



No Delimitation Without Consensus

CM Tells PM



Hyderabad: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Tuesday wrote separate letters to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and five Chief Ministers from southern India — N. Chandrababu Naidu (Andhra Pradesh), M.K. Stalin (Tamil

Nadu), Siddaramaiah (Karnataka), Pinarayi Vijayan (Kerala) and Rangasamy (Puducherry) — proposing a hybrid model for increasing the Lok Sabha seats. In his letter, Revanth Reddy suggested that half of the proposed increase in the Lok Sabha seats be allocated on a pro rata basis and the remaining half be allotted based on the economic contribution of states, such as Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) and other performance indicators. In his letter to the Prime Minister, Revanth Reddy urged the Centre to build a national political consensus on the proposed increase in Lok Sabha seats, while separating the issues of

women's reservation and delimitation. He said the proposal to increase Lok Sabha seats to 850 on a pro rata population basis was the core contentious issue, warning that such a move could disturb the federal balance and politically disadvantage southern states. He informed Modi that the Congress fully supports the immediate implementation of 33 per cent reservation for women in the existing 543 Lok Sabha seats and state Assemblies, without linking it to any increase in the number of seats. Revanth Reddy noted that delimitation can be carried out as done in the past by re-drawing constituency boundaries without altering the total number of seats. He recalled that leaders like Indira Gandhi and Atal Bihari Vajpayee had deferred delimitation for national integration.

Kishan Reddy junks Revanth's hybrid model for delimitation

In a sharp rebuttal to Congress's criticism, Union Minister G Kishan Reddy reaffirmed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government's commitment to amending and swiftly implementing the Women's Reservation Bill, emphasizing that the move enjoys broad public support. Addressing the media in the national capital on Tuesday, he highlighted its inclusive approach, stating that amendments to the Bill would be introduced with everyone's cooperation to ensure equitable representation of women across the country. Refuting the allegations leveled by Congress and CM A Revanth Reddy.

Ambedkar Ensured Equal Rights to All Through Constitution



Hyderabad: Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Tuesday said that B.R. Ambedkar ensured equal rights for every citizen through the Constitution and laid the foundation for a democratic and just society.

He was speaking after participating in the Ambedkar Jayanti celebrations at the 125-ft Ambedkar statue at Necklace Road. Bhatti Vikramarka said it was a matter of great fortune that Dr Ambedkar was born in India, describ-

ing him as a man of extraordinary talent and immense knowledge. He noted that Ambedkar was a visionary who framed the Indian Constitution, establishing India as the world's largest democracy and empowering citizens with the right to vote, thereby making them active participants in governance. Highlighting Ambedkar's contributions to women's empowerment, Bhatti Vikramarka said he was a pioneer in ensuring rights for women through constitutional provisions and was among the first to address gender discrimination.

BJP Slams Congress on Ambedkar, Women Quota

Hyderabad: BJP state president N. Ramchander Rao vehemently refuted Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy claims that delimitation would fuel inequalities between southern and northern states. Addressing the media at the state party office after paying floral tributes on Dr B.R. Ambedkar's birth anniversary, Rao strongly condemned the Congress' false propaganda on delimitation and the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam (women's reservation bill).

CM Slams Jeevan Reddy For 'Betrayal'



Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy held a crucial meeting with senior leaders and party functionaries here on Tuesday to boost the

morale of Congressmen following the exit of veteran leader T. Jeevan Reddy from the party. During the meeting held at the CM's residence in Jubilee Hills, Revanth Reddy urged the cadre to remain resilient. "The Congress party's strength lies in its workers rather than in any single individual," he asserted. The meeting was attended by ministers Tummala Nageswara Rao and Adluri Laxman Kumar, MP Vem Narendar Reddy, MLA Sanjay Kumar and Jagtial DCC president Nandaiah, among others. Revanth Reddy expressed disappointment over Jeevan Reddy's shift to the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS). He noted that the Congress had consistently honoured the veteran leader.



Trump's 40-Minute Call to Modi No Musk This Time

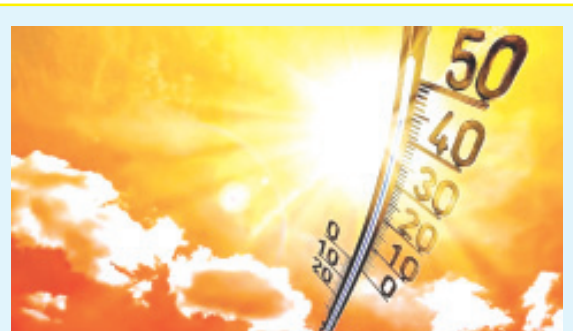
Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is on very good terms with United States president Donald Trump and the two of them had a very long telephonic conversation a few minutes back. According to the latest developments, this telephonic conversation between the two global leaders went on for 40 minutes, which happened to be a highly diplomatic exchange of knowledge. The primary point of discussion is obviously the ongoing conflict in the Middle East as Trump could have briefed Modi on the plan of action that is going to be implemented. Prime Minister Modi shared further details about this conversation on social media as he wrote "Received a call from my friend President Donald Trump. We reviewed the substantial progress achieved in our bilateral cooperation in various sectors. We are committed to further strengthening our Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership in all areas. We also discussed the situation in West Asia and stressed the importance of keeping the Strait of Hormuz open and secure." It is being established in principal that the United States and India have agreed on multiple energy generation agreements and possible trade deals as well. More than the contents of this conversation, the timing of the same is grabbing the attention as US is blockading Strait Of Hormuz and refusing other country vessels, including Iran. The last time, Prime Minister Modi and Trump had a conversation on the phone, it was reported that multi billionaire Elon Musk was also on the call. And now, considering the gravity of this conversation today, people are calculating if Musk was a part of the conversation today as well.

Ponnam Asks RTC Unions To Drop Strike Call



Hyderabad: Transport minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Tuesday appealed to employees of Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) to withdraw their decision to go on a strike from April 22 and resolve issues through dialogue. Speaking to media persons, the minister said the government was open to discussions with employees on all

issues except the merger of RTC with the state government and matters related to trade unions, which he said fall under its purview. Our doors remain open for RTC employees to voice their grievances. Anyone is welcome to come and present their issues. A committee is already working on the RTC merger issue," the minister said.



Hyderabad Crosses 40°C For First Time In April

HYDERABAD: Heat conditions worsened across Telangana on Tuesday, with several districts recording temperatures above 43°C and Hyderabad continuing to stay over the 40°C mark, now accompanied by warmer nights. According to Telangana State Development Planning Society (TSDPS), the highest temperature was 43.5°C at Adavi Devula Palli in Nalgonda district. Jagtial followed at 43.4°C, while Nirmal and Nizamabad touched 43.3°C. Adilabad, Karimnagar, Mancherla and Kamareddy reported between 42.8°C and 43.2°C, showing a steady rise across north and central Telangana. Hyderabad recorded 40.9°C at Saidabad, with Begumpet, Mehdiapatnam and Jubilee Hills around 40.8°C.

Pocharam Srinivas set to lift veil soon; plans ghar wapsi to BRS like Gudem

Hyderabad: Speculation is mounting in Telangana political circles over whether Government Advisor (Agriculture) and turncoat BRS MLA Pocharam Srinivas Reddy will follow the path of Patancheru MLA Gudem Mahipal Reddy and return to the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS). The discussion gains significance in light of Mahipal Reddy's recent political move. After briefly joining the Congress, he returned to the BRS and went on to ensure the party's victory in municipal elections in his constituency, later admitting that shifting allegiance to Congress had been a mistake.

Thursday, April 16, 2026

A Garden of Expression : Cultivating Community Through Art

(On the occasion of "World Art Day" on 15 April)

The power of art to bring people together, to inspire, heal, and share, has become increasingly clear during recent conflicts and crises, in addition to, COVID-19 pandemic. Art is a universal language the transcends borders, connects people across cultures, and helps us express our emotions, thoughts, and ideas. Art education has been shown to have numerous benefits, including improving cognitive skills, enhancing visual learning, and promoting self-esteem and confidence. Art therapy has been used to help people cope with trauma, anxiety, and other mental health issues. Art is also a powerful tool to foster creativity and innovation in fields like science, technology, and business. "Importance of World Art Day :"

Each year, on 15 April, World Art Day celebrations help reinforce the links between artistic creations and society, encourage greater awareness of the diversity of artistic expressions and highlight the contribution of artists to sustainable development. Art nurtures creativity, innovation, and cultural diversity for all peoples across the globe and plays an important role in shaping knowledge and encouraging curiosity and dialogue. These are qualities that art has always have if we continue to support environments where artists and artistic freedom are protected and presented, furthering the development of art also furthers our means to achieve a free and peaceful world.

"Theme of World Art Day-2026:" The UNESCO General Body proclaimed in 2019 to observe 15 April annually as "World Art Day" to promote the development, diffusion and enjoyment of art. This day is a timely reminder that art can unite and connect us in the most difficult of circumstances. The theme of 2026 World Art Day is "A Garden of Expression : Cultivating Community Through Art" focusing on how art can nurture creativity, build connections, and foster a sense of community. Art can be architecture, music, painting, sculpting, dance, cinema or literature.

Some of the ideas for commemorating World Art Day are visiting local art exhibitions/museums, creating our own art, attending workshops or art classes, supporting artists, and hosting an art night. Let's promote artists, encourage youth and children to practice art of his or her choice to serve visual and/or audio enjoyment and mental well-being.

Dr Burra Madhusudhan Reddy

TG Mahila Congress questions Centre's 'intent' on women's quota

Telangana State Mahila Congress President Errabelli Swarna has accused the BJP-led Central government of using the Women's Reservation Bill for political gain and demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi apologise to the nation. Health articles Speaking at a press conference at Gandhi Bhavan, Swarna alleged that the BJP government has been misleading the public since coming to power and is projecting a false commitment to women's empowerment ahead of upcoming elections in states such as Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. Politics She said discussions on women's reservation have been ongoing in Parliament for nearly four decades, recalling that initial efforts were made



during the tenure of late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. She added that a parliamentary committee was earlier constituted under senior Congress leader Margaret Alva to study the proposal. Swarna noted that the Women's Reservation Bill was passed in the Rajya Sabha in 2010 during the UPA government led by Dr Manmohan Singh, and was later reintroduced in 2013 following the initiative of Congress leader Sonia Gandhi, though it did not progress further. She alleged that under the current framework, implementation of women's reservation could be delayed until after 2034 due to its linkage with the Census.

Seethakka Sends Legal Notice to KCR Over Phone Procurement Claims

Warangal: Panchayat Raj minister Danasari 'Seethakka' Anasuya issued a legal notice to Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) president K. Chandrashekar Rao, demanding an apology for allegedly defamatory posts shared by his party on its official social media handles on the procurement of mobile phones for Anganwadi workers. The notice, sent via registered post by the minister's advocate Naguluri Krishna Kumar, called the BRS claims "baseless allegations" and clarified that the procurement was managed by Telangana Technology Services Limited (TGTSL) through a transparent process. She said the contract was awarded based on the decisions of a professional tender evaluation committee, and she had no personal involvement in the selection of the contractor. She also highlighted the absurdity of the claims made by the BRS social media wing, which alleged a scam worth Rs 30 crore. Seethakka pointed out that the total value of the tender was only Rs 44 crore, making the allegation of Rs 30 crore in corruption mathematically impossible and factually unfounded. She described the campaign as a deliberate conspiracy intended to damage her reputation and mislead the public. The notice held Chandrashekar Rao responsible for the "misinformation" spread by his party's official channels and demanded the immediate removal of the offensive posts within 48



hours. Furthermore, the minister sought a formal apology from the BRS chief. Failure to comply with these demands would result in the initiation of both civil and criminal legal proceedings against the BRS leadership, the notice warned.

Sripada Rao Death Anniversary Observed In Manthani; Leaders Pay Tributes, Statue Unveiled

KARIMNAGAR: IT minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu, along with other leaders, paid floral tributes to the statue of former Assembly Speaker Duddilla Sripada Rao on his death anniversary at Manthani in Peddapalli district on Monday. As part of the programme, a bronze statue of Sripada Rao installed at Sripada Colony was unveiled by Welfare Minister Adhuri Laxman Kumar, Government Whip Chinthakunta Vijaya Ramana Rao and MLA Makkani Singh Raj Thakur. The leaders offered garlands and recalled Sripada Rao's services to the people. Speaking on the occasion, Government Whip



Vijaya Ramana Rao described Sripada Rao as a symbol of dignity and values in the politics of united Andhra Pradesh. He said Minister Sridhar Babu was continuing his father's legacy and had played a key role in securing development funds for the Manthani region. Leaders recalled April 13, 1999, as the day

Sripada Rao lost his life in violence. They said, as per the orders of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, the state government would officially organise his birth and death anniversaries henceforth to preserve his legacy. A large number of public representatives, Congress leaders, party workers and supporters participated in the programme.

