



# THE Hans India



**WOMENIA**  
**Ananya Panday on tackling exam pressure: 'They are a small part of a much bigger journey'**  
 The collaboration came to life with a special on-ground activity led by Ananya Panday, along with Nick's beloved characters Chikoo and Bunty. **P11**

**TOGETHER, let us empower our Nari Shakti!**  
 On the 16th of April, Parliament will be convened to discuss and pass an important bill that advances women's reservation. To describe this merely as a legislative exercise would be an injustice. It is a reflection of aspirations of crores of women across India. **P6**

**RBI hits pause amid oil surge, global uncertainty**  
 The Reserve Bank on Wednesday expectedly kept interest rates unchanged amid hopes of a global recovery on the back of ceasefire in the six-week-long US/Israel-Iran conflict. **P8**

**Crack NEET Chemistry with the right plan**  
 For students preparing for the NEET UG 2026, Chemistry often feels like a subject that sits between extremes. It is generally more manageable than Physics but not as straightforward as Biology. **P9**

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**Constitutional morality not a ground to decide essential religious practices: Centre**

**NEW DELHI:** Constitutional morality can never be a ground for judicial review to decide essential religious practices and beliefs in a religion, the Centre told the Supreme Court on Wednesday while stressing that two previous verdicts on decriminalisation of consensual gay sex and adultery provisions based on this doctrine were "not a good law". A nine-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant was told by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that constitutional morality is a "vague and subjective doctrine", and the judgements based on it coupled with the views of foreign legal experts and precedents cannot be a basis to test the correctness of religious beliefs in the country. Mehta submitted before the bench that the wrongly applied concept of constitutional morality by this court in some of the judgements later became the basis for deciding the 2018 Sabarimala case, permitting women of all age groups to enter the hilltop shrine in Kerala through the presiding deity Lord Ayappa is a Naishtika Brahmachari (perennial celibate).

## FRAGILE CEASEFIRE TAKES EFFECT

TEHRAN/WASHINGTON

IRAN, the United States and Israel agreed to a two-week ceasefire in an 11th-hour deal that headed off US President Donald Trump's threat to unleash a bombing campaign to destroy Iranian civilization. But hours after the announcement, Iran and Gulf Arab countries reported new attacks on Wednesday.

It was not clear if the strikes would scuttle the deal, which US Vice President JD Vance called "fragile." Even before the new attacks, much about the agreement was unclear as the sides presented vastly different visions of the terms.

Iran said the deal would allow it to formalize its new practice of charging ships passing through the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial transit lane for oil. But the details were not clear, nor was it known whether vessels would feel safe using the channel or whether ship traffic had resumed. It also was unclear whether any other country agreed to this condition.

Pakistan, which helped to mediate the deal, said talks would begin in Islamabad on Friday and fighting would pause also in Lebanon, where Israel has launched a ground invasion against the Iran-backed Hezbollah militant group. **Continued on Page 7**

## US and Iran prepare for talks in Pak from tomorrow

### Much remains unclear and some attacks continue

### Oil prices plunge and shares jump on ceasefire plan

**ISRAEL STRIKES LEBANON**

**Iran threatens to exit truce deal**

**TEHRAN:** Iran has reportedly told mediators that talks with US conditional and threatened to withdraw from the truce deal if the attacks on Lebanon continue. It has reportedly told the mediators that it will participate in talks in Pakistan only if the current ceasefire includes Lebanon.

**IRAN CLOSING HORMUZ AGAIN**

**TEHRAN:** The fragile ceasefire in West Asia between the US and Iran to halt the hostilities in the region for two weeks faces renewed uncertainty as Tehran reportedly moved to block the strategic Strait of Hormuz once again due to Israel's intensified offensive against Hezbollah in Lebanon, according to IRNA.



**MOJTABA HELPED CUT TRUCE DEAL**

**TEHRAN:** A defiant Iran and the most powerful nation in the world, the US, fighting for over a month, agreed to a ceasefire 90 minutes before Trump's "wiping out a whole civilization" threat was to end. **Continued on Page 7**

**Market cheers ceasefire**

**Sensex zooms 2,946 pts**

**MUMBAI:** Indian stock markets extended their rally for the fifth straight session, with both the Nifty and the Sensex posting strong gains. The positive momentum came amid easing global tensions and steady domestic policy signals. The Nifty closed 3.78 per cent higher, gaining 873.70 points to end at 23,997.35. Meanwhile, the Sensex surged 3.95 per cent, rising 2,946.32 points to settle at 77,562.90. **Continued on Page 7**

**India welcomes US-Iran truce**

**NEW DELHI:** India on Wednesday welcomed the temporary ceasefire between the United States and Iran announced by both sides and expressed hope in unimpeded freedom of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz. "We welcome the ceasefire reached and hope that it will lead to a lasting peace in West Asia. As we have continuously advocated earlier, deescalation, dialogue and diplomacy are essential to bring an early end to the ongoing conflict," the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement.



**US V-P Vance, Ghalibaf to lead US-Iran talks**

WASHINGTON/TEHRAN

UNITED STATES Vice President JD Vance and Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf have been chosen to lead their countries' delegations in the peace negotiations in Islamabad on Friday, the Iranian semi-official news agency ISNA reported on Wednesday. The report also claimed that Iran's 10-point peace proposal framework, which US President Donald Trump previously claimed to be a "workable basis on which to negotiate," entails both Tehran's nuclear program and regional security, as well as lifting primary and secondary sanctions from Iran. Meanwhile, Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said earlier that he had invited the American and Iranian delegations to hold talks in Islamabad this Friday, after they reached a two-week ceasefire agreement. **Cont'd on Page 7**

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**Cabinet clears 12% hike in fertiliser subsidy**

**NEW DELHI:** The Union government on Wednesday approved 12 per cent hike in subsidy for Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilisers for Kharif 2026 season to Rs 41,534 crore in order to insulate farmers from rising global prices amid the West Asia conflict. The subsidy for P&K fertilisers for Kharif 2025 season was Rs 37,216 crore. The decision, taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, fixed subsidy rates effective April 1 to September 30, 2026. For Kharif 2026, the government has set subsidy for nitrogen at Rs 47.32 per kg (up from Rs 43.02 per kg in rabi 2025-26), phosphate at Rs 52.76 per kg against Rs 47.96 per kg, and sulphur at Rs 3.16 per kg against Rs 2.87 per kg. The potash subsidy has been held steady at Rs 2.38 per kg. Subsidy is extended across 28 grades of P&K fertilisers under the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) scheme, in force since April 2010.

**HMDA looks to focus on completing infra projects**

Mobilises Rs 3,278 cr from its first tranche of bonds



HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

THE Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA), which used to play a key role in the development of the city by funding projects, is now seeking substantial funds to take up massive projects proposed by the state government. The HMDA has mobilised Rs 3,278 crore via bonds from its planned first tranche of Rs 4,999.87 crore (including green shoe option)

The HMDA has maintained a strong financial position with diversified revenue streams, including development charges, building regularisation schemes, land auctions, and Outer Ring Road (ORR) Toll Operate Transfer (TOT) receipts. The HMDA has consistently generated revenue surplus with low debt and maintained a stable credit rating. However, in view of several upcoming big projects, the authority has chosen to focus on raising funds through bonds for completing infrastructure projects.

The HMDA is offering 5 to 8 per cent interest to purchasers of bonds. The authority has the eligibility to raise Rs 19,999.99 crore through multiple tranches of bonds by virtue of its AA rating, with Rs 3,278 crore mobilised in the first tranche recently. It will raise the remaining amount in tranches if required. **Continued on Page 7**



**All set for polls in Assam, Kerala, Puducherry**

**NEW DELHI:** Campaigning ended in Kerala, Assam and Puducherry, with voting set on Thursday for 296 seats. Officials received EVMs and other materials ahead of voting. Tamil Nadu votes on April 23, West Bengal on April 23 and 29 in two phases.

Polling will cover 140 seats in Kerala, 126 in Assam and 30 in Puducherry, with counting scheduled for May 4. A total of 1,849 candidates are in the fray, with key contests shaped by sharp political exchanges, development narratives and leadership face-offs.

In Kerala, the fight is primarily between the CPI(M)-led LDF, Congress-led UDF and BJP-led NDA, with top leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan leading campaigns. **Continued on Page 7**

**NADERGUL LANDS**

**Quick on feet, Ponguleti skewers Harish for hurling flimsy charges**

- ▶ Revenue Minister targets Harish Rao
- ▶ Says 'no share, no allegations'
- ▶ Flays KCR and KTR
- ▶ Nadergul row escalates
- ▶ Blames BRS regime

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD



Minister for Information and Public Relations and Revenue Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, along with Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar, addresses the media at the Secretariat on Wednesday

REVENUE, Housing, and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy on Wednesday alleged that former minister and BRS leader T Harish Rao is levelling allegations against him and other ministers because he did not receive any share in the Nadergul lands.

Addressing a press conference at the Secretariat, along with Ministers Ponnamp Prabhakar, Seethakka and several MLAs and MPs, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy termed BRS chief K. Chandrashekar Rao as "Shakuni", T. Harish Rao as "Abaddhalarao", and BRS working president KT Rama Rao as "Dramarao", accusing

them of attempting to malign the Congress government with false claims. He alleged that the opposition leaders were trying to deflect attention from alleged corruption during their decade-long rule from 2014 to 2023.

Referring to the Nadergul land issue, Ponguleti stated that the land in Survey No. 613, measuring over 373 acres, had been under litigation for years, and that key transactions, including registration in favour of private firms and subsequent mutation, were carried out during the BRS regime in 2014 and 2016. He questioned the

opposition's attempt to link the current government to decisions taken during their tenure.

The Minister asserted that it was the present government that filed a counter-affidavit in the Supreme Court in 2026, claiming the land as government property and opposing its conversion. "We are fighting to reclaim government land, while they are spreading misinformation," he said. On the Vattinagulapally issue, Ponguleti described it as a private family dispute with no connection to the government. **Continued on Page 7**

**ISRO sets 3 uncrewed missions ahead of Gaganyaan**

HANS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU

INDIAN Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman V Narayanan on Wednesday said that three uncrewed missions are scheduled before the India's first human space venture Gaganyaan.

Talking to reporters after the inaugural session of the International Conference on Spacecraft Mission Operations, Narayanan said: "Based on the guidelines, direction and the announcement made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we are working on the Gaganyaan programme." "Before going

for the crewed mission, three uncrewed missions are targeted. So right now, we are working on the first uncrewed mission. All activities are going on well," he added.

The space agency chief further said that the time frame and everything else about the missions will be announced at an appropriate time. Underlining the importance of Spacecraft Mission Operations, Narayanan said, "Mission operation is an important activity in any space mission. The launch vehicle has to work for hardly 20-25 minutes. This mission operation activity has to continue for a long



time. When we talk about a communication satellite with a 15-year operation, continuously, this operation has to be done."

Narayanan also cited the example of the Mars Orbiter

mission. "For example, our Mars Orbiter mission, almost 300 days, this operation had to be done to make the mission successful," he said.

He highlighted that in human spaceflight missions,

too, the mission operations are very critical, like any other important mission. Elaborating on the challenges, he said: "Challenges mean it is the first time you are going to accomplish this

mission. We have to do the human rating of the launch vehicle. Then a lot of new developments, including crew escape system, environmental control safety system, interfacing the human being along with the machine and software (are to be done).

About the event, the ISRO chief said: "Here the entire discussion is going to be on the mission operations, including all the new technologies. Around 400 papers are going to be presented and discussed. It will be highly useful for the students, start-up companies and also the engineers who are working in this area."

**India withdraws bid to host climate summit**

**NEW DELHI:** India has withdrawn its offer to host the United Nations annual climate Conference Of the Parties (COP33) in 2028, sources said on Wednesday. During his address at COP28 in Dubai in 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had proposed India as the host country for COP33. Sources informed that the decision has been officially communicated to the concerned that India is withdrawing its bid to host COP33. There was no response from the Environment Ministry on the development. A questionnaire sent to the COP headquarters in Bonn also did not elicit a response.

**IRREGULAR by MANJUL**  
  
 Polls will be fear-free, violence-free, intimidation-free... shall I also add voter-free?

# Hello SIR...! AIMIM gets cracking, sets up help desk to clear air among voters

**MALKAJGIRI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
BOWENPALLY CIRCLE-03  
NOTICE FOR OBTAINING QUOTATIONS  
NIT No. 01/DB/EE-II/Bowenpally Circle/MMC/2026-27, Dt. 07.04.2026

Sl. No.	NIT No & Date	Description	Unit Qty
1	NIT No. 01/DB/EE-II/Bowenpally Circle/MMC/2026-27, Dt. 07.04.2026.	Manufacture, supply, delivery and fixing of Divider Block including cost and conveyance of all materials labour charges etc., complete. (using M20 grade and 12mm dia reinforcement)	Each 1

Note: (i) Sealed Quotations should be submitted on or before 16/04/2026 to the Office of Executive Engineer - II, Bowenpally Circle-03, MMC on the letter head of firm/agency  
(ii) GST will be 18% extra on the quoted rate  
(iii) GST No. should be mentioned on the letter pad  
Sd/- Executive Engineer - II Bowenpally Circle-03, MMC  
DIPR R.O.No. 330-PP/CL/ADVT/2026-27, Dt: 08.04.2026

**OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL PARKAL HANUMAKONDA DISTRICT**  
E-Procurement Tender Notice  
File No. E1/51/MCP/2026 Dt. 07.04.2026

1. Abstract of works for Quotation Notice:  
Sl.No Name of the Work 1 Purchase of Bleaching and Lime Powder to Sanitation Section of Parkal Municipality 2 Purchase of Hand Pump Material to Parkal Municipality 3 Insurance Renewal of 10 No of Vehicles in Parkal Municipality  
Details Last Date to Receive Quotations 3.00 PM on Dated. 18.04.2026 (Quotations Opening at 3.40 PM same day)

2. Tender Notice for E-Procurement:  
03 No of Works under Nagaravivruddi Grants with a total Estimated cost of Rs. 1500.00 Lakhs 1<sup>st</sup> Call 03 No of Works Under loading of bids starts from 09.04.2026 from 11.00 am Down loading of bids closes at 16.04.2026 up to 11.00 am Opening of bids date and time 16.04.2026 up to 11.10 am  
Further Details about e procurement works can be seen @procurement market place [www.tender.telangana.gov.in](http://www.tender.telangana.gov.in) (Ph.No. 9347945697).  
The commissioner reserved the rights to cancel the tender without any reason,  
Sd/-Commissioner Municipal Council Parkal,  
DIPR.R.O. No. : 305-PP/CL/ADVT/2026-27 Dt: 08-04-26

**SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
Follow us on @SCRRailwayIndia Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website : [www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in)

E-Auction Notice No. Y/C. e-Auction/HYB/2026-27 Dt. 07.04.2026

For and on behalf of the President of India, The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Hyderabad Division, South Central Railway invites E-Auction through E-Auction leasing module of IREPS website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for Awarding of Commercial Publicity contracts of Mobile Assets and Misc. Static Service, Parking, Pay & Use Toilets, RDN and Out of Home Category over Hyderabad Division. The E-Auction schedule is detailed hereunder.

**S.No 1 Category Pay & Use Toilets Catalogue No PnU-HYB-KCG-Toi-1-25-1 (Pay & Use Toilets) Particulars Award of Pay & Use Toilets on P.No.1 at Kacheguda Railway Station over Hyderabad Division Date of Auction 15.04.26 Auction Start time 11:30 Auction closing time 12:00**

**S.No 2 Category MSS-HYB-STDP-EVC-117-26-1 (Misc-Static-Services- EV charging stations) Catalogue No HYB-Mixed-NFR Particulars EV charging facility at Hyderabad Bhavan Date of Auction 15.04.26 Auction Start time 11:15 Auction closing time 11:45**

**S.No 3 Category MSS-HYB-UR-STGen-121-26-1 (Misc-Static-Services-Static General) Catalogue No HYB-Mixed-NFR Particulars Operations and Maintenance of Food truck at Umdanagar Railway Station Date of Auction 15.04.26 Auction Start time 11:25 Auction closing time 11:55**

**S.No 4 Category ADVT-INT-202068-2-25-1 (Advertising Train Interior, Full Face) Catalogue No HYB-Mixed-NFR Particulars Exterior of Train No. 12789/12790 Kacheguda-Murdeswar-Kacheguda and 22715/22716 Kacheguda-Madurai-Kacheguda Express Date of Auction 23.04.26 Auction Start time 11:00 Auction closing time 11:30**

**S.No 5 Category ADVT-HYB-SFX-OH-124-25-1 (Advertising Out of Home) Catalogue No HYB-Mixed-NFR Particulars Advertising Rights under out of Home category at Saifiguda, Dayanand Nagar, Ramakrishnapuram Railway Station Date of Auction 23.04.26 Auction Start time 11:10 Auction closing time 11:40**

**S.No 6 Category MSS-HYB-KMC-STGen -107-25-1 (Misc-Static-Services -Static General) Catalogue No HYB-Mixed-NFR Particulars Operation and Maintenance of Food Truck at Kamareddi Railway Station Date of Auction 23.04.26 Auction Start time 11:20 Auction closing time 11:50**

**S.No 7 Category MSS-HYB-MXT-PS-120-26-1 (Misc-Static-Services-Premium Stores) Catalogue No HYB-Mixed-NFR Particulars Premium Outlet at Malakpet Railway Station Date of Auction 23.04.26 Auction Start time 11:30 Auction closing time 12:00**

**S.No 8 Category PMBJK-HYB-KCG-PMBJK-2-24-1 (PMBJK Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras) Catalogue No HYB-Mixed-NFR Particulars Allotment operation and maintenance of PMBJK at Kacheguda Railway Station Date of Auction 23.04.26 Auction Start time 12:00 Auction closing time 13:30**

**S.No 9 Category PMBJK-HYB-MBNR-PMBJK-3-25-1 (PMBJK Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras) Catalogue No H Y B - M i x e d - N F R Particulars Allotment operation and maintenance of PMBJK at Mahbubnagar Railway Station Date of Auction 23.04.26 Auction Start time 12:10 Auction closing time 12:40**

A041 Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Hyderabad

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA**  
REVENUE DIVISIONAL OFFICE: NARAYANPET  
No. F/2218/2020 Dated: 06.04.2026

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Announcement of Award for Acquisition of Land for widening, strengthening, for construction of National Highway from KM 181.200 to KM 283.000 of Jachcherla-Deosugur section of NH 167 in Narayanpet district for Land owners/persons interested therein and payment of Compensation Amount Kind attention of all landowners/ interested persons is invited to the Notification No. 0.630(E) dated. 10.02.2021 issued under Section 3A(1) of the NH Act, 1956 for acquisition of land for the widening, strengthening, construction of National Highway from KM 181.200 to KM 283.000 of Deosugur - Jachcherla section of NH 167 in Narayanpet district and the Notification No. S.O. 185 (E) dated.13.01.2022 issued under Section 3 D(1) of the NH Act, 1956 and published in the following newspapers:

Sl.No.	Notification	Place / Name of newspapers in which published	Date of news paper
1	Section 3A(1)	Namaste Telangana (Telugu Daily), The Hans India (English Daily)	23.02.2021
2	Section 3D	Published at site and local offices	13.01.2022
3	First Public Notice	Namaste Telangana (Telugu Daily), The Hans India (English Daily)	04.02.2026

It is informed that the undersigned has announced the Award in respect of the said land pertaining to Pedda Chintla Kunta, Teelar, Marikal, Yeligandla of Marikal Mandal, Yaminipally Village of Dhanwada Mandal, Gudigandla, Jowlapur, Jaklari, Tekulapally, Kachwar, Bondakunta, KamathNarva, KamathPulamid, Makthal, Chandapur, Dasardoodi, Thirimalapur of Makthal Mandal Maganoor village of Maganoor Mandal and Gudebellur Village of Krishna Mandal under Section 3G of the NH Act, 1956 vide Award order Nos. F/2218/2020

The land acquiring agency, National Highways Authority has placed the requisite amount of compensation at the disposal of the undersigned. Notices have also been issued to the concerned landowners/ interested persons as required under Section 3 E of the NH Act, 1956.

Accordingly, all the concerned landowners/ interested persons are hereby informed/notified through this Additional Public Notice that the Compensation amount is here by to all land owners. Further it may be noted that.

The compensation amount in respect of all such land owners who have already submitted their Bank account details, is being credited to their respective bank accounts through RTGS.

The land Owners who have not submitted their Bank accounts details may do so immediately in the office of the under signed and the amount shall be credited to their accounts with in one week of the receipt of such Bank account details.

All other claimants entitled to receive the compensation amount may collect their amount of compensation from the office of the undersigned on any working day between 10.30 am to 05.00 pm with in a period of 60 days. It may further be noted that since the amount of compensation has been determined and tendered to the concerned land owners / persons interested there in through this additional public notice any failure to collect the compensation amount would be to their account and the amount shall be deemed to have been paid on expiry of this period of sixty days from the date of publication of this notice.

The land owners/persons interested therein are further called upon to surrender or deliver the possession of the subject land to the under signed, failing which the possession of the subject land will be taken with police assistance on expiry of the period of Sixty (60) days.

Sd/-  
Competent Authority for Land Acquisition & Revenue Divisional Officer, Narayanpet

## PUBLIC CAUTION NOTICE

The public at large are hereby informed that my client Mr. H. Shivaram Ranjith, S/o. late Naganna, holds rights as mortgagee over land admeasuring Ac. 5-00 in Sy.No.172/18, situated at Hydernagar Village, Malkajgiri District, by virtue of a Reg. Mortgage Deed, executed by Mr. G.K. Narasimha Rao.

Hence, public are hereby put under notice and are hereby cautioned not to deal with the above property in any manner whatsoever. Any such dealings shall be at their own risk and cost and my client is not bound by it in whatever manner. Hence this caution notice.

**SUDARSHAN MALUGARI**  
LL.B., B.Ed., LL.M.  
ADVOCATE High Court of Telangana #2-2-90/30/2, Hari Hara Nivas, Turab Nagar, Bagh Amberpet, Hyderabad, Telangana-500013. Email : mlf1916@gmail.com Ph : 98480 39035 / 99486 63948

**SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
Follow us on @SCRRailwayIndia Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website : [www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in)

## Tender Notice

**Sr. DME/Co-ord/SC** acting for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tender for the below mentioned work up to 11.00 hrs of 30.04.2026.

