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NO TEXTBOOKS YET CBSE asks schools to start teaching 3rd language in 7 days

NEW DELHI: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has made the introduction of a third language (R3) in Class 6 mandatory from the 2026-27 academic session, directing all affiliated schools to comply within seven days, according to an official circular issued on Thursday. Calling the move "urgent and mandatory", the board said all schools must begin implementation immediately, even if textbooks are not yet available. "It has been learnt that many schools have already initiated the implementation of R3... All remaining schools are hereby directed to ensure compliance within 7 days from the date of issuance of this circular," the CBSE said in its notice. Schools have also been asked to start teaching the third language right away, using locally available material until official textbooks are released.

Air India flight makes 'pan pan' call after engine stalls mid-air

MUMBAI: An Air India aircraft makes a 'pan pan' alert while enroute Bengaluru on Thursday. The incident took place on flight AI 2812, an A320 Neo aircraft. The flight, originally to take off at 2.05am, took off at around 2.15am. The aircraft returned to the Mumbai airport at around 2.35am. According to officials the passengers reported soaked during takeoff. One of the officials said, "According to the official information available, there was a sound heard and sparks seen while takeoff. The pilot declared 'pan pan' and returned to the airport a few minutes after takeoff." "It was later known that its engine 2 had stalled," the official added.

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Will Amaravati dent Hyderabad realty?

Telangana's Registration & Stamps Dept starts studying Amaravati's impact on TG realty, including Hyd

▶ Revenue from TG property registrations fell to Rs 14,214 cr in FY25 from Rs 14,588 cr in FY24
 ▶ Hyd realty in slow lane for last 3 years due to various reasons
 ▶ TG officials fear AP's boost to Amaravati may adversely affect

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HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

ANDHRA Pradesh's Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and his son and IT & HRD Minister N Lokesh have gone on record a couple of times that AP's Amaravati, capital city in the making,

will outclass Hyderabad in due course. People who have seen Hyderabad's IT boom under the watch of Naidu as undivided AP's Chief Minister, will not look askance at those statements. Leave alone the arena for competitive growth in IT and other sec-

tors; Amaravati has already gained traction enough to dent Hyderabad's real estate sector, going by the hard talk in certain informed quarters. But will Amaravati really affect the trajectory of the Telangana realty? The

Telangana government too, concerned over this aspect, is studying the ramifications of AP's new Greenfield capital city, which is being developed at a cost of over Rs 70,000 crore, on Telangana's land prices, construction activity,

and investments in realty in the new financial year. The Telangana Registration & Stamps Department has begun analysing the data relating to registration of properties following the recent announcement of

Amaravati as the sole capital of AP. For, already, revenue from registrations in TG decreased to Rs 14,214 crore in the financial year 2024-2025. It was Rs 14,588 crore in FY24. Although the state government expected huge revenue from property registrations in the 2025-2026 financial year; it remained low in the last financial year too. Given this trend, attributed to Amaravati factor, government officials have started raising doubts over the feasibility of achieving the target relating to revenue

from property registration in the new financial year i.e. FY27. The officials said that the government set a target of Rs 19,540 crore, which is Rs 3,000 crore higher than that of last year. A major challenge for the state government is that some real estate developers in Hyderabad are said to be shifting their focus to Amaravati. Some of these developers have already held meetings with officials in Amaravati to gauge the potential of real estate growth in the new capital in the coming years. **Continued on Page 5**

Excess paddy, rice stocks haunt TG govt

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

THE Telangana government is worried over excess paddy and rice stocks in the wake of increasing production! Taking serious note of it, State Civil Supplies Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy requested Union Food Minister Pralhad Joshi to increase procurement targets of boiled rice targets by 5 LMT for Rabi 2024-25 by reducing the Food Corporation of India's (FCI) raw rice target.

STATE REQUESTS CENTRE TO PROCURE 20 LMT BOILED RICE MORE

ing paddy production and the Centre's shrinking procurement allocations. Currently, 8.45 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of rice are yet to be delivered. The original deadline of February 28 has already passed, and the state has sought a 60-day extension. The Minister noted that Telangana paddy's superior grain characteristics and lower moisture levels make it ideal for boiled (parboiled)



rice conversion. Rice millers have agreed in principle to supply with only 5 per cent broken rice, offering a practical solution, he added. He sought enhancement of the boiled rice target by 20.00

LMT for the entire KMS 2025-26 (covering both Kharif and Rabi seasons). Uttam also stressed the need for further extension of two months for Rabi 2024-25 deliveries. The state procures paddy on behalf of the union government under the Decentralised Procurement Scheme to ensure Minimum Support Price (MSP) for farmers and prevent distress sales. However, the Centre's

policy of reducing Custom Milled Rice (CMR) and boiled rice targets has left Telangana struggling with excess stocks, storage costs, milling expenses, and interest liabilities. Telangana has seen exponential growth in paddy output post-2023 due to improved irrigation and farmer-centric policies, the Minister emphasised, adding that continued procurement is essential to safeguard interests of lakhs of farmers, but the state can't indefinitely bear the financial strain of excess paddy without adequate central support in the form of higher boiled rice allocations and timely extensions.

'REGIME CHANGE' VS 'BJP BUYING VOTES'

Modi, Mamata trade barbs at election rallies in Bengal

KOLKATA



PRIME Minister Narendra Modi and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee traded barbs at separate poll rallies on Thursday ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections.

While PM accused the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) of 'cruelty', Banerjee alleged that the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) deleted names of more than 90 lakh people from the state's voter lists. At an election rally in Asansol, Modi said that a regime change in West Bengal was inevitable, as the TMC's "repository of sins" has become full. "A regime change in Bengal is now cast in stone and sought by the people of Bengal. TMC's repository of sins is now full. Asansol is being ruled by syndicate raj, coal and sand mafia," the prime minister said. **Continued on Page 5**



US-Iran truce strains amid Lebanon strikes

TEHRAN

A two-week ceasefire between the United States and Iran is teetering on the brink of collapse just days after its announcement, as escalating Israeli military operations in Lebanon expose a critical loophole in the agreement.

While the truce was intended to pause a month of regional hostilities, both Washington and Jerusalem have explicitly confirmed that the deal excludes operations against Hezbollah in Lebanon, creating a diplomatic and military flashpoint that threatens to reignite the broader conflict.

The exclusion of the Lebanese front has drawn sharp condemnation from Iranian officials and international observers.

Continued on Page 5

US READY FOR NEXT CONQUEST: TRUMP

▶ 'Hormuz must be open and safe, else shooting starts'
 ▶ Asks military to remain near Iran until 'real agreement'

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump said on Wednesday that US military forces will remain deployed in and around Iran until Tehran fully complies with the "real agreement," warning that any breach would trigger a military response larger than anything seen before. **Continued on Page 5**



Heavy turnout marks high-stakes voting day in Assam, Kerala and Puducherry

NEW DELHI: A surge in voter enthusiasm marked the high-stakes Assembly elections on Thursday, with turnout figures by 3 pm touching a striking 85.64% in Assam, 78.71% in Kerala and 89.87% in Puducherry.

Over 5.3 crore electors turned out in large numbers, reflecting robust participation as they cast their votes to shape the political future of the two states and the union Territory.

Polling commenced at 7 am and is set to continue until evening across 140 constituencies in Kerala, 126 in Assam and 30 in Puducherry.

Officials said elaborate arrangements, including heightened security deployment, extensive webcasting and drone surveillance in sensitive areas, were put in place to ensure free and fair elections. **Continued on Page 5**

IMD predicts heat wave for next 3 days

STAY HYDRATED, WEAR COTTON, AVOID GOING OUT AT NOON

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

THE Health Department on Thursday issued an advisory to the people of the state to take precautions in the wake of Indian Meteorological Department predicting heat wave for the next three days.

The IMD's Hyderabad unit has forecast gradual rise in the maximum temperature by 2-3°C during the next three days in Telangana. In this regard, the Health Department has issued dos and don'ts for the citizens of Telangana. Under do's the Health Depart-



ment has asked the citizens to stay hydrated by drinking sufficient water as and when possible, even if they are not thirsty. Use oral rehydration solution (ORS) and consume homemade drinks like lemon water, buttermilk /

fruit juices / salt-sugar solution (Homemade ORS: one litre of drinking water, six level teaspoons of sugar and half level teaspoon of salt; stir well until all components are dissolved). Citizens have been asked to carry water during travelling time, eat seasonal fruits and vegetables with high water content like watermelon, muskmelon, oranges, grapes,

pineapples, cucumbers or any other locally available fruits and vegetables. Citizens have been asked to wear thin loose cotton garments preferably light coloured ones. Cover the head by using the umbrella/hat/cap/towel or any other traditional head-gears during exposure to the direct sunlight. Wear shoes or chappals while going out in the sun. Stay to the extent possible in well-ventilated areas and in cool premises. **Continued on Page 5**

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Jeevan Reddy set to join BRS; says endured humiliation for 20 months

• Says experienced leaders key for Telangana's growth; move could boost BRS' strength

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

IN a significant political development, the BRS is set to strengthen its base in north Telangana, with senior leader T Jeevan Reddy confirming his decision to join the party, dealing a blow to the ruling Congress party.

BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Thursday visited the residence of veteran Congress leader T Jeevan Reddy in Jagtial to invite him to join the BRS on behalf of party president K Chandrashekar Rao.

Jeevan Reddy expressed gratitude to BRS working president KT Rama Rao for visiting his residence. Speaking to the media along with KT Rama Rao and BRS leaders on the occasion, he said resigning from the Congress party was an emotional decision but expressed happiness at joining BRS.

He stated that he endured humiliation over the past 20 months with patience and added that, having seen

KTR visits Jagtial to invite him to join the pink party



BRS working president KT Rama Rao with Jeevan Reddy in Jagtial on Thursday

many governments, he believes the present government is moving in a regressive direction. Jeevan Reddy said his decision was based on public opinion and expressed happiness at the opportunity to work under KCR's leadership.

On the other hand, KTR emphasised that for farmers and the poor in the state to regain stability and happiness, KCR must return

as Chief Minister. He said experienced leaders like Jeevan Reddy are essential for rebuilding Telangana's growth trajectory.

Highlighting Jeevan Reddy's political journey, KTR noted that he has served the Congress party for over four decades with commitment.

He also recalled that KCR had invited him to join BRS even before the 2014 elections, but he continued

in Congress at the time due to his loyalty to the party. KTR elaborated on the long-standing personal bond between KCR and Jeevan Reddy, built over four decades of mutual respect.

Recalling that during KCR's first official tour of Karimnagar district as Chief Minister in 2014, development works requested by Jeevan Reddy, despite being in the opposition, were im-

mediately sanctioned—reflecting statesmanship beyond party lines.

He also highlighted Jeevan Reddy's strong advocacy for farmers in the Assembly and his consistent fight on issues like Nizam Sugars. KTR recalled that KCR had even offered to support the revival of the sugar factory under a cooperative model, inspired by Maharashtra, with financial backing and leadership responsibility to Jeevan Reddy if he wished.

KTR thanked the Jagtial district leadership for proactively supporting the initiative and inviting Jeevan Reddy into the party fold.

He appreciated their commitment to strengthening the party and working towards bringing BRS back to power, stating that Jeevan Reddy's entry would significantly strengthen the party.

KTR strongly condemned remarks made by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, stating that such comments were inappropriate and unbecoming of a person holding the highest office in the state.

He accused the Chief Minister of using language that insults the dignity of women and goes against Telangana's cultural values.

Mahesh slams Jeevan's criticism of Revanth Reddy

Who is he to ask CM to step down, ask PCC chief

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD:

TELANGANA Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president B. Mahesh Kumar Goud termed senior leader T. Jeevan Reddy's remarks against the Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy inappropriate, and asked him to introspect on how Congress contributed to his political career.

"Who is Jeevan Reddy to ask CM Revanth Reddy to step down? The Chief Minister was elected by all the MLAs. Such criticism is not justified," Mr. Goud said, adding that people were not taking Mr. Jeevan Reddy's allegations seriously.

In an informal chat with reporters at Gandhi Bhavan, he said the Congress had issued B-form to Jeevan Reddy on 14 occasions, enabling him to contest elections as the party's official candidate. "Senior leaders who have taken B-forms 14 times from the Congress should remember their own political journey before criticising the party," he said.

The TPCC chief alleged that the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) were not different from each



other and they might join hands in the near future. "BRS and BJP are not separate. They may come together tomorrow. No one has benefited under BJP's leadership," he said, attributing the BRS' electoral defeat to the public's desire for change and growing awareness of alleged corruption during its tenure.

Referring to allegations against Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, Mr. Goud challenged critics to produce evidence. "If there is proof, bring it to Gandhi Bhavan and we are ready for a discussion. Making baseless allegations and threatening will not be tolerated," he said.

He asserted that the alleged irregularities in Nadargul lands took place during the BRS regime and claimed that Mr. Srinivas Reddy him-

self was ready for an open debate on the issue.

The TPCC president also defended the Congress government's performance, stating that projects initiated by the present administration were progressing without setbacks. In contrast, he alleged that projects like Kaleshwaram, constructed during the BRS tenure, were facing structural issues within a few years.

Earlier, he participated in the formation day of the National Students' Union of India (NSUI), and said several senior leaders in the state Congress, including Minister Ponnampalabharathi, Vamsi Chand Reddy, MP Anil Kumar Yadav and SC Cell Chairman Shankar Naik, had risen through the ranks of the student wing.

Future City Police introduce onsite FIR system

HANS NEWS SERVICE RANGAREDDY

IN a major step towards improving public access to police services, the Future City Commissionerate has launched the "Onsite FIR" system, allowing police to register complaints and book cases directly at the scene of an incident for faster response and swift legal action.

The new initiative was implemented following a



chain-snatching incident reported in Kondannaguda village under Shadnagar police station limits in Ranga Reddy district. According to the victim, Veeramma, the incident occurred at around 2:30 pm on Thursday while she was sitting near her agricultural field.

An unidentified person reportedly arrived on a motorcycle, parked it a short distance away, approached her from

behind, and snatched a gold mangalsutra chain weighing about four tolas before fleeing the scene.

After receiving information, Shadnagar ACP Satyanarayana, CI Seetharam, and SI Shivareddy rushed to the spot and gathered details. Based on the victim's complaint, police registered an FIR at the location itself under the Onsite FIR system and immediately launched an investigation.

Chief Secy reviews Godavari Pushkaram arrangements, calls for massive preparations

HYDERABAD

CHIEF Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao on Thursday directed the concerned officials to make comprehensive arrangements to ensure a smooth and hassle-free experience for devotees attending the upcoming Godavari Pushkaram to be held next year.

At a high-level review meeting held at the state Secretariat, attended by senior officials including Endowments Principal Secretary Sailaja Ramaiyer and Commissioner Hanumanth Rao, the Chief Secretary emphasized the need for large-scale planning in view of the expected heavy influx of pilgrims.

Highlighting the geographical spread of the river basin, he noted that the Godavari River flows across eight districts - from Kandakurthi in Nizamabad to Basara and Bhadrachalam - making it imperative for coordinated arrangements across all locations.

Rao stated that the Chief Minister has already issued guidelines and instructed officials to prepare detailed proposals accordingly for submission to the Cabinet Sub-Committee



constituted for the Pushkaram. He also directed the committee of Engineers-in-Chief and Chief Engineers to review all proposed works to ensure timely execution.

The Chief Secretary stressed that meticulous planning and inter-departmental coordination will be key to managing the large number of devotees expected to take part in the sacred river festival.



Tributes paid to veteran leader Ale Narendra on his death anniversary

HYDERABAD

SENIOR BJP leader N Ramchander Rao on Thursday paid floral tributes to veteran leader Ale Narendra on his 12th death anniversary, remembering him as a key figure in the Telangana movement and a dedicated public servant.

Narendra, a former MP and Union Minister, was praised for his relentless efforts as a trade union leader, particularly in championing

workers' rights at Kagaznagar and Sirpur Mills. Rao recalled his unwavering commitment during challenging times in Hyderabad, where he stood firm amid communal tensions.

Describing him as a leader devoted to the nation, culture and people, Rao said Narendra's ideals continue to inspire BJP workers across Telangana.

He urged party cadres to emulate his courage, discipline and dedication.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the general public that my client Bandaru Kiran S/o Ishari, Age: 37 years, Occ: Govt. Employee, R/O No.5-552, Valiala Village, Shaigouram Mandal, Nalgonda District, reported that original Registered Sale Deed document of his property bearing No.3952/2025, dated 23.03.2025 including other documents was lost during travelling on 26-03-2026 on motor cycle from Sri Ram Nagar colony to Ramagiri Centre for getting Xerox. He lodged a complaint before police, Nalgonda II Town on 26-03-2026 with regard to loss of his document. The police Nalgonda II Town issued a certificate dated 30.03.2026 stating that on receipt of the complainant efforts were made to trace out the lost, missing title deed but could not be traced. The schedule property mentioned in the document No.3952/2025 is Open House plot, Plot No.18 (South Part), within Sy.No.1294, in ward No.7, Block No.9, Inside Residential zone, comprising total area as per plan 120.00 Sq.Yds 100.33 Sq.Mtrs, situated at Sri Ram Nagar colony, Panagal Road, Nalgonda Town which is bounded by North Part of Plot No.18 (South Part), within Sy.No.1294, in ward No.7, Block No.9, Inside Residential zone, comprising total area as per plan 120.00 Sq.Yds 100.33 Sq.Mtrs, situated at Sri Ram Nagar colony, Panagal Road, Nalgonda Town which is bounded by North Part of Plot No.18 (South Part), within Sy.No.1294, in ward No.7, Block No.9, Inside Residential zone, comprising total area as per plan 120.00 Sq.Yds 100.33 Sq.Mtrs, situated at Sri Ram Nagar colony, Panagal Road, Nalgonda Town which is bounded by North Part of Plot No.18 (South Part), within Sy.No.1294, in ward No.7, Block No.9, Inside Residential zone, comprising total area as per plan 120.00 Sq.Yds 100.33 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Bhatti distributes bicycles to schoolchildren

EDUCATION KEY TO BUILDING EQUITABLE SOCIETY, SAYS DY CM

Govt to roll out breakfast scheme from June 2 benefiting 20 lakh students
Free mid-day meals to be extended to Intermediate students from next academic year

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KHAMMAM

EMPHASISING that education is the strongest tool for progress and social transformation, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu said the government is committed to ensuring access to quality education for every child.

