwan, to discuss potential partnerships in the shipbuilding, defence, and energy sectors.

South Korean business circles asked Chung to facilitate Trump Jr.'s visit as a way to establish contact with the Trump administration, according to the sources.

Business leaders from the semiconductor, automobile, energy, steelmaking and defence industries have reportedly expressed interest in holding one-on-one meetings with him. Chung and Trump Jr. are known to be close. During his latest trip, Trump Jr. plans to attend a concert marking the release of the debut album of Chung's wife, flutist Han Jee-hee.

Afghanistan summons Pak diplomat over continuous military strikes on Afghan civilians

KABUL

Afghanistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Tuesday summoned the Charge d'Affaires of the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul over the recent attacks carried out by the Pakistani forces on civilian targets in various Afghan provinces.

Kabul also handed a protest letter to the Pakistani diplomat over Islamabad targeting public facilities along the Durand Line, even the university in the centre of Kunar province. The Ministry strongly condemned the violation of Afghanistan's airspace and the attacks against civilians.

It stated that the actions of Pakistani forces are a clear violation of Afghanistan's territorial integrity, contrary to international principles, and a provocative act.

"The Islamic Emirate categorically rejects allegations that the recent escalation started by the Afghan side, and underscores the imperative that the root causes of the situation must be investigated with due diligence," the Afghan ministry said.

Calling on the Pakistani side to refrain from such actions, Afghanistan reiterated that it reserves a legitimate



right to defend its soil and people. It also reminded Pakistan that the continuation of such "irresponsible actions" will have "undesirable consequences".

At least seven people have been killed and 75 injured after Pakistani strikes hit parts of Afghanistan's Kunar province, including the provincial capital, Asadabad and Sarkano district, local media reported on Tuesday. The death toll continues to increase as more victims are being identified.

According to officials at the government hospital in Asadabad, dozens of injured people, including women and children, were brought for treatment while emergency teams continue to respond to the situation, Afghanistan's leading news agency Khaama Press reported. Local sources said that Monday's strikes hit several places, including residential.



Countries mulling ways to reject American unipolarity, use multipolarity: Report

WASHINGTON

The US must act carefully, as holding on to its primacy could trigger the formation of a coalition against it amid growing international frustration with America's "rogue behaviour", a report said on Tuesday.

Writing for 'India Narrative', Prateek Kapil, a foreign policy researcher, said that a world without primacy is unthinkable for the US and its allies all over the world and that the recent US attack on Iran was aimed at maintaining American primacy and unipolarity in the international system.

"The US has never been satisfied with a first-among-equals status. It wants primacy at all costs. Sitting pretty between the two great oceans, the US has repeatedly launched military attacks on countries to achieve its goals. Since its own population is insulated from violent reprisals, the US employs violence without consequence to achieve its strategic goals. Most countries have not been able to cope with the overwhelming force that the US

military brings down to bear. Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan fought back and won, but at the cost of ruin," Kapil detailed.

"Vietnam even managed to reunify the Vietnamese mainland, but it took years. Iraq and Afghanistan are tragic stories where American retreats left failed states in their wake. The deal is simple — either comply with Uncle Sam or face ruin. This is the stark reality of the American unipolar order and the American empire," he added.

According to the expert, the US decision to launch an "unprovoked" military attack on Iran produced a staggering outcome. Iran, he said, not only endured the offensive but also reshaped the global economic dynamics by reclaiming the Strait of Hormuz in just 32 days.

He stressed that by challenging the core logic of unipolarity — the "so-called freedom of navigation" — Iran has dealt a massive blow to American primacy. He added that American power is weakened if it cannot be leveraged to secure economic dominance.

Massive Hezbollah terror tunnel destroyed, claims Netanyahu

JERUSALEM

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced that they blew up a massive Hezbollah terror tunnel on Tuesday. The Israel Defense Forces announced that they have destroyed Hezbollah tunnels built over nearly a decade.

Netanyahu said in a post on X that they blew up a massive Hezbollah terror tunnel and are destroying their terror infrastructure, killing dozens of their terrorists, adding that there is more to come.

The Israel Defense Forces stated that, as part of Division 36's operations in Qantara, southern Lebanon, it discovered the most significant underground route found so far in Lebanon.

The tunnel is about 2 km long and reaches depths of up to 25 metres below ground, the



Israel Defense Forces stated.

It also stated that the tunnel was built with Iranian funding, and on Tuesday, it was destroyed with the help of 450 tonnes of explosives.

According to the Israel Defense Forces, the tunnel was carved into a rocky granite bedrock, 25 metres deep, with 30 shafts leading into it, and

its length spans more than 2 kilometres along two separate axes. Inside, among the 30 living rooms, there are showers, decorations in the corridors with pictures of the leaders of the ayatollah regime hanging, and decorated lamps.

A large arsenal of weapons is hidden in the tunnels, which was used by hundreds of Hez-

bollah terrorists from Radwan's force who man the place, the Israel Defense Forces said.

Lieutenant Colonel H from the 1st Infantry Division of the Hellenic Army, who has spent the last two years exploring underground tunnels in various locations, described them as something special, the Israel Defense Forces said.

He stated that they went through bunker after bunker, room after room, and in every corner there was a weapon waiting for them, a well-equipped waiting room, or another winding tunnel.

On Monday, the Israel Defense Forces stated that it had destroyed 14 kilometres of underground tunnels in the Northern Gaza Strip.

Netanyahu has ordered the Israel Defense Forces to vigorously attack Hezbollah targets in Lebanon on Sunday.

UNGA President says 'small steps' taken on UNSC reforms

NEW DELHI

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) President Annalena Baerbock said on Tuesday that discussions about the reform of the Security Council (UNSC) have increased and mentioned that UN has taken "small steps" in this regard.

Addressing a media briefing in New Delhi on Tuesday, Baerbock stated that P5 members are in attack of the charter of the UN during the current time.

When asked about the efforts being made to reform the Security

Council, Annalena Baerbock said, "This has been a debate going on for more than 17 years. As we all know, it is in the Charter that five member states do have a special responsibility and also a right to veto... The discussions about the reform of the Security Council have also increased. I appointed two co-facilitators to lead this process. Different proposals are on the table, also proposal from this country, but many other proposals as well, especially also from the African Union, which is not represented in the Security Council as a whole continent, as a permanent

member of the Security Council.

"So, the reform debates of the Security Council is also part of the credibility of the United Nations. Yet, we have taken already small steps. We had, for example, the veto initiative debate, after there was a veto against the resolution on the Strait of Hormuz in the Security Council. So, this reform step, that if the Security Council is being blocked, it comes to the General Assembly to debate it, is one also to strengthen the United Nations and its credibility," she added.

Baerbock stated that she is

chairing and convening the selection process of the next UN Secretary General and stated that each member state can make a decision on the different candidates.

"With regard to the selection process of the Secretary General, as the President of the General Assembly, I'm chairing and convening this process on a transparent and neutral matter, and therefore it's in the hands of each member state to make their decision on the different candidates. We had four candidates in the hearing last week, and the process will go on. The Security Council.

'Pak reduced serious mediation issue to failing public-relations exercise'

BRUSSELS

Pakistan's bid to establish itself as a key mediator between the United States and Iran unravelled within days, raising serious concerns over trust and diplomatic credibility, a report said on Tuesday.

Writing for 'EuropaWire', Dimitra Staikou, a Greek lawyer, writer, and journalist, noted that Pakistan was never the credible middle ground its government has attempted to portray. "The diplomatic theatre that Islamabad had spent more than a week preparing for unravelled in less than seventy-two hours, and the unravelling was not accidental. President Donald Trump's decision to halt the planned visit of Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner to Pakistan, together with his stated preference for telephone diplomacy over a sixteen-hour flight to Islam-



abad, exposed something that had been concealed beneath the choreography of the past fortnight," Staikou stated.

According to the expert, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi's discreet shift from Islamabad to Muscat, where he met Oman's Sultan

Haitham bin Tariq at Al-Baraka Palace on April 26, underscored a clear reality: "Tehran trusts Oman in a way it does not trust Pakistan, and the channel that matters has shifted accordingly."