**Tender No and Date SC/CM.186. C&W.HighPressureJetSC Dated: 06.04.2026 Name of the Work Supply, Installation and Commissioning of High Pressure Jet Cleaning System at WS 2&5 at Washing Siding of Secunderabad Coaching Depot Estimated Value of the Tender Rs. 40,02,088.00/- EMD Value Rs. 80,100.00/- Tender Type OPEN TENDER Completion of the work Six months + Warranty period of 2 years Last date of submission of bids 30.04.2026 by 11.00 hrs**

The Tenderers should participate through e-tendering only and no manual offers may be considered. The Tender conditions/other details, Tender document, Corrigendum are available on the IREPS website <https://www.ireps.gov.in> The Tender notice is also displayed in the Notice board located in the office of the Sr. DME/Co-ord/SC, which can be seen on all working days.

**Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer /Co-Ord/Secunderabad**

On behalf of the President of India, The Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer/RYPS, South Central Railway, Wagon Workshop, Guntupalli -521 241 invites e-tender.

**Tender No. M249-WHEEL-06-D107-04-26 Description Dismantling of Bearing, Stripping, cleaning & transportation to nominated area along with other activities in Wheel shop at the premises of Wagon workshop, Guntupalli for a period of 24 months. Quantity As mentioned in Tender Document Period of Completion 24 Months. Tender Value Rs. 2,57,58,629.67/- (Rupees Two crore Fifty seven lakh Fifty eight thousand Six hundred twenty nine and Paise Sixty seven only). EMD Rs. 5,15,200/- (Rupees Five lakh fifteen thousand and Two hundred only). Cost of Tender document Free of Cost Offer Validity 60 Days from the date of opening. Type of tender Works Tender governed by IRGCC-2022. System of Tendering Open Tender - Single Packet. Time & Date of Tender closing 15-00 Hrs. of Dt. 01.05.2026 Tender document and Corrigendum. Visit website "http://www.ireps.gov.in. Postal Address for correspondence Chief Workshop Manager, Wagon Workshop, Guntupalli-521241, Andhra Pradesh**

**Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer, Wagon Workshop/ Guntupalli**

**Tender Notice No: 01-Mech-LHB-AC-TPTY-26-27 Dated 07.04.2026**

**Dy.CME/CRS/TPTY** acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No. 01\_2026-27\_Sr.DEE\_TRD\_HYB, dt: 07.04.2026, Closing date: 30.04.2026, 15:00 hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

**SI. No 1 Description of work 01-Mech-LHB-AC-TPTY-26-27 Dated 07.04.2026 "Stripping, Re-cushioning and Fitment of Seats and Berths of LHB coaches at Carriage Repair Shop, Tirupati" Approx. Cost (In Rs.) Rs. 1,31,03,895/- Bid Security (In Rs.) 2,62,100/ Period of completion 24 months from the date of commencement of work Date of Closing 28.04.2026 at 11.00 Hrs.**

**Website particulars www.ireps.gov.in**

**Notice Board Location where complete details of tender can be seen: Office of the chief workshop manager, Carriage Repair Shop, Tirupati**

For further Tender Conditions/ details (available in the tender documents) and for downloading of Tender Documents, Corrigendum, please visit our website <https://www.ireps.gov.in>.

**Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer, Carriage Repair Shop, Tirupati**

**No. GNT/GS/W.496/Tenders/GS/GNT Dt. 31.03.2026.**

**E-Tender Notice No. 47 - Dy.CE/GS/GNT**

The undersigned invites e-tenders for the work mentioned below up to 15:00 hrs on 29.04.2026.

**S No 1 Tender ID 87 Section Dy.CE/GS/GNT Description of the work Guntur Division: Proposed Geotechnical Investigation and preparation of design for Construction of Road Over Bridges under Jurisdiction of DyCE-GS-GNT. Submission of Detailed Design of Foundation, Sub-Structure & Superstructure, casting and testing of test piles etc. for ROBs under DyCE-GS-GNT Jurisdiction. Approx Value In Rs. 3,15,15,528.96 EMD Rs. 6,30,300.00**

1. Last date for online submission of E-bids is up to 15:00 hrs on 29.04.2026. For detailed information logon to website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) 2. Any further Communication/Corrigendum shall be intimated through E-portal [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

**Dy. Chief Engineer, Gati Shakti, Guntur**

**Tender No. 01\_2026-27\_Sr.DEE\_TRD\_HYB, dt: 07.04.2026**

**Sr.DEE/TRD/HYB** acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No. 01\_2026-27\_Sr.DEE\_TRD\_HYB, dt: 07.04.2026, Closing date: 30.04.2026, 15:00 hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

**SI. No. 1 Description of work Hyderabad Division-Provision of stabilizing lines at Lalaguda halt station - Electrical TRD arrangements. Tender Advertised Cost (₹) Rs.3,44,72,980.50/- EMD (₹) Rs. 6,89,500.00/- Completion period 12 Months Date of Closing 30.04.2026**

**Website particulars www.ireps.gov.in**

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

**Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, Traction Distribution, Hyderabad**

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at <https://www.ireps.gov.in> or [www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in)

- Help desks in seven constituencies
- Central Desk at Darussalam
- Focus on voter verification
- Trained staff to assist public
- Push to prevent name deletions
- Family mapping emphasised
- Outreach in religious places

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

TO avoid misconceptions on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise and to avoid panic among the citizens, All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), the sole political party stepped up and has initiated an educational effort for voters by establishing a SIR help desk.

AIMIM leaders have appealed to citizens to take the SIR process seriously and complete their voter mapping without delay.

In view of the upcoming SIR of electoral rolls in Hyderabad and other districts of Telangana, AIMIM has advised voters to gear up for the exercise. The party has been assisting the voters with voter list verification, registration and corrections. In the help desk established by the party, the party leaders, along with the officers, are explaining the process of the exercise, they are advising the citizens to search for their or their relatives' names in the 2002 SIR list.

A physical help desks have been set up in each area by the party under the guidance of area MLA. Moreover, to assist the voters with verification, registration, and corrections, the leaders are conducting door-to-door campaigns. These



AIMIM leaders launch an SIR help desk in Hyderabad to educate and assist voters

help desks were set up in all seven constituencies - Chandrayangutta, Charminar, Yakutpura, Bahadurpura, Malakpet, Karwan and Nampally.

A central help desk was also launched at the party headquarters at Darussalam by Asaduddin Owaisi to assist the public in verifying, correcting and updating voter details.

In Charminar, the MLA Mir Zulfeqar Ali, who inspected the help desk in Shalibanda on Wednesday, said that the help desk is intended to help the public verify, correct and update their details in the voter list.

He urged the people to confirm their inclusion in the electoral rolls. "The help desk is providing guidance and support to ensure the accurate information about the voter or a family, allowing citizens to confirm their names or a family tree in the electoral rolls," said Zulfeqar Ali.

The MLA said that trained representatives are available to assist



individuals during the process. Zulfeqar Ali said, "All voters are encouraged to make use of this facility and ensure that their details are correct in the rolls."

The party Corporators, MLAs and local leaders are creating awareness campaigns at the ground level to prevent any voter from missing the process.

Yakutpura MLA Jaffar Hussain Meraj said the campaign's primary goal is to ensure every eligible voter is mapped and prevent deletion of

genuine names. The MLA urged the residents that when the party's volunteers visit a household, along with BLO, they should give priority to meet the senior-most head of the family. This will help in mapping the entire family tree."

Furthermore, SIR help desk was also set up at Masjid-e-Mohammedia, Red Hills, to assist the Bohra community also in Masjid Khair-UL-Anaam, Kamalapur Colony Phase 2, and various other religious places across the city.

## NIA notice sparks political row in Khammam

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD/KHAMMAM

FORMER MLA Gummadam Narsaiah and Potu Rangarao, Telangana State Secretary of the CPI ML Praja Pantha, have strongly condemned the issuance of notices by the National Investigation Agency against Rangarao.

Speaking at a press conference at the party office in Khammam, Narsaiah asserted that their activities consist solely of open public movements and that they have never engaged in anti-social acts. He questioned how a case of seditious conspiracy could be filed against Rangarao and criticised the authorities for allegedly suppressing voices working for public welfare. Narsaiah cited the labeling of Rahul Gandhi as an Urban Naxal and warned that democracy is under threat due to false cases filed against activists, journalists, and intellectuals.

Highlighting previous legal victories, Narsaiah noted that all prior cases related to Podu lands and public movements had been quashed. He accused the government of using the UAPA and Sedition Act to stifle dissent and silence their party. He affirmed that the CPI ML would confront the cases both legally and through public protests while continuing its work for people's rights.

Narsaiah stated they would cooperate fully with the NIA investigation while continuing their struggle. This notice is viewed by the leadership as an attack on constitutional freedoms and the right to protest. The party remains committed to its ideology and intends to mobilise public support against what it describes as the misuse of central agencies for political ends across the state.

Whereas the following notifications were issued and published in the Gazettes for the acquisition of land under Extension of Metro Rail Project, Hyderabad Airport Metro Limited, Phase-II, from MGSB to Chandrayangutta, Corridor-VI, situated at Share-E- Hyderabad Village, Bahadurpura Mandal of Hyderabad District for the Public purpose.

In response to the said Notifications the following affected person (Property owners and others) have come forward to settle their claims through Negotiations.

The details of the willing affected persons/ Land Owners are as follows.

S. No.	NOTIFICATION No. & DATE	GAZETTE No. & DATE
1	C6/162/2024-LHS (226 to 250)	PN: HAML No.18, Dated: 02-11-2024 DD: HAML No.55, Dated: 24-03-2025

It is hereby notified calling for claims and objections if any, to be filed before the District Collector, Hyderabad District/ Special Deputy Collector, LA, HAML, Rasoolpura, Hyderabad within the Seven days of publication of this Notification.

Sd/-  
Special Deputy Collector, LA, HAML, Rasoolpura, Hyderabad.

DIPR No. 26/LA-PP/Advt/Agency/2026-27

**GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
Office of the Deputy Director, Veterinary Section, Charminar Zone, GHMC. Mail: [ddcharminar.ghmc@gmail.com](mailto:ddcharminar.ghmc@gmail.com) Cell No. 7207923086

Sl. No.	NIT No.	Name of the work	Estimated Cost	Date & Time
1	NIT No.01/ VET /CRZ/GHMC/2026	Lifting and proper disposal of dead animals	Rs. 31,12,868/-	09-04-2026@ 12:30 P.M to 20.04.2026 up to 3:30P.M

Further details can be seen at [www.tender.telangana.gov.in](http://www.tender.telangana.gov.in)  
Sd/- Deputy Director, Veterinary Section, Charminar Zone, GHMC.  
DIPR R.O.No. 344-PP/CL/ADVT/2026-27, Dt: 08.04.2026

**CYBERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
PATANCHERU CIRCLE-46, SERILINGAMPALLY ZONE  
SHORT TENDER NOTICE No. ENGG-01/CMC/PTC-C-46/2026-27, DATED: 07-04-2026

NIT No.	Name of Work	Estimate Download Amount/ Start Date	Last Date and Time for Receipt of Bids	Name & Address of E.E.
Engg-01/ CMC/PTC-C-46/2026-27	2 Nos. CC Roads 2 Nos. SWG Pipe line 2 Nos. Maintenance of Water supply pipe lines 1 No. Pathway 1 No. Development of Median	Rs.256.00 Lakhs	09-04-2026 10.30 A.M	16-04-2026 3.00 P.M.

Executive Engineer, Patancheru Circle-22 Phone No. 9121243864  
Further Details can be seen at a procurement @ <https://www.tender.telangana.gov.in>, Patancheru Circle-46  
Sd/- Executive Engineer Patancheru Circle-46 Sip Zone, CMC  
DIPR R.O.No.313-PP/CL/ADVT/2026-27, Dt: 08.04.2026

**Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority**  
4th Floor Swarnajayanti Commercial Complex, Ameerpet, Hyderabad.

Public Notification U/s. 15 (3) of HMDA Act. 2008  
(Government Memo. No. 15790/Plg.I(1)/2025 Dated: 25.03.2025.)

In exercise of the powers conferred by Sub-Section (1) of Section 15 of HMDA Act 2008 (Act No.8 of 2008), it is proposed to make the following draft variation to the land use envisaged as per the notified Erstwhile HUDA Area Master Plan in Ramchandrapuram zone segment approved by the Government vide G.O Ms.No.288 MA, dt:03.04.2008.

The site in Sy. No. 124/18(P) situated at Gopannally (V), Serilingampally (M), Rangareddy (D) for an extent of 21268.68 Sq.mtrs or Ac. 5.255, which is presently earmarked for Residential use zone as per the notified Erstwhile HUDA Area Master Plan in Ramchandrapuram zone segment approved by the Government vide G.O.Ms.No.288 MA, dt: 03.04.2008, is now proposed to be designated as Commercial use zone.

The details of the above are available in Web sites <http://gazette.telangana.gov.in/> and <http://hmda.gov.in/>.  
Objections/Suggestions would be considered from any person or body to the said proposals. They can submit objections/suggestions in writing either to the M.C. HMDA or to the Principal Secretary, MA & UD Dept., Telangana Secretariat, Hyderabad within Fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this Notice.  
Sd/- Director Planning-I, HMDA  
D.I.P.R. R.O. No. : 362-PP/CL/ADVT/2026-27 Date: 08-04-2026

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
RE: DISCLAIMER OF ASSOCIATION BY SRI ALLURI PADMANABHA PRASADA RAO  
Notice is hereby given to the public at large by the undersigned Advocate, acting under instructions from any other relationship, connection, association or business arrangement, whether direct or indirect, between our Client and any of the above-mentioned entities. Our Client hereby categorically denies any such connection or relationship, whether directly or indirectly, with any of the above-listed companies or their operations, management, or business affairs.

The general public is further informed that our Client was a partner with M/s. Kakateya Auto Lines, having its office at Door No.10-2-317/1st Floor, Near Ravindra Bharathi School, Malappally, Hyderabad 500057. Due to financial disturbances, our Client has dissolved his partnership in M/s. Kakateya Auto Lines, upon which all the debtors of the said company have approached the above said companies, in which our Client does not have any partnership or any ownership.

It is specifically made clear that any person or party dealing with Kakateya Auto Lines, SS Chakruri Finance, or Mani Finance Company, or with Padma Sai Holdings Pvt. Ltd., SM Square Credit Services Pvt Ltd or any of the above-mentioned entities, does so at his/her own risk and peril. Our Client does not have any relationship with the above said companies and shall not, in any manner whatsoever, be responsible or liable for any transactions, representations, commitments, assurances, loans, deposits, advances or dealings of any nature whatsoever, if any, undertaken by or with any of them.

For abundant caution, it is hereby further clarified that:

• There is and shall be no partnership, joint venture, agency, employment, guarantorship, suretyship from any other relationship, connection, association or business arrangement, whether direct or indirect, between our Client and any of the above-mentioned entities.



RV Karnan, Principal Census Officer and Commissioner, conducts a high-level review meeting at the GHMC head office in Hyderabad on Wednesday

## GHMC sets April 10 deadline for census preparations

- Focus on data accuracy
- Blocks to be scientifically defined
- 60 circles covered
- CMMS updates mandatory
- Enumerators to be appointed
- Training from April 18
- Online self-enumeration planned

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

IN a bid to streamline upcoming census operations, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation has set strict deadlines for preparatory work with a clear focus on accuracy and timely execution across all circles. A high-level review meeting was held on April 8 at the GHMC Head Office under the leadership of RV Karnan, Principal Census Officer and Commissioner.

The meeting was attended by Additional Commissioner Chandrakala along with Zonal Commissioners and Charge Census Officers from sixty circles including Cyberabad, Malkajgiri, and the Secunderabad Cantonment Board. Officials were directed to strictly adhere to guidelines in the creation of House Listing Blocks, ensuring they are scientifically defined based on household numbers. Special emphasis was laid on not merging slum areas with non-slum regions to maintain data accuracy.

The Commissioner set April 10, 2026, as the deadline for finalising and freezing these blocks with mandatory updates on the CMMS portal. Officials were also instructed to expedite the appointment of enumerators and supervisors in time for training programmes scheduled from April 18 to May 5 at the circle level. In addition, a self-enumeration process for households will be conducted online from April 26 to May 9, marking a significant step towards digital

## TG issues notification for Census 2027

Self enumeration from April 26 to May 10

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

THE state government has issued a notification regarding the Census of India 2027 stating that the upcoming census will be conducted digitally.

Residents have the option of self-enumeration from April 26 to May 10. During this time, households may submit their details digitally before field officers begin house visits.

The preliminary phase of the census, that is, data collection from households, will begin in Telangana on May 11 and continue till June 9, according to the notification.

Citizens are legally bound to answer the questions of their local census officers to the best of their knowledge or belief. However, individuals are not required to disclose the names of female household members unless necessary, nor is any woman required to mention the name of a person whom custom forbids her from naming, the notification clarified. Household members cannot restrict

officers from accessing their house for data collection purposes and placing visual markers necessary for the census.

The notification also mentioned violations of the census process that may be punishable by fines and imprisonment. Census officers or authorised personnel who refuse, neglect or fail to perform their duties can face strict action. Individuals face penalties for actions, including intentionally providing false information or refusing to answer a census officer's questions, denying an officer reasonable access to a home, removing, damaging or altering official census markers at their residence, failing to complete the required census forms and trespassing in a census office.

These violations are punishable by a fine of Rs 1,000 and, in case of conviction, the penalty includes imprisonment for up to three years. Separately, whoever abets any offence would be punishable with a fine of up to Rs 1,000, according to the notification.



integration.

The meeting underscored the importance of coordinated efforts and strict adherence to timelines to ensure a smooth and error-free

census process across the GHMC limits. This renewed focus on accountability is intended to modernise the data collection framework within the metropolitan region.

# Pitch in as partners in devpt with CSR funds: Revanth to corporates

Govt sets framework to channel CSR funds into priority sectors

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

CHIEF Minister A Revanth Reddy emphasised that contributions made towards social development by corporate companies should be considered as a subscription of partners and not merely as expenditure in the development of the state or the well-being of the people.

At a meeting regarding Corporate Social Responsibility funds with representatives of various companies on Wednesday, the Chief Minister stressed that spending under CSR initiatives must yield one hundred per cent positive results.

He explained that the government has accorded top priority to education, healthcare, and water resource conservation. Revanth Reddy suggested that companies choose sectors on their own to utilise these funds.

He noted that students will possess the skills to grab global opportunities if the government and companies spend money combined. He further stated that



Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy speaking at a meeting with representatives of various companies on Corporate Social Responsibility funds in Hyderabad on Wednesday

the government considers expenditure on education as an investment in future generations. He pointed out that 44 per cent of the state student population resides within Hyderabad city alone and asserted that the responsibility of providing them with quality education rests upon all stakeholders. Since companies utilise local infrastructure available in a region, the Chief Minister said management should allocate a significant portion of their CSR funds toward the devel-

opment of that same region.

In view of the lack of a proper mechanism for the utilisation of such funds, the Chief Minister said the government has already appointed a Special Chief Secretary specifically for this purpose. Company representatives were requested to coordinate with the official to utilise their funds for any area of interest, such as education, healthcare, water resources, skill development, preservation of heritage structures, or forest conser-

vation.

The Chief Minister praised Raheja Group, Ramky Group, and Yashoda Foundation for already coming forward with contributions of Rs 50 crore, Rs 50 crore, and Rs 10 crore, respectively, toward the development of the education sector. Other representatives in the meeting told the Chief Minister that no one had ever approached them regarding CSR funds before.

They appreciated Revanth Reddy for taking the

initiative and expressed their readiness to provide funds for school education, healthcare, and the conservation of heritage structures.

Shravan Kumar from the Raheja Foundation, Dakshayani Alla from the Ramky Foundation, Gorukanti Surender Rao and Gorukanti Phalgun Rao from Yashoda Hospitals, Sudha Reddy from Megha, Aparna Reddy and Kamineni Bhaskar Reddy from Apollo Hospitals, Sekhar Reddy from the Indian Green Building Council, and Pagidipati Devayya and Rudramadevi from the NA-ADAM Foundation attended the meeting.

The government intends to provide all necessary support to ensure these corporate initiatives are executed effectively. This collaborative approach aims to bridge the gap between industrial growth and social equity by ensuring that the benefits of Hyderabad's economic success are shared with the most vulnerable sections of the community through improved public services and infrastructure.



## Water Board cracks down on illegal motor use

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

IN a firm move to ensure equitable water distribution, the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board has intensified action against consumers illegally attaching motor pumps to water taps. This practice disrupts local supply and affects thousands of residents across the city. Despite extensive efforts to provide drinking water to the Greater Hyderabad region via long-distance pipeline networks, officials have identified growing in-

stances of unauthorised motor usage. This illegal activity leads to reduced pressure, depriving other consumers of their fair share. Taking swift action, vigilance officials have been conducting regular inspections. In a recent operation, seven motor pumps illegally connected to the main pipeline were seized in SRT Colony within SR Nagar.

The action followed complaints from residents, prompting inspections during active supply hours. Officials emphasised that attaching motors directly to water

lines is a punishable offence. Strict penalties are in place to deter violations, including equipment seizure and fines of up to Rs 5,000 for repeat offenders. Legal action will also be initiated where necessary.

The Water Board has urged citizens to cooperate, stressing the importance of fair distribution. Residents facing low pressure are advised to contact local officials or lodge complaints through the customer care number 155313 to ensure grievances are addressed through proper channels.

## Man lands in the soup for trolling actress Renu Desai

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

THE Cyberabad Cyber Crime Police arrested a man from Guntur for posting offensive and abusive comments on actress Renu Desai's YouTube reel.

The accused was identified as Chennaiah Runjala of Guntur, Andhra Pradesh. According to police, during his free time, Runjala frequently watched reels on YouTube. Recently, the accused watched a reel of actress Renu Desai, after watching the reel, the accused posted an abusive and offensive comment from his YouTube account.

The police said while the accused was present at Guntur, the Cyber-crime Police apprehended him and informed him of the reasons for his arrests and brought him to Cyberabad Cyber Crime Police Station. During verification, the accused produced his mobile phone through which he had posted the said comment.

Recently, actress Renu Desai has issued a strong



warning to social media users indulging in trolling and obscene comments, making it clear that such behaviour will not be tolerated. Renu emphasised that freedom of expression should not be misused to spread vulgarity or hatred.

Cyber Crime police advised the social media users to maintain responsible online behaviour and avoid posting abusive, defamatory, or offensive comments. The police said posting objectionable content on social media platforms can lead to legal action under relevant provisions of law.

Citizens are encouraged to use digital platforms responsibly and report any cyber offences to the nearest Cyber Crime Police Station or through the 1930 Cyber Helpline.

## H-FAST CRACKS DOWN ON ILLEGAL CITY SNACK MANUFACTURING UNIT

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

A major food safety violation has been uncovered in Mailardevpally, where authorities raided an illegal snack manufacturing facility operating under unhygienic conditions. The H-Fast Team conducted a surprise inspection at the premises following specific intelligence inputs about suspicious food production activities in the area.