Speaking at a bicycle distribution programme organised by the Amma Foundation for students of government schools and colleges at Bonakal and Errupalem mandal headquarters in Madhira constituency of Khammam district on Thursday, he said, "Education is the true weapon for progress. Only through education can we build an equal and ideal society without disparities. Highlighting the



Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu distributing bicycles to schoolchildren in Madhira on Thursday

government's focus on education, he said recent socio-economic, educational, employment and caste surveys indicate that sustainable development is possible only through strengthening the education sector.

The Deputy Chief Minister announced that the government will soon roll out a breakfast scheme benefiting

around 20 lakh students in government schools from June 2, noting that "No child should attend school on an empty stomach as it affects their ability to learn". He further said that free mid-day meals will also be extended to Intermediate students from the next academic year. Stressing that the government is investing heavily in

education, he said every child in the state should be provided opportunities to study as far as they wish and develop into high-quality human resources. He added that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is giving special emphasis to improving educational infrastructure and facilities.

Outlining key initiatives, Vikramarka said the government aims to ensure universal access to education by removing financial barriers and providing free, high-standard education comparable to corporate institutions.

He said construction of 100 "Young India Integrated Residential Schools" with international standards has been initiated, each with an estimated investment of Rs 100 crore across 20-25 acres, equipped with English-medium instruction, digital learning tools, sports infrastructure and residential facilities for staff.

In addition, the government plans to establish one "Telangana Public School" in each constituency from the upcoming academic year,

totalling 119 schools. These semi-residential institutions will offer free transport, breakfast, nutritious supplements such as milk and ragi malt, mid-day meals, digital education, sports facilities and evening drop-offs for students.

"These schools will be better than private institutions and help reduce the financial burden on poor and middle-class families," he said.

At Errupalem, the Deputy Chief Minister said the state has allocated about 13.5 per cent of its budget to education, underlining the importance of students as the future of Telangana. He also noted that diet charges for students have been increased by 40 per cent and cosmetic charges by 200 per cent after the present government came to power.

He said the government would not hesitate to invest necessary resources to transform both natural and human capital into productive assets and called upon students to utilise the opportunities provided to excel in their studies.

Harish flays Ponguleti: Calls him arrogant and bombastic

"Ponguleti himself admitted that CM and all ministers are corrupt," said Rao, challenging him to accept his mistake and apologise to the public

HANS NEWS SERVICE
WANAPARTHY



FORMER minister and party deputy floor leader T Harish Rao criticised Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, saying that when corruption was exposed, Ponguleti resorted to abusive language, insults, and made-up stories in defence. "Ponguleti himself admitted that the CM and all ministers are corrupt," said Rao, challenging him to accept his mistake and apologise to the public.

Speaking at a press meet in Nagapur village of Revalli mandal on Thursday, he fired at Reddy. "We heard Ponguleti's arrogant words even in the highly sacred Secretariat. Despite being near the Ambedkar statue, Birla Mandir, temple, mosque, and church, he spoke only lies, instead of truth. His frustration is evident."

"Ponguleti has gone into defence mode. He spoke not

as a State minister, but like the head of Raghava Constructions. He is trying to protect his son. He thought he could escape by telling fabricated stories. He himself concluded that not only he, but all ministers are corrupt," said Rao.

"The CM himself said that corruption in Raghava Constructions was identified by officials and fines were imposed. The Mining Minister said permissions were delayed. Officials from Revenue, Electricity, Mining and Pollution Control departments inspected and confirmed illegal mining. So, who is wrong—Ponguleti or the officials? Is the CM wrong? Is the Mining Minister wrong? You claim you have no connection. Ponguleti, there is much more—we will expose everything," he asserted.

Rao stated that it was the BRS party that protected

Nadergul lands. "The BRS government listed them as prohibited lands. It fought the case in the High Court. It brought orders to take action against those who sold and bought ceiling lands. Why are you hiding this? Didn't the BRS government win the case in the division bench? If these are government lands as you say, why do their names keep changing? Why haven't you taken possession of the land for two and a half years?" he questioned.

"If there is wrongdoing, take action against the four departments. Make the CM admit that he lied in the Assembly. Even now, admit your mistake and apologise to people," Rao said.

Former ministers S Niranjan Reddy, V Srinivas Goud, Lakshma Reddy, former MLAs A Venkateshwar Reddy, Anjaiah Yadav, MLC Naveen, RS Praveen Kumar among others were present.

Raghuram Reddy seeks realignment of key rly lines

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KHAMMAM

RAISING long-pending railway issues of Khammam and Bhadradi Kothagudem districts, MP Ramasahayam Raghuram Reddy has urged the Centre to expedite decisions on new railway lines, station development, and passenger amenities.

During a meeting with senior officials of the Railway Ministry in New Delhi on Thursday, the MP discussed key infrastructure concerns with Executive Director Vikas Kumar Jain and sought early resolution of pending proposals. He said the Railways responded positively and assured that necessary steps



would be taken soon.

Reddy reiterated the demand for realignment of the proposed Dornakal-Miryalaguda and Dornakal-Gadwal railway lines, stating that alternative routes should be considered via Vennaram, Kuravi, Abbai Palem, Maripeda, and Mothe to better serve local populations.

He noted that several representations had been made

earlier regarding these alignments and that surveys had already been completed by railway authorities. In view of this, he urged the ministry to move forward swiftly with the alternative proposals.

The MP also raised the issue of road expansion in front of the Bhadradi Kothagudem railway station (Bhadra-

lam Road) and proposed a land exchange to facilitate the project.

He informed officials that around 4,556 sq m of railway land is required for road widening, and in return, the state government is willing to provide 9,969.5 sq m of land near Khammam railway station. He further stated that proposals in this regard had already been submitted by the district collectors of Khammam and Bhadradi Kothagudem to South Central Railway on November 14, 2025.

Raghuram Reddy expressed confidence that with the Centre's positive response, long-pending railway development works in the region would soon see progress.

Maize procurement: BJP alleges irregularities

Distressed farmers forced to sell produce on roads due to gov't's indifferent attitude

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KHAMMAM

ALLEGING irregularities in maize procurement and harassment of farmers, BJP district president Nelluri Koteswara Rao on Thursday demanded that the government immediately set up procurement centres and purchase the produce without imposing any conditions.

After visiting maize fields in Konijerla and Wyrma mandals of Khammam district on Thursday, Rao said farmers, who toiled for months to raise the crop, were being forced to wait on roads to sell their produce due to the government's "indifferent attitude".

He claimed that despite good yields this season, farmers were unable to get remunerative prices, with maize



currently fetching only Rs 1,700-1,800 per quintal in the open market, which is insufficient to cover input costs.

Rao alleged that officials of Markfed were rejecting produce citing fungus and grain quality issues, thereby delaying procurement. "Even where the crop quality is reasonably good, officials are raising objections and creating hurdles instead of facilitating procurement," he said, urging market authorities to intervene and

prevent harassment of farmers in the name of quality checks.

"Unseasonal rains and gusty winds have further compounded farmers' distress," he said, adding that harvested maize kept in fields was getting soaked, leading to discoloration and deterioration in quality. "As a result, traders were either refusing to buy the produce or offering distress prices," he added.

"The delay in opening procurement centres has pushed

farmers into a crisis, forcing them to sell their produce at throwaway prices," Rao said, warning that the situation could drive farmers to extreme distress. He demanded that the district Collector take immediate action against erring officials and ensure procurement on a war footing. The BJP leader also warned of large-scale protests if procurement centres are not opened without delay.

Rao urged the government to change its "rigid stance" and procure even rain-affected maize at the minimum support price to safeguard farmers' interests. Several BJP leaders, including Mandapapu Subba Rao, Bandaru Naresh, Kavida Muralikrishna, Yasa Satyanarayana and Kavida Rambabu, accompanied him during the visit.

Controversy erupts over award to defunct UPHC

Award granted based on outdated records say locals

HANS NEWS SERVICE
MARRIGUDA (NALGONDA)

A controversy has emerged in Marriguda regarding the functioning of medical services. While the hospital has been upgraded to a Community Health Centre (CHC) and continues to provide services under that category, questions are being raised over it receiving a 'Best UPHC' state award. The issue has sparked widespread debate among locals and healthcare circles.

Criticism is mounting against higher authorities for allegedly granting the award without proper verification. Locals fear that such decisions could damage the credibility of government systems. Residents are now demanding a thorough inquiry into the selection process and strict action against those responsible for misleading authorities.

It is reported that the issue arose primarily due to failure in updating online data after the hospital's upgrade in 2023.

The award appears to have been granted based on outdated records. Only after the announcement did staff update the online system, revealing the discrepancy. Interestingly, from April 9 onwards, UPHC services have reportedly begun to be re-entered in the old building records.

The UPHC (Urban Primary Health Centre) at the mandal headquarters was upgraded to a CHC in 2023 during the previous BRS government. The then Finance and Health Minister, Harish Rao, inaugurated the new building and officially elevated the facility to CHC status. Following the upgrade, specialist doctors and staff from various hospitals in the district were deployed there. Since then, services under the UPHC in the old building have completely ceased, with all operations shifting to the CHC.

However, despite the discontinuation of UPHC services on the ground, out-

patient (OP) services continued to be recorded online under the UPHC category. Meanwhile, CHC services, though actively functioning, were not properly reflected in the online system. Due to this discrepancy, Marriguda was selected for the 'Best UPHC' award at the state level under a government performance programme.

This has led to confusion and criticism, as the award was given to a facility where services had effectively stopped. Locals and healthcare professionals are questioning whether this was due to a lapse in supervision by officials or a failure to update records in a timely manner. There are also doubts about whether district medical officers were aware of the situation despite multiple inspections.

Despite the pride associated with receiving a state award, the controversy has left both the public and hospital staff disappointed.

Show cause notice issued to MEO

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KOTHAGUEDEM

DISTRICT Collector Ankit on Thursday expressed serious displeasure over deficiencies in residential schools during a surprise inspection and directed officials to issue a show cause notice to the Mandal Education Officer (MEO). The Collector inspected Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Residential School under Samagra Shiksha and the Urban Residential School (URS) for boys at Paloncha-Kothagudem. During the visit, he interacted with Class 7 students and enquired about facilities, food and quality of meals being provided.

He also assessed students' English reading skills and expressed dissatisfaction over their performance. Questioning the school principal on the reasons behind the poor academic standards, the Collector sought an explanation for gaps in teaching. He noted that the low learning levels in an urban school were a matter of concern. Inspecting the storeroom, he found shortages in essential supplies and questioned officials over lapses in procurement. He also expressed displeasure over poor hygiene in the kitchen and warned that negligence in providing quality food to students would not be tolerated. The Collector reviewed



attendance registers of teachers and staff and observed that most personnel were working on a contractual basis. He advised them to discharge their duties responsibly to ensure students' learning outcomes are not affected.

Noting that the school caters to street children, rescued children and dropouts, he stressed the need for special attention

and close monitoring. However, he said lapses in supervision were evident. In view of the deficiencies, the Collector ordered issuance of a show-cause notice to the concerned MEO and warned of strict action to improve school management, teaching standards and student welfare. School principal Rambai, teachers and staff were present during the inspection.

'PM Sansad Khel Mahotsav' inaugurated in Narayanpet

HANS NEWS SERVICE
MAHABUNAGAR

THE 'PM Sansad Khel Mahotsav' was inaugurated at the Government Junior College ground in Narayanpet district headquarters by MP DK Aruna who distributed cricket and volleyball kits to coordinators from various mandals.

She then conducted the toss and officially launched the games. To encourage the participants, she participated by batting in cricket and later played volleyball.



Addressing the gathering, Aruna said that the objective of organising the event is to encourage rural youth

towards sports and bring out their hidden talent. She highlighted that the Central Government is pro-

moting sports through initiatives like Khelo India, providing better opportunities for athletes to excel at na-

tional and international levels. "Competitions in cricket, volleyball, kho-kho, and kabaddi are being conducted at mandal, constituency, and parliamentary levels. Teams winning at the mandal level will progress to higher levels," she said.

She added that special prizes will be given to women's teams. Currently, four games are being conducted, and more sports will be included next year.

Emphasizing the importance of both education and sports, she said that sports

contribute to physical and mental well-being. She encouraged players to bring pride to the nation through their achievements.

The closing ceremony will be held on April 24 at Mahabunagar district headquarters, where the Governor of Telangana will attend and distribute prizes to the winners. Several leaders attended the event, including PM-SKM Parliament In-charge Muchcharlapalli Janardhan Reddy, District Convener Tirupati Reddy, and various senior BJP leaders.

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TG to establish 109 trauma centres along highways: Raja Narasimha

Government has launched a comprehensive Trauma Care Policy aimed at saving lives by immediately transporting victims of road accidents and other emergencies to hospitals, says the Health Minister

HYDERABAD

HEALTH Minister Damaraju Raja Narasimha stated that the government is establishing 109 trauma care centres equipped with all necessary facilities along national and state highways across the Telangana state.

The Minister, along with MLA Arikapudi Gandhi, laid the foundation stone for the construction of a 100-bed critical care block in Kondapur on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, Raja Narasimha said the government has launched a comprehensive Trauma Care Policy aimed at saving lives by immediately transporting victims of road accidents and other emergencies to hospitals.

He said the State government is strengthening the emergency response system



Health Minister Raja Narasimha laid the foundation stone for construction of a 100-bed critical care unit in Hyderabad on Thursday



to ensure that help reaches the scene of a road accident or other emergency within ten minutes and as part of this initiative, it is increasing the number of (108) ambulances and establishing 31 Critical Care Blocks across the state.

The Minister said the government has already inaugurated Critical Care Blocks

in Nizamabad, Nalgonda, Karimnagar, Mahabubabad, Jagtial, Sangareddy, Narayanpet, and Adilabad.

The construction of another 21 CCBs is currently underway. We will make all of them operational by the end of this year, he said.

The Minister stated that the State government has today laid the foundation

stone for the construction of a 100-bed Critical Care Block in Kondapur, at a cost of ₹41 crore and is taking measures to complete the construction as expeditiously as possible and to provide medical services equipped with state-of-the-art facilities.

"Health issues are on the rise within the IT corridor

due to sedentary lifestyles. We are currently providing enhanced medical services to the local residents at the Kondapur Area Hospital. In the future, we will introduce even more advanced medical services. These critical care services will prove to be immensely beneficial to the people residing in this area,"

Raja Narasimha said.

1.14 lakh HIV, AIDS patients receiving free treatment: Health Minister

HYDERABAD

MINISTER for Health Damaraju Raja Narasimha on Thursday participated in a human chain programme organised on the cable bridge by the Telangana AIDS Control Society to promote awareness on HIV/AIDS.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister stated that, as part of statewide initiatives, rallies, human chains, and medical camps are being organised to enhance public awareness on HIV/AIDS.

Raja Narasimha explained that HIV is a virus that weakens the immune system and, if left untreated, can progress to AIDS. He clarified that HIV spreads through unprotected sexual contact, transfusion of contaminated blood, and similar causes, and does not spread through casual contact such as handshakes, hugging, or sharing food.

The Minister emphasised that lack of awareness leads to fear, misconceptions, and discrimination, and stressed that awareness is the only solution to address these challenges. He stated that people living with HIV should not face so-



cial discrimination and must be treated with dignity, support, and equal rights.

He further noted that under the HIV & AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017, discrimination against HIV-positive individuals is a punishable offence.

Highlighting medical advancements, the Minister said that while HIV was once considered a fatal disease, timely testing and proper treatment now enable individuals to lead normal lives for several decades. The government is providing free testing, treatment, and medicines. Across the state, 1.14 lakh patients are receiving medical services through 127 testing centres and 33 ART centres. Special screening camps for HIV and TB are also being conducted in government general hospi-

tals and prisons, he said.

The Minister urged youth to avoid sedentary lifestyles and unhealthy habits, and to stay away from drugs, particularly injectable drugs, which significantly increase the risk of HIV and other infections.

Stressing the importance of public health, he stated that without health, wealth has no value. Healthy individuals contribute to healthy families, which in turn build a strong society and a robust state.

He called upon all sections of society to work together towards building a more vibrant Telangana. Health Secretary Christina Chongthul, Commissioner for Health and Family Welfare Dr. Sangeeha Satyanarayana, Collector Ranga Reddy Narayana Reddy and others participated in the programme. (S88)

ANGANWADI TEACHERS GET MOBILE PHONES

HANS NEWS SERVICE WANAPARTHY

PEBBAIR municipal chairman Akki Srinivas Goud stated on Thursday that the Anganwadis play a crucial role in delivering government welfare schemes to people more quickly and effectively. At a programme organised under the supervision of ICDS at the municipal office, he distributed smartphones to Anganwadi teachers.

He said the mobile phones would help in improving the functioning of Anganwadi



centres and in regularly updating beneficiary details online.

"There would no longer be delays in recording health data of pregnant women, lac-

tating mothers, and children," he said. Anganwadi teachers expressed their happiness over receiving the phones and hoped they would reduce the workload.

Rudra Pradeep meets Ramchandra Rao

HANS NEWS SERVICE KHAMMAM

BJP leader Rudra Pradeep on Thursday met Telangana BJP president Ramchandra Rao and expressed gratitude for being appointed as a member of the party's state executive committee.

During the meeting, Ramchandra Rao congratulated Pradeep and advised him to work towards strengthening the Bharatiya Janata Party in Khammam district. He also urged party leaders to focus on the upcoming Khammam Municipal Corporation elections and strive to secure a majority of seats to take control of the civic body.

Pradeep thanked the state leadership for the



opportunity and assured that he would work diligently to expand the party's base in the district. Senior BJP leader Mothukuri Narayana Rao was also present during the meeting.

Collector assures accreditation cards for eligible journalists

HANS NEWS SERVICE WANAPARTHY

DISTRICT Collector Adarsh Surabhi announced that media accreditation cards will be issued to every eligible journalist. He stated that a district media accreditation committee has been formed.

"As per GO 239, the validity of the accreditation cards issued in 2022 will expire on April 30. Therefore, steps are being taken to issue new cards starting from May 1, with a validity period of two years,"

he said, in a statement on Thursday.

"Journalists are advised to submit their applications with required documents, without errors, on or before April 12. Only the applications received by the evening of 12th will be considered for the first accreditation list. The applications will be reviewed by the district committee, and eligible journalists will be issued accreditation cards. Applications received after the deadline will be considered in the second list," Surabhi said in a release.

