



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. **P8**

EDIT
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**

BUSINESS
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. **P9**

YOUNG HANS
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. **P7**

Simultaneously published from Hyderabad | Warangal | Tirupati | Vijayawada | Visakhapatnam | Khammam | Kurnool | Delhi
 For Advertisement Pl Call: 8096967713 Follow @ / thehansindia / thehansindiaweb / thehansindia / TheHansIndiaWeb / thehansindia Book your Copy: 97055 55551



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 Naisthika 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-

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.

backed Hezbollah militant group. 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.

Continued on Page 5



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 5

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 5

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 5**

Trust, Reliability & Service
 Synonymous with Kapil Chits

 Visit Us: www.kapilchits.com
 KAPIL CHITS
 SMALL SAVINGS GROW BIG WITH KAPIL

HC quashes EC notification for Ponda bypoll

PANAJI: The Bombay High Court on Wednesday quashed the Election Commission of India's notification for the byelection to Ponda assembly seat in Goa a day ahead of polling, citing violation of the Representation of the People Act as the legislature's term is set to expire in less than a year. Thursday's election was thus cancelled even though postal ballots had already been cast, as the high court also refused to stay its judgement. While the ruling BJP termed the decision as shocking, the Congress accused it of conniving with the ECI to get the election cancelled by delaying the notification, and said it would file an appeal in the Supreme Court. A division bench of Justices Valmiki Menezes and Amit S Jamsandekar of the Goa bench of the High Court declared the March 16, 2026 notification "arbitrary".



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 from its first tranche of bonds out of a total planned issue of Rs 4,999.87 crore.

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 funding for completing infrastructure projects. The HMDA is offering 5 to 8 per cent interest to purchasers. The authority has the eligibility to procure Rs 19,999.99 crore in multiple tranches of its bonds by virtue of AA rating, with Rs 3,278 crore mobilised in the first tranche. 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.

Continued on Page 5



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 5

NADERGUL LANDS

Quick on feet, Ponguleti skewers Harish for hurling flimsy charges

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

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 Ponnab 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



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

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 5

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?

Jupally travels with commuters on crowded Metro

HYDERABAD

MINISTER for Tourism, Culture, and Excise Jupally

Krishna Rao on Wednesday surprised everyone by traveling on the Metro rail in Hyderabad just like an

ordinary commuter.

Breaking away from standard protocols, Krishna Rao boarded the Metro in a remarkably simple and unassuming manner. He traveled from Erramanzil station to Miyapur by Metro to attend a private event in the city. Upon reaching the station, the Minister personally purchased a ticket and proceeded to the platform. As the train was heavily crowded, the Minister did not attempt to find a seat but instead traveled standing alongside his fellow passengers. During the journey, he engaged in conversation with his co-travelers and inquired about the amenities available during the Metro ride. Although the passengers were initially surprised to see the Minister amidst them, they spoke to him enthusiastically once he greeted them. While several passengers showed keen interest in taking selfies with him, the Minister patiently posed for photos with them.

On the occasion, Jupally Krishna Rao expressed the view that the Metro contributes significantly to helping people reach their destinations quickly and without facing traffic congestion.

ASSAM POLICE FILES CASE

Pawan Khera moves HC seeking anticipatory bail

- The Congress leader on April 5 alleged that Sarma's wife, Riniki Bhuyan Sarma, has multiple passports and foreign property, which were not declared in the chief minister's election affidavit
- An Assam Police team had earlier visited the Delhi residence of Khera for questioning in connection with the case

HYDERABAD

CONGRESS leader Pawan Khera on Wednesday moved the Telangana High Court seeking anticipatory bail in a case filed against him by the Assam government on his allegations against Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's wife.

Khera, who showed his residential address in Hyderabad, requested the court to release him on bail in the event of his arrest. The petition was filed on April 7. It will be taken up

by the court on April 9.

Khera named the DCP of Guwahati Crime Branch Police Station and Telangana government as respondents to his petition. The case was registered in the Guwahati Crime Branch Police Station against Khera under several sections of the BNS, including 175 (false statement in connection with an election), 35 (Right of private defence of the body and of property) and 318 (cheating). The Congress leader on April 5 alleged that Sarma's wife, Riniki Bhuyan



Sarma, has multiple passports and foreign property, which were not declared in the chief minister's election affidavit.

An Assam Police team had earlier visited the Delhi residence of Khera for questioning in connection with the case. Khera's advo-

cate Ponnam Ashok Goud told PTI that anticipatory bail was sought as the FIR copy has not been uploaded on police website as per Supreme Court's orders, and that the former's Delhi house was searched with an intention to arrest. Sarma on Tuesday

slammed the Congress for "not verifying" the documents based on which it brought allegations against him and his family. The CM asserted that Khera had "run away" to Hyderabad, but the Assam Police will "hunt him down even from 'patal' (netherworld)".

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 1st Call 03 No of Works Down 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 @eprocurement market place @ 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

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 Jachchela-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 S.O.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 - Jachchela 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 Published in 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, Teelair, Marikal, Yeligandla of Marikal Mandal, Yamminipally Village of Dhanwada Mandal, Gudigandla, Jowlapur, Jaklair, Tekulapally, Kachwar, Bondalkunta, KamathNarva, KamathPulamidid, Makthal, Chandapur, Dasardoodi, Thirmalapur of Makthal Mandal Maganor village of Maganor 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, falling 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

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

PUBLIC NOTICE
The General public is hereby informed that my client Chuda Satish Chander Reddy S/o C Papi Reddy, intend to purchase the below mentioned schedule of property by way of Sale Deed from owners viz Nenavath Gopal Naik s/o Nenavath tharya nayak, Kattiravath padma V/o Kattiravath Lal Singh, Gora shakar Goud s/o Anjaneyulu Goud, Dhonthulashetty shirisha D/o Srinivasulu, Kadumuri Narendar reddy S/o Jagath reddy And Jatavath venkat S/o Chandu. If anybody is having any objection, claim, interest dispute the above intended transaction he/she they may contact myself with the documentary proof substantiating his/her/their claims/details of dispute within seven (7) days from the date of this publication, failing which we shall proceed to complete the sale transaction with the above owners as if there are no third party claims/objections /disputes will be entertained.
SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY
All the land measuring Land measuring Sy.No. 271 extent Ac. 0-25g. Sy.No.272 extent Ac. 2-18g. Sy.No.275 extent Ac. 0-13g. Sy.No.276 extent Ac.5-13g. Sy.No.280 extent Ac.2-18g. Sy.No.270 extent Ac.0-03g. Sy.No.297 extent Ac. 1-38g. Sy.No.298 extent Ac. 1-08g. Sy.No.300 extent Ac.2-13g. Sy.No.301 extent Ac. 0-14g total Ac.18-03g Situated at Edganpalle (V), Rajapur (M), Mahabubnagar District. NORTH: Village BT Road, SOUTH: Land of Neighbour others, EAST: Balanagar to Gangapur BT Road, WEST: Rangareddy guda to Rajapur BT Road Sd/- PABINANDANAMALA, Advocate F No 105 Neeraja Apartment, Road No.5, Trimurthy Colony, Mahindra Hills, Secunderabad-26. Ph: 9160022066