The officials raided the unit, which was found to be manufacturing snacks marketed under the brand names 'Karachi Polo' and 'Ring Light'. The inspecting teams discovered that these food products were being prepared in extremely unhygienic conditions that posed serious risks to public health.

During the inspection, the teams observed that the manufacturing unit was operating without proper hygiene standards.

The offices revealed that low-quality and potentially harmful substances were being used in the preparation of these snacks. "The use of such toxic materials has raised major concerns among health officials about the impact on consumers, who may have already purchased these products," said an officer.

The H-Fast Team seized a large quantity of suspected unsafe food products from the manufacturing premises. The seized items are being sent for laboratory testing to determine the exact nature and extent of contamination or adulteration.

The teams are examining production records, raw materials, and finished products to file a case against the operators.

The Mailardevpally Police Station has registered a case and launched an investigation into the matter. Police said that strict action will be taken against those responsible for endangering public health.

## Over 1.4K shops in 2BHK colonies set to go under hammer from today

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

THE auction of more than 1,400 commercial shops located in double bedroom (2BHK) housing colonies under the 'CURE' initiative will commence from April 9 across districts in and around Hyderabad.

District Collectors of Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy, Medchal-Malkajgiri and Sangareddy have issued notifications for the sale of shops spread across 36 colonies. The first phase will be held on April 9 and 10 in Ranga Reddy district, covering 273 shops in eight colonies.

According to Housing Corporation Managing Director VP Gautham, the shops—ranging from 60 to 400 square feet—are being auctioned on an "as is, where condition is" basis. The upset prices have been fixed at nominal rates, significantly lower than prevailing market prices. Interested bidders can register at the respective RDO offices by 11 am on auction days after submitting the required Earnest Money Deposit (EMD).

Officials stated that the proceeds from the auctions will be used exclusively for the maintenance and development of the respective colonies. Colony Residents' Welfare Associations will be formed under the Cooperative Societies Act to manage the funds through a corpus fund and joint bank accounts.

The government aims to ensure self-sustained maintenance of colonies, covering common amenities such as lighting, lifts, and bore wells, while also promoting local employment and access to essential goods.

Subsequent auctions are scheduled in Hyderabad, Medchal-Malkajgiri and Sangareddy districts between April 15 and April 21.

# CMC in tandem with Metro Water Board pitches for STPs, lake revival

- CMC, HMWSSB joint inspection
- Focus on sewage, lake revival
- STP sites reviewed
- SNDP works inspected

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

IN a strong push towards sustainable infrastructure and water body conservation, the Cyberabad Municipal Corporation (CMC), in coordination with the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB), has intensified its focus on sewage treatment and lake rejuvenation projects through a comprehensive joint field inspection.

The Commissioner of Cyberabad Municipal Corporation, along with Managing Director of HMWSSB Ashok Reddy and senior engineering officials, inspected mul-



multiple key locations to review ongoing and proposed infrastructure works. The inspection primarily focused on strengthening sewage management systems and safeguarding water bodies across Cyberabad.

Key proposed Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) sites

at Nekkampur, Chitrapuri, Khajaguda Lake and Mushkin Cheruvu were evaluated for feasibility, planning, and timely execution.

Officials emphasised the importance of ensuring efficient sewage treatment to prevent contamination of nearby lakes and groundwa-

ter sources. The team also reviewed ongoing Strategic Nala Development Programme (SNDP) works at Pandenvaagu in Manikonda.

During the inspection, the Commissioner directed officials to accelerate work execution, adhere strictly to deadlines, and maintain high

quality standards throughout the projects. Further site visits were conducted at Mulkam Cheruvu and Khajaguda lake, where officials took stock of lake conditions and ongoing development efforts.

Special attention was given to addressing leakages at Khajaguda lake, with instructions issued for immediate corrective action. The inspection was attended by Zonal Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners and SNDP officials, highlighting a coordinated, multi-departmental approach.

The Commissioner stressed the need for close monitoring, strong inter-departmental coordination, and continuous field supervision to ensure timely completion and accountability. The initiative reflects Cyberabad's commitment to improving civic infrastructure while prioritising environmental sustainability and long term urban resilience.

# NEW COMMISSIONERATE TAKING SHAPE AT FAB CITY

DGP Shivdhar Reddy inspected the under construction police buildings and took stock of the progress

ESA BIN ABDUL REHMAN  
RANGAREDDY

IN order to take stock of the under-construction structures at the Tukku-guda Fab City area in Rangareddy district, DGP Shivdhar Reddy visited the site on Wednesday and inspected the progress of the building being constructed to house a police commissioner's office, along with other facilities.

Accompanied with Future City Police Commissioner G Sudheer Babu, the state DGP enquired about the ongoing works and the facilities being provided to make the structure fully progressive and suggested necessary changes.

It is learned that the DGP asked the concerned to ensure all necessary facilities be available in the building so as to help police personnel work comfortably besides arrangements to serve the people who will ap-



proach there to get their grievances addressed.

The DGP also instructed the engineers to speed-up the pace of the remaining works so as to complete them within the deadline and ensure the quality of the works. Later, the senior police officials also visited the sites allotted to the department by the government in Mir Khanpet area under Future City. The of-

ficials went into huddle here to discuss the master plan for the upcoming work of the Commissioner Office and the permanent structures to be constructed at the allotted sites.

It is learned that the DGP asked the engineers here to start the construction work at the earliest to ensure timely completion of the structures. They said that these structures are

meant to ensure people get better police services at these police facilities. The DGP also said that a full-fledged police service will be available soon in the Tukku-guda area where the new police buildings are being constructed. DCP Maheshwaram K. Narayana Reddy, ACP Ibrahimpatnam Raju, ACP Arun Kumar and other police officials were present at the occasion.

JAYASHANKAR BHUPALPALLY: MLA Gandra Satyanarayana Rao and District Collector Rahul Sharma expressed strong anger over the chaotic conditions prevailing at the main hospital in the district headquarters during a surprise inspection conducted

## MLA, Collector pull up officials over poor hygiene, staff negligence

on Wednesday. The leaders visited various departments of the hospital, including the casualty ward, laboratory, MRI section, and

outpatient rooms, to assess the quality of medical services being provided. During the inspection, doctors informed them that the casualty ward

had only six beds, which was causing serious inconvenience to patients, particularly during emergencies. Taking note of the issue, the MLA and the Collector directed officials of TG-MIDC to immediately prepare plans for the construction of a new casualty ward with 15 beds.

# HC clears BRS meet in Wanaparthy with rider

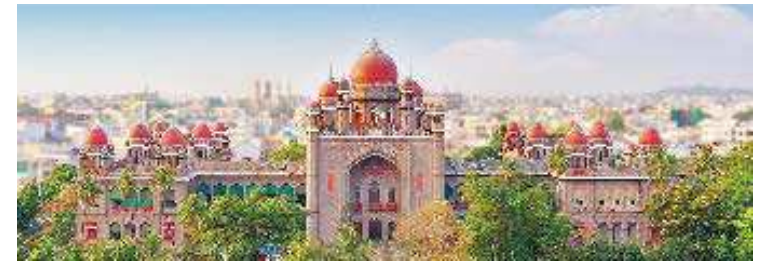
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD

THE High Court of Telangana Single Bench comprising Justice E.V. Venugopal, on Wednesday granted conditional permission to the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) party to hold a public meeting at Dharna Chowk, Gollapally Village Gate, Ravelly Mandal, Wanaparthy District, on April 9, 2026, between 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m., restricting attendance strictly to 1,000 members.

The order was passed during the hearing of a Lunch Motion Writ Petition filed by Mr. Gattu Yadav, President of the BRS party, Wanaparthy District, challenging the cancellation of permission that had been originally granted by the Sub Divisional Police Officer, Wanaparthy. The Superintendent of Police, Wanaparthy, had subsequently cancelled that permission, prompting the petitioner to approach the High Court on an urgent basis.

The Court directed the Superintendent of Police, Wanaparthy, to accord permission for the meeting, while simultaneously imposing strict conditions upon the petitioner.

The Court mandated that none of the speakers shall make provocative



speeches or slogans, or any derogatory, defamatory, or abusive remarks against any individual, and that there shall be no disturbance to law and order, peace, or public tranquillity.

The Government Pleader for Home, Mr. Mahesh Raje, apprised the Court that the Superintendent of Police had cancelled the permission on the basis of intelligence reports indicating that between 7,000 and 10,000 persons were likely to attend the meeting, a figure far exceeding the 1,000 members cited by the petitioner in his original application. The police authority had further taken note of the fact that the proposed venue falls within an area identified as being affected by Maoist activity, which constituted an additional ground for the cancellation.

Counsel for the petitioner, Mr. T.V. Ramana Rao, submitted before the Court that farmers from the vil-

lages of Thalpanoor, Revally, Yedula, Cheekapally, Chennaram, and Gollapally have been opposing the proposed construction of the Gollapally Reservoir near the Yedula Reservoir for the past one hundred days.

He submitted that the BRS party was organising the public meeting in solidarity with the aggrieved farming community on this issue.

The meeting was stated to be addressed by T. Harish Rao, Member of the Legislative Assembly from Siddipet, and S. Niranjan Reddy, a former Minister during the BRS administration.

Taking all submissions on record, the Court allowed the writ petition and directed that the meeting proceed subject to strict compliance with all conditions imposed, particularly with respect to the cap on attendance and the maintenance of law and order.

## SCR extends summer special trains

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

TO manage the surge in passenger demand during the peak summer travel season, South Central Railway has announced the extension of several special train services across multiple routes. The move aims to provide relief to passengers travelling to key destinations, particularly pilgrimage and regional hubs. According to an official release issued on Wednesday, SCR will operate additional trips connecting important locations such as Tirupati, Charlapalli, Kacheguda, Secunderabad, Kakinada Town, and Anakapalle. Several services have been scheduled between 10 April and 17 April 2026, covering both one-time and multiple-trip operations. Prominent routes include Tirupati-Akola, Kacheguda-Tiruchanur, Secunderabad-Anakapalle, and Hyderabad-Belagavi. Special trains will also run between Kakinada Town and Lingampalli on select days, offering three trips in each direction to accommodate higher passenger volumes. Additionally, services linking long-distance destinations such as Bhubaneswar, Mysuru, Pandharpur, and Jalna have been included in the extended schedule, ensuring broader connectivity across regions.

The railway authorities emphasised that these extensions are part of ongoing efforts to enhance passenger convenience and reduce overcrowding in regular trains. SCR officials stated that the initiative reflects a proactive approach to seasonal travel demand, especially during holidays and pilgrimage periods.

Passengers are advised to check train timings and availability through official railway platforms before planning their journeys. The extension of these special services is expected to significantly ease travel pressure while ensuring a smoother and more comfortable journey experience during the busy summer rush across the various divisions of South Central Railway.

## MP Kavya stresses urgent need for women's health awareness

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HANUMAKONDA

WARANGAL Member of Parliament Kadiyam Kavya stressed the urgent need for widespread awareness on women's health issues during the Safe Motherhood Day programme held in Hanumakonda district on Wednesday.

The event was organised under the Praja Palana - Pragathi Pranalika initiative by the District Medical and Health Department at the Integrated Collectorate office. The programme was attended by MLA Naini Rajender Reddy, Mayor Gundu Sudharani, Deputy Mayor Rizwana Shameem Masood and District Medical and Health Officer Dr. Appaiah.

Addressing the gathering, MP Kavya emphasised that awareness about women's health played a crucial role in ensuring safe motherhood. She highlighted the importance of consuming iron and folic acid tablets prior to pregnancy, maintaining proper nutrition, and seeking timely medical guidance. She also underlined the need for pregnant women to undergo essential tests, particularly TIFFA scans, without delay.

The MP further spoke about the

importance of postnatal mental health care and encouraged the promotion of normal deliveries. She noted that improved awareness of family planning could significantly enhance maternal and child health outcomes.

MLA Rajender Reddy stated that government schemes aimed at protecting women's health must effectively reach the grassroots.

He stressed the need to ensure accessible healthcare services in both rural and urban areas and called for adequate medical facilities for pregnant women and lactating mothers. He also urged ASHA workers and health staff to actively spread awareness among the public.

Mayor Sudharani observed that the health of women and children was fundamental to the development of society and called for collective efforts to strengthen maternal and child healthcare initiatives.

DMHO Dr. Appaiah informed that timely medical services were being provided to pregnant women, including the distribution of iron tablets, vaccinations, and regular health check-ups. He advised that all expectant mothers should remain under proper medical supervision throughout their pregnancy.



Warangal Member of Parliament Kadiyam Kavya at the Safe Motherhood Day programme in Hanumakonda district on Wednesday

# World Health Day observed at Rockwoods International School

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

ROCKWOODS International School, Ghatkesar, observed World Health Day in association with ONUS Robotic Hospitals, promoting awareness on healthy living and preventive care. Eminent doctors addressed students on key health topics.

Dr M Balaraju Naidu, Chairman and Orthopedic Surgeon, highlighted the importance of bone health, nutrition, and physical activity. Dr Rajasekhar Pappu spoke on diabetic foot care, stressing early detection and prevention. Dr. Akshitha Reddy shared insights on nasal hygiene, while Dr. Krishna Chaithanya Reddy emphasised mental well-being,



proper sleep, and a balanced lifestyle.

The interactive session encouraged students to adopt healthy habits from a young age. The event was attended by Chairman Raman Naidu, CEO Subrahmanyam Rangineni,

staff, and management, who appreciated the initiative.

The programme concluded on a positive note, reinforcing health awareness among students and the community.

## The Hans India Classifieds

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, AMALAKANTI NAGADURGA Spouse of Service No. 10329779A Hav AMALAKANTI ANANDA RAO, R/o. VIII: Krishna Puram, Post: Pularparathi, Teh: Yellamachi, Dist: Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh-531055 have changed my name from **AMALAKANTI NAGADURGA** to **AMALAKANTI NAGA DURGA** vide affidavit dt:08-04-2026 before CWN Ramakrishna, Advocate and Notary, Secunderabad. (TH\_34150)

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, No. 17040350N CFN Bodike Paramesh of Adm bn, Aoc Centre, Secunderabad, TS that my mother name is changed from **THIRUPATHAMMA** to **BODIKE THIRUPATHAMMA** and also my father name is changed from **CHANDRAIAH** to **BODIKE CHANDRAIAH** (TH\_34150)

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, KALAL RAJU GOUD R/O. H.No:1-17/3, KHAMMAPALLE, MUNPALLE, MEDAK, Telangana -502345, have changed my name as **KALAL RAJENDER GOUD S/O. KALAL MALLA GOUD** (TH\_34150)

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, PALANATI VENKAT REDDY S/o. PALANATI JANAKI REDDY R/o. P.No: 46. PHASE-3, SHARADA NAGAR VANASTHALI PURAM HYD-500070 TS have Changed My Name As **PALNATI VENKAT REDDY** (TH\_34150)

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, PALANATI VIMALAMMA, W/o. PALNATI VENKAT REDDY R/o. P.No.46, PHASE-3, SHARADA NAGAR VANASTHALI PURAM HYD-500070 TS have Changed My Name As **PALNATI VIMALAMMA** (TH\_34150)

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, Tharachand Meghavath S/o. Surender Megavath R/o:F/no:204, Jyothi Estancia, Annapuram Enclave, Chandanagar, R.R, TS-50 changed my name as **TARACHAND MEGHAVATH** (TH\_34150)

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, Salim Haider Ali Ajani S/o. Haider Ali Ajani R/o. F/no:103, Sky Garden, Cineplanet Lane, Kompalle, Medchal, Malkajgiri, TS-14, changed my name as **SALIM AJANI** (TH\_34150)

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, Muneerunnisa, R/o.20-4-194/7/JUC/8, Shah Ali Banda, Hyderabad -500002. TS. Changed My New Name As **Muneer Unnisa Nazneen, W/o. Mohammed Nazeer Ahmed.** (TH\_34150)

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, PATLOLLA VENKATA LAXMI R/o.Villa No-88, TRILUMPH Villas, Kismathpur, Gandipet RR. Dist-TS 500085 have Changed My Name As **BUSANAGARI VENKATA LAXMI D/o. Busanagari Laxma Reddy** (passport No.L. 6501156) (TH\_34150)

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, MS KRISHNA VENI R/o. H.No.1-21-37, Venkatapuram, Thirumalagiri, Alwal Sec'bad TS- 500015 have Changed My Name As **POLA KRISHNA VENI D/o. M P Satyanarayana** (TH\_34150)

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, SUJATHA KUSUMALLA R/o. 13-35/1, Road No. 3, GAYATHRI HILLS Colony, Badangpet, RCK -R.R Dist -500058, TS. Changed My Name As **SUJATHMANCHALA W/o. SRINIVASULU MANCHALA** (TH\_34150)

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, KASIREDDY SHRAVANI REDDY W/o. KASIREDDY SUBHASH REDDY (New Name) H.No:3-30, behind National Hwy Rd, R C Puram-500032, TS. changed my name from **APPANAGARI SHRAVANI REDDY** (Old Name) to **KASIREDDY SHRAVANI REDDY W/o. KASIREDDY SUBHASH** (New Name) for all purposes (TH\_34150)

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, TUNIKI SATISH KUMAR S/o. TUNIKIE SUDARSHAN (New Name) R/o. 4-7-572, Esamiya Bazar, Hyd-027 TS changed my name from **TUNIKIE SATISH KUMAR** (Old Name) to **TUNIKI SATISH KUMAR S/o. TUNIKIE SUDARSHAN** (New Name) for all purposes (TH\_34150)

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, SYEDA ADEEBA FATIMA, R/o. H.No. 12-1-883/1, Flat No.301, 3rd Floor, Asif Nagar, Hyderabad -500028, T.S. Changed my name as **SYED ADEEBA FATIMA W/o. SYED MUJEEB AHMED.** (TH\_34150)

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, RASMITA DAS R/o. H.No.18-397/14/20, Malik County, Shadnagar, Ferooqnagar Mandal, R.R Dist-509216, TS. Changed my name as **RASHMITA DAS W/o. JAYANTA KUMAR DAS.** (TH\_34150)

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, EAHCHRAJ KAWAR R/o. H No.1-10-1/213/P/3, Rathore Nivas, Kushaiguda, Sec'bad -500062 -TS India, I have changed my name to **RANI SINGH RATHOD W/o. RAM KUMAR SINGH RATHOD.** (TH\_34150)

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, GAYATHRI MEDAPATI W/O DHARMA DASU MEDAPATI R/o. VASAVI ELITE, P.No. 391, F.No.201, Gayathri Nagar Allapur, Borabanda Hyd-018. Changed My Name from **GAYATRI MEDAPATI** to **GAYATHRI MEDAPATI W/o. DHARMA DASU MEDAPATI**, For All Purposes. (TH\_34150)

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, ATHER HUSSAIN SYED R/O 18-1-439, Phoolbagh, Chandrayangutta, Bandlaguda, Keshogiri, Hyd, 500005 TS. changed my name as **ATHER HUSSAINI SYED S/O. AZHER HUSSAINI SYED** (TH\_34150)

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, KULLA LAKSHMI DEVI, R/o:3-129/K1/G3, Near Sadhuvasani School, Quthbullapur, Medchal Malkajgiri TS changed my name from **NAGA V GOPILAXMI DEVI** to **KULLA LAKSHMI DEVI W/o.Kulla Srinivasa Rao** for all purposes. (TH\_34150)

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, KAUSER LAYEEQ, R/O. H NO:8-1-402/16, F.No. 201, FM RESIDENCY, GULSHAN COLONY, TOLICHOWKI, GOLCONDA, HYD, TS- 500008 Changed My Name As **KAUSER JAHAN W/O SYED LAYEEQ** (TH\_34150)

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, FAREED UNNISA R/o.H No. 19-2-137/B/62, BILAL NAGAR Kala Pahtar, Hyderabad -500053, Telangana i have Changed My Name As **FAREED UNNISA BEGUM W/o. SYED OMER** (TH\_34150)

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, Murali Mohan A S/o A Bikshapathi R/o H. No. 11-5-454/405, Sri Balaji Nivas Sri Venkateswara Colony, Road No-12, Sanctor-nagar Rangareddy Dist, Pin-500035. Have Changed My Name As **ANTHATHI MURALI MOHAN GOUD, S/o ANTHATHI BIKSHAPATHI** For Future Purpose. (TH\_34150)

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, HAFIZ MOHD DAWOOD S/O BIRBAL R/O 8-2-676/L1/B/C/20, sri ram Nagar, road no 12, Banjara hills, Hyderabad, T.G. Has changed my name from **MOHAMMED DAWOOD TO HAFIZ MOHD DAWOOD** for all purposes. (TH\_34150)

**CHANGE OF NAME**

MY SON, DASU RUTHVIZ S/O DASU VENKAT HRUSHIKESH DASU HRUSHI KAPATHI (MOTHER) R/o. ADITHA NAGAR COLONY (T) BALAPUR (M) K.V RANGAREDDY (DIST) TELANGANA (STATE) Shall hence forth be known change name as **DASU RUTHVIZ S/O. HRUSHIKESH DASU VENKAT SREE HRUSHI KAPATHI (MOTHER)** for the all future purpose. (TH\_34150)

**LOST**

I, **G Vinodhini W/O GVSS KUMAR** R/O shop no 36 (GF) Sony Business Complex)Prashanti nagar Kukatpally Hyd, Has lost original **Document No 4737/2009**, Regd at RO Rangareddy At my shop, if found call **9908052916** (TH\_34150)

**LOST**

I, **RUPAK AGARWAL S/O NAVEEN KUMAR AGARWAL** R/O 6-8-TO 32, PNO 201, 2ND FLOOR, BLOCKA, NEELAJEE PRIDE, KANAGODDA, SECUNDERABAD-3, TS. I Have Lost My Original **Old Passport Baring No:16715762** issued at Hyd on 31/12/2013, while travelling from Rangaji to PG Road for taking photocopy of 06/04/2026 about 11:00 HRS. If anybody found Call: **9573383520**. (TH\_34150)

**LOSS OF DOCUMENTS**

I, **Vemula Baraj, S/o. Vemula Mallesh**, Office Address Plot No. 2 & 3, 3rd Floor, Brundavan Colony, Gandipet Main Road, Narsingi, Hyderabad, Telangana-500075, being GPA Holder of **Mr. Anireddy Sujay Reddy**, hereby inform that the Original Sale Deed Document No. 7892/2012, dated 24-05-2012, registered at R.O., Nalgonda, relating to Plot Nos. 141 & 142, Sy. No. 456, admeasuring 595.55 Sq. Yards, situated at Gollaguda Revenue Village (Jubilee Hills), Ranga Reddy District, was lost on **30.03.2026** while taking color xerox copies at Narsingi Xerox Center and travelling towards Brundavan Colony, Kokapet. If found, please return. Suitable reward will be given. Contact: **9849128404**. (TH\_VINAYAK)

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, **Sampangi Varalaxmi W/O Dasarla Naresh R/O H. No. C-227, Nerellapalle, Balanagar Mandal, VTC: Nerellapalle, P.O. Gunned, Dist. Mahabubnagar (Telangana)** have changed my name to **DASARLA VARALAXMI** forever. (TH\_TM RAO)

**NAME CHANGE**

I, **RASAGNA KHANDAVILLI, D/o. Khandavilli Srinivas**, residing at Flat No. 301, Pearl Residency, Pearl Village, Masjid Banda, Kondapur, Serilingampally, Telangana -500084, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **KHANDAVILLI LAKSHMI RASAGNA** to **RASAGNA KHANDAVILLI** for all purposes. (TH\_34150)

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, **MANNALA RAMESH** (old name) doing Driver and Resident of H.No.1-33, Cherla Ankireddypally Village, Chinnakodur Mandal, Siddipet District, Telangana, have changed my name as **MANALA RAMESH** (new name) (TH\_34150)

**CHANGE OF NAME & D.o.B.**

I, **RAMALAMMA DONTHA** Mother of Service No 13628368W Hav **SRINIVASULU DONTHA**, Residing at H.No.4-6, Vill: Mundlapadu, PO: Mundlapadu, Teh: Giddalur Dist: Prakasam, Andhra Pradesh-523367 have changed my name and DOB from **POLAIAH, DOB: 01-07-1950** to **DONTHA POLAIAH, DOB:01-01-1946** vide Affidavit dated:08-04-2026 before G.Shobha, Advocate and Notary, Brahmanwadi, Begumpet, (TH\_34150)

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, **POLAIAH** Father of Service No 13628368W Hav **SRINIVASULU DONTHA**, Residing at H.No.4-6, Vill: Mundlapadu, PO: Mundlapadu, Teh: Giddalur Dist: Prakasam, Andhra Pradesh-523367 have changed my name and DOB from **POLAIAH, DOB: 01-07-1950** to **DONTHA POLAIAH, DOB:01-01-1946** vide Affidavit dated:08-04-2026 before G.Shobha, Advocate and Notary, Brahmanwadi, Begumpet, Hyderabad. (TH\_34150)

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## Ponguleti's presser a smokescreen to hide misdeeds, fumes BRS MLA

- BRS targets Ponguleti
- Media meet a cover-up
- CM accused of shielding minister
- Kerala trip sparks row
- Mining allegations intensify
- Call for minister's resignation
- Revenue dept mired in corruption

HYDERABAD: BRS leaders on Wednesday alleged that the media conference addressed by Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy was merely an attempt to cover up his own misdeeds. They further claimed that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy was shielding the illegal activities of the Revenue Minister.