100-BED GOVT HOSPITAL IN NAKREKAL SOON: GOVT WHIP

HANS NEWS SERVICE NAKREKAL (NALGONDA)

GOVERNMENT Whip and MLA Vemula Veeresham alleged that the previous government had pushed the state into a financial crisis by accumulating debts of nearly Rs 8 lakh crore over the past ten years. He made these remarks on Thursday while distributing Chief Minister's Relief Fund cheques worth Rs 1.78 lakh to 488 beneficiaries in Nakrekal town. During the event, he announced that a 100-bed government hospital would soon be inaugurated in Nakrekal to improve healthcare facilities for local residents.

He also revealed plans to construct an integrated school in Kanaparthi, aiming to provide better educational infrastructure. Recalling earlier commitments,



Government Whip and Nakrekal MLA Vemula Veeresham addressing a gathering

he said that schools on the lines of Hyderabad model institutions would be established in every constituency. Additionally, he mentioned that the government has introduced a tiffin (midday meal) facility in government schools to support students.

Criticising the previous administra-

tion, Veeresham stated that several key irrigation projects in Nalgonda district—such as Dindi, Brahmanavellamla, IT Pamula, and Shivannagudem—were left incomplete. He emphasized that the current government is focusing on welfare and development, highlighting the distribution of ration cards and Indiramma housing schemes to the poor.

Looking ahead, he announced that IIT coaching would be provided in 25 government schools starting next year, aiming to enhance academic opportunities for students from rural backgrounds.

The programme was attended by dignitaries including Dairy Chairman Gutta Amit Reddy, Market Committee Chairpersons Gutta Manjula and Madhava Reddy, and several councillors and local leaders.

EXPANDING POCHAMPALLY IKAT

Sri Lankan buyers explore ikat handloom craft

HANS NEWS SERVICE BHOODAN POCHAMPALLY

TWO buyers from Sri Lanka, Irfan and Sajid, visited Pochampally on Thursday to observe the process of making traditional handloom Ikat fabrics and to understand the uniqueness of the designs at the grassroots level.

During their visit, the buyers toured a handloom cluster unit where they observed various stages of the production process. They examined the functioning of handlooms, the preparation of yarn, dyeing techniques, and the method of tying threads (known as "chitkulu chuttadam"), which is a distinctive feature of Ikat weaving.

Speaking on the occasion, Hema, a representative of Telangana Trade Promotion Corporation and Jagadeesh Private Limited, highlighted the cultural



relevance of traditional textiles in Sri Lanka. She mentioned that a significant number of Hindus in Sri Lanka worship Lord Subrahmanya Swamy, and there is a strong appreciation for traditional attire in the country.

She further stated that the purpose of bringing Sri Lankan buyers to Pocham-

pally was to promote Ikat designs in the Sri Lankan market. "Until now, there has been limited awareness about Pochampally handloom products in Sri Lanka. This visit is expected to create new opportunities for introducing these unique textiles to a wider international audience," she said.

SCARF UP!



Bike riders shield themselves from hot sun by wrapping up their head with scarves in Hyderabad on Thursday **Photos: Srinivas Setty**

WORDY DUEL TAKES A BITTER TURN...

Harish goes all guns blazing at Ponguleti for dishing out 'concocted lies' on charges

Spoke like builder, not Minister,' says BRS leader

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

BRS deputy leader T Harish Rao on Thursday said that Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy has gone on the defensive and spoke not like a minister, but like the owner of Raghava Constructions.

Harish Rao launched a scathing attack on Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, accusing him of trying to divert attention from serious corruption and illegal mining allegations through abusive language and fabricated explanations.

Speaking to the media at Nagapur village, he said the minister's remarks inside the Assembly had only further exposed the Congress government's desperation and moral bankruptcy.

Ponguleti did not speak as a responsible cabinet minister, but as the head of Raghava Constructions, clearly trying to protect his own

family and business interests. When people have no facts, no answers, and no defence, they resort to abuse, distractions and emotional drama, he alleged.

Harish Rao said that in trying to defend himself, Ponguleti ended up exposing the broader corruption in the Congress government. "In the process of defending himself, he has virtually admitted that not just he, but several ministers in this government are tainted," he said.

He pointed out that by referring to the names of senior ministers and the Chief Minister, Ponguleti had opened the door to wider scrutiny over corruption allegations within the government. The most important point was that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had admitted on the floor of the House that irregularities in Raghava Constructions had been detected by government officials, and that a penalty had been imposed.

Rao said that officials from Revenue, Electricity, Pollution Control Board and Mining Departments had jointly inspected the site and confirmed illegal mining activities.

"So who is lying?" Harish Rao asked. "Is Ponguleti right, or are the officials right? Is the Chief Minister wrong? Or are all of them speaking the truth, and only Ponguleti is denying it?" Harish Rao questioned.

Harish Rao also addressed Ponguleti's comments on the Nadargul land issue, and said the BRS government had in fact protected those lands as government property.

He said it was the BRS government that included the land in the prohibited list, fought the case in the High Court, and secured orders that action should be taken against those who sold and purchased ceiling-surplus lands illegally.

He questioned why the Congress



government was now trying to suppress these facts. He questioned whether there were links between Shilpa, Raghava and AQ Square, and asked why the government is not coming clean on these relationships.

Rao demanded that if the government was sincere, it should immediately act against the encroachers, send HYDRAA to the site, and prove its honesty through action rather than statements. He said Ponguleti's attempts at creating noise and drama have failed to bury the facts.

State YISU rolls out industry-driven programs, digital learning platform

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

YOUNG India Skills University, Telangana, successfully launched its industry-integrated undergraduate programmes and Digital Learning Universe at a formal event held on Wednesday. Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor VLVSS Subba Rao said that the university is designing courses aligned with industry requirements and is committed to delivering experiential education that bridges the gap between academics and real-world applications. He stated that the university has not introduced any programme without strong industry collaboration, ensuring that students receive relevant, job-oriented training.

Elaborating on the newly launched programmes, the Vice Chancellor highlighted that the B.Tech in Applied Life Sciences is developed in collaboration with leading organisations such as Dr Reddy's Laboratories, Hetero, and Bharat Biotech. He



Young India Skills University Vice Chancellor VLVSS Subba Rao launches industry-integrated undergraduate programmes and Digital Learning Universe in Hyderabad Wednesday.

explained that students will undergo classroom training only in the first semester, while the remaining semesters will be dedicated to hands-on training within partner companies. The programmes ensure world-class professional training, with the final year focused on internships. Students will also have opportunities to pursue higher education abroad after graduation.

He further said that the BSc in Cardiovascular Sci-

ences was launched in collaboration with AIG Hospitals. He stated that students will receive direct training in the hospital environment under the supervision of expert medical professionals. He added that once trained at AIG Hospitals, students will be equipped with skills that can help them secure employment anywhere in the country, making the programme highly career-oriented. Highlighting the benefits for students, he

mentioned that these programmes are designed to create strong employment opportunities for youth in Telangana, especially for students from the MPC stream, encouraging them to take advantage of these industry-integrated courses. As part of the initiative, the university also unveiled its Digital Learning Universe, powered by Tutorials Point. The Vice Chancellor noted that online learning is rapidly expanding globally, and this platform is being introduced to help individuals learn new skills at their own pace. The AI-driven platform will offer flexible learning opportunities, focusing on delivering high-quality content aligned with industry needs.

He emphasised that the university aims to move away from textbook-oriented education and instead focus on skill-based training. The Digital Learning Universe will initially offer around 75 courses across diverse domains, including Technology, Artificial Intelligence, Human Resources, Soft Skills,

and Ethical Hacking. The Vice Chancellor also shared that the fee structure for the programmes has been designed to be accessible, with approximately Rs 1.75 lakh per year for the B.Tech programme and Rs 1 lakh per year for the BSc programme. Admissions for both programmes are now open, and the selection process will be based on an entrance test followed by an interview.

Aspiring students can find registration details on the official university website. He said that the last dates for applications and examination schedules will be announced soon.

Jonnalagadda Sudhakar, Registrar, Mounika from AIG Hospitals, Satish Kumar from Dr Reddy's Laboratories, and Anubhav Maheshwari from Tutorials Point jointly unveiled the official programme poster. This landmark initiative represents a significant shift towards vocational excellence and industrial readiness within the state's higher education framework.

Kavitha credits Jagruthi struggle for women's reservation bill

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

TELANGANA Jagruthi president Kalvakuntla Kavitha on Thursday asserted that the national momentum for the Women's Reservation Bill was a direct result of the relentless struggle spearheaded by Jagruthi. While acknowledging the introduction of the bill as a milestone, she condemned the current implementation framework of the central government as deceptive and a post-dated cheque that fails to deliver immediate justice. Kavitha highlighted that the efforts of Jagruthi activists illuminated the path toward legislative progress. She noted that coordinated protests in Delhi united 18 political parties, exerting the pressure necessary to force the bill onto the national agenda. She stated that through strategic coordination, MPs across party lines raised their voices in Parliament, making it impossible for the Centre to ignore the demand any longer.

Despite the passage of the bill, Kavitha expressed



grave concerns regarding its execution. By linking the legislation to the delimitation process, she argued that the government effectively denied women their rights in recent elections. She strongly condemned the proposal to use 2011 Census data, describing it as a disservice to the current population reality. Kavitha insisted that reservations must only

be announced following the completion of the 2027 Census. Furthermore, she demanded that the upcoming census include specific data on Backward Classes to facilitate a mandatory sub-quota for BC women. This role of Jagruthi remains vital in ensuring that the legislative promise translates into actual representation for all sections of society.

Will continue to strike Hezbollah wherever necessary: Netanyahu

TEL AVIV: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says Israel "will continue to strike Hezbollah wherever necessary" after the IDF announced it had assassinated Ali Yusuf Harshi, the secretary of Hezbollah leader Naim Qassem. "Our message is clear: whoever acts against Israeli civilians will be targeted. We will continue to strike Hezbollah wherever necessary, until we restore full security to the residents of the north," Netanyahu writes in a Hebrew-language post on X. In addition to assassinating Harashi, "the IDF struck a series of terror infrastructures in southern Lebanon: crossing points used to transfer thousands of weapons, rockets and launchers, as well as weapons depots, launch sites, and Hezbollah command centers," Netanyahu adds, sharing IDF footage of the attacks.

TRADE DEAL

Indian team to visit US this month to ink deal

NEW DELHI: United States Ambassador to India Sergio Gor said on Thursday that an Indian delegation will be heading to Washington later this month as part of talks on a trade deal between India and the US. Taking to X, the US envoy stated that he held a "highly productive" meeting with trade representative Jamieson Greer on how to advance President Donald Trump's trade priorities in South and Central Asia.

"The United States and India have previously agreed to a trade deal, and we look forward to welcoming an Indian delegation to Washington later this month," he added.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman was slated to be part of the delegation, however, the BJP leader will be skipping the US visit. Sitharaman will be attending the Parliament sessions for the introduction of bills to fast-track the implementation of 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies India and the US announced a bilateral trade deal on February 2, 2026, after months of negotiations between the two delegations. While both leaders - Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi - hailed the deal as "historic," the deal with Washington received backlash from the Opposition.

Iran publishes chart showing sea mines in Hormuz

DUBAI: Semiofficial news agencies in Iran published a chart Thursday suggesting the country's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard put sea mines into the Strait of Hormuz during the war, in a message that may be intended to pressure the US as uncertainty hangs over a days-old two-week ceasefire and further negotiations are expected in Pakistan.

The shaky ceasefire has been largely holding between the US, Israel and Iran, although Tehran and Washington have offered vastly different explanations of the initial terms. Israel insists the agreement does not apply to their war against Hezbollah militants in Lebanon and have escalated deadly strikes there, leading Iran to claim it is violating the deal.

Meanwhile, Iran said it had won agree-

ment that it would control the Strait of Hormuz, charge tolls and enrich uranium - while Trump said the deal called for the strait to be reopened and Iran to hand over its uranium stockpile. The chart of the Strait of Hormuz was released by the ISNA news agency, as well as Tasnim, which is believed to be close to the Guard. "They showed a large circle marked 'danger zone' in Farsi over the Traffic Separation Scheme, which was the route ships take through the strait, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf through which 20 per cent of all oil and natural gas traded once passed. The chart suggested ships travel further north through waters closer to Iran's mainland near Larak Island, a route that some ships were observed taking during the war."

TRUMP SEEKS EUROPE'S HELP ON HORMUZ

WASHINGTON: United States President Donald Trump has stepped up pressure on his European allies to commit military forces in the Strait of Hormuz, ahead of talks with Iran on Friday. This comes even as the White House is considering the withdrawal of US troops out of NATO countries. According to two diplomats, NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte has informed European leaders that the US President is expecting concrete commitments for Hormuz regarding the deployment of warships or other military capabilities from Europe in the next few days. This was followed by Trump's post on Truth Social, wherein he stated that NATO would not "understand anything" without pressure upon them. "None of these people, including our own, very disappointing, NATO, understood anything unless they have pressure placed upon them!!!" Trump said on Truth Social.

15 SHIPS A DAY Curbs remain on Hormuz

TEHRAN: Shipping traffic at the Strait of Hormuz remained at a virtual standstill amid Iranian regulation, despite the ceasefire, on Thursday, with little movement.

Several reports said Iran will allow no more than 15 vessels to pass per day, with Iran's deputy minister earlier saying that ships will need to obtain consent from the military. One oil product tanker and five separate dry bulk carriers reportedly sailed through the Strait of Hormuz in the past 24 hours on Thursday, Reuters reported. Two Iranian-flagged tankers also sailed through Hormuz.

Iran will allow no more than 15 vessels per day to pass through the Hormuz under the ceasefire agreement, Russia's TASS news agency reported, citing Iranian official sources.

US-Iran truce strains amid Lebanon strikes

Continued from P1

Following a massive wave of Israeli strikes that killed at least 254 people and injured over 1,100 across Lebanon, Tehran declared that it views the ongoing bombardment as a direct breach of the spirit of the ceasefire.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi stated that Washington must now choose between a comprehensive ceasefire or continued war by proxy, warning that the current status is unsustainable.

The instability has immediate consequences for global energy security. In response to what it terms an Israeli violation of the ceasefire, the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has maintained a closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a vital artery for global oil shipments. Shipping executives remain in a state of high alert as they attempt to navigate the uncertainty, while oil prices have reacted sharply to the supply risk. Brent crude futures rose 2.1% to \$96.75 a barrel, and West Texas Intermediate surged 2.6% to \$96.89, reflecting market anxiety over the potential for long-term supply chain disruptions. Despite the deteriorating

situation, US and Iranian delegations are still scheduled to meet in Islamabad this weekend to finalize the terms of the truce. However, the diplomatic path forward is fraught with obstacles.

President Donald Trump has issued a stern warning, stating that US military assets will remain in place around Iran until a real, fully compliant agreement is established.

Meanwhile, the cancellation of social media posts by Iranian diplomats regarding the upcoming talks has fuelled speculation that the negotiations could be delayed or abandoned entirely.

The market's optimism following the initial ceasefire announcement appears to have been premature, as the structural reality of the deal—specifically its exclusion of Lebanon—guarantees continued volatility. By allowing Israel to maintain military operations on a secondary front, the agreement fails to address the core security demands of the Iranian leadership, effectively ensuring that the Strait of Hormuz remains a tool for economic leverage rather than a secure passage for global commerce.

Will Amaravati dent Hyderabad realty?

Continued from P1

"If the investors in Hyderabad shift to AP, Telangana state will face a big jolt, particularly in terms of revenue generation from the property registrations," an official said.

Officials of the Registration & Stamps Department also concede that growth in real estate has not gained traction in the last three years due to various factors, including HYDRAAA impact, economic slowdown, and certain political reasons.

Now, the AP government is drawing big plans to promote Amaravati as a destination for investments. Major realty companies which had announced high rise projects in Hyderabad may shift some of them to the neighbouring state if the Andhra government announces, in the coming days, comparatively better incentives to promote construction. Officials warned: "It may not be an easy task to convince real estate developers to stay in Hyderabad and develop their ventures at this critical juncture". The state government would do well to hold a meeting with representatives of the realty soon to discuss the issues involved in the context of planned investments in the city, they added.

Heavy turnout marks high-stakes voting day in Assam, Kerala and Puducherry

Continued from P1

"All necessary steps have been taken to facilitate smooth voting and ensure transparency," an Election Commission official said, adding that special provisions were made for senior citizens, persons with disabilities and first-time voters. The elections come after an intense campaign that concluded earlier this week, with political parties making last-minute appeals to voters. The results will be declared on May 4 along with outcomes from West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, where polling is being held in multiple phases.

In Assam, the contest is largely bipolar, with the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance seeking a third consecutive term under Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. The Congress-led opposition, spearheaded by Gaurav Gogoi, is aiming to return to power after ten years, while regional players such as the

All India United Democratic Front, Rajior Dal and Assam Jatiya Parishad are expected to influence outcomes in several seats. The state has over 2.5 crore voters and 722 candidates contesting across more than 31,000 polling stations.

Kerala is witnessing a tightly fought battle among 883 candidates, with 2.71 crore voters deciding the fate of the ruling Left Democratic Front, led by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, which is seeking an unprecedented third straight term. The Congress-led United Democratic Front is banking on anti-incumbency to stage a comeback, while the BJP-led NDA is attempting to expand its footprint in the state.

The electoral buzz was further heightened by participation from film personalities, both as voters and candidates. Actors Ramesh Pisharody, Anjali Nair and Major Ravi are among at least eight celeb-

rities contesting the polls.

In Puducherry, a multi-cornered contest is underway between the NDA, the Congress-DMK alliance and actor Vijay's newly formed Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam. Over 10 lakh voters are choosing from 294 candidates across 1,099 polling stations spread across Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam. Meanwhile, by-elections are being held in parts of Karnataka, Nagaland and Tripura. Turnout trends around 3 PM showed steady participation, with officials expressing confidence in peaceful polling. Bagalkot in Karnataka recorded 54.82% voting and Davanagere 49.66%. In Nagaland's Koridang constituency, voting crossed 75%, while Tripura's Dharmanagar seat recorded over 70% turnout. The Koridang bypoll was necessitated following the death of sitting BJP MLA Imkong L Imchen in November 2025.

Modi, Mamata trade barbs at election rallies in Bengal

Continued from P1

He alleged that Mamata Banerjee's TMC has only inflicted 'nirmamta' (cruelty) on Bengal, while the BJP has developed Asansol despite obstacles posed by the ruling party.