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

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

Harish Rao, who issued a bold challenge, declaring, "If we are wrong, then hang us!" Unable to accept this challenge, Ponguleti fled to Kerala overnight by flight. "Having run away like a thief to Kerala, he has now returned and is spouting utter nonsense. CM Revanth Reddy claims that Raghav Construction does not belong to Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy. Yet, Ponguleti asserts that Raghav Construction belongs to his son. Revanth Reddy is shielding the illegal activities of Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy," said Vivekananda. The BRS leader demanded that Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy must resign immediately for engaging in illegal mining. BRS General Secretary RS Praveen Kumar said that the media conference did not sound like a statement from the Revenue Minister. Instead, it sounded exactly like a statement from the Chairman of Raghav Construction—Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy. One is left wondering: is



it Raghava Construction or Megha Engineering that is actually steering the people of Telangana? Indeed, it is Raghava Construction—specifically the Megha Engineering firm—that is steering the people of Telangana, he said. Regarding the Vattinagulapally land dispute, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy's son must answer: did he or did he not visit the residence of Pallavi Shah and Satish Shah? "You must also answer whether or not Habibullah Khan—the officer who registered the case—was subsequently transferred.

2,322 additional nursing appointments within two days: Raja Narasimha

HYDERABAD

MINISTER for Health Damodar Raja Narasimha announced that the process of filling additional 2,322 nursing positions will be completed within the next two days. The Minister attended the Safe

Motherhood Day celebrations held at the Midwifery Training Institute in Boyaguda, an event conducted under the Praja Palana Pragathi Pranaliika initiative. During his remarks, he emphasised that the State government is prioritising the recruitment of nursing professionals in hospitals. Over the past two years, the government has reinforced the healthcare system by addressing more than 10,000 va-

cancies, the majority of which were nursing roles, he said. "We are creating new nursing colleges to enhance opportunities for students. In order to support international career prospects, we are also facilitating English, German, and Japanese language training for nursing students." Minister Raja Narasimha noted. Additionally, the Minister highlighted that the government is en-



hancing midwifery services within the state to promote natural births. As part of this initiative, midwifery training has been provided to 370 nurses. "We will establish midwifery training institutes in government nursing colleges and will also work towards decreasing the number of Cesarean deliveries," he stated.

REGIONAL OFFICE, KHAMMAM
Union Bank of India #5-7-H19 & 20, Opp. Janpaha Dargah, Chervu Bazar, Khammam-507002.
PUBLIC-AUCTION NOTICE FOR SALE OF VEHICLES
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) that the below described Vehicle hypothecated/charged to the Bank/Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by Union Bank of India, Khammam Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" and basis on 28-04-2026 for recovery of the balance dues to Union Bank of India from the Borrower (s) / Guarantor(s) as mentioned in the table. Details of the Borrower (s) / Guarantor(s), Amount due, Short description of the vehicle, Possession type, Reserve price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also given as under-

Branch Name/ Auction Conducting Place	Name of the Borrower	Amount Due for Recovery as on 31.12.2025	Details of Vehicle	Reserve Price	Minimum Bid Increment	EMD TO BE PAID	Details of account to which EMD to be Remitted
UBI NEREDCHERLA Cell No. 9321822901	Mr. Pidamarthi Ranjan Babu	3,98,200/- + further interest and charges thereon	Regn Number- TS05 EJ 9949 HUNDAI-I10 [09-2016]	₹. 1,59,250/-	5000	16000	Account No.229011980050000 and IFSC:UBIN0822906
UBI Kothagudem Cell No. 8928623385	V S TRAVELS PROP. Ponnakanti Jaya Kumar	5,43,200/- + further interest and charges thereon	Regd Number- TS 28 TA 6066 MARUTI TOUR [01-2021]	₹. 2,47,000/-	5000	25000	Account No.031511980050000 and IFSC:UBIN0803154
UBI Kodad-2 Azad Nagar Cell No. 9321503291	Mrs. Matta Lakshmi Sam Poorna	7,12,900/- + further interest and charges thereon	Regn Number- TS 29 K 6048 TIAGO XT(P) [10-2020]	₹. 1,23,500/-	5000	13000	Account No.032911980050000 and IFSC:UBIN0803294
UBI BSC Khammam Cell No. 8928407501	MIS TR TRAVELS	23,23,900/- + further interest and charges thereon	Regn Number: TS 04 UD 0204 MAHINDRA MARAZZO [01-2019] TAXI PLATE	₹. 3,73,750/-	5000	38000	Account No.075011980050000 and IFSC:UBIN0807508
UBI- Khammam Gandhi Chowk Cell No. 9321822109	Mr. Pakala Ramesh Sharma	7,94,400/- + further interest and charges thereon	Regn Number TS 04 FK 2019 HUNDAI GRANDI 10 [04-2023]	₹. 3,64,000/-	5000	37000	Account No.031111980050000 and IFSC:UBIN0803111

Date/Time of E Auction: 28-04-2026, 4 P.M.
Last Date of Submission of EMD : 28-04-2026, 3 P.M.
Date & Time of Inspection of Properties: 27-04-2026 10.A.M to 5 P.M
For Details Bank Official Contact No: 9848543124 Senior Manager, Regional Office, Khammam