Cop dies after being run over by police vehicle in Sangareddy, row erupts



Sangareddy: Controversy erupted over the death of a police officer, who was run over by a police vehicle driven by a home guard on the premises of Manoor police station on Monday night. The deceased officer Govinda Nayak, who is an Assistant Sub-Inspector working in the same police station was hit by a police vehicle driven by home guard Rama Rao. Nayak sustained serious injured in the incident and died while undergoing treatment at a hospital in Narayankhed. Copntroversy erupted after the police officers's family members accused the home guard of intentionally running over Govind Nayak. They termed it as murder. Rama Rao fled from the scene after the incident. The police registered a case and the probe was on.

Centre Plans Ban on Cough Syrups For Infants

HYDERABAD: In response to growing safety concerns, the Union ministry of health is considering stricter regulations on cough syrups for children, with a proposal to ban prescriptions for those under two years and restrict use below five. The proposal is part of the draft National Formulary of India 2026 prepared by the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission. The draft states that cough and cold medications should not be prescribed or dispensed to children under two years, and are generally not recommended for those below five. Any use above that age must follow careful clinical evaluation, close supervision, strict dosing, and avoidance of multiple drug combinations. The move follows global and national concerns over the safety and efficacy of cough syrups in young children. Experts note that most acute cough illnesses are self-limiting and can be managed with hydration and rest rather than medication. Paediatricians have expressed mixed views. While many support restrictions, some argue syrups may be needed in severe cases. "We avoid prescribing cough syrups to children under one year, and now the restriction is extended to two years and limited up to five."

Bandi Sanjay reaffirms loyalty to BJP, criticises CM Revanth Reddy

Karimnagar: Union minister of state for home affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Monday said he would remain in the BJP throughout his life, responding to remarks made by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy is suggesting possible political shifts. In a statement, the Union minister said his commitment to the party was permanent and that he wished to be associated with the BJP "till his final breath", adding that his political identity was rooted in Karimnagar. He said the comments attributed to the Chief Minister were aimed at questioning his political future, and rejected the comparison with leaders who had shifted constituencies or parties. He stated that he was not an opportunist and reiterated his loyalty to his constituency and party. The Union minister also criticised the Chief Minister on the issue of seat delimitation, alleging that the Congress was following a "divide and rule" approach. He questioned whether political representation should be linked to economic status instead of constitutional principles. He further said that



backward districts should not be ignored in favour of developed urban centres, and added that the Constitution of D. B.R. Ambedkar guarantees equal representation to all citizens irrespective of economic background.



Hyderabad Voice

Thursday, April 16, 2026

CM proposes hybrid model for increasing LS seats

Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Monday, April 13, proposed a hybrid model for the upcoming delimitation of Lok Sabha seats, suggesting that 50 per cent of the increase be allocated on a pro-rata basis and the remaining 50 per cent based on each state's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). He warned that increasing Lok Sabha seats based only on population would lead to inequalities between the southern and northern states, which he predicted would lead to a major disaster in the long term. Addressing the media at Dr BR Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat in Hyderabad, Revanth Reddy explained that the Centre was proposing to increase the number of Lok Sabha seats by 50 per cent of the total 543 seats at present. This means around 272 new



seats would be added. The Chief Minister said that if the exercise is done on a pro-rata basis, the southern states, which currently have 130 seats, will get 195 seats, and the northern states, which have 411 seats, will grow to 621 seats, giving an undue advantage of 280 seats. Through his hybrid model, Revanth Reddy suggested taking the

data of 10 or 25 years of economic index to arrive at the number of seats to states based on their GSDP contributions – the pro-rata 50 per cent increase in seats. To support his argument, he pointed out the Supreme Court's orders that had put a cap of 50 per cent on giving reservations in education, jobs and local bodies, leaving the rest for

merit. "When 50 per cent reservation is given on merit, why can't it be replicated in increasing Lok Sabha seats to reward states based on their contribution to the nation's economy," he asked. "We (states) are tired of paying taxes and then saying salaam in Delhi," he asserted. The CM also suggested giving the southern states an increased number of Lok Sabha seats as a special case, like in the Northeastern states and Union Territories, where the number of seats has not been arrived at based on their population. He strongly objected to what he called the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) attempt to club women's reservation, delimitation and increase of Lok Sabha seats, and to push through the exercise in haste without building a consensus.



Empowering The Community: Transgender Traffic Cops Receive Uniforms In Push For Inclusion

Hyderabad: City police commissioner V.C. Sajjanar distributed 40 uniform kits to transgender police personnel, marking a symbolic moment of inclusion within the Telangana police. The event was organised by Radhika Charitable Trust (RCT) on Monday. Sajjanar said he had worked with the trust as Cyberabad commissioner. He noted 38 transgender personnel

were managing traffic duties on city roads. "Leading life as a transgender person is not easy. Yet for the past two years they have been performing their duties efficiently and with dedication," the commissioner said. He also mentioned one Shiny who was working with Deloitte. "We are looking forward to recruiting more transgender personnel in the near future," he said. Radhika

Reddy Tanguturu, founder of RCT, said the vent "Shakthi" was not just about distributing uniforms, it was about restoring confidence, building pride, and sending a strong message that every individual deserves respect, opportunity, and dignity. "Today, as transgender personnel proudly wear these uniforms, they carry not just a role, but a powerful symbol of change and acceptance."

Domestic Cylinders worth Rs.1.50 Cr Seized in Telangana

Hyderabad: The Telangana Civil Supplies Corporation is continuously monitoring to ensure that domestic consumers do not face any inconvenience in gas supply. Following directions from the Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and the State Civil Supplies Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy, officials are keeping strict surveillance and conducting surprise inspections against those illegally storing or diverting gas cylinders. To ensure that the supply process of domestic cylinders is carried out



on time as per regulations, bookings and deliveries are being checked daily with respective agencies through command control.

Centre Aims to Make India Self-reliant in Minerals Sector: Kishan Reddy

Hyderabad: Union Coal and Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy on Monday said that the Centre aims to reduce dependence on imports and make the country 'atma nirbhar' (self-reliant) in the minerals sector. Speaking at a roadshow organised by the Mines Ministry on the 7th Tranche Auction of critical mineral blocks and Tranche-2 Exploration Licence, he said the union government's top priorities are to make the country benefit from the mineral wealth and increase employment generation. I would like to say on behalf of the Centre. The government does not not work for revenue in the mineral sector. It takes major steps to make the country atma nirbhar in the mineral sector," he said. Observing that there are a lot of opportunities for extraction of critical minerals in urban mining and coal gasification in the future, he urged the private sector to work together with PSUs, state governments and others. Union Mines Secretary Piyush Goyal said during FY 2025-26, a record 212 mineral blocks were auctioned compared to 364 blocks auctioned in the previous four years combined, taking the total to 684 blocks since the introduction of the auction regime in 2015. In the critical mineral segment, 22 blocks were auctioned during the year. Thus, overall 71 critical mineral blocks have been auctioned so far, including 46 by the Centre and 25 by the state



governments. The 7th Tranche of critical and strategic mineral block auctions was launched on March 23, which comprises 19 blocks, 17 composite licence and two mining lease, he said.

Illegal LPG cylinder sales: Telangana govt warns of licence cancellation



Hyderabad: Commissioner of Civil Supplies M Stephen Raveendra issued a stern warning to Liquidified Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinder distributors against overcharging or deliberately delaying deliveries, saying if proven guilty, their licenses will be revoked and a criminal case will be initiated. At a review meeting with representatives from Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) and hotel associations, Commissioner Raveendra admitted there is a concerning rise in illegal supply and black marketing of commercial LPG cylinders and said that the department has a zero-tolerance policy. Officials observed that while overall supply and dispatch of commercial LPG from depots have increased, delivery in certain sectors continues to lag. The Commissioner urged hotel managements, industrial representatives, and distributor networks to cooperate with authorities.

Telangana Transport Minister Urges RTC Employees to Call Off Strike



Telangana Transport Minister Ponnabhadra Prabhakar has appealed to employees of the State Road Transport Corporation (RTC) to withdraw their planned strike, emphasising the importance of safe-

guarding public welfare and RTC services. Speaking in Hyderabad on Tuesday, Minister Prabhakar assured the public and RTC workers that the government is committed to resolving the issues faced by the employees through dialogue and negotiations. He invited staff to voice their concerns and clarified that matters such as the merger of the RTC and trade union recognition are under government consideration. He also highlighted that a committee established to oversee the RTC merger process is actively working. The decision to strike was announced on Monday by the RTC Joint Action Committee (JAC), which declared that bus operations would cease from midnight on 21 April, with the strike officially beginning early on 22 April if their demands were not addressed. The JAC held a meeting with senior officials from the Labour Department but stated that no RTC officials attended. They received a letter from the RTC management indicating that the issues raised by workers are within the government's jurisdiction.

High Court vs HYDRAA : What Is Happening ?

Revanth Reddy's brainchild HYDRAA, which is tasked with removing encroachments within Hyderabad city, has been inviting considerable public backlash because of its widespread demolition drives without giving any prior notices to the occupants. Hearing several petitions filed by its victims, the High Court has already pulled up its commissioner AV Ranganath many times and cautioned against its high-handedness. But, as the agency continues to raze structures what it feels as illegal constructions despite clear directives, the High Court has once again intervened on Monday while hearing a lunch motion petition filed by a resident of Ameenpur. The Court made scathing remarks in response to the petitions filed over the ongoing fencing of land parcels under the guise of removing encroachments. The Court further questioned the intent of the agency in acting against its orders and also lashed out at the commissioner for not showing the same urgency in saving the water bodies and lakes and instead acting on disputed lands without any SOPs. The Court came down heavily on the agency for acting beyond its powers and taking control of properties being sub-judice without the permission of Revenue department or the MAUD department. It further directed HYDRAA to submit if any permission or communication empowering such actions are given by anyone and also made it clear that unilateral intervention in disputed properties, especially those sub-judice, cannot be allowed to continue any further without its notice. The High Court has now passed interim orders refraining HYDRAA from carrying out immediate demolitions in the city and municipal areas, except in cases relating to removal of encroachments on river bodies, nallas and public roads. Justice B Vijay Sen Reddy clarified that, until proper procedural guidelines are placed on record, HYDRAA must not demolition internal roads, compound walls, or private structures. He insisted that an SOP or statutory guidelines need to be framed under the municipal laws for HYDRAA to involve in public roads and compound walls. The court, however, permitted the agency to continue restoration activities related to lakes and water bodies. So, HYDRAA has not been completely restrained but it is permitted to act with caution following the due procedure. Meanwhile, a fake order directing both CM Revanth Reddy and HYDRAA commissioner AV Ranganath to attend the Court in person has been making rounds on social media platforms. HYDRAA has immediately filed a cyber complaint on this matter and further investigation is currently on to find out the origin of the fraudulent document.

Newborn baby girl found abandoned beside railway tracks

Hyderabad: A newborn baby girl, barely a few days old, was found abandoned beside railway tracks in Nampally on Monday evening. According to the police, the infant was discovered by locals beside the tracks between Lakdikapul Railway Station and Khairatabad Railway Station. Unidentified persons reportedly left the infant under a bridge along the tracks and fled from the spot.

Will expedite development of agency areas, says Telangana CM



Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Monday, April 13, assured a delegation of tribal and girijan MLAs that the state government would take all necessary measures for the comprehensive development of agency areas, including expediting Forest Department clearances for infrastructure projects. The delegation, led by Minister of Women and

Child Welfare Seethakka, met the Chief Minister at his Jubilee Hills residence in Hyderabad and submitted a memorandum listing issues affecting basic amenities in tribal and agency areas. Revanth Reddy said the government would prioritise the construction of check dams in agency areas to meet drinking water and irrigation needs, and assured the legislators that for-

est department clearances for such projects would be obtained as quickly as possible. The Chief Minister also responded positively to demands for borewell drilling permissions on land cultivated by tribal farmers, and took note of complaints that road repairs were being delayed and new road approvals withheld due to forest department objections. He directed Forest Department officials to expedite decisions on pending cases. Revanth Reddy also said that he would consider increasing the quota of Indiramma houses in tribal and girijan areas, and announced that Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDA) would be strengthened to better serve tribal communities. Among those who met the Chief Minister were Khanapur MLA Vedma Bhojju, Pinapaka MLA Payam Venkateswarlu, and Mahabubabad MLA Dr Murali Naik.