The PM also highlighted a downward trend in the state's economy and its contribution to national gross domestic product (GDP). He said, "Bengal's contribution to the national GDP has slid to mere five per cent from 12 per cent earlier." However, he said, a regime change would ensure that West Bengal scales new heights. "Investment has taken flight from the once-thriving

industrial belt of Asansol. Only the BJP's double-engine can rectify it," he added, noting that the Centre has allocated ₹45,000 crore for the revival of the industries in Asansol.

In another rally in Haldia, PM Modi said that it is essential to remove the TMC's 'Niram sarkar' to usher 'Viksit Bengal'. He also announced "six Modi guarantees" for the people.

The TMC supreme, meanwhile, accused the BJP of deleting names of more than 90 lakh people from the voter lists to grab power in the state, asserting that her party will win the upcoming Assembly polls.

Speaking at a public rally in North 24 Paraganas' Minakhan, Banerjee said that TMC would approach the court to ensure that all the deleted names are reinstated in the electoral rolls, referring to the special intensive revision exercise in the state. "You deleted names of over 90 lakh people to grab power in Bengal, but we will win," she said.

The TMC chief accused the BJP of "paying money to buy votes," alleging that the party is bringing "outsiders from UP, Bihar to manipulate polling". She further said that the BJP is "destroying the federal structure of the country" by threatening officers

US ready for next conquest: Trump

Continued from P1

"All US ships, aircraft, and military personnel...will remain in place in, and around, Iran, until such time as the REAL AGREEMENT reached is fully complied with," Trump wrote on Truth Social. "If for any reason it is not...the 'Shootin' Starts,' bigger, and better, and stronger than anyone has ever seen before."

Trump reiterated that it was agreed that Iran will not develop nuclear weapons, and the Strait of Hormuz will be open and safe for commercial shipping. "In the meantime our great Military is Loading Up and Resting, looking forward, actually, to its next Conquest," Trump added. He ended the post, which was published near midnight, with a declaration: "AMERICA IS BACK!"

The statement came a day after Washington and Tehran agreed to a two-week ceasefire brokered by Pakistan, which halted six weeks of fighting and sparked a brief relief rally in global markets amid growing optimism that energy flows may resume in the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran said safe passage through the strait would be possible but subject to coordination

with its armed forces. But much remained unclear in the ceasefire agreement, with the US and Iran appearing far apart in demands. Tehran had rejected the 15-point proposal from Washington and reportedly presented a 10-point plan of its own to end the conflict, including an end to Israeli strikes against Hezbollah in Lebanon and the lifting of all sanctions.

In a separate social media post earlier on Wednesday, Trump described the 10-point plan reported by the New York Times and CNN as "totally fake."

Israel supported Trump's decision to suspend strikes against Iran but insisted that the ceasefire doesn't extend to Lebanon, unleashing its harshest offensives on the country since the war broke out in February, killing at least 182 people on Wednesday.

The deadly attacks prompted a threat from Iran, which suggested that it would be "unreasonable" to proceed with talks to seek a permanent peace deal with the US, underscoring the fragility of the ceasefire. The US and Iran are expected to meet for a round of negotiations in Islamabad on Friday.

IMD predicts heat wave for next 3 days

Continued from P1

Keep the windows and the curtains closed during the day, especially on the sunny side of your house. Open them up at night to let the cool air in. Limit outdoor activity to the cooler times of the day i.e., morning and evening.

Under the don'ts category, citizens have been advised to avoid going out in the sun, especially between 12 noon and 3 pm, avoid strenuous activities in the afternoon, not to go out barefoot, avoid cooking during the peak hours, avoid consuming alcohol, tea, coffee and carbonated soft drinks or drinks with large amount of sugar as these actually lead to loss of more body fluid or may cause stomach cramps, avoid high-protein, salty, spicy and oily food. Do

not eat stale food. The heat wave danger signs include nausea and vomiting, hot, red and dry skin, body temperature ≥ 40 OC or 104 OF, throbbing headache, anxiety, dizziness and fainting, muscle weakness or cramps, rapid heartbeat, rapid, shallow breathing, altered mental sensorium with disorientation: confusion, agitation, irritability, ataxia, seizure, and coma.

The Director of Public Health Dr B Ravinder Naik said that as a part of precautionary measures, the government has made elaborate arrangements by providing the special beds, IV fluids, essential medicines at all the public health facilities and ORS sachets are made available with ANMs /ASHAs / Anganwadi workers to meet any exigencies.

Tepid campus hiring reflects changing contours of IT industry

CAMPUS hiring of engineering graduates has been moving at a snail's pace in recent years. One of the major employers, which are Indian IT firms— are altogether missing or hiring very low numbers. According to HR consultancy firm— Xpheno, fresher hiring in India's IT sector has fallen from a peak of 600,000 in FY22 to about 120,000 in FY25. Many analysts see no change in the overall numbers for FY26, which will be known in a few weeks.

Such tepid hiring trend is driven by a combination of factors. Firstly, demand environment in the IT industry remains subdued. With geopolitical situation remaining volatile owing to Russia-Ukraine war, Iran versus US & Israel conflict and Trump tariffs; enterprises

are cautious in their technology spend since last financial year.

Especially, the US government's decision to impose tariffs on its trading partners has created an uncertainty in several sectors. Though deal pipeline remained robust for most Indian IT companies, the implementation rate of those projects was low. That is the reason that freshers are not required in large numbers as they used to be in earlier years. Second and the most important change has been driven by adoption of AI (artificial intelligence)-powered solutions in the industry.

Many of the entry-level works are getting automated through agentic AI tools. It means companies no longer require as many fresh engineering graduates as

compared to previous years. Such fundamental shift is driving the recruitment trend in engineering colleges. For three decades, Indian IT industry's operational model has been focussed heavily on hiring of new engineering graduates from college campuses.

In a project, freshers and junior employees with 2-3 years of experience comprise the bulk of the man power. Such employee pyramid has helped IT services companies to keep their employee cost lower as entry level salaries remain low for the industry as whole. However, such established operating model is going through a shift as of now. Many L1 & L2 work loads are being handled by agentic AI tools in recent quarters.

In a way, these AI tools should

be seen as responsible for replacing new engineering graduates in India for now. Do these factors make engineering graduates redundant in the evolving landscape? Answer to this question is still not known to the industry. Because Accen-ture- world's biggest IT services & consulting company- recently added headcount by hiring freshers.

The CEO of Accenture has said during analyst call that AI will create more jobs for freshers with new roles emerging under the AI domain. This is in contrast to the popular narrative given by analysts, company management and other stakeholders for the last two years. So, no body exactly knows how fresher hiring landscape will evolve in the coming quarters.

But one view that has started

rolling out from HR experts in recent months is that AI is creating demand for new kind of roles. Job roles like prompt engineer, AI ethics analyst, AI data scientist, AI Product Manager, AI product developer, AI data curator, AI integration consultant and others are getting created with the development of AI. It means new job roles are getting created for which young graduates need to be trained for leading in the future. Therefore, the demand for freshers may have come down temporarily but is likely to continue in the wake of new technology developments. Moreover, Indian IT industry's whole operating model revolves around hiring freshers and any pivot from such established way will take time to evolve.

When global fragility becomes everyone's burden

APURVA RAKESH PANDEY

SEARCH FOR STABILITY IN AN UNEQUAL GLOBAL ORDER

WHEN fuel prices surge on the streets of Colombo, fertilisers slip beyond the reach of African farmers, and Asian governments exhaust fiscal space to hold down subsidies, the reflex explanation is domestic mismanagement. That diagnosis is convenient—and often wrong. The drivers of these crises are frequently located far from national capitals, embedded in strategic decisions taken by a handful of power centres whose economic aftershocks travel effortlessly across borders. Contemporary conflicts may be geographically contained, but their costs are anything but.

This asymmetry—between where decisions are made and where consequences are felt—has become a defining feature of the global order. Power is concentrated; risk is globalised. Energy markets, shipping routes, insurance premia, and capital flows no longer merely reflect economic fundamentals. They have become transmission belts for geopolitics, carrying strategic intent into household budgets, food prices, and balance sheets across the developing world.

History makes this pattern unmistakable. The oil shocks of the 1970s did not remain an OPEC-West confrontation; they translated into 10-15 per cent inflation and debt crises across much of the Global South. The 1991 Gulf War and the sanctions regime that followed erased nearly half of Iraq's GDP, but their secondary effects reverberated through energy markets and regional

economies. The lesson was clear even then: when conflict intersects with global systems, its radius expands dramatically.

Globalisation was supposed to temper such outcomes. Interdependence, it was argued, would raise the cost of conflict and therefore restrain it. In practice, interdependence has done something else—it has accelerated the export of conflict-related costs. The Russia-Ukraine war of 2022-23 offers a textbook illustration. Wheat prices rose by 35-40 per cent; fertiliser exports were disrupted by 20-25 per cent. For low- and middle-income countries, this translated into food inflation of 8-12 per cent, fiscal stress, and renewed balance-of-payments pressures. The war did not have to be global to destabilise global livelihoods.

The problem intensifies when conflict threatens strategic chokepoints. The Strait of Hormuz, through which roughly a quarter of the world's seaborne oil trade—and significant volumes of LNG and LPG—passes, has once again become a pressure point amid escalating tensions involving the United States, Israel, and Iran. Even limited disruption here sends oil prices swinging and insurance costs soaring, with immediate consequences for transport, manufacturing, and household energy bills far beyond West Asia. Geography, in such cases, becomes a multiplier of instability.

What emerges is a consistent sequence. Strategic choices are taken first, often



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with narrow security or political objectives. Economic consequences follow later, diffusing through global markets. Advanced economies, cushioned by deeper capital markets and institutional buffers, absorb part of the shock. States with limited fiscal capacity and high import dependence absorb far more. When Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister James Marape remarked that countries like his are forced to pay for conflicts in which they have no role, he was not making a moral appeal; he was describing a structural reality.

This is why the prevailing international order increasingly looks less like a system that resolves imbalances and more like one that manages them—often poorly. It reacts

to crises after costs have already been socialised across vulnerable economies, rather than preventing those costs from being externalised in the first place.

It is in this context that India's contemporary diplomacy merits attention. Its shift from Cold War non-alignment to present-day multi-alignment is not rhetorical flexibility; it is strategic realism. India's engagement with the Global South has focused less on symbolism and more on stabilisation—through vaccine diplomacy, food and fertiliser assistance, and diversified energy sourcing. Securing permanent membership for the African Union in the G20 was not merely an act of inclusion; it linked representation to agenda-setting

in the world's premier economic forum.

Yet stabilisation cannot rest on ad hoc measures alone. The next phase demands institutional ballast. Groupings such as BRICS and the wider Global South offer part of the answer, not as ideological counterweights but as shock absorbers. Instruments like the Contingent Reserve Arrangement and the New Development Bank, combined with local-currency trade and cross-border payment systems, can reduce exposure to volatile capital flows and dollar liquidity cycles. Their promise, however, depends on political discipline—on whether members can place collective resilience above bilateral competition. Still, alternative platforms are not substitutes for systemic reform. The architecture of global governance itself must be recalibrated to internalise the costs it currently externalises. Sanctions regimes need clearer economic impact assessments; trade rules must become more flexible in the face of supply-chain disruptions; financial systems require mechanisms that prioritise crisis liquidity for vulnerable economies.

Coordinated responses through the United Nations could strengthen multilateral crisis management, while the World Trade Organisation needs the mandate and agility to keep trade flowing during geopolitical shocks. In parallel, the United Nations Security Council must become more representative

and more accountable, particularly when sanctions and interventions impose diffuse economic costs far beyond their intended targets.

Representation alone, however, is insufficient without accountability. Emerging powers must deploy their growing economic weight not just to expand markets, but to shape rules. Rule-making, not rule-following, is where lasting stability is built.

None of this assumes an end to power politics. Competition will persist; rivalry is intrinsic to international life. The challenge is not to abolish it, but to contain it within frameworks that dampen volatility rather than amplify it. If that effort fails, global fragility will cease to be episodic and become structural—a permanent condition rather than a recurring crisis.

A more inclusive and accountable decision-making order would not eliminate conflict, but it could prevent its costs from being indiscriminately exported. Stability, then, would no longer be a privilege enjoyed by a few resilient economies, but a shared global public good. The question confronting the international system is stark: will competition be allowed to slide into cascading instability, or will it be balanced by cooperation capable of sustaining a more predictable world?

(The writer is an alumnus of the University of Allahabad and writes on International Relations and Strategic Affairs)

BR Ambedkar: A national thinker and reformist beyond misconceptions

DR KIRAN KUMAR GOLLA

BR AMBEDKAR, whose birth anniversary is celebrated on April 14, is often misunderstood, seen narrowly as a Dalit leader or as a critic of Hinduism. The fact is that he was neither anti-Hindu nor anti-national. He was a reformer who challenged social injustice, not religion itself, and a patriot who sought to strengthen India's unity through justice and fraternity. His writings and books reveal a thinker deeply committed to building a modern, democratic India.

Ambedkar's intellectual legacy is preserved in his books, which show the breadth of his concerns. In *The Problem of the Rupee: Its Origin and Its Solution* (1923), his doctoral thesis at the London School of Economics, he analysed India's monetary system and argued for a managed currency. This was not a sectional concern but a national economic vision, anticipating debates that would later shape India's financial policy. In *Annihilation of Caste* (1936), perhaps his most famous work, Ambedkar evaluated caste as a social system, not Hinduism as a faith. He argued that caste was incompatible with democracy and justice, and importantly, appealed to Hindu reformers to reinterpret scriptures in ways that aligned with equality.

His *Thoughts on Linguistic States* (1955) examined how India should reorganize states based on language, showing his concern for national integration and federal stability. Finally, *The Buddha and His Dhamma* (1957), published posthumously, outlined his interpretation of Buddhism as a rational, ethical, and egalitarian philosophy. His turn to Buddhism was not anti-Hindu but a reaffirmation of India's plural spiritual heritage.

Ambedkar's take on caste was often misread as hostility toward Hinduism. In An-



nihilation of Caste, he wrote: "The Hindu society must be reorganized on a religious basis which would recognize the principles of liberty, equality and fraternity."

This shows he was not rejecting Hinduism but urging reform so that its ethical core could shine through. His challenge was to social practices, not to faith itself. He believed that religion, when aligned with justice, could be a force for national unity.

Ambedkar's nationalism was pragmatic and ethical. In *Thoughts on Linguistic States*, he warned that ignoring linguistic identities could weaken India; however, his solution was not separatism. Instead, he proposed a federal structure that respected diversity while preserving unity. Similarly, his role in drafting the Constitution was a patriotic act, as he embedded safeguards for minorities and fundamental rights to strengthen the country's democratic fabric.

In his final speech to the Constituent Assembly, Ambedkar cautioned against hero worship and authoritarianism, saying democracy in India must rest on "constitutional morality." Such warnings were not anti-national; they were protective of India's demo-

In *Annihilation of Caste*, he wrote: "The Hindu society must be reorganized on a religious basis which would recognize the principles of liberty, equality and fraternity." This shows he was not rejecting Hinduism but urging reform so that its ethical core could shine through. His challenge was to social practices, not to faith itself. He believed that religion, when aligned with justice, could be a force for national unity. His nationalism was pragmatic and ethical.

cratic experiment. His economic writings reveal his concern for national development. In *The Problem of the Rupee*, Ambedkar argued for stability in currency to protect India's economy. He also wrote on agricultural reforms, advocating redistribution of land to ensure productivity and fairness. These were not sectional demands, but national policies aimed at uplifting all Indians. His economic vision was about creating a fair system for all, ensuring that India's modernization did not leave its rural majority behind.

Ambedkar's embrace of Buddhism was a reclamation of an Indian tradition that embodied rationality and compassion.

In *The Buddha and His Dhamma*, he presented Buddhism as a philosophy of equality and ethics. His choice was not a rejection of India's heritage but a reaffirmation of its pluralism. He sought a spiritual foundation for modern India within its own civilizational resources. By turning to Buddhism, Ambedkar was not abandoning the country's traditions but reinterpreting them to meet contempo-

rary needs. Ambedkar's vision of democracy went beyond institutions. He insisted democracy must be a social ethic, respect for dignity, equality of opportunity, and fraternity. His writings and speeches consistently warned that political democracy could not survive without social democracy. This was a profoundly nationalist concern, as he wanted India's democracy to endure and flourish. His insistence on fraternity was not divisive but integrative, binding India together across caste, religion, and language.

Examples of his national spirit abound. In the Constitution, Ambedkar ensured fundamental rights and affirmative action were enshrined in law, not to divide but to integrate India.

His work on currency and agriculture addressed national stability and growth. His ideas on linguistic states balanced diversity with unity. His call to reinterpret Hindu scriptures was aimed at strengthening India's moral foundation. Each of these contributions shows a thinker deeply invested in India's future, not an adversary of its traditions or unity.

Ambedkar was not anti-Hindu or anti-national. He was a reformer who sought to purify religion of social distortions and a patriot who worked tirelessly to build a just and united India. His books—*Annihilation of Caste*, *The Problem of the Rupee*, *Thoughts on Linguistic States*, and *The Buddha and His Dhamma* illustrate his breadth as a thinker.

His legacy is one of integration, bringing together India's ancient values and modern aspirations. To honour Ambedkar is to recognize him as a national visionary whose ideas belong to all Indians.

(The writer is Asst. Professor, EFLU, Hyderabad)

LETTERS

Defining moment for Indian democracy

WITH reference to the article published in The Hans India newspaper on April 9, the call to push forward women's reservation marks a defining moment in India's democratic journey. The essence of the article is to bring out the urgency of stepping up women's participation in legislative bodies and to carry forward the long-pending vision of equality rooted in our Constitution. The origin of this initiative can be traced back to decades of debates, draft bills, and committees that sought to carve out space for women but could not see it through. Now, with renewed political will, the nation is set to take this reform forward and turn it into a transformative force. It seeks to reach out to women from all walks of life: rural homemakers, urban professionals, tribal women, and those from marginalized communities thereby opening up equal opportunities. Women from both rural and urban areas will benefit as the policy aims to break down structural barriers and bring them into the mainstream. Language, too, should not stand in the way, as empowerment cuts across linguistic divides and builds on shared aspirations. Only when institutions and citizens come together can this initiative truly turn into a nationwide movement that lifts up women and strengthens democracy.