Addressing a press conference in the city, BRS MLA KP Vivekananda said Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy was the individual who fled to Kerala overnight the moment Harish Rao talked about Raghav Constructions and its mining activities during the Budget Sessions. He alleged that the Minister is currently evading the situation by claiming to be engaged in election campaigning while the Revenue Department has become completely mired in corruption.

The BRS leader noted that Harish Rao had issued a bold challenge regarding these allegations, yet the Minis-



ter fled to Kerala instead of accepting it. Vivekananda stated that despite the Chief Minister claiming Raghav Construction does not belong to the Minister, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy himself asserts it belongs to his son. The BRS leader demanded that the Minister must resign immediately for engaging



## KTR set to invite Jeevan Reddy to join BRS

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

UNDER the directions of BRS chief Chandrashekar Rao, the party working president KT Rama Rao is set to invite T Jeevan Reddy to join the BRS. The working president is slated to hold a meeting with party leaders from Karimnagar district on Thursday. Having returned from a week-long trip to the United States on Wednesday, KT Rama Rao and BRSLP deputy leader Harish Rao were summoned by the party chief at his Eraveli farmhouse.

Sources indicate that the BRS chief has entrusted KT Rama Rao with the responsibility of meeting Jeevan Reddy at 2 pm on Thursday to formalise the invitation. Previous discussions have already taken place, and this meeting

is viewed as a strategic attempt to strengthen the party in Karimnagar. The veteran Congress leader is expected to meet Chandrashekar Rao soon and likely join the party in his presence in Hyderabad. The meeting at the farmhouse also involved discussions regarding the upcoming TRS Formation Day. Sources suggest the party will hold a day-long plenary on 27 April in the Ranga Reddy district.

This announcement is expected to be made officially by KT Rama Rao following his meeting with the Karimnagar leaders. By bringing a seasoned politician like Jeevan Reddy into the fold, the BRS aims to reclaim its dominance in its former stronghold while preparing for the large-scale organisational celebrations later this month.

in illegal mining activities. BRS General Secretary RS Praveen Kumar added that the media conference sounded more like a statement from a company chairman than a government official. He questioned whether Raghava Construction or Megha Engineering is actually steering the people of Telangana.

Regarding the Vattinagulapally land dispute, the BRS leadership demanded that the son of the Minister must answer whether he visited the residence of Pallavi Shah

and Satish Shah. They further questioned whether Habibullah Khan, the officer who registered the case, was subsequently transferred as a result of the investigation. The opposition maintains that the government is prioritising corporate interests over public welfare and transparency. These allegations have intensified the political heat in the state, with the BRS calling for a thorough inquiry into the links between the ruling cabinet and private construction firms involved in regional mining.

# Give us land in Cantt area, will build houses: Ponnamm

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

HYDERABAD In-charge Minister Ponnamm Prabhakar on Wednesday announced that the government plans to transform the slums of the city into double-bedroom housing units. During an event, he stated that if land within the Cantonment area is allocated to the state, the government will proceed with constructing houses there.

He urged Union Minister Kishan Reddy to coordinate with the Central Government to secure the necessary land for these projects. Minister Prabhakar distributed double-bedroom house site pattas to 155 eligible benefi-

- Slums to get 2BHK housing
- Land sought in Cantonment area
- Centre's support sought
- Focus on eligible beneficiaries
- Priority for land owners
- Flats for landless
- Indiramma housing push

ciaries at Classic Gardens in the Secunderabad Cantonment constituency. The recipients included residents from ACS Nagar, Old Maredpally, Sai Charan Colony, and



Katta Maisamma. MLA Sri Ganesh and other key officials attended the ceremony. The Minister clarified that beneficiaries owning

land will be prioritised for Indiramma houses, while multi-storied complexes are planned for those without land. Under the leadership of

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, the Praja Palana government is also distributing ration cards and providing free electricity up to 200 units.

He noted that free RTC bus travel has benefited over 300 crore women, saving them Rs 10,000 crores collectively. Furthermore, he encouraged women to join self-help groups and avail interest-free loans for livelihood opportunities.

In rural areas, 600 buses have been provided to empower women as entrepreneurs. These initiatives reflect the commitment of the administration to inclusive growth and the provision of essential infrastructure for the underprivileged sections of Hyderabad.

## Harish Rao urges halt to frequent pump operations at Kaleshwaram

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

POINTING out that frequent on and off operations of high-capacity lift irrigation pumps are being carried out at Chandlapur and other pumping stations, BRSLP deputy leader Harish Rao on Wednesday urged Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy to take immediate corrective measures.

In a letter to the Minister, Rao highlighted concerns regarding pumping stations in Kaleshwaram Packages 6, 8, 10, 11, and 12, alongside Devadula Phase-III. He questioned if the government was aware that such operations are fundamentally against engineering design principles and likely to cause progressive damage to impellers, shear pins, shafts, and associated electro-mechanical systems.

The BRS leader recalled that technical experts during installation clearly stated these systems are designed for continuous operation, not frequent start-stop cycles. Each startup results in severe vibrations, hydraulic transients, and water hammer effects.

Repeated operations under these conditions impose abnormal stress on bearings and shear mechanisms, making the practice technically unsound and highly risky. Rao expressed concern that these practices might be continued to induce avoidable damage to shift blame onto the previous government.

He noted these projects represent massive public investment and were designed as continuous-flow systems. Any deviation from



prescribed protocols compromises system integrity, increases the maintenance burden, and threatens long-term sustainability. He demanded the government stop this practice immediately and ensure that pumping systems strictly adhere to design parameters and engineering best practices to protect critical infrastructure. These steps are essential to avoid the probability of mechanical failure and long-term deterioration of the state's vital irrigation assets across the entire Kaleshwaram and Devadula networks.

## Kavitha claims Telangana has become ATM for Congress

HYDERABAD:

Alleging that Telangana has become an ATM for the Congress party, Telangana Jagruti President Kalvakuntla Kavitha on Wednesday declared that 25 April 2026 will be a defining moment in the history of the state. She signalled the introduction of fresh blood and a new political culture during a joining programme for Nadi-gadda Hakkula Porata Samithi president G Ranjith Kumar. Addressing the gathering at the Telangana Jagruti office, Kavitha emphasised that the upcoming party would break away from traditional politics to adopt a people-centric approach based on three pillars of questioning, fighting for public issues, and resolving problems.

She criticised both the ruling Congress and the opposition BRS for neglecting public concerns, stating that Jagruti has become the only voice the public trusts. Kavitha added that the party will work closely with people at the grassroots level, undertake padyatras, and develop a comprehensive agenda with international experts to be un-

veiled on April 25.

She launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, accusing him of turning the state into a funding source for Congress elections across India. She mocked the subsmissiveness of the Chief Minister and highlighted the failure to implement Rythu Bharosa or complete farm loan waivers, accusing him of spreading lies in other states while local farmers suffer. Kavitha further questioned the mysterious silence of the Chief Minister regarding Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decisions.

She specifically pointed to the national project status granted to Upper Bhadra, warning it would starve the combined Mahabubnagar district of vital Tungabhadra water. She asked why Revanth Reddy remains silent instead of questioning the Union government.

The Jagruti leader concluded that the current administration prioritises political interests over public welfare, necessitating a new movement to protect the interests of the people of Telangana.

## SCR extends weekly special trains to manage summer rush

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

IN a move to accommodate the increased passenger demand during the summer season, South Central Railway has announced the extension of several weekly special trains connecting key destinations across the country. The decision aims to ease congestion and provide additional travel options for passengers during the peak holiday period. According to railway officials, special train services between Charlapalli and Raxaul will continue to operate for an extended period. Train Number 07007 from Charlapalli to Raxaul will run every Wednesday from April 15 to June 24, 2026, covering a total of eleven services.

In the return direction, Train Number 07008 from Raxaul to Charlapalli will operate every Friday from April 17 to June 26, also for eleven services. Additionally, special trains between Charlapalli and Tiruchchirappalli have been extended. Train Number 07615 will run every Tuesday from April 14 to June 2, while Train Number 07616 will operate every Wednesday from April 15 to June 3, offering eight services in each direction. Railway authorities also provided updated stoppage timings at Danapur station.

The Charlapalli-Raxaul special will arrive at 23:03 hours and depart at 23:05 hours, while the return service will arrive at 01:33 hours and depart at 01:35 hours. SCR officials stated that these extensions ensure smoother travel and reduce waiting lists. Passengers are advised to plan journeys in advance and make use of these additional services provided throughout the busy summer travel season.

## Ex-MLA Rohit Reddy moves HC for bail in NDPS case

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

THE High Court is set to hear a criminal petition filed by former Tandur MLA and Bharat Rashtira Samithi member Panjigula Rohit Reddy, alias Pilot Rohit Reddy, seeking regular bail in connection with a multi-offence case registered at the Moinabad Police Station. The petitioner, designated as Accused No. 2 in Crime No. 150 of 2026, filed the application on Wednesday following the dismissal of his previous bail plea by the X Additional District and Sessions Judge, Ranga Reddy District, on April 7. The underlying charges involve alleged violations of Sections 8(c), 22(a), 27, and 29 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, alongside various provisions of the Arms Act, 1959, the Telangana Excise Act, 1968, and relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023. The prosecution's case stems from a raid conducted at the petitioner's farmhouse, where he was allegedly found in the company of family and friends in possession of narcotics, psychotropic substances, and liquor. In his petition, Rohit Reddy contends that

while he and two others were remanded to judicial custody, several other co-accused were merely served notices under Section 35(3) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and subsequently released. The petitioner has been incarcerated at the Central Prison, Chanchalguda, since March 15 and argues that his continued detention is unnecessary given that police custody has been granted on multiple occasions and the primary investigation is now complete. Challenging the severity of the charges, the petitioner asserts that the contraband seized amounted to only 0.2 grams of cocaine, which he classifies as a minimal quantity that does not warrant the gravity of the NDPS Act invoked by the police. Furthermore, the petition disputes the inclusion of the Arms Act, maintaining that no firearms were discharged and that the remand report fails to provide the requisite legal ingredients to establish such an offense. Asserting his status as a former public representative, Reddy maintains there is no risk of him absconding and has offered an undertaking to cooperate fully with the ongoing investigation. The matter is expected to be listed shortly before a Single Judge bench for adjudication.

## Khera seeks transit bail in Telangana over Assam case

HYDERABAD:

AICC Media & Publicity (Communications Department) Chairman Pawan Khera has reportedly approached the Telangana High Court seeking anticipatory bail in a case registered by the Guwahati Crime Branch of Assam Police over his controversial remarks against the wife of Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.

Legally, regular anticipatory bail falls under the jurisdiction of courts in Assam. However, Khera can seek transit anticipatory bail in Telangana, which provides temporary protection under Article 21 of the Constitution. Experts emphasise that such bail does not grant immunity from investigation but merely provides a short window to approach the competent court in Assam. The Telangana High Court is likely to hear the plea in the coming days, while the Assam police continue to investigate the matter.

## HYDRAA chief inspects Banjara lake, orders rejuvenation

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

HYDERABAD Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency Commissioner AV Ranganath on Wednesday inspected Banjara lake on Road Number 01 to address pollution and illegal occupations. Accompanied by MLA Danam Nagendar, the Commissioner noted that the water body was being significantly polluted by sewage and plastic waste from upstream. He requested a comprehensive report on the protection of government land and lake rejuvenation. Warning of strict action against constructions that block canals and cause flood risks, Ranganath assured that the lake will be preserved without encroaching on residential areas. He stated that a transparent inquiry involv-

ing both complainants and encroachers will be conducted, with development works commencing upon government permission. Locals also alleged that the Taj Banjara Hotel has encroached on the path to the Kattamaisamma Temple, blocking public access.

Continuing the inspection following complaints received at HYDRAA Prajavani, the Commissioner visited other water bodies including Ongoni Kunta, Kanakayya Kunta, Marrivanka Kunta, and Errakunta in the Mamidipally and Shamshabad areas. Residents complained that these ponds are vanishing and residential areas are being inundated during rains because connecting flood canals are arbitrarily blocked. Ranganath assured residents that a meeting would be arranged with encroachers,

failing which HYDRAA will intervene to remove obstructions. Meanwhile, the agency cleared a road encroachment in New Bhoiguda, Secunderabad, by removing an illegally constructed house that blocked a twenty-foot road. Residents had reported that the structure, built without permission, occupied ten feet of the road over fifty yards, making vehicle passage impossible. After verification, HYDRAA officials confirmed the site as a public road and demolished the unauthorised structure to restore the path for public use. This crackdown signals a renewed push by the agency to protect urban water bodies and ensure that public infrastructure remains free from illegal commercial or residential obstructions across the metropolitan region to prevent future flooding.



Hyderabad Commissioner AV Ranganath conducts a field visit on Wednesday to address complaints received through 'Prajavani'

## Health department to organise HIV awareness rallies

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

FOLLOWING the successful first three days of Health Week celebrations under the Praja Palana Pragathi Pranalika, the health department has finalised arrangements for statewide programmes focused on HIV and AIDS awareness this Thursday. To raise public consciousness, human chains and Red Run rallies are scheduled across Telangana. Health Minister

Damodar Raja Narasimha will inaugurate the main event at the Cable Bridge at 6 am. The Telangana AIDS Control Society has organised a massive human chain involving approximately 1,000 participants at the iconic structure. Simultaneously, statewide HIV and TB screening camps are being conducted at government general hospitals and correctional facilities. Special health camps for transgender individuals will be

held at government Maitri Clinics, alongside essay competitions for medical and nursing students. Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha is also scheduled to inaugurate medical camps at Chanchalguda Central Jail at 10 am. To enhance emergency response and save lives during road accidents, the government is implementing a new Trauma Care Policy. As part of this initiative, specialised centres and critical care blocks are being estab-

lished across the state. The Health Minister will lay the foundation stone for a fifty-bed critical care block in Kondapur on Thursday. These comprehensive efforts reflect the commitment of the government to improving public health infrastructure and ensuring that vital medical services reach vulnerable populations including prisoners and the transgender community while modernising trauma response systems across all districts.

## Despite Tehran's claims, it is 'goals accomplished' for the US and Israel

AN interesting aspect of the war in West Asia is that now both sides can declare victory—with some justification. From the perspective of the United States and Israel, the primary objectives were met in the first few days—many of them within hours, when the belligerent allies eliminated Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and a section of the political and military top brass. While the Iranian armed forces are resisting the US-Israel attacks, their capabilities have been seriously degraded. The Iranians may have shot down US aircraft but that is an exception rather than the rule; they have control over their airspace. US President Donald Trump has already claimed victory.

He wrote in a social media post, "The reason for doing so [accepting Pakistan-brokered ceasefire] is that we have already met and exceeded all Military objectives, and are very far along with a definitive Agreement concerning Longterm PEACE with Iran, and PEACE in the Middle East. We received a 10-point proposal from Iran, and believe it is a workable basis on which to negotiate (sic)"

Iran's 10-point conditions that the US finds "workable" include: non-aggression; continuation of Iran's control over the Strait of Hormuz; acceptance of enrichment; lifting all primary sanctions; lifting all secondary sanctions; termination of all Security Council resolutions; ter-

mination of all International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors resolutions; payment of compensation to Iran; withdrawal of US combat forces from the region; and cessation of war on all fronts, including against the heroic Islamic Resistance of Lebanon. This gives Iran reason to claim that it has been able to withstand the sustained assault by the world's mightiest military, in alliance with the regional power, Israel, for more than a month. Trump's vow to bomb Iran's power plants and send the country "back to the stone ages" notwithstanding, Tehran's enemies have not been able to force open the Strait of Hormuz. Trump's warnings became chillier; just before 12 hours of his

ultimatum expired, he posted a warning on social media: "A whole civilization will die tonight." The clerical regime, however, refused to blink, leading to a two-week ceasefire. If the war ends after the culmination of the ceasefire on as-is-where-is basis, it will be a victory of the US-Israel alliance, for they will have militarily truncated a powerful regime in the Middle East which has been spreading jihad all over the world. Regime change would have been the icing on the cake, but Trump would still be happy because he achieved the goals with negligible American casualties. Ditto with Israel. Iran, on the other hand, has lost the deadly nuclear and other capabilities, which it had till a few

months ago. Rebuilding degraded military capabilities, restoring deterrence, and reviving its nuclear programme—if it chooses to do so—will require time, resources, and a degree of strategic patience that may test the regime internally. The economic toll, compounded by sanctions and wartime destruction, will further constrain its options. In this sense, even as Tehran claims moral and political victory, it does so from a position of significantly diminished capacity. What remains uncertain is whether this uneasy equilibrium marks the beginning of a more stable regional order—or merely an interlude before the next, perhaps more dangerous, confrontation.

**MEDLEY**



**LETTERS**

**Custodial deaths: Punish the Doc and judicial officer**

THE verdict of the trial court in the case of custodial deaths in Sathankulam is widely welcomed. Police taking the right to brutally and beating the accused to death is sending the wrong message. Meanwhile, the doctor who had issued a false 'fit for remand' certificate and the judicial officer who had, in a mechanical manner, permitted remanding the two persons should also be treated on par with those who beat the innocents to death.

A G Rajmohan, Anantapur-515004

**Traditional alternatives more healthier**

A PROPOS "Be warned: Soft drinks are silent killers" (April 8, 2026). The lure of fizzy drinks in summer is undeniable, yet their hidden cost to health is sobering. Clever advertising sells them as instant refreshment, but what they truly deliver is a cocktail of sugar, acids, and chemicals that quietly erode wellbeing. Obesity, diabetes, and dental decay are not distant risks, but everyday realities fuelled by these so-called coolers. The irony is that traditional alternatives like buttermilk, lemon water, and tender coconut are not only healthier but far more suited to our climate. If everyone treats soft drinks as indulgences rather than staples, we may reclaim both health and common sense before the silent killers claim more ground.

K Chidanand Kumar, Bengaluru

**Fruit juices are a better option**

A PROPOS "Soft drinks and the illusion of cooling relief" (THI, April 8), the concern about rising consumption of such drinks, especially during summer, is well founded. Many continue to see these beverages as harmless, overlooking their long-term health impact. Awareness alone is not enough. Schools and public institutions should actively promote healthier alternatives like water and fresh juices. Local campaigns, especially in smaller towns, can help change habits gradually. At the same time, ensuring easy access to safe drinking water is essential. A combined effort by authorities, industry, and consumers can lead to more responsible choices and better public health outcomes.

Abbharna Barathi, Chennai-600023

**Better late than never**

WITH reference to the article "Polavaram: Decades of delay, emerging progress and the road ahead" (THI, April 8), the renewed momentum is encouraging, but persistent gaps in planning and execution remain a concern. Large projects cannot afford repeated disruptions caused by weak coordination and irregular contracting. Clear timelines, stable funding, and strict oversight are essential. Land acquisition and rehabilitation must be handled with greater sensitivity and speed. Regular public updates can improve accountability and confidence. Technical monitoring should be strengthened to avoid costly damage to structures. If managed well, Polavaram can still deliver its intended benefits without further slippage or escalation.

M Barathi, Bengaluru-560076

# Together, let us empower our Nari Shakti!



**NARENDRA MODI**

IN the coming days, India will be immersed in a festive season, with celebrations taking place across the length and breadth of the nation.

The people of Assam will mark Rongali Bihu while Odisha will celebrate Maha Bishuba Pana Sankranti. In West Bengal, Poila Boishakh will usher in the Bengali New Year and in Kerala, Vishu will be observed with immense enthusiasm. Tamil Nadu will celebrate Puthandu, while in Punjab and other parts of Northern India will rejoice Baisakhi, which will usher in a spirit of hope and positivity. I convey my best wishes to all those across India and the world on this festive occasion. May these auspicious occasions bring happiness and prosperity to everyone.

Furthermore, on April 11, we will commence the 200th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Phule and on the 14th, India will pay homage to Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar on his Jayanti. In addition to these spe-

cial occasions, when the spirit of renewal fills our hearts and minds, our nation stands at the threshold of another historic occasion. It is an opportunity to deepen the foundations of our democracy and to reaffirm our collective commitment to equality and inclusion.