The sequence of events, Staikou said, reflects the

shift, with Araghchi arriving in Rawalpindi on the evening of April 25 and meeting Pakistani Army Chief Asim Munir, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar before departing for Muscat ahead of the arrival of the American dele-

gation. Within hours, Trump called off his envoys' visit, describing the travel to Islamabad as "excessive and dismissing the Iranian leadership as fractured".

"The Pakistani government, which had imposed a near-total lockdown on the capital for over a week, including suspension of public transport, sealing of the Red Zone, and deployment of more than ten thousand security personnel, found itself hosting a conversation that one side declined to attend in person and the other side declined to fly to. Two American C-17 aircraft carrying security equipment quietly flew out of Nur Khan Airbase shortly afterwards," Staikou mentioned.

She stressed that the consequences of the failed Pakistan-hosted talks between the US and Iran are unfolding in Islamabad itself. The capital

has remained under lockdown for more than a week, with the 'Red Zone' sealed, shops in the Blue Area deserted, and daily commuters left stranded, while one principal cast doubt on the mediator's neutrality and the other dismissed the venue as too inconvenient.

The resulting discontent in the city, she argued, is not merely "logistical" but "reputational".

Emphasising that Pakistan has reduced a serious mediation issue to a failing public-relations exercise, Staikou said, "A state that aspired to become the indispensable hinge of US-Iran diplomacy has found itself bypassed for Muscat within days of hosting both sides. Mediation is a function of trust earned over decades, not of geographic proximity or episodic favour with an American administration.

Nearly 1500 cases of enforced disappearances by Pak forces since 2025



QUETTA

Human rights body Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) on Tuesday stated that it has made a formal submission to the Government of Balochistan, documenting more than 1,250 cases of enforced disappearances in 2025 and 231 cases in the first three months of 2026.

According to the BYC, this submission, which included a documented list of victims of enforced disappearances, was made through the Additional Chief Secretary (Home), the Secretary Home and was received on April 23.

The rights body highlighted that the disappearances occurred during raids and intelligence-based operations carried out by Pakistani forces, often in the

presence of family members and, in many cases, accompanied by physical and verbal abuse.

"From these cases, approximately 400 individuals from 2025 and 75 from January to March 2026 have since been released after short-term disappearance, while some have been formally charged and placed in detention. However, 821 individuals from 2025 and 142 from early 2026 remain missing, with their families still unaware of their whereabouts or condition," the BYC stated.

This submission, the BYC said, aimed to address longstanding uncertainty and discrepancies over the scale of enforced disappearances in Balochistan by providing detailed, case-based documentation.

Rajasthan Commissions Biggest Solar Plant Under PM-KUSUM

JAIPUR: (APR 28)

Rajasthan's largest solar power plant under the PM Kusum scheme has been commissioned at Tala (Kunda ki Dhani) in Jaipur district. The plant, with a capacity of 4.9 MW, has been set up in Dekla village, connected to the 33 kV substation at Tala under the Kunda ki Dhani power sub-division of Jaipur Discom (North). Spread over around 24 bighas of land, the project will supply daytime electricity for agricultural use to 437 farmers, an official said. Under Component-C of the PM Kusum scheme, solar plants of up to 5 MW capacity can be installed.

Philips looks to make India its centre of excellence for innovation

MUMBAI: (APR 28)

Dutch major Philips is doubling down on investments in research and development activities, and aims to make India a centre of excellence for innovation across its product segments. By the end of this decade, Philips will be completing 100 years in India, which is also a strong growth driver for its personal healthcare portfolio. At the global level, Philips spends about 5-6 per cent of its revenue in R&D against an average 2-3 per cent in the consumer industry globally, according to Deeptha Khanna, Executive Vice President and Chief Business Leader for personal health and a member of the Royal Philips executive committee in India.

India's domestic air passenger traffic grows 1.4 pc to 1,677.4 lakh in FY26: Report

MUMBAI: (APR 28)

India's domestic air passenger traffic grew 1.4 per cent year-on-year to 1,677.4 lakh in FY26, in line with the Iera's estimate of 0-3 per cent, the agency said on Tuesday. All Indian airlines together had flown a total of 1,653.8 lakh passengers in FY25. For March this year, the domestic air passenger traffic rose 1 per cent year-on-year to 146.8 lakh, Iera said.

India contributes to Coca-Cola's global volume growth in Jan-Mar

NEW DELHI: (APR 28)

Global beverages major The Coca-Cola Company on Tuesday reported a 3 per cent growth in unit case volume in the first quarter of 2026, aided by key markets including India. The Atlanta-headquartered multinational, which posted a 12 per cent rise in net revenue to USD 12.5 billion in the first quarter of 2026, said the growth was "led by China, the United States and India". However, the company noted that the Indian market witnessed a decline in the non-alcoholic ready-to-drink (NARTD) segment, which comprises fruit juices, energy drinks, sports beverages and dairy alternatives.

Sensex, Nifty slip amid RBI norms, global cues; banks lead decline

Benchmark indices ended lower on Wednesday as banking stocks fell after the RBI finalised key lending norms. Caution ahead of the US Fed decision, weak Asian cues and elevated oil prices kept investors on edge.



The decline was led by banking stocks after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) finalised its expected credit loss framework and asset classification norms, raising concerns over higher provisioning requirements for lenders.

Domestic equity markets ended lower on Wednesday, weighed down by banking stocks and a mix of global and policy-related concerns.

The BSE Sensex fell 416.72 points, or 0.54%, to close at 76,886.91, while the Nifty 50 declined 97 points, or 0.40%, to 23,995.70. The decline was led by banking stocks after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) finalised its expected credit loss framework and asset classification norms, raising concerns over higher provisioning requirements for lenders. "Domestic equities are yielding to regulatory tightening and geopolitical pressures, struggling to sustain the recent gains from their lows," said Vinod Nair. He noted that banking stocks were at the centre of the sell-off. "Banking stocks led the decline after the RBI con-

firmed its expected credit loss framework and final asset classification norms, raising concerns over higher provisioning," Nair said. Investor sentiment was also cautious ahead of the US Federal Reserve's interest rate decision, which added to the pressure on equities. Global cues remained weak. A relatively hawkish stance from the Bank of Japan, combined with subdued trends across Asian markets, weighed on investor confidence. At the same time, ongoing tensions in West Asia kept crude oil prices elevated, raising concerns about imported inflation for India. "Investor caution ahead of the US Fed rate decision added to the selling pressure. Additionally, a hawkish BoJ stance, weak

Asian markets, and ongoing West Asian tensions kept Brent prices elevated, heightening imported inflation risks for India," Nair said. Foreign institutional investors continued to remain net sellers, while a weaker rupee further dampened sentiment. "Persistent FII outflows and rupee weakness further weighed on sentiment, though DII buying provided some support," he added. Despite the day's decline, domestic institutional investors helped cushion the fall, limiting deeper losses in the market.

The near-term direction, analysts say, will depend on global cues, central bank signals and how markets react to evolving geopolitical developments.

TRAI Assesses Network Quality Across Warangal City and adjoining areas in Telangana State

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) released its Independent Drive Test (IDT) findings for the Andhra Pradesh Licensed Service Area (LSA), covering extensive city of Warangal and surrounding areas in the month of March 2026. The drive tests conducted under the supervision of the TRAI Regional Office, Hyderabad, were designed to capture real-world mobile network performance across diverse usage environments- Urban Zones, Institutional Hotspots, rural residential areas etc.

Between 23rd March 2026 to 25th March 2026, TRAI

teams conducted detailed tests for 375.3 Kms Warangal City drive test and 8 Hotspot locations. Technologies evaluated included 2G, 3G, 4G, and 5G, reflecting the service experience of users across multiple handset capabilities. The findings of the IDT have been intimated to all the TSPs concerned.