Raju Kolluru, Kakinada

Is Pakistan the new 'Vishwa Guru'?

THE proposed ceasefire for two weeks between Iran and the USA was indeed a welcome move. The entire world was looking forward to freedom from war's repercussions namely the energy crisis and crippling of the world economy. Pakistan taking the aid of China took the initiative of arranging a meet of warring nations in Islamabad. Pakistan, despite its record of sheltering the terrorist groups, seems to succeed in assuming a 'Vishwa Guru' facade.

P R Ravinder, Hyderabad

II

THOUGH fragile, the two week US-Iran truce is crucial for stopping a high casualty, 39-day regional conflict, reopening of critical Strait of Hormuz to stabilize global oil prices, and creating a temporary diplomatic window to manage nuclear tensions. The temporary truce has helped global markets react positively with falling oil prices and rising stocks, while regional sectors seek stability amid continued yet restricted military threats. A lasting truce could ease global supply chain pressures and reduce shipping insurance premium. Despite the truce, deep disrupt persists with reports of continued violation in Lebanon and potential for a swift return to a conflict if negotiations fail. Anyway, President Trump's acceptance of Pakistan's proposal for a two week ceasefire in the war with Iran is a welcome move, since the truce has brought a sigh of relief to the international community especially to the Indians.

P Victor Selvaraj, Tirunelveli

III

THE terrorist country like Pakistan is not a "credible player" in the ongoing Iran-US diplomatic process, even as Islamabad has been involved in facilitation efforts. United States is using Pakistan's role for its own strategic reasons. Under President Donald Trump has given importance to Pakistan by trusting them and sidelining the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and has back stabbed him in the name of bogus friendship which is humiliation and insult to Modi in the eyes of the world countries.

Bhagwan Thadani, Mumbai

Sooryavanshi, the man of the moment

VAIBHAV Sooryavanshi is making waves in the cricket world with his explosive batting style. The 15-year-old sensation is known for his fearless approach, as evident from his record-breaking performances in the IPL and Youth ODIs. He smashed a 35-ball century in the IPL, the fastest by an Indian, and a 52-ball hundred in the Youth ODI series against England U-19. His fearless way of hitting sixes came to view when he hit Jasprit Bumrah for a first ball six. His deft placements and sound defence add to his repertoire as a class batsman in the top order. Moreover he is confidence personified and would like to become top star in the days to come.

Gundu C K Maniam, Tiruchi

thehansreader@gmail.com

BENGALURU ONLINE

Despite losing mother during exams, student tops state

MANGALURU: In an extraordinary story of courage and determination, Disha, a student of Alva's College in Moodbidri, has emerged as the state topper in the Commerce stream of the Second PUC examinations—despite losing her mother in the middle of her exams. A Commerce stream student from Moodbidri, Disha secured the first rank in the state by scoring a perfect 600 out of 600 marks. Alva's PU College authorities and lecturers congratulated Disha on her outstanding achievement. Disha, daughter of Dinesh and Savita from Puttige Padavu near Vidyagiri, was preparing for her board examinations when tragedy struck. Her mother suffered a sudden fall on the eve of her Mathematics exam and passed away just a day before her Economics paper.

Even as she grappled with profound grief, Disha chose to continue writing her exams, refusing to let the setback derail years of hard work. Her disciplined preparation played a crucial role. She had been waking up as early as 3.30 am daily to study and had completed her syllabus well in advance through rigorous internal assessments conducted by her college. In her darkest hour, support came from her lecturer Veena, who not only comforted her but also provided her a place to stay, ensuring she could attend the examinations without interruption.

"I was slightly worried about scoring full marks in English, but my teachers' guidance helped me overcome that," Disha said. She credits the student-friendly teaching approach, timely syllabus completion, and continuous evaluation system at her college for her success.

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



Scholarships

Scholarship Name 1:	IDRBT Summer Internship Programme (ISIP) 2026
Description:	IDRBT Summer Internship Programme (ISIP) 2026 is being offered by the Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT). It is an opportunity for graduate and postgraduate students willing to undertake projects in the field of technology.
Eligibility:	Application is open to students, who are about to complete either of the following programs: postgraduate programs in technology or management (with a background in IT or related fields), or four-year undergraduate programs in IT and related domains.
Prizes & Rewards:	A monthly stipend of ₹14,000 with other benefits.
Last Date to Apply:	15-04-2026
Application mode:	Online applications only
Short Url:	www.b4s.in/hans/IDS12
QR Code:	https://d1e9eg0t055l3.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/idrbt-summer-internship-programme-isp-20261775480352.png
Scholarship Name 2:	The Cadence/Invecas Scholarship program 2026-27
Description:	The Cadence/Invecas Scholarship program 2026-27, launched by Cadence Design Systems and Concern India Foundation, supports underprivileged students in Delhi-NCR, Bangalore, Pune, Ahmedabad, and Hyderabad. Since 2016, it has empowered students in fields like B.Tech, MBBS, BDS, B.Pharma, and B.Sc., providing financial aid for educational expenses and career growth.
Eligibility:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have successfully passed 12th class with a minimum overall score of 80%. Pursuing 12th can also apply on the basis of their previous record. Comes from a lower-income group. Currently reside and study in Delhi NCR, Bangalore, Pune, Ahmedabad & Hyderabad only. (Applications from outside these regions will not be considered.) STEM-related courses and females will be given preference. Selected students will receive financial support for key educational expenses.
Prizes & Rewards:	Selected students will receive financial support for key educational expenses.
Last Date to Apply:	10-05-2026
Application mode:	Online applications only
Short Url:	www.b4s.in/hans/TCSP6
QR Code:	https://d1e9eg0t055l3.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/the-cadence-invecas-scholarship-program-2026-271775480209.png
Scholarship Name 3:	SBI Youth for India Fellowship
Description:	SBI Youth for India Fellowship is being offered by the State Bank of India (SBI) Foundation in partnership with various reputed NGOs to graduate students. It empowers graduates to tackle pressing rural developmental challenges by living and working alongside communities while promoting a transformative leadership journey.
Eligibility:	Application is open to citizens of India/Nepal/Bhutan or Overseas Citizens of India (OCI). Applicants must be between 21 and 32 years old as of the date of commencement of the program. They must have completed a Bachelor's degree before October 1, 2025.
Prizes & Rewards:	₹16,000 monthly stipend and other benefits.
Last Date to Apply:	30-04-2026
Application mode:	Online applications only
Short Url:	www.b4s.in/hans/SYFI5
QR Code:	https://d1e9eg0t055l3.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/sbi-youth-for-india-fellowship1775480276.png
Scholarship Name 4:	Masters' Union: Scholarship Aptitude Test 2026
Description:	Masters' Union: Scholarship Aptitude Test 2026 is specifically designed for high-merit, high-potential candidates pursuing careers in Tech & Business Management, Psychology & Marketing, Finance & Economics, Design, Sustainability, Data Science & Artificial Intelligence by providing financial assistance and direct admission opportunities, along with tuition fee scholarships.
Eligibility:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants must be currently enrolled in Class 12 (any recognised education boards) or have completed it in 2025. Must be aiming to pursue a full-time undergraduate programme in Business Management, Technology, Leadership, Data Science & AI, Design, Sustainability, Finance & Economics, Marketing or related fields. Assessment Requirement: All applicants must appear for the Masters' Union Scholarship Aptitude Test (MUSAT) or qualify for an approved alternate test.
programme:	Alternate Eligibility for Data Science & Artificial Intelligence
Note:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JEE percentile above 90% MUSAT score above 35/45 SAT score above 1500/1600
Prizes & Rewards:	check Masters' Union official website to ensure accuracy on eligibility
Last Date to Apply:	Scholarships offering 10% to 80% tuition fee waivers
Application mode:	13-05-2026
Short Url:	Online applications only
QR Code:	www.b4s.in/hans/MUSCASP1
	https://d1e9eg0t055l3.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/masters-union-scholarship-aptitude-test-20261773114910.png
Scholarship Name 5:	Kiran Pratibha Scholarship 2026
Description:	The Kiran Pratibha Scholarship 2026 is being provided by the Kiran Foundation to highly talented underprivileged students, who have passed the 8th standard and are at least 14 years old.
Eligibility:	The application is open to students who have passed Class 8 and are at least 14 years old. Applicants must belong to a family with a monthly income not exceeding ₹20,000. They must not be receiving any other government scholarships.
Prizes & Rewards:	Tuition fee and other benefits.
Last Date to Apply:	30-04-2026
Application mode:	Online applications only
Short Url:	www.b4s.in/hans/KRPS1
QR Code:	https://d1e9eg0t055l3.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/20261773726816.png

Why early career guidance matters for youth

Aligning passion with purpose, early career guidance can help students make informed choices and build a future-ready workforce



GAUTAM RAJGARHIA

"Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life." This timeless thought by Confucius continues to hold relevance, especially for young students stepping into an increasingly complex and evolving job market. Today, careers are no longer just about earning a livelihood—they are about purpose, fulfilment, and impact.

For India, with one of the world's youngest populations, this conversation is particularly important. Classrooms across the country are filled with potential, yet many students still face uncertainty when transitioning from education to employment. Career deci-

sions are often influenced by societal expectations rather than personal interests, with traditional fields like engineering, medicine, and civil services dominating choices.

However, the modern economy offers far more diverse opportunities—from technology and design to entrepreneurship and social sciences. Early career guidance plays a critical role in helping students navigate these options with clarity and confidence.

When introduced at the school level, career guidance helps students understand their strengths, interests, and aspirations. It encourages them to make choices based on self-awareness rather than external pressure. Exposure to different career

paths, through mentorship and real-world interactions, broadens their perspective and allows them to explore possibilities beyond conventional routes.

Schools can play a central role by integrating career guidance into the education system. Counselling sessions, aptitude assessments, and mentorship programmes can help students build clarity over time. Interactions with industry professionals, career fairs, and workshops on emerging fields such as artificial intelligence and sustainability can further expand their understanding of the evolving job landscape.

Equally important is the development of essential life skills. Communication, teamwork, problem-solving,



- **Self-awareness first:** Early guidance helps students identify strengths and interests.
- **Beyond traditional careers:** Exposure to diverse fields expands career possibilities.
- **Skill development matters:** Communication, critical thinking, and adaptability are essential.
- **Informed decision-making:** Guidance reduces confusion and societal pressure.
- **Stronger workforce:** Aligned careers lead to innovation, productivity, and national growth

and adaptability are now as critical as academic knowledge. Co-curricular activities—debates, sports, and creative pursuits—often serve as platforms where students discover hidden talents that can shape their future careers.

The impact of early career guidance extends beyond individual success. It contributes to building a workforce that is skilled, diverse, and adaptable. Students who pursue careers aligned with their interests are more likely to innovate, perform better, and contribute meaningfully to society. Moreover, structured guidance helps prepare them for global opportunities, making them competitive in an interconnected world.

India's demographic advantage can only translate into long-term growth if its youth are equipped with direction and purpose. Schools must act as enablers, ensuring that education is not just about academic achievement but also about preparing students for life beyond classrooms.

As students step into the professional world, their choices will shape not only their own futures but also the nation's progress. With the right guidance at the right time, careers become more than just jobs—they become meaningful journeys driven by passion and purpose.

(The author is Pro Vice Chairman, DPS).

Today is International Kids Yoga Day



Building healthy habits early

Yoga is increasingly being recognised as an important practice for promoting children's overall health and well-being. In today's fast-paced and technology-driven world, children are often exposed to long hours of screen time, reduced physical activity, and rising levels of stress. Introducing yoga at an early age can help address these challenges by encouraging both physical fitness and mental balance.

Yoga is not just a form of exercise; it is a holistic practice that integrates movement, breathing, and mindfulness. For children, simple yoga postures improve flexibility, strength, and posture, while breathing techniques enhance lung capacity and focus. Regular practice can also help in improving concentration, which is essential for academic performance.

Beyond physical benefits, yoga plays a key role in supporting emotional well-being. It helps children manage stress, anxiety, and restlessness by promoting

relaxation and self-awareness. In school settings, yoga sessions have been shown to create a calmer learning environment, improving behaviour and attention spans.

Another important aspect of yoga is that it encourages discipline and routine. Practising regularly helps children develop healthy habits that can stay with them into adulthood. It also fosters a sense of balance between body and mind, which is crucial for overall development.

Creating awareness about yoga among parents, teachers, and students is essential to ensure its wider adoption. Schools can incorporate short yoga sessions into daily schedules, while families can encourage simple practices at home.

As children grow in an increasingly demanding world, yoga offers a simple yet effective way to support their physical health, mental clarity, and emotional resilience—laying the foundation for a healthier future.

Pact to enhance practical learning & international exposure for aviation students

Chennai Amrita International Aviation College has entered into an academic collaboration with University College of Aviation Malaysia to strengthen practical training and global exposure for students pursuing careers in aviation.

An MoU formalising the partnership was signed between the two institutions in the presence of academic leaders and representatives from the aviation training ecosystem. The initiative is aimed at aligning student training with evolving global industry requirements.

As part of the collaboration, the college hosted a four-day international training programme from April 6 to 9, featuring sessions by aviation professionals and

alumni. The programme covered emerging areas such as digital transformation in aviation, the role of artificial intelligence, airport operations, and new career pathways within the sector.

According to officials, the partnership introduces a structured academic pathway for students enrolled in aviation degree and diploma programmes. Under this model, students will complete the initial phase of their studies in Chennai, followed by advanced training and internships in Malaysia. The final year includes academic sessions at UniCAM along with hands-on experience at Malaysian airports.

The collaboration reflects a broader focus on experiential learning, with institutions increasingly integrating classroom

teaching with industry exposure. Facilities such as simulation environments and practical training modules are being emphasised to prepare students for real-world aviation roles.

Industry projections indicate a growing demand for skilled professionals in aviation, including pilots, cabin crew, engineers, and ground staff, over the next decade. Educational partnerships of this nature are expected to play a role in addressing skill gaps by providing students with international exposure and industry-relevant training.

The development highlights a continuing trend in higher education, where cross-border collaborations are being used to expand learning opportunities and align academic programmes with global workforce needs.





Turning adverse circumstances into opportunities

Now earning Rs 1 lakh a month, she is not only financially independent but also creating employment opportunities in her village.

In the quiet village of Bandapalli in Wanaparthi district, 30-year-old Computer Science graduate Peddhabudi Vanaja is redefining what success looks like. At a time when

A Computer Science graduate from Wanaparthi district, Peddhabudi Vanaja chose entrepreneurship over a conventional job, building a thriving construction support business

many chase conventional engineering jobs, Vanaja chose a different path—one that not only brought her financial independ-

ence but also created livelihoods for others in her community.

"Despite completing my Computer Science Engineering, I didn't want to sit and wait endlessly for a job. I wanted to build something on my own and create opportunities right here in my village," says Vanaja.

Her journey took a decisive turn through initiatives led by the Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP), under the guidance of Minister Danasari Anasuya and SERP CEO Divya Devarajan. In collaboration with the National Academy of Construction, the programme introduced women to non-conventional sectors like centring units and construction technologies.

"The training complete-

ly changed my perspective. I realised there is huge demand in construction and very few women are part of it. That gave me the confidence to step in," she explains.

The programme equipped her with technical knowledge—from materials like steel and aluminium to understanding design drawings and managing workflows—along with essential business skills.

"It wasn't just about learning a skill. We were trained on how to run a business—how to plan manpower, manage materials, and execute work properly," she adds.

With institutional support, Vanaja secured a Rs20 lakh loan under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme, which enabled her to establish her enterprise. She aligned her business with the growing demand under the Indiramma Housing Scheme.

"Today, I operate three centring units in my village. Each unit supports

construction work, and there is steady demand because of the housing projects," she says.

Now earning close to Rs 1 lakh per month, Vanaja has not only achieved financial stability but also created jobs locally.

"This journey has changed my life. I am earning well, but more importantly, I am able to provide employment to others. People now see that women can succeed even in sectors like construction," she notes.

Vanaja is among 772 women trained under this initiative across the State. So far, 154 have established centring units, while 16 have applied for assistance under PMEGP, with Detailed Project Reports already sent to districts for further support.

"There are so many opportunities if we are willing to step out of our comfort zones. With the right training and support, women can achieve much more than they imagine," she says, summing up her journey.



Mamta Kulkarni says Indian women are not health conscious

THEIR LIVES REVOLVE AROUND THEIR HUSBANDS & CHILDREN

Actress Mamta Kulkarni has opened up about her perspective on how she feels that Indian families, especially the women in Indian families, do not take care of their health and are absolutely zero health conscious.

In a video shared by her on her own social media account, Mamta also said that the lives of most Indian women revolve around their families and taking care of their husbands and children, which is why they do not focus on their own health, stating that is absolutely wrong.

"I have noticed that some Indian families, especially women often do not focus on workouts. They dedicate their lives to their children and husbands, which sometimes leads to poor health. The same applies to men and children, they are often not very health conscious."

The actress also stated that she has seen even men and children in India coming to health clubs but just chit chat and do nothing about their health.

Further, she was seen expressing how important it is for each one to take care of their health.

Citing example of citizens of other countries, Mamta said that from kids to elders, everybody is very health conscious. From vitamin D to gymming, everybody takes care of their health, which is why they are so well built and fitter than Indians.

"Our body needs everything, including



vitamin D. People often laugh at foreigners wearing bikinis, but they don't realise how much vitamin D they are getting. That contributes to better growth and fitness. You will notice that many of them are taller and remain active even in their 80s, running in gyms and staying fit. Even small children are active, they swim, dive, and play."

She also cited her own example and said how she takes care of herself. "I now make it a point to spend time near the sea at least once or twice a week, usually on Saturdays, Sundays, or Mondays. This has been my process for many years, both physically and spiritually. Our body is made up of five elements: earth, water, fire, air, and sky."

She added, "I visit the beach once a week or once in two weeks. What do I do there? I walk barefoot on the sand. It is believed that walking barefoot on the beach can help cure many ailments. When I cannot go to the beach, I visit the health club instead. I go to the pool two to three times a week. I usually go around 2 pm, swim for an hour, and then spend at least another hour or two sunbathing."

She added, "I take sunbaths for two to three hours. I also swim, chat, and spend two to three hours here, sometimes from 1 pm to 5:30 or 6 pm. I also take steam and then, if possible, walk barefoot on the beach. When I was in Dubai, I used to walk barefoot on JBR beach. On Fridays or Saturdays, I would spend time there and walk on the sand for an hour under the sun."