On the 16th of April, Parliament will be convened to discuss and pass an important bill that advances women's reservation. To describe this merely as a legislative exercise would be an understatement. It is a reflection of the aspirations of crores of women across India. It is an affirmation of a principle that has long guided our civilisational ethos, that society progresses when women progress.

Women constitute nearly half of India's population. Their contributions to our nation are vast and invaluable. Today, India is witnessing remarkable achievements by women across every field. From science and technology to entrepreneurship, from sports to the armed forces and from music to arts, women are at the forefront of India's progress.

Over the years, sustained efforts have been made to create an enabling environment for their empowerment. Greater access to education, improved healthcare, enhanced financial inclusion and better access to basic amenities have strengthened the foundations of women's participa-



**On the 16th of April, Parliament will be convened to discuss and pass an important bill that advances women's reservation. To describe this merely as a legislative exercise would be an understatement. It is a reflection of the aspirations of crores of women across India. It is an affirmation of a principle that has long guided our civilisational ethos, that society progresses when women progress.**

tion in economic and social life. Yet, their representation in the world of politics and legislative bodies has not always been commensurate with their role in society. This is particularly unfortunate because when they participate in administration and decision-making, they bring along experiences and insights that enrich public discourse and improve the quality of governance.

It is imperative that the 2029 Lok Sabha elections and Assembly elections to various states in the coming times are conducted with women's reservation in place.

Over the decades, there have been repeated efforts to provide women with their rightful place in democratic institutions by the previous governments. Commitments were made; bill drafts were introduced but they never saw the light of day. But the broad consensus

has remained that women's representation in legislative bodies must increase. In September 2023, Parliament passed the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam with the same spirit of consensus. I consider it to be among the most special occasions of my life.

This opportunity to ensure women's reservation also resonates deeply with the spirit of our Constitution. The makers of our Constitution, notably the distinguished women members of the Constituent Assembly, envisioned a society where equality is both enshrined and realised in practice. Strengthening women's participation in legislative institutions is an important step towards fulfilling that vision. It reflects our commitment to building a society where every citizen has an equal stake in shaping the nation's destiny.

This is a moment that

cannot be deferred any longer. Every delay in advancing women's representation is, in effect, a delay in strengthening the quality and inclusiveness of our democracy.

For decades, the need for greater participation of women in legislative institutions has been acknowledged, discussed and reaffirmed. To postpone action now would mean extending an imbalance that we already recognise and have the capacity to correct. At a time when India is moving forward with confidence and purpose, it is essential that our institutions reflect the aspirations of all citizens, especially those who form half our population.

Timely action will not only honour long-standing commitments but also ensure that the momentum of progress is sustained. This is truly a historic opportunity to make our democracy

more representative, responsive and future-ready.

This moment calls for collective action. It is not about any one government, party or individual. It is about the nation recognising the importance of this step and coming together to realise it. It is what we owe to our Nari Shakti.

That is why the passage of a bill for women's reservation should reflect the broadest possible consensus and be guided by the larger national interest. Such opportunities call upon us to act not for ourselves, but for future generations. They remind us that the true strength of a democracy lies in its ability to evolve and to become more inclusive over time.

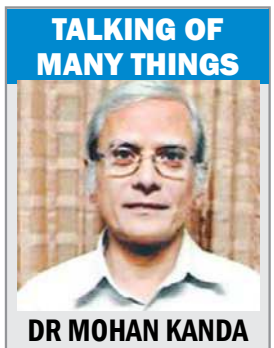
As we approach this historic Parliament sitting, I appeal to all Members of Parliament, across party lines, to come together in support of this important step for the women of India. Let us seize this opportunity with a sense of responsibility and purpose. Let us act in a manner that reflects the highest traditions of our democracy.

India has always shown that when it comes to matters of national importance, it can rise above differences and act with unity. This is one such moment.

Let us move forward together and strengthen Constitutional values and empower our Nari Shakti for national progress.

(The writer is the Prime Minister of India)

## Indian marriages undergoing major transitions from the ritualistic 'arranged' concepts



**DR MOHAN KANDA**

THE Karnataka Legislative Assembly recently passed the 'Karnataka Freedom of Choice in Marriage and Prevention and Prohibition of Crimes in the Name of Honour and Tradition (Eva Nammava Eva Nammava)' Bill, which pointedly states that "the consent of parents, family, caste, or clan is not necessary once two adult individuals agree to go into wedlock. The phrase 'Eva Nammava Eva Nammava' dates to the philosophy of the 12th century social reformer Basavanna. It is a part of one of his 'vachanas', that translates to ".....do not ask who he is, who he is, who he is....."

"Say he is our own, he is our own, he is our own."

Lord Koodalasangama, say he is a son of your house,"

That message of inclusivity highlighted the need for inclusivity, in the context of Basavanna having facilitated a Dalit man's marriage to a Brahmin woman that led to an intense social turmoil and violence.

increase in violence, harassment, threats, and ostracism, perpetrated in the name of caste, hierarchy, honour and custom. It also notes that such crimes disproportionately affect women. The step was necessitated by the fact that the state had witnessed several hate crimes against such couples in the recent past. In a particularly heinous instance of honour related violence, a 20-year-old woman was killed in a gruesome manner by her father for marrying a Dalit man.

Many countries have also put in place legislation banning forced marriages and facilitating inter - faith or inter-caste unions.

Interestingly, the legislation is in sharp contrast to a recent proposal of the government of Gujarat, which requires couples wanting to register their marriages to submit identity documents of their parents, accompanied by a declaration that the parents have been kept informed.

What happened in Karnataka is only one manifestation of the ongoing worldwide transformation in the concept of marriage. From having, earlier, been a social or family obligation based on traditional grounds, such as caste, religion, or family status, the institution of marriage is increasingly being viewed as a matter of personal choice, emotional compatibility, and individual autonomy. There is, in evidence, a global decline in traditional matchmaking, even in traditional conservative societies.

Another emerging feature of marriages is that couples are prioritising education and ca-



**Provisions that envisage providing protection to couples engaged in inter-caste relationships, and facing ostracisation or violence, are undoubtedly welcome. What is of essence, however, is how effectively such noble intentions are translated into concrete actions, especially against the background of crimes against such couples having continued in the past, existing laws notwithstanding.**

reers over early marriages and marrying later in life, allowing more time for personal choice. Marriages are increasingly being seen as a partnership or companionship rather than merely instruments of procreation of financial stability, like love marriages and self-choice weddings. Consequently, there is a welcome and rapidly decreasing value being attached to factors like caste, religion, and, most importantly, the practice of demanding and accepting dowry. The classical and age-old belief was that marriages are made in heaven or that they are divine, predestined and ordained by fate rather than mere coincidences.

Even in traditionally conservative cultures, including in the Middle Eastern countries and parts of Asia, a growing number of women are seen fighting for the right choice in marriages and opposing forced

unions. This is evident in India too. While the practice of arranged marriages has not disappeared altogether, a hybrid variety of what are called - 'arranged with choice' are becoming increasingly common.

Interestingly, a novel concept of a 'trial' for a marriage is also gaining popularity in certain urban settings, a sort of live - in relationship as a prelude to a permanent relationship by way of marriage. In the changing ambience of marriages, one also sees a reduction in the stigma attached to divorce and remarriages. In a manner of speaking, it is almost as though lifelong love and heterosexual marriages are about as obsolete as a horse and carriage.

One way of looking at the emerging scenario is that the world community is amid a transition to a brave new world of intimacy. It is against such a background that one must view

the significance of the events in Gujarat and Karnataka.

Provisions that envisage providing protection to couples engaged in inter-caste relationships, and facing ostracisation or violence, are undoubtedly welcome. What is of essence, however, is how effectively such noble intentions are translated into concrete actions, especially against the background of crimes against such couples having continued in the past, existing laws notwithstanding. An even more pertinent issue arises in the present context, as caste consolidation rather than annihilation is very much in evidence, not merely in the way partners are chosen in marriages, but also the way candidates are picked by political parties and voted to positions of authority by the electorate.

The situation gets curiouse and curiouse when one notes the fact that Karnataka is yet to roll back the controversial law of 2022, dealing with freedom of religion and ushered in by the then BJP government. Some way forward suggestions establishment of specialised fast-track courts to deal exclusively with honour killings to ensure swift justice and prevent delays, by bringing in an amendment to the Special Marriage Act, 1954 to shorten the registration period in order to protect couples from potential threat surveillance and introduction of a provision in the 'Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita' law clearly defining what honour killing is and specifying punishments.

Matrimonial advertisements in newspapers are a popular, traditional way to find partners, widely used for their broad

reach and credibility. Leading newspapers offer dedicated weekly supplements for matrimonial classifieds. A very sensible suggestion by an elderly friend (who, incidentally, is happily married) is that it might be worthwhile putting in place a mechanism which will function as an advisory arrangement, to couples intending to get married. An agency or a set of experts, in other words, to counsel them about the pros and cons of the proposed union, before it is formalized by a ceremony or a registration. That way, it is felt, they will make an informed entry into the era of married life, with their eyes wide open. Even the central and state governments will do well to think in terms of creating an environment which enables such arrangements to be formed and to function, together with creating a regulatory mechanism to ensure that they are not misused.

Some examples from my personal experience reinforce the validity of the issue under discussion. My marriage and those of some of my friends and relatives have also been a sort of mixed bag in this context. Usha and I got married through an 'arranged-but-confirmed-by-choice' mode. One of my nephews married his paternal uncle's daughter, which, in fact, is frowned upon in the Hindu religion. Another friend is the happy result of a Christian-Muslim marriage. And by God's grace, all the unions have resulted in pleasant and well-adjusted relationships.

(The writer was formerly Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh)

# TG gov't aims to provide better healthcare to poor: Komatireddy

The facility would cater especially to nearby residents, elderly people, and pregnant women, offering a wide range of medical services and diagnostic tests, with referrals to the main hospital if required

HANS NEWS SERVICE NALGONDA

ROADS and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy stated that the government's primary goal is to provide quality healthcare to the poor through government hospitals.

As part of the "Prajapalana-Pragathi Pranalika" programme and the Health Festival being conducted from the April 6 to 11, the Minister inaugurated a new Ur-

## Inaugurates Urban Primary Health Centre



ban Primary Health Centre (UPHC) at Manyam Chelka in Nalgonda on Wednesday. The facility was constructed at a cost of Rs 1.91 crore.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that due to heavy patient load at the Nalgonda Government General Hospital, this new UPHC would help provide better and accessible healthcare. Along with government funds, infrastructure and doctors have been ar-

ranged with an additional Rs 50 lakh contribution from Prateek Foundation. The center has been equipped with a new building and essential medical equipment, with provisions to add more if needed.

He emphasised that the facility would cater especially to nearby residents, elderly people, and pregnant women, offering a wide range of medical services and diagnostic tests, with

referrals to the main hospital when required. Public representatives were urged to identify patients and direct them to the center.

The Minister also announced plans to establish an eye hospital on three acres in collaboration with LV Prasad Eye Institute. Additionally, arrangements have been made to supply emergency medicines through a private medical shop if unavailable at the UPHC, based on doctors' prescriptions.

Efforts are also underway, with support from Akshaya Foundation, to provide food to patients if necessary. Officials highlighted that the center would significantly benefit local communities by delivering quality and accessible healthcare services.

Strict Action if Farmers Face Trouble in Paddy Procurement  
State Minister Komat-

ireddy Venkat Reddy warned that strict action will be taken if farmers face difficulties during Rabi paddy procurement.

He said farmers who work hard should not be troubled by buyers or millers. Officials were instructed to procure paddy quickly and transport it to mills without delay, considering the summer heat.

On Wednesday, he inaugurated and inspected procurement centers in Nalgonda and Kanagal mandals.

Responding to transport issues, he directed officials to arrange sufficient lorries and ensure uninterrupted movement of paddy.

The Minister emphasized round-the-clock procurement if necessary and assured that the government is closely monitoring the process. He added that bonus support is being provided and reaffirmed the government's commitment to farmers' welfare.

# BRS will return to power as people are disillusioned with Cong Raj: Puvvada

Cong came to power by maligning BRS leaders during the elections, but has failed to deliver on its assurances

HANS NEWS SERVICE KHAMMAM



CLAIMING that the Congress government had failed to make a meaningful impact even after more than two years in office, former minister Puvvada Ajay Kumar expressed confidence that the BRS would return to power under KCR's leadership. He said people are "disillusioned" with the Congress government over unfulfilled promises and looking at the BRS for solution of their problems.

Addressing a meeting of key leaders of Khammam constituency at his residence, Ajay Kumar criticised the Congress government, claiming it had failed to implement its "six guarantees" and was instead taking credit for developmental works car-

ried out during the previous BRS regime led by K Chandrashekar Rao.

He alleged that the ruling party, unable to counter the opposition in the Assembly, had resorted to suspensions. "The Congress came to power by maligning the image of BRS leaders during the elections, but has failed to deliver on its assurances," he said.

Ajay Kumar also accused the government of misleading the public and questioned its handling of land-related issues, alleging irregularities and lack of accountability. He

further criticised the demolition of houses in certain areas of Khammam, calling it "unjust".

Referring to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, he alleged that the State government was focusing on issues outside Telangana rather than addressing local concerns. He also mentioned Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in this context. He announced that a mini plenary meeting of the party would be held in Khammam on April 19, which will be attended by senior BRS leader T. Harish Rao.

# Quick on feet, Ponguleti skewers Harish for hurling flimsy charges

Continued from P1

He alleged that BRS leaders were deliberately politicising the matter to target the ruling dispensation. He clarified that his family had no ownership stake in the disputed land and challenged the opposition to prove any wrongdoing.

Responding to allegations regarding the Kotwalguda stone crusher, the Minister said the unit has been operational since 2007 and is run by a private en-

tity. He explained that the crusher is not linked to government contracts and that construction firms involved in road projects merely procured materials through legitimate transactions. He added that all necessary records, including GST and electricity documents, are available to establish transparency.

Warning the Opposition against making "false and defamatory statements," Ponguleti said the govern-

ment will not be intimidated and will continue to expose alleged irregularities of the previous regime.

He added that forensic audits related to land transactions under the Dhara system are underway and that more details will emerge soon.

Reaffirming the government's stance, the Minister said all allegations will be countered with evidence, and that legal processes will determine accountability.

## Market cheers ceasefire

Continued from P1

Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said that from a technical standpoint, the 23,700-23,600 zone remains a key immediate support. "A breakdown below this range could trigger profit booking. On the upside, a decisive breakout above the 24,500-resistance zone is required to confirm continuation of the current uptrend and unlock further upside potential," an analyst stated.

Investor sentiment improved significantly after geopolitical concerns showed signs of cooling and the central bank-maintained policy stability. Among the top performers in the Nifty index were Shriram Finance, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles, and Adani Enterprises, which saw strong buying interest.

## Iran oil refinery struck despite ceasefire

TEHRAN: An oil refinery on Iran's Lavan Island was hit in what Iranian authorities described as an "enemy attack" on Wednesday, hours after a two-week ceasefire between Iran and the United States took effect. The National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company reported the incident, according to Shana, the news outlet of the Iranian Oil Ministry.

The company said the facility was struck around 10:00 local time. No casualties were reported. Safety and firefighting teams were deployed immediately to contain the blaze and secure the site. The attack occurred despite a ceasefire agreement announced on Tuesday between the United States and Iran.

## Bhu Bharati: Collector tells officials to verify land records at ground level

HANS NEWS SERVICE BHONGIR



DISTRICT Collector Anurag Jayanti directed officials to verify land records at the ground level through the Bhu Bharati system and ensure transparent services to farmers.

On Wednesday, the Collector, along with Additional Revenue Collector Venkat Reddy, reviewed key issues including land records, government lands, Sada Bainamas, SIR, Mee Seva services, paddy procurement, and online sand supply.

He instructed revenue officials to resolve land disputes promptly through field-level action. Issues related to Sada Bainamas should

be examined legally and justice ensured to eligible beneficiaries.

Under the SIR programme, voter lists must be accurately updated and booth-level officers monitored.

The Collector emphasised speeding up services at Mee Seva centres and clearing pending applications.

He also directed that sand transport be fully implemented through an online booking system to prevent illegal activities.

## All set for polls in Assam, Kerala, Puducherry

Continued from P1

In Assam, the campaign centred around Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's governance record and the Congress challenge led by Gaurav Gogoi.

The run-up to polls saw allegations and counter-allegations between the BJP and Congress, leading to a political slugfest.

The Election Commission has said it is fully prepared to conduct free, fair and peaceful polling in Assam, with webcasting enabled at all polling stations and security forces deployed across sensitive areas. Over 2.5 crore voters are eligible to cast their vote in the state.

In Puducherry, campaigning has also concluded for the 30-member Assembly, where 294 candidates are contesting. The Union Territory has over 9.5 lakh voters.

The April 9 voting marks the first leg of a wider election cycle, with Tamil Nadu set to vote on April 23 and West Bengal going to polls in two phases on April 23 and April 29.

## HMDA looks to focus on completing infra projects

Continued from P1

According to a senior official, HMDA has several projects in the pipeline. Along with the two elevated corridors of Paradise to ORR near Shamirpet on the Rajiv Rahadari and Paradise to Dairy Farm Road on the National Highway- 44, the state government has started the elevated flyover from the Integrated Command Control Center (ICCC) to Shilpa Layout.

This will connect to the ORR at Gachibowli without signal obstructions. The two-phased project cost is over Rs 1,650 crore, including the first phase from Film Nagar to

Shilpa Layout, covering a distance of 5 km; and the second phase from ICCC to Hakimpet Kunta, covering a distance of 4 km. The project is four- and six-lane sections with grade and elevated stretches and six entry and exit points.

The other major project includes construction of trumpet interchange connecting radial road-2 with ORR, along with integration of Budvel Layout and improvement of the existing Rajendranagar interchange. The project, to be taken up with an outlay of Rs 488 crore, is visualised as gateway to the city, providing seamless connectivity to Budvel and the upcoming Musi

Riverfront, according to the official.

To ease congestion in some of the happening places like Manikonda, Puppulaguda, Kokapet, Gandipet, and Narsingi, the HGCL (Hyderabad Growth Corridor), a subsidiary of HMDA, will be taking up widening and strengthening of the pipeline road from Shankarpally Road at Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Technology (MGIT) to Manikonda over a 3.57 km stretch. The project, to be taken up with an outlay of Rs 110 crore, has a six lane carriageway with a 10-meter median, minor bridges, junction improvements etc.

## BOTH US, IRAN CLAIM VICTORY

WASHINGTON/TEHRAN: Both US President Donald Trump and Iran have portrayed the last-minute ceasefire deal as a victory for their nations. Trump said many aspects of a 15-point plan have been agreed to, adding that the US will work with Iran to dig up and remove buried uranium in the country. He also suggested the US may be involved

in securing the critical waterway in a "joint venture" with Iran, while Tehran said Iran's military will coordinate the passage of ships. Minutes after Trump announced the two-week ceasefire, Tehran accepted the deal, claiming victory in the war. In a post on the social media platform X, Iran's Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi wrote: "If attacks

against Iran are halted, our Powerful Armed Forces will cease their defensive operations." In his statement, Araghchi expressed gratitude and appreciation for his "dear brothers" - Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Asim Munir. He thanked them for their "tireless efforts to end the war in the region."

## TRUMP WARNS 50% TARIFFS ON NATIONS SUPPLYING WEAPONS TO IRAN

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump on Wednesday warned that any country supplying military weapons to Iran will face immediate 50 per cent tariffs with no exemptions. His announcement came in a social media post days after agreeing to a two-week ceasefire with Tehran. "A Country supplying Military Weapons to Iran will be immediately tariffed, on any and all goods

sold to the United States of America, 50%, effective immediately," the US President wrote in a post on Truth Social. In a separate post, Trump stated that the United States will "work closely" with Iran following what he called it as a "very productive regime change," and also claimed that there would be no further advancement of uranium in Iran.

## MOJTABA HELPED CUT TRUCE DEAL

Continued from P1

It was Iran's new Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei, the son of former supreme leader Ali Khamenei who was killed in an airstrike at the start of the war on February 28, who nudged his negotiators, for the first time since the war began, to move towards a deal.

Iran's Foreign minister

Araghchi said that under the two-week ceasefire agreement, maritime traffic through the vital Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of global oil and gas passes, would be guaranteed.

Kamenei, who is yet to appear in public since being named the Supreme Leader, was actively involved in the process to make a truce

deal on Monday and Tuesday. Khamenei's blessing for his negotiators to cut a deal was a "breakthrough".

Araghchi also played a key role both in handling the negotiations and in pushing commanders from the Revolutionary Guards, an elite force, to accept a deal. China too was advising Iran to seek an off ramp.

## US V-P Vance, Ghalibaf to lead US-Iran talks

Continued from P1

The diplomatic momentum follows an announcement by US President Donald Trump, who confirmed a two-week ceasefire agreement with Iran shortly before a deadline linked to the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz.

Iranian officials have indicated that talks will commence in Islamabad, crediting Pakistan for playing a key mediating role in securing the ceasefire.

The planned talks are being closely watched as a potential step toward ending weeks of escalating conflict and restoring stability in the region. With negotiations expected to begin Friday, the spotlight is firmly on Vance's diplomatic role.

Meanwhile, President Donald Trump has credited China for helping broker the fragile truce, even as he claims the U.S. still holds untapped leverage over Iran.

## Fragile ceasefire takes effect

Continued from P1

Israel said it would not, and strikes hit Beirut on Wednesday. The fate of Iran's missile and nuclear programs — the elimination of which were major objectives for the US and Israel in going to war — also remained unclear. Trump said the US would work with Iran to remove buried enriched uranium, though Iran did not confirm that.

Meanwhile, global oil prices have fallen sharply, and stock markets soared after the US and Iran agreed to a conditional two-week ceasefire deal that includes the reopening of the key Strait of Hormuz waterway. The price of benchmark Brent tumbled more than 15% to less than \$92 (£68.4) a barrel, while US-traded oil fell similarly to just under \$94. But oil prices remain higher than before the conflict started on 28 February. At the time, it was trading at around \$70 a barrel.

In the streets of Tehran, pro-government demonstrators screamed: "Death

to America, death to Israel, death to compromisers!" after the ceasefire announcement and burned American and Israeli flags.

The chants underscored the anger animating hardliners, who have been preparing for what many assumed would be an apocalyptic battle with the United States. Trump warned Tuesday that "a whole civilization will die tonight," if a deal wasn't reached.

Trump initially said Iran proposed a "workable" 10-point plan that could help end the war the U.S. launched with Israel on Feb. 28. But when a version in Farsi emerged that indicated Iran would be allowed to continue enriching uranium — which is key to building a nuclear weapon — Trump called it fraudulent without elaborating. Vance later said the deal was being misrepresented within Iran, though he did not offer details. Iran's demands for ending the war include a withdrawal of U.S. combat forces from the re-

gion, the lifting of sanctions, and the release of its frozen assets. In his post on Wednesday, Trump said: "We are, and will be, talking Tariff and Sanctions relief with Iran."