- It shall be the responsibility of the interested bidders to inspect and satisfy themselves regarding the condition and documentation of the vehicle before submission of the bid.
- The Bank does not provide any warranty or guarantee regarding the vehicle's mechanical condition, roadworthiness, or accuracy of the odometer reading. Bidders must independently verify RTO records, including any pending "holds," blacklisting, or tax arrears.
- The intending bidder should submit the KYC Documents 27-04-2026 before 3 pm along with the bid application.
- Auction would commence at Reserve Price + one Increment. Bidders shall improve their offers in multiples of the bid increment.
- The bidder who submits the highest bid (above the Reserve price) on closure of e-auction shall be declared as successful bidder.
- Sale shall be confirmed in favour of the successful bidder, subject to confirmation of the same by the Secured creditor.
- EMD of unsuccessful bidders will be refunded without interest.
- The successful (H1) bidder must deposit 25% of the bid amount (including EMD) immediately or by the next working day. The remaining 75% must be paid within 7 days of the sale confirmation.
- Failure to pay the initial 25% or the balance 75% within the prescribed period will lead to the automatic forfeiture of all deposited amounts. In such cases, the bidder shall have no claim over the vehicle or the forfeited money.
- The successful bidder shall bear all the necessary expenses like applicable stamp duties/additional stamp duty/transfer charges, Registration expenses, fees etc. for transfer of ownership in his/her name.
- The payment of all statutory/non statutory dues, taxes, rates, assessments, charges, fees etc. owing to anybody shall be the sole responsibility of the successful bidder only.
- The vehicle must be removed from the Bank's premises at the bidder's expense within 7 days after the full payment.
- The Bank is not liable for any mishap, accident, or damage to the vehicle once it is delivered to the bidder.
- The Bank will only provide the necessary No Objection Certificate (NOC) and Form 35 upon receipt of the full sale consideration.
- Union Bank of India reserves the absolute right to accept/reject any bid or cancel the entire auction process at any stage without assigning any reason. Union Bank of India reserves the absolute right to postpone/cancel or vary the terms and conditions of e-auction without assigning any reason thereof.
- "The above public auction will be conducted at the respective branches of Union Bank of India at 4:00 PM."

Date: 06.04.2026, Place: Khammam Khammam Regional Office, Union Bank of India

Upcoming party will infuse new political culture in State: Kavitha

ALLEGED TELANGANA HAS BEEN TURNED INTO AN 'ATM' FOR THE CONGRESS PARTY TO FUND ELECTIONS ACROSS INDIA

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

TELANGANA Jagruti president Kalvakuntla Kavitha on Wednesday declared that April 25 will be a defining moment in the state's history, signaling the introduction of 'fresh blood and a new political culture' to the soil of Telangana.

The Jagruti leader was speaking during the joining programme of Nadigadda Hakkula Porata Samithi president G Ranjith Kumar from Jogulamba Gadwal at the party office on Wednesday.

Addressing the gathering, Kavitha emphasized that the upcoming party would break away from traditional politics to adopt a people-centric approach based on three pillars - questioning, fighting for public issues, and resolving the problems.



She criticized both the ruling Congress and the opposition BRS for neglecting public issues, stating that 'Jagruti' has become the only voice the public trusts to represent their concerns. Kavitha further added that the party will work closely with people at the grassroots level, undertake padyatras, and develop a comprehensive agenda with the help of

international experts, which will be unveiled on April 25. Kavitha launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, accusing him of the "ATM" Allegation: She alleged that Telangana has been turned into an "ATM" for the Congress party to fund elections across India. She mocked the Chief Minister's subsmissiveness, claiming he remains stand-

ing even during phone calls with Rahul Gandhi. She highlighted the government's failure to implement Rythu Bharosa and complete farm loan waivers, accusing the CM of spreading lies in other states like Kerala while Telangana farmers suffer. She alleged that the current government misled the people and is prioritizing political interests over public welfare.

Kavitha questioned the Chief Minister's 'mysterious silence' regarding Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decisions. She specifically pointed to the national project status granted to Upper Bhadra, warning that it would starve the combined Mahabubnagar district of vital Tungbhadra water. "Why is Revanth Reddy 'Gup-Chup' (silent) when it comes to questioning Modi?" she asked.

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



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 imple-

ment its "six guarantees" and was instead taking credit for developmental works carried 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

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

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.

Tg Govt 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
- Plans to establish an eye hospital on three acres in collaboration with LV Prasad Eye Institute

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 "Prajalpana-Pragathi Pranalika" programme and the Health Festival being conducted from the April 6 to 11, the Minister inaugurated a new Urban 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 occa-

Inaugurates Urban Primary Health Centre



sion, 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 arranged 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 an-

nounced 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. Of-

ficials 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 Komatireddy 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.

Two killed in road accident



HANS NEWS SERVICE CHIVEMLA (SURYAPET)

A tragic road accident claimed lives of two persons while they were on their way to fulfill religious vows during a family function at home on Wednesday. According to local sources, around 20 members of a family belonging to Janiga Narasimharao from Mellacheruvu mandal in Huzurnagar constituency of Suryapet district were traveling in a Bolero vehicle. They were heading to offer prayers at Peddagattu Lingamthala Swamy temple in Durajpalli. Before proceeding, the family stopped at the Echarla Muthyalamma temple located on the outskirts of Vallabhapuram village.

There, they performed rituals, including breaking coconuts and offering a chicken as part of their vow. After completing the rituals, they resumed their journey towards Durajpalli. At around 2 am, near the same area, an Eicher DCM vehicle proceeding towards Hyderabad from Vijayawada at high speed reportedly rammed into the Bolero from behind due to negligent driving. Out of the 20 passengers, around 10 sustained minor injuries. However, Janiga Satish (25) and Janiga Narasimharao (37) succumbed to their injuries while undergoing treatment. The injured have been shifted to the Government Hospital in Suryapet for treatment.