Speaking about the benefits of walking bare feet on sand, Mamta said, "It is believed that the salt in the sand draws out impurities from the body. Some even say that people with paralysis can benefit from this practice if done consistently for a few months."

She concluded, "You should spend time in the sun and in nature to stay healthy. Breathe deeply as I am doing now and meditate. I often meditate while looking at the sun for hours. Come closer to nature, enjoy your food and life, but remember: if you are healthy, you are truly alive. You are your world. Jai Maa Bhavani."

EAT SMART THIS SUMMER WITH THIS PROTEIN-PACKED DIET

Summer has arrived early, and with beach trips on the horizon, now is the perfect time to kickstart your fitness routine. While gym sessions are essential, diet plays an equally vital role in sculpting and maintaining a healthy body weight. Ritika Samaddar, Regional Head of Dietetics at Max Healthcare - New Delhi, recommends this straightforward, protein-rich plan featuring California Almonds, Greek Yoghurt, and Salmon.



Morning Kickstart: California Almonds and Boiled Eggs

Begin your day with a few California Almonds. Rich in protein, healthy fats, vitamin E, and magnesium, they help sustain energy levels without sudden spikes. They are an excellent addition to any fitness-

Lunch: Grilled Chicken Breast Salad

Opt for grilled chicken breast tossed with mixed greens, cherry tomatoes, and cucumber. This meal delivers lean protein, fibre, and hydration from veggies, keeping you light yet satisfied through the afternoon.

Evening Snack: Greek Yoghurt with Chia Seeds

Recharge in the late afternoon with Greek yoghurt topped with a teaspoon of chia seeds. This snack delivers probiotics for gut health, sustained energy, and a refreshing, cooling effect.

Dinner: Baked Salmon with Quinoa

End your day with a baked salmon fillet served alongside cooked quinoa and steamed broccoli. This nutrient-rich

plate offers omega-3 fatty acids for skin health, anti-inflammatory benefits, and complete proteins to support overnight muscle repair. This simple routine emphasises supporting muscle building, controlling hunger, and aiding weight management. Avoid heavy carbs in the afternoons as they are difficult to digest. Aim for portion control, good hydration and light exercise. These easy, practical tips can help you stay fit and energised during the summer heat.

Alaya F makes 150 attempts to get a pose right: Know how much to push yourself

Actress Alaya F loves to stay on top of her fitness game. Through her latest so-

cial media post, the 'Jawaani Jaaneman' actress shared that she took 150 attempts to get a pose she saw on Instagram right. Posting a clip of herself attempting the pose, Alaya revealed that the exercise left her with peeled elbows and nausea.

"Here's a short glimpse of some of the 150+ attempts, peeled elbows and no stop nausea it took me to successfully do a pose I saw on Instagram (sic)," she captioned the post.

The 'Freddy' actress further stressed that she is not encouraging anyone to push their physical limit beyond the necessary point.

Alaya said that it is always crucial to listen to one's body.

"PS: this is not me advocating for pushing your body even when it feels completely done. It's always super important to listen to your body because everyone is different! so please be rest assured, I know how much to push myself and when to stop but out of all the things my teachers call me, 'stubborn' is my favourite! Thank you for always making sure than my stubbornness is never at the cost of my safety haha @sunpreet_sing", she went on to write. Talking about her

professional commitments, Alaya will soon be a part of Hrithik Roshan-produced thriller series 'Storm'.

The much-discussed drama will have Parvathy Thiruvothu, Sriшти Shrivastava, Rrama Sharma, and Saba Azad playing key characters, along with others.

Suvinder Pal Vicky, Ashish Vidyarthi, Rajit Kapur, Ashok Pathak, Gautam Rode, Priyanka Setia, and Ranjan Raj have also been roped in as the ancillary cast.

Talking about his next, Hrithik had shared, "What drew me to 'Storm' was the compelling world that Ajitpal has created. The story is raw, layered, and powerful, with unforgettable characters which will be essayed by incredibly talented actors."



CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 3 Cooking aids (5)
 - 8 Thick slices (5)
 - 10 A ___ being: one of us? (5)
 - 11 ___ roll: having a long spell of success (2,1)
 - 12 Mechanical man (5)
 - 13 Distorted (7)
 - 15 Extremely small (5)
 - 18 Embrace (3)
 - 19 Horse's gait (6)
 - 21 Grades (7)
 - 22 Tinted (4)
 - 23 Gaming stake (4)
 - 24 Mao ___: thoughtful Chinese
 - chairman? (3,4)
 - 26 Figures of speech, figurative usages of words (6)
 - 29 Azidothymidine; a drug that improves the symptoms of aids (3)
 - 31 Lhasa is its capital (5)
 - 32 Usefulness (7)
 - 34 Form (5)
 - 35 Prefix for "dermis" or "center" (3)
 - 36 Hollywood great ___ Davis (5)
 - 37 Norse giant (5)
 - 38 Mining for valuable minerals (5)

- DOWN**
- 1 Causes air currents (5)
 - 2 Stricken with shame (7)
 - 4 Goad (4)
 - 5 Inventor ___ Alva Edison (6)
 - 6 Former Force India driver (5)
 - 7 Egyptian capital (5)
 - 9 Black bird (3)
 - 12 Move backward (7)
 - 14 Pull hard (3)
 - 16 Hold on to (5)
 - 17 Chose or selected (5)
 - 19 Develop slowly (7)
 - 20 Noted film maker Mahesh ___ (5)
 - 21 Discharge from the army (5)
 - 23 Horns (7)
 - 24 Tie up (6)
 - 25 Israeli submachine gun (3)
 - 27 Metal pin (5)
 - 28 Pasta sauce - "poets" anagram? (5)
 - 30 Like those waters that run deep (5)
 - 32 ___ arms: riled? (2,2)
 - 33 BSE deal (3)



Solution to April 9

SUDOKU



Solution to April 9

The current instability has sent shockwaves through the global system. Shockwaves that have disrupted supply chains, erupted geopolitical tensions. At the same time, energy markets have been fundamentally affected, it is in this environment where energy is our backbone

-Jyotiraditya Scindia, Union Minister

BIZ BRIEFS

Whirlpool's new products

Whirlpool of India Limited launched new refrigerators range in the single door category, designed to address one of the most common challenges faced by users which is the hassle of manual defrosting. With the introduction of its VitamagicPro and IMPRO PLUS ranges, Whirlpool launched the largest range of Automatic Defrost refrigerators in the single door category, offering consumers a more convenient and stress-free refrigeration experience.

Offer from Paragon

Paragon unveiled a cashback offer on its women's footwear collection, as part of a key initiative to encourage purchase among women consumers. Under the offer, consumers receive an assured Rs 30 instant cashback through a simple QR-based process. Each product comes with a scratch-enabled QR code on the tag, which can be scanned to access the cashback page.

UltraTech's CSR activity

UltraTech Cement Limited's integrated manufacturing unit Andhra Pradesh Cement Works (APCW) diverted over 800 metric tons of banana pseudostem waste from landfill through a unique model that enables sustainable waste management. To tackle the dual challenges of landfill burden and open-air burning of banana waste in Tadipatri, the unit undertook Project Uday which enhanced livelihoods for 500 farmers and 100 local women entrepreneurs by helping them convert agricultural residue into marketable eco-friendly products.

Antony Waste, JFE in pact

Antony Waste Handling Cell Limited, an integrated waste management company, announced a strategic partnership with Japan-based JFE Engineering Corporation for two waste-to-energy plants in Andhra Pradesh. This marks the first Japanese FDI into India's waste-to-energy (WTE) sector and JFE Engineering Corporation's entry into India's waste management market. As part of the partnership, JFE Engineering will invest 750 million Japanese yen to acquire a 25 per cent equity stake in Antony Waste's two special purpose vehicles (SPVs).

XLRI Delhi-NCR's convocation

XLRI Delhi-NCR successfully concluded its 5th Annual Convocation at its Delhi-NCR campus. A total of 207 students graduated this year, including 178 students from the Business Management (BM) program and 30 students from the Innovation, Entrepreneurship & Venture Development (IEV) program, marking another milestone in the institution's growth journey. The ceremony reflected XLRI's continued commitment to nurturing responsible leaders equipped to contribute meaningfully to business and society. The graduating cohort benefited from robust placement outcomes with 576 domestic and 2 international offers.

TCS Q4 net profit jumps to ₹13,718 cr

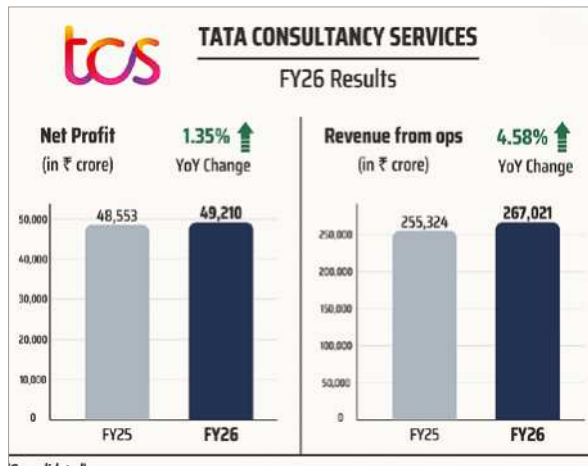
MUMBAI

COUNTRY'S largest IT services company TCS on Thursday reported a net profit of Rs12,224 crore in the January-March period last year and Rs10,657 crore in the preceding December quarter.

The Tata Group company reported a net profit of Rs12,224 crore in the January-March period last year and Rs10,657 crore in the preceding December quarter.

For fiscal year 2025-26, TCS' PAT inched up 1.35 per cent to Rs49,210 crore, as against Rs48,553 crore in FY25. From a headcount perspective, the company added 2,356 jobs in Q4 to take the overall number of employees to 5,84,519 as on March 31, 2026, marking the first quarter of net addition after two consecutive quarters of a fall. The company's employee base declined by 23,460 in FY26, a year in which it began an exercise to cut 12,000 jobs because of changes in the technology landscape.

TCS is the first company in the \$315 billion Indian IT sector to report its earnings for



the fiscal year 2025-26, which saw a deepening of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies and subsequent concerns on the employee intensity in the sector which produces one of the best quality jobs in the economy.

In the reporting quarter, its revenue from operations jumped 9.64 per cent to Rs 70,698 crore from the Rs64,479 crore in the year-ago period, while the same for the full fiscal jumped 4.58 per cent to Rs 2.67 lakh crore.

The operating profit margin expanded to 25.3 per cent in the March quarter, up from 24.2 per cent in the year-ago period. Its chief executive and managing director K Krithivasan said this is the third consecutive quarter of sequential growth and added that the momentum was broad based across major markets and industries.

"While the macro-economic headwinds continue, we see sustained customer conviction in technology investments, which positions us well for the opportunities ahead," he said.

It signed new deals of \$12 billion in the three months, led by North America at \$5.4 billion and the banking, financial services and insurance business at \$2.8 billion.

The voluntary attrition stood at 13.7 per cent at the end of the quarter, and the company's chief human resources officer Sudeep Kunnal said it will be reverting to implementing salary hikes across the organisation from April 1 onwards.

Strong buffers to shield India from oil volatility: World Bank

Growth seen at 6.6% in FY27 despite Middle East-driven oil risks

WHY INDIA IS RESILIENT

- India has strong buffers: Foreign reserves, fiscal space, low inflation
- FY26 growth seen at 7.6%, driven by demand and exports
- India remains fastest-growing major economy despite tariffs

NEW DELHI

THE World Bank on Thursday said India is well placed to weather the ongoing global energy shock, supported by strong macroeconomic buffers such as high foreign exchange reserves, fiscal space and low inflation.

Addressing a conference a day after raising India's GDP growth projection for FY27 to 6.6 per cent, World Bank officials said the country entered the current Middle East-driven oil market volatility from a position of strength. India had already demon-



strated resilience in the face of global trade turbulence in the previous fiscal. World Bank Regional Practice Director for South Asia, Sebastian Eckardt, highlighted that India's strong policy buffers and growth momentum provide room for policy support if required. He noted that structural reforms, including trade agreements and labour initiatives, are reinforcing the country's growth trajectory.

According to the World Bank's latest South Asia Economic Update, India's growth is estimated to have accelerated from 7.1 per cent in FY25 to 7.6 per cent in FY26, driven by robust domestic demand and resilient exports. Growth is projected to moderate to 6.6 per cent in FY27, slightly higher than earlier estimates.

World Bank Lead Econo-

mist for India, Aurelien Kruse, said India remained the fastest-growing large economy in FY26 despite facing high global tariffs. He credited income tax cuts and GST rate reductions for supporting consumption, while exports and investment performed better than expected.

The report described the current scenario as a "major trade shock" with risks tilted to the downside, particularly due to oil price volatility. The World Bank assumes crude oil prices at USD 90-100 per barrel for FY27.

It also commended the government's handling of the energy crisis, noting that authorities balanced supply management with price stability, avoiding extreme measures such as rationing while cushioning consumers from sharp price spikes.

Blue Star expects 20% volume growth this year

KOLKATA: Air-conditioning and commercial refrigeration major Blue Star Limited expects around 20 per cent growth in volumes and about 25 per cent revenue growth this year, its managing director B Thiagarajan said on Thursday.

He said the air-conditioning industry is currently facing a total cost impact of around 13 per cent, comprising 5 per cent from revised energy labelling norms and about 8 per cent due to higher raw material prices.

"Out of this, the industry has already passed on about 5-6 per cent to consumers, and another 5-7 per cent increase is expected in April to offset the remaining impact," Girish Hingorani, Vice President (Marketing - Unitary Cooling Products), said.

Thiagarajan added that margins, which typically stand at around 8.5 per cent for the business, have been squeezed recently due to cost pressures, with the company focused on pushing sales.

India Pharma Expo in Hyd from April 23

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

THE India Pharma Expo 2026 is set to emerge as one of the most influential pharmaceutical industry gatherings in India, bringing together the entire pharma ecosystem under one roof. To be held from April 23-25, 2026, at the HITEX Exhibition Centre, Hyderabad, the event will convene industry leaders, policymakers, innovators, researchers, and technology providers to explore the next phase of growth in pharmaceuticals and life sciences.

With the theme "India's Pharma Power - Building Global Bridges in Life Sciences & Innovation," the expo will spotlight India's expanding role in global drug manufacturing, vaccine production, biotechnology research, and pharmaceutical exports. Co-located with the NextGen Pharma Summit & Awards, the event creates a dynamic platform where policy, innovation, and business converge. It offers a unique ecosystem where knowledge meets networking, enabling insights to translate into actionable strategies. The event is being hosted under the leadership of Chief Guest, Shri Duddilla Sridhar Babu, Hon'ble Minister for IT,



Electronics & Communication, Industries & Commerce, and Legislative Affairs, Government of Telangana, and Shri C. Damodar Raja Narasimha, Hon'ble Minister for Health, Medical & Family Welfare, Government of Telangana. It will also feature a distinguished lineup of industry leaders, including Sarvesh Singh, CEO & Director, Telangana Lifesciences; Chakravarthi AVPS, Chairman, FOPE (Telangana & Andhra Pradesh) and Global Ambassador, World Packaging Organisation; K Raja Bhanu, Director General, Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India; Sudarshan Jain, Secretary General, Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance; and Dr. Jitendra Sharma, MD & CEO, AMTZ, among many other eminent speakers shaping the future of the pharmaceutical and life sciences sector.

Chhattisgarh electricity department bags spl award

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

CHHATTISGARH State Power Generation Company Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Thermal Power Station (DSPM) Korba East achieved the third position at the national level with an outstanding performance in the financial year 2025-26. For this achievement, Secretary of Energy and Chairman of Power Generation and Distribution Company Dr Rohit Yadav has congratulated all the officers/employees of Generation Company.

SK Katiyar, Managing Director, Chhattisgarh State Power Generation Company, said "Our plants have performed excellently, with DSPM Korba East performing the best and bagging the third position at the national level. It is the result of our efficient management and regular maintenance of the plants that our plant has achieved this record at the national level by performing much higher than



the prescribed parameters. Power units of both (2x250 MW) capacity of DSPM have achieved 91 per cent PLF (Plant Load Factor) in 2025-26. DSPM has increased the pride of Chhattisgarh State Power Generation Company by achieving 91 per cent PLF more than the target of 85 per cent set by CEA (Central Electricity Authority) and CSERC (Chhattisgarh State Electricity Regulatory Commission).

Apart from this, Chhattisgarh State Power Generation Company has achieved another achievement. The overall performance of the Chhattisgarh State Power Generation in the annual



evaluation of the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has also been good, in which the Chhattisgarh State Power Generation Company ranks third among the 33 institutions and ranks in the top three category. Shri SK Katiyar expressed happiness over the excellent performance of the Power Generation Company and said that with this achievement, Chhattisgarh State Power Generation Company has got a stronger recognition on the energy production platform of the country. We will continue to give our best presentation and strive for the company's progress. Information of DSPM.

Silver, gold rally falters as West Asia tensions resurface

NEW DELHI: Silver prices declined by Rs 7,800 to Rs 2.43 lakh per kilogram in the national capital on Thursday while gold fell to Rs 1.54 lakh per 10 grams as investors booked profits amid concerns over the durability of the fragile ceasefire in West Asia. According to the All India Sarafa Association, the white metal depreciated by Rs 7,800, or 3.10 per cent, to Rs 2,43,200 per kg (inclusive of all taxes) from Wednesday's closing level of Rs 2,51,000 per kg.

Gold of 99.9 per cent purity also decreased by Rs 1,500, or nearly 1 per cent, to Rs 1,54,900 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes). The yellow metal had finished at Rs 1,56,400 per 10 grams in the previous market session. Analysts said precious metals witnessed selling pressure as uncertainty around the ceasefire between the US and Iran weighed on investors' sentiment. "Gold prices declined on Thursday, reversing most of the previous session's gains as investors reassessed the fragile ceasefire in West Asia," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst of Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

STOCK MARKETS SLIDE AS CEASEFIRE HOPES DIMINISH

Rising crude prices and Strait of Hormuz tensions dent investor sentiment

Factors that pulled markets

- Fading ceasefire optimism: Renewed tensions involving Iran and Israel dented investor confidence
- Strait of Hormuz disruption fears: Iran's move heightened worries over global oil supply

MUMBAI

EQUITY benchmark indices ended lower on Thursday, with the Sensex tumbling 931 points after a spectacular rally in the previous session, as renewed tensions in West Asia faded the ceasefire-led optimism. The ceasefire deal appeared to be at risk after Iran closed the Strait of Hormuz again in response to Israeli attacks on Lebanon.