Musi Project: Displaced Residents Demand Relocation Within Same Locality, Meet Deputy CM

HYDERABAD: Residents expected to be displaced from Madhu Park Ridge A Block has asked the government to treat them as partners in the Musi River rejuvenation project and demanded rehabilitation within the same locality, at their meeting with Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka here on Monday. A delegation of Block A residents met the Deputy CM at Praja Bhavan and submitted three proposals, seeking consideration on humanitarian grounds, while reiterating that they did not oppose the Musi development works. They said their primary concern was relocation within the same area so that their livelihoods are not disrupted. This was a meeting only with Block A residents to present their representation in a one-on-one discussion. We are expecting the same call for representatives of all other blocks," a resident said. Residents made it clear that distance is their main concern. "Our main concern remains the same. We want land or housing within the same circle, somewhere close by," the resident said, adding, "If we have a 1,500 sq ft flat, that is sufficient for us, but it has to be nearby. We work here and cannot shift 20 to 30 kilometers away." The Deputy CM assured them that all three proposals would be examined from a humanitarian perspective and that justice would be done. He directed MRDCL managing director E.V. Narasimha Reddy and Rangareddy district collector Narayana Reddy to review the submissions and place a report before the Musi Cabinet Subcommittee. Residents maintained that discussions with the government are ongoing and will support the project if compensated properly. Those who submitted the representation included Madhu Park Ridge A Block President Dr. K. Srisailam, Secretary Dr. Kareemulla, Advisor Sanjay Shukla, Legal Advisor Pratap Reddy, JAC member B.N. Reddy, Vice President Rambabu, and others.

Revenue Minister Hails Bhu Bharati As Historic Milestone



HYDERABAD: Revenue minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy on Monday said the state government was rebuilding the revenue administration system that had collapsed during the previous BRS regime, with the Bhu Bharati initiative emerging as a new direction for land governance. Reviewing the implementation of the landmark Bhu Bharati Act at the Secretariat ahead of its first anniversary on April 14, the minister described the reform as a historic milestone in Telangana's administrative history. He said the occasion marked not just the completion of one year of a law, but the beginning of a new era in safeguarding land rights. The Act, introduced

on the birth anniversary of Dr B.R. Ambedkar last year, aims to ensure transparency, accountability and faster delivery of revenue services to citizens. Recalling the situation prior to the enactment of the law, the minister said that the 2020 ROR Act and the Dharani portal introduced by the previous BRS government had caused severe hardships to lakhs of people, forcing even rightful landowners to run from pillar to post to establish ownership. With a resolve to completely overhaul that system, the government replaced it with the integrated Bhu Bharati platform. Government integrated revenue, survey, and stamps and registration departments under one umbrella with technical support from the National Informatics Centre, and launched a pilot of the integrated portal in five mandals across five districts from April 2. Based on feedback, it will be expanded to one mandal per district next month. Highlighting its impact, Srinivas Reddy said the portal has recorded over 5.2 crore visits within a year, with around 67 lakh users logging in. The minister said each survey number will be assigned a unique 'Bhudhaar' number to ensure permanent resolution of land disputes. He noted that of the 378 villages without maps since the Nizam era.

Bike Crash Near Flyover Kills One

HYDERABAD: A 25-year-old man died and another was critically injured in a bike accident near the PJR Flyover, Gachibowli, in the early hours of Monday. Police identified the deceased as Vikas Kumar Nepal, a private employee from Puppala guda. The injured, Bharath Kumar, is undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Hitech City and remains in critical condition. The incident occurred around 4 am when complainant Pilli Kalyan, of Hafeezpet, and friends were returning from Nanakramguda after failing to find a tiffin spot. The group was travelling on two bikes. According to police, Bharath Kumar lost control of his bike due to rash and negligent driving.

Warangal RO Sub-Registrar Suspended After ACB Raids Expose Alleged Irregularities

WARANGAL: Warangal Registration Office (RO) sub-registrar-I Jamalapuri Ramanarsimha Rao has been placed under suspension following allegations of corruption, according to official orders issued by the special secretary (Registration and Stamps) and in-charge commissioner Rajeev Gandhi Hanumanthu. The action follows Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) raids conducted on April 3 at the Warangal RO office. During the searches, officials reportedly found evidence of illegal registrations and disproportionate assets. Sub-registrar-II Anand had already been suspended earlier in connection with the same case. The latest suspension of Ramanarsimha Rao was taken based on a report submitted by the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Subhashini. Although the disciplinary action was finalised on April 10, formal orders were delayed due to intervening holidays. Official sources said the investigation also revealed suspected online transactions amounting to ₹43 lakh between the two sub-registrars. The inquiry is continuing to ascertain whether more officials were involved in the alleged irregular registration network.

Pocharam Slams Party, Stages Reservoir Protest



Hyderabad: Former agriculture minister and Banswada MLA Pocharam Srinivas Reddy expressed strong displeasure over alleged ill-treatment with in the party. A video clip that surfaced on social media on Monday shows him venting his anger while speaking to a police official, asking to be left alone at the Siddapur Reservoir site in Varni, citing risks from wildlife. Srinivas Reddy staged a night-long protest at the reservoir to highlight the government's failure to clear pending bills. During a

phone call, a local police officer urged him to leave the spot, warning it was unsafe. "I came here as a last resort, whatever may be the consequences. This is the first time I am witnessing this type of attitude towards an MLA. When I was a minister I used to pick up calls even at 1 am. Now they don't even answer the calls of MLAs. We will stay put in this forest, risking everything," he said, surrounded by supporters and villagers. In the video, after ending the call, he told his supporters

that he had taken the step after being fed up with apathy. "Should I bow down, at this age," he remarked in response to their requests. Pocharam claimed he had repeatedly brought the issue of the Siddapur Reservoir Project to the notice of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, but received no response. He said construction had stalled because bills were not sanctioned in time, forcing contractors to withdraw. The Siddapur reservoir is a major irrigation project in Varni mandal, designed to provide water for approximately 10,000 acres. In March 2026, Pocharam inaugurated several development works in Varni, and in November 2025 he released free fish seedlings into Varni Lake under a state subsidy programme.

Mahesh Goud vents ire over Pocharam's remarks on govt

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President B Mahesh Kumar Goud on Monday strongly countered remarks made by Government Advisor (Agriculture) and Banswada MLA Pocharam Srinivas Reddy regarding the functioning of the state government and its financial condition. Speaking to the media, Mahesh Kumar Goud said Pocharam Srinivas Reddy is aware of the state's financial difficulties and urged people to be patient, stating that the situation would improve in due course. He also launched a sharp attack on BRS working president KT Rama Rao, alleging that the previous BRS regime had admitted to "looting and high-handedness" in governance. He said that while political leaders are free to undertake padayatras, they should ensure that they speak truthfully to the public. The TPCC chief alleged that the BRS government had caused significant financial damage to the state over the past



decade. He further claimed that corruption in power procurement related to Singareni was extensive and could not be concealed. Mahesh Kumar Goud also remarked that even if the BJP and BRS were to come together politically, it would not impact the Congress party. He stated that the Congress remains confident of its position in the state and faces no strong opposition. He dismissed speculation around internal political links, questioning any association with leaders like Kavitha, and said that internal issues within other parties should not be linked to Congress.

Thursday, April 16, 2026



Sayonara, Asha Tai: Legendary singer cremated with full State honours at Mumbai's Shivaji Park

MUMBAI: The curtains fell on a golden era of Indian music as the legendary playback singer Asha Bhosle was cremated with full State honours on Monday at Mumbai's iconic Shivaji Park. 'Asha Tai', as she was affectionately known, passed away on Sunday, April 12, at the age of 92 due to multi-organ failure following a cardiac arrest. She had been admitted to Breach Candy Hospital a day earlier as she was suffering from extreme exhaustion and a chest infection. The Maharashtra government accorded the veteran singer a State funeral, a tribute reserved for those who have made monumental contributions to the nation. The ceremony mirrored the farewell given to her elder sister, the late Lata Mangeshkar, at the same historic ground. Her mortal remains were kept at her residence in Lower Parel, from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm to allow fans and celebrities to pay their last respects.

Thousands of emotional fans lined the streets of Mumbai as the funeral procession made its way to Dadar. At around 5 pm, amid a somber atmosphere, she was cremated with a 21-gun salute and a guard of honour by the Maharashtra Police. Political leaders including Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy Chief Ministers Eknath Shinde and Sunetra Pawar, Ministers Chhagan Bhujbal, Ashish Shelar, Bharat Gogawale, Sanjay Shirsat, MNS chief Raj Thackeray and Shiv Sena UBT MP Anil Desai, were among those who were present at the funeral to pay their final respects. Further, Bollywood superstars including Amir Khan also attended the cremation. They expressed their profound grief over the loss of the "most versatile voice" in music history. "Deeply saddened by the passing of Asha Bhosle Ji. Her extraordinary musical journey, spanning decades, enriched our cultural heritage and touched countless hearts across the world," said Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his condolence message.

From the film industry, stars including Shah Rukh Khan, AR Rahman, and Hema Malini shared heartfelt tributes, describing her as an "irreplaceable pillar" of Indian cinema. With a career spanning over eight decades, Asha Bhosle's statistics are as staggering as her talent. Recognised by the Guinness World Records as the most recorded artist in music history, with over 12,000 songs, she mastered everything, from classical ghazals and soulful melodies like 'Dil Cheez Kya Hai' to high-energy pop hits like 'Dum Maro Dum'. She was also a recipient of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, Padma Vibhushan, and two National Film Awards. The void left by Asha Bhosle's passing is immense, but as her fans often say, she will live forever through the timeless magic of her voice.

Maoist Leader Killed In Chhattisgarh Encounter

HYDERABAD: Senior Maoist leader Rangaboina Bhagya alias Rup, carrying a reward of Rs 25 lakh, was allegedly killed in an encounter with security forces in Kanker district of Chhattisgarh during a combing operation, police said on Monday. Rup was named in the list of most active Maoists released by the Telangana government recently, and Director-General of Police B. Shivadhar Reddy had called for her to surrender. Rup, a native of Dharmaram in Siddipet district of Telangana, was the wife of Maoist leader Vijay Reddy, who was killed in an encounter last year. The encounter came 12 days after the Chhattisgarh government had declared the state free of armed Maoists on March 31. According to police, the exchange of fire took place in the early hours in Machupalli-Ramjhora-Hindur forest under the Chhote Baitiya police station limits following specific intelligence inputs about Maoist presence in the area. Security forces opened fire in self-defence during a fierce gunfight with a group of more than 12 Maoists, in which Rup was killed. Sources said at least 11 Maoists managed to escape into the Machpally forest and the surrounding areas. Additional forces were deployed, and search operations intensified in the region. Security personnel seized automatic weapons and Maoist literature from the encounter site. Bastar Range inspector-general Sunderraj P. said Maoists should surrender, warning that their time in the forests was "very short".



Perni Tries Too Hard To Defend Jagan, Pokes 3 Cities?



Former CM YS Jagan has made it a habit to change the capital proposals for Andhra Pradesh. First, it was three capitals proposal, including Vizag, Kurnool and Amaravati. And now it is Machilipatnam, Vijayawada and Guntur - MAVIGUN. Shortly after this announcement was made by Jagan, there was a round of public backlash and social media trolls. As a trigger response to this, the YSR Congress ecosystem has been doing everything in their effort to defend Jagan. This has now prompted Perni Nani to come up with a rather provocative comment, dragging three capitals into the debate as he desperately tried to defend Jagan amid the ongoing social media troll fest. Nani said that NDA government is unable to comprehend the policy of Jagan through MAVIGUN as they don't have any valid reason to oppose this. "Immediately after Jagan proposed Machilipatnam, they panicked and added the region to the CRDA list. This was followed by a sentimental statement from Nani.