Pvt hospitals urged to adopt humane approach towards poor patients

HANS NEWS SERVICE GADWAL

DISTRICT Collector Rizwan Basha Shaik instructed doctors to ensure better medical services for patients in government hospitals and to discharge their duties responsibly as per rules. Speaking at a meeting held at the Collectorate on Wednesday, as part of the 99-day Public Governance Progress Programme and Health Week celebrations, the Collector addressed doctors and medical officers from across the district during the Safe Motherhood programme. He directed that all hospitals must be registered under the Clinical Establishments Act and emphasised that sex determination tests are illegal. He instructed authorities to display awareness boards in all hospitals. The Collector stated that around 10,000 deliveries take place annually in the district, with nearly 5,000 occurring in government hospitals, about 2,500 in private



hospitals, and the remaining in other areas. He stressed the need to create awareness so that every pregnant woman opts for delivery in government hospitals. He also instructed private hospitals to display fee details for normal and cesarean deliveries and other medical services. He urged private hospital managements to adopt a humanitarian approach and provide treatment to poor patients at lower costs. He emphasised proper biomedical waste management and maintaining cleanliness in hospital premises. Noting that the district is lagging in TB screening, he directed officials to effectively implement government support

schemes for TB patients. The Collector also called upon private hospitals to actively participate in all health programs conducted by the Health Department. On this occasion, DMHO Sandhya Kiranmayi explained various ongoing health initiatives. Later, the Collector, along with medical officials, released posters on Safe Motherhood and Home-Based Newborn Care. District Hospital Superintendent Indira, Programme Officers Prasoonarani and Raju, along with other medical officers and doctors from government and private hospitals, were present at the meeting.

Complete Integrated School works within stipulated time: DC



HANS NEWS SERVICE KHAMMAM

DISTRICT Collector Anudeep Durishetty on Wednesday directed officials to ensure that the construction of 'Young India' Integrated Residential Schools is completed strictly as per the prescribed schedule. He conducted a surprise inspection of the ongoing construction works of the Young India Integrated Residential School at Ponakallu village in Khammam Rural mandal. Inspecting the site, he reviewed the quality of construction and examined the building layout plans. He issued instructions to officials to maintain standards and ensure timely completion of the project. Durishetty also directed that essential infrastructure, including link roads,

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 of-

ficials 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.

Minister Srihari inaugurates SC Welfare Girls' Hostel building

HANS NEWS SERVICE WANAPARTHY

MINISTER for Animal Husbandry and Sports, Vakiti Srihari stated that the State government accords the highest priority to the development of the education sector and the welfare of students, and urged students to make effective use of the facilities provided by the government to achieve lofty goals. Minister Vakiti Srihari, along with Nagarkurnool MP Mallu Ravi, inaugurated the newly constructed SC Welfare Girls' Hostel building at Peerlagutta in Wanaparthy town on Wednesday. The Minister informed that the hostel building was constructed at a cost of Rs 1.20 crore, funded by the MPLADS scheme. Subsequently, he laid the foundation stone for additional infrastructure development works at the KGBV school in Marri-



kunta, sanctioned at a cost of Rs 80 lakh. Addressing the female students of the SC Welfare Hostel, Minister Vakiti Srihari stated that the State government accords the highest priority to the development of the education sector and the welfare of students. He

urged the students to make the best use of the facilities provided by the government to achieve lofty goals. He encouraged the students to study diligently and reach the pinnacle of success in their lives. He noted that MP Mallu Ravi himself had studied



while residing in a Social Welfare Hostel; for this very reason, the MP prioritises Social Welfare Hostels and extended his cooperation toward the construction of this new building. He congratulated the MP for constructing such an excellent hostel

building in Wanaparthy. MLA Megha Reddy, other public representatives, and the students also expressed their gratitude to MP Mallu Ravi. Addressing the students, MP Mallu Ravi advised them to utilise the facilities provided by the govern-

ment effectively to achieve their high aspirations. RDO Subrahmanyam, Municipal Chairperson Madhavi, Vice-Chairman Madhusudan Goud, councilors, other public representatives, officials, students, and others participated in this program.

Hans India Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME & DATE OF BIRTH
I, GOSI BEGUM (Old Name), W/o. Khaza Mohinuddin, R/o.H.No.15-17-484, Vijayanagar Colony, Khanapuram Haveli, Khammam Urban, 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.

(TH, TM RAO)

LOSS OF DOCUMENTS
I, Vemula Balraj, 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.

(TH, TM RAO)

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SHAIK ZAHEER AHMED (Old Name), S/o SHAIK MASOOD AHMED, R/o. H.No. 5-7-68/3, Cheruvu Bazar, Pakabanda Bazar, Khammam urban, Khammam, Telangana. I have changed my name as SK ZAHIR AHMED (New Name). Here after my name know as SK ZAHIR AHMED, s/o SHAIK MASOOD AHMED for all purposes.

(TH, TM RAO)

CHANGE OF NAME
I, B H KISHOR KUMAR (Old name) S/o. B R KRISHNA MURTHY H-no:4-1-253/1, Rotary nagar opp: Masjid Khanapuram(H)Khammam(Urban)Khammam District, State Telangana I have changed my name as BHATTIPRO OLU HANUMAT KISHORE KUMAR Here of ter my name known as BHATTIPROLU HANUMAT KISHORE KUMAR s/o BHATTIPRO LU RADHAKRISHNA MURTHY.

(TH, TM RAO)

HELPLINE

THE HANS INDIA

(Hyderabad Media House PVT Ltd) does not vouch for any claims made by the advertisers. Hyderabad Media House PVT Ltd. shall not be held responsible/liable for any consequences in case such claims are found to be false.

NEED YOUR FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER

Call: 9705555551

Chip in as partners in devt with CSR funds: Revanth to corporates

Government appeals to business leaders to view social responsibility funds as long-term investments in education and healthcare rather than mere expenditure while appointing a Special Chief Secretary to coordinate heritage and forest conservation initiatives

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

CHIEF Minister 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 wellbeing 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 not-

ed that students will possess the skills to grab global opportunities if the government and companies spend money combined. He further stated that 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 development 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 conservation. 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. Shrahan 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 In-

dian 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.

KTR to meet sulking Congress veteran Jeevan Reddy

BRS EYES MAJOR INROADS INTO KARIMNAGAR

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

UNDER the directions of BRS chief Chandrashekar Rao, the party working president KT Rama Rao is set to invite the sulking senior Congress leader 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 Eravelli 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



Working President entrusted by KCR to invite the senior leader into party fold during crucial meeting in Hyderabad while leadership finalises plans for grand plenary session on April 27 in Ranga Reddy district

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.



Tim Reifschneider, COO and Managing Director of Tata Lockheed Martin Aerostructures, paid a courtesy visit to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy at his residence in Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad on Wednesday

NIA notice sparks political row in Khammam

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD/KHAMMAM

FORMER MLA Gummadi 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 silences 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.

Temples act as pillars of spiritual growth and unity: MLA Naini

- Temples promote spiritual growth and social unity
- Community participation strengthens harmony and belonging
- Temple to become a key spiritual landmark for the area

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HANUMAKONDA

TEMPLES constructed with active public participation serve as a guiding force for spiritual development and social unity, said Naini Rajender Reddy on Wednesday.