Weak trends in Asian and



European markets, a jump in crude oil prices and uninterrupted foreign fund outflows also made investors jittery in the domestic market. The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 931.25 points or 1.20 per cent to settle at 76,631.65. During the day, it dived 1,215 points or 1.56 per cent to 76,347.90. The 50-share NSE Nifty declined 222.25 points or 0.93 per cent to end at 23,775.10. From the

30-Sensex firms, InterGlobe Aviation, Larsen & Toubro, Eternal, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank were among the major laggards. Bharat Electronics, Power Grid, NTPC and Tata Consultancy Services were among the gainers. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, jumped 3.27 per cent to \$97.85 per barrel.

"Ceasefire-led optimism faded as renewed US-Iran tensions and ongoing restric-

tions at the Strait of Hormuz pushed crude back up, reviving concerns around India's inflation. Domestically, profit-booking, rising 10-year bond yields, and rupee weakness reduced near-term risk appetite. Financials led the decline after the previous session's sharp rally amid sustained FII selling, while broader markets held relatively steady," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs2,811.97 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs), however, bought stocks worth Rs4,168.17 crore. US markets ended significantly higher on Wednesday. "Indian markets witnessed a pullback, snapping the recent five-session gaining streak as sentiment turned cautious amid fading confidence around the US-Iran ceasefire.

Morgan Stanley sees bull run in market, says will hit 95k mark

Earnings cycle revival, cheap valuations and strong domestic demand underpin bullish outlook

MUMBAI

GLOBAL brokerage firm Morgan Stanley on Thursday said that Indian markets are poised for a strong rally with Sensex likely to touch 95,000 level by December 2026.

In its latest India Equity Strategy Playbook report, the brokerage firm said that the current combination of depressed valuations, improving earnings momentum and cautious investor positioning reflects conditions typically seen near the end of market downturns.

In the base case, the headline index Sensex is expected to touch the 95,000 mark by December 2026, implying an upside potential of 22 per cent from Wednesday's closing, according to the brokerage. It noted that downside risks appear limited compared to potential gains, describing the present phase as an attractive entry point for long-term investors.

The brokerage also pointed out that India's trailing



market performance over the past year is close to historic lows, while relative valuations have declined sharply.

However, underlying fundamentals remain strong, supported by robust domestic demand, policy stability and a recovery in capital expenditure. A major factor behind its bullish outlook is the revival in the earnings cycle. High-frequency indicators point to strengthening trends across consumption, investment and services, even as market expectations remain subdued, the brokerage noted.

Analysts also noted that India's share of global corpo-

rate profits now exceeds its index weight by the widest margin on record.

The brokerage has expected positive earnings revisions going forward and said it remains ahead of consensus estimates. Foreign investor positioning -- which has weakened in recent months -- could further support an upside surprise if earnings momentum continues to improve. On valuations, Morgan Stanley pointed out that the Sensex is currently trading at its cheapest level when measured against gold, a long-term indicator often associated with major market turning points.

"The IPL has started exactly how I expected it to, with flatter pitches and high-scoring games. As always, it's interesting to see how the old school superstars like Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli perform, but I think this youngster for Rajasthan Royals, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, is the one to watch in the opening few weeks." - Graeme Smith, South African batting great

Asian Boxing C'ships

Indian women top medal charts with 4 gold

Ulaanbaatar(Mongolia): The Indian women's team delivered a historic performance at the Asian Boxing Championships 2026, finishing on top of the medal charts with a total of 10 medals, including four gold, two silver, and four bronze, underlining their dominance at the continental stage.

Under the stewardship of head coach Santiago Nieva, every member of the women's team returned home with a medal, stamping their authority on the continental competition. With Boxing Federation of India President Ajay Singh in attendance, Minakshi Hooda (48kg) got



things going by claiming the first gold of the day with a commanding 5-0 victory over Mongolia's Nomundari Enkh-Amgalan. Preeti (54kg) continued her sensational run, defeating Chinese Taipei's Huang Hsiao-wen, a three-time world champion and Tokyo 2020 Olympic bronze medalist, by a unanimous 5-0 decision to secure

the top podium finish.

Priya (60kg) added to India's gold tally with a clinical 3-0 win over North Korea's Won Un-gyong in the final. Arundhati (70kg) also impressed, registering a 4:1 victory against Kazakhstan's Bakyt Seidish to clinch gold in her category.

India added two silver medals to its tally, with Jais-

mine (57kg) finishing runner-up after a strong campaign, while Alfiyan Pathan (80+kg) also secured silver following her final bout.

Earlier in the week, two-time world champion Nikhat Zareen (54kg), Ankushita Boro (65kg), Lovlina (75kg) and Pooja (80kg) had settled for bronze medals after semifinal exits. Having confirmed 16 medals, the most of any nation in this edition, India will be looking to finish the tournament strongly, with two men's boxers - Vishwanath Suresh (48kg) and Sachin Siwach (60kg) - in their respective finals on Friday.

TG finishes runner-up in national gymnastics

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

THE Telangana gymnastics team delivered an impressive performance to secure second place overall at the Level-wise Boys & Girls National Gymnastics Competition 2026 held in Delhi at The Gymnastic Academy. The team clinched a remarkable tally of 25 silver medals and 2 bronze medals across events, including table vault, uneven bars, balance beam, and floor exercise.

In Level 1, gymnasts Hiya Yadav, Pranavi Shah, Anshul Yadav, and Adwaith Akula showcased strong performances. Level 2 saw notable contributions from Manvi Reddy,



Myra Mandava, and Chokkarapu Loukya Virat, while higher levels featured standout efforts from Inara Rukmini, Simone Pestonji, and Khushi Rai.

The team was felicitated in Hyderabad in the presence of Priyanka, an international gymnast, national champion, and judge.

Dist chess selections from April 11

HYDERABAD: The Telangana State Chess Association will conduct Hyderabad and Rangareddy district Under-7 and Under-11 boys and girls selection tournaments on April 11 and 12 at Lal Bahadur Stadium, Hyderabad. The tournaments will shortlist players for the state championship.

Details are available at www.chesstelangana.com or contact 7337578899 and 7337399299, said General Secretary A Jayachandra.

Siva powers Golkonda Hotel into final

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

RIDING on T Siva's swash-buckling unbeaten 82, favourites Golkonda Hotel crushed Radisson Blu Plaza by 63 runs to storm into the final of the 10th edition of the Hotels & Restaurants Association of Telangana State T20 Cricket Tournament 2026, played at the New Madies Cricket Grounds on Wednesday.

Golkonda Hotel, appearing in the final for the first time, will now face The Leela Hotel in the title clash.

BRIEF SCORES:



Golkonda Hotel: 175/6 in 20 overs (T. Siva 82*, Pankaj 33; Anil Kumar 2/29) beat Radisson Blu Plaza: 112 all

out in 16.4 overs (Babu 41; Pankaj 3/17, Praneeth 2/22, Shiva Kumar 2/11) by 63 runs.

TFA mourns demise of former national footballer Nithyasheelan

HYDERABAD: The Telangana Football Association (TFA) expressed deep grief over the untimely demise of former national footballer Nithyasheelan, at the age of 57. He had represented at the Sub-Junior National Championship in 1988 held in Dhanbad.

As a mark of respect, two minutes of silence were observed on Thursday morning at the Gymkhana Football Ground during the ongoing U-20 camp. Similar tributes were paid before the C Division Football League matches. A condolence meeting was also held at 5 pm at the TFA office, attended by coaches, referees, and office bearers, who paid homage to his contributions to the sport. Nithyasheelan is survived by his wife, two sons, and a daughter. The TFA conveyed heartfelt condolences to his family, remembering his dedication and lasting contribution to football.



RR, RCB eye top-order show in Guwahati

GUWAHATI: Riding on explosive starts from Yashasvi Jaiswal and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Rajasthan Royals will look to extend their dominance, while defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru will bank on a rejuvenated Devdutt Padikkal as the two in-form sides lock horns in an IPL clash here on Friday.

RCB have a settled top-order under the watch of the talismanic Virat Kohli, who hasn't shown any signs of rust despite stepping away from T20 internationals in 2024, while Phil Salt also unleashed his explosive abilities in the previous game. Batting one down, Padikkal has carried his domestic form seamlessly into the IPL, signalling a return to his fluent best with an aggressive yet controlled approach. Padikkal had made



MATCH STARTS AT 7:30PM

an immediate impact in his debut IPL season, scoring 473 runs for RCB and establishing himself as a stylish batter.

However, subsequent stints with Rajasthan Royals and Lucknow Super Giants didn't

quite yield the desired returns.

His return to Bengaluru last season, by his own admission, proved to be a turning point, as he played a key role in the franchise finally clinching their maiden title.

The left-hander has begun this season in similar vein, striking back-to-back fifties-- a 29-ball 50 against Chennai Super Kings and a 26-ball 61 against Sunrisers Hyderabad -- and will look to extend his rich vein of form.

The likes of skipper Rajat Patidar and big-hitting Australian Tim David provide solidarity in the middle. However, it is RCB's bowling transformation that has stood out.

The Royals, meanwhile, have emerged as one of the most explosive batting units this season, powered by the opening pair of Jaiswal and teenage sensation Sooryavanshi.

The duo has consistently provided flying starts, combining clean hitting with fearless stroke-play to put opposition attacks under early pressure.

Women's Reservation Bill Stalin backs 33% quota, raises suspicion on poll-timed bill

CHENNAI: Chief Minister M K Stalin on Thursday alleged that the proposed amendment to ensure 33 per cent reservation for women in the midst of polls in states including Tamil Nadu appeared to be yet another political manoeuvre aimed at shaping electoral narratives. Stalin alleged the timing for the proposed amendment led to serious suspicion.

"Why push such a far-reaching decision in the middle of state elections. This appears to be yet another political manoeuvre aimed at shaping electoral narratives, much like earlier attempts to influence women voters ahead of the 2024 Parliament elections," he alleged in a statement titled "This is not reform, this is reengineering power." Further, he said: "Let me be unequivocal: we strongly support 33 per cent reservation for women. Our support is absolute. But it must be implemented without increasing seats and without punishing states that acted responsibly. If the intent is genuine, nothing prevents immediate implementation within the existing framework."

Demanding fair delimitation, he alleged there was complete opacity on the basis for delimitation and



asked would the exercise rely on 1971 figures from a pre-population control era or the 2021 Census. "Conflicting signals and vague assurances only deepen suspicion." This move would also impose a massive financial burden on states, forcing them to expand or rebuild Legislative Assemblies, all without proper consultation.

"This is a direct assault on cooperative federalism. This is not reform, it is a unilateral, politically driven exercise designed to concentrate power, weaken Parliament, marginalise the South, and undermine social justice," he alleged. "The nation deserves answers: why this undue haste, why shift the goalposts, and who truly stands to benefit?" The NDA government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi is systematically eroding the very foundations

of Parliament, he alleged.

The Dravidian party chief claimed: "What should be a vibrant forum for debate and accountability is being reduced to a hollow ritual, a stage where members may not even get fair time to speak or represent their people. This proposal to increase seats is a direct contradiction of their own slogan of minimum government, maximum governance. It will only inflate expenditure, burden taxpayers, and dilute the quality of parliamentary functioning."

This also went against the spirit of Article 1 of the Constitution, which defines India as a Union of States. Ignoring the voices of states and bypassing meaningful consultation is not democratic - it is unitary overreach that undermines the country's federal and plural character.

Kerala polling sees minor protests over bogus votes

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Assembly polling across Kerala progressed largely peacefully, but protests were reported at several booths on Thursday over allegations of bogus voting. A minor scuffle broke out between Congress and BJP activists at Manalur in Thrissur district after UDF candidate T N Prathapan arrived in the area.

According to police, BJP activists prevented people accompanying Prathapan from entering the booth premises, leading to the scuffle.

In Wadakkanchery, also in Thrissur district, a voter, Sajeew, was unable to cast his vote after election officials informed him that his vote had already been recorded as a postal ballot. This triggered protests by BJP activists, prompting police intervention.

Although election officials offered to allow him to cast a tender vote, he declined. BJP candidate T S Ullas Babu later arrived at the booth and staged a protest.

A similar incident occurred in Kuttiady, Kozhikode district, where a woman was denied the right to vote after it was found that her vote had already been cast as a postal ballot.

At Malampuzha and Shoranur in Palakkad district, Thrikkurupuram in Kasaragod, and Vattiyorkavu in Thiruvananthapuram, complaints emerged that votes had been cast in the names of original voters, leading to protests.

The affected voters were later permitted to cast tender votes.

Bengal political row over Kabir video

KOLKATA

A political controversy erupted in West Bengal on Thursday after an alleged video of Humayun Kabir surfaced on social media, purportedly showing him claiming links with senior BJP leaders and efforts to defeat Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in the upcoming Assembly elections.

At a press meet, the Tri-

namool Congress shared the purported video and demanded an Enforcement Directorate probe into Kabir's alleged claims of proximity with Leader of Opposition in West Bengal Assembly, Suvendu Adhikari, Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and the Prime Minister's Office as part of a multi-core plan to defeat Banerjee in the polls.

In the video, which could

not be independently verified by PTI, Kabir is allegedly heard saying he is willing to go to "any extent" to unseat Banerjee and has been in touch with senior BJP leaders, including Adhikari.

Kabir termed the video as AI-generated and aimed at maligning him and threatened to take legal action. Kabir, who founded the Aam Janata Unnayan Party days after he was suspended by the

TMC late last year, is also purportedly heard claiming that he had communication with the PMO and was advised to coordinate with leaders from other BJP-ruled states.

The video further purportedly captures Kabir stating that his strategy revolves around diverting minority votes away from the ruling Trinamool Congress, suggesting that such a shift could benefit the BJP electorally.

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3 ANDHRA VILLAGES LEAD RAINWATER REVOLUTION

- Murugummi, Marella and Thangella boost groundwater with over 260 water structures, storing nearly 30 lakh cubic metres
- Community-driven efforts like pond revival, rooftop harvesting, crop planning lifted agriculture, dairy, and livelihoods for 5,900 residents
- Murugummi won 2nd-best panchayat at Water Awards 2024; Marella and Thangella also earned honours

NEW DELHI

THREE villages from the coastal district of Prakasam in Andhra Pradesh have emerged as models of water resilience through community-led rainwater conservation initiatives implemented under the 'Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari' campaign, the Jal Shakti ministry said on Thursday.

The ministry noted that villages such as Murugummi, Marella, and Thangella have significantly improved groundwater availability, strengthened livelihoods and reduced distress migration through sustained community participation.

Highlighting the outcomes, the ministry said that Murugummi saw the



construction of 71 water conservation structures with a cumulative storage capacity of about 8.11 lakh cubic metres, providing protective irrigation to 264.5 hectares of agricultural land. In Marella, 53 such structures were developed with a cumulative storage capacity of around 10.04 lakh cubic metres, enhancing agricultural sustainability across 220.5 hectares, it

said, adding that renovation of community ponds and tanks contributed an additional 5.95 lakh cubic metres of storage capacity.

Thangella recorded the construction of 71 water conservation structures with a storage capacity of about 5.89 lakh cubic metres, supporting irrigation across 185.3 hectares, while the revival of traditional water bodies added around



A water conservation structure in Marella

3.98 lakh cubic metres more, the ministry said.

The initiative has improved groundwater levels, benefiting around 5,900 people by enhancing access to water for domestic and agricultural purposes, the ministry said in a statement. Earlier, these villages faced acute water scarcity due to erratic rainfall, declining groundwater levels and frequent borewell failures, adversely affecting agriculture and livelihoods, it said.

The ministry said the situation began to change with active community mobilisation through gram sabhas, door-to-door awareness campaigns, Kalajathas (traditional folk theatre), workshops and field demonstrations. Farmers, women, youth and local institutions collectively adopted practices such as water budgeting, crop planning and groundwater sharing, fostering a strong sense of ownership, the statement added. Adopting a ridge-to-valley approach, the villages implemented a range of rainwater harvesting and conservation measures to capture, store and recharge rainwater, including percolation tanks, farm ponds, staggered trenches, rooftop rainwater harvesting systems and the rejuvenation of community ponds. It also led to enhanced agricultural productivity, increased milk production supporting dairy activities, restoration of soil moisture and reduction in distress migration as livelihood opportunities improved, the statement said. Murugummi village was conferred the second-best village panchayat award at the sixth National Water Awards, 2024, while Marella was among the top 30 villages, and Thangella was nominated for national recognition, it added. (PTI)

War of words erupts as Atchanna targets Jagan, YSRCP hits back

HANS NEWS SERVICE VIJAYAWADA/VISAKHAPATNAM

A fierce political confrontation erupted after agriculture minister K Atchanna made allegations against YSRCP chief Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, triggering a strong and emotional rebuttal from senior YSRCP leader Botcha Satyanarayana.

Addressing a press conference, Atchanna claimed that even leaders within former chief minister Y S Rajasekhara Reddy's own party such as Botcha Satyanarayana, in the past, raised suspicions about Jagan Mohan Reddy's role in his father's death. He alleged that Jagan was driven by an unrestrained ambition for power and would "stop at nothing" to become chief minister. The minister further revived past political controversies, accusing Jagan of amassing wealth during YSR's tenure between 2004 and 2009 by leveraging his father's position. He also questioned Jagan's conduct during the period when YSR's helicopter went missing in September 2009, demanding clarity on his whereabouts at that critical time.

Atchanna also alleged that even before YSR's death was officially confirmed, efforts were allegedly underway to mobilize support for Jagan's elevation as chief minister. He also referred to attacks on a private company establishments following allegations



Minister K Atchanna speaking to media at the Secretariat on Thursday



YSRCP MLC Botcha Satyanarayana addressing a press conference in Visakhapatnam

made at the time, and later political developments involving individuals linked to the same corporate group. In a further escalation, the TDP leader drew parallels with the murder of Y S Vivekananda Reddy, suggesting a pattern of political ambition overriding relationships, remarks that added fuel to the already intense political confrontation.