Wait For Women's Quota To End: PM

New Delhi: Ahead of the three-day sitting of Parliament to amend the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinayam from Thursday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the nation was close to creating a new history, when the women's reservation law will be amended this week for its implementation in 2029 and will fulfil the vision of the past and the resolutions of the future. Addressing the Nari Shakti Vandan programme at Vigyan Bhavan here, Modi described the moment as "historic" and said that the wait of decades, for reservations for women from the state Assemblies to Parliament, was coming to an end. Emphasising the importance of social justice, he stressed the country envisions an egalitarian India where social justice was not merely a slogan but an integral part of the work culture. Recalling the passage of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinayam in the new Parliament building in 2023, the PM noted that the measure was passed unanimously with all parties agreeing it should be implemented by 2029 in any case. Modi said the Act must be implemented in time so that women's participation strengthens democracy, for which a special session of Parliament's Budget Session will begin from April 16. "Our effort and priority is this work should be accomplished through dialogue, cooperation and participation, which will enhance the dignity of Parliament," he said. The PM observed that women across the country were voicing their aspira-



tions about reaching Assemblies and the Lok Sabha and their dreams have received new wings and a positive atmosphere has been created in the country. "I appeal to all women to maintain their active participation in this entire process and meet their MPs to share their perspectives and expectations," urged the Prime Minister. Tracing the contribution of women from the freedom struggle to the Constituent Assembly, the PM highlighted the immense role of "Nari Shakti" in laying the foundation of independent India, and women who got opportunities for representation have done outstanding work for the nation. He observed that even today, from the President to the finance minister, women are holding important positions. "From President to Prime Minister, wherever women have been, they have created their own legacy," Modi said. Citing panchayati raj institutions as an excellent example of women's leadership, the PM said today 14 lakh women were successfully working in local government bodies and in approximately 21 states, their

participation in panchayats has reached nearly 50 per cent. "This active participation of lakhs of women in politics and social life surprises even the world's leading leaders and political experts, enhancing India's pride," he remarked. Referring to various studies, the PM pointed out when women's participation in the decision-making processes increased, it brought sensitivity to systems. "This has led to more dedicated work on issues like water, education, health and nutrition. The success of Jal Jeevan Mission is an example where women's participation at the panchayat level has played a major role," Modi said. Emphasising that lakhs of women working in local bodies and institutions for years now possess extensive experience, the PM said that they were ready and eager for bigger roles and implementing the Nari Shakti Vandan Act would become a great opportunity in the lives of all such women. "The journey from panchayat to Parliament is going to become easier," affirmed the Prime Minister.

Anna Canteens See Record Footfall So Far

Chandrababu Naidu Government has restarted the Anna Canteens that were forced close in the previous Government. In Anna Canteens, they serve breakfast/lunch/dinner at just 5 Rupees. Currently, 207 of them are operational in Urban Areas and are serving 2.10 Lakh Meals daily. So far, 8.8 Crore people have availed the services of Anna Canteens. It will cost 54 Lakh Rupees per day.

Uttam Launches His Campaign in Tamil Nadu

Hyderabad: Irrigation minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy appealed to Tamil Nadu voters to beat back the BJP's attempts to make inroads into the state in the elections on April 23. Campaigning in Singanallur constituency near Coimbatore on Monday, on first day of his campaign in Tamil Nadu, the minister, flanked by local Congress and DMK workers, addressed a packed public meeting. In a pointed attack on the BJP-AIADMK alliance, Uttam Kumar Reddy declared that the two parties were competing to attack the secular fabric of Tamil Nadu. "BJP should not be allowed into the state," he said, while warning that any foothold gained by the saffron party would undermine the state's progressive ethos. Uttam Kumar Reddy mad



e a special mention of the DMK cadres, thanking them for their cooperation, coordination and seamless teamwork on several key issues. He reiterated the DMK-Congress alliance's ambitious election promises, urging voters to judge the alliance on its commitment to deliver tangible welfare. The minister reiterated that the promises would be fulfilled without fail. He said the DMK-Congress alliance would take up recruit of 10,000 women and they would be inducted into the state police forces strengthening law enforcement and women's empowerment.

Estd : 1996

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Education

VOICE OF WORDS

Thursday, April 16, 2026



DOST 2026 notification released, degree admissions from April 15

Hyderabad: The Telangana Council of Higher Education (TGCHE) on Monday released the Degree Online Services, Telangana (DOST) 2026 notification for admissions to conventional degree programmes for the academic year 2026-27. The three-phase admission process will begin with registrations open from April 15 to May 7. TGCHE Chairman Prof. V Balakista Reddy, who released the notification, said web options for allotment of a course and college can be exercised between April 30 and May 8. Verification of special category certificates will be done on May 7 and 8. The first phase seat allotment is scheduled for May 14 and students who got seats have to self-report online between May 15 and 23. Similarly, two more admission counselling will be done before commencement of classwork on July 1.

SSC Public Exam results 2026 likely in first week of May



Hyderabad: Results of the SSC Public Examinations 2026, which concluded with major subjects on Monday, will be declared in the first week of May. The Directorate of Government Examinations (DGE) that holds the Class X exams has already concluded Telugu, Hindi, English and Mathematics answer scripts evaluation. Evaluation of physical science and biology science answer scripts will be completed on or before April 16. The answer scripts of the social studies examination held on Monday will be evaluated from April 17 to 23. The Directorate has already commenced the processing of results of subjects that have been evaluated. "If everything goes by the schedule, the results will be declared in the first week of May," said the DGE sources. Meanwhile, 5,18,297 students registered for the social studies examination and 5,16,915 appeared in 2,676 centres set up across the State. The OSSC Main language paper-I and SSC vocational course examination will be held on April 15 and OSSC Main language paper-II is scheduled for April 16.

TOEFL launches global Dance Stitch competition for study-abroad aspirants

Hyderabad: TOEFL, a part of the ETS, has launched its global TOEFL Dance Stitch Competition, inviting students to express their study-abroad aspirations through a social-first creative challenge. The initiative, currently live on TOEFL's official social media platforms, encourages participants to engage with a central choreography and reinterpret it in their own style on Instagram. Designed to make the preparation journey more engaging and less stressful, the campaign brings together creativity, self-expression, and aspiration—meeting students where they are most active today.

Top entries stand a chance to win one of five TOEFL tuition awards of up to USD 5,000, paid directly towards their educational institution. The competition is open to students and prospective TOEFL test takers exploring international education opportunities. Entries must be submitted via public social media profiles, in line with platform guidelines and applicable regional terms, with the deadline set for April 15. Winners will be announced at the end of April.

The World's English Test



Mahindra University launches CIRCOM for media research

Hyderabad: Mahindra University has launched the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Communication and Media (CIRCOM), dedicated to fostering collaborative research across academic disciplines and addressing current and emerging challenges in media and communication. The Centre will focus on thematic areas including digital culture, media ethics, communication policy, and the societal impact of emerging technologies. Dr Yajulu Medury, Vice-Chancellor, Mahindra University, said, "The future of higher education is in breaking silos and enabling collaboration across disciplines." Dr Shashidhar Nanjundiah, Dean, SDMC at Mahindra University, said the Centre will drive innovative, collaborative research for faculty and students. Embedded within SDMC, the Centre will support inter-institutional research partnerships and grant development, strengthen doctoral and postgraduate research, create sustained forums for intellectual exchange, and build connections with national and international scholars.

Osmania University's Geography Department Introduces Drone-Based Training for Students



Hyderabad: The department of geography at Osmania University introduced drone-based training and field technologies, aiming to give students practical exposure in geosciences. Officials told this newspaper that the department was using a DGCA-certified drone as part of its curriculum, along with tools such as differential global positioning system (DGPS) and total station instruments for land surveys, mapping and terrain analysis. The department recently conducted a workshop on drone technology in geosciences. Department head Prof. T. Anuradha said the focus was on combining classroom learning with field-based

skills. "We are working to ensure students understand how these tools are used in real situations," she said. Faculty said students are also being trained in Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and remote sensing software, which are widely used in government and private sector projects. The department has been involved in geospatial research for several years, with support from agencies such as the University Grants Commission and the Union department of science and technology. The university said the aim is to prepare students for work in areas such as urban planning, environmental studies and disaster management.

Rishi students shine in Inter results

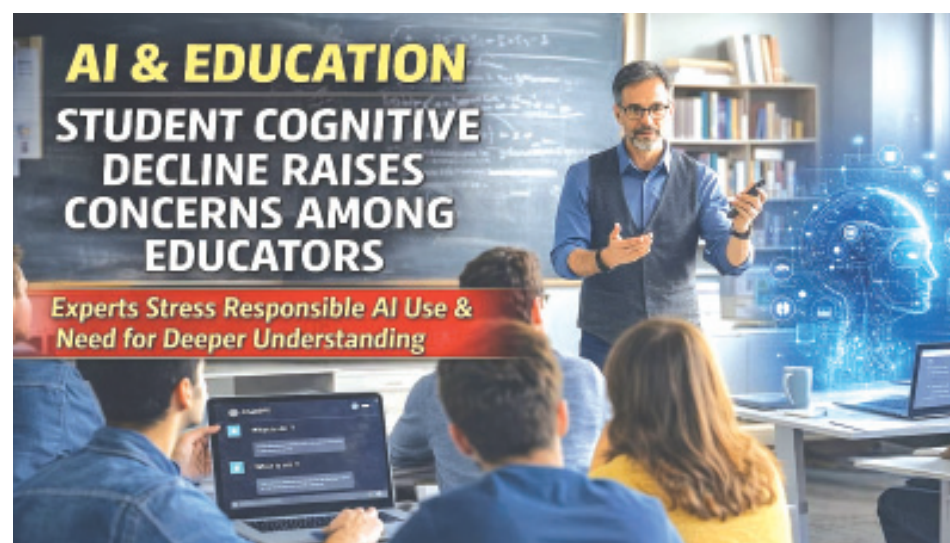
Students of Rishi Junior College in Mahabubnagar town delivered outstanding results in the Intermediate Public Examinations. Record-level results were achieved in both MPC and BiPC streams in first and second years. In the First Year MPC stream, U Vinay Kumar Goud secured the top position with 468 marks. In the BiPC stream, K Akshita and Tania Mahmood secured the top position with 438. Meanwhile, in the Second Year MPC stream, M Bhavana secured a remarkable 995 marks and in BiPC stream, Afsa Moin and P Gayatri shared the top position with 994. College Director Venkatayya stated that the institution is providing quality education on par with corporate colleges.

The Advent Of AI And Decline Of Cognitive Ability Of Students: Challenge Before Educators

One of the biggest challenges before educators in current times is the decline of cognitive ability among students with the rise of AI. But the biggest difficulty is the deceptive nature of the problem; answers are all correct, assignments have improved in content, and the presentations are much more elegant than ever before. But the moment we as educators interact with the students and try to assess depth of their understanding, there appears to be problems and they falter. The deeper we go, more we find their lack of understanding. And that tells the whole story of decline of cognitive ability.

Problem Statement: Not that the problem did not exist earlier. It did in the earlier era of newly invented world of internet and Google search as well. The only difference during that time and the current world of AI is in the "nature" and "scope" of availability of easy solutions. In Google search era, the primary information search was limited to "what" of content. The world of AI has created readymade solutions of "how" and "why" aspects as well. And if a technology platform can answer to all three aspects of cognitive traits namely, "what", "how" and "why", very little remains to be done at the said space. Then AI can answer all questions, and a student can, through AI, get easy answers and solutions for all issues / problem points, possibly at all learning levels of Bloom's Taxonomy. This development has, in recent times, created the biggest worry for educators. While in this democratic world the students cannot be denied the right to use AI, how to ensure that cognitive ability is kept intact, and students learn the concepts and applications thereof so that they become "employable" as well as "good thinking individuals" is the big challenge before the educators.

Coping Strategies: The challenges created by advent of AI



are difficult in nature and there are no easy solutions. The instructors must learn how to navigate through the AI world, be a part of it, allow the students to be with it but still be the facilitators of "real learning". This indeed is a tough task. Some of the coping strategies that are being experimented by the faculty include the following:

Devise an Acceptable AI Policy: The institute may have its own AI Policy. Otherwise, one approach could be to devise an AI policy democratically in consultation with the students themselves at the beginning of the term. This may include the allowable scope and nature of AI (green, orange and red zones) for the purpose of assignments/project reports, etc. The important point that should be highlighted in the policy is that the students can use AI tools as a "supporting guide" but not "copy and paste" in toto therefrom. The policy should also say that the content

provided by AI must be tested for its validity and that the students must understand fully the submitted assignment/report. Acceptance and abiding the AI policy is possibly the best way at least for college students.

Teaching the Students Where AI Can Fail: It is always prudent that the students should know where AI can falter and therefore know the risks of using it blindly. Therefore, it is always suggested that maybe at the beginning of the term, the teacher can take / arrange session on the possible misrepresentation / misinterpretation of facts / data by AI.