He made these remarks while attending the foundation stone laying ceremony of the Pochamma Thalli temple in Chaitanyapuri Colony under the 61st Division of Hanumakonda. The temple is being constructed with the collective efforts of local residents, and the ceremony was held in a grand



MLA Naini Rajender Reddy attending the foundation stone laying ceremony of the Pochamma Thalli on Wednesday

and devotional atmosphere.

The MLA, who was the chief guest at the event, formally inaugurated the construction works by breaking a coconut and offering special prayers in accordance with traditional customs. The area witnessed a vibrant spiritual ambience, with devotional chants and traditional musical instruments drawing large participation from devotees.

Speaking on the occasion,

he stated that the construction of the Pochamma Thalli temple symbolised faith, devotion, and unity among the people. He added that such initiatives would significantly contribute to the spiritual growth of the region.

He emphasised that temples are not merely places of worship but also serve as cultural and social centres that help preserve age-old traditions and values. Ac-

ording to him, community-driven efforts like these play a crucial role in strengthening social harmony and fostering a sense of belonging among residents.

The MLA appreciated the voluntary efforts of the colony residents in taking up the temple construction and noted that the structure, once completed, would emerge as a spiritual landmark for the area. He further assured his support for the timely completion of the temple, along with the overall development of the colony, including improvements in basic infrastructure and civic amenities.

A large number of local leaders, colony representatives, women, and youth participated in the programme and expressed happiness over the commencement of the temple construction. The event concluded on a devotional note, reflecting unity and collective spirit among the people.



Tech-driven policing takes off in Bhupalpally with new control hub

- Command Control Centre strengthens surveillance and public safety
- Facility enhances crime control traffic management and emergency response
- Modern technology improves efficiency of district police

HANS NEWS SERVICE
JAYASHANKAR BHUPALPALLY

A state-of-the-art Command Control Centre equipped with modern technology was inaugurated at the District Police Office in Jayashankar Bhupalpally

by District Superintendent of Police Sirishetti Sankirth, IPS, marking a significant step towards strengthening technology-driven policing in the district.

Addressing the gathering, the SP stated that the primary objective of establishing the Command Control Centre was to enhance policing efficiency through advanced technological integration and ensure better safety and security for the public. He emphasised that the facility would play a crucial role in monitoring CCTV cameras installed across various locations in the district, enabling a real-time surveillance and swift action.

He further noted that the centre would significantly aid in crime prevention and control, streamline traffic management, and facilitate prompt response during emergencies. The SP expressed confidence that the introduction of such modern systems would improve the overall performance and responsiveness of the police department.

The inauguration programme was attended by Additional SP Nareish Kumar, Welfare Reserve Inspector Santosh, and other police personnel, who lauded the initiative as a major step towards modern policing.

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

- 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 assist-



ing 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 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 Zulfiqar 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 Zulfiqar Ali.

The MLA said that trained representatives are available to assist individuals during the process. Zulfiqar 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.

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



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

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 six 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 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.

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 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 groundwater 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.

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.

Water Board cracks down on illegal motor use

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 instances 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.

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

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 ICCO 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, Pupalaguda, 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.

Similarly, HMDA has earmarked Rs 26.5 crore for widening the left carriageway of the ORR stretch between Nanakramguda and Gachibowli. The HGCL is planning to expand the stretch from three lanes to four lanes to ease traffic bottlenecks.

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

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 hard-liners, 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 region, 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. The plan allows for both Iran and Oman to charge ships, according to a regional official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss negotiations they were directly involved in. The official said Iran would use the money it raised for reconstruction.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



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

thehansreader@gmail.com

BENGALURU ONLINE

Are rebels rallying behind HD Kumaraswamy?

BENGALURU: The political heat around the by-elections in Davanagere South and Bagalkot has intensified, with both Congress and BJP leaders aggressively campaigning on the ground. However, what has caught political observers' attention is the visible shift of several BJP rebel leaders, who appear to be aligning more closely with HD Kumaraswamy rather than the party's state leadership.

Senior leaders considered part of the rebel camp, including Ramesh Jarkiholi, GM Siddeshwar, Kumar Bangarappa and B P Harish, have largely stayed away from campaigning alongside BJP state president BY Vijayendra. While some leaders have maintained distance altogether, others have been seen sharing the stage with Kumaraswamy during campaign events, sparking speculation within political circles. Notably, these rebel leaders have openly expressed reservations about accepting Vijayendra's leadership. Earlier, Basanagouda Patil Yatnal had been vocal in his criticism of the B.S. Yediyurappa family, which eventually led to his expulsion from the party on charges of anti-party activities. Despite his expulsion, Yatnal has continued to campaign in Bagalkot in support of BJP candidate Veeranna Charantimath, though he has also kept his distance from the Vijayendra camp. A similar pattern is visible with Ramesh Jarkiholi, who has participated in campaign activities but avoided sharing platforms with Vijayendra, instead appearing alongside Kumaraswamy. This trend has added fuel to ongoing discussions within the BJP about internal divisions and leadership acceptance.

Amid these developments, there is renewed speculation that in the event of the BJP returning to power in the state, Kumaraswamy could emerge as a Chief Ministerial candidate under a potential alliance arrangement. While the Yediyurappa faction has not endorsed such a possibility, the rebel camp has remained non-committal, indirectly giving rise to interpretations that they may be open to Kumaraswamy's leadership.

Read more at <https://epaper.thehansindia.com>

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.