Key Parameters Assessed:
a) Voice Services: Call Setup Success Rate (CSSR), Drop Call Rate (DCR), Call Setup Time, Call Silence Rate, Speech Quality (MOS), Coverage. The overall mobile network performance in Warangal city is summarized

below:
Call Setup Success Rate: Airtel, BSNL, RJIL and VIL have 100 %, 96.11%, 97.95% and 99.08% call setup success rate respectively in Auto-selection mode (5G/4G/3G/2G).
b) Data Services: Download/Upload Throughput, Latency, Jitter, Packet Drop Rate, and Video Streaming Delay. Average download speed of Airtel (5G/4G/2G) is 161.18 Mbps, BSNL (4G/3G/2G) is 8.32 Mbps, RJIL (5G/4G) is 260.01 Mbps and VIL (4G/2G) is 27.83 Mbps.
CSSR: Call Setup Success Rate (in %), CST: Call Setup Time (in seconds), DCR: Drop

Call Rate (in %) & MOS: Mean Opinion Score. In Warangal City, the assessment included the areas nearby Kazipet, Hasanparthy, Hanamkonda, Subedari, Warangal, Mannoor, Ashalappally, Theegarajupally, Gandhi Nagar, Yelgur, Mondrai, Pallaguda, Machchapur, Ghanpur, Uppugal, Raghunathapalle, Zaffergadh, Dammannapet, Madikonda, Chinnapendyala, Inavolu, Yellanda, hasaparthi and Arepally etc. TRAI also evaluated real-world conditions at 1. Girmajipet (Warangal Chowrasta), 2. Hanamkonda Bus Stand, 3. Kakatiya Medical College, 4. Kakatiya

University, 5. MGM Hospital Warangal, 6. NIT Warangal, 7. Reddy Colony (Road No: 2) and 8. Warangal Railway Station in Warangal City to reflect stationary user experience. The tests were conducted using TRAI suggested equipment and standardised protocols in real-time environments. The detailed report is available at TRAI website www.traai.gov.in. For any clarification/information, Shri B. Praveen Kumar, Advisor (Regional Office, Hyderabad) TRAI may be contacted on email: adv.hyderabad@traai.gov.in or at Tel. No. +91-40-23000761.

Medicover Hospitals Launches Exclusive Healthcare Packages for Parsee Anjuman Group

Blue Planet Auditorium Inaugurated by Chief Guest Shri Jehangir Bisney

HYDERABAD, APRIL 28, 2026

In a significant step towards strengthening community healthcare and wellness, Medicover Hospitals Secunderabad inaugurated its state-of-the-art Blue Planet Auditorium in the distinguished presence of Shri Jehangir Bisney, Senior Trustee, Parsee Anjuman of Secunderabad and Hyderabad. On this special occasion, Medicover Hospitals also introduced exclusive healthcare packages for members of the Parsee Anjuman group through the launch of the Medicovered Family Health Card, ensuring enhanced healthcare access and preventive wellness benefits for the community. Chief Guest Shri Jehangir Bisney appreciated the initiative and said, "This thoughtful collaboration by Medicover Hospitals



is a remarkable step towards safeguarding the health of our community members. The specially designed healthcare packages, preventive screenings, and medical benefits under the Medicovered Family Health Card will provide valuable support to Parsee Anjuman families. The inauguration of Blue Planet Auditorium further reflects Medicover's dedication to health awareness, education, and meaningful community engagement. This is not just an

added inpatient care privileges. Speaking on the occasion, Krishnaveni, Center Head, Medicover Hospitals Secunderabad, said, "At Medicover, our vision extends beyond treatment to building long-term healthcare partnerships with communities. Through this association with the Parsee Anjuman group, we are proud to provide accessible, affordable, and preventive healthcare solutions for families. Blue Planet Auditorium will also serve as an important platform for health education, awareness initiatives, and medical excellence."

The event witnessed the gracious presence of trustees, community leaders, Medicover doctors, and staff members, marking a meaningful partnership focused on comprehensive healthcare, wellness, and stronger community well-being.

Magellanic Cloud's \$11 Million UAV JV Boosts Make in India Defence Push

HYDERABAD, APRIL 28, 2026:

The joint venture worth \$11 million will manufacture UAVs and will be supplied to armed and security forces

Magellanic Cloud Ltd. today has announced the formation of a strategic joint venture with Rayonix Tech, India-based defence technology company, to manufacture Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) in India, in partnership with XTEND, an Israel-based AI-powered robotics, UAV and software systems company, marking a significant step in the company's expansion within the fast-growing defence and security technology sector.

The joint venture, valued at approximately \$11 million (~100 crores), will establish localised manufacturing, testing and distribution capabilities for UAV systems in India, to cater to the growing demand for advanced UAV systems from India's defence ecosystem. By leveraging XTEND's proven autonomous operating systems and combining them with domestic manufacturing capabil-

ities, the joint venture seeks to deliver mission-critical drone solutions built for Indian operational requirements. XTEND's XOS operating system will serve as the software backbone of UAV systems manufactured by Magellanic Cloud, enabling human-guided autonomy, AI-driven navigation, mission planning, and real-time operational control across multi-domain robotic systems. As XTEND's exclusive manufacturing and distribution partner in India for selected platforms, Magellanic Cloud will support sovereign deployment under a unified software architecture. XTEND's advanced tactical drone portfolio includes SCORPIO 500 for precision strikes, SCORPIO 1000 for extended missions, XTEND-ER for micro-ISR operations, HONEY BADGER for rugged mission-critical environments, and WOLVERINE for AI-assisted tactical and combat missions.

Speaking on the development, Mr. Joseph Sudheer Thumma, Global CEO & MD, Magellanic Cloud Ltd. said, "This joint venture marks a defining moment in Magellanic Cloud's mission to revolutionise the defence ecosystem. By integrating XTEND's globally battle-proven platforms - including their proprietary software XOS and products like Wolverine and Scorpio into our manufacturing capabilities, we are delivering more than just a drone; we are providing a sophisticated digital nervous system for modern warfare. Through the XOS autonomy platform, we will be delivering a unified command interface that enables seamless multi-platform force coordination and AI-assisted mission execution. This shift toward software-defined autonomy ensures Armed Forces have the precision and agility required for the next generation of defence. This collaboration is

a cornerstone of XTEND's global operational footprint expansion and cements Magellanic Cloud's position as a technology-led powerhouse driving indigenous defence innovation. Drawing from decades of industry evolution, I can state with certainty: this marks a definitive paradigm shift for the Indian drone market." This strategic partnership further strengthens Magellanic Cloud's growing presence in drone technologies, AI-led surveillance, and intelligent infrastructure solutions, reinforcing its position as a technology-driven enterprise focused on emerging and high-growth sectors and investing in future-ready technologies with strong national relevance.

About Magellanic Cloud Limited:
Magellanic Cloud Limited, is a publicly listed global technology company on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and Bombay

Stock Exchange (BSE). The company delivers advanced AI-powered surveillance platforms, drone technologies, video analytics, fintech automation, cloud services, and IT talent solutions to enterprises and government organizations. With operations across India, the United States, and the Middle East, Magellanic Cloud supports industries including BFSI, government, retail, logistics, and enterprise infrastructure. Through its portfolio of platforms and subsidiaries - including Scanalix, Scandron, iVIS, Motivity Labs, Finoux, and JNIT; the company enables organizations to build intelligent and scalable digital ecosystems powered by AI and data-driven insights. The company was listed on NSE on February 7, 2025. In FY25, the company reported consolidated Revenue of ₹597 Cr, EBITDA of ₹209 Cr, and Net Profit of ₹103 Cr.

REC DECLARES HIGHEST EVER PROFIT OF RS. 16,282 CRORE

AND HIGHEST TOTAL DIVIDEND OF ₹18.55 PER SHARE FOR THE YEAR

DELHI, APRIL 28, 2026:

While approving the annual standalone and consolidated financial results for the year ended March 31, 2026, REC Limited states that the Indian power sector is at the cusp of new vibrance owing to numerous initiatives taken by Government of India. The legacy loss-making power distribution companies achieved a rare, collective overall net profit, marking a significant turnaround. This improvement led to a stable environment, indicating improved quality of assets, resulting to reduction in risk premiums. REC, as a responsible lender focused towards nation building, has proactively passed on such reduced risk premium to its borrowers by rationalising its yield on loan assets.