Spend More Time on Discussions: The pedagogic approach needs to undergo a change fundamentally. The more we as instructors discuss with the students an issue / theory: the pros & cons thereof, its history, rationale, context, fallouts, applications, etc., the more we can make the learning interesting and involve students in the thinking process. Immersive interactions & debates are one way of stimulating the cognitive abilities of students. Flipped classrooms are best suited for such type of environment. To start with, it might appear difficult as students may not be ready to these types of pedagogical approach; however, over a period, it may be found to be useful. Project based learning (PBL) or experiential based learning (EBL) can also suit the scenario.

Use AI to Tackle AI: Using AI to solve the problems of AI is one popular approach. One of the methods experimented today in some places is that different modes of prompt are given to generate different answers to the same problem. And then these different solutions / answers become the topic for discussion to find the "real truth" or the "theoretical framework". In some cases, the instructors are generating the reports / cases by deliberately giving "wrong prompts" and bringing these cases.



International News

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'Either For Everyone Or No One': Iran Calls US Gulf Blockade 'Illegal Piracy', Issues Stern Warning On Ports

The unified command of Iranian Armed Forces has issued a stern warning over access to key regional waters, declaring that ports in the Arabian Gulf and the Sea of Oman are "either for everyone or for no one," according to state broadcaster IRIB. The statement underscores Tehran's position that it will firmly defend its maritime sovereignty. Iran signalled potential restrictions in the critical Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most vital oil transit routes. As per the statement, "enemy-affiliated vessels" may be barred from passing through the strait, while other ships could be allowed transit under regulations set by Tehran. The armed forces described such measures as a "natural right" tied to national sovereignty. The Iranian statement also accused the United States of unlawfully restricting vessel movement in international waters, calling it an act of "piracy." It warned that any threat to the security of Iranian ports could trigger wider instability, stating that "no port in the region will be safe" if tensions escalate further. Amid rising tensions, Keir Starmer clarified that United Kingdom would not be drawn into the conflict. Starmer emphasised that Britain does not support any blockade of the Strait of Hormuz and is instead focused on ensuring the waterway remains open. "It is vital that we get the Strait open and fully open... and that's where we've put all of our efforts," he said. Any disruption to this corridor could have far-reaching consequences for international trade and oil supply chains.

Modi extends greetings to Magyar after historic shift in Hungary's political landscape

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday congratulated Peter Magyar after his Tisza Party secured a decisive victory in Hungary's parliamentary elections, ending 16 years of rule by the ruling Fidesz party. In a post on X, Modi described India and Hungary as "bound by deep-rooted friendship, shared values and mutual respect," and said he looked forward to working closely with the incoming leadership to further strengthen bilateral cooperation as well as the broader India-European Union strategic partnership. The election result marks a significant political realignment in Hungary. According to preliminary results cited by Al Jazeera, with over 97% of votes counted, the Tisza Party secured 138 seats in the 199-member parliament with 53.6% of the vote, delivering a clear mandate. The governing Fidesz party led by Prime Minister Viktor Orban won 55 seats with 37.8% support. Following the outcome, Orban conceded defeat and personally congratulated Magyar, acknowledging the scale of the opposition victory. The result has



drawn swift international reactions. Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez welcomed the outcome, calling it a win for European values and expressing readiness to work with the new leadership. German Chancellor Friedrich Merz also extended congratulations, saying he looked forward to coop-

eration within a "strong, secure and united Europe." The landslide win for the Tisza Party is widely seen as a turning point in Hungarian politics, with potential implications for the country's domestic policy direction and its engagement within the European Union.

Israel Seeks to Designate Turkey as 'New Enemy'



Istanbul: Israel "cannot live without an enemy" and its government is now trying to portray Turkey as one, Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said on Monday. Tensions between Turkey and Israel have steadily escalated since the Gaza war erupted following Hamas's

October 7, 2023, cross-border attack in Israel. The dispute entered a new phase over the weekend after President Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned his US counterpart Donald Trump of "possible provocations and sabotage" that could jeopardise an initial ceasefire arrangement in the US-Israeli war on Iran. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed on Saturday that Israel would continue to confront Tehran and its regional allies. "After Iran, Israel cannot live without an enemy," Fidan said in a televised interview with the state-run Anadolu news agency. "We see that not only Netanyahu's administration but also some figures in the opposition -- though not all -- are seeking to declare Turkey the new enemy," he said. "This is a new development in Israel... turning into a state strategy," he added.

Pope Leo begins African tour under shadow of Trump's ire

ALGIERS: Pope Leo XIV began a landmark visit to Algeria Monday in the first trip to the Muslim-majority country by a pontiff that risked being overshadowed by criticism from US President Donald Trump. Shortly before leaving Rome, the US-born pope became the target of public criticism from Trump, who railed against Leo's comments calling for an end to violence in the Iran war. The pope told reporters aboard the papal plane that he had "no intention to debate with" Trump, adding that he was "not a politician". Trump had said he was "not a big fan of Pope Leo", and accused him of "toying with a country (Iran) that wants a nuclear weapon". Leo landed in the capital Algiers shortly before 0900 GMT and was expected to pay tribute to victims of Algeria's war of independence



from France (1954-1962). His two-day visit to Algeria, which Archbishop of Algiers Jean-Paul Vesco said aimed to "build bridges between the Christian and Muslim worlds", also kicked off the pontiff's African tour. The visit was also infused with personal significance for the pope as Algeria was the home of Saint Augustine (354-430), whose spiritual legacy permeates Leo's pontificate. The influential Christian theologian laid the foundations for the 13th century Augustinian order to which Leo belongs, one based on communal living and service. Pope Leo XIV arrives at Algiers' Houari

Boumediene International Airport on Monday, April 13, 2026, at the start of an 11-day apostolic journey to Africa. In his very first speech as pope, Leo presented himself as a "son" of Augustine, whose writings he often quotes. The pope called his trip to Algeria "a very precious opportunity" to promote "peace and reconciliation with respect and consideration for all peoples". He has criticised as "unacceptable" Trump's threats against civilians in Iran, although he did not name the US president, and he has also previously criticised the Trump administration's "inhuman" treatment of migrants. Trump has called the pontiff "WEAK on Crime, and terrible for Foreign Policy", suggesting that cardinals only elected Leo pope in May 2025 because he was American, and a potential bridge to Washington.



Australia Calls for Strait of Hormuz to Be Open to All

Melbourne: Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on Monday called for the Strait of Hormuz to be open and said the United States had not requested Australian help to blockade it. President Donald Trump said the US Navy would swiftly begin a blockade of ships entering or leaving the Strait of Hormuz, after US-Iran ceasefire talks in Pakistan ended without an agreement. Albanese told Nine Network television on Monday: "We've received no requests, and they've made this announcement overnight and they've done that in a unilateral way. And we haven't been asked to participate." "What we want to see is negotiations continue and resume. We want to see an end to this conflict. We want to see the Strait of Hormuz opened for all. We want to see freedom of navigation as required by international law as well," Albanese added.

China calls reports it supplied weapons to Iran 'baseless smears'



China on Monday called reports it had supplied or intended to supply weapons to Iran "baseless smears," after several outlets quoted US intelli-

gence sources to that effect. On Sunday, US President Donald Trump threatened Beijing with a "staggering" new tariff of 50 per cent if it were to provide military assistance to Tehran. His comments came the same day US outlet CNN reported that US intelligence indicated China was preparing to deliver new air defence systems to Iran within the next few weeks, citing three people familiar with the assessments. Over the weekend, The New York Times quoted US officials as saying US intelligence suggested Beijing might have already sent a shipment of shoulder-fired missiles. China denied the reports, saying Monday it had "always adopted a cautious and responsible attitude towards the export of military items, implementing strict controls in accordance with its own export control laws and regulations and its international obligations." "We oppose baseless smears or malicious association," foreign ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun told a regular news briefing. China is a key economic partner of Iran - it buys most of the Middle Eastern country's oil.

Tribute Or Violation? Pakistan Media Regulator Targets Geo News Over Asha Bhosle Coverage



Lahore: Pakistan's media watchdog has issued a show-cause notice to a leading news channel for running "Indian content" while broadcasting the news about the death of legendary singer Asha Bhosle. A ban on Indian content in Pakistan has been in place since 2018. The Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) issued the show-cause notice to GeoNews on Mon-

day seeking an explanation as to why it aired Indian content along with the news of Bhosle's death. The leading news channel is considered close to the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz government and the military establishment. Bhosle passed away on Sunday due to multi-organ failure. She was 92. "It has always been customary to revisit and celebrate the work of iconic artists when reporting on them. In fact, for an artist of Asha Bhosle's stature, we should have shared even more of her timeless and memorable songs than we did. Yet, Pakistan's electronic media regulator, PEMRA, has chosen to restrict this," Azhar Abbas, the Managing Director of GeoNews.

VOICE OF WORDS

BUSINESS

India's retail inflation touched 10-month high at 3.4% in March

India's retail inflation, measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), touched a ten-month high in March, increasing to 3.40%, revealed data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) on Monday. After touching a record low of 0.25%, it has increased marginally to 0.71% in November, before crossing 1% by the end of the year. Food inflation stood at 3.71% and that of housing at 1.97%. Rural inflation that stood at 3.63% has surpassed the urban inflation that was at 3.11% in March. Despite the increase over the last few months, the headline inflation still managed to remain much below the RBI's tolerable band between 2-6%. The spike in the retail inflation has been mainly due to the adjustment in the base year, alongside the other changes made in the methodology. Personal care, social protection and miscellaneous goods and services inflation stood at 18.65%. Among the states, Telangana accounted for the highest retail inflation where it stood at 5.94% followed by Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. MoSPI has announced changes to the composition of the inflation basket, sharply reducing the weight of food



and beverages—from 54% to 37%—often blamed for volatility in the headline. The ministry has released the inflation figure under the new series of the CPI, where they have changed the base year to 2024.



GE Aerospace Partners With IAF To Set Up Engine Repair Facility For Tejas In India

New Delhi: In a boost to Make in India, US-based aircraft engine maker GE Aerospace on Monday announced a new agreement with the Indian Air Force to set up an in-country depot facility for F404-IN20 engines that power the HAL Tejas fighter jets. The upcoming facility will be established in India and operated by the Indian Air Force, with technical support from GE Aerospace. The move is aimed at strengthening India's indigenous defence maintenance capabilities and reducing reliance on overseas repair centres. Once operational, the depot is expected to significantly cut down the turnaround time for engine repairs and maintenance. Under the agreement, the depot will be owned, operated, and maintained by the IAF. GE Aerospace will provide technical expertise, training, support staff, and ensure the supply of necessary spare parts and specialised equipment required for smooth operations. Rita Flaherty, Vice President of Sales and Business Development for Defence and Systems at GE Aerospace, said the partnership reflects the company's continued commitment to supporting India's armed forces. Flaherty added that the new facility will help improve the availability of F404-IN20 engines for the Tejas fleet, ensuring that the IAF has timely access to advanced technology for its defence needs. GE Aerospace also highlighted its broader presence in India's defence ecosystem. Its engines power several key platforms, including the Indian Navy's P-8I maritime patrol aircraft and MH-60R helicopters, as well as the Indian Air Force's AH-64 Apache helicopters. In addition, LM2500 marine gas turbines from the company are used in the INS Vikrant aircraft carrier and the P-17 Shivalik-class frigates. The company has been part of India's aviation sector for more than four decades. Its Pune manufacturing facility, along with 13 domestic partners, is integrated into its global supply chain, further strengthening its footprint in the country.

Govt-Owned NBFCs May Face Increased Regulatory Oversight After RBI's Proposed Classification Norms

While the latest proposal by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the classification of shadow banks has brought clarity for the public listing of companies like Tata Sons, the norms may also strip away the shield enjoyed by state-owned firms. Many government-owned non-banking financial institutions (NBFCs) will come under the upper layer classification of shadow banks if the RBI's asset-size-based norms are implemented. The RBI has proposed a simpler classification of shadow banks last week. Under the proposal, any NBFC with assets of Rs 1 lakh crore will be classified as upper layer. This replaces the existing criteria of classification, which



includes a top-ten asset ranking with a complex parametric scoring method. The banking regulator has also proposed the removal of the shield given to state-owned NBFCs from upper layer classification. NBFCs like Power Finance Corporation, REC, Indian Railway Finance Corporation, and Housing & Urban Development Corporation

may also be classified as upper layer shadow banks if the proposed norms are implemented. This would also bring these NBFCs under heightened oversight similar to their private peers. According to a report by The Economic Times, Power Finance Corporation had an asset base of Rs 12 lakh crore as of December. REC also

had an asset base of Rs 6 lakh crore. Moreover, the government has already proposed the merger of the two entities to create a larger financier of the power sector. Another government-owned entity, IRFC, had assets of almost Rs 5 lakh crore, while HUDCO held about Rs 1.3 lakh crore in assets. Ownership-independent and asset-based classification of NBFCs will provide clarity to stakeholders, according to experts. However, there is a possibility that companies like Sammaan Capital and PNB Housing Finance would fall out of the upper layer category as their asset bases may not cross the Rs 1 lakh crore mark.