It was not clear if other Western nations would agree to that, and the other points are likely nonstarters. United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres's personal envoy arrived in Iran for talks on "the way forward."

Pakistan said talks to hammer out a permanent end to the war could begin in Islamabad as soon as Friday.

Israel backed the US ceasefire with Iran, but Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the deal does not cover fighting against Hezbollah.

Israeli Chief of Staff Lt Gen Eyal Zamir said Israel will continue to "utilize every operational opportunity" to strike Hezbollah.

The Israeli military said it struck more than 100 targets within 10 minutes Wednesday across Lebanon, the largest wave of strikes since March 1.

Hezbollah has not confirmed if it will abide by the ceasefire, though the group has said it was open to giving mediators a chance to secure an agreement. An official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to comment publicly, said the group would not stop firing at Israel unless Israel agreed to do the same.

While Iran could not match the sophistication of US and Israeli weaponry or their dominance in the air, its ability to control the Strait of Hormuz proved a tremendous strategic advantage. Iranian attacks and threats deterred many commercial ships from passing through the waterway, through which 20% of all traded oil and natural gas passes in peacetime.

That roiled the world economy and raised the pressure on Trump both at home and abroad to find a way out of the standoff. The ceasefire may formalize a system of charging fees in the strait that Iran instituted — and give it a new source of revenue.



Rupee is stabilising around 92-93 against the US dollar. Because of global war-related headwinds and FI withdrawals, there was pressure, but despite these odds, the rupee will stabilise at these levels. One should not worry." -S Mahendra Dev, Chairman, EAC-PM

## BIZ BRIEFS

## ITC Hotels' milestone

ITC Hotels Limited (ITCHL) announced the Milestone 50th Hotel signing for the Welcomhotel brand in India with addition of new hotels in Shirdi and Bhubaneswar to the growing brand portfolio. The soon to open destinations for Welcomhotel brand include Gangtok in Sikkim and Bhopal & Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh. ITC recently entered into definitive agreements with Sandy Resort Private Limited to operate their upcoming 73-room hotel in Shirdi.

## New collection from Tanishq

Tanishq, a jewelry brand from the House of Tata, unveiled its latest launch, Hues, in the natural gemstone category. Hues collection reimagines the way gold is experienced this Akshaya Tritiya, moving beyond traditional, investment-led purchases to jewellery that is expressive and meant to be worn, the company said. The campaign for the new collection features Rukmini Vasanth, Tanishq's new face for South India. The new collection takes centre stage with a focused design language that celebrates contemporary colour stories in gold.

## CAIAA in pact with UniCAM

Chennai Amrita International Aviation College (CAIAA), an aviation training institution, has established a strategic international collaboration with University College of Aviation Malaysia (UniCAM) to bring global aviation expertise directly to its campus. This initiative is designed to strengthen students' practical exposure, build confidence, and equip them with industry-relevant skills for global aviation careers. As part of this collaboration, the college hosted a four-day international training programme from April 6 to 9, 2026.

## NDC celebrates diamond day

Natural Diamond Council (NDC) celebrated first World Diamond Day on April 8. The day was introduced by NDC as a global movement to recognise and celebrate the joy, passion, and community that natural diamonds inspire. Beyond their brilliance, diamonds represent memories, legacy, and the craftsmanship of a passionate industry that brings these stories to life, it said.

## Quest Global's acquisition

Quest Global, a pure-play engineering services company, announced the acquisition of BITSILICA, an India-based semiconductor design services company. The acquisition will strengthen Quest Global's semiconductor offerings and expand its footprint in supporting global semiconductor customers. It will also accelerate the company's strategy to build full-stack capabilities from concept-to-silicon-to-software. With this acquisition, BITSILICA will also gain access to Quest Global's 25 years of deep domain expertise.

## RBI hits pause amid oil surge, global uncertainty

RATE STEADY AT 5.25% | IRAN CEASEFIRE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT FOR POLICY DECISION

MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank on Wednesday expectedly kept interest rates unchanged amid hopes of a global recovery on the back of ceasefire in the six-week-long US/Israel-Iran conflict. The policy decision comes as a month and a half-long West Asia conflict has disrupted energy supplies, shot up crude oil prices and created fiscal and inflationary pressures for import-dependent nations like India.

This is the first monetary policy review after the government announced a fresh inflation target for the RBI last month. The government has asked the RBI to maintain retail inflation at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side for another five years ending March 2031. Announcing the first bi-monthly monetary policy for the current fiscal, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has unanimously decided to retain short-term lending rate or repo rate at 5.25 per cent with a neutral stance.

The rate cut pause comes on the back of the consum-

er price index (CPI) based headline retail inflation that moved closer to the RBI's medium-term target of 4 per cent at 3.21 per cent in February.

Additionally, the rupee has depreciated by over 4 per cent since the war, which has consequences for pushing up import inflation. However, the rupee has appreciated by 50 paise to 92.56 against US dollar following announcement of the ceasefire by the US and Iran. Based on the recommendation of the MPC, the RBI reduced the repo rate by 25 bps each in February, April, and December 2025 and 50 basis points in June amidst easing retail inflation. India's retail inflation dropped to a historic low of 0.25 per cent in October 2025, marking the lowest level since the Consumer Price Index (CPI) series was introduced.

However, the rupee declined to historic low and crossed 95 against a dollar last month making imports costlier, raising fears of rise in inflation. Rupee touched a record low of 95.21 on March 30, 2026.

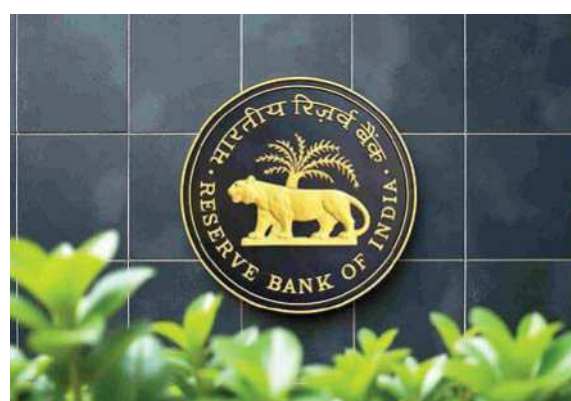
## Both growth and inflation risks flagged

Trims growth view to 6.9% | Inflation at 4.6%, but risks ticking up

MUMBAI

THE Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday projected India's GDP growth at 6.9 per cent for FY27, lower than the estimated 7.6 per cent for FY26, citing elevated commodity prices and supply chain disruptions stemming from the West Asia crisis.

Unveiling the first bi-monthly monetary policy, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said merchandise exports could be hit by disruptions in key shipping routes and rising freight and insurance costs. However, domestic demand is expected to remain supported by strong services sector momentum, GST rationalisation, rising manufacturing capacity utilisation,



and healthy corporate and banking sector balance sheets.

"India's macroeconomic fundamentals exuded confidence with buoyant growth and low inflation, though conditions turned adverse in March due to intensifying geopolitical tensions," he said. The RBI

noted that higher input costs due to energy prices, along with supply chain constraints, could weigh on growth. Still, government measures to support exports and stabilise supply chains may cushion the impact. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) flagged downside risks to growth

"The ceasefire, to some extent, has been taken into account. The whole implications (will come later), but the ceasefire has been taken into account in the monetary policy decision



-Sanjay Malhotra, RBI Governor

## HDFC Bank sound, no issues found

MUMBAI: THE Reserve Bank of India found no governance or conduct-related issues at HDFC Bank during its supervisory inspection, Governor Sanjay Malhotra said Wednesday. On resignation of HDFC Bank Chairman Atanu Chakraborty, Malhotra said "HDFC Bank is a Domestic Systemically Important Bank (D-SIB) with sound financials, a professional board, and competent management. Periodic assessments show no material concerns."

amid uncertainty over the intensity and duration of the West Asia conflict. For FY27, quarterly GDP growth is projected at 6.8 per cent (Q1), 6.7 per cent (Q2), 7 per cent (Q3), and 7.2 per cent (Q4).

On inflation, the RBI projected retail inflation at 4.6 per cent for FY27, within the target band of 4 per cent (+/- 2 per cent). Quar-

terly projections stand at 4 per cent (Q1), 4.4 per cent (Q2), 5.2 per cent (Q3), and 4.7 per cent (Q4). The MPC observed that inflation remains below target but warned of upside risks from rising energy prices and potential weather-related food price shocks. Core inflation remains muted, though supply disruptions could create uncertainty.

## Central bank plans to revise norms to free up board time

MUMBAI

IN a bid to promote ease of doing business, Reserve Bank Governor Sanjay Malhotra on Wednesday proposed to revise and rationalise guidelines to facilitate better utilisation of bank board's time and draft directions in this regard would be released shortly. The matters to be placed before the Boards of banks, along with their periodicity, are determined by the Boards themselves, guided by the seven broad themes prescribed by the Reserve Bank of India.

Meanwhile, the Reserve Bank has also mandated certain policies and matters to be placed before the Board for approval, review, or information. "In an endeavor to enable Boards to utilize its time effectively, and to facilitate a more focused and qualitative engagement on strategy and risk governance, the Reserve Bank has undertaken comprehensive review and rationalisation of all such instructions. Draft directions in this regard will be issued shortly for public consultation," RBI said in its



The Reserve Bank has constantly endeavored to refine and strengthen its regulatory and supervisory framework while minimising compliance costs, through periodic evaluation of instructions for their continued relevance.

statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies.

The announcement comes weeks after HDFC Bank Chairman Atanu Chakraborty's abrupt resignation, citing ethical concerns. "Certain happenings and practices within the bank, that I have observed over the last two years, are not in congruence with my personal values and ethics. This is the basis of my aforementioned decision," Chakraborty had said in his resignation letter dated March 17. This is the first time that the part-time

chairman of HDFC Bank left mid-way raising concerns over its functioning.

Announcing the Monetary Policy Committee meeting outcome, Reserve Bank Governor Sanjay Malhotra said, "We had recently undertaken a detailed exercise, to consolidate over 9,000 regulatory instructions into 238 Master Directions. A similar consolidation exercise has now been completed for all our supervisory instructions."

The Reserve Bank has constantly endeavored to refine and strengthen its regulatory

and supervisory framework while minimising compliance costs, through periodic evaluation of instructions for their continued relevance. In furtherance of this objective, the Reserve Bank had undertaken a comprehensive consolidation exercise of the regulatory instructions, on an 'as is' basis, in 2025.

The exercise involved consolidation of more than 9,000 existing regulatory circular/guidelines into 238 function-wise Master Directions (MDs), specific to each category of regulated entity, the Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies said.

A similar exercise has now been carried out for the supervisory instructions, it said. Accordingly, the drafts of 64 Master Directions consolidating extant supervisory instructions on up to nine functional areas are being published today on RBI website for public comments, it added. To facilitate ease of doing business by MSMEs, Malhotra said, RBI proposed to dispense with the requirement of due diligence while onboarding them on TReDS platforms.

## Adani's request for hearing in US SEC case allowed

NEW DELHI: A US court has granted billionaire Gautam Adani's request to schedule a hearing on his plea to dismiss a fraud case filed by the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

The Eastern District Court of New York approved a pre-motion conference, allowing Adani and his nephew Sagar Adani to argue for early dismissal of the complaint, potentially avoiding a prolonged trial.

The SEC's case, filed in November 2024 alongside a criminal complaint by the US Department of Justice, alleges the Adanis were involved in a \$250 million bribery scheme linked to solar energy contracts in India and



misled US investors during fundraising.

Adani's legal team has strongly denied the allegations, arguing there is no credible evidence of bribery and that US regulators lack jurisdiction. They contend the case represents an "impermissible extraterritorial application" of US securities laws.

## Adani Green jumps over 11%

NEW DELHI: Adani Group stocks were in high demand on Wednesday, with Adani Green surging over 11 per cent, in tandem with a sharp rally in the broader equity market. A US judge granted a request from billionaire Gautam Adani to schedule a hearing in efforts to dismiss a US Securities and Exchange Commission fraud case, which he says lacks necessary jurisdiction as well as fails on multiple reasons.

## HYUNDAI PRICE HIKE FROM MAY RUPEE JUMPS 47 PAISE

NEW DELHI: HYUNDAI Motor India Ltd on Wednesday said it will hike prices of its vehicles by up to 1 per cent across its portfolio from next month citing various cost escalations. The company has planned to increase the prices of its cars up to 1 per cent across the portfolio, effective May 2026, Hyundai Motor India Ltd said in a regulatory filing.

The price revision is attributed to a combination of various cost escalations, it added. The quantum of increase will vary based on the variants and models, HMIL said. "The company's endeavor is always to absorb rising costs to safeguard our customer from price fluctuations.

MUMBAI: The rupee appreciated 47 paise to close at 92.59 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday after US President Donald Trump announced the suspension of military strikes against Iran for two weeks, and the Reserve Bank kept the key benchmark rate unchanged with a neutral stance. Forex traders said investor sentiment got a boost after Governor Sanjay Malhotra assured that the steps taken on forex do not constitute a structural change.

## Women borrowers drive ₹76-L-cr credit surge

Digital push fuels women's financial inclusion | Women now hold 26% of India's total credit

NEW DELHI

WOMEN in India are no longer confined to small-ticket loans but are increasingly driving the country's credit growth by moving into retail and business lending, NITI Aayog CEO Nidhi Chhibber said.

A new report titled "From Borrowers to Builders: Women and India's Evolving Credit Market" highlights a major shift in women's participation in the formal credit system, backed by digital public infrastructure and expanding financial access.

Speaking at the launch, Chhibber said economic growth strengthens when participation becomes broader, deeper and more efficient. She noted that women are increasingly shaping and benefiting from these changes.

"Women borrowers are moving beyond entry-level credit towards retail and business-purpose lending, indicating stronger financial capability and deeper economic integration," she said.

The report reveals that women borrowers now hold a credit portfolio of Rs 76 lakh



crore, accounting for 26 per cent of total system credit. This marks a sharp rise from Rs 16 lakh crore in 2017, reflecting a 4.8-fold increase in credit exposure.

The number of women actively using credit has also grown steadily, recording a compound annual growth rate of 9 per cent between 2017 and 2025.

Prepared under the Women Entrepreneurship Platform of NITI Aayog in collaboration with TransUnion CIBIL and MicroSave Consulting, the report combines large-scale credit data with insights from rural women entrepreneurs.

## Aviation stocks fly high: IndiGo ends over 8% higher

NEW DELHI: Aviation stocks ended sharply higher on Wednesday following a steep decline in crude oil prices after the US and Iran announced a two-week ceasefire. Easing of geopolitical stress led to a sharp fall in Brent crude oil prices, which tumbled 14.12 per cent to USD 93.95 per barrel. InterGlobe Aviation, the parent firm of IndiGo, jumped 8.16 per cent to settle at Rs 4,616.60 on the BSE. During the day, it zoomed 10.98 per cent to Rs 4,737.40.

The stock of SpiceJet climbed 5 per cent to reach its upper circuit limit of Rs 11.14. "The rally was primarily driven by a sharp improvement in global sentiment following the announcement of a temporary ceasefire between the US and Iran, which led to a significant cooling in crude oil prices and eased concerns around inflation and global growth," Ajit Mishra, SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

## Mudra democratises credit, drives inclusive growth: FM

NEW DELHI

FINANCE Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday said the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) will continue to empower entrepreneurs, making them active participants in India's journey towards Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Marking the scheme's 11th anniversary, Sitharaman said PMMY has driven a "silent transformation", enabling crores of citizens to enter entrepreneurship with confidence. Launched on April 8, 2015, the scheme focuses on "funding the unfunded" by extending credit to those outside the formal banking system.

"Eleven years later, the scheme has been instrumental in reshaping the credit landscape for MSMEs and individual entrepreneurs,"

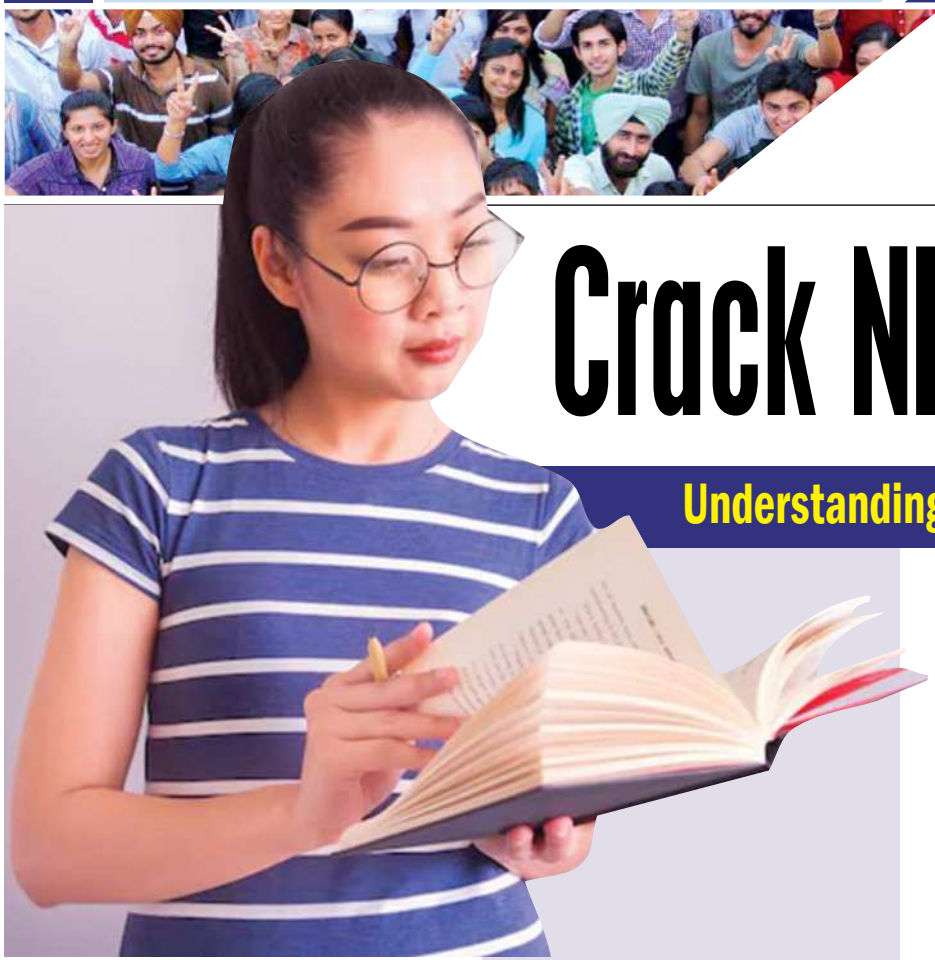


she said, adding that it has democratised access to finance by removing entry barriers.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the scheme has redefined access to credit, empowering millions "with the confidence to dream and the means to fulfil it".

According to Sitharaman, over 57.79 crore loans amounting to Rs40.07 lakh crore have been sanctioned under PMMY so far. Nearly

two-thirds of the loans have gone to women entrepreneurs, while around one-fifth were extended to first-time borrowers, translating into 12.15 crore loans worth Rs12 lakh crore. Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said PMMY has strengthened financial inclusion, especially among marginalised sections. Around 51 per cent of beneficiaries belong to SC, ST and OBC categories, while women account for 67 per cent. The scheme offers collateral-free loans of up to Rs20 lakh for non-corporate, non-farm income-generating activities through banks, NBFCs and MFIs. The finance ministry said MSMEs remain the backbone of the economy, driving balanced growth, while digital innovations are making credit access easier for small businesses.



## Crack NEET Chemistry with the right plan

Understanding trends, focusing on key chapters, and regular revision are key to better performance

- 1. Focus on high-weightage chapters:** Prioritise topics like Chemical Bonding, Equilibrium, and Coordination Compounds.
- 2. Strengthen fundamentals first:** Build a strong base before moving to advanced topics.
- 3. Practice consistently:** Solve previous years' papers and take regular tests.
- 4. Revise regularly:** Especially for Inorganic and memory-based chapters.
- 5. Maintain subject balance:** Allocate time wisely across all sections of Chemistry.

DILIP GANGARAMANI

For students preparing for the NEET UG 2026, Chemistry often feels like a subject that sits between extremes. It is generally more manageable than Physics but not as straightforward as Biology. For some aspirants, it becomes a reliable scoring area, while for others, it presents a mix of challenges—numerical problem-solving in Physical Chemistry, conceptual understanding in Organic Chemistry, and memory-based learning in Inorganic Chemistry.

This makes it essential for

students to adopt a clear and structured strategy. One of the most effective ways to do this is by understanding the chapter-wise weightage of Chemistry based on previous years' papers.

This approach does not mean ignoring any topic but helps aspirants prioritise their time and effort more effectively.

### Why chapter-wise weightage matters

A close analysis of past NEET papers reveals that certain chapters consistently carry higher weightage. Topics such as Chemical Bonding, Equilibrium, Hy-

drocarbons, Coordination Compounds, and Aldehydes and Ketones are frequently asked and often contribute significantly to the total marks.

Focusing on these high-weightage chapters offers several advantages.

It allows students to allocate more time to topics that are more likely to appear in the exam. It also builds familiarity and confidence, as repeated practice increases accuracy and speed. At the same time, revising low-weightage chapters ensures that students do not lose out on easy marks from straightforward questions.

### Understanding Class 11 Chemistry Trends

The Class 11 portion forms the foundation of Chemistry preparation. Many of these topics are concept-heavy and require a clear understanding before moving on to advanced chapters.

High-weightage chapters in Class 11 include Chemical Bonding and Molecular Structure, Equilibrium, Hydrocarbons, and Organic Chemistry basics. These topics are crucial not only because of their weightage but also because they form the base for several Class 12 chapters.

Medium-weightage chapters such as Structure of Atom, Thermodynamics, and Some Basic Concepts of Chemistry also play an important role. These chapters introduce key principles that are frequently applied in problem-solving.

On the other hand, topics like Classification of Elements and Periodicity in Properties are relatively lower in weightage but still require revision, as they can contribute to easy scoring opportunities.

### Class 12 Chemistry: Higher weightage, higher impact

The Class 12 syllabus generally carries slightly higher

overall weightage in NEET. Many chapters in this section are scoring if prepared well.

Among the high-weightage topics are Electrochemistry, Coordination Compounds, and the d- and f-block elements. These chapters are known for repeated questions and relatively predictable patterns.

Medium-weightage chapters include Chemical Kinetics and Alcohols, Phenols, and Ethers. These require a mix of conceptual understanding and memorisation.