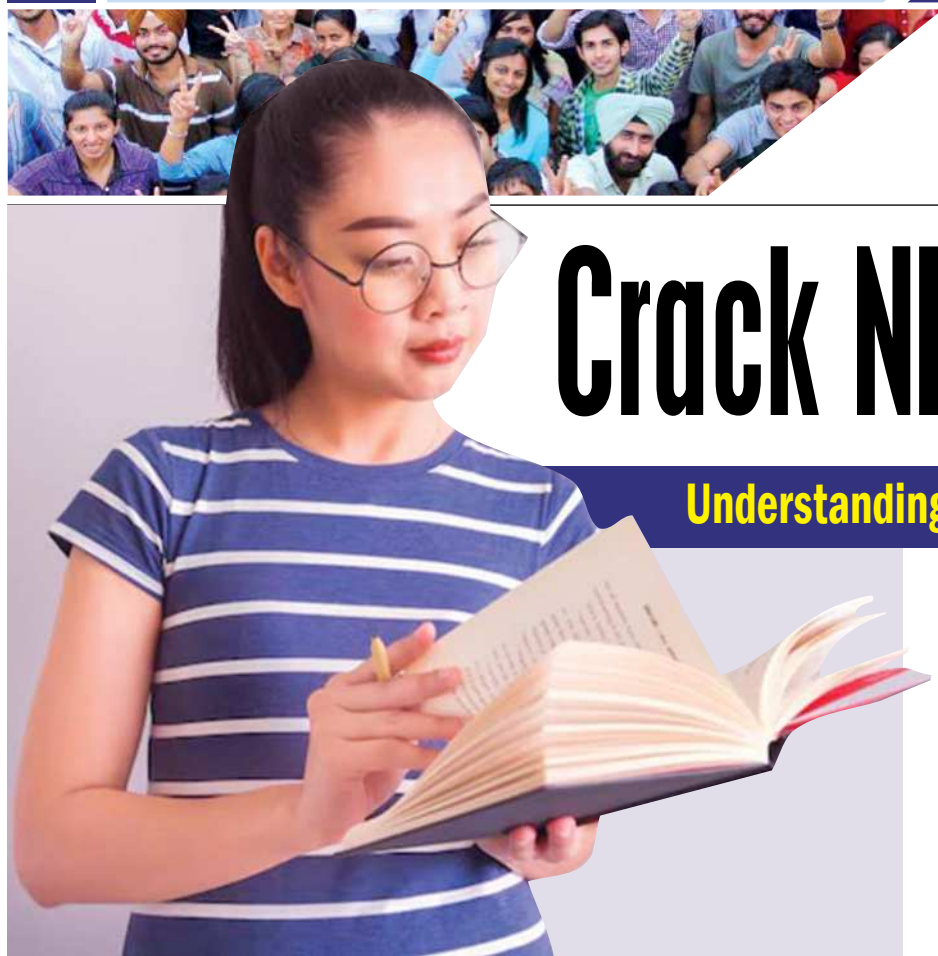
The situation gets curiouse and curiouse when one notes the fact that Karnataka is yet to roll back the controversial law of 2022, dealing with freedom of religion and ushered in by the then BJP government. Some way forward suggestions establishment of specialised fast-track courts to deal exclusively 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)



Crack NEET Chemistry with the right plan

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

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.

- 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.

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-

NEW UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES FOCUS ON HANDS-ON TRAINING, WHILE THE AI-BASED PLATFORM AIMS TO EXPAND FLEXIBLE, SKILL-ORIENTED LEARNING



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

alongside academic knowl-

edge. 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.





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-

professionals 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, signaling 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

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.

CAIA in pact with UniCAM

Chennai's Amrita International Aviation College (CAIA), 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.



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 Esipenko 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. 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.



MATCH STARTS AT 7:30PM

Ayush stuns world No. 7 Feng in Asia Championships

NINGBO: India's Ayush Shetty stunned world No. 7 Lin Shi Feng of China in straight games to enter the second round of the men's singles competition at the Badminton Asia Championships here on Wednesday. World No 25 Ayush, who had won the US Open Super 300 title last year, registered a 21-13 21-16 victory in 51 minutes. Lin raced to a 4-1 lead early on, but Ayush clawed back to level at 7-7 before gradually taking control to pocket the opening game. After the change of sides, the Chinese again moved ahead 4-1 and extended it to 12-9, but Ayush turned the tide with a six-point burst to surge to 18-13. Lin closed the gap to 16-18, but the Indian held his nerve to shut the door on his fancied opponent. Top stars such as PV Sindhu, Lakshya Sen, Kidambi Srikanth and HS Prannoy will begin their campaigns later in the day.

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 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



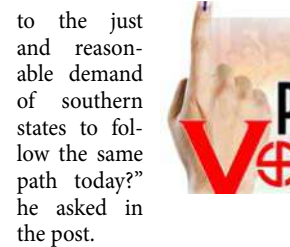
the Supreme Court as she sought an intervention in the SIR process. The EC figures showed the total deletion of over 90.83 lakh names from the original voter base of 7.66 crore in October 2025. Criticising the poll panel over the SIR process, the TMC supreme said, "We will fight legally to get the names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

Atchannaidu for demand-based, sustainable farming

- Agriculture minister urges farmers to adopt demand-driven crops and organic farming for better incomes and soil health
- Warns against excessive chemical use; govt offering training, subsidies, and dedicated markets for organic produce
- Highlights success of Maruteru paddy varieties; calls for village-level awareness and alignment with changing food habits



Agriculture minister K Atchannaidu inaugurated Kisan Mela at the Maruteru Agricultural Research Station in West Godavari district on Wednesday.

HANS NEWS SERVICE
RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

AGRICULTURE minister K Atchannaidu called upon farmers to shift towards demand-based crop cultivation and adopt sustainable farming practices to improve incomes and protect soil health.

Speaking at a Kisan Mela at the agricultural research station in Maruteru of Penumantra mandal in Achanta constituency of

West Godavari district on Wednesday, the minister said organic farming offers higher returns with lower input costs while ensuring healthier food for consumers. The event focused on the theme 'Changing Climate Conditions-Sustainable Paddy Cultivation.'

The minister inspected laboratories at the research station and interacted with scientists to understand

the latest developments in paddy varieties.

He also visited stalls set up by Acharya N G Ranga Agricultural University and private companies, showcasing modern farm machinery and technologies.

Addressing the gathering, he expressed concern over the excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, which he said is

degrading soil quality and increasing cultivation costs.

He stated that the government is providing training, subsidies and marketing support to encourage farmers to shift towards organic farming. Steps are also being taken to establish dedicated markets to ensure better prices for organic produce.

He noted that paddy varieties developed at the

Maruteru research centre are achieving high yields in several states across the country and appreciated the efforts of agricultural scientists. With changing food habits among people, he advised farmers to align crop choices with market demand.

He directed officials and scientists to create awareness at the village level about suitable crops for different regions. Raja Sabha MP Paka Venkata Satyanarayana stressed the importance of soil testing awareness among farmers and said interlinking of rivers in the state would help address irrigation challenges.

District collector Chadalavada Nagarani said a target of 7.25 lakh metric tonnes has been set for rabi procurement in the district.