IMF sounds alarm on long-term economic scarring from West Asia conflict



The International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva has warned that the ongoing Middle East conflict has unleashed a significant global economic shock, with wide-ranging implications for growth, inflation, and energy markets. Speaking in a curtain-raiser address ahead of the IMF-World Bank Spring Meetings, Georgieva said the conflict has disrupted oil and gas flows, damaged critical infrastructure, and intensified uncertainty across global trade and

transportation networks. "The conflict has caused considerable hardship around the globe. My heart goes out to all people affected by this war and all wars," she said. Georgieva highlighted that major energy hubs, including liquefied natural gas facilities in the Gulf region, have suffered serious damage and could take years to fully recover, raising the risk of prolonged supply constraints. Citing Qatar's Ras Laffan complex as an example, she noted its strategic importance as a major LNG production centre, adding that it has faced severe disruption since early March and may require several years to return to full capacity. Describing the situation as a "classic negative supply shock," the IMF chief warned that even under an optimistic peace scenario, global growth is likely to slow. She added that more than 80 per cent of countries, largely net oil importers, remain highly exposed to rising energy costs and external imbalances. Georgieva urged policymakers to avoid unilateral measures such as export restrictions and price controls, cautioning that such steps could worsen global instability and inflationary pressures. Instead, she called for coordinated and flexible policy responses. The International Monetary Fund said the impact of the conflict is uneven across economies, with oil-importing and directly affected countries bearing the brunt, while some exporters may see short-term gains but still face broader spillover risks. The IMF further warned of potential long-term "scarring" effects on the global economy, including disrupted supply chains and increased demand for financial assistance from vulnerable nations.

Hindustan Zinc Wins Rajasthan Potash Block In April 2026 Critical Minerals Auction

Mumbai: In a move that strengthens its resource portfolio, Hindustan Zinc Limited has emerged as the top bidder in a high-stakes mineral auction conducted by the Ministry of Mines. The company clinched the Jhandawali-Satipura amalgamated potash and halite block in Rajasthan after participating in the fifth tranche of critical mineral auctions. It secured the license with a final price offer of 03.05 percent, positioning itself to tap into strategic mineral reserves essential for industrial and agricultural applications. The official confirmation came via notification received on April



12, 2026. The awarded block spans 1841.22 hectares and is classified at a G3 level of exploration, indicating preliminary resource estimation with further detailed

studies required. The composite license structure allows Hindustan Zinc to undertake both exploration and mining, giving it long-term operational flexibility. This adds a new dimension to the company's existing base metals portfolio. The opportunity arose from a January 20, 2025 tender issued by the Ministry, inviting bids for critical and strategic mineral blocks. Hindustan Zinc participated in the live e-auction process and emerged ahead of competitors. The company's leadership indicated that this acquisition aligns with its broader strategy to expand into minerals that support India's resource.



NSE Secures MCA Approval For 'National Coal Exchange Of India Limited' Subsidiary

New Delhi: National Stock Exchange (NSE) on Monday said it has received approval from the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) to reserve the name "National Coal Exchange of India Limited" for its proposed coal exchange. The move follows NSE's board approval in February to set up a wholly-owned subsidiary for the initiative, with proposed names, including "National Coal Exchange", "Bharat Coal Exchange" and "India Coal Exchange". In a statement, NSE said it has committed an initial capital infusion of up to Rs 100 crore and will hold a 60 per cent stake in the venture; and the remaining 40 per cent will be offered to other shareholders. "This is a key milestone achieved, and in due course we will be taking the necessary actions for applying for the requisite license with the Coal Controller Organisation in accordance with applicable regulatory requirements," said Ashishkumar Chauhan, MD & CEO at NSE. The proposed coal exchange seeks to address these inefficiencies by creating a transparent, market-driven trading platform, potentially improving price signals and allocation efficiency across the sector.

Aster DM Healthcare invests Rs 96 crore to expand Whitefield hospital

BENGALURU: Aster DM Healthcare has invested Rs 96 crore to expand its women and children's healthcare services at Aster Whitefield Hospital in Bengaluru, adding 159 beds and taking the hospital's total bed capacity from 380 to 539. The new facility is called Aster Women & Children. The expansion comes as demand for specialised maternal and child healthcare continues to grow in Bengaluru and surrounding regions, the company said. The dedicated 159-bed centre will provide specialised maternity care covering the journey from the preconception stage to childbirth. It will also offer services including water birthing, advanced laparoscopic gynaecology, a child development centre, foetal medicine and surgery, a level 3A neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), fertility services, neonatal and paediatric surgical care.

VOICE OF WORDS

HEALTH

Weather changes and your lungs: Why asthma and allergies flare up with seasons



Seasonal changes can worsen asthma and allergies due to triggers like pollen, pollution and humidity. A doctor explains how weather impacts lung health and shares simple, practical tips to manage symptoms and breathe easier. You've probably noticed it yourself. A sudden change in weather, and breathing feels just a little harder. A cough lingers longer, allergies spike, or your chest feels tight for no clear reason.

This is more than simply a mental problem. There can be a direct influence on your lungs if you suffer from asthma or allergies, due to seasonal changes. But knowing why this occurs can help to prevent it.

Why your lungs react to weather changes

"The air we breathe changes with every season, bringing in dust, pollen, humidity and pollution, all of which can affect the lungs," says Dr Harish Verma, Associate Director, Pulmonary Medicine and Critical Care, ShardaCare-Healthcity.

These changes can trigger symptoms like coughing, wheezing, breathlessness and chest tightness, particularly in people with sensitive airways.

What each season does to your respiratory health

Effects caused by seasons may not apply all year round. Spring usually features higher levels of pollen, which irritates the air passages and causes allergic reactions. In winter, the air is cold and dry, constricting air passages, causing breathing difficulties, especially among people with asthma. The rainy season is characterised by increased humidity, providing ideal conditions for the growth of moulds and dust mites, allergens. Abrupt changes in temperature, such as moving from a warm room to chilly air, may shock the airways and cause coughing and wheezing.

Common triggers you should watch out for

Some environmental allergens gain prominence depending on the season:

Pollen, especially in the spring and early summer seasons

Air pollution varies from season to season

Cold air is irritating to the airways

High humidity levels with mould growth during the rainy season

House dust and dust mites in indoor environments

These environmental triggers cause inflammation in the airways.

Simple ways to protect your lungs

Not all symptom management calls for drastic measures; little steps can make a big difference:

Check daily air quality and stay indoors if conditions are poor

Take medication as directed and have an inhaler handy

Ensure indoor air is free from dust and pollution

Cover your mouth and nose during the winter months

Stay away from personal triggers at all times

When you should see a doctor

If there is a deterioration in any symptoms, such as cough, breathlessness, or wheezing during changing seasons, then it would be wise to visit a physician. Early treatment will avoid problems and improve the quality of life for the individual. Seasonal changes are an inescapable reality, but the associated discomfort need not be. Some simple precautions can allow for a smoother passage through the seasons without lung problems.

The 'healthy-looking' trap: What your body may be hiding



Looking fit doesn't always mean being healthy. Experts warn that stress, poor sleep, and hidden metabolic issues like insulin resistance can affect even fitness-conscious individuals, highlighting the gap between appearance and true health.

Walk into any urban gym today, and you'll see discipline on display. People who track their calories, follow workout routines, and prioritise fitness as part of their daily life. On the surface, it looks like the definition of good health.

When looking fit doesn't mean being healthy

The rise in individuals who seem to be in shape but actually have metabolic problems underneath has been noted. Examples of these include insulin resistance, pre-diabetes, hormone imbalance, and thyroid problems, even among individuals who engage in regular physical activity.

As Dr Hetashvi Gondaliya, a specialist in diabetes and endocrinology, points out, "Fitness and health are not completely interchangeable concepts."

The body can look strong on the outside while struggling internally.

The invisible factors that matter more

The less obvious factors that contribute to an individual's health are often ignored. High levels of cortisol due



to stress, lack of adequate sleep, poor dietary habits, and excessive exercise all have potential effects on one's well-being. For example, high cortisol due to stress will affect the individual's metabolism, regardless of whether he or she exercises or not. Likewise, very strict diets and exercise routines may result in exhaustion, injuries, or hormonal imbalance.

The problem with chasing extremes

In the pursuit of quick results, many people adopt intense routines or strict dietary restrictions. While these may show short-term changes in appearance, they do not always support long-term health.

In some cases, they can do the opposite.

The body needs recovery as much as it needs effort. Without that balance, even a disciplined routine can become counterproductive.

What real health actually looks like

Being healthy should not only depend upon body weight and muscular appearance, but rather the manner in which the body performs its day-to-day functions. The performance of such body activities as energy production, hormonal balance, sleep quality, and mental health can be used as indications of overall health. Health check-ups are equally important in discovering other problems.

Why your joints feel stiff in the morning? How to tell if it's rheumatoid arthritis

Persistent morning stiffness and joint pain could signal rheumatoid arthritis, an autoimmune condition. A doctor explains early symptoms, risk factors and why timely diagnosis is crucial to prevent long-term joint damage.

There's a certain kind of stiffness many people brush off. Fingers feel tight, knees resist movement, and the body takes a little longer to "wake up" in the morning. Most of the time, it's blamed on fatigue, long hours or just getting older. But when that stiffness shows up every morning and refuses to ease quickly, it may be worth paying closer attention. In some cases, it could be an early sign of something more serious.

When stiffness is more than just discomfort

"Persistent morning stiffness that lasts longer than usual can be an early indicator of inflammatory arthritis," says Dr Chirag Rajkumar Kopp, Consultant in Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology at Ramaiah Memorial Hospital, Bengaluru.

Unlike general aches that improve within minutes, inflammatory stiffness can last for an hour or more, making simple activities like brushing teeth or holding objects difficult.

What makes rheumatoid arthritis different

Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is not caused by ageing or overuse. Rheumatoid arthritis is a type of autoimmune disease where the immune system targets the joints. Inflammation results from this, leading to pain, swelling, warmth, and stiffness in the joints, particularly when there is rest. With time, without treatment, the inflammation causes joint damage.

The early signs people often miss

One of the most important red flags would be morning stiffness that persists for more than 30 to 60 minutes.

Joint swelling

Symmetrical pain (both hands, or both knees)

Joint warmth or tenderness

Fatigue or exhaustion

Due to their subtle nature, people tend to overlook these symptoms or dismiss them as normal stress and tension.

Which joints are usually affected

RA often begins in smaller joints, especially in the hands, wrists and feet. Symptoms usually appear sym-



metrically, meaning both sides of the body are affected in a similar way. Over time, untreated inflammation can change joint shape and function.

Who is more at risk

Rheumatoid arthritis can occur in anyone; however, it affects more women than men, especially those between 30 and 50 years old. Some of the factors that could trigger this condition include smoking, personal behaviour, and family history of autoimmune disease. Most importantly, young people must not dismiss joint pain just because they think they are "too young for arthritis."

Why early diagnosis matters

Though rheumatoid arthritis can be controlled, timing is key. An early diagnosis helps treatment to keep inflammation under check, relieve pain and prevent joint destruction. The diagnosis usually requires blood tests, medical imaging, and clinical examination.

It's not just about joints

In advanced and uncontrolled stages of this condition, RA may also impact other organs like the lungs, eyes, bones, and even the heart. Therefore, the importance of early intervention goes beyond convenience; it becomes crucial. Not all types of joint pain require urgent medical attention, but repeated symptoms should always be considered. Morning joint stiffness that persists for an unusually long time or starts affecting your activities may signal an issue you should investigate. Because the earlier it's found, the more your joints will thank you for that.

VOICE OF WORDS

WOMEN

Ex-AIIMS dermatologist explains why naturally pink lips are unrealistic for Indians



The obsession with naturally pink lips ignores basic biology. Dermatologist Dr Aanchal Panth says melanin determines lip colour, especially in Indian skin tones, making lighter lips on deeper complexions unrealistic while common beauty standards remain misleading.