Lower-weightage topics such as Amines and Biomolecules are often more theory-based and can be covered through regular revision. While they may contribute fewer questions, they are important for securing complete marks.

### Building a step-by-step preparation plan

An effective Chemistry preparation strategy begins with strengthening the basics. Students should start with chapters like Structure of Atom and Basic Concepts to build clarity. Once the fundamentals are clear, they can move on to more complex topics such as Thermodynamics, Equilibrium, and Chemical Bonding.

Organic Chemistry should be approached in a logical



sequence—beginning with general principles and reaction mechanisms, followed by specific chapters like Hydrocarbons and functional groups. Understanding reaction patterns is more important than rote memorisation.

Inorganic Chemistry, on the other hand, requires consistent revision.

Short notes, flashcards, and regular recall practice can help retain important facts and reactions.

Solving previous years' question papers is a crucial part of preparation. It helps students understand the exam pattern, identify im-

portant topics, and improve time management. Chapter-wise practice is particularly useful for strengthening weaker areas.

### Balancing chemistry with other subjects

NEET preparation requires a balance between all three subjects. Biology often carries the highest weightage, while Physics demands strong analytical skills. Chemistry acts as a bridge between the two, offering scoring opportunities if prepared strategically. Students should aim to maintain a balance between Physi-

cal, Organic, and Inorganic Chemistry, ensuring that no section is neglected. A well-rounded approach can significantly improve overall performance.

Chemistry can play a decisive role in determining your NEET rank. With a clear understanding of chapter-wise weightage, a structured study plan, and consistent practice, aspirants can turn it into a high-scoring subject. Rather than studying everything with equal intensity, focusing on the right topics at the right time can make preparation more efficient and result-oriented.

## VIT Chennai Celebrates University Day



The Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT), Chennai, celebrated its University Day recently with great enthusiasm. Binod Kumar, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Indian Bank, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Vaibhav Chaurasia attended as the Guest of Honour. The event was presided over by G. Viswanathan, Founder and Chancellor of VIT, in the presence of G. V. Selvam, Vice-President of VIT.

In his address, Binod Kumar encouraged students to prepare for a rapidly evolving world, emphasizing the importance of continuous effort and adaptability. He highlighted the need for innovation with

a focus on enhancing end-user experience. Stressing a customer-centric approach, he remarked that simplifying people's lives should be a guiding principle, as it helps individuals strive for excellence.

He further underlined the significance of both knowledge and character, stating that while knowledge shapes one's path, it is personal character that ultimately defines success.

Major Vaibhav Chaurasia inspiring students to draw inspiration from their surroundings and focus on positive influences. He urged them to remain resilient and maintain self-belief, reminding them to persevere through challenges and continue work-

ing hard with integrity.

In his presidential address, G. Viswanathan highlighted the transformative power of education, noting that it uplifts individuals, families, and society at large. He stressed that the vision of a developed nation can be achieved through universal access to quality education and knowledge-driven economic growth.

This concluded with the distribution of medals and certificates to meritorious students in recognition of their academic and overall excellence. Senior officials, including Prof. T. Thyagarajan, Prof. K. Sathiyarayanan, and Prof. P. K. Manoharan, were also present at the event.

Industry-integrated undergraduate programmes designed to combine academic learning with practical training. The B.Tech in Applied Life Sciences includes initial classroom study followed by hands-on experience. The B.Sc in Cardiovascular Sciences, both courses focus on skill development, industry exposure, and employability, with structured internships forming a key component of the learning process

HYDERABAD

Young India Skills University (YISU) has launched a set of industry-integrated undergraduate programmes along with a digital learning platform, marking a shift towards skill-based and experiential education.

The launch event was held on Wednesday at the International Institute of Information Technology Hyderabad campus in Gachibowli, in the presence of academic and

## Young India Skills University launches industry-linked courses, digital learning platform



industry representatives. The initiative aims to bridge the gap between classroom education and industry requirements by embedding practical training within degree programmes.

According to university officials, the newly introduced B.Tech programme in Applied Life Sciences has been developed in collaboration with companies such as Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, Het-

ero, and Bharat Biotech. The structure of the programme includes classroom learning in the initial phase, followed by extended hands-on training within partner organisations and internships in the final year.

The university has also introduced a B.Sc programme in Cardiovascular Sciences in collaboration with AIG Hospitals. The course is designed to provide students

with practical exposure in a clinical environment under the guidance of medical professionals.

Vice Chancellor V.L.V.S.S. Subba Rao stated that the programmes have been designed with a strong focus on employability and real-world application. He noted that industry collaboration has been a key factor in shaping the curriculum, ensuring students gain relevant skills

alongside academic knowledge.

Alongside the academic programmes, the university launched a Digital Learning Universe in partnership with Tutorials Point. The platform is designed to offer flexible, self-paced learning through AI-supported content across multiple domains, including technology, artificial intelligence, and professional skills.

The digital platform is expected to initially offer around 75 courses, catering to learners seeking to upgrade skills or explore new areas of study outside traditional degree structures.

University officials said the move reflects a broader shift away from conventional textbook-based education towards practical, skill-driven learning models.

The programmes are also expected to create new opportunities for students, particularly those seeking industry exposure during their academic journey. Admissions for the newly launched courses are currently open, with selection based on an entrance test and interview process.

## Survey finds Gen Z aspirants shifting focus to global, skill-based careers

A majority of Gen Z students in India aspiring for careers in finance are moving away from traditional degree-focused pathways and increasingly prioritising global opportunities and skill-based learning, according to a recent survey by Zell Education.

The report reveals that over 70% of students are actively targeting international career prospects, including roles with global firms, remote work opportunities, and career pathways enabled through internationally recognised certifications. This trend reflects a significant

shift in student mindset, with greater focus on global exposure, higher earning potential, and faster career growth.

One of the key findings of the survey is the growing preference for practical, application-oriented learning. Students are placing more importance on acquiring job-ready skills and real-world experience rather than relying solely on academic degrees. The emphasis is increasingly on employability and industry relevance.

Pratham Barot, CEO and Co-founder of Zell Education, noted that students today are more informed

and outcome-driven in their decisions. He highlighted that career choices are now guided by long-term prospects and skill development rather than just formal qualifications.

The survey also points to a rising demand for globally recognised certifications such as ACCA, CFA, and CPA. These qualifications are increasingly seen as essential for building international careers and aligning with global industry standards.

In terms of career preferences, students continue to show strong interest in fields such as investment banking,

private equity, consulting, and financial analytics—areas known for high growth and dynamic work environments.

However, the report also highlights challenges faced by aspirants, including limited awareness about career pathways, access to industry-relevant training, and the need to balance academic commitments with skill development.

**1. Global outlook:** Over 70% of students aim for international or globally connected careers.  
**2. Skill-first approach:** Practical learning and employ-

ability skills are gaining priority over degrees.

**3. Rising certifications:** ACCA, CFA, and CPA are becoming central to career planning.

**4. Awareness gaps:** Students still face challenges in accessing the right guidance and training.

The findings underline a broader transformation in how Gen Z approaches education and careers, with a clear shift towards global mobility, skill-driven learning, and outcome-focused decision-making in an increasingly competitive job market.





It felt like the Mumbai Indians lacked a bit of purpose and intent with the ball, and that certainly spilled over into the batting. It was always going to be a big task to score 151 in 11 overs. Young swashbuckler Vaibhav Sooryavanshi was "brilliant" against pace ace Jasprit Bumrah - Anil Kumble

# Vaibhav taking down Bumrah eased pressure, says Jaiswal

GUWAHATI

AMAZED by Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's seemingly effortless takedown of Jasprit Bumrah, Rajasthan Royals batter Yashasvi Jaiswal said his 15-year-old opening partner eased the pressure on him in the 27-run IPL win over Mumbai Indians on a rain-soaked evening here. The talking point before the match was the first face-off between the redoubtable pacer and the teen sensation, and Sooryavanshi lived up to the hype, smashing

an incoming Bumrah 131kph delivery on middle and leg for a first-ball six over mid-on. "First ball, he hit him for a six, and I told him to just keep playing his shots," said Jaiswal, who scored a 32-ball 77 not out to lift RR to 150/3 in the 11-overs a side match that was truncated because of inclement weather. Mumbai Indians, in reply, managed 123/9 to slump to a second loss on the trot, while Rajasthan Royals climbed to the top of the table with three wins from three matches.

**Mahela concedes MI blown away by Sooryavanshi and Jaiswal magic; It felt like Mumbai Indians lacked purpose and intent with the ball: Kumble**

The Bihar left-hander, who was signed by Rajasthan Royals for Rs 1.1 crore during the 2025 IPL mega auction. He had shown glimpses of his prodigious talent by becoming the youngest centurion in T20 cricket and the second-fastest in IPL history with a record-breaking

35-ball hundred against Gujarat Titans last season. On Tuesday too, he was in beast mode from the outset, even though Bumrah operating with the new ball. Sooryavanshi, who turned 15 a day before IPL 2026 began, went on to hit two of

his four sixes off the pacer in his opening over, setting the tempo early with a 14-ball 39. It made life easier for Jaiswal at the other end as their confidence soared, allowing them to target other MI bowlers like Deepak Chahar and Trent Boult who both leaked 22 runs in their respective overs. "Of course, Bumrah bhai is one of the legends, so if he's scoring against him, it's amazing. It made us feel that other bowlers we can also take down," said Jaiswal, who hit 10 fours and four sixes and anchored the

innings," Jaiswal said. are quite an opposition." Mumbai Indians head coach Mahela Jayawardene admitted his side was blown off course by a blistering onslaught from Rajasthan Royals openers Yashasvi Jaiswal and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. It felt like the Mumbai Indians lacked a bit of purpose and intent with the ball, and that certainly spilled over into the batting. It was always going to be a big task to score 151 in 11 overs," said former India captain Anil Kumble.



## Divya Deshmukh storms into joint lead

R Praggnanandhaa saw his title hopes take a major hit after a loss against Dutch Grandmaster Anish Giri in the eighth round

PAPHOS

INDIAN chess sensation Divya Deshmukh pulled off a superb turnaround converting what looked like a certain draw into victory to climb into joint lead, while compatriot R Praggnanandhaa saw his title hopes take a major hit after a loss against Dutch Grandmaster Anish Giri in the eighth round, leaving him almost out of contention for a top finish in the Candidates tournament here. In the women's section, World Cup winner Deshmukh turned the tables on overnight leader Anna Muzychuk to jump into joint lead with four others including the Ukrainian on 4.5 points from what had seemed a difficult position to defend. Deshmukh did well to fight on and equalise and then capitalised on an unforced error by her opponent in the queen-and-pawns endgame to score a vital victory. The other Indian, R.



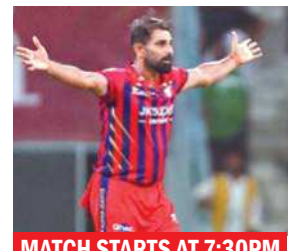
Vaishali drew with Bibisara Assaubayeva of Kazakhstan to join Deshmukh, Kateryna Lagno of Ukraine, China's Zhu Jiner and Muzychuk in the lead on 4.5 points after eight games. The event is wide open now with Jiner giving a knockout blow to the hopes of her Chinese compatriot Tan Zhongyi to move to 4.5 points while Kateryna defeated fellow Russian Aleksandra Goryachkina. On a day when Uzbek Javokhir Sindarov just decided to consolidate his lead and drew with tail-ender Andrey Espenko of Russia in the 'Open' section, Praggnana-

ndhaa, who had scored his sole victory over Giri in the first round, fell prey to some simple tactics from a seemingly equal position and lost his second game in the tournament. Sindarov took his tally to 6.5 out of a possible eight and looks headed for victory as his lead now stands at a massive two points with six rounds remaining in the USD 700,000 prize money tournament that will also select the next challenger for reigning world champion D. Gukesh in the world championship match slated later this year.

## KKR brace for Shami challenge in LSG clash

TAPAN MOHANTA KOLKATA

OUT of tune and bereft of ideas, Kolkata Knight Riders may ring in sweeping changes in search of their first win of the season when they face a Mohammed Shami-inspired Lucknow Super Giants in the IPL, here on Thursday. Shami is fresh from his outstanding 2/9 against Sunrisers Hyderabad, where he dismissed Abhishek Sharma and Travis Head in successive overs -- the same duo who had battered KKR the other day. The 'local' man Shami, a fine exponent of straight seam bowling and movement, will relish the conditions at Eden Gardens and could emerge as a key threat for a KKR who are yet to win after three matches. A glimpse of what to expect was seen on Monday when PBKS' Australian speedster Xavier Bartlett showed how effective straight seam bowling can be on a grassy Eden pitch, blowing away KKR's top order by dismissing overseas duo Finn Allen and Cameron Green in the space of three balls. From 16/2 in two overs, KKR were fortunate to escape with a point after their match against Punjab Kings was washed out.



MATCH STARTS AT 7:30PM

Because of a trough stretching from Gangetic West Bengal to the Gulf of Mannar, rain has been a constant over the past three days and is forecast around late Wednesday and early Thursday. However, being a late 7.30pm start the match is unlikely to be affected much, which should lift the mood. Coming back to the contest, while Shami will be a major threat in the power play, tackling the rest of LSG's attack including Prince Yadav and mystery spinner Digvesh Rathi could also be decisive. LSG's strength lies in their power play bowling, something evident when they reduced both Delhi Capitals and Sunrisers Hyderabad to identical scores of 26/4 early on.

## GT beats DC by one run in a thriller

NEW DELHI: Gujarat Titans beat Delhi Capitals by one run despite KL Rahul's heroic 92 off 52 balls in an Indian Premier League match here on Wednesday. Needing two off two balls to reach the victory target of 211, David Miller had a brain-fade moment when he refused a single of the penultimate delivery from Prasad Krishna and then missed the last delivery with Kuldeep Yadav failing to beat Jos Buttler's direct throw. Shubman Gill led from the front with a beligerent half-century to help GT post 210 for four. Besides Gill (70 off 45 balls; 4x4s, 5x6s), Jos Buttler also chipped in with an aggressive 52 off 27 deliveries while Washington Sundar made a fiery 55 off 32 balls after the Capitals opted to bowl. For DC, Mukesh Kumar (2/55) and Lungi Ngidi (1/24) were the pick of the bowlers.

**BRIEF SCORES:** Gujarat Titans: 210 for 4 in 20 overs (Shubman Gill 70, Washington Sundar 55, Jos Buttler 52; Mukesh Kumar 2/55, Lungi Ngidi 1/24). Delhi Capitals: 209 for 8 in 20 overs (KL Rahul 92, Pathum Nissanka 41, David Miller 41 not out; Rashid Khan 3/17).

## India go down 1-2 to Thailand

NEW DELHI: Rituja Bhosale and Ankita Raina salvaged some pride with a consolation win in the doubles after Sahaja Yamalappalli's narrow defeat in the second singles as India went down against Thailand 1-2 in the rain-hit opening Asia/Oceania Group I tie of the Billie Jean King Cup here on Wednesday. A lot was riding on world No. 384 Sahaja as she resumed the match after it was halted due to rain on Tuesday evening.



However, the 25-year-old could not keep India in the hunt, losing 4-6, 6-1, 4-6 to Patcharin, ranked 449, in a match that lasted two hours and 25 minutes. Doubles pair of Bhosale and Raina then beat Thasaporn Naklo and Peangtarn Plipuech 6-3 6-4 in one hour and 11 minutes. "We knew going into the match, Thailand is a very good team. We really have to play some good tennis. Unfortunately, we didn't do what we needed to do and lost 2-0. But nevertheless, it's a good thing that we won the doubles because it's still a long tournament ahead. And

every win matters," captain Vishal Uppal told reporters. Earlier, resuming at 3-4 in the decider, Sahaja sent a forehand wide as Patcharin held serve to move 5-3 ahead. The Indian then held her serve after a Patcharin backhand slice found the net, narrowing the gap to 4-5. With the match on knife's edge, Sahaja produced some exceptional groundstrokes, dominating baseline exchanges. She even earned a break point when the Thai hit long. However, she faltered at the crucial juncture, sending a forehand and a backhand long to hand the advantage back. A miscued return on the next point ended her resistance.

# We will move court again to resist voter deletions: Didi

Everything in my life began from here: Mamata after filing nomination for Bhabanipur seat;

KOLKATA

WEST Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday hit out at the BJP and the Election Commission over voter deletions during the SIR exercise and said her party will move a court again to resist the removal of electors from the rolls. Her comments came after nearly 91 lakh voters' names were deleted from the electoral rolls following the completion of the Special Intensive Revision in the state. "You will not be able to defeat the TMC by deleting names. We will move a court again to resist the exclusion of names," Banerjee said while attacking her principal challenger BJP over the roll revision exercise. Banerjee had in February argued in



the Supreme Court as she sought an intervention in the SIR process. The EC figures showed the total deletion of over 90.83 lakh names from the original voter base of 7.66 crore in October 2025. Criticising the poll panel over the SIR process, the TMC supreme said, "We will fight legally to get the names included on

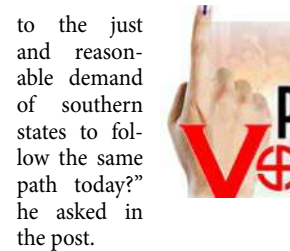
the list as per the Constitution. If people cannot cast their votes, what is the need to frame the tribunal? And then you are saying that the list has been frozen. What is this? We will challenge it and try to understand it." Turning her nomination filing for the Bhabanipur seat into a political counteroffen-

sive to the BJP's call for "paribartan", West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee marched from her Kalighat residence to submit her papers, projecting the constituency as a "mini India" under siege of polarisation. "I was born and brought up here in Bhabanipur only. I stay here 365 days a year. My life, my work, my movements -- everything revolves around Bhabanipur. Everything in my life began from here. I thank and salute the people of Bhabanipur," Banerjee said. "People are allowed to eat eggs, fish, or meat in the BJP-ruled states like Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Maharashtra. The same will happen here if the BJP comes to power," Banerjee claimed. PTI

## CM Stalin on delimitation

'TN will not accept any decision taken without state's consent'

CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Wednesday said the South demanded a fair delimitation and that the state will not accept any decision taken by the Centre on the subject without its consent. Prime Minister Narendra Modi should not turn a "calm south into a storm", he cautioned, and posed a set of questions to the PM. "The Prime Minister must answer these fair and pressing questions raised by the people of the South," Stalin said in a post on 'X' with a headline "Delimitation Danger: Is India sliding into dictatorship?" The DMK chief sought to know why the Union BJP government was "shrouding the entire delimitation process in secrecy instead of coming clean on how it intends to carry it out." "In 2001, former Prime Minister Vajpayee deferred delimitation for 25 years in the national interest. What is Prime Minister Modi's answer



to the just and reasonable demand of southern states to follow the same path today?" he asked in the post. He questioned the timing of convening a special session of Parliament in the midst of five state elections and why the Union government brushed aside the fair and reasoned demand of Opposition leaders to hold the special session only after April 29. "What is it that you are trying to hide? Forcing through far reaching constitutional amendments without even convening an all party consultation is nothing short of dictatorship," Stalin claimed.

## RSS files police complaints against Cong President

GUWAHATI: The RSS on Wednesday said it has filed complaints at two police stations in Assam against Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge for allegedly compar-



ing the ideology of the organisation and the BJP with a 'poisonous snake' at an election rally. The complaints were filed to seek legal action over alleged "derogatory, provocative, and communally sensitive statements made during a recent election rally in south Assam, a RSS spokesman said. In the complaints, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh alleged that the Congress chief had made controversial remarks during an election rally in Nilambazar under the Karimganj South assembly constituency in Sribhumi district. "If a poisonous snake is moving in front of you while you are offering namaz, you

must stop the prayer and rush to kill the poisonous snake first - that is what the Quran prescribes you to do. I tell you that the RSS and BJP are like that same poisonous snake," Kharge was quoted as saying in the complaints. The RSS expressed serious concern, claiming that such remarks were "inflammatory in nature and capable of inciting hostility, intimidation, and violence against workers and supporters of the RSS and the BJP". The complaints pointed out that the statement constitutes a "corrupt electoral practice under Section 83 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, and the remarks criminally intimidated the public and promoted enmity between supporters of different political and social groups".

## Cong levels vote-for-cash allegations against BJP

PALAKKAD

CONGRESS alleged that Sobha Surendran, the Bharatiya Janata Party candidate of the Palakkad constituency in Kerala, was "caught red-handed distributing" cash to voters ahead of April 9 elections to the state assembly. Surendran denied the allegations, calling them "fabricated" to defeat her. She alleged that a local Congress leader and a journalist of a TV channel were behind the allegations, and she would be filing a police



case against them. The BJP leader claimed that a video aired on TV channels, showing some women "offering something" to an elderly woman in her constituency, was wrongly projected by the Congress and the journalist to allege that she offered

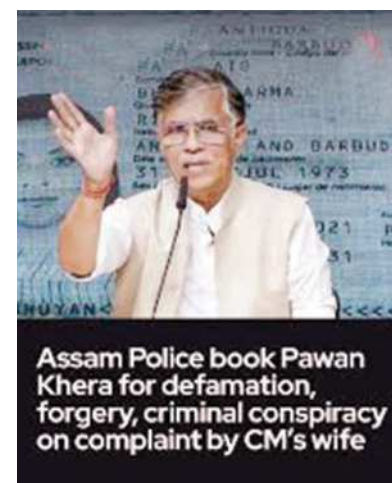
money for votes. Visuals aired on TV channels show a woman offering something to the elderly woman, and thereafter, another group goes to her and opens her hand to reveal a small roll of Rs 500 currency notes. Based on the video, it was alleged that the elderly woman was given money by someone in the BJP candidate's campaign team. However, the elderly woman denied having received any money, but admitted to having asked for Rs 5,000 for buying medicines.

## Kerala LoP urges EC to ensure smooth postal voting for govt staff

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Leader of the Opposition in the state Assembly, V D Satheesan, on Wednesday sought the EC's intervention to ensure that government employees can exercise their franchise without any hindrance through the postal voting process. In a letter to Chief Election Commissioner, CEC, Gyanesh Kumar, Satheesan said the issue has already been brought to the attention of the Kerala Chief Electoral Officer by postal voters from all 14 districts, but "no effective remedial measures have been implemented". Assembly polls for 140 constituencies in Kerala will be held on April 9. He said many such employees have also approached him, seeking assistance in resolving these difficulties.