Achanta MLA Pitani Satyanarayana, Tanuku MLA Arimilli Radhakrishna, Acharya NG Ranga Agricultural University vice-chancellor Dr R Sharada Jayalakshmi Devi, Horticulture University vice-chancellor Dhanujaya Rao were among those present.

Botcha flags Rs 20,500 cr debt gap, seeks Gov's intervention

- Opposition leader in Council in a letter to the Governor alleges that finance dept understated borrowings for 2024-25 and 2025-26 by omitting key components
- Claims actual liabilities are Rs 81,082 cr versus the reported Rs 60,485 cr, citing CAG-audited accounts
- Accuses govt of hiding off-budget loans and inconsistent reporting, urging transparency to restore public trust



YSRCP MLC Botcha Satyanarayana

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

EXPRESSING concern over debts mobilised by the NDA government, particularly in the past two years, YSRCP MLC Botcha Satyanarayana dashed off a letter to Governor S Abdul Nazeer alleging that the state finance department presented inaccurate details regarding government borrowings for 2024-25 and 2025-26 in the Legislative Council.

Satyanarayana said the response given by the principal finance secretary to a 'starred' question in the February 2026 session understated the actual borrowings, omitting 'key' components.

The leader of Opposition in Legislative Council requested the Governor's intervention in

convincing the state government to provide the real picture of the data to the legislature. "The finance department stated that total borrowings for 2024-25 were Rs 60,485 crore. However, the CAG-audited finance accounts clearly indicate that the actual net liabilities are about Rs. 81,082 crore. This leaves a gap of more than Rs. 20,500 crore which needs attention," he demanded.

Pointing out that three major components would have possibly been omitted, the MLC said, "Borrowings under Ways and Means Advances from RBI were not included, even though they have been classified as internal debt in official records. Net liabilities under public account such as deposits and reserve funds were excluded. Also, adjustments related to GST compensation loans were reduced without valid justification."

He underlined that when the fiscal deficit itself is over Rs 81,000 crore, presenting a much lower borrowing fig-

ure paints a 'different' picture of the state's finances. "Such omissions create a false impression that the government's debt burden is lower than it actually is," he criticised.

Raising another issue, Satyanarayana said the government's claim that there were no off-budget borrowings in 2025-26 is incorrect. "Government backed corporations like MARKFED and Civil Supplies Corporation have been allowed to raise loans with state guarantees. These entities depend on government support and such borrowings clearly fall under off budget liabilities as per Government of India guidelines," he said.

Pointing to alleged inconsistency in the finance department's approach, Satyanarayana said that when details were sought for borrowings from 2014-2024, both public debt and public account were included. However, public account was excluded in the past two years. He expressed that this raises serious concerns.

Stating that officials are expected to present facts in a transparent manner, he stressed that any deviation from this principle affects the credibility of the finance department and weakens public trust. The MLC requested the Governor to intervene and ensure corrective action is taken with immediate effect.

ELEPHANT RAIDS

Solar fencing brings hope to farmers in Chittoor region

- Tirupati East forest division installed a hanging solar-powered fence covering about five kilometres in Pulicherla mandal

PRADEEP VENNELAKANTI
TIRUPATI



FARMERS across several mandals of the erstwhile Chittoor district are beginning to see hope after years of crop destruction caused by recurring elephant incursions, with forest authorities rolling out a solar-powered fencing system aimed at keeping herds away from agricultural lands.

For nearly a decade, villages located along forest fringes in Pulicherla, Somala, Sadam, Palamaner, Punganur and Kallur mandals have witnessed frequent elephant movement. The animals often strayed into cultivated fields, damaging crops across vast stretches and destroying farm equipment, leaving cultivators struggling with mounting losses. The persistent threat forced many farmers to either reduce cultivation or shift to less vulnerable farming practices.

In an effort to address the issue, officials of the Tirupati East forest division have installed a hanging solar-powered fence covering nearly five kilometres, stretching from

Gantavaripalle village in Pulicherla mandal up to the Kallurghat road. The project, implemented at a cost of Rs 49 lakh, has been completed and is set to undergo trial operations shortly. Forest authorities noted that a similar fencing system introduced earlier in the Palamaner range had yielded positive outcomes.

Elephant activity has been particularly intense in villages such as Pathapeta, Palem, Devalampeta, Kammappalle, Rayavaripalle, Challavaripalle and Ellankivaripalle. Farmers in these regions reported heavy losses to crops including paddy, tomato, brinjal and banana. Mango orchards and fodder crops were also affected, prompting several cultivators to cut down on agricultural operations due to uncertainty and financial strain.

Forest department officials said the fence installed earlier along the forest boundary at Palyam in Pulicherla mandal has begun yielding

favourable outcomes. In the month following its installation, elephant herds attempting to enter nearby farmlands have reportedly turned back upon reaching the barrier, providing relief to local farming communities.

Officials explained that the fencing system operates using solar-powered batteries to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply. During summer months, when elephants frequently venture out searching for food and water, power is maintained round the clock. The fence delivers a mild, non-lethal electric shock that deters the animals without causing harm. In the monsoon season, however, the power supply will function between 6 pm and 6 am, aligning with peak elephant movement hours.

Forest authorities expressed optimism that the new measure would significantly reduce human-elephant conflict in the region and help farmers regain confidence in cultivation.

Focus on uninterrupted power supply, farmer welfare: Energy minister

Inaugurates APCPDCL corporate office in Vijayawada

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

ENERGY minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar said the government's primary goal is to provide quality and uninterrupted power supply while enhancing services to the public.

The minister inaugurated the new corporate office of Andhra Pradesh Central Power Distribution Corporation Limited (APCPDCL) at Gunadala, Vijayawada, in the presence of MP Kesineni Sivanath, MLA Gadde Ramamohan Rao, energy special chief secretary K Vijayanand and CMD P Pulla Reddy.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister expressed happiness over the inauguration of the modern office, built at an estimated cost of Rs 35-40 crore with a total area of 65,000 square feet. He credited the collective efforts of the department staff for earning a good reputation for the power sector.

He said that construction of new substations is progressing rapidly across the state. Following the directions of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, the government is focused on providing uninterrupted quality power supply without increasing electricity tariffs. He emphasised that there should be no power disruptions or low-voltage issues, and officials are working dili-



Energy minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar inaugurates the new corporate office of APCPDCL at Gunadala in Vijayawada on Wednesday

gently to achieve this.