From sun exposure to smoking, everyday habits can deepen lip pigmentation.

Scroll Instagram for two minutes or step into any beauty aisle and you'll hear the same thing on repeat. "Naturally pink lips." It sounds simple, achievable, almost basic. But it's not. Not really. A former dermatologist from AIIMS, Dr Aanchal Panth, recently broke this down in a podcast, and honestly, it cuts through a lot of the noise. The short version. That whole pink lip ideal does not line up with how our biology actually works, especially for Indian skin tones.

The science behind lip colour

Let's get straight to it. Lip colour is not random. It is largely dictated by melanin, the same pigment responsible for your skin and hair colour.

Dr Panth explains it quite plainly. The amount of melanin in your lips is proportional to your overall skin tone. So if your complexion leans wheatish, dusky, or deeper, your lips will naturally carry more pigment too.

Which means expecting light pink lips on darker skin is, biologically speaking, unrealistic. It is not about care routines or missed products. It is just how melanin distribution works. And yes, this directly challenges a beauty standard that has been normalised for years. According to her, "our race cannot have pink lips." It sounds blunt. But it is rooted in basic skin biology.

Everyday habits that can darken lips

Now here's where things get a bit more nuanced. While your natural lip colour is genetic, certain habits can push pigmentation further. Not dramatically, but enough to notice over time.

Some of the common triggers include:

Regular consumption of very hot drinks like tea and coffee
Sun exposure, especially on the lower lip which tends to catch more light

Smoking, which is a major contributor to lip darkening

Lack of basic lip care or protection

These do not change your base lip colour. But they can deepen it, making lips appear darker than they originally were.

There is some good news here, but it comes with a bit of a reality check. Using a lip balm with SPF can help prevent additional darkening. Think of it as sunscreen, just for your lips. It shields against UV damage, which is particularly useful if your lower lip has started to darken due to sun exposure. But this is important. It will not make your lips pink. No balm, no scrub, no DIY remedy can override your natural pigmentation.

Hair ageing explained: What really happens beneath your scalp

Hair ageing begins at a cellular level long before visible signs appear. Changes in hair growth cycles, oxidative stress, inflammation and reduced stem cell activity lead to thinning, breakage and greying. Experts highlight the need to address underlying scalp biology for long-term hair health. Most people notice hair ageing only when it becomes visible. A few grey strands, reduced volume, or hair that simply does not feel as thick as it once did. But what we see in the mirror is only the final stage of a much deeper process. "Hair ageing begins much earlier than it appears," says Dr Debraj Shome, Clinical Scientist and Research Mentor at QR678. "By the time we notice thinning or greying, the follicle has already undergone significant biological changes at a cellular level."

The biology behind ageing hair

Each hair follicle functions like a tiny, active organ. It runs on a natural cycle of growth, transformation, and rest. During younger days, the cycle is stable enough that hair will always grow steadily and densely.

As time goes by, however, this balance changes. The hair growth stage gets shorter, while the hair rest stage becomes longer. It takes a longer time for hair to regrow. Over time, thicker strands are gradually replaced by finer, weaker ones, a process known as miniaturisation.

When the scalp environment starts changing

Hair health is not just about the strand or even the follicle. It is dependent upon how the scalp functions. If the scalp is healthy, then the hair follicles receive their blood supply and, hence, their nutrients. As one ages, this process slows down and becomes inefficient. At the same time, exposure to pollution, UV rays, and lifestyle stress increases oxidative damage within the scalp. "Even when it is not visible, low-grade inflammation and reduced circulation can quietly affect how well follicles function," explains Dr Shome.

The role of oxidative stress

One of the biggest drivers of hair ageing is oxidative stress. Put simply, it is a situation in which there is an excess amount of certain types of molecules that harm cells. Although these molecules are normally found in



the body, too many of them lead to cellular dysfunction. Over time, this damage affects hair follicle stem cells, the very cells responsible for regenerating hair. "Oxidative stress does not just damage the hair shaft; it impacts the follicle's ability to regenerate itself," notes Dr Shome.

INFLAMMATION AND LONG-TERM HAIR THINNING

Chronic, low-level inflammation is another silent factor. It disrupts the hair growth cycle, weakens the anchoring of hair strands and contributes to gradual thinning. In many cases, this inflammation is not visible or immediately noticeable, which makes it easy to ignore. The combination of oxidative stress and inflammation creates a cycle that accelerates follicular decline over time.

Why greying and thinning often go together

Hair greying is not just about pigment loss. It is also linked to changes in the cells responsible for producing colour. Oxidative damage affects these pigment-producing cells, reducing their activity. At the same time, the follicle itself weakens, leading to thinner strands. This explains why greying and thinning occur simultaneously in the course of ageing.

New thinking about hair care

With the advent of new research, efforts have been made to move beyond superficial hair care into understanding the biological processes involved.

Why glutathione effervescent tablets are trending in skin health and brightening

Glutathione effervescent tablets are gaining popularity in skincare for their antioxidant and skin-brightening benefits. Learn why they're trending in modern beauty routines. Glutathione effervescent tablets for skin health. Glutathione effervescent tablets for skin health. A glass of water used to be just water. Now, for many young professionals and students, it has become part of a small daily ritual. Drop in a tablet, watch it fizz, wait for it to dissolve, and drink. The simple act feels less like medicine and more like a mindful pause in a busy day. Among the products finding space in these routines are glutathione effervescent tablets. Glutathione is often described as one of the body's most important antioxidants. It is naturally produced in the liver and helps protect cells from damage caused by free radicals. Doctors explain that factors like stress, pollution, irregular sleep, and poor diet can affect the body's antioxidant balance, and the skin often shows the first signs. This is one reason why interest in glutathione supplements has grown, especially among people looking for clearer, more even skin. Traditionally, glutathione was discussed mostly in clinical settings. Today, it has moved into mainstream skin-care conversations.



Many users associate it with brighter skin and an even tone, though experts stress that results vary. "Glutathione supports cellular health and may help reduce oxidative stress in the skin," says a Mumbai-based nutritionist. "When combined with sun protection and a good topical routine, it can be one part of a skin-care plan." The effervescent format has added to its popularity for skin use. Unlike regular tablets or capsules, effervescent tablets dissolve in water, making them easy to take daily. Some people prefer the ritual: it is convenient, gentle on the stomach, and fits into busy schedules. For those building a skin-focused routine, this format feels less clinical and more approachable. Indian wellness brands have noticed this

change and are offering products aimed squarely at skin benefits. HK Vitals, for instance, sells glutathione effervescent tablets framed primarily as skin-support products. The brand positions these tablets as solutions aimed at enhancing skin glow and helping reduce pigmentation, focusing on visible radiance and a more even-looking complexion. Health experts advise realistic expectations. Glutathione is not an instant fix for skin concerns. Visible improvements in skin brightness or texture can take weeks or months, and effects vary by individual. Doctors recommend using such supplements as part of a consistent routine that includes sun protection, gentle cleansing, and adequate hydration.

VOICE OF WORDS

SPORTS



Inter rallies to beat Como 4-3 and moves closer to Serie A title after Napoli draw

ROME: Inter Milan came back from two goals down for a 4-3 victory at Como on Sunday and extended its Serie A lead to nine points with six rounds remaining. Marcus Thuram and Denzel Dumfries each had braces for Inter, which took advantage of second-place Napoli being held 1-1 at Parma earlier to increase its advantage. Alex Valle and Nico Paz scored for Como late in the first half before Thuram started the comeback with a goal in first-half added time. Lucas Da Cunha pulled one back with a penalty for Como in the 89th. The teams will meet again in the second leg of the Italian Cup semifinals later this month after a 0-0 first leg. It was another encouraging sign for Inter after a 5-2 victory over Roma last weekend ended a three-match winless streak. Cristian Chivu is attempting to win Serie A during his first season in charge at Inter after replacing the departed Simone Inzaghi. Como dropped from fourth to fifth and just outside the Champions League places. Napoli conceded a goal after 33 seconds in a draw that may end its chances of successfully defending the Serie A title. Scott McTominay equalized on the hour mark for Napoli after Gabriel Strefezza scored early on with a play that began with a long ball from Parma goalkeeper Zion Suzuki. The result ended a five-match winning streak for Napoli. Parma moved nine points above the relegation zone in 14th. Also, Bologna beat Lecce 2-0 with goals from Remo Freuler and Riccardo Orsolini and Genoa beat Sassuolo 2-1 with goals from Ruslan Malinovskyi and Caleb Ekuban.

ICC announces record prize money for Women's T20 World Cup 2026

Hyderabad: The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced a record prize fund of US\$8,764,615 for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 to be played in England from June 12, marking a 10 per cent increase on the 2024 edition. That figure eclipses the US\$7,958,077 pot shared between the 10 competing nations in the United Arab Emirates two years ago as the tournament prepares to expand to 12 teams for the first time. The winners will once again take home \$2,340,000, with the runners-up receiving \$1,170,000. The losing semi-finalists will earn \$675,000, while every group match win will earn teams \$31,154. All 12 participating teams will earn an assured minimum prize pot of \$247,500. England will take on Sri Lanka at Edgbaston, Birmingham, in the opener and will be joined by Aus-

tralia, Bangladesh, India, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Scotland, South Africa and the West Indies, competing in the 33-match event, which will be played across seven venues over 24 days, vying for the top prize. The Trophy Tour starts in London, where it will be placed in the centre of the square at the venue for the tournament's final and the Home of Cricket, Lord's Cricket Ground, accompanied by a dazzling projection, marking the first time anything has ever been projected onto the ground's famous pavilion. The trophy will travel to qualified European member nations in the Netherlands, Ireland and Scotland, before embarking on an extensive tour of the tournament's host cities through May, building excitement ahead of the tournament's first ball on June 12.

Vaishali under pressure in women's candidates



Paphos: After squandering the chance to extend her lead, Indian Grandmaster R Vaishali will be under pressure when she takes on former women's world champion Zhongyi Tan of China in the penultimate round of the Candidates chess tournament here. Vaishali, who was leading by a full point, suffered a setback in the 12th round, playing with white she lost to China's Jiner Zhu, who has now drawn level at the top of the points table. Vaishali will need to regroup after the final rest day of the tournament, which will determine the challenger to reigning world champion Wenjun Ju of China. Apart from Zhongyi, Vaishali also faces a tricky challenge from Russia's Kateryna Lagno, who may be out of title contention

but remains a formidable opponent. Kazakhstan's Bibisara Assaubayeva is also in the hunt after a hard-fought win over Lagno, while Ukraine's Anna Muzychuk too remains in contention. The two are trailing the leaders by half a point, setting up a potentially thrilling finish. Vaishali and Zhu share the lead on seven points, with Assaubayeva and Muzychuk close behind on 6.5 points. The Russian duo of Aleksandra Goryachkina and Lagno are on 5.5, while India's Divya Deshmukh and Tan are further back on five points. It is clear that a lot can go right-or-wrong for all the four players in contention. In the open section, Uzbekistan's Javokhir Sindarov is firmly in control with nine points and is just a draw away from securing a shot at the world title against India's D Gukesh later this year. Dutch Grandmaster Anish Giri, who is on seven points, remains the only realistic challenger and is set to face Sindarov in a crucial clash in the next round.

Two teams should go: Sports Ministry pushes dual-squad plan for Asian Games, World Cup hockey

The Sports Ministry has urged Hockey India to field its strongest teams for the upcoming Asian Games amid an ongoing debate over player workload and the possibility of fielding separate squads for the continental event and the World Cup later this year. The FIH Men's and Women's Hockey World Cup will be held in Belgium and the Netherlands from August 15 to 30, while the Asian Games are scheduled in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, from September 19 to October 4. Though the two tournaments do not overlap, the short turnaround time between them has raised concerns about player fatigue for both the men's and women's teams. While national coaches Craig Fulton (men) and Sjoerd Marijne (women) are reportedly against splitting squads, the Sports Ministry believes India has sufficient depth to manage two competitive teams and reduce the burden on key players. "There should ideally be two teams, and the A teams should go for the Asian Games because it is an Olympic qualifier," a ministry source said. The ministry has also communicated to national federations that they should maintain a strong second-string squad capable of competing at the highest level across tournaments. "In hockey, we do not lack



talent. We can field two separate competitive teams for both men and women, keeping the calendar in mind," the source added. Notably, gold medal winners in both men's and women's hockey at the Asian Games will secure qualification for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. Hockey India Secretary General Bholanath Singh said the federation is yet to take a final call on squad composition. "We will send the best teams for

both the Asian Games and the World Cup. No decisions or selections have been made yet. We are considering all factors," Singh told PTI. Player workload management has been a recurring issue in years featuring closely scheduled multi-sport events. However, the upcoming Commonwealth Games in Glasgow will not include hockey, easing some of the calendar congestion across major disciplines.