The continued focus on sustainable growth is showing results with the Net Stage-3 loans (NPA) nearly "Zero" (0.12%) and Stage-2 loans reduced by 75% YoY. Without compromising on the asset quality, REC has registered a growth in loan book of around ₹17,000 crores during the last year. As a result, the loan book is at an all-time high of ₹5.84 lakh crore as on March 31, 2026. In conjunction with government vision, the Renewable loan book increased to ₹75,347 crore as on March 31, 2026, reflecting 30% growth. In spite of challenging macro economic situations and geopolitical uncertainty, REC has registered its highest ever annual net Profit of ₹16,282 crore during financial year ended 31st March 2026. Key Operational and Financial Highlights for the year 2025-26

Sanctions: ₹4,09,097 crore v/s ₹3,37,179 crore, up by 21%

Disbursement: ₹2,11,189

crore v/s ₹1,91,185 crore, up by 10%

Disbursements (excluding RBPF): ₹1,46,227 crore v/s ₹1,13,897 crore, up by 28%

Net Worth: ₹84,290 crore as on March 31, 2026 v/s ₹77,638 crore as on March 31, 2025, up by 9%.

Capital Adequacy Ratio (CRAR): 23.11% as at March 31, 2026, indicating ample opportunity to support future growth. The interest spread and NIM remains healthy at 2.62% and 3.43% respectively. The strong profitability has resulted in Earnings Per Share (EPS) increasing to ₹61.71 per share, for the year ended March 31, 2026. Continuing with the tradition to reward its shareholders, the Board of Directors of the Company has declared the final dividend of ₹1.55 per equity share (on face value of ₹10/- each) with this total dividend for the financial year 2025-26 is ₹18.55 per share. REC has demonstrated consistent excellence in MoU performance, achieving an 'Excellent' rating for three consecutive years (FY 23, FY 24 and FY 25). Further, REC moved up four places from 9th to 5th in the ranking of net profit-making CPSEs, as per DPE's PE Survey Report for FY'25. Based on its consistent business, operational, and financial performance and a positive future growth outlook, REC's 'Maharashtra' status was reaffirmed by the DPE after the review undertaken in Jan'26. Sustainability is at the core of REC. Building on this legacy, REC has integrated ESG into every facet of its operations with core focus on renewable portfolio growth. This ESG excellence is reflected in the NSE ESG Ratings, where REC achieved the highest rating among all companies rated in the country.

CTIL, SIELN Host Virtual Talk on Future of Global Trade Governance

The Centre for Trade and Investment Law (CTIL), Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, in partnership with the South Asia International Economic Law Network (SAIELN), organised a Virtual Trade Talk on "The Future of Multilateral Trade Governance and the Role of the WTO" on 27 April 2026. The Trade Talk featured Shri Amitabh Kumar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, as the Guest of Honour and Prof. Mark Wu, Henry L. Stimson Professor of Law, Harvard Law School, as the Keynote Speaker. The discussion focused on the evolving role of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in governing multilateral trade, particularly in light of emerging geopolitical, technological, and economic challenges. The discussion examined the WTO's core functions—monitoring, negotiation and dispute settlement—and assessed their effectiveness in addressing current trade dynamics.

Shri Amitabh Kumar, in his address, highlighted the WTO's foundational role as a rules-based multilateral institution. He emphasised the importance of consensus-based decision-making and the continued relevance of special and differential treatment for developing countries and underscored why these are necessary to maintain a level-playing field for all WTO Members. He also underlined concerns relating to the increasing reliance on plurilateral approaches and the proliferation of non-tariff measures. The session examined the challenges confronting the WTO's

dispute settlement mechanism, particularly the continued non-functionality of the Appellate Body since 2019. The discussion also addressed the erosion of key principles such as the most-favoured-nation (MFN) obligation and the growing invocation of national security exceptions in trade measures. Prof. Mark Wu provided an assessment of the WTO's institutional functions. He noted that while the monitoring function remains active through committees and trade policy reviews, negotiations continue to face challenges. He also pointed out that the dispute settlement system remains impaired due to Appellate Body's paralysis and discussed how interim mechanisms such as the Multi-Party Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement (MPIA) provide partial solutions. Prof. Wu also examines the broader structural factors affecting the WTO, including geopolitical contestation, technological transformation, and global economic imbalances. The discussion highlighted that these factors contribute to a period of transition for the multilateral trading system, with implications for the WTO's future role and functioning. The Trade Talk was moderated by Professor James J. Nedumpara, Professor and Head, CTIL, and India Chair, WTO Chairs Programme. The session concluded with an interactive discussion with participants on issues relating to dispute settlement, consensus-based decision-making, and the future trajectory of multilateral trade governance.



Extreme Heat Hits Indian Farms..

Hard as Global Report Warns of Rising Risks to Food Systems

Extreme heat is rapidly emerging as one of the most serious threats to agriculture, both globally and in India, affecting production, livelihoods and food security. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization and World Meteorological Organization report, rising temperatures are no longer occasional disruptions but a structural risk that is reshaping agricultural systems worldwide. India offers a stark example of this trend. The 2022 heatwave, analysed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture, saw March and April become the hottest months on record, with temperatures 8-10.8°C above normal and rainfall deficits of up to 99% in several regions. The combined impact of heat and drought hit crops, livestock and farm incomes across northern and central India.

Crops Under Stress

Globally, the FAO-WMO report notes that most crops begin to suffer when temperatures cross 30°C. Heat reduces photosynthesis, shortens crop cycles and damages reproductive stages, leading to lower yields and poor quality produce. In India, these impacts were clearly visible during the 2022 heatwave. Wheat yields declined by 9-34%, forcing the country to reassess export plans. Maize crops suffered stunted growth and pest attacks, reducing yields by up to 18%. Pulses like chickpea showed poor growth and shrivelled grains. Horticulture crops were even more vulnerable. Vegetables such as cabbage, cauliflower and tomato recorded yield losses of up to 50%, while fruit crops like apple, plum and lemon saw flower drop, sunburn and pest attacks. These losses highlight how extreme heat can disrupt not just staple crops but also high-value agriculture. Rice, which provides nearly 70% of India's caloric intake, faces increasing risks. Globally, rice accounts for about 20% of dietary energy, making it critical for food security. Rising temperatures and erratic monsoons are expected to make rice farming more vulnerable, especially in densely populated regions like the Indo-Gangetic plains.

Livestock Productivity Declines

Heat stress is also affecting livestock

systems worldwide. The FAO-WMO report warns that rising temperatures reduce feed intake, milk production and fertility in animals. In India, the 2022 heatwave led to milk yield losses of up to 15%. Dairy animals experienced higher body temperatures, reduced appetite and increased disease incidence. Poultry farms also suffered, with egg production dropping by up to 10% initially and mortality rates rising significantly. Globally, the report estimates that nearly half of the world's cattle could face dangerous heat stress conditions by the end of the century if emissions remain high. This poses serious risks to dairy and meat production systems.

Fisheries and Aquaculture at Risk

Extreme heat is not limited to land-based agriculture. Marine heatwaves are increasing globally, affecting fish populations and aquatic ecosystems. Warmer waters reduce oxygen levels, disrupt food chains and force fish to migrate. India's fisheries sector is also vulnerable, particularly inland aquaculture systems where rising temperatures affect water quality and increase disease outbreaks. For a country where millions depend on fisheries for income and nutrition, these changes could have far-reaching consequences.

Forests and Plantations Under Pressure

Forests and plantation crops are increasingly exposed to heat stress. Globally, high temperatures are linked to increased wildfire risks, pest outbreaks and declining forest health. In India, plantation crops and orchards have already shown signs of stress during extreme heat events. Fruit trees experienced lower productivity and higher pest incidence in 2022. Such impacts not only reduce farm incomes but also affect ecological balance and biodiversity.