Reacting strongly, YSRCP senior leader and Leader of Opposition in Legislative Council Botcha Satyanarayana lashed out at Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and the TDP, accusing them of resorting to "cheap and disgraceful politics" for political mileage. Satyanarayana turned emotional while recalling YSR, visibly moved as he condemned the remarks. "Is this the level of politics? Don't they feel ashamed?" he said, alleging that the ruling party was deliberately making provocative statements to divert attention from the positive discussions around the MAVIGUN (Machilipatnam-Vijayawada-Guntur) proposal put forward by Jagan Mohan Reddy.

Satyanarayana asserted that the aggressive response from TDP leaders indicated political insecurity. "The intention is clear - divert the MAVIGUN debate and indulge in personal attacks. There is nothing beyond that," he said.

He also criticised the repeated references to the late YS Rajasekhara Reddy, calling it inappropriate to drag a leader who passed away 15 years ago into current political battles. "Political discourse should have limits. Using deceased leaders for gain reflects the fall in standards," he said.

Rejecting the allegations, Satyanarayana maintained that leadership discussions after YSR's death were natural and that several senior leaders at the time had proposed Jagan's name. He said there were still witnesses who could testify to those developments.

The YSRCP leader further accused TDP ministers of holding frequent press conferences to make "baseless and inflammatory" statements instead of focusing on governance. "If you work well, people will support you. Let the public decide," he added.

Ayyanna calls for 33% youth quota in legislatures

HANS NEWS SERVICE VIJAYAWADA

ASSEMBLY Speaker Ch Ayyanna Patrudu said youth play an important role in shaping India's future. He was addressing the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association West Zone Meeting in Goa on Thursday.

Extending greetings to dignitaries including Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Deputy chairman of Rajya Sabha Harivansh Narayan Singh, Ayyanna Patrudu said that the central issue in achieving the vision of a developed India by 2047 lies in increasing youth participation in legislative bodies.

Citing statistics, he noted that only 11 per cent of members in the 18th Lok Sabha and 7 per cent in the Andhra Pradesh Assembly are below 40 years of age, despite the country's average age being around 32. This significant gap, he said, must be addressed to ensure better representation and inclusive policymaking.

He stressed that for youth to contribute meaningfully they must first enter politics and succeed in legislative roles. However, prevailing political practices, including disruptions in legislatures and lack of decorum, discourage young aspirants. He called for exemplary conduct



Assembly Speaker Ch Ayyanna Patrudu addressing

- Assembly Speaker stresses greater youth participation at Commonwealth Parliamentary Association West Zone Meeting, calling it key to achieving developed India vision by 2047
- Flags low representation: only 11% in Lok Sabha and 7% in AP Assembly are under 40, despite India's average age being around 32
- Proposes 33% reservation for under-40s in legislatures; urges better political conduct and revival of student politics to attract young leaders

by elected representatives to restore faith in politics as a respectable profession.

Ayyanna Patrudu also pointed out the decline of student politics, once a vital training ground for future leaders. Reflecting on his own journey, he credited NT Rama Rao for giving opportunities to young individuals without political backgrounds, enabling them to rise in public life.

He proposed a bold re-

form, reserving at least 33 per cent of legislative seats for individuals below 40 years on a rotational basis, similar to women's reservation. Such a step, he said, would infuse fresh energy, innovative ideas, and dynamism into governance.

He reiterated that without creating opportunities for youth, expecting their contribution to national development would remain unrealistic.

Drones Corpn to act as nodal agency for drone ops in AP

Unmanned aerial systems to be used in agriculture, logistics, surveillance, infrastructure and disaster management

HANS NEWS SERVICE VIJAYAWADA

THE state government has designated the AP Drones Corporation (APDC) as the exclusive nodal agency for all drone-related activities in Andhra Pradesh, centralising planning, execution and regulation under a single authority.

The decision aligns with the State's Drone Policy 4.0 (2024-29), which aims to expand the use of unmanned

aerial systems across sectors such as agriculture, logistics, surveillance, mapping, infrastructure monitoring and disaster management.

Under the new orders, all government departments, district administrations, public sector undertakings and local bodies must route their drone-related requirements through APDC at every stage, from project conceptualisation to implementation. The corporation will oversee vendor empan-

ment, technical evaluation, execution and operational coordination.

APDC will also act as the central procurement agency for drones and related services, ensuring standardisation and compliance with government procedures. It has been authorised to receive advance payments of up to 90 per cent of the estimated project cost from user departments for executing drone services.

In addition, the corporation will spearhead capacity-



building efforts by coordinating with DGCA-authorized Remote Pilot Training Organisations (RPTOs), academic institutions and other stakeholders to strengthen the drone ecosystem in the State.

APDC will also facilitate regulatory clearances by working closely with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and other authorities to ensure adherence to national drone rules and airspace regulations.

To support its operations, the government has approved a service charge structure: 5 per cent for projects below Rs 50 lakh, 3.75 per cent for projects between Rs 50 lakh and Rs 1 crore, and 2.5 per cent for projects above Rs 1 crore.

Officials said the move is expected to streamline drone adoption, improve efficiency in public service delivery and position Andhra Pradesh as a leader in drone-driven governance.

HANS NEWS SERVICE VIJAYAWADA

THE state government has approved the Request for Proposal (RFP) for developing inland waterways connectivity on the Krishna river linking Muktyala to Machilipatnam port, marking a major step towards strengthening multimodal transport infrastructure in the State.

The project will be executed under the Design-Build-Finance-Operate-Transfer (DBFOT) model through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP), aiming to unlock the potential of inland waterways for cargo, passenger, and tourism movement.

According to the AP In-

land Waterways Authority (APIWA), the proposed corridor spans 168 km, comprising an 82-km river stretch on the Krishna river — part of National Waterway-4 — and an 86-km canal stretch along the Bandar canal.

The proposal follows detailed feasibility studies conducted by WAPCOS, which assessed traffic potential, industrial demand, and infrastructure requirements, particularly for cargo movement such as cement transport

from Muktyala to Machilipatnam. The study recommended navigation using Class-III vessels, along with key interventions including a navigational lock at Prakasam barrage, repairs to existing lock gates, and removal of low-clearance bridges.

The state government's decision comes after stakeholder consultations held in June 2025, where representatives from the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), government agencies, and

industry participants emphasized the need to develop waterways as an alternative, cost-effective transport mode.

Following this, APIWA floated an Expression of Interest (EoI), which indicated strong market demand for port connectivity through inland waterways, especially in view of Andhra Pradesh's expanding port ecosystem, including operational ports at Kakinada and upcoming greenfield ports at Machilipatnam, Mulapeta, and Ramaya-

patnam. The RFP has already been cleared by the Tender Evaluation Committee and EPC Committee in February 2026. With the government now formally approving the proposal, the project is set to move into the bidding stage. Officials said the initiative is expected to significantly reduce logistics costs, improve connectivity between hinterland industries and ports, and position Andhra Pradesh as a leader in inland water transport on the east coast.

TTD plans expansion of Srivari Seva, ranking system for sevaks

PRADEEP VENNELAKANTI TIRUPATI

TIRUMALA Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) executive officer M Ravichandra announced plans to expand the Srivari Seva programme and introduce a ranking system for Srivari Sevaks based on their performance, enabling them to serve in key areas of the temple, including the sanctum surroundings. Speaking to The Hans India, the EO said the initiative aims to strengthen volunteer services and improve pilgrim management across temples.

The EO said that, as sug-

- EO Ravichandra says higher-ranked volunteers may serve in key temple areas, including sanctum surroundings
- The Seva to be linked with nearly 27,000 temples under endowments dept
- Focus is on accommodation facilities for middle-class devotees in Tirumala

gested by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, the Srivari Sevak system will be expanded by linking it with nearly 27,000 temples under the endowments department.

Volunteers will be engaged in various services such as regulating pilgrim queues during special occasions, assisting devotees, and

even performing small services like preparing flower garlands.

Based on their dedication and performance, sevaks will be assigned ranks, and higher-ranked volunteers may be given opportunities to serve in important locations within the Tirumala temple.

Ravichandra also said



TTD executive officer M Ravichandra

TTD is focusing on improving accommodation facilities for middle-class devotees. At present, lodging options in Tirumala largely cater to upper, upper-middle, lower-income, and poor sections, while affordable rooms for the middle class are limited.

He clarified that no new buildings will be constructed on the hill, but old and dilapidated structures will be rebuilt and allocated to middle-class pilgrims at reasonable rents. Future expansion of accommodation facilities will mainly take place in Tirupati.

The EO stressed the need to ensure a smoother

darshan experience so that devotees get at least a few moments to pray before Lord Venkateswara. Currently, only 15 to 16 hours a day are available for darshan after accounting for daily rituals, and these rituals cannot be reduced as they follow Agama traditions.

However, changes may be considered in certain Arjitha Sevaks introduced mainly for revenue generation. Since TTD's financial position is stable, some paid services may be modified or conducted in seclusion so that darshan can continue during those periods, after consultations with Agama scholars

and Hindu religious heads.

Ravichandra further said TTD is studying pilgrim footfall patterns over the past decade to increase daily darshan capacity. By identifying days with lower crowd levels and issuing more tokens in Tirupati during less crowded periods on the hill, the number of devotees can be increased.

With the help of artificial intelligence technology, TTD aims to gradually raise the daily pilgrim count from the present 80,000 to 90,000 and eventually to one lakh devotees, while ensuring all decisions strictly follow Agama rules and regulations.



Nani's 'Aaya Sher' from 'The Paradise' sets new record; crosses 100 million views

NAURAL Star Nani's much-awaited film *The Paradise*, directed by Srikanth Odela, is already creating massive buzz even before its release. The film has been generating strong excitement with its glimpse, posters, and especially the first single "Aaya Sher," which has turned into a sensational chartbuster.

Composed by Rockstar Anirudh Ravichander, the high-energy track has captured the attention of audiences across platforms. Since its release, the song has been trending continuously on YouTube and social media, achieving an impressive milestone of over 101 million views. Notably, "Aaya Sher" has become the fastest song featuring Nani to cross the 100-million mark, making it a record-setting moment in the actor's career. It is also the first Nani song to reach this milestone even before the film's theatrical release.



A major factor behind the song's viral success is Nani's electrifying screen presence. His energetic dance moves, intense attitude, and catchy hook step quickly went viral, inspiring fans worldwide to recreate the steps. Instagram reels and YouTube dance covers featuring the track have further boosted its popularity.

Produced by Sudhakar Cherukuri under the SLV Cinemas banner, *The Paradise* is slated for a worldwide theatrical release on August 21, with expectations continuing to rise.

The makers also ensured that the song matched its musical energy visually. A massive slum set was specially constructed for the shoot, giving the sequence a raw and grand cinematic feel.

INCA announces first awards winners; Naga Chaitanya, Mirai and Anil Ravipudi shine

THE Indian National Cine Academy (INCA) has officially announced the winners of its first-ever INCA Awards, recognizing outstanding achievements across Indian cinema. Representing twelve languages and twelve film industries, the academy revealed winners in 25 categories, celebrating excellence among actors, filmmakers, and technicians.

In the Telugu category, Naga Chaitanya won Best Actor for his performance in *Thandel*, while Mirai Super Yodha, produced by People Media Factory, was named Best Telugu Film. Popular filmmaker Anil Ravipudi secured the Best Director award for *Sankranthiki Vasthunnam*.

Among the Hindi winners, Ranveer Singh



took home Best Actor for *Dhurandhar*, while Chhaava, produced by Dinesh Vijan and Maddock Films, won Best Film. Meanwhile, Kannada cinema dominated with *Kantara: A Legend - Chapter 1*, earning multiple honours including Best Actor and Best Director for



Rishab Shetty. The awards also recognised technical achievements such as cinematography, music, editing, choreography, and production design. Winners were chosen by a distinguished jury comprising experienced members from the Indian



film industry. The inaugural INCA Awards ceremony will be held on April 16 in Mumbai, where leading directors, actors, technicians, and producers from across India are expected to attend. The event is set to become a significant annual platform

celebrating the diversity and creative excellence of Indian cinema. The INCA Awards aim to create a comprehensive national platform celebrating talent across multiple regional industries, reflecting the diversity and creative strength of Indian cinema.

'Sarkar Bai' launched with grand pooja ceremony

THE upcoming Telugu film *Sarkar Bai*, set against a Telangana social backdrop, was formally launched with a grand pooja ceremony at the Secunderabad Ganesh Temple in Hyderabad.



The film features Sriram Nirmala and Sai Keerthana in the lead roles and is being directed by Lara. During the muhurtham ceremony, producer Tummalapalli Prafull Ram Reddy switched on the camera, while director Lara directed the first shot. Telangana Income Tax officer Dasya Nayak gave the ceremonial clap for the muhurtham scene, and guests extended their best wishes to the film's team.

Speaking at the event, director Lara revealed that the film is inspired by real

incidents from 1985, focusing on issues such as water disputes and caste discrimination. She said the story reflects the struggles and realities of people and aims to highlight socially relevant themes.

The film also features actors Baahubali Prabhakar, Naga Mahesh, Dil Ramesh, Chalaki Chanti, Chittibabu, Shivani Reddy and Nupur Mukherjee in key roles.

Filmmaker Prem Raj, who attended the event, encouraged audiences to support films rooted in Telangana culture. The makers announced that the remaining cast will be finalized soon and shooting is expected to begin later this month.

'Diamond Decoyit' set for release; special free shows announced for women

THE much-talked-about Telugu family emotional drama *Diamond Decoyit* is gearing up for a grand theatrical release across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana on April 10. Ahead of the release, the film's pre-release event was held at the Telugu Film Chamber of Commerce, where the team shared key details about the project.

One of the major highlights announced by the makers is a special initiative for women audiences. The team revealed that four shows of the film will be screened free of cost for women in theatres across the Telugu states, inviting them to watch the movie in large numbers.

The film features Partha Gopal as the lead actor, who has also produced the project, while Meghana Reddy plays the female lead. Directed by Surya G. Yadav, the movie is described as a family emotional drama filled with strong sentiments and heartfelt moments. The makers believe the film's powerful climax will leave a lasting impact on audiences.



The promotional content has already received encouraging responses. Veteran filmmaker K. Raghavendra Rao appreciated the trailer after watching it, and several film personalities who attended preview screenings reportedly praised the film.

Another notable aspect is that the movie was shot across more than 60 picturesque locations in Kadapa district, offering fresh visuals. With its emotional narrative and family-oriented theme, the team is confident the film will connect with audiences of all age groups.

ARJUN AMBATI'S 'PARAMAPADA SOPANAM' LOCKS APRIL 24 RELEASE DATE

ACTOR Arjun Ambati, who gained recognition with diverse films like *Ardhanari*, *Theppa Samudram*, and *Wedding Diaries*, is gearing up for the release of his latest film *Paramapada Sopanam*. The actor, who also became popular among family audiences through the reality show *Bigg Boss*, is currently playing a key role in Ram Charan's upcoming pan-India film *Peddi*.

In *Paramapada Sopanam*, Arjun Ambati plays the lead role alongside actress Jennifer Emmanuel. The film is presented by Ganaparthi Swetha and produced under the Swayambhu Creations banner by Ganaparthi Narayana Rao and Telaprolu Prasanna Anjaneyulu, with Pulagam Supriya serving as co-producer.

The film is written and directed by Naga Siva, a former assistant director to Puri Jagannadh. He has also handled the story, screenplay, and dialogues, crafting the film as an engaging entertainer aimed at appealing to audiences across dif-



ferent sections. Music for the film is composed by Davzand, who previously gained recognition for his work in the film *Eagle*. As part of the promotions, lyrical songs like "Chinni Chinni Tappulevo" and "Boom Boom," along with the teaser, have received a positive response from audiences.

With post-production work now completed, the makers have officially announced that *Paramapada Sopanam* will hit theatres on April 24. The recently released poster featuring Arjun Ambati in an intense look has also garnered considerable attention online.



Priyanka Mohan captivates with striking photoshoot

ACTRESS Priyanka Mohan made a strong impression in Tamil cinema with her breakout performance in *Doctor* alongside Sivakarthikeyan. The film became a massive success, and Priyanka's charm, natural acting, and confident screen presence quickly won over audiences. With such a powerful debut, many expected the young actress to rapidly rise as one of the leading faces of South Indian cinema.

However, after the success of *Doctor*, Priyanka has been waiting for another major project that can match the scale and impact of her debut. Although she has continued to appear in several films, fans believe she deserves a stronger, more impactful role that can fully showcase her talent and bring her back into the spotlight in a big way.

Despite the wait for a major blockbuster, Priyanka is keeping the spotlight firmly on herself through her growing presence on social media. The actress recently grabbed attention with a striking new photoshoot that quickly went viral online.

In the pictures, Priyanka dazzles in a stylish black embellished spaghetti-strap midi dress paired with a flowing pink organza cape and elegant black heels. Her smoky eye makeup, confident posture, and graceful presence have impressed fans, who flooded the comments section with praise.

The glamorous look has once again reminded audiences of her strong screen appeal and star potential. While fans continue to wait for her next big film announcement, Priyanka Mohan's latest photos prove that she remains a captivating presence both on and off the screen.

Thiruveer, Aishwarya Rajesh's 'Oh..! Sukumari' wraps filming

YOUNG actor Thiruveer and talented actress Aishwarya Rajesh have teamed up for the upcoming village-based entertainer *Oh..! Sukumari*, which has now completed its entire shooting schedule. The film is directed by debutant Bharath Darshan and produced by Maheshwara Reddy Mooli under the Ganga Entertainment banner.

Both Thiruveer and Aishwarya Rajesh are currently riding high on the success of their previous films, and their collaboration has already generated considerable interest among audiences. The film

marks the second project from Ganga Entertainment's after the critically acclaimed *Shivam Bhaje*. Earlier released first-look posters received a positive response, raising expectations around the film.

To celebrate the completion of the shoot, the makers shared a special photograph featuring Thiruveer and the entire team, capturing a cheerful moment as they marked the milestone together.

The film boasts a strong technical crew. Cinematographer C.H. Kushender, known for his work in *Razakar* and *Polimera*, is handling the

camera. Music for the film is composed by Bharath Manchiraju, a disciple of legendary composer M. M. Keeravani. Tirumala M. Tirupati of Balagam fame serves as the art director, while Sri Varaprasad is the editor. Costume design is handled by Anu Reddy Akkati, and popular lyricist Poornachari has penned the songs.

The makers have also announced that *Oh..! Sukumari* will release in multiple languages including Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, and Hindi, aiming to reach a wider audience across India.