'Future of Indian pace attack secure': McClenaghan lauds Sakib, Hinge after dream debuts

Sunrisers Hyderabad produced a commanding all-round performance to end Rajasthan Royals' four-match winning streak, sealing a convincing 57-run victory in their IPL 2026 clash in Hyderabad on Monday. The win was powered by two impressive debutants, Praful Hinge and Sakib Hussain, whose combined eight-wicket haul dismantled Rajasthan's chase of 217. Defending a challenging total, SRH struck early through 21-year-old Sakib Hussain, who made an immediate impact by dismissing Yashasvi Jaiswal in his opening over. Hussain continued to trouble the Royals' batting lineup, claiming key wickets including Donovan Ferreira, Jofra Archer, and Ravi Bishnoi. He finished with outstanding figures of 4 for 24, showcasing both control and variation. Former New Zealand pacer Mitchell McClenaghan, speaking on Star Sports, praised the young seamer's composure and skill. He highlighted Hussain's ability to execute slower deliveries effectively, noting similarities to Mustafizur Rahman's style, albeit from a right-arm angle. According to McClenaghan, Hussain's early breakthrough played a pivotal role in halting Rajasthan's momentum. At the other end, 24-year-old Praful Hinge delivered an equally impactful debut, earning the Player of the Match award. Hinge struck three times in his very first over, removing Vaibhav Sooryavanshi with a sharp bouncer before dismissing Dhruv Jurel and Lhuan-dre Pretorius with precise line and length.

Jannik Sinner beats Carlos Alcaraz to win Monte Carlo Masters, regains World No. 1

New Delhi: Jannik Sinner delivered a composed performance to defeat Carlos Alcaraz 7-6 (7-5), 6-3 in the final of the Monte Carlo Masters to return to the World No. 1 ranking for the first time since November 2025. Sinner joined Djokovic (2015) as the only men who have claimed the first three ATP Masters 1000 titles of the season. In a high-quality match between the top two players, Sinner narrowly won the tense opening set. He then took control in the second set, securing his third Masters 1000 title of the season after previously winning at Indian Wells and Miami. This victory also extended his impressive winning streak in Masters events to 22 matches. The match took place under tricky, windy conditions in Monaco, which caused both players to struggle for rhythm at times. They combined for 83 unforced errors. Despite this, the match featured powerful shot-making and momentum changes, with neither player able to dominate early on. After exchanging breaks in the first set, the match moved to a tie-break where Sinner raised his level at the key moment. His improved first-serve accuracy played a crucial role. After missing his first set point, he took advantage of a double



fault from Alcaraz to gain an early lead. Alcaraz quickly responded in the second set, breaking early to go up 3-1 and threatening to push the match to a deciding set. However, Sinner remained resilient under pressure, saving break points and steadily finding his way back into the match as Alcaraz struggled to hold his serve. The turning point came when Sinner broke back to take a 4-3 lead, placing the pressure on Alcaraz. From there, the Italian kept his composure, breaking again before confidently serving out the match to claim his 27th ATP Tour title. Reflecting on his victory, Sinner said, "It has been an interesting week trying to learn how to play again on clay. I came here hoping to play as many matches as possible, and I'm happy to win one big tournament on this surface. Having this trophy and getting back to number one means a lot to me."

Dhiren and Arjun lead India to three gold medals at US Open Pickleball



Mumbai: Arjun Singh added another gold to his kitty, winning the Men's Singles 5.0 at the US Open by beating Ashton Patterson in straight sets 13-11, 11-6. Seasoned stalwart Dhiren Patel added another US Open gold medal to his tally, contributing to India's total in the 40+ Pro Men's Singles category. This brings India's medal tally to three gold medals at the US Open 2026 held in Naples, Florida. "Extremely happy with the win, one of the tougher matches

so far but I was able to execute my plans and bring home the gold. Winning this category more than once is very special and I want to thank all the people who constantly support me behind the scenes. I also want to thank the Indian Pickleball Association for their efforts in raising the bar for pickleball in India. Lastly, congratulations to Arjun and Aditya for their wins in singles and doubles," said Dhiren Patel, gold medallist in 40+ Pro Men's Singles. "Adding to the tally only reinforces what we at Indian Pickleball Association believe to be true, which is that India is a powerhouse and will dominate global rankings in the future. Congratulations to Dhiren and Arjun for winning the singles and to Aditya for the doubles.



Melody Goes Silent: Asha Bhosle Passes Away at 92

Legendary Singer Asha Bhosle, who is regarded as the voice of Bollywood for her mellifluous vocals, has passed away at the age of 92 in Mumbai. She breathed her last in ICU after getting admitted to Breach Candy Hospital on Saturday due to cardiac and respiratory complications. The news was confirmed by her son Anand Bhosle on Sunday afternoon. Asha Bhosle is one of the prolific singers of Independent India. Sister of iconic playback singer Latha Mangeskar, Asha has the rare distinction for lending vocals to over 20 Indian and foreign languages apart from Hindi in her career spanning over seven decades. She has recorded more than 12000 songs and ruled the roost during her heydays with an stellar career. Born in 1933 in the princely state of Sangli (now Maharashtra), she started her singing career with the help of her sister Latha Mangeskar at a tender age to support her family. She made her singing debut in 1943 with Marathi film Majha Bal. Later, she made her entry into Bollywood in 1948. At the age of 16, she married Ganpatrao Bhosle. She later married composer Rahul Dev. Though Asha Bhosle initially inclined towards singing fast paced dance numbers of Bollywood, she later diversified her talent by giving vocals to ghazals, traditional songs, pop music, folk songs, classical numbers and devotional bhajans. She even made her acting debut in 2013 with Mai. For her stupendous contribution to the field of cinema, Asha Bhosle was rewarded with the prestigious Dada Saheb Phalke award by the government of India in 2000. She also became the first Indian singer to be nominated for the coveted Grammy Award in 1997. She was honoured with the much revered Padma Vibhushan for her illuminating career. Asha Bhosle was officially acknowledged by the Guinness Book of World Records for recording most number of songs in its history. She also featured in BBC list of 100 inspiring women in 2015 and holds numerous doctorates from various universities. She was the recipient of several Filmfare Awards and two time National Awards for her works. Some of her evergreen songs include Garibon ki Suno, Piya Tu Ab To Aaja, Parde Mein Rehne Do, Yeh Mera Dil, Le Gayi, In Ankhon Ki Masti, Tanha Tanha, Radha Kaise Na Jale, Kahin Aag Lage.



Guruthundha from Chennai Love Story Hits 10M Hearts



ing platforms, the song has clearly struck an emotional chord with audiences across age groups. Melody Brahma Mani sharma created magic with this beautiful song. Everyone expresses their love for this beautiful song. The music lovers are waiting for the next chartbuster songs from the film and trade analysts call this chartbuster start to the album. The song's soothing tune combined with heartfelt lyrics by Anantha Sriram has created a rare musical experience. Vocals by Haricharan and Shruthika Samudhrala add depth, making it an instant favorite. Whenever Sai Rajesh and SKN collaborate, they aim to deliver something memorable, and "Guruthundha" proves just that. With the film starring Kiran Abbavaram and Sri Gouri Priya, expectations for the full album are now sky-high as audiences eagerly await more musical magic. The film is directed by Ravi Namburri.

The song "Guruthundha" from Chennai Love Story has taken social media by storm, crossing a remarkable 10 million views milestone in a short span. From the very first day, the track resonated deeply with listeners, quickly becoming a chartbuster. With countless reels, recreations, and recreation videos flood-

Tollywood Heroines' Struggle Continues In Kollywood Too



Papam Prathap Trailer: Feel-Good Village Entertainer

Hero Thiruveer has built a solid reputation by choosing intriguing scripts, and his next film, Papam Prathap, continues that streak. Set against the 1998 Godavari backdrop, the newly released trailer offers a glimpse into this refreshing rural story. Prathap steps into marriage with boundless optimism, but his father's warnings soon take shape. Just four days after the wedding, his wife leaves their home, triggering gossip and sarcastic chatter throughout the village. Thiruveer impresses big time with his striking emotional range- starting off in a lively, spirited avatar before transitioning into deeper, more vulnerable shades. The final dialogue about the life of a married man in his situation hits hard. Payal Radhakrishna makes a notable impact as his wife, bringing weight to her role. Ajay Ghosh adds humor with his portrayal of Prathap's father. Director SP Durga Naresh chooses a storyline rooted in feel-good family emotions while exploring a unique narrative point. Vishweshwar SV's visuals and Suresh Bobbili's background score further elevate the rural flavour of this family entertainer. Backed by ETWIN and Krishi Entertainments, the film is slated for release on April 17th. The trailer leaves a positive impression and sets the stage for a promising outing.

Oftentimes, the heroines from other languages test their luck in Telugu, and sometimes, those who are successful in Telugu also test their luck in other languages. Sometimes, it is because of the opportunities, and sometimes, it is because of the lack of opportunities and back-to-back failures. Sreeleela and Krithi Shetty, who rose to fame in Telugu cinema, are struggling to find success in Telugu and have ventured into Tamil cinema. Unfortunately, their struggle is never-ending in Tamil as well. Sreeleela, who thought that Sivakartheeyan's Par ashakti would bring her huge success, failed to make it big. The film flopped, denting her opportunities. The last few movies that Sreeleela did in Telugu ended as flops, and she is no longer a primary option for many actors and filmmakers. Kriti Shetty is also facing a similar fate now. Kriti Shetty faced a flop in the form of Annagaru Vostaru in January and now, she has another failure in the form of Love Insurance Company. Pradeep Ranganathan's starrer could not help the actor win big at the box office. She also tasted success in Telugu long back and is unable to revive her glory. Having said that, the two actors are still in the game. The buzz says that Kriti will next be seen in Venkatesh's film, directed by Anil Ravipudi. On the other hand, Sreeleela will be seen in Dhanush's next film. The two films could be their other ticket to victory.



Allu Aravind's Marriage Blessing for Mrunal Thakur

Producer Allu Aravind attended a promotional event of Dacoit and wished that the film's heroine, Mrunal Thakur, should marry someone from the Telugu film industry and settle down in Hyderabad. That way, Aravind thinks that Mrunal will be around Hyderabad and could be a part of more films in Telugu. Soon after this event, social media is buzzing with many unconfirmed speculations. A lot of people on social media, especially on Reddit, are sharing posts that Mrunal is already seeing someone. Earlier, she was linked to Dhanush, and some even spread rumors that the couple would get married on Valentine's Day.

Rao Bahadur: Satya Dev and Deepa captivate in retro style



The upcoming film Rao Bahadur is creating quite a stir as an incredibly interesting project featuring Satya Dev in a never-seen-before character. The promotional campaign has been solid, starting with a powerful title glimpse. Now, the makers are set to release the beautiful first single, O Sundari, on the 15th of April. Writer and director Venkatesh Maha is the driving creative force behind this much-awaited film. He possesses a strong penchant for delivering something unique and original to the audience. His ability to craft fresh narratives guarantees that this movie will stand out from the crowd. Adding immense prestige to the project is presenter Mahesh Babu via GMB Entertainment. His decision to support such a content-rich film is worthy of high praise. The production values are equally impressive, with producers Chinta Gopalakrishna Reddy, Anurag Reddy, and Sharath Chandra ensuring a rich and high-quality theatrical experience. The aesthetics of the new poster are brilliantly designed, utilizing a sheer fabric in the foreground for a dreamy framing effect. Deepa Thomas appears extremely graceful and poised.

A Truly Unexpected Crisis for Rajinikanth Films



Uncertainty continues to surround Thalaivar 173, as the much-awaited next project of Rajinikanth finds itself stuck in a cycle of directorial changes. What initially looked like a straightforward collaboration has now turned into one of the most talked-about developments in Kollywood. The film was first entrusted to Sundar C, but he reportedly stepped away following creative differences and script revisions. Soon after, Cibi Chakravarthi was officially announced as the director, raising expectations among fans. However, the latest reports indicate that he too has exited the project, adding to the growing uncertainty. Now, Ashwath Marimuthu has emerged as the frontrunner to take over the film. While there is no official confirmation yet, the constant reshuffling has sparked confusion and concern among fans.