Agricultural Workers Face Growing Risks

One of the most serious but often overlooked impacts of extreme heat is on agricultural workers. The FAO-WMO report states that labour productivity declines by 2-3% for every degree rise above 20°C.

India, where agriculture employs a large workforce, is particularly vulnerable. Rice farming alone employs millions of workers, often under open-field conditions. Climate projections suggest that wet-bulb temperatures in South Asia could approach dangerous thresholds for human survival by the end of the century.

During heatwaves, workers face dehydration, heatstroke and reduced working hours, directly affecting farm operations and rural incomes. In extreme scenarios, some regions could experience up to 250 unsafe working days annually.

Adaptation Strategies Offer Hope

Despite the growing risks, both global and Indian studies highlight several adaptation strategies to reduce the impact of extreme heat. Globally, the FAO-WMO report emphasizes the need for heat-tolerant crop varieties, improved irrigation systems, better soil management and climate-smart farming practices. Adjusting sowing dates and using early-maturing varieties can help farmers avoid peak heat periods. In India, similar strategies are being explored. For rice cultivation, options include early-morning flowering varieties, changing planting schedules

and using irrigation to reduce surface temperatures. Breeding heat-resistant crops is also gaining importance. Institutional measures such as early warning systems, crop insurance schemes and climate advisory services are critical. However, experts warn that lack of awareness, limited access to finance and weak extension systems remain major barriers, especially for small and marginal farmers.

A Shared Global Challenge

The growing impact of extreme heat on agriculture underscores the interconnected nature of climate risks. While India's 2022 heatwave demonstrated the immediate consequences, the FAO-

WMO report makes it clear that such events will become more frequent and intense worldwide. For India, where agriculture remains central to livelihoods and food security, the challenge is particularly urgent. Strengthening resilience through adaptation, investment and policy support will be key to safeguarding farmers and ensuring stable food supplies. At the global level, the report stresses that adaptation alone is not enough. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and limiting temperature rise will be essential to prevent long-term damage to agriculture and food systems. Extreme heat is no longer a distant threat, it is already reshaping the future of farming across the world.



Agri Exports Rerouted as West Asia Crisis Hits Trade Routes

Amid the ongoing conflict involving Israel, the United States and Iran, efforts are underway to resolve disruptions in India's agricultural exports to West Asia. However, relief for exporters remains limited at present.

According to sources, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) is prioritising the movement of highly perishable commodities such as fruits and vegetables. In coordination with UAE-based logistics company DP World, plans are being worked out to reroute consignments currently stuck in India to markets in the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

As part of the initial strategy, authorities are focusing on facilitating egg exports from Namakkal, one of India's largest egg production hubs. Under the proposed arrangement, exporters are exploring the option of routing shipments through the Khorfakkan port in the UAE. From there, the consignments would be transported by road to Jebel Ali and onward to destinations in Saudi Arabia. In addition, APEDA has initiated discussions with port authorities to reduce demurrage charges on consignments that have already reached ports but remain undelivered due to logistical disruptions. This move is expected to provide some financial relief to exporters affected by delays. Some exporters have also opted to

bring their shipments back from the port and sell them in the domestic market. This process, known as container return, normally takes around five days. However, through coordination with relevant departments, APEDA has helped reduce the turnaround time to approximately two days in several cases. Sources said that in some instances, ships carrying Indian consignments have reached the UAE but have not been allowed to dock at ports. In one such case, a vessel carrying about 450 containers has reportedly been waiting offshore for more than a week. The Indian government is currently engaged in discussions with UAE authorities to resolve the issue and allow the vessel to unload its cargo. Apart from eggs and other perishable goods, rice shipments are also facing disruptions. Exporters say shipping companies have imposed emergency conflict surcharges ranging from \$2,500 to \$4,000 per container, significantly raising transportation costs. The government is exploring ways to ensure that at least a portion of India's agricultural exports, estimated at around 30%, continues to reach Gulf markets despite the ongoing crisis. However, these arrangements are still under negotiation, and shipments through the proposed alternative routes have not yet begun.

Big Shipment of Eggs in the sea

Nearly 3.5 crore eggs exported from Namakkal, India's largest egg produc-

tion hub, have remained stranded for over 10 days after a vessel carrying about 70 containers failed to reach ports in the Middle East due to the conflict. Each container reportedly carries close to five lakh eggs that were shipped on February 28. The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) is in talks with shipping operators and port authorities in Dubai to facilitate the safe movement of the consignments. Exporters estimate that nearly six crore eggs shipped from India have yet to reach their destination markets. While some containers remain anchored at sea, others are currently stranded at the Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Mumbai. Poultry farmers warn that if the consignments are forced to return to Namakkal, it could disrupt the domestic market, which is already facing weak demand and excess supply. Export eggs transported through cold-chain systems also carry printed manufacturing and expiry dates, making prolonged storage difficult.

India's egg and live bird exports have expanded rapidly in recent years. According to APEDA data, exports rose from \$6.30 crore in 2022-23 to \$11.35 crore in 2023-24, before easing slightly to \$9.69 crore in 2024-25. The Middle East dominates this trade, with Oman accounting for 46.66% of exports, followed by the United Arab Emirates (20.09%), Maldives (17.82%), Qatar (6.08%), and Bahrain (1.66%).

Mango Farmers looking for alternatives

The uncertainty in West Asia is also affecting fruit exporters. Mango growers in Karnataka, who traditionally depend heavily on Gulf markets, are now exploring alternative destinations as the new harvesting season approaches.

Growers from districts such as Dharwad and Belagavi typically export mangoes to countries including Abu Dhabi, Iran, Kuwait and the UAE. However, exporters say traders who normally book orchards months in advance have yet to confirm purchases this year.

India's fresh mango exports have remained strong, reaching \$4.85 crore in 2022-23, rising to \$6.01 crore in 2023-24, and moderating to \$5.65 crore in 2024-25, according to APEDA.

The United Arab Emirates remains the largest market with 35.01% share, followed by the United States (20.39%), United Kingdom (16.06%), Kuwait (5.23%), and Qatar (4.21%). With uncertainty in the Gulf region, growers' associations are attempting to diversify exports to markets such as the United States, the United Kingdom and Singapore. Exporters say the globally popular Alphonso variety remains the most sought-after in international markets.

India-New Zealand FTA

Why Official Claims Diverge Sharply in Domain of Agriculture and Dairy

The India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement, unveiled with considerable political optimism in both Wellington and New Delhi, appears—on closer scrutiny—to reflect a carefully negotiated balance between ambition and restraint, particularly in the politically sensitive domains of agriculture and dairy, where official claims diverge sharply in emphasis, tone, and substance.

According to the Government of New Zealand, the agreement will ultimately provide preferential access for as much as 95 per cent of its current exports to India, with 57 per cent becoming tariff-free immediately and that share expected to rise to 82 per cent over time. Within this framework, Wellington has foregrounded what it describes as landmark gains in agricultural trade, highlighting first-ever preferential access for apples in any Indian free trade agreement, tariff-free entry for kiwifruit within quota limits, and steep tariff reductions for mānuka honey, alongside phased liberalisation for seafood, wine, and a range of horticultural products. However, a closer reading of these provisions suggests that much of this access is neither comprehensive nor immediate, being instead structured through quotas, long transition periods, and par-

tial tariff reductions that dilute the headline claim of sweeping market entry. New Zealand's emphasis on symbolic breakthroughs—such as being the first to secure access for certain categories—appears designed as much for domestic political signalling as for commercial impact, particularly given India's historically guarded approach to agricultural imports. While the agreement does open specific windows for high-value produce, these remain tightly calibrated, ensuring that India's broader farm economy is insulated from sudden external competition. By contrast, the Indian Ministry of Commerce presents an almost inverted narrative, framing the agreement as a vehicle for expanding India's agricultural exports into New Zealand, a relatively small but open market. Official data indicates that India's agricultural exports to New Zealand have risen from USD 95.6 million in FY24 to USD 108.2 million in FY25, with nearly one-third of these shipments previously facing tariffs of up to 5 per cent. The ministry underscores that the agreement eliminates duties across all tariff lines, thereby enhancing price competitiveness for a wide range of products including processed foods, cereals, spices, beverages, and semi-processed agricultural inputs. The Indian account places particular emphasis on value-added segments, projecting gains for agro-processing industries, MSMEs, and regional