The minister further stated that the department aims to improve public perception from the current 80 per cent to over 95 per cent. Under the PM Kusum scheme, tenders have been completed to provide free daytime electricity to farmers, and works will commence soon.

Highlighting achievements, he noted that the state has recorded unprecedented levels of power generation using modern techniques. By purchasing power during low-demand daytime and generating electricity during peak evening hours, the state is ensuring no shortages.

Renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and pumped storage projects (PSPs) are being expanded, and tenders have already been invited at 10 locations for battery storage systems.

He also praised electricity staff for their tireless service during disasters. Recalling past floods and cyclones, es-

pecially in Visakhapatnam, he said around 1,500-2,000 personnel restored nearly 20,000 electric poles within 24 hours, ensuring quick restoration of power supply.

Vijayanand said that advanced, human-independent software is being used to ensure transparency in power purchase and sales. He added that the state successfully managed a record peak load of 14,009 mw this year and supplied 275 million units of power without interruption during the summer. The efficiency of APGenco plants has been increased to 85-90 per cent.

He further noted that the APCPDCL building has been developed with a 'Net Zero' concept, incorporating solar energy and green technologies to reduce power consumption and achieve carbon neutrality.

CMD Pulla Reddy urged discom officials to continue delivering better services to consumers.

Endowments woman official sent to custody

- Assistant commissioner Kalingiri Shanti remanded till April 21 after ACB arrest over alleged disproportionate assets



Kalingiri Shanti (file picture)

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

A city court on Wednesday sent an endowments department official to judicial custody in a disproportionate assets case. Kalingiri Shanti, assistant commissioner in the endowments department, was produced before the ACB court, which sent her to judicial custody till April 21. She was subsequently shifted to the Vijayawada district jail.

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) arrested Shanti after simultaneous raids at premises linked to her on Tuesday. The anti-graft agency took the action following information that she allegedly amassed wealth beyond her known sources of income.

ACB officials conduct searches for 10 hours in different locations, including Tadepalli, Undavalli, and Visakhapatnam. The searches were conducted at four places in Tadepalli, including her residence, a garment shop belonging to her mother, and her sister's residence.

They seized incriminating documents and unearthened assets, including a residential flat in Visakhapatnam, a G+2 building at Kunchanapalli,

776 grams of gold ornaments, nearly 3 kg of silver articles, cash worth Rs 1.15 lakh, bank balances of about Rs 3 lakh, a Volkswagen Polo car, a motorcycle, and electronic gadgets. Following the searches, the ACB registered a Disproportionate Assets (DA) case against the Assistant Commissioner under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

The official was also found to have a locker in a bank in Vijayawada. Further searches and valuation of assets were in progress. Shanti was appointed as Assistant Commissioner in the Endowments Department through the Andhra Pradesh State Public Service Commission (APPSC) in 2020, and worked in Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada. After the TDP-led coalition government came to power in 2024, Shanti was suspended for over an allegation of irregularities. She was under suspension from July 2024 to March 2026. The Endowments Department had initiated a departmental inquiry into the allegations against Shanti. The government had seriously taken the allegations against Shanti, including her recruitment procedure itself.

The suspension was lifted in March, and she was waiting for a posting.

Lokesh cracks whip on inactive TDP MLAs

- Pulls up several legislators for failing to hold cadre meetings and grievance programmes for four weeks; directs staff to seek explanations
- Warns against negligence, stresses performance-based recognition; honours top 'My TDP' app performers
- Conducts 87th 'Prajadarbar', receives public petitions on railway depot relocation, bus operators' losses, and land dispute issues

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA



Education minister Nara Lokesh honours top 10 performers on My TDP app, at the party state office in Mangalagiri on Wednesday

lack of organisational activity in recent weeks by some legislators.

During a review meeting with party leaders at the party office, Lokesh pulled up several leaders for failing to conduct cadre meetings and grievance redressal pro-

grammes for four consecutive weeks. He expressed concern over the inaction of Mydukur MLA Putta Sudhakar Yadav, Kadapa MLA R Madhavi Reddy and Prodatur MLA Varadarajulu Reddy, and directed party office staff to seek explana-

tions from them. He also voiced anger at Pulivendula in-charge B Tech Ravi, Kamalapuram MLA Chaitanya Reddy and Dharmavaram in-charge Paritala Sriram for not holding the mandated programmes. Lokesh warned that negligence would not be tolerated and instructed leaders to strictly implement party directives.

Reiterating that the TDP recognises and rewards hard work, Lokesh said the party's growth was driven by the performance of its leaders. He emphasised that consistent execution of party programmes would ensure its long-term strength. He also interacted with the top 10 performers of the 'My TDP' app and honoured them for effectively promoting party ideology.

Later, Lokesh conducted

the 'Prajadarbar' public grievance programme at the TDP central office in Mangalagiri, marking its 87th day. He received petitions from people across the state, including party workers and leaders, and assured them of action after carefully hearing their concerns.

Among the issues raised were requests from loco pilots to prevent the relocation of the gala depot in Vijayawada during the proposed South Coast Railway formation, appeals from private bus owners for replacement support after Covid-related losses, and a land dispute complaint from a Kurnool district resident seeking justice over alleged encroachment of ancestral property. Lokesh assured all petitioners that their grievances would be examined and addressed.

World Bank sees strong investment potential in Amaravati

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

A delegation from the World Bank met Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu at the State Secretariat on Wednesday and expressed optimism about the vast investment opportunities in Amaravati.

The World Bank representatives appreciated the progress of Amaravati's construction and highlighted that the city's rapidly developing infrastructure, along with reforms in the IT and power sectors, is expected to attract significant international investments. They opined that Amaravati has the potential to emerge as the growth engine of Andhra Pradesh. The delegation further noted that with the ongoing development of

CM outlines comprehensive development plans



Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu with World Bank delegation at the Secretariat on Wednesday

world-class infrastructure, Amaravati is likely to become a major hub for commercial and economic activities in the state.

During the meeting, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu briefed the delegation on the government's vision of building a world-class capital while ensuring balanced and inclusive development across

the state. He explained that the government is working on comprehensive plans to promote growth in all regions. The Chief Minister also informed the delegation that strategies are being formulated to develop Andhra Pradesh across three regions, aiming for equitable progress and sustainable economic expansion.



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.