## Himanta using police to intimidate me: Khera

GUWAHATI: Congress leader Pawan Khera on Wednesday accused Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma of "unleashing" the state police on him instead of addressing the opposition party's questions on multiple passports and foreign investments linked to the CM's wife. In a recorded video addressed to the CM from an undisclosed location, Khera said, "Our party had only asked you some questions. Why do you want to silence us? We have asked questions; give us the replies." He added, "Instead of replying, you are hurling abuses at everyone, you have put police behind me. I am not afraid of them. But I am avoiding them as I have more questions to ask." Khera reiterated questions regarding a purported company registered in the US state of Wyoming in the name of Sarma's wife, Riniki



Assam Police book Pawan Khera for defamation, forgery, criminal conspiracy on complaint by CM's wife

Dubai and Dhaka. He said the London address is also linked with 'Bhuyan Properties Ltd', according to UK government records. Referring to his previous charge of Bhuyan Sarma possessing passports of Egypt and Antigua and Barbuda, and the golden visa of the UAE, Khera asked, "Did you or your agent or one of your family members use fake KYC documents to open these shell companies, buy properties?" "It can be known only through investigation. You are in government, and you should probe these rather than trying to intimidate us," Khera added. Khera had brought the accusations against Bhuyan Sarma of possessing multiple passports and properties in foreign countries on April 5, which have been dismissed by the CM and his wife as false.



## Why sewing is not a hobby, but a career path for today's youth

Sewing is no longer confined to tradition or hobby—it is emerging as a modern, skill-driven career shaped by creativity and technology. For today's youth, it offers a powerful blend of independence, adaptability, and opportunity in an evolving job landscape



SEEMA MAHAJAN

In a world where careers are no longer shaped by linear degrees or predictable corporate ladders, sewing is undergoing a quiet but significant redefinition. Once viewed primarily as a domestic skill or a leisurely pastime, it is now emerging as a credible, future-ready profession—one rooted in creativity, technical expertise, and economic independence. For India's youth navigating an increasingly uncertain job market shaped by automation, platform economies, and shifting consumer values, sewing offers something rare and valuable: a tangible, adaptable skill with real-world application.

The renewed relevance of sewing lies in its ability to seamlessly blend craftsmanship with modern capability. Contemporary sewing is far

removed from the narrow perception of basic stitch work. The tools, techniques, and outcomes have evolved dramatically, expanding what young professionals can create, customise, and scale. Entry-level mechanical machines help learners build a strong foundation in garment construction and fabric handling, while advanced mechanical and electronic machines introduce greater speed control, stitch variation, and material versatility. Computerised sewing machines, with intuitive digital interfaces and pre-programmed designs, enable precision and consistency, allowing creative ideas to translate into professional outputs. Embroidery-enabled machines further widen the creative canvas, making detailed personalisation accessible without extensive manual effort. Together, these ad-



vancements position sewing as a discipline that combines artisanal skill with technological fluency.

### Sewing as Creative Entrepreneurship

This evolution has been amplified by the rise of the creator economy, which has transformed sewing into a viable pathway for creative entrepreneurship. Digital

platforms and direct-to-consumer models have lowered traditional barriers to entry, enabling skilled individuals to build brands, offer bespoke services, and reach niche audiences with minimal infrastructure. Today, a young sewist can launch small collections, offer made-to-measure solutions, create customised products, or monetise ex-



pertise through workshops and digital content. In this ecosystem, sewing extends beyond production—it becomes a tool for storytelling, differentiation, and sustained value creation.

### Cultural Continuity in a Contemporary Context

Beyond its economic potential, sewing holds deep cultural significance in the

Indian context. Our textiles, silhouettes, and construction techniques carry centuries of heritage and regional identity. When young people engage with sewing as a profession, they do more than preserve these traditions—they reinterpret them for contemporary markets. This dynamic fusion of heritage and modern design ensures cultural

narratives remain relevant, adaptable, and commercially viable, positioning sewing as both a creative and cultural profession.

Yet, despite these shifts, outdated perceptions persist. Sewing is still often framed as a secondary option rather than a legitimate career choice. These notions are increasingly being challenged as more young pro-

fessionals build sustainable livelihoods, integrate technology into their practice, and engage confidently with national and global markets.

Looking ahead, the role of the sewist is set to become even more relevant. While automation will continue to shape large-scale manufacturing, craftsmanship, personalisation, and design sensitivity remain irreplaceable. Sewing offers resilience against market volatility, adaptability across industries, and the freedom to evolve with changing consumer demands. What was once dismissed as a hobby has emerged as a profession with depth, dignity, and purpose - offering today's youth a forward-looking career grounded in skill, creativity, and opportunity.

(The writer is President of Studio of Fashion & Craft, Usha International)

## From the heart of Hyderabad to the runways of Mumbai: Vaishali Agarwal debuts 'Baakul'

Hyderabad-based designer Vaishali Agarwal marks a milestone moment as she debuts on the national fashion stage with her collection 'Baakul'. Showcased in Mumbai, the line brings the city's rich craftsmanship to a wider audience, blending heritage with modern elegance



Designer Vaishali Agarwal has taken a significant step in her two-decade journey by debuting on the pan-India fashion stage with her latest collection, 'Baakul'. Known for her strong presence in Hyderabad's couture landscape, Vaishali has now expanded her vision to a national audience, unveiling her collection at a recently concluded fashion week in Mumbai, where actor Alaya F walked as the showstopper. This showcase represents more than just a runway debut; it marks Vaishali's first presentation beyond Hyderabad, bringing her deeply rooted design philosophy to a wider luxury audience. Despite the geographic expansion, her work remains firmly anchored in the cultural richness and artisanal traditions of her home city.

Vaishali's journey began with designing outfits for her young daughter, gradually evolving into a celebrated couture label recognized for intricate embroidery, handcrafted textiles, and meaningful storytelling. Over the years, she has consistently bridged traditional craftsmanship with contemporary aes-

thetics, creating designs that resonate with modern brides and occasion wear enthusiasts.

Her latest collection, 'Baakul', reflects this philosophy. Named after the sacred flower offered to Lord Shiva and inspired by the cosmic rhythm of Nataraja, the collection translates spirituality into wearable art. Each piece embodies symbolism, fluidity, and grace, brought to life through detailed craftsmanship and modern silhouettes.

The collection highlights Hyderabad's signature design elements, including rich textiles and intricate surface ornamentation. Motifs such as Nandi and the fish from Ganga are reinterpreted through dhabka embroidery, gota appliqué, handmade floral detailing, and statement dori jackets. These traditional elements are paired with fluid silhouettes, metallic accents, and layered textures, giving the collection a contemporary

edge suitable for today's fashion-forward audience.

Speaking about the milestone, Vaishali Agarwal shared that presenting 'Baakul' in Mumbai marks a defining moment for her brand. She emphasized her intention to carry Hyderabad's craftsmanship into a broader narrative that connects with the aspirations of the modern Indian bride.

Complementing the collection is Shivasa Fine Jewellery, founded by Sandhya Agarwal. The brand blends traditional polkis, vibrant gemstones, and diamonds to create timeless pieces designed for modern women. Together, the collaboration presents a cohesive vision of bridal and occasion wear that celebrates heritage while embracing contemporary elegance.

With 'Baakul', Vaishali Agarwal successfully bridges regional craftsmanship and national appeal, signalling a promising new chapter in her design journey.

## Ananya Panday on tackling exam pressure: 'They are a small part of a much bigger journey'

Actress Ananya Panday's So Positive, a children and family-first initiative designed to acknowledge exam stress, has joined forces with Nick India to come up with new and exciting ways to tackle exam pressure. Rooted in Nick India's ongoing Pressure Ko Bolo Bye campaign, the initiative encourages parents to actively ease exam pressure by recognizing each child's unique strengths and learning style, while building confidence over comparison.

The collaboration came to life with a special on-ground activity led by Ananya Panday, along with Nick's beloved characters Chikoo and Bunty.

They selected everyday exam worries written on balloons and popped them to reveal easy stress-busting actions.

Shedding further light on the initiative, Ananya revealed that as a kid, she learned that the best way to overcome exam pressure is to take a step back and

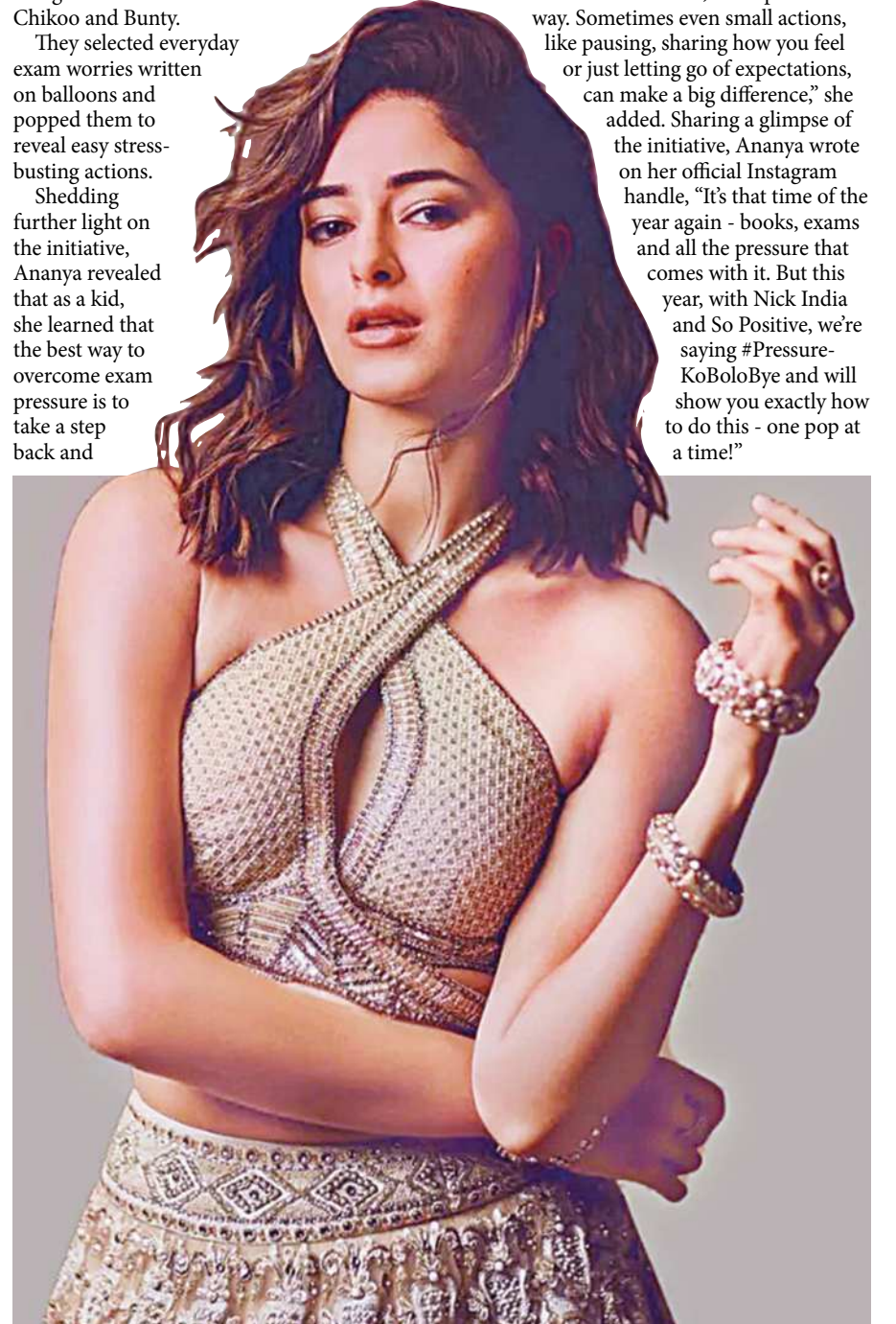
remember that exams are merely a small part of a much bigger journey.

The 'CTRL' actress said, "Exam pressure is something almost every student experiences, but it's important to remember that it doesn't have to define you. Growing up, I realised that the best way to deal with it is to take a step back, breathe and remind yourself that exams are just one small part of a much bigger journey."

"What I love about the Nick's Pressure Ko Bolo Bye initiative is that it encourages kids and parents to talk openly about stress and handle it in a healthier, more positive way. Sometimes even small actions,

like pausing, sharing how you feel or just letting go of expectations, can make a big difference," she added. Sharing a glimpse of the initiative, Ananya wrote on her official Instagram handle, "It's that time of the year again - books, exams and all the pressure that comes with it. But this year, with Nick India

and So Positive, we're saying #Pressure-KoBoloBye and will show you exactly how to do this - one pop at a time!"



### CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Brawl (6)
  - A solemn pledge (3)
  - Romulus kin (4)
  - Freudian terms (4)
  - Restaurant, diner (6)
  - Wept with loud sobs; had a running nose? (9)
  - Metallic element (4)
  - Supplement (3)
  - Farm bird (5)
  - \_\_\_ as a hatter? (2,3)
  - In what way (3)
  - \_\_\_ Aviv: capital of Israel? (3)
  - Garden flower (5)
  - Capital of China's Hubei province (5)
  - "It is" a verbal contraction (3)
  - Low voice (4)
  - Romantic illumination? (9)
  - Halogen element (6)
  - Red vegetable (4)
  - Asian language (4)
  - Drain of strength (3)
  - Source (6)

### DOWN

- Madness or very frantic (6)
- \_\_\_ his advice: doing as he counselled? (6,2)
- Light melodies (4)
- Cunning (7)
- Flow controlling device (5)
- In good health (4)
- Northernmost Irish county (7)
- President Eisenhower's nickname? (3)
- Milk-giving animals (4)
- Use a dagger (4)
- Minatory (8)
- Capital of Lower Saxony (7)
- Samurai code (7)
- Toupee (3)
- Behind at sea? (6)
- Bind (3,2)
- Eggs of insects (4)
- Long trip (4)



Solution to April 8

### SUDOKU



Solution to April 8



## Bellamkonda Sai Srinivas & Kavya Reddy's engagement was a grand affair

Young hero Bellamkonda Sai Srinivas and Kavya Reddy got engaged in a grand ceremony on Sunday at a spacious farmhouse in Shankarpally, Hyderabad. Friends from the film industry, well-wishers, family members, and many celebrities participated in the ceremony. At the engagement, the Sai-Kavya couple wore customized jewelry reflecting their special bond. Enhancing their appearance, their engagement outfits were designed by Delhi-based renowned costume designer Abhishek Sharma. These looks, blending tradition with modernity, impressed everyone. Photos from the engagement ceremony went viral on social media, with fans and netizens congratulating the Sai-Kavya couple. Sai Srinivas and Kavya Reddy's wedding ceremony has been named 'Srinivasakavyanam'. The wedding ceremony will take place on April 29 in the divine Tirumala, one of the most sacred spiritual destinations, making it a truly memorable venue for their union.



## 'Sampradayini Suppini Suddapoosani' blends family crime comedy

The entertaining film 'Sampradayini Suppini Suddapoosani' is currently making waves on Netflix, trending among the Top 5 titles and gaining massive appreciation from audiences. With its unique mix of humor, emotions, and a touch of crime comedy, the film is emerging as a refreshing watch in the OTT space.

Positioned as a light-hearted crime comedy thriller, the film smartly blends suspense with fun-filled moments, making it engaging for viewers of all age groups. While the narrative carries elements of intrigue and unexpected twists, it never loses its core essence of family entertainment. This rare balance is what makes 'Sampradayini Suppini Suddapoosani' stand out. Audiences are particularly enjoying how the film keeps them hooked with its playful storytelling, witty dialogues, and entertaining performances, while also delivering subtle thrills. The crime angle is presented in a clean and humorous way, ensuring it remains suitable for family viewing without compromising on excitement. Social media is buzzing with positive responses, with many viewers calling it a "must-watch family entertainer with a twist." The film is being widely recommended for weekend viewing, especially for those looking for something different yet wholesome.



The success of 'Sampradayini Suppini Suddapoosani' on Netflix once again proves that audiences are embracing content that combines laughter, suspense, and family values in a meaningful way. If you're in the mood for a light crime comedy thriller that you can enjoy with your entire family, 'Sampradayini Suppini Suddapoosani' is definitely the perfect pick right now.

## Atlee unveils 'RAAKA', Allu Arjun roars

In a blockbuster announcement that has set the Indian film industry abuzz, Icon Star Allu Arjun, acclaimed director Atlee, and entertainment giant Sun Pictures, led by Kalanithi Maran, have unveiled the much-anticipated title of their mammoth project. AA22XA6 is now titled 'RAAKA'. The uniquely titled film is already generating massive excitement for the epic vision Atlee is set to bring to life.

In the first-look poster, Allu Arjun appears in a striking and unique avatar. He is seen bald, kohl-eyed, staring intensely into the camera, while sporting animal-like claws teased earlier. His forehead features markings reminiscent of Viking tattoos, adding to the intrigue.

Beyond this look, little is known about the film, including its cast and genre. Fans have reacted enthusiastically to the stunning transformation, with many calling it "jaw-dropping." Known for constantly reinventing himself, Allu Arjun once again proves his commitment to aligning with the grand vision of his director. This bold transformation has truly surprised everyone.

The first look sent shockwaves across the country, with fans celebrating the Icon Star's birthday with full energy and excitement. After keeping audiences waiting for nearly a year, Atlee and Allu Arjun have delivered a reveal that has heightened anticipation for what's to come.

Following the global success of 'Pushpa: The Rule', National Award-winning actor Allu Arjun is expected to bring his signature style to 'RAAKA'. Reports suggest that the film will be a major technical venture, with Atlee aiming to create visual effects and world-building that rival Hollywood spectacles.



Director Atlee, known for massive blockbusters like 'Jawan', 'Theri', 'Bigil', and 'Mersal', joins forces with Sun Pictures, one of India's most influential media powerhouses.

Deepika Padukone stars as the female lead opposite Allu Arjun, marking their first collaboration. 'RAAKA' is poised to be a cinematic milestone, blending intense emotion, adrenaline-pumping action, grand visuals, and storytelling deeply rooted in Indian culture, with a global appeal.

## Chai Shots brings back 'Rituraagalu' and new serials

At the 'Chai Shots Kitty Party' press meet, Chai Biscuit, a trendsetter in digital entertainment, shared exciting updates about its short-series OTT platform 'Chai Shots', which has already achieved significant success. Designed especially for smartphone audiences, 'Chai Shots' content has received an excellent response. Taking things a step further, the platform is now bringing both new serials and iconic Telugu shows to viewers.

Speaking at the event, Chai Shots co-founder Sharat Chandra said, "Hello everyone. We launched 'Chai Shots' in December, and at that time, we were still figuring out how to design the app and what kind of content to provide. Now, three months later, we've realized that nearly 70% of our audience is above 35 years of age. At Chai Biscuit, we are used to creating content for younger audiences. However, when we introduced TV serial-like content on 'Chai Shots', the response was amazing.

That's when we approached Ramani garu to scale this further. We have created around a dozen short serials with actors and directors currently working in television. Each episode is just two minutes long, with about 30 episodes per season. So far, we have released more than 15 short serials, and many more are on the way.

We have also started devotional shows. Along with cult serials like 'Rituraagalu', we are bringing more legendary Telugu shows to 'Chai Shots'. Our aim is to create a platform that blends the essence of TV and OTT. We have even recreated shows



like 'Pattakhima Pattu Saree', which many of us watched in our childhood. Produced with Hariteja garu, it will be aired daily at 1 PM. While people often ask, "Who watches TV anymore?", the emotions and drama in television remain timeless—and we want to bring that experience to our app." Anurag Reddy added, "During the pandemic, when no one was coming to the office, we started making one-minute videos, which evolved into micro-dramas. While Chinese and Korean content is being dubbed for Indian audiences, we already have incredible native content. We are bringing back cult Telugu serials like 'Rituraagalu'. Our goal is to promote stories rooted in our culture. 'Old is gold'—these timeless stories will entertain audiences again in a new format. Emotions never change; only their presentation does."

Writer Balabhadrapatruni Ramani said, "Sharath has already achieved great success with Chai Biscuit, and I believe he will achieve even more with

'Chai Shots'. Our team has been extremely supportive, and everyone—from actors and directors to technicians—is doing a fantastic job. We are committed to delivering quality serials in a short format, along with devotional programs that cater to senior citizens as well."

Actress Suhasini shared, "I was truly excited when Ramani told me about 'Chai Shots'. It was a unique experience to complete a series—something that usually takes two to three years—in just about an hour. I'm also involved as a producer. The acting process felt fresh, and the stories are very engaging. It's content that appeals to everyone, from children to adults."

Producer Nagababu said, "I thank Ramani garu for this opportunity. It was a wonderful experience to be part of this project. As a devotee of

Baba, working on devotional content brought me immense joy."

Producer Bharathi Krishna added, "Initially, we were a bit skeptical when Ramani garu approached us for short serials. But once we started working, it became an exciting journey. Hats off to Sharath and Anurag garu for their vision. It's encouraging to see devotional content gaining popularity again—even among the youth. This trend is only going to grow in the future."

## 'Thimmarajupalli TV' trailer releasing on April 9

'Thimmarajupalli TV', produced by actor Kiran Abbavaram under KA Productions in association with Sumaira Studios, will have its trailer released on April 9.

Encouraging new talent, Kiran Abbavaram is backing "Thimmarajupalli TV" under his banner KA Productions along with Sumaira Studios, with Teja Velpucharla serving as co-producer. The film introduces Sai Tej and Veda Jalandharr as lead actors, while V. Muniraju makes his directorial debut with this project.

Set against a village backdrop, 'Thimmarajupalli TV' is a period drama gearing up for a grand theatrical release on the 17th of this month. The makers recently shared an update confirming that the trailer will be released on April 9. The film has already begun generating positive buzz among movie lovers.



## 'Lenin' poster to be out on Akhil Akkineni's birthday

Manam Enterprises LLP and Sithara Entertainments' 'Lenin' is set to release on June 26: Akhil Akkineni's birthday special poster unveiled.

Young and dynamic actor Akhil Akkineni's upcoming film 'Lenin' has already created a strong buzz with its first single. The film stars Bhagyashri Borse as the female lead. Directed by Murali Kishor Abburu, 'Lenin' is shaping up to be a complete cinematic package filled with powerful emotions and engaging storytelling.

On the occasion of Akhil Akkineni's birthday, the makers unveiled a special poster wishing the actor a very happy birthday. In the poster, Akhil appears in a refreshing new look, with his charming smile adding warmth. The

much-anticipated film is scheduled for a theatrical release on June 26, 2026, with the date reaffirmed on the poster.

Directed by Murali Kishor Abburu, 'Lenin' is being crafted as a wholesome cinematic experience, promising a blend of strong emotions and compelling storytelling. The team assures audiences that the film will be presented in its finest form, delivering a memorable big-screen experience.

The film also features music by Thaman S, further enhancing its scale and appeal. Produced by Akkineni Nagarjuna and Suryadevara Naga Vamsi under Manam Enterprises LLP and Sithara Entertainments, and presented by Annapurna Studios, 'Lenin' promises to be a memorable big-screen spectacle.