clusters, while also highlighting potential benefits for women entrepreneurs and rural producers. Yet, despite the breadth of tariff elimination, the relatively modest scale of New Zealand's import market—estimated at around USD 6.1 billion in agriculture—suggests that even substantial percentage gains may translate into limited absolute expansion for Indian exporters. In this sense, the agreement offers India wide but shallow access, in contrast to New Zealand's narrower yet strategically significant entry into a far larger consumer base. Nowhere is this asymmetry more evident than in the treatment of dairy, a sector that has long been regarded as a red line in India's trade negotiations. Despite being a global leader in dairy exports, New Zealand has secured no meaningful access to India's core dairy market under the agreement. Instead, the concessions are confined to peripheral categories such as infant formula and dairy-based preparations, where tariffs are to be phased out over seven years, alongside limited quota-based reductions for specific milk protein products like albumins. More notably, the agreement introduces a "fast-track mechanism" that would allow New Zealand dairy ingredients to enter India duty-free for the purpose of further manufacturing and re-export, effectively creating an indirect channel into global supply chains rather than the domestic consumer market.



2ND WT20I



'I lived all my dreams': John Stones confirms Man City exit



MANCHESTER: English football club Manchester City has been dealt another blow after captain Bernardo Silva's exit, as their key defender John Stones has also confirmed that he will leave the club at the end of the summer. The 31-year-old will depart as a free agent at the end of the season after 10 years at the Etihad Stadium. Having joined City in 2016, where England's premier footballer became Pep Guardiola's second signing, Stones has gone on to make 293 appearances for the club. To date, Stones has helped City win 19 major trophies, including six Premier League titles, one UEFA Champions League, two FA Cup triumphs.

1st WT20I

Shorna's lone battle goes in vain Sri Lanka beat B'desh



SYLHET: Bangladesh women's cricket team suffered a 25-run defeat to Sri Lanka in the opening game of the three-match T20I series at Sylhet International Cricket Stadium on Tuesday, despite a spirited knock from Shorna Akter. Chasing 162 for victory, Bangladesh Women finished on 136 for seven in 20 overs. Shorna was the standout performer with a well-crafted 60 off 45 balls, registering her maiden half-century in WT20Is. Her innings included four boundaries and two sixes, but she lacked meaningful support as wickets fell regularly at the other end. Earlier, Sri Lanka posted an imposing 161/4 after being put in to bat. Half-centuries from Harshitha Samarawickrama and Imesha Dulani laid the foundation for the total.

SPORTS

Govt waives IP fees for sports sector for 3 years



NEW DELHI: Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday announced a three-year waiver on fees for all intellectual property (IP) registrations related to sports, in a move aimed at boosting innovation and strengthening India's sports ecosystem. The announcement was made during the World Intellectual Property Day celebrations in the national capital, themed "IP and Sports: Ready, Set, Innovate!". The fee exemption will cover all categories of IP, including trademarks, copyrights, patents, designs, traditional knowledge and geographical indications, and will come into effect immediately. The minister said the initiative is part of a special drive to encourage innovators, students, artisans and stakeholders to actively participate.

IPL 2026: Unbeaten Ferreira serves Punjab Kings their first defeat

MULLANPUR

Donovan Ferreira's audacious stroke-play handed Punjab Kings the bitter pill of defeat for the first time in this edition of IPL as Rajasthan Royals cantered home by six wickets in a high-octane chase here on Tuesday. Chasing a target of 223, Rajasthan Royals needed 71 off the last six overs when Ferreira smashed his way to an unbeaten 52 off 26 balls in company of an unheralded Shubham Dubey (31 not out off 12 balls) to clinch the victory with four balls to spare.

Ferreira was brilliant while picking his areas as PBKS troika of Arshdeep Singh (1/68 in 4 overs), Lockie Ferguson (0/57 in 4 overs) and Marco Jansen (0/41 in 3.2 overs) would like to forget this day in a hurry. Between Ferreira and Dubey, they hit nine fours and five sixes as they undid all the good work done by Yuzvendra Chahal (3/36 in 4 overs).

The manner in which Vaibhav Sooryavanshi (43 off 16 balls) started with a deluge of sixes — five — including a couple of flicked maximums off Arshdeep Singh and Lockie Ferguson, it seemed RR would make a meal of the chase. Arshdeep was lucky that Sooryavanshi missed out on a sixth six when he mistimed a full-toss only for Shreyas Iyer to grab it with ease.

However, it was the wily Chahal who brought the Royals back in the game just when Yashasvi Jaiswal (51 off 27 balls)



looked like slowly taking the game away in company of Dhruv Jurel (20 off 16 balls).

However, Jurel committed a hara-kiri, offering an easy skier off a full-toss but it was the manner in which Jaiswal and skipper Riyan Parag (29 off 16 balls) were taken out deserved more than honourable mention. For both, the pace on the ball was considerably taken off and flighted

outside the off-stump line without giving enough room to chance their arms. Both were holed out at long-off.

But then, Ferreira and Dubey had other ideas as Chahal's good work went down the drain. Earlier, Stoinis muscled his way to a 20-ball half-century despite a gallant effort from young leg-spinner Yash Raj

Punja as Punjab Kings posted a competitive 222 for 4 after being put into bat.

While Punjab's top three — Prabhsimran Singh (59 off 44 balls), Priyansh Arya (29 off 11 balls) and Cooper Connolly (30 off 14 balls) — all looked dangerous, but none of them went on to play a big knock on a track that was hard and offered appreciable bounce.

It was Stoinis, who bludgeoned his way

to an unbeaten 22-ball 62 with a half a dozen of sixes and four boundaries as Royals gave away as many as 55 runs in last three overs. Inexperienced Brijesh Sharma's (0/42 in 4 overs) pace-off play backfired with 24 coming off the final over of the innings.

Stoinis, who hasn't really been summoned this season, was all about brute power and Royals bowlers, including the dependable Jofra Archer (1/40), were guilty of bowling length balls inside his hitting arc.

However, credit should go to unheralded Yash Raj (2 for 41 in 4 overs), a 6 feet 4 inches tall leg-spinner for varying his pace, not being afraid to flight and alter the length as and when required and keeping things tight till the 16th over.

Just when Connolly was cutting loose with some delectable strokeplay, Yash Raj got the Australian against the run of play by lighting one outside the off-stump asking the batter to fetch it. The result was an easy catch for Donovan Ferreira at long-off.

Prabhsimran, despite scoring a half-century and hitting six boundaries and a six, wasn't very smooth with his timing. Yash Raj, whose average speed was in early 90s (kmph), slowed it down and enticed Prabhsimran to throw the kitchen sink without being anywhere close to the pitch of the delivery. The catch was cleanly collected by Riyan Parag.

Madrid Open: Jodar reaches first Masters 1000 QF, sets blockbuster clash with Sinner



MADRID

Spain's Rafael Jodar advanced to his maiden quarterfinals, dispatching Vit Kopriva 7-5, 6-0 on home soil to set up a first meeting with World No. 1 Jannik Sinner at an ATP Masters 1000 event at the Madrid Open in Madrid on Tuesday.

The 19-year-old Spaniard thus became the sixth teenager to reach the last eight stage at a Masters 1000 event this decade, and is also the fourth wild card to advance to this stage in the history of the Madrid tournament.

"I am super happy with my level today and at this tournament," Jodar said. "It is special to play at home, in front of many people that I know and have come to support. I am super happy to play another match tomorrow," Jodar was quoted as saying by the ATP website.

"It is another opportunity. I will have to recover well and prepare the match as best as possible, as it will be another tough match."

Red-lining the ball, Jodar has blown away opponents in the past month. The 19-year-old has won 12 of his past 13 matches, lifting his maiden tour-level trophy in Marrakech and advancing to the semi-finals at the ATP 500 in Barcelona.

