

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

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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

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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

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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 Dharani 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

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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

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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 Shankar-pally 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

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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

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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

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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