In Madrid, Jodar earned his first Top 10 win against Alex de Minaur, beat Joao Fonseca in the battle between the two 19-year-old stars, and overcame Jesper de Jong. The 19-year-old needed just 80 minutes to defeat Kopriva on a sun-baked Manolo Santana Stadium on Tuesday.

The former University of Virginia star Jodar



saved both break points he faced against Kopriva and overpowered the Czech with the relentless baseline hitting that fans have become accustomed to seeing since the Spaniard competed at the Next Gen ATP Finals last December.

Jodar, currently No. 34 in the PIF ATP Live Rankings, will next meet Sinner, who is aiming to become the first man in history to win five consecutive Masters 1000 crowns. The Italian defeated Cameron Norrie in the fourth round earlier on Tuesday and is excited for a first Lexus ATP Head2Head clash with Jodar.

"It would be good if I face him before Rome and then Roland Garros," Sinner said. "Here are very unique conditions. He is from Madrid, so he is very used to these conditions here... So very exciting, new player. Big, big talent. Let's see what's coming," he said.

Young India Sports Summit 2026

HYDERABAD

The "Young India Sports Summit 2026" will be held on April 30, 2026, at Gachibowli Stadium (Hall No. 113) in Hyderabad under the aegis of the Young India Physical Education & Sports University (YIPESU).

This summit will serve as a prominent platform to discuss sports policies, education, research, technology, and employment opportunities in the country. Policymakers, sports experts, academicians, industry representatives, and professionals from the sports sector will participate and engage in comprehensive discussions aimed at advancing the sports ecosystem in India.

As envisioned by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, the Young India Physical Education & Sports University (YIPESU) has been established in Telangana as a key pillar to build a strong sports system and develop specialized sports institutions.

The university aims to:

Build a robust and sustainable sports ecosystem in the state Provide high-quality education and training in sports Nurture sports skills among youth Under the directions of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Sports Minister Vakiti

Srihari, this major event is being organized to achieve these goals. This is the first event being conducted under the auspices of YIPESU.

Event Details

Registration: 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM 10:30 AM - 10:45 AM: Opening session on "Telangana Sports Policy, Governance & Olympic Vision," moderated by Prasad Mangipudi

10:45 AM - 11:30 AM: Inaugural session with participation from: Jayesh Ranjan (Special Chief Secretary, Sports Department)

A.P. Jitender Reddy (Advisor, Sports Department) Shivasesa Reddy (Chairman, Sports Authority)

Dr. Sonibala Devi (MD) Sports personalities including Pallela Gopichand, Nagapuri Ramesh, J.J. Shobha, Ismail Baig, Neha Agarwal Coordinated by Vice-Chancellor Dr. Kishore Gopinathan

Panel Discussions

11:40 AM - 12:15 PM: Sports Education, Career Opportunities & Market Demand Moderator: Srishti Jain (CEO, Collearn)

12:15 PM - 1:00 PM: Olympic Values & Physical Literacy Moderator: Amit Malik (Abhinav Bindra Foundation Trust)

2:00 PM - 2:45 PM: Sports Science & Medicine - Education & Opportunities Moderator: Naresh Kumar Pagidimarri (CSSH)

2:45 PM - 3:30 PM: Sports Leagues, Technology & E-Sports Moderator: Karthik Yanamandra (360D Sports)

3:45 PM - 4:30 PM: Para Sports & Education Moderator: Dr. Sripadmini Chenapragada (Adapted Sports India Foundation)

Tea breaks will be provided at 11:30 AM and 3:30 PM, and a lunch break from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM. The session will conclude with a discussion from 4:30 PM to 5:00 PM.

Registration Details

Participants can register for the event by scanning the QR code provided on the official poster.

Expanding Opportunities in Sports

Vice-Chancellor Dr. Kishore Gopinathan stated that the summit aims to develop the sports sector in India, expand opportunities for youth in sports, and position the country strongly at the international level. He added that all arrangements have been made to ensure the grand success of the event.

IPL can't 'afford sub-standard officiating'

MUMBAI

Former Commissioner and founder Lalit Modi has advised the Indian Premier League (IPL) Governing Council to appoint world-class match officials so as to have consistent decisions during matches. Modi's advice to the IPL came following the latest incident of controversial decision-making when Kolkata Knight Riders batter Angkrish Raghuvanshi was given out 'obstructing the field' in the match against Lucknow Super Giants recently.

Raghuvanshi slipped and fell while trying to make ground when sent back by his partner, and the throw hit his body, unintentionally.

The LSG players appealed, and the third umpire gave him out for obstructing the field. The decision has generated huge controversy as many people felt that there was no intention on the part of Raghuvanshi to obstruct the ball and had changed the direction in attempting to get into the crease.

Modi told the IPL governing council that it can not afford sub-standard officiation as IPL is the most valuable cricket league in the world, and such controversies impact its value. "The IPL is the most valuable cricket league in the world — it cannot afford sub-standard officiating. When decisions are rushed and inconsistent, it damages the credibility

of the competition. The BCCI must take responsibility and restore the level of professionalism that once made the league the global benchmark," Lalit Modi said on Tuesday.

In a post on social media, Modi also wrote how he had made it a point to get the best umpires to officiate in the IPL and expressed disappointment that the BCCI has now abandoned that rule to allegedly save money. "In my time, I made it a point only to have the BEST GLOBAL UMPIRES FROM AROUND THE WORLD through the @ICC. It's a shame that the BCCI has abandoned that rule now. Three things that were engraved into my running the @ipl were 1. ICC umpires.

IPL 2026: 'Dubey and Ferreira played really well', says PBKS skipper Iyer

NEW CHANDIGARH

Punjab Kings skipper Shreyas Iyer praised Donovan Ferreira and Shubham Dubey for playing really well after the Rajasthan Royals served hosts their first defeat of the season in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 in New Chandigarh, on Tuesday.

"I think 222 was a very good score. It was an exceptional performance, especially on this wicket, which was a bit sticky and slow. We planned to bowl slower and focus on yorkers. I think we fell short there. Also, they played really well, Dubey and Ferreira with that partnership," Iyer said after the match. Punjab Kings



had earlier scored 222/4, boosted by an explosive unbeaten 62 off 22 balls from Marcus Stoinis and a solid 59 off 44 from Prabhsimran Singh. Contributions from Iyer (30) and Cooper Connolly (30) kept the innings on track before Stoinis' late surge lifted them

past 220.

However, Rajasthan Royals quickly chased it down with six wickets in hand. This was largely due to a game-changing, unbeaten 77-run partnership off just 32 balls between Donovan Ferreira and Shubham Dubey. Their aggressive play in the final overs turned what looked like a challenging chase into an easy finish.

Discussing the challenges bowlers face in this format, Iyer said, "In this format, many players have changed their game. Many go big from ball one. It's a big challenge for bowlers to come up with plans. But in the end, it's all about execution. Today was just not our day."

ISL 2025-26: East Bengal cruise past Odisha FC

MARGAO (GOA)

East Bengal FC strengthened their push towards the top half of the table in the Indian Super League (ISL) 2025-26 with a commanding 3-0 victory over Odisha FC at the P.J.N Stadium in Margao, Goa, on Tuesday. Bipin Singh Thounaojam handed East Bengal an early lead before Youssef Ezzejjari struck twice in the second half to wrap up a comfortable win for the Red and Gold Brigade.

With this victory, East Bengal FC move up to fourth in the table with 18 points from nine matches. Odisha FC, meanwhile, remain in 13th place with six points. Bipin Singh was named the Man of the Match for his influential display, contributing a goal and an assist. Oscar Bruzón made three changes to his starting XI, handing opportunities to Mohamad Rakip, Nandhaku-



mar, and Anton Sojberg, while Odisha FC head coach T.G. Purushothaman introduced Anuj Kumar in goal and Ashangbam Aphaoba Singh in attack.

The hosts began on the front foot, with Edmund Lalrindika going close inside three minutes, as East Bengal

immediately asserted control.

The breakthrough came in the 11th minute following sustained pressure. Lalrindika combined neatly with PV Vishnu on the left, and the latter's clever run and cut-back found Bipin Singh arriving unmarked at the far post, who

tapped into an empty net to give East Bengal a deserved lead.

East Bengal continued to dominate possession, repeatedly testing Odisha's deep defensive block. Vishnu remained a constant threat down the flank, while Nandhakumar and Saúl Crespo probed from central areas. Odisha, meanwhile, relied on sporadic counter-attacks, with Rahim Ali showing glimpses of intent, but East Bengal keeper Prabhsukhan Gill was rarely troubled in the first half. Despite a few late efforts from Odisha before the break, including a sharp save from Gill to deny Rahim Ali, East Bengal went into half-time with a slender but comfortable advantage. The second half followed a similar pattern, with East Bengal controlling proceedings and Odisha struggling to find rhythm in the final third. Rahim Ali came closest for the visitors just after the hour mark.

FARIA TO TURN DIRECTOR SOON SHARES BIG PLANS

BIG PROBLEM, BUT CAN NANI SAVE PRODUCERS!

The trend of actors turning directors is gaining momentum in the film industry, and it's no longer limited to male stars. After actors like Vishwak Sen stepping behind the camera and talents like Adivi Sesh and Naveen Polishetty actively contributing as writers, a young actress is now ready to take the same path. Actress Faria Abdullah has revealed that she is planning to make her directorial debut soon. Currently promoting her film "Gaayapadda Simham," in which she plays one of the female leads, Faria shared that she is already working on a few story ideas.

"I am planning to direct next year. Right now, I'm writing a few scripts," she said, confirming her intentions to step into direction. However, she chose to keep details about the genre under wraps for now. With a background in mass communication, Faria seems keen on exploring storytelling beyond acting. At the same time, she continues to stay busy as an actress with multiple projects in the pipeline. She revealed that films like "Bhagavanthudu" are on the way, while she is also part of "Sigma," directed by Jason Sanjay, son of actor Vijay. In addition, two more projects are set to go on floors soon, including a film with Satyadev. As she balances acting and writing, Faria Abdullah appears all set to add "director" to her growing list of creative roles.



The kind of stability and consistency that he can show with regard to making good films is beyond measure. Big Problem, But Can Nani Save Producers! There is no other Hero in Telugu cinema, who is as consistent as Nani when it comes to delivering consistently good and quality films. The kind of stability and consistency that he can show with regard to making good films is beyond measure.

However, the problem has been with the fact that Nani had been struggling to enhance his theatrical market beyond the level. While he had been consistent with good films, none of his films have gone beyond the 150 crore mark in terms of gross.



Mega158: Chiru locks a special look!

Megastar Chiranjeevi is gearing up for his next massive venture, Mega158, and the silence before the slaughter has officially begun. The excitement has hit a fever pitch with the successful completion of the look test, setting the stage for what promises to be a spectacular cinematic event. Following the massive success of Waltair Veerayya, the dynamic actor-director duo of Chiranjeevi and Bobby Kolli is reuniting to deliver another big blockbuster actioner. This upcoming project is heavily anticipated to be a high-octane, bloody visual spectacle that will present him in his glory like never-seen-before. Director Bobby has penned a script that suits Chiranjeevi perfectly, packing it with all the exciting mass elevation elements that audiences eagerly anticipate. The film is being produced by Venkat K Narayana under the KVN Productions banner, on a massive scale. With top-tier technicians already on board, the project is generating strong industry buzz. Fans can look forward to the auspicious Muhurtham ceremony and regular shoot details, which will be announced very soon to kickstart this phenomenal journey.

GAAYAPADDA SIMHAM COMPLETES CENSOR

Gaayapadda Simham, starring Tharun Bhascker, has successfully completed its censor formalities and received a U/A certificate, paving the way for its release on May 1st. Early reports from the censor process and industry buzz suggest a positive response to the film. Directed by debutant Kasyap Sreenivas, the film is presented by Pavan Sadineni and produced by Kalyana Chakravarthy Manthina, Bhanu Kiran Pratapa, Vijay Krishna Lingamaneni, and Umesh Bansal. The film reportedly blends comedy with a meaningful message, revolving around themes like deportation and the pursuit of the American dream.

RIDDHI BALANCES GLAMOUR AND PERFORMANCE

Riddhi Kumar, a talented Indian actress born in Kopergaon near Shirdi, Maharashtra, began her journey as a model after winning the Face of India pageant. She transitioned into acting and made her film debut with the Telugu romantic comedy Lover (2018), opposite Raj Tarun, where she played Charitha and earned appreciation for her fresh screen presence. The same year, she appeared in another Telugu film, Anaganaga O Premakatha.

She expanded her horizons quickly, making her Malayalam debut with Pranaya Meenukalude Kadal (2019) and venturing into Marathi cinema with Dandam (2019), later starring in Kadhipatta (2025). In Hindi films, she featured in Radhe Shyam (2022) alongside Prabhas and Salaam Venky (2022). Her web series credits include Candy (2021) and Human (2022). She also appeared in Superboys of Malegaon (2025).

Riddhi has built a diverse career across Telugu, Hindi, Malayalam, and Marathi industries, showcasing versatility from romance to drama.



Netflix Sets Korean Political Thriller 'The Generals' From 'Narco-Saints' Director Yoon Jong-bin



The auteur's first feature since "The Spy Gone North" in 2018 casts Son Suk-ku as a young Roh Tae-woo and Ha Jung-woo as dictator Chun Doo-hwan, the architects of the 1979 coup that plunged South Korea into another decade of authoritarian rule. Netflix is doubling down on Korea's appetite for political period thrillers. The streamer revealed Monday that it has begun production on The Generals (working title), a new film from acclaimed director Yoon Jong-bin chronicling the rise of South Korean dictator-turned-president Roh Tae-woo, the longtime second-in-command to military strongman Chun Doo-hwan.

The project marks Yoon's first feature in eight years — following

The Spy Gone North, which premiered at Cannes in 2018 — and his second project at Netflix after Narco-Saints, the hit limited series that launched on the streamer in 2022. The film centers on Roh Tae-woo (Son Suk-ku), a figure who publicly presents himself as an "ordinary man" while maneuvering behind the scenes beside dictator Chun Doo-hwan (Ha Jung-woo), who wields absolute authority. Surrounded by allies, rivals, and functionaries with their own agendas, Roh navigates a dense network of relationships in his bid to claim the top seat for himself.

Among Korea's most respected mid-career filmmakers, Yoon is known for taut dissections of how people survive inside rigid hierar-

chies, from his breakthrough The Unforgiven (2005), about Korea's compulsory military service, to later hits like the Busan mob movie Nameless Gangster (2012) and espionage drama The Spy Gone North (2018). The Generals finds him returning to the theme, "once again exploring the human thirst for power and the mechanisms of survival against a backdrop of political turbulence," according to Netflix. The film's cast puts two of Korea's most in-demand leading men opposite each other for the first time. Son Suk-ku broke through with the Netflix military-drama series D.P. (2021) before headlining the streamer's A Killer Paradox (2024) and the recent Disney+ mystery hit Nine Puzzles. Ha Jung-woo,

meanwhile, is among Korea's most decorated actors, known for his regular work with Yoon (Nameless Gangster, Kundo: Age of the Rampant and Narco-Saints) as well as leading auteurs like Na Hong-jin (Chaser, The Yellow Sea) and Park Chan-wook (The Handmaiden).

The supporting ensemble includes Ji Chang-wook (The Sound of Magic, The Worst of Evil, Revolver) playing Heo Hak-seong, a senior officer who becomes a thorn in Roh's side; Hyun Bong-sik (Narco-Saints, A Killer Paradox, Aema) as Jung Ho-joong, a classmate and friend to both Roh and Chun; and Seo Hyun-woo (Decision to Leave, My Name Is Loh Kiwan) playing Park Cheol-woong, a prosecutor and Roh's trusted chief of staff.